



September 2009

# The Forward

## Letter from the Bishop

*All things come of Thee O Lord.*

How true it is that everything we have comes from God. Each of us is blessed with gifts and then given the privilege of exercising those gifts for the building of the Kingdom. Paul reminds us of the spiritual gifts and their importance to our lives and the building of the body of Christ. He uses, extensively, the image of the body to teach us about the interdependence of the spiritual gifts. Not everyone is an eye or an ear. Each of us is given gifts and, as we use them collectively, the building of the

body is promoted.

The Church is the body of Christ in time and space. Our diocese is working toward being One Church working toward transformational ministry and leadership by using our Holy Spirit given gifts to the fullest. In order to use our Spiritual gifts, it's helpful to know what they are. Certainly, we have access to all of the gifts, but some are given to be used as dominant gifts.

Discernment of gifts and then using those gifts as God intends is key for

our diocese as we continue to move forward in mission. If we are to make disciples and lead others to relationship with Christ, then getting serious about discernment is crucial.

A group of clergy and lay leaders are working diligently to provide opportunities for us to think together about our gifts. In October, each deanery will host a spiritual gifts discernment workshop. I encourage you to take the time to attend and discern your particular gifts. This is not just another workshop where you spend the day and gain interesting information that you might or might not use. We are discerning what spiritual gifts are needed for each position of diocesan leadership, and we are encouraging congregations to do the same. This means that your particular gifts can be put to best use for the building of the Body of Christ.

Join us as we continue our journey together.

*And of Thine own have we given Thee.*

*And of Thine own have we given Thee.*

Blessings,

+Sean



Spiritual Gifts workshops will be held in October at (clockwise starting at the top left): the Cathedral of St. Paul, Erie; Grace, Ridgway; St. John's, Sharon; and St. Luke's, Smethport.

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Notes from the Diocesan Health Team

by the Rev. Holly Davis

QUALITY CHARACTERISTIC 6: HOLISTIC SMALL GROUPS

**Answer:** Intimacy, *community*—intense interaction—*practical* spirituality. **Question:** What are the elements of the biblical concept of holism?

**Growing** churches have developed a structured system of individual *Christians* meeting in small groups. These groups are *not* gathered together for the purpose of **studying** the text of the Holy Bible only—but **also** they gather to apply, to *everyday life*, the *knowledge* gained by chewing on the scripture.

Meeting in **small groups** is not just something that might be *fun*, or something one might do in one's *spare* time, or something to which one can *intermittently* commit. Think of the ministries in **God's** congregations that run *most* smoothly, the groups who know each other most *intimately*, the ones that seem to continue to take in more life and *serve* as *incubators* for more ministry. We find they are **small groups**—holistic small groups.

And what is meant by holistic? In context, holistic is concerned with “the **whole**”—the manner in which the entire system functions and maintains **health**.

As *Christians* we draw on understandings of **health** from Holy Scripture. In the *Hebrew* tradition, man is a living *nephesh*—body and soul **united**. In right **relationship** with God man is in a state of *shalom* (health—peace—wholeness). In the *Christian Greek* tradition, man lives in *soteria* (salvation). Salvation is viewed **not** just as physical or spiritual, but in the context of wholeness.

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THE PROPOSED DIOCESAN MISSION STATEMENT:

The Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania is One Church under the Lordship of Christ, equipping Transformational Leadership for Transformational Ministry through **our missionary** outposts—our congregations.

“**our missionary**” When we hear the word “missionary” we may picture the movies, “*The Mission*” or “*Black Robe*”—18<sup>th</sup> century Spanish Jesuits in the South American *wilderness* or 17<sup>th</sup> century Jesuits and the Algonquin Indians in the *dead of winter* in Quebec. **However**, missionaries are simply **those who undertake mission**—those with a specific *task*, a pre-established *direction*, a communal *objective*.

And the mission we are undertaking does **not** belong to an *invisible* or *divisible* “theirs—“ but the mission is ours—ours as missionaries—ours as disciples of the Christ. Remember the words of John Oxenham, “**In Christ there is no East or West, in Him no South or North, but one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth.**”

And there is no *disconnected* “**Diocese**” somewhere in the ether. Using language of “*us*” and “*them*”—the “*Diocese*” and “*the rest of us*” can lead to hypocrisy—enabling us to honor God with our lips but not with our hearts. **WE are THE DIOCESE.**

“Us/them” language provides a structure of **division** and **alienation** among people—criteria for **separating** the ‘good’ people from the ‘bad’ people, the ‘clean’ people from the ‘unclean’ people, the ‘o.k.’ people from the ‘not o.k.’ people. The time is now, “The harvest is **plentiful**, but the laborers are **few**; pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to **send out** laborers into his harvest.”

