

Call to Annual Council

July 18, 2008

TO: All Priests Canonically Resident
All Deacons Canonically Resident
All Senior Wardens of Parishes
Members of the Diocese of Nebraska:
Standing Committee
Bishop and Trustees
Executive Commission

FROM: The Rt. Rev. Joe G. Burnett, Tenth Bishop of Nebraska

RE: **Call to Annual Council, Nov. 7-9, 2008**

This is the official notice of the Call to the 141st Annual Council of the Diocese of Nebraska. It will be held at the Gering Civic Center, Gering, Neb., beginning Friday, Nov. 7 and ending Sunday, Nov. 9.

Annual Council begins this year with Friday registration and workshops at 4:00 p.m. followed by a joyous reception, light dinner and exhibits. Evening worship at 7:30 p.m. concludes the day.

Council concludes Sunday morning after Council Eucharist at 9:30 a.m. All members of Episcopal churches across the diocese are invited and urged to take this opportunity to come together in worship at this great shared celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

Proposed Resolutions will be mailed prior to Council. Annual Council Booklets will be distributed at the Registration Desk.

Call for Nominations

TO: The Clergy and Clerks of Congregations in the Diocese of Nebraska

In accord with the provisions of Canon 3, Section 1, of the Diocese of Nebraska, notice is hereby given of offices to be filled by election at the One Hundred Forty First Annual Council of the Diocese of Nebraska to be held at The Gering Civic Center, Gering Neb.

Standing Committee: One priest and two laypersons for three-year terms. Members completing terms in 2008 are: The Rev. Mary Lou Reynolds, Ronald Ozaki and Deborah Hogue. Reynolds and Ozaki are not eligible for re-election. Hogue was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Shirley Mills and is eligible for election to her first full term.

Executive Commission: Two clergy and two laypersons for three-year terms. Clergy members completing elected terms in 2008 are: The Rev. Grant Wiseman and The Rev. Paul Mottl. Both are eligible for re-election. Lay members completing elected terms in 2008 are David Hendricks and Dr. David Halsted. Hendricks is eligible for reelection, Halsted is not.

All nominations should be made using the form below, or copies thereof. Please submit these nominations directly to the Diocesan Office at 109 North 18th Street, Omaha, NE 68102 no later than Aug. 29, so we may publish them throughout the diocese.

The Rev. Canon Judi Yeates, Secretary
The Diocese of Nebraska

In accordance with the provisions of Canon 3, Section 1, of the Canons of the Diocese of Nebraska, notice is hereby given that all proposed legislation and debatable resolutions to be considered by the Council shall be submitted to the Secretary, in writing, at least 60 days prior to the convening of the Council and shall be signed by the proposer.

All such resolutions should be submitted by Aug. 29, 2008 to:
The Rev. Canon Judi Yeates, Secretary
The Diocese of Nebraska
109 North 18th Street, Omaha NE 68102

NOMINATION FORM – THE DIOCESE OF NEBRASKA – 2008 (Please print or type)

I, _____, hereby do nominate

Mr./Ms./The Rev. _____

Address _____

City and Zip Code _____

Telephone _____

E-mail _____

For the office of _____

(If you nominate a person for more than one office, please use a separate form for each nomination)

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE NOMINEE

I ACCEPT THE ABOVE NOMINATION AND AGREE TO STAND FOR ELECTION AT THE Annual Council of the Diocese of Nebraska, November 7-9, 2008 at The Gering Civic Center, Gering Nebraska.

Signed _____

Please submit a brief biographical sketch – 75 words or fewer – along with the nomination. Any biography in excess of 75 words will be edited. The order in which the nominees appear on the ballot will be determined by lot. Please return this form and related materials to The Diocese of Nebraska, 109 North 18th Street, Omaha, NE 68102 no later than Aug. 29, so we may publish them throughout the diocese.

Janice Seldon, Election Chairman

Valentine honors Krotz



St. John's Church, Valentine, honored retired bishop the Rt. Rev. James Krotz after April 27 worship services. The parish adopted a resolution proclaiming the fourth Sunday in April as Bishop Krotz Appreciation Day. Senior Warden Ray Sholl presented Bishop Krotz with a framed photograph of the Nebraska Sandhills taken by Doug Ballard, a lifelong member of St. John's who recently died. (Photo courtesy Peggy Tilgner)

A Day in the Life: Bishop's Journal May 2008

May 1. Spent morning preparing for upcoming travel and meetings. Drove to Lincoln this afternoon for the ordination to the priesthood of Ryan Hall, Curate of St. Mark's on the Campus. There was a great turnout for the service tonight, including members of the Executive Commission and Bishop and Trustees. As usual at St. Mark's, the liturgy and music were a treat, and a festive reception followed.

May 2-3. At the Cornhusker Hotel in Lincoln early this morning to participate in the Church Pension Group sponsored conference called "Planning for Tomorrow" for clergy who are part of the Church Pension Fund system. Very helpful information and strategies for economic, vocational, and spiritual wellness. A good turnout, but I have a feeling many who would have greatly benefitted from this weekend were not able to join us.

May 4. Drove early to Hastings for Visitation at St. Mark's Pro-Cathedral. Assisted by Dean Robert Neske, I celebrated, preached, and presided at confirmation. Good liturgy and music today. A wonderful pot-luck lunch followed in the undercroft. Following lunch,

and a quick look at very strategic adjacent property that St. Mark's is on the verge of purchasing, Dean Neske and I drove to Harvard for a 2 p.m. service at St. John's for the faithful community that continues to worship there. It is always a pleasure to be in these parishes, and today was no exception. Drove to Omaha, arriving late afternoon.

