

MINISTRY MEMO
for
Clergy, Wardens and Lay Leaders of the
Diocese of Nebraska
February 18, 2008

From the Bishop

Dear Friends in Christ,

I write with two upcoming events in mind. The first is the third annual Men in Ministry Retreat, to be held at Camp Comeca Feb. 29 – Mar. 2 (See further information later in this Memo). I have had the privilege of being present for the first and second years of these retreats, and I want once again to commend this opportunity to all the men in our diocese. I think it is fair to say that all those who have attended the earlier Men in Ministry Retreats have found them to be a great opportunity for some “time away,” for making new friends, reconnecting with old friends, and exploring matters of faith and life in a quiet and relaxed atmosphere. This year’s retreat promises to be the best yet! Dean Ernesto Medina of Trinity Cathedral will be this year’s retreat leader, and I believe those who attend will find his creative presentations to be exceptionally worthwhile. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Hank Austin for his leadership and service in organizing and implementing these retreats. I hope you will consider attending, and encourage those in your parish to do the same.

And speaking of retreats, the annual spring retreat of the House of Bishops takes place in mid-March at Camp Allen in Navasota, Texas. This year’s program, in addition to offering time for prayer, worship, and spiritual renewal, will be focused on preparations for this summer’s Lambeth Conference, the once-every-ten-years gathering of bishops from around the Anglican Communion. As we prepare for this event, I ask for your prayers for us, and for the members and ministers of our Episcopal Church, and for all the provinces of our communion.

May God bless you as you continue to walk in the way of the cross during this holy season of Lent.

Grace and peace,

+Joe

News of the Family

Your Prayers are requested for The Rev. Karen Anderson, St. Francis Scottsbluff, and her family following the death of her son in law following a long illness. Please remember Karen, and her daughter Karry and children in your prayers.

Churches in Transition

St. Alban's, McCook: The Rev. Mary Hendricks of Little Rock, Arkansas has accepted the call to become the new rector of St. Alban's. Starting date is yet to be determined.

Church of the Holy Spirit, Bellevue: The parish has formed a Search Committee which will be drawing up a parish profile in the coming months. They are not receiving names at this point.

Church of the Resurrection, Omaha: The Rev. Judi Yeates has announced her resignation effective the end of March. She is to become the new Canon to the Ordinary May 1st, as The Rev. Tim Anderson transitions into his new position. The vestry is at the very beginning stage of examining options for future pastoral leadership.

St. Augustine's, Omaha (Elkhorn): The Rev. Jay Gabb has announced that he will retire no later than the end of this year. The vestry is in the beginning phase of developing a parish profile.

Part time positions are available at **St. John's, Valentine** and **St. John's, Broken Bow**. Ideally, these parishes are looking for a retired priest who would be willing to serve part time. Rectories are available. If you know of anyone who might be interested or needs further information about these positions, please contact Canon John Schaefer.

BISHOP'S SCHEDULE AND DIOCESAN EVENTS February – August 2008

February 2008

- Feb 16 Eastern Deanery Mtg – St. Mary's, Blair 10:00-2:00 p.m. Sessions for Vestry members, spirituality and Resurrection House.
- Feb. 16-19 Living Stones Conference, Des Moines, IA
- Feb 22-23 Executive Commission Meeting, St. Augustine's Elkhorn
- Feb. 24 Bishop's Visitation, St. Stephen's, Grand Island
- Feb. 26 Council Planning, Clarkson Center, tba
- Feb 29-Mar 2 Men in Ministry Retreat, Camp Comeca. Ernesto Medina Presenter

March 2008

- Mar. 1 SE Deanery Meeting, St. Matthew's, Lincoln 10:00a.m.-2:00p.m.
- Mar. 6-14 House of Bishops' Spring Retreat, Camp Allen, Navasota, TX
- Mar. 16 Palm/Passion Sunday, Bishop in Residence, Trinity Cathedral, 10:30 a.m.
- Mar. 20 Maundy Thursday, Bishop in Residence Trinity Cathedral, 6 p.m.
- Mar. 21 Good Friday, Bishop in Residence, Trinity Cathedral, 12 noon
- Mar. 22 Easter Eve, Bishop in Residence, Trinity Cathedral, tba
- Mar. 23 Easter Day, Bishop in Residence, Trinity Cathedral, 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.
- Mar. 30 Bishop's Visitation, Church of the Resurrection, Omaha

