

The Rev. Carol Ann Bullard and the congregation of Holy Apostles, Mitchell, welcome visitors to Annual Council.



(Photos Courtesy Nancy Nichols)

Held at Gering's Civic Center, the 141st Annual Council begins Friday, Nov. 7, and concludes Sunday, Nov. 9. Business sessions on Saturday will precede the annual banquet.

Certification of Delegates to Annual Council

Each parish is reminded to submit the Certification of Credentials form certifying your parish's delegates to Annual Council. Otherwise, they will not be allowed to vote. The deadline to receive Certification's of Delegates is Sept.12. These forms also provide the names of delegates so we can mail them registration materials.

Four motels in Gering and Scottsbluff are holding blocks of rooms for delegates. Lodging information is available on the diocesan Web site, or call the diocesan office.

Children's Program and Child Care at Annual Council

The Christian Formation Office of the Diocese of Nebraska will again offer a Children's Program at Annual Council for children ages 4 years through 5th grade. If you will be bringing your children to Annual Council Nov. 7-9 in Gering, please let us know as soon as possible so we can arrange for the appropriate number of teachers. If there is a need, we can also provide Child Care for children from infants through 3 years old. Please contact the Rev. Ruth Jaynes at the diocese office at 402-341-5373 if you will need either of these programs.

Holy S.W.A.T. helps make things whole

The Holy S.W.A.T. program, or Severe Weather Assistance Team, began at Trinity Cathedral, Omaha, as a way for the people of the Diocese of Nebraska to respond to the floods in the Diocese of Iowa. According to the Very Rev. Ernesto Medina, Dean for Urban Affairs, S.W.A.T. provides the opportunity to be biblical neighbors to our friends in Iowa.

An e-mail to each congregation in the Diocese of Nebraska brought responses from Omaha to Hawaii. Thus far, Holy S.W.A.T. has been able to provide monetary donations to the Diocese of Iowa Relief Fund as well as Episcopal Relief and Development.

One work team went to Cedar Rapids and assisted in cleaning 8 apartments in the Women's Recovery Center there. A second work team, with members from five congregations, assisted in relief work in one of the poorer neighborhoods of Cedar Rapids.

Go West, Episcopalians of all ages, Go West to the beauty of Nebraska's Panhandle for the 141st Annual Council of the Diocese of Nebraska!



Reserve Annual Council Display Space Soon

Annual Council will begin Friday, Nov. 7, with a festival of interactive displays at the Gering Civic Center, beginning at 5:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. During this time, displays in the lobby and in the main meeting room will feature hands-on information, crafts and ministries. Delegates and guests will have a chance to interact with other delegates and presenters. Hors d'oeuvres will be available. Parishes or groups wishing to reserve space for their display should contact Nancy Nichols at the Diocesan Office for a Display Table reservation form.

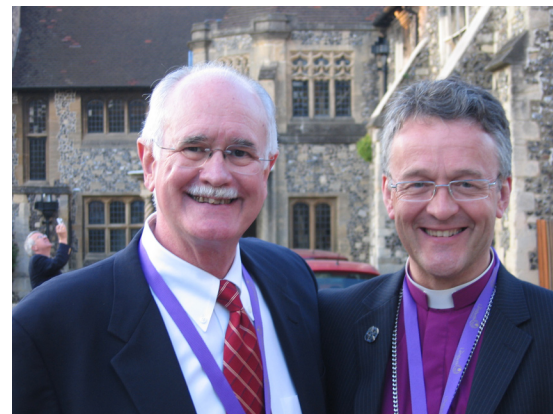
Days before the second team departed, Medina received a request from Iowa for supplies and money collected at Trinity Cathedral made it possible to purchase tools, wheelbarrows, hammers, crowbars, regulation facemasks and other items required for the clean-up. A large amount of clothes and other household supplies also have been collected and sent to Iowa.

"Most importantly, whenever a team went to Iowa, we knew we were being carried by the prayers of so many of the faithful," Medina said. "These prayers were palpable."

"Those of us who went to Cedar Rapids came to understand we were pastors, helping families prepare their homes for burial. Somehow, we saw the Kingdom of God revealed in the life that comes out of death."

The need is still great in affected areas of Iowa, he said. Donations can be sent to the Bishop's Crisis Relief Fund, Diocese of Iowa, 225 37th St., Des Moines, Iowa 50312.

Bishops Burnett, Davies form lasting friendship



The Rt. Rev. Joe G. Burnett, Bishop of Nebraska, left, was guest preacher at Brecon Cathedral, Wales, prior to attending the Lambeth Conference. His host, the Rt. Rev. John Davies, Bishop of Swansea-Brecon in Wales, joins Burnett in the Old Palace Garden in Canterbury, the local diocesan residence of the Archbishop of Canterbury. The garden is adjacent to Christ Church Cathedral, the famed Canterbury Cathedral. The two bishops attended a reception hosted by Archbishop Rowan Williams and his wife Jane. (Photo Courtesy Marty Burnett)

Bishop Burnett's Lambeth Journal begins on Page B. Additional photos on Page D.

Requiem Eucharist for "Dean Bart"

The Very Reverend John P. Bartholomew, Dean Emeritus of St. Mark's Pro-Cathedral, Hastings, entered life on July 12 at 11:30 p.m. in Lake City, Minn., at the age of 77. A Choral Requiem Eucharist and Committal for "Dean Bart" was held Saturday, Aug. 16, at 10 a.m. at the Pro-Cathedral. A Requiem Eucharist was held July 19 at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Lake City.

John Paige Bartholomew was born Jan. 6, 1931, in Moorestown, N.J. He attended Westminster School in Simsbury, Conn., and graduated from Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y., as a history major. Following a tour of duty in the Army as a battalion adjutant with the 2nd Armored Division in Bad Kreuznach, Germany, he began studies for the priesthood at the Philadelphia Episcopal Divinity School. Following his ordination, he was curate at the Church of the Redeemer in Bryn Mawr, Pa., from 1958 to 1961; rector at St. James Church in Piqua, Ohio, from 1961 to 1967; and rector of St. Thomas Church in Garden City, Kan., from 1967 to 1973.

