



Idaho Messenger

April 2009

www.episcopalidaho.org

A Place for *People of the Earth*

We are one
in baptism;
our call to
discipleship:
to be the
hands and heart
of Jesus
in the world.

We are a
worshipping
community,
a people who
discover
our identity in
relating to God,
one another,
and the creation.

We are a
learning,
teaching
community,
focused on
the Good News.

We are a
serving
community,
welcoming
and
Inviting all.



It was on a farm in Africa, Allison Demarest says, that she first began to know her deep connection with the earth and its people. From there her journey led her to another farm, this time in up state New York where she worked with special needs folks in a community dedicated to dignity and sustainability. And now she is back home in Idaho.

“I’ve come to the conclusion,” she says, “that the meaning of my

life is to share, to share my food, my thoughts, my abundance.” And she is busy doing just that!

Since returning to Boise in November, Demarest has been working full time to bring about a Community Garden in downtown Boise. Her goal is to not only provide a garden for community members, but to build a rich and diverse community of gardeners as well.

“My hope is that it will be much more than a garden,” she says. “It will be a gathering place, a place to meet people you might not usually meet and find community.” To that end she has enlisted the support of a broad group of people including environmental experts, high school students and teachers, local business-people and church leaders. She has engaged the people of the Women’s and Children’s Alliance, Baby Steps (a mother’s ministry at St. Michael’s), and refugee organizations. (cont. on IM3)



Allison Demarest with friends in Africa.

We Are Here Now!!!

an event for youth who make a difference!

Plans are well underway for the diocesan spring youth event, “We Are Here Now!” according to Marty Beck, diocesan coordinator. The event will focus on the active ministry, ownership, and leadership of youth in today’s church. Event activities will include ministry to the community as part of Earth Day celebrations in Idaho Falls, a trip to Heise Hot Springs Pool and Slide, worship and spiritual reflection, and time with Bishop Thom to share and dream about the ministry and leadership of youth in the Diocese of Idaho.

“It is going to be lots of fun,” said Beck, “as well as an opportunity to get to know one another better and begin to build a more dynamic youth presence throughout the diocese. Youth are not the *future* of the church,” he continued. “Youth are here now!”

The event, for all youth, grades 7-12, will be at St. Luke’s Church, Idaho Falls, and will begin Friday evening, April 24, with check-in starting at 6 p.m. It will conclude with worship and lunch, Sunday, April 26.

Registration is \$10 with an additional \$12 fee for the hot springs. Registration forms are available at your church or on-line at www.episcopalidaho.org (click *Children and Youth*). You can contact Marty at mbeck@idahodiocese.org or call 345-4440.



Folks are wondering about me.

At the Diocesan Center, we've been hearing that some are curious/anxious to know more about what kind of bishop I am going to be. As we had been warned, it has been true that the first months of this new episcopate have been filled with necessities that keep a bishop from getting out into the diocese. Further holding up any ready assessment is the fact that I have only just started my annual visitation cycle; only three official visits by the end of March, although I have been able to casually visit 21 parishes (potlucks, Vestry meetings, etc.) since mid-October. So, here are some clues/reminders about how I am going to be among you:

My Myers-Briggs Type Indicator description is ISFJ (*Introvert/Sensing/Feeling/Judging*). In the True Colors systems, I am a Blue (*relational, collaborative*). Discerning colleagues suggest that I am a #9 on the Enneagram (*negotiator, peacemaker*). I was the baby of my family. I was an Eagle Scout.

First notes. . .Reflections by the Bishop

All this is to say that, in my new role in the diocese, my personality style will lead me to see forests before I see trees. I will listen before I talk. I will ask before I tell. I will invite before I prescribe. I will ponder before I decide. (If I ponder too slowly, you can let me know).

I've been wondering about you as well!

I am eager to get to know you all in deeper and more meaningful ways. I want and need to know how it is that you engage the world - as people with both unique personalities and experiences of being children of God. Sharing ourselves in these ways will help create the fertile ground from which Spirit-inspired ministries and missions can spring.

