

## Confirmation at All Saints



All Saints, Omaha, welcomed their newly confirmed and reaffirmed during the Bishop's Visitation, including: James Aust, left; Harry Simmons, Charlie Landen, Robynne Woll, the Rt. Rev. Joe G. Burnett, Bishop of Nebraska; Gwen Cartwright, Carley Rickert, Jack Huber and Alex Moreland. (Photo Courtesy Linda Rafael)

## Diocesan Staff plans for future



The staff of the Diocese of Nebraska met in retreat to plan transitions through the next six months. Leading one of the brainstorming sessions is Sue Renninger, left, while Dr. Steve Heitkamp and staff members the Rev. Tim Anderson, and Nancy Nichols provide input. (Photo Courtesy the Rev. Tim Anderson)

Diocesan staff held an organizational retreat at All Saint's Retreat Center in Omaha April 29-30. Retreat facilitator and consultant was Dr. Steve Heitkamp of the Care and Counseling Center in St. Louis.

Dr. Heitkamp is an ordained United Methodist pastor and has a B.A. in Psychology, a M.Div. degree and a D. Min in Pastoral Counseling and Psychotherapy. He has served in parishes, but currently is a full time therapist and trainer at the Care and Counseling Center.

The diocesan staff has experienced a series of transitions during this past year with the Rev. Catherine Scott becoming interim rector at Holy Trinity, Lincoln; Sue

Renninger coming on board as our new Financial Administrator; several changes in the front desk position; the Rev. Bob Bee leaving us to move to Kansas City; Canon Tim Anderson being hired as the Executive Director of the Bishop Clarkson Foundation; and the appointment of the Rev. Judi Yeates as the new Canon to the Ordinary.

Staff time together was spent primarily in three areas: formation, visioning and planning. The staff continues to work through this transition as they learn to live into their new roles in order to be better able to the serve the great people of the diocese of Nebraska in our ministry and mission together.

## Bee retires

A 40-year career of service to the Diocese of Nebraska ended May 5 at a retirement reception for the Rev. Bob Bee. Joined by his wife, Diana, and many friends from throughout the Diocese, the event began with a special Eucharist celebrated in Trinity Cathedral by the Rt. Rev. Joe G. Burnett, Bishop of Nebraska.

Bee served in a variety of locations and assignments, beginning in 1968-70 when he was Curate at All Saints, Omaha. From 1970 to 1979 he served as Rector at St. Mary's, Blair. He then became Chaplain at Clarkson Hospital in Omaha from 1979 to 1997. He was elected president of the Association of Episcopal Healthcare Chaplains in 1993.

Between 1997 and 1999, Bee was Manager of Pastoral Care for Nebraska Health System in Omaha. He served as an adjunct faculty member at Clarkson College, Omaha, in 2000-01, while also serving as Priest Associate at Holy Spirit, Bellevue, from 2000 to 2006.

During the period 2001 to 2008, Bee was Ministry Development Assistant for the Diocese. Former Bishop the Rt. Rev. James E. Krotz declared Bee as the "Lord High Prefect of the Sacred Archives" for his extensive work shepherding numerous priests and deacons through the Individual and Total Ministry tracks to ordination.

Bee was born in Washington, D.C., and lived in Virginia and Utah prior to coming to Nebraska to attend the University of Nebraska. He graduated from UNO in 1965, with a double major in English Literature and English History.

He attended the All City Canterbury Club of Trinity Cathedral during his time at UNO, where he met University of Nebraska Medical School student Diana, a native of Central City. Bee served four years in the United State Marine Corps. He attended General Theological Seminary in New York, graduating in 1968.

Bob and Diana have three daughters, and five grandchildren. They will be moving to Gladstone, Mo., to be near to as many of them as possible.



A reception honoring the Rev. Bob Bee on his retirement as a member of the Diocesan staff was held May 5 at the Bishop Clarkson Center in Omaha. He and his wife, Diana, will move to Kansas City to be near family and grandchildren. (Photo Courtesy the Rev. Tim Anderson)

## Holy Trinity, Lincoln, celebrates 50 years at current location

June 28, 1958, marked the ground-breaking for construction of the new Church of the Holy Trinity, Lincoln. The cornerstone was placed on Nov. 16, 1958.

The Rev. Bill Cross served the parish as rector from 1956 to 1968. When construction began, Tom Davies was Senior Warden, Dr. Fred Davie was Junior Warden and co-chairman of the building committee with John Cramer. Architect was John Unthank.

The first service in the new church building was the Christmas 1959 wedding of Nancy Murrell Hutchins, daughter of H.D. and Libbie Murrell. The nave was a bare concrete floor, no pews were in place, and plain glass windows predated the existing stained glass.

Holy Trinity relocated from 12 and J streets in downtown Lincoln to the 6000 block of A Street on the edge of the city following a fire in January 1957 that destroyed the stone church constructed in 1888-89. The cornerstone of the old church, dating from Trinity Sunday, June 14, 1888, is incorporated with the 1958 cornerstone.

Holy Trinity was established in May 1869 as the first Episcopal Church in Lincoln, then the new capital city of Nebraska.

# A Day in the Life: Bishop's Journal April 2008

**Apr. 1-2.** Staying in at home, feeling badly. Telephone conference from home with seminarian on Wednesday afternoon.

**Apr. 3.** Meeting with Chancellor Woody Bradford in the morning. Telephone conference in the early afternoon. Afternoon meeting with the Rev.s Grant Wiseman, Tom Jones, and Hank Austin at St. Andrew's in preparation for this coming Sunday's visitation.

**Apr. 4.** Resting at home, still battling crud.

**Apr. 5.** Drove to Lincoln for memorial service at Holy Trinity for former rector Jane Heenan, who recently died in Texas following a long illness. Fr. Sam Boman celebrated and preached, assisted by Deacons Jim Visger and John Long. Former Senior Warden Bob Schlissman gave a moving tribute to Jane before Fr. Sam's homily. Home in the afternoon to finish sermon preparation for tomorrow's visitation.