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Prayer for the Diocesan Organic Quality Management Diocesan Health Team:

**For Guidance:**

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with your most gracious favor, and further us with your continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy Name, and finally, by your mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*The Book of Common Prayer: 1979*

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Please contact the Rev. Adam Trambley at [trambley@post.harvard.edu](mailto:trambley@post.harvard.edu) for more information.

Also, you may find the Natural Church Development home page to be of assistance: <http://www.ncd-international.org/public/seminars.html>.

## Spiritual Gifts - Identifying and Using Them

by Jack Malovich, the Rev. Mary Norton, & the Rev. Brian Reid

In the last two issues of *The Forward*, we have introduced the concept of spiritual gifts in the context of the Three Colors of Ministry program, first discussing generally the nature of spiritual gifts and then actually identifying what each is. In this issue, we'll talk about how we might use our gifts and how you can participate in a program that will help you to identify your gifts, use them and help others to identify theirs.

Knowing what your spiritual gifts are is great, but using them is also very important for your development as one of God's ministers and for the growth of the kingdom of God in and outside of your church. For instance, if you have the gift of mercy, you can learn about what it means, find scripture references and then explore applying that gift, whether through intercessory prayer, ministry to the poor, working on behalf of those suffering an injustice or other methods of application. Are there ministries in your church in which you can apply this gift, or is there a need for a ministry in or through your church in which this gift can be used to God's glory and the benefit of your fellow humans? Your church, likewise, can develop for each ministry an approach that is gifts-oriented so that those who serve in that particular ministry are best suited to it.

All of this information may be found in *The 3 Colors of Ministry* book. This book will be used to guide a

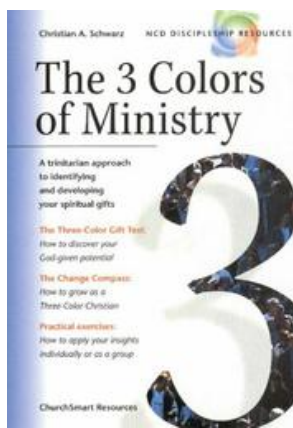
spiritual gifts discernment program that is being offered in each deanery. The purpose of the program is to help individuals become acquainted with the many facets of spiritual gifts, to learn what their own are and to assess their interest in and ability to then lead a similar program in their home church so that more and more people can learn how they—uniquely—might best serve God.

The program will be offered as follows:

**October 3**, Northwest and Southeast Deaneries (registration deadline September 19). Northwest Deanery at the Cathedral of St. Paul, Erie, 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. or Southeast Deanery at Grace Church, Ridgway, 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

**October 17**, Southwest and Northeast Deaneries (registration deadline October 3). Southwest Deanery at St. John's Church, Sharon, 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. or Northeast Deanery at St. Luke's Church, Smethport, 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

You may attend the program in any deanery. There is a fee of \$10.00 per person—due on the day of the program you attend—to defray the cost of books and lunch. Please see your clergy person before the deadlines noted above (or if you have no clergy person, your senior warden) to sign up. The deadlines are necessary because you will receive brief materials that need to be completed in advance of the program.



### Pre-Convention Deanery Meetings

Pre-Convention deanery meetings are approaching! The Northeast Deanery meets first, on Monday, September 21 at 7:00 PM at St. Luke's, Smethport. The Southeast Deanery meets on Wednesday, September 23 at 6:00 PM at Grace, Ridgway. The Northwest Deanery will meet on Tuesday, September 29 at 7:00 PM at St. Mark's, Erie. The last meeting will be held in the Southwest Deanery on Thursday, October 1, at 6:30 PM at St. John's, Franklin.

Those attending the meetings are asked to bring copies of the proposed budget and assessments, along with any other resolutions that will be posted by that time. The information can be found on our website at [www.dionwpa.org/diocesanconvention2009.htm](http://www.dionwpa.org/diocesanconvention2009.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](mailto:vbutler@dionwpa.org) ahead of time and she will make sure you get the documents.