As I come among you, I hope you will let me see all the wonderful parts of yourselves and your congregations, knowing that God will find a way to blend our experiences and personalities for the spreading of the Gospel in this portion of God's Kingdom.

So grateful to be sharing the journey with you, +Brian

COMMITTEE TO PRESENT STEWARDSHIP SCHOOL

If you are a parish rector, vicar, stewardship chair, or the person on the vestry who is responsible for stewardship, you will want to attend Stewardship School. The Diocesan Stewardship Committee has planned a curriculum to help you focus on the work you have been called to do.

Four identical workshops will be presented on different Saturdays, from 9:30am to 3:00pm, in the following locations:

May 30, 2009—Trinity, Pocatello
 June 6, 2009—St. Stephen's, Boise
 June 20, 2009—St. James, Payette
 July 25, 2009—Emmanuel, Hailey

Among the topics to be presented will be: *Telling the Story of Your Parish*, *The Annual Financial Campaign*, *Proportional Giving*, and *Broadening the Definition of Stewardship*. Also provided will be a Smorgasbord of Resources including

skits, coffee hour ideas, and visual tools.

The registration fee per person for each school will be \$20.00, which includes the cost of materials and lunch. Registration forms will be mailed to all parishes, or you will be able to register at the Diocesan website. For more information contact Nancy Koonce by phone at 208-733-4730 or e-mail at nkoonce@idahocpa.com.

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**Submissions due on
 first Fridays**

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DIOCESAN CALENDAR April 2009

- 1 Bishop at Epiphany, Arco
- 2 Bishop at St. Paul's, Blackfoot
- 5 Bishop at St. John's, American Falls
- 10 Good Friday – Diocesan Office Closed
- 11 Easter Vigil – Bishop at St. Michael's, Boise
- 12 Easter – Bishop at St. Michael's, Boise
- 18 Joint meeting of Commission on Ministry, Diocesan Council & Standing Committee, Ascension, Twin Falls
- 20-22 Bishop at Ministry Developers Meeting, Wheeling, WV
- 24-26 Diocesan Youth Event, St. Luke's, Idaho Falls
- 25 Idaho Episcopal Foundation Annual Meeting, Twin Falls
- 26 Bishop at Trinity, Pocatello



Living Stones 2009

Bishop Brian Thom, Greg Hall (St. Luke's Idaho Falls), Ron Braman (Good Shepherd, Fort Hall) and Deacon Tammy Jones (St. Matthew's, Rupert) recently represented the Diocese at the annual Living Stones Conference held February 7-10, 2009 in Des Moines, Iowa.

Living Stones is a partnership of dioceses and communities of faith engaged in Christian mission, committed to the ministry of all the baptized (MOAB). The partnership exists to support, challenge, and strengthen this ministry. The Diocese of Idaho has been a partner for the past six years. Those attending this year included two Canadian dioceses, 18 U.S. dioceses, two divinity schools, one convent, and observers from a seminary as well as Bonnie Anderson, President of the House of Deputies.

At the conference, each group presents a Baptismal Ministry- Experience and Reflection or BMER), describing a current ministry issue in their diocese or community. Partner delegations listen and offer reflection, counsel, and shared experience, helping each presenting group to gain new perspectives.

This year the Diocese of Idaho was assigned to a Cluster Group with the Dioceses of Eastern Michigan, Vermont, and Spokane. The Idaho team presented their Baptismal Ministry – Experience and Reflection, *Case Study of a New Episcopate*.

Rev. Jones introduced the team and

briefly summarized the BMER. Greg Hall described how the diocese used the Appreciative Inquiry process in preparation for the election. Ron Braman talked about the bishop search process and election convention. Bishop Thom then presented four questions for reflection to the Cluster Group:

How does the diocese (lay, clergy, Council, Standing Committee, and Commission on Ministry) help create a Ministry of All the Baptized episcopate?

Given that it took six ballots for an election, what lessons can we carry into our MOAB ministry?

