



Idaho Messenger

June 2009

www.episcopalidaho.org

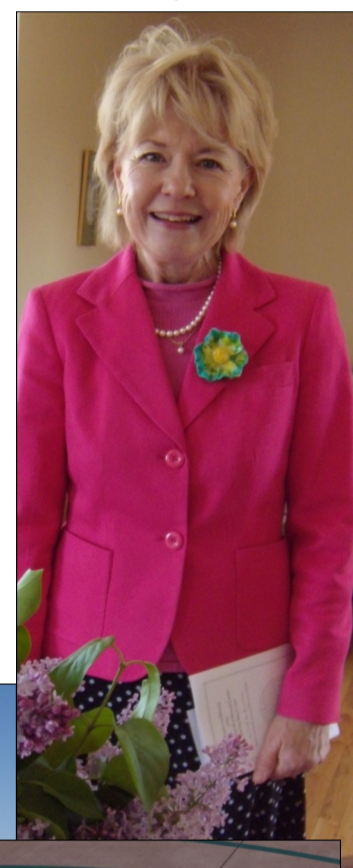
Labyrinth Dedication Answers Prayer

On Saturday, May 9, friends and well-wishers gathered outside St. David's Church, Caldwell, with Bishop Brian Thom and members of the congregation to consecrate and bless the new Labyrinth-Helipad.



This day of blessing celebrated not only the completion of the labyrinth, but the answered prayers of a faithful few who took the vision God had given them and replied, "Please help!"

Their story is told by Leslie Robertson (right), whose dedication to this project, St. David's, and God helped to make this new ministry possible.



Started in 1896, St David's Episcopal Church, has been a part of the community of Caldwell for 113 years. Half of that time, we have been without a resident priest. Like many traditional churches, we have struggled with dwindling numbers. In addition, by 2006, our church was surrounded by the expansion of the West Valley Medical Center and related offices, essentially, hidden from view.

While the greater Caldwell area had tripled in size, the attitude about growth among St. David's faithful expressed hopelessness, confusion and defensiveness. The Diocese, however, was encouraging growth, and so the sermon before the 2006 annual meeting, pressed the theme of risk-taking and embracing growth and change.

Several of us had been studying the labyrinth. We'd visited another small town church, drew a labyrinth with chalk in the parking lot, and walked it together. Speaking out about the vision of a labyrinth at St. David's to serve the community at the annual meeting still seemed like a big step, but as I did, ripples of excitement went through the congregation. Our imagination was captured. To add to the excitement, (Cont.IM3)



Shortfalls Force Budget Cuts

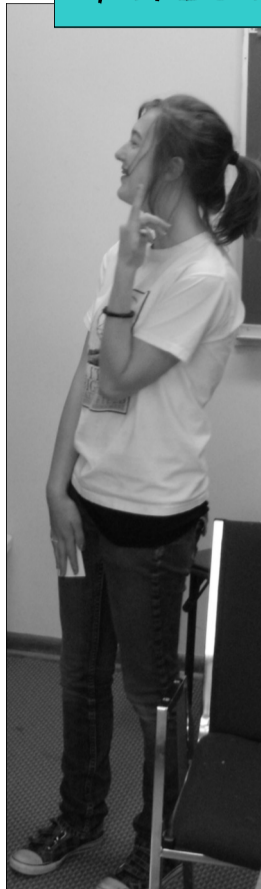
On May 15, the bishop announced that the Diocesan Council had, on the advice of the finance committee and diocesan staff, reduced expenditures by \$88, 339 and tapped designated funds for an additional \$16,500. This leaves a projected shortfall of \$6, 174 which will be taken from reserve funds.

The budget cuts were necessary due (Con.IM3)

First notes. . .Reflections by the Bishop



Bishop Thom and Jasmine Chapman at the Diocesan Youth Event.



What do you need to be a pilgrim?