**Apr. 6.** At St. Andrew's to preach at the 9 a.m. contemporary service, and then preach, celebrate,

and officiate at baptism, confirmation, and reception at the 10:30 service. In between the two services we dedicated the beautiful new addition to St. Andrew's that will provide wonderful new classroom, meeting, gathering, and activity space. A joyous and happy occasion! A reception followed the late service in the newly consecrated space.

**Apr. 7.** Met late this morning with Canon Anderson, and cathedral Deans Hurley and Medina to discuss a range of items related to the expansion of the cathedral's mission and ministry in the community and diocese.

**Apr. 8-9.** Regrettably had to cancel my much-appreciated meeting with my support group of bishops in St. Louis, due to continuing symptoms with illness. At home, resting and doing some office and e-mail work during these days.

**Apr. 10.** In office late morning, and enjoyed a long lunch appointment with Larry Boyd, retired rector of St. Matthew's, Lincoln, who is back for a brief visit with his wife Andi before heading out for a long visit with family in Virginia.

Great to see him and catch up on his and Andi's plans. Late afternoon meeting with Deacon Betsy Bennett to discuss her work as a fellow of the Greenpeace Foundation, a religious affiliated coalition of persons and communities sharing concerns over environmental responsibility and stewardship.

**Apr. 11.** Medical tests in the morning, just to check for possible infections or other problems. Tonight Marty and I joined former Presiding Bishop Frank Griswold for dinner in downtown Omaha. He is in town for his annual spiritual retreat, and seems to be doing well and keeping very busy in retirement!

**Apr. 12.** Working today on sermon for tomorrow's visitation, as well as upcoming projects and materials for meetings.

**Apr. 13.** Visitation this morning at St. Mark's on the Campus, Lincoln, assisted by The Rev. Jerry Thompson, rector, Curate Ryan Hall, and Deacon Christine Grosh. A wonderful service, celebrating confirmation and reception, and a great potluck lunch in the parish hall followed the service. One highlight of the liturgy for me was the surprise gift to me of a "Star Quilt", made by a new member of St. Mark's, Ethelene Wounded Shield. I was deeply moved by this presentation of a cherished part of native American tradition.

**Apr. 14.** Follow up meeting with Anderson, Hurley and Medina in my office this morning to continue our conversation begun last week.

**Apr. 15.** Morning meeting with Ryan Hall, who will be ordained to the priesthood on May 1 at St. Mark's on the Campus, Lincoln. Lunch meeting and good visit with Tim Vann, former Canon to the Ordinary in our diocese. Afternoon work in home office.

**Apr. 16-18.** Still dealing with lingering symptoms and illness, I cancelled plans for an out of town meeting and tried to rest and catch up with a number of things, trying to shake this "crud" once and for all.

**Apr. 19.** Drove to the Benedictine Center in Schuyler to join the Deacons in Retreat for lunch and an early afternoon visit. Enjoyed connecting with many, and hearing about the retreat program being led this weekend by Dean Ernesto Medina. Drove west to Broken Bow, arriving there in the

early evening.

**Apr. 20.** Morning visitation to St. John's, Broken Bow. Enjoyed the vitality of this strong and historic small congregation, and appreciated very much the lay assistance of Mary Jane Gockley, who is in our "Total Ministry" ordination process. A wonderful visit with folks after the service at a delicious potluck lunch, then drove on to Halsey, Nebraska to the 4-H Camp for the closing Eucharist of the Cursillo weekend. A joyous and uplifting service, with many candidates, staff, and visitors in attendance. I was assisted by staff clergy the Rev.s Kelsey Hogue and Ellie Thober, and Deacon Jim Visger. Left Halsey late afternoon for a long drive back to Omaha, arriving late Sunday night.

**Apr. 21.** Day off.

**Apr. 22.** Morning telephone conference in office with Dr. Joe Rizzo related to his work in psychological assessments for our ordination process. Lunch meeting with the Episcopal Tri-Faith Board members in the Clarkson Center, to discuss progress on locating property and other matters related to this venture. Afternoon meeting with the chairs of the Commissions on Ministry, George Benson and Phil Chapman, and the Standing Committee, the Rev. Jay Gabb, at St. Augustine's, Elkhorn. Bob Bee was also present, and this will be his last time to meet with us in his capacity as Ministry Development Assistant. Late afternoon visit to Tim and Carla Anderson's to welcome members of the Episcopal Church's national Deployment board—including visiting bishops, clergy and laity from around the country. Then we joined them for dinner at Camp Joy Holling where they have been meeting for two and a half days this week.

**Apr. 23.** Accompanied Dean Tom Hurley this morning on a capital gift call to a cathedral parishioner. Late morning meeting in my office with Karen Watson of All Saints, Omaha, who is a postulant in our ordination process. Early afternoon meeting with Joe Jones, Sr. Warden of Church of the Resurrection, Omaha, and Canon John Schaefer, our deployment officer. Drove to Lincoln following that meeting to call on Fr. Sam Boman, who is recovering from quadruple bypass surgery earlier this week. I was joined by Curate Ryan Hall, and together we offered communion to Sam and Mary Ann, and anointing to Sam. I stopped by

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# The Pastoral Staff



## Looking Toward Lambeth: Part One of a Series

The Rt. Rev. Joe G. Burnett

This summer, several hundred bishops from provinces throughout the Anglican Communion will converge on Canterbury, England, for the once-every-10-year gathering known as the Lambeth Conference. Included in that number will be most of the bishops of the Episcopal Church, save for a few who may stay away in protest, and, of course, the Rt. Rev. Gene Robinson, who was not given an invitation to attend by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Though many in our House of Bishops feel strongly that the Bishop of New Hampshire should be invited, this sentiment will not keep us away from the conference. Indeed, Bishop Robinson has been one of the strongest voices urging our bishops to attend so that we continue to have a voice in the ongoing conversations.