May 5. Attended an honors program at the College of St. Mary today where Marty was honored with the school's highest award for "Inspiring Excellence." This afternoon I celebrated Eucharist in the chapel of Trinity Cathedral honoring Bob and Diana Bee for their many years of service to this diocese in many different capacities. Following the service the diocesan staff hosted a reception in their honor in the Clarkson Center, and many friends and colleagues came to wish them well as they prepare to move to Kansas City.

May 6. Late morning staff meeting which continued through lunch. Afternoon appointment with the Rev. Jerry Thompson, Rector of St. Mark's on the Cam-

pus, followed by miscellaneous office work. In the evening, Bob and Diana Bee joined Marty and me as our guests for a dinner out to celebrated their upcoming new beginnings. It was a good visit with good friends and colleagues who will be greatly missed!

May 7. Home office, preparing for upcoming meetings and weekend visitation.

May 8. Morning spent on sermon for Sunday, and writing brief paper for next meeting of Bishops' Theology Committee next week. Drove to Kearney this afternoon, picked up the Rev. Tim Anderson and drove on from there to McCook. We were joined by our Financial Administrator Sue Renninger for meeting with the wardens and vestry of St. Alban's, McCook, and their new rector, the Rev. Mary Hendricks. Following the meeting, Tim and I drove back to Kearney, arriving late.

May 9. In hotel room this morning, working on materials for this weekend's Executive Commission Meeting, which began this afternoon at St. Luke's Church in Kearney. Tonight the Commission was treated to a wonderful social hour at the home of Richard Kauders, and then a lavish dinner at the home of Karen Park, prepared by her son who is a trained chef. It was a great evening, and a memorable time!

May 10. The Executive Commission met early for Eucharist in the chapel at St. Luke's, where I celebrated and preached, assisted by Archdeacon James Visger. The Rev. Jerry Ness then welcomed us to St. Luke's, and we continued our meeting until adjournment a bit before the noon hour. I remained for a couple of brief meetings with commission members, and then left to drive home. Back in Omaha, I spent the late afternoon and evening finishing sermon for tomorrow, and packing for trip.

May 11. The Day of Pentecost. I drove to Holy Spirit, Bellevue, for visitation, confirmation/reception, assisted by interim rector the Rev. Ruth Jaynes, the Rev. Larry Jaynes, and Deacon Diana Champagne. Good visit with many parishioners at lunch in the undercroft following the service. Left the parish in time to make a quick stop at home and then get to airport for late afternoon flight to Washington, D.C. Enjoyed dinner with my seminarian son, Jody, and then overnight at Virginia Theological Seminary.

May 12-15. The House of Bishops' Theology Committee met at the seminary for our first full meeting of this triennium with our consulting academic theologians. It was a very stimulating and positive series of sessions. I traveled back to Omaha late on Thursday morning.

May 16. In home office, catching up on e-mail, etc., and working on sermon for Sunday's visitation.

May 17. Quiet day off at home.

May 18. Visitation at St. Martha's in Papillion, where I preached at the 9 a.m. service, and Curate Mark Selvey celebrated. At the 11 a.m. service, I celebrated, preached, and presided over the rites of initiation, confirmation, reception, and reaffirmation. Enjoyed being part of my first experience with baptism in a font/pool where one of the candidates was immersed; truly a moving experience! Had a great lunch in Krotz Hall following the service, and brief but positive meeting with the clergy and vestry following lunch. St. Martha's continues to grow and expand their ministries in this rapidly expanding area of our metro area.

May 19. Home Office today, catching up on backlog.

May 20. Meeting this morning of Bishop and Trustees at St. Andrew's, Omaha. Early afternoon meeting of the Clarkson Foundation at the Clarkson Center. Mid-afternoon meeting in office with Canon Judi Yeates. Late afternoon visit and meeting with the Rev. Jay Gabb at St. Augustine's. Then early evening telephone conference with Rae Whitney, member of St. Francis, Scottsbluff, and a noted composer of hymn texts, who will be helping with our music and worship at this year's Annual Council in Gering.

May 21. Morning meeting of diocesan staff, which continued through lunch. Personal appointments and business in the afternoon.

May 22. Midday meeting with Canon Judi Yeates in diocesan office. Early afternoon appointment with the Rev. Daniel Kuot for update on his continuing mission in the Sudan. Late afternoon meeting with the Rev. Liz Montes, who leads our multicultural ministries in Lexington. Home late to finish preparations for upcoming travel.

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The Nebraska Episcopalian A Diocese of Nebraska Edition of Episcopal Life Volume 19, No. 7 July 2008

Episcopal Life ISSN 1050-0057 USPS# 177-940 is published monthly by the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, Inc. 815 Second Ave, New York, NY 10017. Periodical postage paid in New York, NY and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send change of address to Episcopal Life, PO Box 2050 Voorhees NJ 08043-8000.

The Episcopal Diocese of Nebraska
109 North 18th Street, Omaha, NE 68102
www.episcopal-ne.org

The Rt. Rev. Joe Goodwin Burnett
Tenth Bishop of Nebraska
Editor: Don Rabbe

We welcome your contributions and digital photographs. Please e-mail submissions to therabbes@inebraska.com or mail to:
4000 South 56th Street, Unit 111B
Lincoln, NE 68506-5101.