This is the question asked at the end of the book *Transforming Evangelism*, by The Rev. David Gortner of the Church Divinity School of the Pacific. The good folk of Grace Church, Nampa, had invited me to experience this book with them over a few evenings last month. Right off, we discovered that the title of the book itself raised the first question: Does it imply that we need to transform evangelism in our church (yes!) or is it suggesting that we will be transformed by evangelizing (hmmm)?

The foundation of the whole work is that true evangelism springs out of gratitude. Gortner offers that our ability to engage in evangelism is so not about technique or intestinal fortitude and everything about finding ways to express our gratitude for God's blessings in our lives. The primary way that we should express this thankfulness is in telling our sacred stories.

The central chapters provided inspiration for identifying those times in our lives when we could acknowledge God's blessings, from revelations of joy to guidance through those rough patches life brings us. However, the call to learn our own stories was not simply an exercise in discernment. If we can acknowledge where God has entered our lives, then we will be able to see opportunities where we can help others find God in theirs.

Please do not hear door-knocking or street-corner testimonials in this, but rather simple, timely, and sincere invitations to share in something you, yourself, have experienced:

"Gosh, sounds like God was really watching over you then!"

"I bet you could use a break. Bring the kids and be my guests at a potluck we're having on Wednesday."

"When that happened to me, I finally found my way to a good church."

To close the point, Fr. Gortner connects the fruitful Christian life to a life of pilgrimage, that journey with and toward God that remains constantly open to the movement of the Holy Spirit. As we, more and more, allow ourselves to see God's faithful companionship on our pilgrimages, God will put others in our path who need to see God as well.

So, then the question is asked: What do you need to be a pilgrim? Support, inspiration, comfort, community, worship, purposefulness? If you need them, so do the weary travelers around you. In your story of how you found these good things lies your connection to someone who seeks the same.

You have a story to tell. Someone needs to hear it. Both of you will be transformed.

+Brian

YOU ARE INVITED . . .

Calvary Episcopal Church, Jerome, invites you to a celebration of 100 years of ministry, Sunday, June 7, at 11 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Bishop Thom presiding, will be followed with a reception.

Come celebrate the Birthday of the Church at St. James, Payette with a Pentecost Ultreya, Saturday, May 30 at 5:30 p.m. A potluck dinner will follow Music and Worship.

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DIOCESAN CALENDAR June 2009

- 5 Paradise Point Facilities Group @ Paradise Point
- 6 Paradise Point Committee at Camp Southwestern Deanery Stewardship School St. Stephen's, Boise
- 7 Bishop at Calvary, Jerome
Installation of The Rev. Susan Speir, St. Luke's, Idaho Falls
- 12-15 Beginners' Camp at Paradise Point
- 16-20 Bishop at High School Camp, Paradise Point
- 20 Western Deanery Stewardship School, Payette
Commission on Ministry, Ascension, Twin Falls
- 21 Bishop at St. David's, Caldwell
- 23-28 Art Camp at Paradise Point
- 27 Diocesan Council & Standing Committee, Twin Falls
- 28 Bishop at Trinity, Gooding



UBUNTU

Theme of Camp and General Convention

"Ubuntu," says Archbishop Desmond Tutu, "is the essence of being human. It speaks of the fact that my humanity is inextricably bound up in yours. I am a person because I belong. A person with ubuntu is welcoming, hospitable, warm and generous, willing to share. Such people are open and available, affirming of others. They have a proper self-assurance that comes from knowing that they belong in a greater whole. They know they are diminished when others are humiliated, oppressed, or treated as if they are less than they are." (from *God has a Dream*)

Ubuntu, "I in you and you in me" will be the theme at Paradise Point Camp this year. It is also the theme of General Convention as bishops and deputies, strive to do the work of the Church as God intends.

(To find out more about both, check the website!)

(Cont. from IMI) to the estimated shortfall of 14.5% in assessment revenue and a 19% shortfall in projected investment income.