April 2008

- Apr. 6 Bishop's Visitation, St. Andrew's, Omaha
- Apr. 7-9 Midwest Bishops Family Systems Group, St. Louis, MO
- Apr. 13 Bishop's Visitation, St. Mark's on the Campus, Lincoln
- Apr. 17-20 Cursillo, Halsey, NE
- Apr. 18-20 Deacons' Spring Retreat
- Apr. 20 Bishop's Visitation, St. John's, Broken Bow
- Apr. 25-27 Women's Ministries Retreat – Saint Benedict Center, Schuyler
- Apr. 23-26 National Consultation on Baptismal Theology, tba
- Apr. 27 Bishop's Visitation, All Saints, Omaha

May 2008

- May 1-3 Provincial Faith Formation Summit Estes Park, Colorado
- May 2-3 Planning for Tomorrow Conference, Lincoln, NE
- May 4 Bishop's Visitation, St. Mark's, Hastings, St. John's, Harvard
- May 11 Bishop's Visitation, Holy Spirit, Bellevue
- May 12-15 House of Bishops Theology Committee, Virginia Theological Seminary
- May 26-30 2004 Class of Bishops Continuing Education, General Seminary, NYC

June 2008

- June 10-12 Province VI Commission on Ministry, Fargo, ND
- June 12-14 Provincial Synod, Province VI, Fargo, ND
- June 20-21 Diocesan Daughters of the King, Grand Island

July 2008

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

Seminars/Workshops/Training/EVENTS!

Mayfield Concert for Katrina Relief – Trinity Cathedral in Omaha,
Sunday February 24 10:30 a.m. Eucharist

Jazz trumpeter **Irvin Mayfield, Jr.**, will play at Trinity Cathedral **this Sunday, Feb. 24**, for the 10:30 a.m. Eucharist. Mayfield is the Artistic Director of the New Orleans Jazz Orchestra and a cultural ambassador for New Orleans. In honoring his late father, a victim of drowning during Hurricane Katrina, Mayfield has dedicated himself to promoting the unique New Orleans jazz music heritage that lives today. Last September, Mayfield performed for the Episcopal House of Bishops and the Archbishop of Canterbury during their meeting in New Orleans.

During the liturgy, a special offering will be collected for the Diocese of Louisiana in support of Katrina relief efforts. All are welcome. For more

information, please contact Ms. Marty Wheeler Burnett, Interim Director of Music Ministry, at 402-342-7010, ext. 117, or mburnett@episcopal-ne.org.

MEN IN MINISTRY RETREAT: Feb 29-March 2 at Camp Comeca in Cozad.

A wonderful opportunity for men to gather and share their unique opportunities and challenges as members and baptized ministers in the church. Presenter is The Very Rev. Ernesto Medina, Dean for Urban Mission at Trinity Cathedral. All men, ordained or lay are invited to this time in a quiet, reflective and fun setting to hear inspiring meditations and presentations and draw strength from each other in your journey into Christ.

Men in Ministry Retreat Registration Form

February 29 – March 2, 2008 – Camp Comeca, Cozad Nebraska

Cost is \$75.00 and includes six meals and two nights lodging. Please bring a Bible, Book of Common Prayer, paper and pen.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Postal Zip _____

Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

Home Parish _____

Make checks payable to: The Rev. Henry W. Austin

**Mail Registration form and payment to:
Deacon Henry W. Austin
4509 Anderson Circle
Papillion, NE 68133**

MEDIATION SKILLS TRAINING in Ames Iowa March 31-April 4th. DEADLINE TO REGISTER – MARCH 3RD!!!