Deadline is the first day of the month for the following month's issue.

Send change of address notices to:
Episcopal Life
Circulation Department,
P.O. Box 2050
Voorhees, NJ 08043-8000.
Or call (800) 374-9510
Or e-mail elife@aflwebprinting.com

The Pastoral Staff



Looking Toward Lambeth: Part Two of a Series

The Rt. Rev. Joe G. Burnett

Last month I began a series of articles on this summer's Lambeth Conference, which will bring several hundred bishops from provinces around the Anglican Communion to Canterbury, England, for this once-every-10-years gathering.

As of this writing, I am scheduled to fly to England July 11. Upon arrival, I will travel by car to Brecon Cathedral, in Wales, and I will be "in residence" there for a few days prior to the beginning of Lambeth. I will also be the guest preacher at the Cathedral on Sunday, July 13 (see related article in this paper).

This visit to Brecon Cathedral is part of a "hospitality" initiative that will bring many bishops from around the communion to different parts of the United Kingdom for several days prior to the beginning of Lambeth. I consider it both an honor and a privilege to be representing you there in this capacity, and I look forward to sharing my experiences and reflections following this visit.

As I mentioned last month, the Lambeth 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. However, as you are aware, we will be asked to discuss the latest draft of a "Covenant Statement."

At a recent gathering of several members of my 2003/2004 "Class" of bishops, those of us present came to a consensus that we don't believe such an agreement as it now stands is either theologically sound, or historically "Anglican." There is also attached to the latest draft of the covenant a "disciplinary appendix" which is also highly problematic. We speculate that in the long run even conservative African Churches will not support the Covenant, since no Province really wants others interfering with their sovereignty. However, we also realize that it is important for us to go to Lambeth with open and receptive attitudes and spirits.

Some of us are working on alternative language proposals

that might provide for a more irenic and broad-based statement of faith. Others of us believe a document such as our own baptismal covenant, and/or a reaffirmation of well-known statements such as the "Lambeth Quadrilateral," which highlights the Holy Scriptures, the two "gospel" sacraments of baptism and Eucharist, the Apostles' and Nicene creeds, and the historic episcopate, will suffice.

It is helpful to be reminded that the Episcopal Church pre-dates the Anglican Communion, as indeed do most if not all of the member churches/provinces. Furthermore, in the historical development of the Episcopal Church, during the ferment of the emerging American democracy, our particular church structure emerged in striking similarity to the "separation of powers" so deeply embedded in the American experiment. For more than two centuries we have found this to be a workable and faithful way of giving institutional expression to the historic Christianity we exemplify.

I was drawn to a recent op-ed column in "USA Today" by George Will, who, while writing about a political matter, nonetheless brought to mind for me the ecclesiastical liberties that our Anglican tradition—which is at once catholic and reformed—has lived and breathed for more than four centuries of our common life. Will said that "Our constitutional architecture of checks and balances, as explained by the principal architect, James Madison, is: 'Ambition must be made to counteract ambition. The interest of man [sic] must be connected with the constitutional rights of the place.' This design was supposed to serve various governmental functions—especially the protection of individuals' rights from government made overbearing by the concentration of too much power in one branch."

I am acutely and theologically aware of the finitude of human capacities, and the tendency on the part of each and every human being to overreach. This "original sin" marks all of us—believers and unbelievers alike—and

it affects all in the church: laypersons, deacons, priests, bishops, and archbishops/primates. This is just one of many reasons that so many of us are concerned that our fragile and faithful interplay of freedom in the traditional Anglican "Communion" might be supplanted by a Roman style curia in "covenant statement" disguise. This, I believe, is a far more serious concern for all Anglican provinces and Episcopal Christians than any differences over matters of human sexuality.

I look forward to providing future reports from Lambeth, and also to engage you in conversations about these issues upon my return.

(Continued from Page B)

The Bishop's Journal

May 23-29. Left early morning on the 23rd to fly to LaGuardia Airport in New York City, in time for a full afternoon of meetings at Church Pension Group offices. Weekend trip to "Ground Zero," and services at St. Bartholomew's Church in Manhattan. Enjoyed visits with clergy and lay staff members of this parish that is "re-inventing" itself in a thriving downtown area. The Rev. Tom Ehrich, who was our Annual Council guest and speaker last October, is on the staff here. From May 26 through Thursday morning, May 29, I joined several members of my 2003/4 "Class" of bishops for meetings and continuing education at General Theological Seminary, including a day of intense media training at Auburn Seminary, also in Manhattan. Flew home Thursday afternoon.

May 30-31. Traveled to Mississippi to take part in my High School Class reunion in Newton, Miss., (our 42nd!). Marty joins me to begin a week of vacation in the region.

EFM a "Wonderful Ministry"

"You have a wonderful ministry that benefits the Diocese of Nebraska in so many ways," said the Rev. Judi Yeates, Canon to the Ordinary, speaking during a closing session of the annual Education for Ministry Mentor Training at St. Luke's, Kearney. "Mentoring EFM takes lots of energy and preparation."

Yeates and the mentors discussed ways the diocese could support the EFM program. Among suggestions were providing an EFM page on the Diocesan Web Site; develop an e-mail interaction and support group for mentors; provide internet links to the School of Theology in Sewanee, Tenn., creator and sponsor of EFM; providing a booth at Annual Council and Ministry Fairs; and possible interaction between EFM and the Bishop's School for Baptismal Ministry.