Which best practices would help the bishop help the congregations that feel separated from the diocese and bishop?

How could the precepts of MOAB help the bishop support collegiality among the seminary and local clergy, deacons and priests?

After some clarifying questions regarding diocesan staff structure, stipendiary clergy, the bishop election, and the history of collegiality issues, the cluster group discussed these issues while the presenting members listened. (As part of the Living Stones listening process, the presenting members remain silent during

the 75 minutes of discussion and then are invited to share what they heard and what was helpful.) These are some of the observations and suggestions from the Cluster partners:

- MOAB is less about structure and more about relationship, and is greatly affected by personalities.
- Appreciative Inquiry is a wonderful tool, but it could mask some things.
- Is there an unacknowledged separation between clergy and laity?
- The vote split during the bishop election may reflect some disconnect.
- There may be a perpetuation of programs, yet people are asking for relationships.
- MOAB is pretty on paper, but the clergy seem to have voted differently.
- Power issues in relationships are huge and were manifested in the election.
- Continuing transitional work is important.
- Is there an opportunity for the bishop to spend more time with the parishes?
- Due to intensity of last few years, diocese may need to rest.
- Can other diocesan leaders make visits and build relationships too?
- The Appreciative Inquiry process served the transition well, but is it time to let it go?
- Diocesan staffers could increase their collaboration . . . check in about what parishes are doing.
- Deepen the relationships between the Bishop and Diocesan Council, Standing Committee, Commission on Ministry, for collegial modeling of MOAB.

Other highlights were presentations by Keynote Speaker Mike Wagner, an expert in “helping organizations create relevant and remarkable experiences for the people they serve” and a talk by Bonnie Anderson.

A report of the Idaho BMER along with a fuller description of the discussion held by the Cluster Group will be reported to Diocesan Council at the April 18 meeting.

Learn more about Living Stones at www.livingstonespartnership.org. See Anderson's remarks at http://www.episcopalchurch.org/documents/The_Living_Stones_Reflections.pdf.

Changes in Paradise!

Camp Registration forms are now available. Watch for them in the mail and they at your local Episcopal Church or contact the Diocesan Center. Don't delay-interest in all of our camps is at a record high this year! This year campers can order sweatshirts, water bottles and CD/DVD's of their camp weeks right on the registration form.

Paradise Point Camp is working hard to keep up with the times and this year camp will be better than ever. In these stressful times when finances are tighter, it is a wonderful way to get away from it all and enjoy God's creation and your family and friends.

This year, Beginner's Camp will welcome little ones who are getting ready to go to kindergarten.

Art Camp will be open to kids from 2nd to 8th grades and Primary Camp will welcome 2nd graders. Our new Outdoor Adventure and Climbing Adventure Camps will offer challenging survival skills and off-camp exploration for those youth who are seeking something different. A Men's Camp will be offered for the first time this year, August 21-23. This will be a great chance for men to recreate and celebrate Paradise Point... together!

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Jes Benson at jben-son@idahodiocese.org or Marty Beck at mbeck@idahodiocese.org or call 345-4440.

(*People of the Earth, cont. from IM1*) She has also contacted a number of Episcopal churches throughout the country. Here, she says, the response has been amazing.

“There is so much energy and excitement around this,” says Demarest, “This is a movement that is happening!”

The vestry at St. Michael's Cathedral has voted to support this ministry and the Cathedral of the Rockies is excited about taking part as well. One of the plots of land being considered belongs to them.

Volunteers have stepped forward to provide fencing and start seedlings. Once the garden's location is decided, help will be needed building the raised beds. Donations of tools and soil will be needed. Water is also a challenge.