The Lombard Mennonite Peace Center is offering our *Mediation Skills Training Institute for Church Leaders* on **March 31 - April 4, 2008, in Ames, IA**

This training event has consistently been rated by judicatory leaders and pastors of multiple denominations as "the best continuing education event I've ever attended." One Lutheran Bishop wrote in his evaluation form, after attending the institute: "The best and most thorough model for mediation with individuals and congregations that I have experienced in more than three decades of ordained ministry."

Perhaps there are some pastors you know who are currently in the midst of a challenging, conflict situation who you can particularly encourage to attend. Pastors who have attended this institute in the past, while facing such a situation -- or having done so in the recent past -- have often commented that **they find the training "not only enlightening, but also healing."**

For more information or to register, contact:

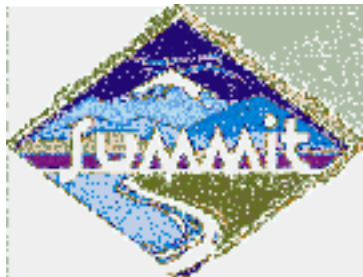
Lombard Mennonite Peace Center

101 W. 22nd Street, Suite 206, Lombard, IL 60148

ph: 630 627-0507 fax: 630-627-0519

www.LMPeaceCenter.org

The pre-registration deadline, after which the fee goes up, is March 3rd.



SUMMIT 2008 – A Faith Formation Training Conference

May 1-2, 2008

YMCA of the Rockies

Estes Park, Colorado

**Workshops that instruct
General Sessions that inspire
Worship that nourishes the soul**

This conference is for those who minister with children and youth. It will offer a large selection of seminars and workshops to assist staff and volunteers who strive for effective and excellent faith formation ministry.

It is not too early to register for the 2008 Faith Formation Summit on May 1-3. Registration includes accommodation for May 1-2, meals, all program costs and light snacks. Cost runs from \$375 for single to \$250 each per four person accommodations. "Long Hikes" are extended, multi-day seminars which begin on May 1st and will include Godly Play Outside the Box and Peer Ministry Training. "Short Hikes" are 1-2 hours seminars by experts in their field to instruct leadership in children and youth ministry such as: Middle School Ministry and "The Emergent Church and Faith Formation." For information about registration contact The Rev. Ruth Jaynes at rjaynes@episcopal-ne.org, or Toll free: (866) 341-5373.

A Day in the Life
The Bishop's Journal
January 2008

Jan. 1. New Year's Day at home.

Jan. 2-4. Travel to Savannah, GA, to join other members of the Bishops' Theology Committee invited to the Episcopal Plenary of the North American Academy of Liturgy to discuss issues related to recent Theology Committee work on Baptism and Confirmation.

Jan. 5-6. Stopover in Atlanta for quick visit with son Jamie, just relocated to new job in metro area, and also pastoral call on family member of former parishioner whose funeral I presided over in Mississippi in December. Travel delays on return flight led to late night arrival in Omaha on Jan. 6.

Jan. 7. Home office.

Jan. 8. Morning meetings with Canon Anderson, then joined by John Schaefer and Nancy Nichols. Later I attended luncheon and presentation by Amy Jill-Levine, a Jewish biblical scholar from Vanderbilt Divinity School in Nashville, in town to speak to an interfaith audience packed into the Jewish Community Center. A wonderful experience and presentation, and I was particularly pleased to see such a great turnout of Episcopalians. Catching up with paperwork and email in the afternoon.

Jan. 9. At St. Martha's for much of the day for a Recovery Ministries workshop, organized by our new diocesan head of Recovery Ministries, Jackie Jacobs. This was a wonderful and very well attended event, and the speakers were excellent.

Jan. 10. Day off.

Jan. 11. Home office in the morning. Drove to St. Stephen's, Grand Island, for afternoon meeting with the Standing Committee. Drove home Friday night following the meeting.

Jan. 12. Drove to Camp Joy Holling in Ashland for meeting and lunch with those attending the National Directors and Interns Retreat, bringing together the directors and the interns associated with all of the Episcopal Young Adult Internship programs. This meeting was hosted by Judi Yeates, director of Resurrection House in Omaha. Enjoyed a good discussion with our guests, and also with the interns in a separate meeting after lunch. Afternoon sermon and discussion preparation for tomorrow's visitation.