This Lambeth meeting, or conference, is not like a general convention, nor is it like a "synod," in that it does not and cannot legislate or make binding decisions for all the provinces of Anglicanism. The last Lambeth gathering in 1998 famously passed a number of resolutions, particularly a controversial one dealing with issues of human sexuality. However, the force and meaning of such resolutions in the life of the wider communion remains a subject of debate.

We have been promised that this summer's meeting will be very light on resolutions, and very heavy on worship, bible study, and small group sharing among bishops representing very diverse cultures, regions, and provinces. One item that is scheduled for more formal discussion is the latest draft of an Anglican "Covenant," which will surely excite a wide range of responses from those present.

The idea of a covenant, especially in the form represented in the latest draft, tends to attract those who are burdened by the interdependence of the churches that make up our communion—a relationship of mutuality and autonomy that sometimes leads to differing interpretations of the scriptures and Christian teaching in differing cultural contexts. The hope of some is that some

sort of covenant statement will further sharpen the nature of our shared doctrinal center, and thus provide a clearer boundary that might lead in time to the distancing of provinces that are perceived to be out of step with that center.

Many others—and I include myself in that number—have serious reservations about the prospects of such a covenant, believing that it is a fundamental shift in the historic nature of the relationships of the churches in the communion and the way we live and work and pray and believe together. Furthermore, recent substantiated reports from inside the covenant drafting committee raise concerns about the integrity of the process and whether it has been shaped in ways that would make it more difficult for as The Episcopal Church and the Anglican Church of Canada to remain full "members" of the Communion. Ambivalent interpretations of the covenant's intentions and uses from the Archbishop of Canterbury, as well as of the nature and authority of the Lambeth gathering itself, have only served to heighten the concern that many share.

In the final analysis, I continue to believe that the future of the Anglican Communion hinges not on a confessional or doctrinal statement that seeks to define for internal purposes our definitions of and divisions over the proper interpretation of scripture, doctrine, and tradition.

Instead, our future rests on our confidence in God, and in God's grace and love. Our future rests on our commitment and courage in exhibiting to the world a robust and open communal life, full of welcome for the sinner, good news for the poor, vibrant worship, and Christ-like love. No covenant can provide that. And furthermore, no covenant can prevent the Holy Spirit from calling forth that sort of church wherever and whenever it is lacking.

The Lambeth Conference begins Wednesday, July 16, and ends Sunday, Aug. 3. We will be housed in dorm rooms on the campus of the University of Kent. From what we have heard from previous participants, the accommodations

are such that I will not consider this quite the same thing as "a vacation in England." I do hope that my presence can be helpful in the overall process of learning more about and from one another, and that our Episcopal Church's presence there will be redemptive in ways beyond our imagining.

I look forward to sharing more with you about this experience before and after my attendance and participation this summer.

## Bishop's Journal

*Continued from Page B*

briefly to check on the progress of preparations for the annual rummage sale at Holy Trinity, Lincoln, before returning home in the early evening.

**Apr. 24.** Morning meeting in office with Marie Ogders from St. David's, Lincoln, who is in our "Total Ministry" ordination process for the diaconate. Miscellaneous office matters midday, and errands in the early afternoon. Late afternoon visit in a Dundee restaurant with Rob Scheibelhofer to discuss matters related to the current status of St. Barnabas, Omaha.

**Apr. 25.** Morning at home, tending to personal appointments in the afternoon.

**Apr. 26.** Spent most of day in preparation for class presentation and sermon for tomorrow's visitation to All Saints, Omaha.

**Apr. 27.** Spoke to Adult Forum at All Saints this morning on mission and ministry priorities and developments in our diocese, and updated them on plans for this summer's Lambeth Conference in England. I celebrated and preached, and presided at confirmation, reception, and reaffirmation for a fine class of candidates of various ages at the principal parish Eucharist at 10:30. A reception followed in the narthex, and then I was delighted to have the Rev. Tom O'Dell, rector, join me for lunch at a local restaurant.

**Apr. 28.** Day off at home. Drove to Eppley Airport tonight to pick up our visiting facilitator for the Diocesan Staff Retreat scheduled for tomorrow and Wednesday.

**Apr. 29.** Our office and program staff gathered for a day of formation, visioning, and planning at the All Saints, Omaha, Retreat Center. Our facilitator was Dr. Steve Heitkamp from St. Louis. This evening we gathered with spouses for a dinner and social at a nearby restaurant.

**Apr. 30.** Staff retreat continued this morning until noon, and left us with many helpful learnings and plans for the future. It was very valuable time together, and very productive. I drove our guest back to the airport this afternoon, and then worked for the rest of the day in home office.

## Former Presiding Bishop Griswold leads course at EDS

Former Presiding Bishop Frank T. Griswold will teach "From the Desert to the City: an Exploration of Christian Spirituality" at Episcopal Divinity School, June 9-13.

The course will explore the various pathways of Christian spirituality that have shaped and molded men and women, and continue to guide and form persons of faith. Discussion topics include: the wisdom of the fathers and mothers of the desert, the evolution of the practice of discerning spirits, as well as classical spiritual disciplines.

"This course is an opportunity for people in parishes, as well as clergy in the vicinity to have an extended time with the former presiding Bishop," said The Rev. Dr. Sheryl Kujawa-Holbrook, Academic Dean. "This is a rare opportunity for people to experience this type of engagement. Since his retirement, Bishop Griswold has led conferences and retreats, and recently returned from Cuba. We expect these experiences will add to the enrichment of the course."