On Jan. 15, 1973, Bartholomew was elected the ninth dean of St. Mark's Pro-Cathedral in Hastings, Neb. He served for 25 years, the longest tenure in the cathedral's history. From 1976 to 1997, he was elected deputy from Nebraska to eight consecutive triennial Episcopal Church General Conventions. He served 12 years as chair of the Department of Missions in Nebraska and was president of the Standing Committee from 1982 to 1986. He also served

A Day in the Life: Bishop's Journal July 1 to Aug. 6, 2008

Special Lambeth Edition

(Note: This month's journal consists of reflections on my recent experience at the Lambeth Conference. I will follow up later with an extended article offering my perspectives on the meaning and implications of Lambeth. For archives of complete coverage, photos, videos, and other materials, go to <http://episcopalchurch.org/lambeth-conference/>)

July 1-10. I have long had these days before Lambeth reserved for final reading and preparations for the long trip to England and Wales. During these days, except for necessary brief conferences with staff, and miscellaneous administrative matters, I tried to focus my energy on the many details of getting ready to participate in Lambeth 2008. I enjoyed one lengthy visit with Dean Hurley, to discuss a range of matters, and also attended the Saturday evening Eucharist at All Saints in Omaha on July 2.

July 11-15. Pre-Lambeth Visit to Brecon, Wales.

July 11. After the predictable rush of last minute packing and loading, I departed Omaha late morning on flight to Cleveland, Ohio, and after a four-hour layover left for London's Gatwick Airport on an overnight flight.

July 12. Arrived 6:30 a.m. in Gatwick. I was met at the gate by two volunteers

from the Lambeth welcoming team, one of whom—an airport chaplain whose background is as a Salvation Army minister—escorted me through baggage claim and customs and on to the car rental place to claim my “hired” car, as the English put it. He spoke very positively of the good relations between the Church of England and the Salvation Army. A delightful chap (see, I'm already starting the English-speak!).

I drove tentatively out of Gatwick, on the “wrong” side of the road (as the English say about us!), and it brought quickly to mind my first experience of driving in England which took place almost 40 years ago on a two-week tour of England and Scotland. For some reason, I find it harder to navigate now than I did then—age 21 versus age 60?

After a few wrong turns, and a few “extra” rounds on innumerable “roundabouts,” I entered the unbelievably beautiful countryside of Wales in the early afternoon. The further into the heart of Wales I went, the more beautiful it was. Just breathtaking! The incredible green rolling hills gave way to the Black Mountain areas, with dramatic, lush, and picturesque landscapes.

I drove into the cathedral close in Brecon mid-afternoon, very weary after 24 hours of traveling, flying, and driving. I was warmly greeted

by one of the cathedral canons, and later by Bishop John Davies (pronounced “Davis”), and Canon Succentor the Rev. Michael Thomas. I was housed in the Canonry, a spacious apartment in a building on the cathedral close which houses the offices of the diocese of Swansea-Brecon. Bishop Davies, or Bishop John, as he prefers, was consecrated recently, after serving several years as the Dean of Brecon Cathedral.

Later this evening, Fr. Michael drove me to a nearby village for dinner at the home of a parish priest, Fr. Roland, and his wife Barbara. We enjoyed wonderful food and conversation about rural ministry in Wales, which is remarkably similar to our own diocesan context.

July 13. This morning I had the great privilege of preaching at the principal Eucharist at Brecon Cathedral, with Bishop John as celebrant, and Fr. Michael assisting. It was an incredible experience to preach in such a marvelous building, the origins of which date back to 1093. A visiting choir from the Cathedral in Aberdeen Scotland, sang exquisitely at the Eucharist and rounded out the morning. They also sang at Evensong late that afternoon, a service in which I also vested and participated.

Bishop John and I had an immediate connection and mutual regard. I found him to be a sparkling personality, an exceptional liturgist and celebrant, and a genial host. One of the interesting dimensions of the liturgy at Brecon is the fact that various phrases in the native Welsh language are often used at certain points in the liturgy to maintain the connection with the tongue that only some Welsh now use with any frequency. I found it very moving indeed.

Following the morning service, and a very hospitable greeting from cathedral members, Fr. Michael accompanied me to lunch in the nearby home of one of the cathedral's elderly but very active members, Lucia, who is the widow of a former priest of the diocese. Again, we had a delightful time, and it was a treat to share lunch while overlooking her very beautiful “back yard,” which she quickly pointed out to me should be referred to as a “garden.” I'm learning, I'm learning.

Sunday evening I was pleased to be a guest in the bishop's home for dinner with him, his wife Jo, son Chris, 18, and daughter Kate, 20, along with Fr. Michael, and another priest from the area. We shared lively conversation, both about the upcoming Lambeth Conference, and about the contemporary challenges of ministry in general. It turns out that the Davies have been good friends of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, who served as their bishop in the diocese of Monmouth, Wales, prior to Rowan's appointment to the see of Canterbury.

July 14. This morning I greeted a number of other visiting bishops who

have been spending recent days in other parts of the diocese. The six or seven of them, from Jamaica, India, and the U.S., arrived with their hosts in the late morning, in time for a tour of the cathedral, a Eucharist in the chapel celebrated by Bishop John, and then lunch in the cathedral's bookstore café. It was a good chance to meet and visit ahead of time with just a few of the many hundreds of bishops who will soon convene in Canterbury.

Late this afternoon I took advantage of the first free hours I have had a chance to enjoy since my arrival here. I strolled around this beautiful and historic city, concluding with an early dinner in a local restaurant.