Jan. 13. Very early morning drive to St. Thomas, Falls City for the 9 a.m. Eucharist. I preached and celebrated, assisted by Larry Parrish as acolyte. Larry, a retired National Guard Chaplain of the United Methodist Church, is a postulant for ordination and currently serves as lay pastoral leader of the parish. Enjoyed brunch and a discussion of the current issues affecting the church and the Anglican Communion with several of the members. Drove back to Omaha, arriving mid-afternoon.

Jan. 14-16. Home office on Monday morning. Afternoon flight to St. Louis for meeting of my Bishop Family Systems support group. Distressed to hear of Kimball Lauritzen's death early on Tuesday morning, and was in touch by phone with many involved in planning her funeral at the Cathedral later this week. Back in Omaha Wednesday afternoon.

Jan. 17. Lengthy and very slow commute this morning after last night's snow to be at Trinity Cathedral to meet with others involved in today's funeral for Kimball Lauritzen. Presided at the Internment at the Trinity Columbarium, then at the Memorial Eucharist in the nave, assisted by Tom O'Dell and other clergy from the area. Attended a gracious reception and lunch at First National Bank offered by the Lauritzen family following the service. Afternoon appointments with a prospective candidate for one of our vacant parishes. Met with Judi Yeates, and then with Tim Anderson and Chancellor Woody Bradford.

Jan. 18. Home office in the morning. Afternoon meeting with Judi Yeates and Jon Owens, on leave from Church Divinity School of the Pacific, to discuss options for future discernment.

Jan. 19. Saturday at home, attended late afternoon Eucharist at All Saints.

Jan. 20. No visitation scheduled today.

Jan. 21. Home Office.

Jan. 22. Morning meeting with Mary Barry-Magsamen, Director of St. Monica's Home in Lincoln, a residential treatment center for women struggling with issues of addiction and dependency. She was joined by Wendy McCown, new director of development. Together they shared concerns about a decrease in referrals and ministry. Late morning meeting with Karen Watson, a communicant of All Saints, Omaha, who was recently made a postulant for the priesthood in our diocese. Afternoon meeting with Judi Yeates.

Jan. 23. Home office in the morning. Drove to Kearney in the afternoon for the Celebraton of New Ministry this evening for the parish of St. Luke, and new rector Jerry Ness. We had a wonderful turnout of members clergy, and a delightful reception following the service.

Jan. 24. Left Kearney very early to drive to Lincoln for the Annual Board of Directors meeting of Interchurch Ministries of Nebraska, which was held at Grace Lutheran Church. Our day began with worship in the chapel, and that was followed by an excellent program on mission presented by our director, Marilyn Mecham. An extensive business session and lunch followed. IMN is an important ecumenical ministry in Nebraska, and involves many of the mainline churches in shared projects of ministry and service. Judy Amber, a lay member of St. Matthew's, Lincoln, also serves as our diocesan representative on the board. Home to Omaha in the afternoon.

Jan. 25. Morning at home. To St. Augustine's, Elkhorn, this afternoon for meeting with the chairs of the Commissions on Ministry and the Standing Committee. We are joined later by other members for the annual joint meeting of these groups. Our presenter tonight is Dr. Joe Rizzo, a psychologist who does the evaluations for most of our applicants for ordination.

Jan. 26. Joint meeting continues this morning, beginning with eucharist (I celebrated and Bob Bee preached), and ending midday.

Jan. 27. Annual meetings going on in many parts of our diocese. No visitation scheduled. Late afternoon visit and wonderful dinner this evening hosted by David and Linda Gardels, of Trinity Cathedral.

Jan. 28. Spent morning finishing preparations for Presbyter Retreat. Stopped by office to pick up materials, then drove to airport to meet our guest presenter for the Retreat, the

Rev. Dr. James Turrell, Professor of Liturgics at The School of Theology, Sewanee Tennessee. Drove to Schuyler, arriving late afternoon.

Jan. 29-31. Presbyterian Retreat continues at the Benedictine Center in Schuyler, ending Thursday morning.

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