She also recommended reinstating the practice of an annual EFM Event for current students, graduates and other interested lay people. Past events have included presentations by nationally and internationally known writers, theologians and church musicians. EFM Events had been self-sustaining, using no diocesan funds. However, a drop in attendance necessitated discontinuing them.

Marian Barnett, Holy Spirit, Bellevue, continues as the Diocesan EFM Coordinator. Annual training was provided by the Rev. Ann Fontaine for Basic In-Service, and Marti Greenwood, Mentor Formation trainer.

Participants in the 2008 basic training were Dana "Woody" Bradford, All Saints, Omaha; Charles Eigenberg, St. Mark's Pro-Cathedral, Hastings; Tammy Lassen, Grace Church, Columbus; Dana Scheel, Diocese of Kansas; and Joan Wood, Holy Spirit, Bellevue.

Taking part in "The Four Source Model" formation training were the Rev. Chris Grosh, Deacon, St. Mark's On the Campus, Lincoln; Lynn Martin, Trinity Cathedral, Omaha; Don Rabbe, St. Matthew's, Lincoln; and the Rev. Aurilla Walker, St. Christopher's, Cozad.

Education for Ministry is a four-year course to assist lay persons in determining and developing their individual and corporate ministries within their parish and the diocese. Year One involves a study of the Old Testament; Year Two, the New Testament; Year Three, Church History from Paul to the 21st century; and Year Four focuses on Theological Choices. Seminar groups meet weekly September through May to discuss readings and participate in theological reflections.

The EFM program does not evaluate or recommend individuals for ordination. Many people think that one must be ordained in order to be "a minister." The fact is that all baptized Christians are called to be active participants in the church's total ministry. This is nothing less than the exercise of the church's vocation to continue the ministry of Jesus. He reconciled the world to God. We are called to that reconciliation in our own time and in our own place through worship, service to others, and by proclamation of God's Word to all people.

For more information about EFM, or to enroll in an EFM group, contact Barnett or any of the mentors listed above.

Bishop Burnett to preach in Wales



As an adjunct to his trip to England to participate in the Lambeth Conference 2008, the Right Rev. Joe G. Burnett, Bishop of Nebraska, has been invited to preach at Brecon Cathedral in Wales on Sunday, July 13. He will stay in the Cathedral's "Canonry," an apartment kept on site for visiting clergy.

The Cathedral was, until the establishment of the Diocese of Swansea and Brecon in 1923, the Parish Church of St. John the Evangelist. A Norman Benedictine Priory was founded on the site in 1093 and this became the Parish Church in the 16th century at the time of the dissolution of the monasteries. Because of the nature and type of its location, it is thought that the Norman Priory might have been built on the site of an older, possibly Celtic, church.

It stands at the geographic center of a Diocese which is some 120 miles in length, stretching from Beguildy in the North to the Gower Peninsula in the South. The northern part of the Diocese is predominantly rural with a number of attractive market towns, Brecon itself among them. It includes the Brecon Beacons National Park and a rich variety of stunning landscapes. The southern part is a greater mix of urban and rural and includes the City and County of Swansea as well as the Gower peninsula, an area designated as one of outstanding natural beauty.

The Cathedral is the Mother Church of the Diocese and seeks to offer a ministry of worship and welcome for all who visit. Although it is a building of relatively modest proportions, the Cathedral is set in a walled close, unique in Wales, and is regarded as one of its finest buildings. The buildings in the Cathedral Close are the remains of the former monastic buildings and today provide the administrative center for the Diocese as well as housing for the Cathedral clergy, a heritage exhibition and a restaurant.

More information about Brecon Cathedral can be found at their Web site: <http://www.breconcathedral.org.uk/>

Lambeth Palace steeped in history



Palace home to Archbishop of Canterbury since 13th century

Lambeth Palace, or as it was originally called the Manor of Lambeth or Lambeth House, has been the London residence of the Archbishop of Canterbury for nearly 800 years. The south bank of the Thames was an attractive choice for the location of an Archbishop's Palace, with its

proximity to Westminster and the Royal Court.

Stephen Langton is thought to have been the first Archbishop to live at Lambeth in the 13th century. Prior to this it was traditional for the Archbishop to live in Canterbury. Langton's Chapel, and below it the Crypt, form the oldest part of Lambeth Palace today. All of the other buildings that exist within the Palace grounds have been added, expanded and altered over the centuries to suit changes in fashion and purpose.

While the Archbishop's residence at Lambeth had a great entrance from the 1320s, the imposing gateway - Morton's Tower - that can be seen today was not built until 1490. Morton's Tower is still used as the main entrance into Lambeth Palace although this, the Guard Room, the Chapel and Crypt are the only sections of Lambeth Palace that have survived from this time.

The Great Hall at Lambeth Palace currently houses much of the Lambeth Palace Library. It has been built and re-built many times over the centuries, not least as a result of damage during the English Civil War and the London blitz.

Following the appointment of Archbishop Howley in 1828, famous architect of the day Edward Blore was invited to survey the collection of buildings that made up Lambeth Palace at that time. The effects of the Civil War and the subsequent patch-up building repairs and renovations that followed were still quite visible during the early 19th century.

Blore proceeded to give a fairly devastating account of the Palace's condition. He described it as "miserably deficient as the residence of so distinguished a person as the Archbishop of Canterbury". Blore went on to build the residential wing, which was completed in 1833. This building now forms much of the Palace that functions today.