This one-week course, during EDS' June Term I, will meet two hours each day for five days. Other June term courses, which are two weeks in length, explore and discuss topics such as feminism, sexual identity, and spirituality. All June term classes meet daily.

For more information and a complete list of June term courses, visit the June Term page on the EDS Web site, or request a catalogue at 617.682.1507. For registration and fee information, contact Penny Kohn, registrar, at 617.682.1525, or at registrar@eds.edu. If you are interested in staying on EDS' campus during the June terms, please contact Guestroom Booking at guestroombooking@eds.edu or 617.682.1593.

## A Man of Few Words

The shortest prayer I ever heard a priest pray was "Dear God, You know our thoughts, Amen" ---Chris Nieman

## Alleluia Fund has impact far beyond our diocese

On the first Sunday in April I had the pleasure of worshipping with the people of St. Luke's in Kearney. We heard two sermons that day from Fr. Jerry Ness; one formal sermon on the appointed lessons and then a rather extended announcement urging the people of St. Luke's to prayerfully consider a gift to this year's Alleluia Fund offering.

He ended that mini-sermon by saying "no gift was too large or too small, participation and the act of giving is what was most important for all of us."

Later that day as I was preparing to leave, the treasurer of St. Luke's handed me a rather large stack of blue Alleluia Fund giving envelopes that had been made available in the pews. Each envelope contained an offering, but one envelope in particular caught my eye because of the special message written on the front.

In pencil, six-year-old Alli Meyers had written "I (heart) you." In that simple statement Alli captured the essence of what it is to be a steward. All stewardship begins from a heart that is full of the love of God who we acknowledge as the creator of all things and the giver of all good gifts.

Alli had placed a \$1 bill in the envelope and as I learned later, that was her total allowance for the week. Her mother told me, "every time Alli receives money she wants to give it to the church," and as I have come to find out, Alli's brother J.D. and her cousin Jacob have also given to the Alleluia Fund.

"No gift is either too large or too small to make a difference." And what a difference our gifts to the Alleluia Fund are making all across the diocese and throughout the world.

Here is just one amazing example: About a year ago the Executive Commission granted money from the Alleluia Fund that enabled Fr. Daniel Kuot, our Sudanese Missioner, to purchase a dump truck for our mission work in Boma, South Sudan. This dump truck was purchased for the purpose of delivering materials to this very remote area in the southeastern corner of the Sudan, by the Ethiopian border, in order to build a community center for the Boma area. This area is accessible by four wheel drive vehicles only a few months of the year. During the rainy season it is only accessible by charter plane.

The community center is now in its final stages of completion, with only the roof left to complete. It will function as a church, clinic, school and gathering place for the community. The Boma area currently is home for 30,000 people comprised of five different tribes.

Our first exploratory mission group from Nebraska went to Boma Nov. 1, 2007, for 10 days. Two days after they left, violence broke out in Boma and many of the people were forced to evacuate the area on foot or lose their lives. Many died because they had no way to escape.

Due to the quick response of our missionaries in Boma your dump truck was loaded with hundreds of Sudanese, mostly women and children, and taken to safety. The Alleluia Fund saves lives!

So, thank you Alli, and thanks to all of you who have chosen to generously give to the mission and work of God's Church through your gift to the Alleluia Fund.

Special thanks to Canon Judi Yeates for sharing Fr. Daniel's story!

*The Rev. Tim Anderson*  
Canon for Development

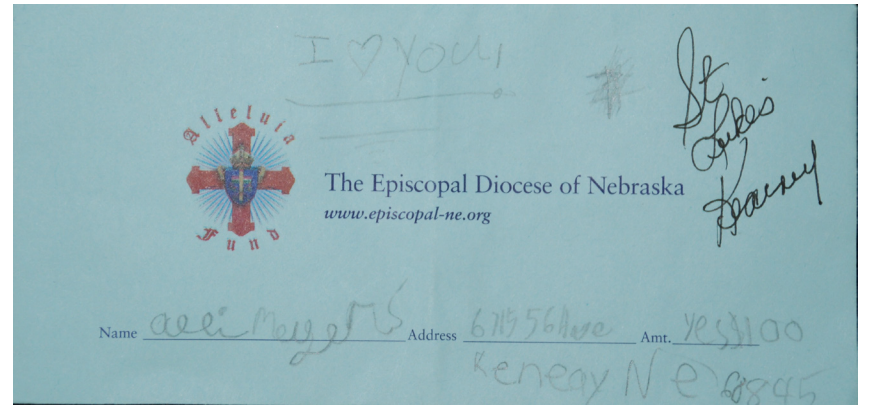


Hall with his parents, Randy and Donna Hall, from Knoxville, Tenn.



The Rev. John Heschle from the Diocese of Chicago was the guest preacher. He was Hall's mentor and field education supervisor while Hall was at Seabury Western.

## Love is true gift of giving



When you give to the Alleluia Fund, think of the sacrifice made by six-year-old Alli Meyers, St. Luke's, Kearney, who gave \$1, her entire weekly allowance. Alli knows about giving because we love God as she wrote on the envelop. Every gift is important when it is given in love for the work of God's mission. (Photo Courtesy the Rev. Tim Anderson)

## Hall ordained by Bishop at St. Mark's on the Campus

The Rev. Ryan Hall, curate at St. Mark's on the Campus, Lincoln, was ordained to the priesthood May 1 at St. Mark's. He had been serving there as a transitional deacon.

Hall, a native of Tennessee, graduated from Carson Newman College, Knoxville, Tenn., with BA degrees in History and Political Science and minors in Education and Psychology. Coming to Nebraska for law school at UNL, Ryan finished one year before joining the Resurrection House program and moving on to seminary.

