



The Forward

September 2008

Letter from the Bishop

After more than three weeks at the Lambeth Conference this summer, I am thrilled to be back in the diocese. Bishops from all over the Anglican Communion gathered for a time of study and prayer and serious conversation about the issues facing the world. The Lambeth Conference serves an important role as an instrument of unity for the Anglican Community.

The conference began with a retreat led by the Archbishop of Canterbury at Canterbury Cathedral. The retreat meditations focused on the role of the bishop and the archbishop challenged us to reflect deeply on the nature of our vocations. On a couple of occasions we were called to silence. As I said in one of my blog entries, the silence was a powerful time of



transformation for me. The retreat, for me, was the most productive time of the Lambeth Conference.

What became clear early in the conference was that the Archbishop of Canterbury desires that the Provinces of the Anglican Communion enter into a covenant with each other. This kind of covenant would be a significant change for the communion (you know how we like change). Some of us struggled with the idea, others embraced it, and still others are unsure. The fact is that the next Covenant proposal will be released early next

year and will be reviewed by the Anglican Consultative Council in May which means that it will probably not be put forward in enough time for our General Convention legislative agenda. The covenant would then have to be reviewed and received by the various provinces. This process is not a matter of months but years.

The bishops met in Indaba Groups of about 40 each of the ordinary days of the conference. The intent was that we would use a non-legislative, non-western approach to the issues of the communion. This worked with varying degrees of success. A

real indaba process cannot have time constraints and other such constraints that we faced at the conference. Nevertheless, real conversation took place.

I will need more time to consider the ways that this conference shaped my thinking about the communion, our diocese, and my episcopate. I do know that it was important that our diocese was present and had voice at the table in the Anglican Communion. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you as your bishop.

Blessings,

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Intercessors Needed for Convention

We are currently seeking intercessors willing to pray for Diocesan Convention while it is in session on November 7-8. There is no allotted time schedule; we are simply asking for volunteers who are committed to praying at some point during the Convention. If you are interested, please let Diane Pyle, who is our Anglican Fellowship of Prayer representative, know by October 3. You can e-mail her at baglady01@alltel.net.

My Journey to India Part 1—The Beginning by the Ven. Gail Winslow

India. How to begin? I guess first by saying that God planned this trip without even asking me. He chose me to go to India for Him and His works. How do I know this? I have never in my life wanted to go to India. It was a trip of a lifetime and a life-changing experience.

Spending a month in India gives a person a lot to process. The process of processing is what I would like to share with you before I write about the events of the trip itself.

I want to tell you how this all began. For me it started May 29, 1945, the day I was born. From that day God began my journey, though I wasn't aware that He was involved. Although I was baptized and confirmed as an adult at St. James in Titusville, it really wasn't until 1982 that I began to make God a part of my life. It was the birth of my youngest son, Bryan, that prompted my return to the church for his baptism. From that time forward my journey with God grew more intimate and my personal relationship with Jesus Christ developed.

So much has happened between then and now that led me to India. Taking an interest in the church. Prayer. Serving on the Vestry. Prayer. Attending Cursillo. Prayer. Serving on outreach projects. Prayer. Involvement with St. Barnabas House. Prayer. Attending the Diocesan School for Ministry. Prayer. Ordained a deacon. Prayer. Discussions concerning outreach projects in India with the Thomas family. Prayer. Trinity's overwhelming support of those projects. Prayer. Being appointed Archdeacon. Prayer.

Looking back over my journey, I know that all of these events have been a part of God's plan. The reason I tell you this is that God has a plan for and calls **each one of us**. We are all on a journey. For some of us it may take a long time (our time) but not a long time in God's time for the gifts to be manifested for our journey. What God requires is obedience, reading scripture, praying, listening, hearing and acting with faith. Will everybody go somewhere? Yes! If you allow God to take you. It may not be as far as India, it may be just across the street, but God is ready to take you on your journey. Are you ready?

Next month, God makes last minute changes to the itinerary.



National Episcopal Health Ministries (NEHM) by Joyce Wilhelm, NEHM Diocesan Liaison

National Episcopal Health Ministries is a nucleus of peer networking and practical learning for people from a variety of health professions across the Episcopal Church. This includes parish nurses, health ministers, chaplains, clergy, health professionals, and lay health ministers. The first meeting of NEHM was held in 1996 to coincide with the annual meeting of the Health Ministries Association. The mission of NEHM is to promote health ministry in the Episcopal Church through local congregations, assisting them to reclaim the gospel imperative of health and wholeness.

NEHM is committed to:

- * Christ as Healer
- * Health as a holy, natural and continuous process
- * Stewardship of the body and all God's creation
- * Authentic and holy relationships
- * Integration of the inner journey and the external life
- * Reconciliation in a broken and fragmented world

Who NEHM serves:

- * Health ministers who promote health and healing within Episcopal congregations
- * Episcopal provinces, dioceses, clergy, and congregations

How NEHM serves:

- * Educating leaders for Episcopal health ministry and parish nursing
- * Supporting those engaged in health ministry in Episcopal congregations
- * Providing resources to local congregations, dioceses, and provinces
- * Collaborating with other faith communities, institutions, and health organizations

If you or your parish are interested in Health Ministry or NEHM and need more information, please contact Joyce Wilhelm at (814) 474-5490 or e-mail jwilhelm001@aol.com.

Recent Clergy Appointments



St. Laurence, Osceola Mills

Three clergy have been appointed to new positions in the diocese.

First, the Rev. Bill Ellis has been appointed as the vicar of Holy Trinity, Houtzdale. Fr. Bill is not a new face to the diocese or the church he has been assigned to, but his official appointment as vicar is a recent event.