'The Blore Building', as it came to be known, was built in Bath Stone to a Gothic revival style. Blore also took great care to restore the Guard Room while connecting it to the rest of his building. The 14th century roof of the Guard Room was suspended on stilts whilst Blore constructed a system for replacing and reconnecting the walls. Some of the surrounding buildings were preserved and arrangements were made for these rooms and the Great Hall to house the Palace Library.

Following the Second World War Archbishop Fisher commissioned massive restoration work on the Palace. The Chapel and Lollards Tower were gutted by the direct hit of an incendiary bomb on May 10, 1941. As a result the roof and windows were replaced in the Chapel, whilst the ceilings in the Post Room and Lollards Tower were reinforced with brick and timber. The new plain white ceiling of the Chapel was not re-painted until the 1980s and much of the restoration work took the remainder of the 20th century to complete.

Today Lambeth Palace continues to be the London home

of the Archbishop of Canterbury and his family. A series of offices at the Palace form the working center of the Archbishop's national and international ministry.

The Archbishop employs several dozen staff to support him in his work there. In addition to the Archbishop's senior advisers and administrative staff, the Palace is serviced by a building manager, steward, cook, gardeners, gatekeepers and cleaners, all of whom take care of the historic building and its grounds.

The Archbishop receives more than 10,000 letters each year and responds to many personally. Most are from churchgoers, some from the diverse parts of the global Communion and many come from school children. Although his staff help with the replies, the Archbishop endeavours to send a personal reply to as many correspondents as he can.

The Palace Library remains a place of academic study while many of the beautiful rooms have retained their original function as spaces for hospitality. The Chapel and the Crypt Chapel are used daily for worship and prayer by the Archbishop and the Sisters at Lambeth.

The Palace serves as a venue for hospitality and events for the Church of England and in the summer its sizeable grounds play host to garden parties for organizations and charities supported by the Archbishop and Mrs. Williams.

Presiding Bishop offers her hopes for 2008 Lambeth Conference

The 2008 Lambeth Conference is primarily an opportunity for bishops to get to know one another and to strengthen partnerships, according to Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori.

Acknowledging that partnerships throughout the Communion have grown significantly in recent years, Jefferts Schori said her hopes for Lambeth and the Anglican Communion are "that we encounter each other as human beings working in vastly different contexts around the globe and that we build relationships."

Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams has invited more than 800 bishops to attend the July 16-August 3 conference on the campus of the University of Kent in southeast England, and more than three quarters have accepted, planners have said.

(Continued on Page E)

Cursillo participants form long-lasting bonds



These 25 candidates and 34 team members gathered April 17-20 at the 4H facility in the beautiful forest area near Halsey for Nebraska Episcopal Cursillo No. 23. Led by Rectora Sig Eigenberg, the group worshiped, worked, sang and prayed together during the three-day weekend that is a short course in Christian leadership. They opened their hearts to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Planning is underway for Cursillo No. 24. A time and location will be announced soon. (Photo Courtesy Nancy Benton-Brown)

(Continued from Page D)

The conference has met roughly once every 10 years since its inception in 1867, but this year's gathering is set to be an entirely different encounter to any of its predecessors.

The Rev. Dr. Ian Douglas, Angus Dun professor of world Christianity at Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, Mass., is a member of the Lambeth Conference Design Group which has met regularly since February 2004 in preparation for the 2008 gathering. He said it was the hope and desire of the design group "to do a new thing and help the Anglican Communion focus on what were the mission opportunities of the Communion globally."

Unlike previous conferences, the 2008 gathering will include fewer plenary sessions and no resolutions. It will not be text- or report-driven.

The design group, which for the first time included lay people and priests as well as bishops, was committed to "creating opportunities for bishops to come together to have deep and meaningful prayer and conversation to equip each other to be more effective as bishops and thus strengthening the Anglican Communion," Douglas said.

The conference will begin

with three retreat days "in which we can spend time together in quiet and begin to direct our minds towards the central issues of faith," said Williams at the Lambeth Conference program launch earlier this year.

The main conference days are split into four sections: group Bible study, expanded meetings called "Indaba" groups, self-selecting groups and optional "fringe" events. The Bible study groups will each include about eight bishops and will focus on the gospel of St. John.

The Indaba groups, named after a Zulu word meaning purposeful conversation, will include about 40 bishops and will not shy away from the hard questions," Douglas said, noting that they will include study and conversations on the authority of the Bible, human sexuality, gender and violence, Anglican identity and the Anglican covenant.

For the self-selecting groups, the bishops may choose between various workshops, seminars or discussions that will focus on a particular conference topic. Fringe events in the evening will provide an opportunity for entertainment and fellowship through film screenings, theater productions, dinners and discussions.

"This design is fundamentally about encounter -- conversations amongst leaders all orienting to what God is calling the Anglican Communion and bishops to be about in the wider world," said Douglas. "It's de-centered, many voiced, conversational and relational -- an opportunity for genuine and deep meaningful conversation and building of incarnational relationships."

During a pre-conference hospitality initiative, every bishop and spouse attending the Lambeth Conference and Spouses Conference will enjoy the hospitality of an English, Scottish or Welsh diocese. Jefferts Schori will be spending time in the Diocese of Salisbury along with all the bishops of the Episcopal Church of the Sudan. On Sunday, July 13, Jefferts Schori will be the preacher at Salisbury Cathedral.

UTO benefits the diocese, the nation and the world

In 2007, 104 domestic and foreign grants totaling \$2,439,342 were awarded by United Thank Offering to programs and projects around the world. The largest

single grant, \$79,000 was given to help complete a building project for a Christian Hospital in Sialkot, Pakistan. The largest grant in the United States was \$68,000 to help build a new church, St. Augustine's, in Homer, Alaska.