Hall graduated with an M.Div. from Seabury-Western Theological Seminary in Evanston, Ill., in June 2007. During his time in seminary, he did Clinical Pastoral Education at the University of Tennessee medical center in Knoxville and did an exchange program for a semester at Westcott House seminary in Cambridge, England. He also served as a summer intern on the Rosebud Sioux reservation in South Dakota.

Prior to coming to St. Mark's, Hall attended St John's Cathedral in Knoxville and joined Holy Trinity in Lincoln while in law school. He worked as an intern at the Church of the Holy Spirit in Bellevue while he was a Resurrection House intern. While in seminary, Ryan served as visiting seminarian at St. Paul's Church, Chicago, and was a guest preacher/cantor for Evensong at Little Saint Mary's Parish in Cambridge, England.

In his spare time, Hall enjoys spending time with his wife, Mary. He also enjoys fishing, camping, keeping up with college football and baseball, computers, reading, and cooking.



Presenting Ryan Hall for ordination was his confirmation class confirmed by Bishop Burnett at St. Mark's April 13th. Their first official acts as Episcopalians were to present someone for the priesthood. From the left are Jeanine Jewel; Steve and Kathy Blum; Hall is holding Nate Schulte who is a student at UNL and is usually in a wheelchair but wanted to stand for this picture; Hall's wife Mary; and Susan and Don Steinegger. (All photos courtesy the Rev. Ryan Hall)

# Canon's door is always open



## The Canon's Communication

On Jan. 27, the day of the announcement of my new position as Canon to the Ordinary, I was leading my last Annual Meeting at Church of the Resurrection where I had served as their Rector the past six years. Upon reflection it seems as though that was the beginning of the transition, even though I would not officially start as Canon until May 1.

Jan. 28-31 were spent with my fellow Presbyters on retreat at St. Benedict's in Schuyler. The most often-asked question was "what will you be doing as Canon to the Ordinary?" Good question. The predictable response would have been, "whatever the Bishop asks me to do". Those of you who know me well know that I am not always predictable, but at the end of the day that will be the truth. I also will be writing my own job description in collaboration with my very talented colleagues in the diocesan office.

As I write this article it is May 6, six days officially into my new job. I am still discerning how I will live into this new role. The diocesan staff has participated in an organizational retreat, with the assistance of an outside facilitator, which has helped us find ways in which we can better communicate and support each other as staff and with the diocese.

We have reorganized and completed job descriptions and are beginning to vision for the future. You will be hearing more about this during the next six months as we learn what it is like to live into these job descriptions, at which time we will evaluate how we are doing.

But the reality of how we as a diocesan staff live into our roles depends a lot upon you! The Diocese of Nebraska is really you! We are here to serve along side you in the ministry of the Episcopal Church throughout Nebraska and in our local and global mission work.

So for me to be able to fully respond to the most asked question, "what will you be doing as Canon to the Ordinary?" lies in great part with you. I want to hear your thoughts and vision for your ministries in your parishes and your hopes and dreams for the diocese so that we can work together for the work of God's kingdom.

To that end, my door is always open. Let me hear from you.

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## Upgrades continue at St. David's

St. David's, Lincoln, continues its remodeling project. Among work done thus far is the construction of an additional fire wall, in lieu of a costly sprinkler system, between the Sanctuary and the parish hall.

Colorful paint, lights, HVAC vents and carpet have been installed in the nursery and classrooms area. A concrete parking area is under construction and will be connected to the existing parking area by a sidewalk. The driveway will continue to be crushed rock. A new concrete sidewalk along the north side of the church meets fire code requirements.

Junior Warden Jack Shadley has received permission to dredge the drainage area along Holdrege Street. The ditch has also been cleared of brush and will be seeded with grass.



## Holy Week at St. Mary's



St. Mary's, Bassett, observed all the services of Holy Week. Clockwise from top left, the Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem portrayed at the entrance to the church; Palm Sunday worship led by the Rev. Randy Goeke; Stripping of the Altar on Good Friday; Easter Sunday worship; and burning of the palms to light the Paschal Candle during the Great Vigil of Easter. (Photos Courtesy Tom and Sandy Sawyer)

## Diocese welcomes Jan Wadleigh



Jan Wadleigh, the Front Office Administrator for the Diocese, is the person who will answer the phone when you call the diocesan office. Lots of experience working for non-profits, an affinity for Database work, and a warm welcoming smile are just some of the attributes Wadleigh brings as the newest member of the Diocesan Office team. She worked previously for the MS Society in Omaha, where she handled incoming donations and deposits, served as their database administrator, and answered phones and greeted guests. Welcome, Jan. (Photo Courtesy the Rev. Tim Anderson)

## Parishes in Transition

Church of the Resurrection, Omaha: The vestry has formed a Search Committee. The first meeting of the committee took place in April. The immediate plan is to interview and call an interim rector to serve for a designated period of time.

Church of the Holy Spirit, Bellevue: The Search Committee has been collecting data from the parish for the creation of a parish profile and will soon submit their results to the vestry. In the meantime, the Rev. Ruth Jaynes continues to serve as interim rector.

St. Augustine's, Elkhorn/Omaha: The Search Committee is beginning to collect data from the parish for creation of a parish profile.

St. John's, Valentine, and St. John's, Broken Bow, continue to look for part time clergy to serve their parishes. If you know of any priest who may be interested in a part time position, please contact Canon John Schaefer at the diocesan office.

We welcome the Rev. Mary Hendricks, new rector, St. Alban's in McCook.

## Bishop's Calendar & Diocesan Events

### June 2008

- June 10-12 Province VI Commission on Ministry, Fargo, N.D.
- June 12-14 Provincial Synod, Province VI, Fargo, N.D.
- June 15 Bishop's Visitation, St. John's Valentine
- June 20-21 Diocesan Daughters of the King, Grand Island
- June 22 Bishop's Visitation, St. David's Lincoln
- June 22 Ordination to the Diaconate, Stephanie Ulrich, 5:00 p.m. All Saints, Omaha
- June 28 Ordination, Eugene Sutton as Bishop of Maryland, National Cathedral, 11 a.m.