July 15. In the morning I re-packed and re-loaded the car for a trip to Gatwick, and made one last visit to the cathedral nave and the cathedral bookshop. I drove out of Brecon, once again reveling in the sheer beauty of the town and the landscape, and headed off to Gatwick, where I will pick up Marty early tomorrow morning. After a few stops for photos along the way, not to mention a few missed turns, I arrived at a motel near Gatwick airport late in the afternoon.

July 16-20. Lambeth Begins: Bishops' Retreat and Opening Eucharist.

July 16. Marty's plane arrived early on Wednesday, and we left from Gatwick to drive to Canterbury, about an hour and a half trip. Arriving at the University of Kent, in Canterbury, in the early afternoon, we were caught up, like several hundred others, in a colossal human traffic jam in a registration procedure that was, to say the least, less than efficient. We began standing in the line, or the “queue,” as it is called, about 2 p.m. We finally emerged from that ordeal, and checked into dorm rooms about 5:30 p.m. Not the best introduction to what will be two and a half weeks in this setting!

We are among the lucky ones. We have single rooms, located side by side in a hallway, with baths “ensuite,” or “in room.” The private bathroom areas are quite small, with a drain in the floor, and a shower in one corner, separated only by a curtain—very efficient, but very compact. However, given the fact that many of my colleagues have communal baths down the hall, I am not complaining. This will be no vacation, but at least it will allow some individual space. Hmm. It has been 40 years since I “enjoyed” the creature comforts of a dorm room. Why haven't I missed that? Why didn't Bishop Krotz tell me about this beforehand??

OK, enough about that. The Lambeth Conference opened officially at 6 p.m., with the Archbishop of Canterbury presiding, including a simple Evening Prayer service and music, followed by a welcoming address and introductions of the planning and design committee. Dinner in one of

(Continued on next page)

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several campus venues followed. The hundreds and hundreds of bishops, spouses, and staff are housed all across this sprawling campus, and may eat in any one of many different settings. However—you guessed it!—all of them involve standing in long lines!

July 17. This first full day of Lambeth began with Eucharist at 7:15 a.m. in the “Big Top”—a circus-like tent erected on campus just for this purpose (and barely air conditioned), which seats 1,200 or so in auditorium style around a central dais or stage. Following the service, bishops and spouses met separately in our respective Bible Study groups for the first time. These Bible Studies will take place daily, with one or two exceptions, and each group has only eight members which means there are approximately 80 groups of bishops alone, not including the number of groups for spouses. Our particular group, named for the early church historian Eusebius, has one additional member for a total of nine in all. The bishop members of my group are Abraham Ackah, Thomas Brient, John Otoo, and Francis Quashie, all from dioceses in Ghana; Alapayo Kuctiel, from the Diocese of Rumbek, in Sudan; Larry Robertson, from the Diocese of the Arctic in Canada; Brian Castle, from England, and Tom Bredenthal from Southern Ohio. We had a very cordial and fruitful first meeting. During this conference we will be studying the Gospel of John, and today’s topic is John 1:1-18, “The one who is in the bosom of the Father.”

Following Bible Study, the bishops boarded buses for the 15-minute ride down the hill from the University into the “City Centre” of Canterbury, and then a short walk to the magnificent Canterbury Cathedral, the historic seat of the Archbishop of Canterbury, and of all Anglicanism. Here, in this stunning and majestic setting, Archbishop Rowan began a series of meditations for a pre-Lambeth retreat that will inaugurate our conference. His topic is “God’s Mission and a Bishop’s Discipleship.” The first talk was a reflection on how Christ is revealed in various ways in the baptized, and in the orders of ministry, with a special focus on the episcopate.

Following the first talk we shared a box lunch on the Cathedral Close, and then a period of silence and individual time. The second talk came mid-afternoon, and focused on the complexity and challenge of “taking positions” as a bishop. The bishop is in most instances “not a reliable ally,” said Archbishop Rowan, because he or she must always be raising difficult questions about any and all “causes” that ask for the church’s attention. A question that seemed to be left hanging after this one was how and when is a bishop, or any Christian, for that matter, to know when bold and unequivocal action is right and good and just. We shall wait to see what more he has to say on this subject.

The day closed with Evening Prayer, a trip back to campus for dinner, and an evening presentation by

the Archbishop’s wife, Jane Williams, on “Marriage, Mitres, and Being Myself.” This first day has been a long one, and there are many more to come.

July 18. Early Eucharist again this morning, as there will be most every morning of the conference. Afterwards we gathered in our groups for Bible Study of John 1:19-34, “He confessed...I am not the Messiah.” Then all bishops boarded buses again to Canterbury Cathedral for the second day of the retreat. The Archbishop’s third mediation was on the theme of learning to listen to the “language” of peoples’ needs, and how in this sense the bishop is “public property,” called to be available to and responsive to all, as in St. Paul’s writing about being “all things to all people,” but with certain limits. Ah, but what are the limits?

Following lunch and time for reflection and prayer, the Archbishop offered his fourth meditation on what it means to be a “bishop in communion.” Quoting the American lay theologian William Stringfellow, he spoke of the difference between being a “biblical” person, as opposed to a merely “religious” person, and what it means to be a “silent” person before God and others. A splendid Evensong with the extraordinary Cathedral Choir of men and boys brought the day to a close, and while many returned to campus for a free evening, some managed to find their way to one or another local pub for a spot o’ refreshment. When in England...

July 19. We closed the retreat this morning, beginning with Eucharist, then Bible Study in groups, John 4:6-42, “Jesus said to her, ‘I am, the one who is speaking to you,’” and then with Archbishop Rowan delivering his fifth meditation on “The Leadership of Christ.” This was by far my favorite one, and the most helpful in terms of putting the other meditations in context. “Christians,” said the Archbishop, “lead by following Jesus,” by clearing and discerning a way forward, always seeking to look and see where Jesus is going before us. “Episcopate,” or the exercise of the bishop’s leadership, is as much insight as oversight. And our most common failure is lack of courage—not mistaken decisions, but failure to “hope in Christ.”