In Nebraska, the Church of the Resurrection, Omaha, received a UTO grant to help make the church barrier-free and easily accessible to persons with disabilities.

A total of 32 parishes in the Diocese of Nebraska contributed \$9,926.14 in 2007. Every penny received goes to outreach.

"I want to give a big thank you for your gifts as they are needed and most appreciated," said Joan Barton, UTO Coordinator for the diocese.

For more information about the United Thank Offering, contact Barton. Offerings received at individual churches should be counted and a check written to UTO and sent to Barton. For more information, write to Mrs. Joan Barton, UTO Coordinator, 819 East Delaware Avenue, Grand Island, NE 68801.

Parishes in transition

All Saints, Omaha has an opening for a full-time Director of Music to take charge of and develop the musical life of the parish. The church is seeking a team player with a heart for all types of worship music. Interested applicants should contact the church at 9302 Blondo, Omaha, NE 68134; or by phone at 402-393-8612 or e-mail office@allsaintsomaha.com

The vestry of Church of the Resurrection, Omaha, has formed a Search Committee and is beginning work on a parish profile. The immediate plan is to interview and call an interim rector to serve for a designated period of time although supply clergy have been used to date.

The Search Committees at Church of the Holy Spirit, Bellevue, and St. Augustine's, Elkhorn-Omaha, are completing their parish profiles. Each church hoped to receive candidate names by June 30.

St. John's, Valentine, and St. John's, Broken Bow, continue to seek part time clergy to serve their respective parishes. A possibility exists for some joint ministry between a parish in the Diocese of South Dakota in the city of Winter and St. John's, Valentine, that may be full time.

If you know of any priest who might be interested in either of these positions, please contact Canon John Schaefer at the diocesan office.

Application process established for seeking Alleluia Fund grants

The Rev. Grant Wiseman, rector St. Andrew's, Omaha, will chair the Alleluia Fund Projects Committee of the Executive Commission. This committee will review all Alleluia Fund Grant Applications and make recommendations regarding them to the full Executive Commission.

St. Stephen's, Grand Island, and the Western Deanery were awarded grants during the May meeting of the Executive Commission.

A request for \$13,561 by St. Stephen's meets one of the Alleluia Fund priorities, namely Outreach. It will allow St. Stephen's to continue a community outreach project operated from their Community Service building. The parish serves 65,000 people annually through programs in this building.

The Western Deanery grant request sought funds to purchase computer laptop/projector and screens to be used throughout the Deanery for presentations. Following research and review of the request, the Projects Committee recommended the purchase of three laptop computers, projectors, related software, cases and screens in an amount not to exceed \$4,500.

This will equip the Western Deanery with two sets and the Central Deanery with one set for multi-media ministries. The items will be used for Fresh Start programs, Natural Church Development programs, individual parish presentations and Deanery meetings.

Also adopted by the Executive Commission was a grant application process:

1) Grant requests are due 21 days prior to an Executive Commission meeting. Requests received after that date will be considered at the next meeting of the Projects Committee.

2) Upon receipt of an application, the Projects Committee will forward copies, by e-mail, to all members of the Executive Commission to inform them of the next scheduled meeting of the committee. Commission members may contact a member of the Projects Committee or attend the meeting to address any concerns or questions.

3) At least seven days prior to the Executive Commission meeting, the Projects Committee will meet, make recommendations, and report them by e-mail to all members of the commission. Questions about recommendations may be addressed with the committee chair prior to the commission meeting so they may be included in the report of the committee given during the commission meeting.

For additional information regarding the Alleluia Fund grant application process or to file an application, contact the Rev. Tim Anderson, Canon for Development, at the diocesan office in Omaha.

Notes from The Snows

Dear Friends:

May God bless you as He blessed us during Lent, Easter and now Pentecost. When the cold blows into the United States, it also blows teams south into the Caribbean.

Ellen and I (Ellen more than I) spend a lot of time in the Santo Domingo airport. We are continually amazed at the number of teams that stream out of the customs doors and into the land of Meringue. How do we know these are teams? Here some giveaways. You know they are a mission team when:

1. A long-line of people exit wearing the same bright-colored shirts.
2. When an apparent leader yells "Don't let anyone touch your luggage".
3. This same person is franti-

cally looking for a familiar face or welcome sign.

4. At least two people have a guitar case over their shoulder.
5. Luggage falls off an overloaded baggage cart pushed by 5 foot 5 teenager.

6. A Dominican host tries to hug a visitor, and the person moves back trying to protect their individual space. (This mannerism will change before the day is out. Dominicans hug and aren't rebuffed easily.)

Teams are essential to the growth of this diocese. We are grateful for their willingness to be a part of Christ's work in the DR. This year the diocese will host about 55 groups and over 700 people. This total includes 10 medical teams, 30 work teams, 10 summer bible school teams, 5 mission discovery trips or other groups. Indeed He has blessed this diocese.