### July 2008

- July 8-13 National Episcopal Youth Event, Trinity University, San Antonio, TX
- July 16 – August 3 Lambeth Conference, Canterbury, England.

### September 2008

- Sept. 1 Happening Eucharist, St. Luke's, Kearney
- Sept. 2 Bishop and Chairs, COM and Standing Comm, St. Augustine's, Elkhorn/Omaha
- Sept. 5 Executive Commission Meeting, tba
- Sept. 7 Bishop's Visitation, St. Francis, Scottsbluff
- Sept. 14 Bishop's Visitation, Christ Church, Beatrice, St. Luke's, Wymore
- Sept. 16-19 House of Bishops' Called Meeting, Salt Lake City
- Sept. 19-21 Deacons' Retreat, Benedictine Center, Schuyler
- Sept. 21 Bishop's Visitation, St. Andrew's, Seward
- Sept. 22-24 Midwest Bishops, St. Louis
- Sept. 26-28 Anglican Theological Review Board, Seabury Western, Evanston, Ill.
- Sept. 30 Bishop and Trustees, Clarkson Center

### October 2008

- Oct. 5 Bishop's Visitation, Oregon Trail Trinity Cluster, Ogallala, Oshkosh, Bridgeport
- Oct. 12 Bishop's Visitation, Holy Apostles, Mitchell, and Calvary, Hyannis
- Oct. 19 Bishop's Visitation, St. Luke's, Plattsmouth
- Oct. 26 Bishop's Visitation, St. Luke's, Kearney

### November 2008

- Nov. 2 Bishop's Visitation, Grace Church, Chadron
- Nov. 7-9 Annual Council, Gering Convention Center, Gering
- Nov. 16 Bishop's Visitation, St. Matthew's, Lincoln
- Nov. 23 Bishop's Visitation, Our Savior, North Platte
- Nov. 30 Bishop's Visitation, St. Martin's, Omaha

### December 2008

- Dec. 2 Bishop and Trustees, Clarkson Center
- Dec. 7 Bishop's Visitation, Holy Trinity, Lincoln
- Dec. 8-10 House of Bishops' Theology Committee, Washington National Cathedral
- Dec. 14 Bishop's Visitation, St. Augustine's, DeWitt
- Dec. 21 Bishop's Visitation, St. James, Fremont
- Dec. 24 Bishop in residence, Trinity Cathedral

## Christian Formation Conference set

Participants and staff are coming from 25 states but there is room for you at Kanuga's Christian Formation Conference, June 15-20.

A new option this year is certification/recertification to lead DOCC (Disciples of Christ in Community), EFM (Education for Ministry), Godly Play and Transforming Literature of the Bible.

The conference is for anyone who leads Christian Formation/Education programs, with special presentations for newcomers. The Adult Faith Formation segment is held June 15-18. The Children's Faith Formation segment is June 17-20. Attend the entire week for a rate incentive and the greatest benefit.

Keynote presenter Deirdre Good from General Theological Seminary will help participants focus on the theme, "Making Disciples: Hearing the Word."

Many workshops led by experts from across the country will be offered, as well as free time for recreation and networking. Programs for children and youth make this an ideal family vacation. Team Rebates and financial aid are available from Kanuga. For details and registration visit [www.kanuga.org](http://www.kanuga.org) or telephone Kanuga, 828-692-9136.

## Alleluia Fund Grant Guidelines Set

At its spring meeting at St. Luke's, Kearney, May 9-10, the Diocesan Executive Commission approved a new policy for accepting and acting on grant requests made to the Alleluia Fund.

Effective immediately, grant requests are due 21 days prior to a scheduled meeting of the Executive Commission. The Executive Commission normally meets four times a year—in late January or early February, in May or early June, in late August or early September, and immediately before or during Annual Council. Any grant requests that come in after the 21-day advance deadline will be considered at a subsequent meeting

of the Executive Commission.

"We so often receive requests for grants from the Alleluia Fund at the last minute," said the Rev. Grant Wiseman, convener of the Alleluia Fund Projects Commission and rector St. Andrew's, Omaha. "When that happens, the Executive Commission doesn't have adequate time to evaluate the asking, and this means that worthwhile projects are delayed."

The next scheduled gatherings of the Executive Commission are Friday, Sept. 5, and during Annual Council, Nov. 7-9. In order to be considered at one of these meetings, requests would need to be received in the diocesan office no

later than three weeks prior to one of these scheduled meetings.

Grant requests are first reviewed by the projects committee, which is a sub-committee of the Executive Commission. The projects committee is charged with the responsibility to explore any concerns that may be raised by members of the Commission, as well as to invite the applicants to appear in person and explain their asking

in detail. The projects committee will then make their recommendations to the entire Executive Commission, which will in turn act on the individual requests.

"This new policy is an attempt to encourage more timely filing of grant requests in order to expedite their approval," Wiseman said.

# Presiding Bishop's Pentecost Letter

My brothers and sisters in Christ,

As we come to the end of Eastertide and the feast of Pentecost, we shift to an awareness of God present with us in Holy Spirit. The early church marked that gift as inspiration, fire, and language - the breath of ever-new life and the burning desire for ongoing relationship with God. That gift of Holy Spirit keeps us lively and moving, bears us into new territory and challenges unsought.

In this as in every age, we face issues of identity, vocation, and mission as members of the Body of Christ. Entering the long season of Pentecost brings our focus to how we, too, will follow Jesus inspired by Holy Spirit. I would like to offer a few reminders about identity, vocation, and mission that I shared recently with the people of the Diocese of San Joaquin:

1) Jesus is Lord. In the same sense that early Christians proclaimed that Jesus, not Caesar, is Lord, remember that no one else - not any hierarch, not any ecclesiastical official, not any one of you - is Lord. We belong to God, whom we know in Jesus, and there is no other place where we find the ground of our identity.