Following prayers and lunch, the afternoon sessions included a seminar and then a special worship service to welcome many distinguished ecumenical guests from the Protestant, Orthodox, and Roman Catholic Churches.

Tonight some of us attended a dinner hosted by the Dean and others from General Theological Seminary in New York for alumni bishops, as well as those with connections to the seminary. It was good social time, and a wonderful venue for greeting one another and reflecting on the retreat just concluded.

July 20. Today is a day to cherish, and to remember as one of the highlights of the conference. Early this morning we boarded buses and went down to the Cathedral, vestments in hand, for

the official opening Eucharist of the Lambeth Conference. Some 600 or more bishops, plus hundreds of others involved in the liturgy, processed into this ancient sacred space for a festival Eucharist and sermon. The Archbishop celebrated, and a bishop from Sri Lanka, The Rt. Rev. Duleep de Chickera of the Diocese of Colombo, preached an incredibly powerful sermon, about which I shall say more in my next pastoral staff article. The Cathedral was packed with worshippers, and the music and liturgy were awe inspiring and truly evocative of a worldwide communion.

We hurried back to the campus on buses after the service, and then many of us walked down to a nearby park for an afternoon Eucharist set up as an outside event. There are a variety of so-called “outside events” during the conference that are not official sessions, but are open to anyone who wishes to participate. This particular service was intended to lift up the ministries of faithful gay and lesbian persons in the church throughout the world. A number of bishops came to show our solidarity with our brother Gene Robinson, the Bishop of New Hampshire, who was the only eligible bishop of The Episcopal Church who was not invited to Lambeth.

Late Sunday afternoon, we gathered for a plenary session in the Big Top, and heard the Archbishop give his first “Presidential Address,” in which he outlined his hopes for our time at Lambeth, and also some of his thinking about the proposed Anglican Covenant. A series of reports followed from various working groups, and so the gathering went on well into the evening.

Again, another very wonderful day in many respects—though parts of tonight’s session left mixed impressions with many with whom I spoke. Tomorrow we begin the basic work of the conference, with the first of what are called “Ordinary Days.”

July 21-27, 2008. Lambeth Continues: First “Ordinary” Week.

July 21. Today begins the first of what will be 10 so-called “Ordinary Days,” and each one will have a different theme. The framework for each of the ordinary days is the same. Each day begins with Eucharist in the Big Top at 7:15 a.m., led each day by a different Province of the Communion. It is preceded by Morning Office for those who can arrive by 6:30 a.m. Breakfast is usually 8:15 - 9:15 a.m., Lunch is 12:30 - 2:00 p.m., and dinner is 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Midday Prayers normally occur in the setting of small groups, and evening worship is at 5:45 p.m. in the Big Top. Night Prayer is also available at 8:45 p.m. The customary English “Tea” is offered each afternoon in various locations—normally outside and informal—at 3:30 p.m.

Today also inaugurates the series of meetings of the “Indaba Groups.” Indaba is an Asian Indian process involving sharing, listening, and prayerful discernment. The Indaba Groups are comprised of 40 bishops, or a combination of five Bible Study

Groups. The Bible Study Groups meet each morning from 9:15 - 10:30 a.m., and each Indaba Group meets each day from 11:00 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. Usually there are hearings at 2 p.m. each afternoon related to different topics, and then there are multiple workshops at 4 p.m. which are called “Self-Select Groups,” many involving noted teachers or expert resources in a wide variety of areas related to our overall daily themes. Then there are frequent plenary sessions, sometimes in the morning or afternoon, more often in the evening. Finally there are a host of “Fringe Events” which are offered as options, ranging from seminary gatherings to book signings to educational programs in the evenings.

Our theme for today is “Celebrating Common Ground: The Bishop and Anglican Identity,” and the Indaba Groups actually meet twice today rather than once. In the Bible Study today we considered the scriptural passage of John 6:14-21 “But he said to them, ‘I am, do not be afraid.’”

In the early afternoon the Episcopal Church bishops gathered for the first time as a group at this conference for a very helpful meeting. Later in the day, many of us attended a reception off premises sponsored by the Episcopal Church Foundation, a fund-raising and resource center for the wider Church. The Foundation has been very helpful to us in Nebraska by providing consultation and training in the area of capital giving and stewardship. Tonight we attended an extraordinary plenary session on evangelism in the modern context, led by Dr. Brian McLaren, who is well known for his book “Generous Orthodoxy.”

July 22. Today’s theme is “Proclaiming the Good News: The Bishop and Evangelism.” Our Bible Study focused on John 6:1-14; 25-29 “Jesus said to them, ‘I am the bread of life.’” In our Indaba Group we divided into 10 groups and discussed 10 different areas dealing with issues in contemporary evangelism. My sub-group dealt with “responses to decline,” and we had a helpful conversation about the causes and solutions to declining parish attendance and membership. Tonight the plenary featured an address by Cardinal Ivan Dias, Prefect for Evangelization at the Vatican.

July 23. “Transforming Society: The Bishop and Social Justice” was the theme for the day, and John 8: 1-20 “Again, Jesus spoke to them saying, ‘I am the light of the world,’” was the topic for our Bible Study. The first of a series of hearings by the so-called Windsor Continuation Group, appointed by the Archbishop to advise on matters related to the Windsor Report, drew a huge crowd to a very warm meeting room, made even warmer on occasion by the strong feelings expressed on all sides.

Tonight Marty and I attended a lovely reception at the Canterbury “Palace,” as the Canterbury home of the Archbishop is called. This was one of several receptions planned for the coming days wherein all bishops

(Continued on Page G)

Scenes from Lambeth



Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams finds the chaos of gathering more than 600 bishops for a group photograph somewhat amusing.



Nebraska's own Joe G. Burnett, second from the bottom, looks to the Archbishop for guidance prior to saying "cheese."



It takes a bullhorn to bring bishops to attention and give instructions regarding their photo behavior. No "rabbit ears" or funny faces allowed.