Diocesan Convention will be held on November 6-7 at The Villa in New Castle, PA, and is being hosted by Trinity Church, New Castle.



Trinity Church, New Castle

## Ascension, Bradford Hosts Block Party

by Stacy Williams

The Church of the Ascension in Bradford held its first Community Block Party on Saturday, July 25. After attending a Welcome Workshop in March, we realized that our neighborhood sees us only as a big brick building on Chautauqua Street. We decided we wanted to do something for our neighbors to let them know who the people of Ascension are. We're located near downtown Bradford in the heart of a neighborhood of senior citizens' apartments and public housing.

As we began planning our Block Party, we envisioned people sitting outdoors conversing and listening to music. We then thought we should have something fun for the children so we quickly began planning food and games, and then we added our rummage sale. Many parishioners joined in the planning for the day's activities. One parishioner developed a poster,



and contacted the newspaper and the message channel.

Our youth worked on spreading the word in the neighborhood by leaving door hangers on everyone's doors. We hung big banners at the church advertising the day. The city gave us permission to close a portion of the street so that we could place a big beach ball sprinkler in the middle of the street for children (and the occasional adult!) to run through.



We had a tremendous response to the rummage sale, with parishioners donating everything from books to furniture. Church members worked together to organize and price the items, and our parish hall was full. The community walked through the sale and then entered our parking lot for an afternoon of music, food and fun. We had popcorn and Sno-Cone machines, hot dogs, lemonade and iced tea available. Tables were set up

for people to sit and visit, enjoy the karaoke, and watch the children run through the sprinkler and play their games – dino dig, duck pond, ring toss, face painting and sand art to name a few. While everything else was free – from the hot dogs to the games - proceeds from the Rummage Sale totaled over \$600, which will be used for future mission work.



My dream for our church has always been that the activity and energy of the church and its people would be so vibrant that passersby would be drawn in to see what all of the excitement is about. Our church is becoming just that vibrant. I think the neighborhood is seeing Ascension as a community of caring people and not just a big brick building. I truly believe our goal was accomplished and our plan is to provide this gift for the community through the Block Party again next year. We had so much fun and were so excited that the neighborhood caught that excitement and shared it with us. It was a wonderful day and we have already begun plans for the Block Party 2010.

## ECW Chautauqua Retreat

The Episcopal Church Women have planned their annual retreat for September 25th and 26th at the Episcopal Cottage at Chautauqua. The Rev. Shawn Clerkin, Vicar of St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Erie, and Associate at the Cathedral of St. Paul, Erie, will be the presenter.

Fr. Clerkin is an Oblate of the Julian of Norwich order and will base his presentation on her life and teachings. The Rev. Kathleen Ziegenhine will celebrate the Eucharist. Registration forms will be mailed to churches, but for inquiries call Enid Bishop at 814-455-9601. Registration is \$30.00 if you do not plan to spend the night, and \$35.00 if you plan on staying overnight. Breakfast, lunch and snacks will be supplied. Pillows and blankets will also be provided, but please bring your own towels and sheets.



The ECW Board (from l-r): Diane Pyle, the Rev. Rebecca Lash, the Rev. Charl Kapp, Lois Tamplin, Dona Wheeler, Mary Blaine Prince, and Enid Bishop. Missing: Monica Irwin, Dona Gilson, Frances Rhodes, and the Rev. Bonnie Skellen.

**(Re)Introductions**

**by The Rev. Mark Juchter**

Greetings to my sisters and brothers of Northwestern Pennsylvania from the land where the wind comes sweeping down the plain, Oklahoma! As one of the newest canonically resident clergy here in NWP A I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself and add a little about why I'm a bit geographically far from Pennsylvania.



The term "reintroduce" might be more appropriate, as I have spent more time here in Northwestern PA than anywhere else I have lived. I was born in Erie, PA, and baptized at St. Mary's in Lawrence Park. At an early age my family transferred to the Cathedral of St. Paul where I spent the next 20-plus years worshipping and ministering in many and varied ways, at the same time developing a close relationship with the people of St. Mark's, my parents church. In 2000 I departed the Cathedral and diocese for seminary, graduating in 2003. I returned to NWP A and served as curate at St. John's, Sharon, for two years before accepting a call as vicar to a church in Hawaii, transferring my canonical residence to that diocese in 2005.