The Rev. Bob and Ellen Snow

Bishop's Calendar & Diocesan Events

July 2008

- July 8-13 National Episcopal Youth Event, Trinity University, San Antonio, Texas
 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 Vistation, 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, IL
 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, Omaha

Riddles of the Bible

1. Who was the greatest entertainer in the Bible?
 (miah) height) and Nehemiah (Knee-high)
2. Why was Moses the most sinful man in the Bible?
 6. Billed the Shuhite (shoe book in the Bible.
3. Why was Moses buried in the land of Moab?
 5. Neither. There is no such every creeping thing."
4. Where are freeways first mentioned in the Bible?
 4. Genesis 1:30 "The Lord made 3. He was dead.
5. Is the book Hezekiah in the Old Testament or the New?
 2. He broke all of the Ten Com-mandments at once.
6. Who are the two shortest people in the Bible?
 filled with his enemies. the house even though it was 1. Samson. He brought down

**EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF NEBRASKA
2008 JUNIOR CAMP COMECA REGISTRATION FORM
For youth entering 4th through 8th grade
From Monday, July 28, at 3 p.m. to noon Friday, Aug. 1
Registration Deadline: July 21**

Name _____

Age _____ Gender _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

E-mail Address _____

Parent/Guardian _____

Home Phone _____

Mother's Work Phone _____

Father's Work Phone _____

Name/nickname for name-tag _____

Grade in coming year _____

Home Parish _____

T-Shirt Size (Adult sizes) M L XL XXL

Health Information: Allergies, medication, special diet,
physical limitations, etc.

Date of last Tetanus Shot _____

Date of last Measles Shot _____

(For your child's safety and protection, we require month and year of most recent immunizations. This information can easily be obtained from your physician or health clinic.)

Medical Release: We, the undersigned, authorize such medical treatment as is necessary and such additional procedures as are considered necessary on the basis of findings during the course of medical examination. We understand that the outcome of medical treatment is not guaranteed.

Parent/Guardian _____

Date _____

Photo Release: We give permission for photos of our child to be taken at this event and published in the diocese newsletter and/or web site.

Parent/Guardian _____

Date _____

Registration is \$175 including t-shirt and daily snacks. No on-site registration will be allowed. No spending money is necessary while at camp. Please submit your registration, no later than July 21, to the Youth Coordinator at 109 North 18th Street Omaha NE 68102 Make all checks payable to: The Diocese of Nebraska.

**Joint Statement of Episcopal and ELCA Presiding Bishops:
"Prayer and Action for the People of the Sudan"**

The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori
Presiding Bishop and Primate
The Episcopal Church

The Rev. Mark S. Hanson
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

During the past several weeks, we have watched with great sorrow as the new outbreak of violence in the Sudan has threatened the resumption of widespread conflict in a nation just three years removed from decades of civil war. Our sense of foreboding is heightened because the violence has come in and around Abyei, a town whose history, resources, and proximity to the border between northern and southern Sudan make it a proving-ground for the success or failure of the nation's still-young peace agreement.

At the present moment, untold numbers of people have been killed, much of Abyei has been burned to the ground, and as many as 120,000 people have been displaced from their homes. Urgent action from the international community is necessary to address the present suffering and safeguard against the resumption of widespread and de-centralized fighting across a country already destabilized by the unchecked and catastrophic war in its western Darfur region.

In the coming days, we urge all Americans to pray for peace in the Sudan and to call for strong action from the international community to restore stability in a land whose people have been entangled far too long in violence.

First, there is an urgent need for humanitarian assistance—both through government agencies like USAID and through private giving—in order to assist those newly displaced from their homes who now suffer without food, clean water, or shelter. Please visit Episcopal Relief and Development or ELCA International Disaster Response to learn how you can give.

Second, increased diplomatic pressure from the international community, including neighbor states and allies of the Sudanese government, is necessary to demand that northern Sudanese military units withdraw from Abyei immediately and allow a comprehensive international assessment of the cause and effects of the conflict.

Third, the United States and other parties to Sudan's 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement should insist on full and immediate implementation of the CPA and subsequent agreements, especially as they relate to Abyei. This includes provisions respecting clear borders, fair sharing of resources, and autonomous local governance in the South. These steps are necessary for the remainder of the peace process to unfold as envisioned by its drafters and to avoid the pitfalls we have seen in other areas of implementation such as the current census.

Recently, each of us has had the opportunity to hear firsthand reports of the situation from Archbishop Daniel Deng Bul, the leader of Sudan's four million Episcopalians, as well as from members of a joint Episcopal-Lutheran delegation that traveled to southern Sudan last month. We have heard stories of great hope and courage, but also of the fragility of peace and the dire humanitarian consequences a resumption of war would bring.

We hope this joint statement may raise awareness of the crisis, and urge Episcopalians and Lutherans to send a copy of it to their elected officials. In these difficult days, we pray that God, whose blessed Son "came to preach peace to those who are far off and those who are near," would grant wisdom and strength to our brothers and sisters in Sudan, as well as inspiration and purpose to all who watch from a distance and wish to help by heart, hand, or voice.

To make a donation to Episcopal Relief and Development's "Sudan Fund," visit us online at www.er-d.org, or call 1-800-334-7626, ext. 5129. Gifts can be mailed to: Episcopal Relief and Development "Sudan Fund" P.O. Box 7058, Merrifield, VA 22116-7058.

Gifts to ELCA International Disaster Response, designated for "Sudan Crisis" will be used in full - 100% - for this ongoing disaster response. Gifts may be directed through ELCA congregations, on-line at www.elca.org/giving or mailed to ELCA Disaster Response, PO Box 71764, Chicago IL 60694-1764.

St. Augustine's VBS was a little fishy



While learning the story of Jonah, Timmy Anderson relaxes and tries to imagine life inside a whale. (Photos Courtesy Robin Heller)



Friday is a "water /tie dye day" where the kids spend the afternoon with water activities and creating beautiful works of art. The younger participants tried their hands at fishing, assisted by St. Augustine's middle and high school youth.