The Rev. Carla Williams, also not a new face to the diocese, has been appointed as vicar of St. Laurence, Osceola Mills. Rev. Carla previously served at St. Andrew's, Clearfield, with her husband, the Rev. Glenn Williams. Fr. Glenn continues serving at St. Andrew's.

Last, but certainly not least, the Rev. David Pflieger will now serve as the priest at St. John's in Kane. Pastor Pflieger is a retired Lutheran pastor who also serves as a part time chaplain at the Lutheran Home in

Kane. Pastor Pflieger, who is married with two grown children, graduated from Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia.

We welcome Pastor Pflieger to the Diocese and ask that you keep all of our newly appointed clergy and their churches in your prayers as they embark on their new ministries together.

Pre-Convention Deanery Meetings

Pre-Convention deanery meetings are approaching! The Southeast Deanery meets first, on Tuesday, September 23 at 6:30 PM at Our Saviour, DuBois. The Northeast Deanery meets on Saturday, September 27 at 10:00 AM at St. Luke's, Smethport. The Northwest Deanery will meet on Tuesday, September 30 at 7:00 PM at St. Mark's, Erie. The last meeting will be held in the Southwest Deanery on Wednesday, October 1, at 6:30 PM at St. John's, Sharon.

Those attending the meetings are asked to bring copies of the proposed constitution and canons, along with any other resolutions that will be posted by that time. The information can be found on our website at www.dionwpa.org/diocesanconvention2008.htm. Copies will not be provided at the deanery meetings. If you do not have access to the internet or are unable to download the documents, please contact Vanessa at 814-456-4203 or at vbutler@dionwpa.org ahead of time and she will make sure you get the documents.

Diocesan Convention will be held on November 7-8 at the Madera Fire Co. Community Building in Madera, PA, and is being hosted by Holy Trinity, Houtzdale.

ECW Announcements

The Diocesan Episcopal Church Women's Annual Retreat at the Episcopal Cottage at Chautauqua Institute is set for Saturday, September 27th. The Rev. Lynn Sinnott, interim priest at Ascension, Bradford, will offer a silent retreat on "Ways to Encounter God." Those staying at the Cottage will meet for dinner at 7:00 PM on Friday, September 26th. Watch for more information in the future!

A Diocesan Altar Guild Festival will be held at Ascension, Bradford, on Saturday, October 25th. The Festival will be held in memory of Audrey Tunney, past Diocesan Altar Guild Directress. The Festival will feature needlework artist Pam Fredeen who will exhibit her work and explain her creative process. Participants are asked to share examples of needlework from their own parishes. Watch for more information in the future!

Greenville Church Responds to ERD Challenge by Gordon Fraser

When Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) challenged congregations to address the Millennium Development Goals of eradicating world hunger and to meet critical human needs in the world, St. Clement's Episcopal Church, located in a small town of 6,000 people in rural Pennsylvania, was listening and responded.

During this past 2008 Lenten season, the congregation contributed \$4,000 to world-wide hunger relief and development efforts. The Sunday school and congregation raised these funds by using the Hope Chest boxes provided by ERD, conducting a special Lenten offering, and by meeting the ERD challenge of giving .07% of the church's annual budget to the Millennium Development Goals.

The congregation learned of the Millennium Development Goals through sermons, presentations by lay persons and bulletin inserts. The Lenten offering was sent to ERD requesting that ERD purchase a "farm" of animals for Brazil (see photo of Sunday School children with animals). Brazil was chosen because the congregation enjoyed the year-long presence of a local high school exchange student in the recent past.

In addition, through the recommendation of St. Clement's Mission and Ministry Committee, the Vestry voted to meet the Millennium Development Goal challenge for all congregations to give .07% of their annual budget in support of the Mission Development Goals. In response, the congregation sent \$2,500 to ERD to support these goals.

St. Clement's Episcopal Church is a small congregation with 150 members, located in an economically depressed small town, surrounded by farms. However, their response to the Millennium Development Goals is not new to their practice of faith as they have demonstrated involvement in the local food pantry and a deep commitment to "hospitality" for others locally and worldwide.



Back row: (from left) Tim Fraser, Diana Fraser, Jocelyn Yahner, Seth Zarecky, and Sarah Dopierala. Middle row: (from left) Robyn Yahner, Ian Yahner, Amber Zarecky, Taylor Yahner. Front row: Lydia Dopierala

Former Diocesan Clergy Accepted as Air Force Chaplain by the Rev. John Juchter

The Rev. Mark Juchter, who was active at the Cathedral of St. Paul for many years and later served as curate at St. John's, Sharon, has been accepted as an active duty chaplain for the Air Force effective September 1, 2008. While still in seminary at Seabury-Western, he was accepted as a Chaplain Candidate and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant USAFR. Since then he has received training as well as doing on-the-job training at several Air Force locations. While in Hawaii serving at St. George's and St. Clement's in Honolulu, Fr. Mark was promoted to First Lieutenant and then Captain. He has been assigned to Tinker AFB, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, for his duty station.



Diocesan Council Reminder

Diocesan Council members, please remember the council meeting on Saturday, September 13th. It will be at 10:00 AM at St. John's, Franklin. **Please let Vanessa know whether or not you are able to come** to the meeting either by phone (814-456-4203) or by e-mail (vbutler@dionwpa.org).

If you have news, story ideas, or pictures that you would like to share with the diocese, please contact Vanessa at the Diocesan Church Center at 814-456-4203 or at vbutler@dionwpa.org.