2) We are all made in the image of God. Even when we can't see that image of God immediately, we are challenged to keep searching for it, especially in those who may call us enemy.

3) In baptism we discover that we are meant to be for others, in the same way that God is for us. This means that God's mission must be the primary focus, not anything that focuses on our own selves to the exclusion of neighbor. For when we miss the neighbor, we miss God.

4) None of us is alone. We cannot engage the fullness of God's mission alone, nor know the fullness of God's reality alone. Together as members of the Body of Christ, we can begin to try. And the Spirit, burning fire, inspiring breath, and speaking in many tongues, is present in that Body, empowering and emboldening and strengthening our work. Thanks be to God who continually makes us new.

Your servant in Christ,

+Katharine Jefferts Schori

## Letter to the House of Bishops

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Inasmuch as the past several weeks have involved some significant situations, I thought it would be helpful to review and comment on process. First, regarding deposition for "abandonment of the communion of The Episcopal Church," it is important to remember that such an act is not by definition punitive, but does give formal recognition to a reality already taking place. Once the Title IV Review Committee has certified that a bishop has abandoned the communion of this Church under Title IV, Canon 9, the bishop in question is given sixty days to respond.

During this sixty day period, Title IV has a provision for temporary inhibition of the bishop by the Presiding Bishop with the consent of the three senior active bishops of the Church. These bishops who must consent to the temporary inhibition do not, however, have a veto over consideration of the merits of the deposition by the House of Bishops, any more than those who must consent to temporary inhibitions in other circumstances have a veto over consideration of the charges by a trial court. This understanding of the canon is held not only by my Chancellor, but also by members of the Title IV Review Committee including an attorney who is an original member of the Committee, the chancellors of several dioceses who have been consulted, and the former Chair of both the Standing Commission on the Constitution and Canons and the Legislative Committee on the Canons at the General Convention.

As the actual vote regarding deposition draws near, it is important to recognize what does and does not constitute a relevant response by the bishop in question. A letter of resignation from the House is irrelevant to the charges brought forward by the Review Committee and the deposition proceedings, since deposition concerns a person's ordination in this Church, not simply participation in the House of Bishops. Resignation from the House thus has no bearing on following through with the charges brought forward by the Review Committee. Deposition in this situation makes clear in an official way that the bishop in question is no longer permitted to exercise ordained ministry in this Church.

Regarding how the vote is to be taken, the canon is clear that a vote on deposition must occur at "regular or special meeting of the House." Although we have other canonical consent provisions where consents may be secured by written ballot through the mail, that process does not

satisfy the canons here. Every bishop entitled to vote is invited to the meeting and given ample notice that there will be a vote on depositions. The canon is read that a quorum be present and a majority of all bishops present who are entitled to vote consent to the deposition. In terms of parliamentary rules of order, any questions about the propriety of a vote are to be raised before the meeting or, of course, during it.

These are weighty matters, and it is important that we take seriously our procedures, as well as their purpose and intent. It is also important that we remember the reason that such canons and procedures are in place. These matters with which we are confronted have ramifications for many outside our House. For those who would like an alternative to deposition, we already have one, in the form of renunciation of vows in this Church, so that anyone may pursue his or her conscience and desires in another part of Christ's Body. This option makes clear and clean an individual's departure from The Episcopal Church. Resignation from the House is quite different, since it only deals with the person's relation to the House, not to The Episcopal Church. Thus, to resign from the House while still claiming jurisdiction over a diocese with its property and assets is not a viable alternative.

Some have misunderstood the impact and intent of deposition. It is this Church's formal way of saying to the world that the deposed cleric is no longer permitted to act as a sacramental representative of this Church. If vows to uphold the doctrine, discipline, and worship of this Church are not voluntarily renounced, how otherwise can a cleric take up new vows to uphold the doctrine, discipline, and worship of another Church?

These are indeed difficult decisions that we at times are called to make, and I have no doubt that all of us would wish things were different. We must respond to the situations with which we are faced, compassionately but not naively, knowing that we make these decisions not for ourselves alone but for the people whom we are called to shepherd and oversee. I remain

Your servant in Christ,  
Katharine Jefferts Schori

## Planning For Tomorrow Conference

The Church Pension Group came to Lincoln May 2-3 to present The Planning for Tomorrow Conference to active and retired clergy and spouses.

Among topics discussed were: Insurance/Saving and Investing, Estate Planning, Clergy Taxes, Financial Planning, Social Security/Medicare, College Planning and Cash Management.

"It was full of invaluable information for any clergy regardless of age," said the Rev. Judi Yeates, Canon to the Ordinary. "What we heard over and over is that it is never too early or too late to begin saving and planning for tomorrow."

Attendees were amazed at the amount of information presented, learning many things about our benefits that we did not know.

For instance: The CPG provides \$50,000 life insurance to active clergy and more can be purchased at a very reasonable rate.

Participants learned about the difference between a 401(k) and a 403(b). Both are tax-deferred retirement accounts; however, the 401(k) is taxable when you withdraw the funds whereas funds withdrawn from the 403(b) can be designated as housing allowance and therefore not taxable income.

The CPG assists retired clergy/spouses with Medicare Supplemental Insurance. The Diocese of Nebraska is one of the few dioceses that also provides the Premium Plan for its retirees.

Contact Nancy Nichols, Diocesan Administrator in the Diocesan office, or Canon Yeates, or check out the informative and interactive CPG Web site at [www.cpg.org](http://www.cpg.org)

## Seminarian Harding completes first year

Sahra Harding, seminarian in New York City, will remain there this summer to complete her unit of clinical work. This will assist her in learning more about clinical pastoral care.