In 2002, while still in seminary, I was commissioned as a second lieutenant chaplain candidate in the United States Air Force (USAF). After my move to Hawaii I was reappointed as a full chaplain in the USAF Reserves and assigned to work with the chapel at Hickam Air Force Base (AFB), Hawaii. In 2007 I sensed a call to move from the reserves to active duty, and began what we call the "accession process." In mid-2008 I was formally received onto active duty and assigned to Tinker AFB just outside of Oklahoma City, OK. I've have been living and ministering there since September of 2008.



This summer, after some prayer and consideration, I received permission from Bishops Robert Fitzpatrick (Hawaii) and Sean Rowe to transfer my canonical residency back into the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania. This means I will remain a priest of this diocese for as long as I am on active duty in the Air Force, no matter where I am geographically stationed. I am likely to be moved on average every two to four years, serving as a chaplain at bases here in the United States and around the world. I do hope to visit NWP A as often as my duties allow, and participate in the life and work of this diocese from afar as best as I can.

In the meantime I continue the work of a military chaplain, counseling, leading worship, advising leadership, and generally being a "visible reminder of the holy" among the women and men of the Air Force and other services at home and abroad. I hope to be able to share more about this work with you in the future and always entertain questions about this ministry "on the edge."

**What does it mean to be canonically resident?**  
Any clergy serving under the jurisdiction of the ecclesiastical authority of a diocese are canonically resident in that diocese. Being canonically resident does not mean that the clergy have to live within the geographic bounds of the diocese.

I welcome your prayers and thoughts, both for myself and all the chaplains serving around the world, especially as I prepare for my own deployment this fall. As I find other ways that congregations and others can support the work we do I will communicate with the office of the bishop. Their staff also makes a good point of contact for getting in touch with me no matter where I may be serving.

I do look forward to working with the diocese once again, and am glad to be home!

**Installations in September**  
There will be two installations in September.  
The first will be the installation of the Rev. Adam Trambley as rector of St. John's, Sharon. It will be held on Sunday, September 13, at 4:00 PM at St. John's, Sharon.  
The second will be the installation of the Rev. Norm Field as vicar of St. Peter's, Waterford. It will be held on Saturday, September 19 at 11:00 AM at St. Peter's, Waterford.  
Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend the services.

## Reminder for Resolutions and Nominations for 2009 Convention



Resolutions and nominations for Diocesan Convention have been requested. Information on submitting a resolution or nomination can be found on the Diocesan website's Convention 2009 page ([www.dionwpa.org/diocesanconvention09.htm](http://www.dionwpa.org/diocesanconvention09.htm)).

Resolutions and nominations are due **no later than September 8, 2009.**

## Learning and Fellowship Part of Church Community Life



This summer the Grace Church (Ridgway) community had a rare opportunity to be invited by newcomers Jeanette and Cliff Stump to visit Little Mill Creek to learn about goat and chicken farming, among other things. The young and old alike had a wonderful time seeing, petting and even milking the goats, learning how chickens lay eggs, discussing herbs and organic gardening and learning about bread baking.



## Do You Remember Fr. Malefodola?

Fr. Malefodola was a priest from Melanesia who visited this diocese during Bishop Davis' tenure. His son is currently working on a biography of him and was looking for information about his visit here or pictures from that time. If you remember Fr. Malefodola's visit and have stories, details of his stay, or photos that you would be willing to share, please contact Vanessa at 814-456-4203 or at [vbutler@dionwpa.org](mailto:vbutler@dionwpa.org).

## Diocesan Priest's Artwork on Display



The Rev. John and Sandie Wesley at the Elk County Council for the Arts "Tasting in the Wilds and a Taste of the Arts" in Ridgway. John's remarkable watercolor paintings (on the left) and cards were on display in the juried fine arts show.

## Visitation Schedule - September 2009

Sept. 20th- Bishop Sean - Trinity Church, New Castle  
Sept. 27th- Bishop Sean - Christ Church, Oil City

## Diocesan Council Reminder

Diocesan Council will meet on Tuesday, September 15th at 7:00 PM at St. John's, Franklin. Please let Vanessa know whether or not you can attend.

## Healing Service Scheduled

A healing service will be held Sunday, September 27, at 7:00 PM at St. Mark's, Erie.

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.

**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](mailto:vbutler@dionwpa.org).**