The most obvious impact of the budget cuts will be in the reduced office hours at the Diocesan Center. Beginning June 1, the Center will be open from 9 AM until 1 PM, Monday through Thursday. In September these hours will be extended until 4:30 PM. The Center will remain closed on Fridays, however.

This means reduction in hours for both the Diocesan administrator, Jeanne Thomas and the Diocesan Coordinator, Carrol Keller. Should revenues increase, reinstatement of staff hours and salaries are the first priority, according to Council minutes.

Other impacts include a reduction in the Messenger from 12 to 9 issues, the elimination of mission priorities and deanery grant money, a reduction in funding for travel by staff and committees, and deferred giving to standing reserve funds.

The Council also chose to suspend the 3/4% assessment for New Congregation Funds for the months of May through December, with the hopes that this would help, in some small way, the financial stress faced by congregations.

(Cont. from IMI) an unexpected request was presented. We knew that the idea would take time, commitment, and money, that our membership was small, overcommitted, and lacked confidence. So, we decided to proceed by having quarterly conversations to get to know one another better and discern more clearly the way forward.

One of the first hurdles to overcome was cost. We preferred a concrete labyrinth because maintenance was already an issue. Our sprinkler system was unreliable and weeds and dead patches were invading the grounds. We wanted our labyrinth to last, maybe another hundred years and to be user friendly to the handicapped which meant firm footing and pathways at least 18" wide. We got several bids which left our spirits so deflated that we took the discussion off the agenda of the next quarterly conversation. A few, however, remained committed to the idea. These people saw the labyrinth as a way to serve our church, our diocese, and our community.

People today are bombarded with constant noise and information. The labyrinth is a tool that aids focus and serenity. Its use reduces stress. We envisioned offering classes, presenting the practice to community groups, and our own congregation, and most of all, offering it to the health community workers, neighbors, patients, family and friends of all those in the medical center that now surrounds us.

But, since the price tag was beyond reach, and the energy of our congregation was fully occupied in maintaining services and grounds as they currently were, we decided to put the project in God's hands.

"Almighty God, father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we have a vision to build a labyrinth at St. David's Episcopal Church in Caldwell, Idaho, and to

use it to work, pray and give for the spread of your Kingdom. We do not know how to make it happen. We are stuck, and send our prayer to you for help."

Three weeks later, our Senior Warden, Bill Kline, got a call from West Valley Medical Center. They wanted to provide "Life Flight" services. Their own grounds would not accommodate a helipad. Would St. David's consider the idea of a helipad?

The possible labyrinth had raised questions, but, now, with a proposed helipad/labyrinth and helicopter landings to consider the number of questions, obstacles, and hurdles went higher! Bill plunged in.

There were calls to the Standing Committee, and the diocesan lawyer, there were meetings and calls with WVMC, the FAA, and the City of Caldwell. WVMC offered to pay for the concrete circular pad, cutting the sidewalk and creating a ramp for access to their parking. Lighting and wiring needs were tackled. It was over a year from that telephone call to the ribbon-cutting ceremony inaugurating the helipad, November 17, 2008.

Building the labyrinth was a big job requiring a great deal of patience and faith, but the year we spent building it proved easier to navigate than the previous year. That was before we started to really believe that God can, even if it looks like we can't. It was before we asked God for help, when we were mired in doubts with many names.

Now, we've seen our prayer answered! We see the teamwork we've had to develop as a result. We see the trust we've come to have in each other as we learned to trust God. We have more communication, and more work ahead! Our prayer has been answered, and strangely enough, it's not the end of the story, but only the beginning!

St. Thomas' Performing Arts Camp

Join St. Thomas Playhouse and guest artists from Idaho and around the nation for its second annual residential Summer Performing Arts Conservatory Camp (SPACC) at Camp Perkins near Alturas Lake. The camp is for youth, 5th grade through high school. Participants immerse themselves in a conservatory-like experience in the areas of acting, music and voice, dance and on-camera work.