Some of the bishops prepare to vest for Eucharist at Canterbury Cathedral.

Online study an option for future deacons

Postulants and candidates to the Diaconate may now participate in online learning for the fall term of diaconal formation. The online program also is available to all persons interested in furthering their Baptismal ministry.

In 2007-2008, participants registered on in the Nebraska School for Baptismal Ministry were engaged in both classroom and online studies using the curriculum of Providence Theological School. According to the Rev. Jim Visger, Archdeacon, Diocese of Nebraska, participants found the online material to be well presented, grading and other responses were timely and there is an option of online chat.

"As chair of the Diaconal Formation committee, I support and recommend online study as a reasonable alternative to spending time and gas driving to a study site several times a year," Visger said.

Providence Theological School offers nearly 175 courses online. Academic courses appropriate in preparation for local ministry include: Beginnings of the Old Testament, Beginnings of the New Testament, Introduction to Theology, Introduction to Christian Ethics, Early Church History and The Episcopal Church in the United States.

Courses are \$125 each and an accumulation of them can lead to a degree or certificate. Online participants from Nebraska are exempt from the one-time registration fee of \$50. At the completion of each course, participants receive a copy of their transcript, including an evaluation of the individual level of participation.

For further information about Providence Theological School, go to their Web site providencetheo.org. Or, within the diocese, contact the Rev. Paul Mottl at dean@providencetheo.org. Potential participants may also contact Visger at visgermj@aol.com or at 402-617-0802.

Holy Trinity outreach assists school children

Holy Trinity, Lincoln, conducted its Seventh Annual Back-To-School Supplies drive for low-income elementary school children in Lincoln. In addition to an overwhelming number of supplies and a cart with 20 cases of notebooks, 840 in all, funds were donated to purchase additional backpacks for grade school students.

Holy Trinity works with The Center for People in Need, Tools for Education program, to ensure every child will start the new school year equipped with the materials they need to succeed.

"It was to this particular program we made our contribution this year," said Kathleen Jacobson, Holy Trinity Outreach Chairman. "The people of Holy Trinity and its Outreach Committee were happy to be a part of this effort."

NACED helpful for Christian Educators

The Rev. Ruth Jaynes, Christian Formation Director for the Diocese of Nebraska, encourages Christian Educators to become members in the National Association of Christian Education Directors.

The group is comprised of full time, part time and volunteer educators serving in local churches, schools and diocese as well as in other church-related fields. It provides members the opportunity to network and share ideas with other Episcopal Christian Educators and provides ministry tools to enhance christian education programs at every level.

Annual membership costs for volunteer educators is \$20 and \$50 for those paid to carry out their duties. A membership form can be downloaded from the organizations Web site at NAECED.org. For further information, contact Jaynes at rjaynes@episcopal-ne.org.

Norfolk women retreat, learn Sign Chi Do

The Women of Trinity, Norfolk, enjoyed their first retreat at the Benedictine Retreat Center in Schuyler. During the June event, in addition to the worship and fellowship, they enjoyed workshops on art journaling, two videos from "Wrestling with Angels," and Sign Chi Do. Sign Chi Do, or the art of moving prayer, is a stress relaxation prayer experience developed by Dr. Anne Borik, a Phoenix physician.

Sign Chi Do takes scripture, music, and pictures and involves the entire body in a prayer experience. The Rev. Ruth Tomlinson, Rector, and Mrs. Nancy Nockels are certified Sign Chi Do leaders and have been involved in a six-month training program, part of a Lily Foundation grant, that allows them to lead Sign Chi Do workshops. For information regarding the workshops, contact Trinity Church, Norfolk.

Episcopal Academy registrations due

The Episcopal Academy, set for Oct. 17 in Omaha and Oct. 18 in Kearney, is designed to help lay and ordained church leaders effectively develop financial and leadership resources that will enable them to do the work of the Gospel. The Academy offers training in four major areas:

- **Capital Campaigns:** You will learn how to prayerfully plan, structure and implement a capital campaign. The workshop will describe a proven three-phase methodology – discernment, feasibility study, and gifting – to successfully raise funds to address your parish's capital needs.
- **Planned Giving:** You will study ways to build and manage a year-round planned giving program, including how to create a parish Legacy Society to encourage gifts at the end of life. It will include a brief review about the different types of life-income gifts; i.e. charitable gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts, pooled income funds, etc., and technical resources available to help you implement a program at your parish.
- **Vestries: Their Role from A to Z.** This workshop is based on "The Vestry Resource Guide" from the Episcopal Church Foundation. It is designed for new vestry members, or for wardens and clergy who are responsible for orienting new members. Explore what it means to lead and manage a community of faith; how to share spiritual leadership; working to embrace differences; vestries and stewardship; managing transitions, etc. Share your insights about how to shape vestry service to be meaningful and effective.
- **Promoting Effective Leadership for Congregations:** Provides an introduction to insights about effective leadership gathered from research within and beyond the Episcopal Church and informs participants of a range of tools and resources available for leadership development, ministry enhancement and progress assessment. We will explore questions such as: Are effective leaders born or made? What are their traits? What leadership self-assessment tools exist? What is mutual ministry review? How can you become the leader you hope to be?

The schedule for each day and location is identical. Friday's academy will be at St. Andrew's, Omaha, at the corner of 84th and Pacific. Saturday, participants will gather at St. Luke's, Kearney. Activities will begin each day at 9 a.m. with registration and refreshments.

A welcome, opening prayer and overview of the academy begins at 9:30. Session 1 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. will give participants their choice of training in Capital Campaigns or Vestries: Their Role from A to Z.

Returning from lunch break, Session 2 begins at 1:30 p.m. with training in Planned Giving or Promoting Effective Leadership for Congregations. At 4:30 p.m., a question and answer session will wrap up the academy.

The academy registration fee is \$10 and includes lunch and refreshments. To register, contact the Diocesan Office by mail, fax or e-mail before the Oct. 8 registration deadline. For additional information, contact the Rev. Canon Tim Anderson, Canon for Development.