During her first year of seminary, Harding noted she has spent a great deal of time getting to know the hearts of Old Testament prophets and defending Paul's mission in the New Testament. She has also reflected on the development of the Nicene Creed.

If it is economically feasible, Harding hopes to return to Nebraska for a visit prior to the beginning of the fall term in September.

# It's Time For Camp Comeca



"You have been called to become . . ." is the theme for both the 2008 Senior High and Junior Camps. Both events will occur at Camp Comeca near Cozad.

Senior High Camp will be Monday, July 17, through Sunday, July 20. This camp is for youth entering 9th through 12th grade. Registration deadline is July 6.

Junior Camp Comeca for youth entering 4th through 8th grade will begin Monday, July 28, at 3 p.m. and end Friday, Aug. 1 at noon. Registration deadline for Junior Camp is July 21.

Cost of either camp is \$175 and registration forms are available in every parish. These forms contain required medical information, including a medical release which must be signed by the parent or guardian in order for the youth to participate.

Camp activities include: canoeing, paddle boats, swimming, zip line, hiking, recreational volley ball, dodge ball, basketball, crafts, interactive study, chapel, campfire, talent show, highs and lows course and much more

Additional information is available from the Diocesan Youth Coordinators, including: Central and Western Deaneries, Noelle Ptomey – [nptomey@episcopal-ne.org](mailto:nptomey@episcopal-ne.org); Eastern Deanery, Robin Heller – [heller101@cox.net](mailto:heller101@cox.net); and Southeastern Deanery, Janet Squires – [jsquires@episcopal-ne.org](mailto:jsquires@episcopal-ne.org).

Send the completed registration form, together with a check made payable to the Diocese of Nebraska, to Robin Heller, 109 N 18th St., Omaha, NE 68102.

Adult counselors are wanted for both Senior and Junior Camps. Please contact Heller at 402-699-2863 or by e-mail to her address above.

## Benefit others with your will

Just as Janet graduated from high school and was looking forward to college, her father passed away and her mother became seriously ill. Janet had to give up her dream of attending college and become the breadwinner of the family. She would report to work by 6:00 a.m. and return home early in the afternoon to care for her mother.

An interesting letter arrived at their home one day. Inside was "A Notice of Probate Hearing." Her aunt had passed away and left her entire estate to Janet's mother. Within the year, they received nearly \$200,000 in cash and wisely deposited it in two banks out of town. While Janet's mother was the recipient, she made arrangements for Janet to be the joint-account holder so that in the event of her death, Janet would become the beneficiary.

Before another year passed, Janet's mother passed away and Janet was left with cash to invest. At her workplace, she overheard

many conversations about business ventures and the anticipated growth of the community. The pattern of progress began to emerge and Janet wanted to take advantage of the opportunity. She immediately found a trusted legal and financial confidante who helped her form a phantom corporation protecting her identity.

Together they acquired small parcels of land in the direction of the community's growth and soon amassed a net worth with accelerating values. Through the years, Janet never changed her lifestyle. She loved her work and she loved her apartment. She loved her community and her church and served them tirelessly as a volunteer. She had become increasingly recognized as a leading volunteer in her community. After many fulfilling years in retirement, Janet passed away.

Janet's life of hard work and careful living was a tribute to her character and commitment to her community. While her community

# Three churches combine their J2A activities

St. Luke's, Plattsmouth, Church of the Holy Spirit, Bellevue, and St. Martha's, Papillion, have had a very successful Journey to Adulthood program this school year. They have combined their youth and their trained adults to provide an amazing program that has rotated by season among the three churches. They begin with a meal at 6:30 p.m. every Wednesday evening and then use the curriculum for their program from 7:00-8:30 p.m.

St. Mary's, Bassett, also offers Journey to Adulthood in their parish. They have seven youth in the Rite 13 age group and are having a great program within their community.

The diocese can offer training in the Journey to Adulthood program this summer for churches who are interested in beginning their own J2A. For more information, please contact the Rev. Ruth Jaynes at the Diocesan office or by e-mail at [rjaynes@episcopal-ne.org](mailto:rjaynes@episcopal-ne.org).



Some of the 25 to 30 youth from Church of the Holy Spirit, Bellevue, St. Martha's, Papillion, and St. Luke's, Plattsmouth, who participate in Journey to Adulthood. (Photo Courtesy the Rev. Ruth Jaynes)

involvement was widely recognized, her wealth was never discovered until after she was gone. Her will became public record and revealed she left well over a million dollars to her favorite charities.

If you would like to learn how you can benefit others through your will, please contact the Rev. Tim Anderson, Canon for Development. We would be pleased to provide information on creating a will that accomplishes your goals and helps us with our mission.

## Parishioner wisdom

One Sunday morning during an especially bad snowstorm, the priest did not expect anyone to come to church. However, one farmer, a pillar of his parish, came in and sat down in his usual pew.

The priest thought since the man had gone to the trouble to come to church in such a storm, he would give him his full sermon.

When finished, the farmer said "Thanks for the sermon father, but if I had just one cow come home, I'd feed her, but I wouldn't give her the whole bale of hay."

-- J.D. Scamehorn

## ERD promotes MDG

Episcopal Relief and Development continues its good work, focusing especially on the United Nation's Millennium Development Goals by focusing on food security programs to ensure families have the means to access and secure healthy food sources.

ERD makes sure families have enough food to eat on a daily basis and food supplies are available, affordable, and accessible.

Its programs offer seeds and tools so communities can grow better crops, build healthier nutrition, and increase their yield in areas where poverty limits resources and access to food.

ERD provides opportunities for people to create and operate small businesses and expand their sources of income.

ERD gives families healthy animals which produce food and income.