Youth Ministries needs builders like "You"

By Noelle Ptomey, Central Deanery Youth Coordinator

When is a house not just a house? When is a Church more than a building? When we build Christian relationships, a house becomes a place of belonging and a church becomes an active and living extension of the Gospel.

I recently made my annual deanery visit to St. Luke's, Kearney. This is my HOME church; the parish I came to as a 4-year-old and the parish that sent me off to college.

The Rev. Jerry Ness, current rector, who believes that children and youth, next to our salvation, are the greatest gifts from God, graciously gave me his sermon time to talk about youth ministry in the Diocese. Despite my lineage (daughter of a priest), I was terrified of speaking and having "sermon time" was more than daunting. It was panic time! I called Robin Heller, the Eastern Deanery Youth Coordinator and said HELP! She came through for me with a story she gives as a graduation gift. The story goes something like this.

A carpenter wants to retire. His boss understands, but asks him to build one more house before he leaves. The carpenter reluctantly agrees. But as he builds, his heart is not in this job and he does not do his best work. When the house is complete the boss comes and gives the carpenter the keys. The house is his gift to the carpenter for his years of service and dedication to the company. Now the carpenter is shocked and embarrassed. If he'd only known he was building his own house he would have done it better.

This story seemed to make sense for promoting youth ministry. We need to build our house wisely today, for a future depends on it. The Episcopal Church has a lot in common with the carpenter. We are old and tired. But God calls us to action even when the conditions are not ideal. When the task seems impossible He asks us to build another house.

While I prepared for my visit to St. Luke's I kept remembering little pieces of my childhood growing up in that church. It struck me that every memory was a board nailed into place in my own house. Every time someone taught Sunday School, put together a Vacation Bible School or drove me to Camp Comeca, my house got stronger.

The Gospel for the first Sunday of June, the day I visited St. Luke's, was Matthew 7: 21-29. The foolish man builds his house in the sand while the wise man builds his house on the rock. I hadn't taken the time to check the lectionary before my visit, so sitting in the pew Sunday morning and hearing the lessons was something of a jolt. How amazing that the Gospel story tied precisely into the story of the carpenter and what I had planned to say.

I don't believe it takes a village to raise a child. I think it takes a church to do the job right. Today's youth face great challenges. We live in a world that seems intent on pulling away from Christ. If we build our houses in an overwhelmed, distracted, selfish, detached or foolish manner, we're not making an adequate house for our youth - we're building in the sand.

It's summer time. Prime

youth ministry season for the Diocese of Nebraska. We have Episcopal Youth Event, Camp Comeca twice in July, and Happening during Labor Day weekend. Churches are planning Vacation Bible Schools and mission trips. There is a GREAT need for people to step in and help carry out this vital ministry.

We, the churches and youth of this diocese, need YOU. We need your ideas, your energy, your faith, your commitment, your creativity, your willingness to help, your unique gifts and talents; and, we need them now!

There is a danger in complacency. Thinking that events and can go on without you is a mistake. God calls us to an abundant life. Without your help we do not have an abundant youth program. Opportunities abound. Get involved at your church or for or more information about our diocesan programs please contact your deanery youth coordinator or call me at 308-850-5353. Let's take hint from Lowe's and let's build something together.

Noelle Ptomey is the Central Deanery Youth Coordinator and a member of St. Stephen's, Grand Island. She has worked in Youth Ministries in the Diocese of Nebraska and Diocese of Colorado the past six years and firmly believes that an active and vital youth ministry is the key to growth in the Episcopal Church.

Camp Counselors Needed

Adult counselors are needed for both Junior and Senior Camp this summer. Both events will be at Camp Comeca near Cozad.

Applications are online at <http://www.episcopal-ne.org/youth/default.aspx> or by contacting Robin Heller at 402-699-2863 or by e-mail at Heller101@cox.net.

In an effort to promote the Diocese Camp Comeca this year, St. Augustine's, Omaha/Elkhorn, decided to play off the camp theme this year "You Are Called To Become!"

Vacation Bible School was divided into two sessions: 9 to 11 a.m. for children ages 3 to 7 and 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for the older elementary school children.

Middle school and high school students helped run and plan the camp as a team and supported the organizers by running the craft times and games.

The children studied characters in history that were "called to become" something different than they were.

They learned how Jonah, the backward prophet, and Noah, whom God chose to build the ark, rose to the many challenges God put before them.

Summer Fun Day an alternative to full-blown VBS

Looking for something easy to do with the children of your church and maybe attract some of the neighborhood families? Try a Summer Fun Day! It's not as hard to put together as a week of Vacation Bible School but it gives the children the opportunity to have some Christian Education in those last days before summer is over and it's time to head back to school.

Schedule a morning or an afternoon where you have a Bible story from a great children's book and reinforce the learning with a related video. There are many books and DVD's to choose from in the Diocesan Resource Center in Omaha.

Add some fun outdoor games, water balloons or other water toys, a mid-morning or afternoon snack of ice cream or Popsicles and a craft and the children will have a great time.

Make something to take to parishioners in a nursing home, then go and visit them and sing a couple of songs. It will build community and make some great memories.

For more ideas and resources, e-mail the Rev. Ruth Jaynes at rjaynes@episcopal-ne.org. If you need help to organize such a program, she will be glad to come and help you organize it and carry it out!