Trinity Memorial mourns death of Senior Warden

A Celebration of Life service for Dr. David Smith, 66. Professor Emeritus of Chemistry, Doane College, Crete, Neb., was held July 17 in the Whitcomb Lee Conservatory on the college campus. Dr. Smith also was Senior Warden at Trinity Memorial Episcopal Church in Crete.

Dr. Smith was a respected professor at Doane for 36 years. His widow, Peggy Brooks Smith, also was employed at the college as head of the Perking Library before retiring in 2007.

He received his B.S. from the University of Notre Dame in 1963 and his Doctorate in Chemistry from the University of Missouri. He also completed post-doctoral study at the University of Vienna, Austria, Institute for Pharmaceutical Chemistry. Dr. Smith began teaching at Doane in 1970 and retired in 2006.

An avid golfer, he could often

be found on the course near his home. The Navy veteran also was active in the affairs of Trinity Memorial and the City of Crete. With the assistance of his son, Michael, Dr. Smith developed a Web site for Trinity Memorial at www.trinitymemcrete.org and was updating the site prior to his death.

In addition to his wife, Peggy, Dr. Smith is survived by two sons, Peter, Lincoln, Neb.; and Michael, Crete; and three grandchildren.

Memorials to Dr. Smith may be sent to Trinity Memorial Episcopal Church, the Crete Boy Scouts, or to Doane College designated for Science Scholarships.

BCP Revisions

Trinity Cathedral, Omaha, will host the Rev. Canon Greg Howe, Episcopal Church Custodian of the Standard Book of Common Prayer at a special event on Saturday, Oct. 18. Howe will speak of "Untold Stories of Prayer book Revision."

Increased Awareness of Religious Environmentalism

by *The Rev. Betsy Blake Bennett, Deacon*
Saint Stephen's, Grand Island

The devotion of significant time at the Lambeth Conference to the issue of climate change is evidence of the increasing awareness of environmental issues both in the Episcopal Church and in the Anglican Communion. Other faith communities as well, both Christian and non-Christian, are calling attention to the moral dimensions of climate change. Religious environmentalism has grown into a significant spiritual movement.

Religious environmentalism is a catch-all phrase for a variety of activities and beliefs. The interfaith organization GreenFaith presents a model of religious environmentalism based on core values from the world's great religions: spirit, justice, and stewardship. The three resulting areas are, of course, interrelated, but different religious environmental groups emphasize different areas, depending on local needs and the general orientation of the group.

An emphasis on spirit calls us to awareness of God's self-revelation in creation. This awareness is expressed simply and spontaneously whenever our hearts are filled with gratitude and joy by the beauty of something in nature. Attention to the dimension of spirit teaches us to intentionally cultivate gratitude for creation and increases our awareness of the presence of God in nature. Liturgical celebration of the gift of creation and of how we find God in nature is an outgrowth of this area.

Environmental justice issues center on the way things like climate change and pollution affect different groups of people. The poorest people in the world suffer the most from the negative impacts of global climate change. Poorer neighborhoods in the United States often have poor air quality that results in higher asthma rates; poorer areas, both urban and rural, often contain toxic waste sites or ground and water pollution from industry or mining that result in other health hazards. The dimension of environmental justice links our traditional concern for people who are poor or oppressed with environmental issues.

Stewardship is the area that many people think of first when they think of religious environmentalism. Stewardship looks at how well we are caring for God's creation. As parishes and dioceses, this means looking at things like the energy efficiency of our buildings, our water use, how much trash we create, whether we recycle trash, and our transportation choices. These are all part of caring for creation. Learning how to take better care of the environment through the choices we make in our own homes is another piece of this, as is educating others about good stewardship of creation.

The three areas flow into one another. An interest in justice issues connected to climate change can lead one to pay more attention to how an ecosystem works. This in turn can lead to opportunities to experience wonder at the created world, which leads easily to a desire to care well for creation. While the environmental crisis is huge, complex, and very challenging, there is intrinsic spiritual nourishment in this work in the form of wonder at God's creation.

As we develop environmental ministry in our diocese, we will be mindful of all these dimensions of religious environmentalism. We welcome the gifts and energy of all who feel called to help in any of these areas. If you feel called to be involved, please contact me. E-mail deaconbetsy@windstream.net; phone: 402-461-3933; or phone Saint Stephen's 308-382-4961.

As the preeminent scholar of the Book of Common Prayer and its history, Howe will share untold stories that surround each revision of the BCP. In addition, the Cathedral will host a unique historical exhibit featuring artifacts of the BCP through the years.

Tours of the Cathedral will be offered, based on the theme "The Space Tells the Story of God." Admission is free and everyone is welcome to attend.

The event will begin at 10 a.m. with a reception, exhibit and tours of the Cathedral. At 11 a.m., Canon Howe will give his presentation. For more information, call Trinity Cathedral at 402-342-7010.

Choosing a date

The Cursillo Secretariat is preparing plans for Cursillo 24 in 2009. Because the Diocese of Nebraska is quite large, they are asking for information on the number of potential candidates from throughout the Diocese so they can make decisions on where to conduct the weekend. For those in the Cursillo community with possible candidates for the coming session, please contact Nancy Brown at nbrown5@neb.rr.com. Your information will be helpful to the Secretariat in making decisions during the coming weeks.

Alleluia Fund seed falls on good ground to grow Alliance Mission Store grants

During the past several years, we have had the opportunity to share with the diocese some of the wonderful stories concerning ministries that have been supported financially through Alleluia Fund Grants.

This month I would like to share with you an inspiring story of a gift that the Alleluia Fund received in July. The gift of \$4,000 came from The Mission Store, Inc. of Alliance, accompanied by a letter from the Rev. Cheryl Harris, Deacon at St. Matthew's, Alliance.