“You don't have to dig or plant or weed,” says Demarest. “There are lots of ways to give.” If you are interested in helping or hearing more about the project, go to http://view.iwork.com/document/?d=one_pager_new_2_pages&a=p1008713228&u=bthom@idahodiocese.org&p=37C75BE594542DE963A or email allidem@aol.com. (Cont. IM4)

Day of Discovery....

a diocesan discernment event, May 2

The first ever ministry discernment day will be held at Church of the Ascension in Twin Falls, May 2. Titled, *Day of Discovery*, it provides an opportunity for all those in a time of ministry transition to gain tools, perspective, and knowledge helpful in determining the next step in Christian life, ministry, and formation. Participants will look closely at the ministry and mission of Christ in order to see more clearly their own unique place in that ministry. They will also explore the four orders of ministry identified in the Book of Common Prayer and discuss how to best live fully the unique ministry to which each is called. Participants will have the opportunity to make an additional commitment to twelve week process, *Context for Ministry*, which will be introduced at the workshop.

Workshop presenters will be Linda Curtoys and Sam McClain, both from Stephenville, Texas. Curtoys is the education director at a group care facility that serves neglected and abused children. McClain is rector at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Stephenville where he has served for 26 years. Both have been presenting conferences on prayer and discernment for over twenty years in a number of dioceses.

Please register at www.episcopalidaho.org or by calling (208)345-4440. The registration fee is \$35 and all registrations are expected by April 23. The conference, sponsored by Bishop Thom and the Diocesan Commission on Ministry, begins at 8:30 a.m. and continues through 4 p.m.

Discernment-the process of attending, perceiving, listening and discovering one's best response to God.

Cookies for Peace

On February 21, at the Faith Club Event, nearly 200 people gathered to learn more about other religious traditions and how every person might work through their own faith tradition to bring peace to the world. This wonderful event was made possible by the work and contributions of many people, diocesan, ecumenical and interfaith, but a special contribution was made by the children of the diocese. Children and youth from throughout the diocese baked the cookies for the reception. Those left over were sold and these funds given to ERD.

To see pictures of all those who helped and read more about this project and what inspired it, go to the children's page at www.episcopalidaho.org.



Faith Club speakers at the cookie table.



Sage Snyder and Teri Cheyney, Epiphany, Arco

(*People of the Earth, cont. from IM3*)

"I give because I can," says Demarest. "To give enriches one's soil, it fosters love and hope in a world where sometimes it's not easy to see the wonderful things happening around us all the time. Our lives are abundant and what a luxury it is to be able to give!

People need nourishment, both spiritually and physically, now, more than ever. As a church, we have committed ourselves to work to end hunger in the world. It may seem like a big task, but we must ask ourselves this: What would happen if we abandoned disbelief, and stopped believing that so much was impossible? It isn't the money, the resources, or the time that inhibits us, it is ourselves. We are so capable."

Hunger Map of Idaho

The Idaho Hunger Relief Task Force has released the IDAHO HUNGER ATLAS, a county level profile of hunger in Idaho. This publication is designed to help Idahoans gain a greater understanding of the extent and depth of food insecurity and hunger in Idaho. It seeks to provide a broad ranging and in depth assessment of hunger and hunger alleviation programs at the county level. Idaho is only one of a handful of states to have created such a resource.

The task force was created in 2006 as a result of the first Idaho *Summit on Hunger and Food Insecurity* where faith leaders, charitable emergency food providers, state and local government, health providers, advocacy groups, business and industry, and community members gathered together to learn of hunger and food insecurity issues in Idaho and began to craft appropriate solutions. At that time, Idaho was the 8th worst hunger state in the nation. This year Idaho is ranked 24th in the nation.

The HUNGER ATLAS is available at www.idahohunger.org.

The Books We Read; The Stories We Tell

a retreat with the bishop

A diocesan retreat with the bishop will be held May 29-31, at the Monastery of the Ascension, Jerome, Idaho. This retreat is open to all interested members of the diocese and will give those attending a chance to share their favorite books and experience with the bishop and one another. The retreat will begin Friday evening and continue through lunch on Sunday. There is also a "Saturday only" option for those unable to commit to the entire week end. Space is limited so interested persons should register at www.episcopalidaho.org as soon as possible. Registration options are: Full, (resident at the monastery, Friday through Sunday) \$100; Non resident, \$35; Saturday only, \$25. Registration will close May 15.