"It is," says organizer Anna Johnson, "a fabulous camp for youth interested in the performing arts."

Guest artists at this year's camp include Beth Kennedy (Acting, Film and Improv), Mary Kennedy (Hip Hop and Movement, (pictured right), and James Martin (Voice and Music).

In addition there will be amazing recreational and evening activities such as rock climbing, mountain biking, hiking, kayaking, swimming, D.J. night, campfire night, game night, arts and crafts and more!

Camp is June 27 through July 3. Cost is \$900 and partial scholarships are available. For more information contact: Sara Gorby, Camp Administrator; 208-726-5349 ext. 16, P.O. Box 1070 Sun Valley, Idaho 83353. E-mail her at: sgorby@stthomassunvalley.org

St. Thomas Playhouse is an outreach ministry of St. Thomas Church, Sun Valley.



St. Paul's, Blackfoot: Charitable Organization of the Year

The Bingham County Crisis Center recently honored St. Paul's Episcopal Church with the Charitable Organization of the Year Award. At its annual luncheon, attended by an impressive number of individuals, agencies, and organizations, all working to put an end to domestic violence in their community, St. Paul's was singled out for going above and beyond by raising \$2,800 in 2008. This money helped fund emergency food, transportation, and Christmas for client families.

"We can't begin to express our gratitude and the gratitude of the families helped by this congregation," said presenter Elizabeth Kemper.

We are here NOW!

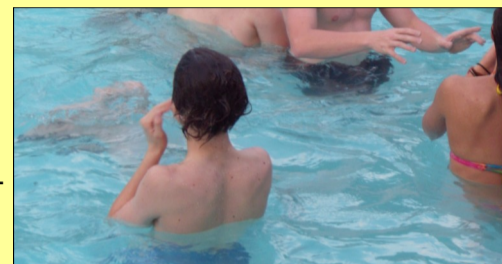
Diocesan Youth Meet in Idaho Falls

Under the able leadership of Diocesan Youth Coordinator, Marty Beck, youth of the diocese were invited to gather in Idaho Falls, April 24-26 to reflect on their current ministry and the state of youth ministry in general in the Diocese of Idaho. As part of this reflection, the small, but dynamic group shared their current ministries and their hopes for a greater youth presence in all areas of the church with one another and Bishop Thom. They discussed better ways of communicating and have plans to set up a Diocesan Youth Facebook page and blog. Another exciting possibility was a youth band with opportunities to play at diocesan functions.

They also spent time having fun and getting to know one another. Saturday afternoon was dedicated to the Earth Day Fair, where, after taking in the sights, they helped take down all the tents, tables, and chairs and put them away. Then it was off to the hot springs for pizza and fun and relaxation in the pool.

Sunday morning the youth joined the people of St. Luke's for Holy Eucharist before lunch and heading home.

The next diocesan youth event will be held during Diocesan Convention, in Burley, October 23 through 25. All youth, grades 7-12 are asked to make plans to attend. Watch the website for details.



A Chance to Wrap Yourself in the Psalms!

Church of Redeemer in Salmon, Idaho is "raising the roof". They are in the process of doing fundraisers to replace the roof on their historical church. One of the fundraisers is the "Peace Quilt". This quilt was designed and hand pieced by Barbara Perry. The psalms were then embroidered by ladies and friends of Redeemer. Finally the quilt was sewed together and beautifully quilted by machine. It is a generous queen size quilt.

Donations for the tickets are \$1.00 each or \$5.00 for 6. It is being displayed at various business in Salmon and will be on display at Diocesan Convention in October. The drawing will take place later in the fall. If anyone desires to purchase a ticket, you may send your check to Bob or Barbara Perry at 411 Capitol Av. in Salmon, ID, 83467. You will receive a receipt and your name and phone number will be put on the requested tickets and put in the ticket jar.

This is a one-of-a-kind quilt and the roof committee at Redeemer hopes you all purchase a chance to become the lucky owner. Thank you for your generosity.