Dear Tim,

The Mission Store, Inc. of Alliance opened its doors in June 2000. This was made possible, in part, by a grant from the Episcopal Diocese of Nebraska. We are pleased to be in a position to return this grant in the hope that it will enable someone else to realize a dream.

This store provides a very important service to our community. It has become the community's project, as we had hoped, but still has five St. Matthew's members on the 10-member Board of Directors. I am enclosing a short history of the store.

The Indian Mission Store of Alliance closed its doors in 2000. The Rev. Don Mink, his family, and members of the Indian Mission Church of God, had operated the store for 30 years. Before Mink's retirement, an appeal went out to the community for others to continue this important service. The Store had been very helpful to approximately 350 Native American families and hundreds of other needy people from throughout the area.

A new group of people, recognizing the importance of this service, decided to take on this project. The importance of recycling clothing and household goods also was recognized. In April 2000, the Mission Store, Inc. was formed and a board of directors comprised of community volunteers began to work. One of the first orders of business was the decision that each month an agreed-upon sum of money would be donated to the Indian Mission Church of God for as long as the store operated.

A building was rented and we began to receive donations. The response was amazing. Large quantities of clothing, appliances, furniture, books and games were brought to the store. More than 50 volunteers sorted goods.

The Mission Store, Inc. opened June 1. More than 1,100 customers were served that first month. In 2003, The Mission Store moved to our current location. Our goals for the store were to provide reasonably priced clothing, furniture and household goods to low-income people.

When the buildings were paid for, we established a grant process to return money to the community. In January, we gave \$8,000 in grants to other non-profit community organizations, donated \$1,000 to the High Plains Veterans Cemetery and \$500 to Habitat For Humanity. This was all made possible by the start-up grant from the Alleluia Fund of the Diocese of Nebraska.

In Christ's Service
Cheryl Harris

This is what good stewardship is all about, the sharing of God's abundant resources that we have been given. A grant from the Diocese eight years ago has not only helped the Mission Store in Alliance serve the people in that community, but now, through their gift to the Alleluia Fund, even more new and exciting ministries will have the opportunity to flourish. The Alleluia Fund says Thanks! Thanks to The Mission Store, Inc. in Alliance, to Deacon Harris, and to the people of St. Matthew's Church, Alliance.

*The Rev. Canon Tim Anderson
Canon for Development*

Journey to Adulthood license information sought

If your parish is using Journey to Adulthood, please let the diocese know by e-mailing the Rev. Ruth Jaynes at rjaynes@episcopal-ne.org. The Diocese of Nebraska pays for the license for ALL of our churches to use Journey to Adulthood whether you use it or not and we would like to know if it is used enough to warrant the \$1,500 fee. We encourage you to use it in your parish and if you would like to be trained in the program please contact Jaynes at the diocesan office.

Bishop's Calendar & Diocesan Events

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, Holy Trinity, Lincoln, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.**
- Sept. 7 **Bishop's Visitation, St. Francis, Scottsbluff**
Sept. 10 **Celebration of New Ministry for the Rev. Mary Hendricks, St. Alban's, McCook**
- Sept. 14 **Bishop's Visitation, Christ Church, Beatrice, St. Luke's, Wymore**
- Sept. 16-19 **House of Bishops' Called Meeting, Salt Lake City, Utah**
- Sept. 19-21 **Deacons' Retreat, Benedictine Center, Schuyler**
- Sept 19-20 **Order of St. Luke's Healing Mission at St. Martha's Papillion Time TBA**
- 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**

Bartholomew Obituary

(Continued from Front Page)

terms on the School Boards in both Garden City and Hastings. He was a counselor and chaplain in the chemical dependency unit of the Hastings Regional Center and instituted the Mary Lanning Hospital Year-Around Christmas Toy Chest for young patients. In 1985 he was voted "Out-standing Religion Leader" for the Hastings community.

Following his retirement in 1998, he moved to Lake City, where he was a supply priest at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Lake City and St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Winona, Minn.

On July 25, 1972, he married Elinor Miller Monroe of Dayton, Ohio. She preceded him in death in 2000.

He is survived by a stepdaughter, Susan (Ed) Fain of South Bend, Ind.; a stepson, John Monroe of Red Wing; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Memorials may be directed to St. Mark's Pro-Cathedral and should be marked "Dean Bart Memorial." Mahn Family Funeral Home, Anderson-Peterson Chapel of Lake City is in charge of arrangements.

The Lambeth Journal (Continued from Page C)

and spouses will be invited in groups of 100 or so. The Archbishop and his wife Jane strolled among us in the garden, and chatted with almost everyone present. It was my first time to meet him except in passing, and he is quite a personable and charming host. Canterbury is an especially lovely place in the evening—especially when in (literally) the back yard of the cathedral, which is beautifully illuminated each night until midnight. This has been another long and arduous day in terms of schedule, but a rich experience.

July 24 (London Day). In the future, when I think back on my life, or write informal memoirs for my children, surely this day will number among the most impressive and memorable. Very early this morning some 600 bishops, bedecked in purple cassocks or other ecclesiastical vestments, and quite a large number of spouses boarded buses for a two and a half hour ride in busy traffic to the heart of London. There, at approximately 10:00 a.m., we commenced a “Walk of Witness,” in support of the Millennium Development Goals. Beginning at Whitehall Palace, we continued past the Houses of Parliament and Westminster Abbey, across Lambeth Bridge and over the Thames River, to Lambeth Palace—the home of the Archbishop, and “headquarters” for the worldwide Anglican Communion. At Lambeth Palace, we had a brief break for water and a stroll through the Library. Afterwards, under a blazing sun, we were greeted by the Archbishop and ecumenical guests, and then introduced to Gordon Brown, the Prime Minister of England, who gave an impassioned address (without notes) on the crucial significance of the MDG’s and their role in bringing an end to global poverty and injustice. He said that our walk was the most significant demonstration of faith in London history—quite a profound statement.

Following the address we were directed to the spacious grounds of the Lambeth Palace, overlooking “Big Ben” and Parliament across the river, and there on the grounds a thousand of us enjoyed a very refreshing and delicious lunch under an incredibly large outdoor tent. After lunch we were free to walk the grounds. With the help of tour guides, Marty and I made our way to the crypt, and to Lambeth Chapel, both significant sites of landmark events in the history of England and of the Anglican Church.

Shortly thereafter, buses departed from Lambeth Palace to Buckingham Palace—a place I have seen twice as a tourist from “outside the gates”—but this time we were escorted through the gates, and into the front doors of the Palace, and then out onto the huge park-like atmosphere of the Palace Garden. At 4 p.m. sharp, Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip, announced by a brass band playing “God save the Queen,” came out onto the lawn and were greeted ceremoniously by the Archbishop. Then they proceeded to walk along and chat with

those who had managed to secure spots in front of the throngs of us lining the ribbon barriers set up to control the crowd. I was impressed that the two of them spent more than an hour conversing with first one and then another Lambeth guest, while they patiently made their way to the “Royal Tent” for tea—and by this time most of us had already enjoyed tea in adjoining tents.

For the next hour and a half or so we were free to roam the expansive acreage which includes a lake, flower gardens, and forested areas. Quite a spread! One Brit, noticing our fascination with all things Royal, quipped, “You’d have to pull up all the tea you dumped in Boston Harbor to get this back, you know!” We replied that we sort of enjoyed it, but didn’t want to pay for it!

The Bus ride back to the University of Kent in Canterbury got us home in time for a late dinner in the various venues on campus. Quite a day, but all of us were very weary afterwards. By this time many are feeling the stress and strain of an unrelenting schedule, and are trying to prioritize the major events and sessions so as to keep the energy and attention levels keen and ready.

July 25. The theme for today is “Serving Together: The Bishop and Other Churches.” Our Bible Study theme is John 8:31-59 “Jesus said to them, ‘Very truly I tell you, before Abraham was, I am.’” An excellent discussion ensued in our Indaba groups today on the variety and challenge of ecumenical work in our various contexts, and in addition, we also began a heartfelt and very honest exchange about the challenges of our differing perspectives on human sexuality. In our Indaba group, we have bishops from the Sudan, Ghana, North India, South India, West Africa, South Africa, Scotland, the Philippines, Ireland, Australia, Canada, and the U.S.—and others—plus ecumenical representatives from the Greek Orthodox Church and the Baptist World Alliance. So you can imagine the breadth of opinion in this group!

After lunch the Episcopal Church bishops met for the second time, along with all the other provinces, in separate sessions. Later in the afternoon I attended a fascinating session led by Richard Burridge, a New Testament scholar, on issues in Biblical interpretation. Tonight the plenary was a sobering report from Professor Chris Rapley, Director of the Science Museum and an expert in climate change.

July 26. The theme for today was “Safeguarding Creation: The Bishop and the Environment.” Our Bible study theme was John 9:1-41 “He kept saying, ‘I am the man.’” In our Indaba group, there was amazing unanimity on the urgency and significance of the issues around global warming, and the adverse affects it has had and will have on “this fragile earth, our island home.”

This afternoon the Episcopal Church hosted a reception for bishops from Sudan, Liberia, and the Congo.

It was a good opportunity to explore companion relationships and to build bridges of cooperation and understanding. Evening worship today was presented by the Episcopal Church, and the bishops and spouses choir gave a pre-service presentation of various hymns and anthems.

July 27. Today we had choices about our time. Some had signed up to be transported to various parishes in the area to spend the morning and worship in area parishes. Others opted for another day at Canterbury Cathedral. The celebrant for the principal morning Eucharist at Canterbury Cathedral was the Archbishop, and the preacher was the Dean. After lunch and a walk about town, we also attended Evensong, and again heard the marvelous choir sing some stunning music. Afterwards we walked with others to historic St. Augustine’s Abbey for a civic reception by the Archbishop and the Lord Mayor of Canterbury. St. Augustine’s Abbey is the burial site of Augustine of Canterbury, the first Archbishop, and it is an ancient and holy place. Before returning to the University, we walked to the restaurant in Canterbury where many from my “class” of bishops (2003-2004) were gathered for dinner.

July 28 – August 3. Lambeth Concludes: Second “Ordinary Week” and Closing Day.

July 28. By this point many of us in attendance are becoming weary, and are finding the pace of things to be a real challenge. Day-to-day life on the campus, given the busy schedule of events, is difficult, and simple things like laundry and other day-to-day necessities remind many of us of “how it was in college!” Our Bible Study group today considers John 10:1-10 “So again, Jesus said to them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate...’” By this point our Bible Study group has become quite a small community, and we are able to share honestly and lovingly with one another, from the heart. This remarkable experience, according to reports heard all around the conference, is typical. Our Indaba Groups are also becoming communities of trust and honest speech, and even though it is at times risky and difficult, we are finding more and more meaningful interaction in these settings. The theme today is “Engaging a Multi-Faith World: The Bishop, Christian Witness, and Other Faiths.” During our Indaba session I shared with the group what is happening in Omaha with the Tri-Faith Initiative, and many were truly amazed, particularly those from African nations where the typical Islamic expression is domineering and violent. The difference in perspectives and experience is extraordinary.

The Episcopal Church met again this afternoon—as did other Provinces—to discuss the process and progress of the conference. Tonight’s plenary consisted of an excellent presentation on “The People of God and the Covenant,” by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth.

July 29. Today’s theme is “Equal in

God’s Sight: When Power is Abused.” We spent the entire morning in plenary, with spouses, and were led through a series of challenging questions and sharing around the universal issues of violence, particularly violence against women in a variety of domestic and cultural settings. This session was a stretch for some who are not accustomed to dealing openly and honestly with this, and some bishops even walked out as the morning began—not a welcome response. After lunch we held our third provincial gathering of Episcopal Church bishops, following which we hosted yet another reception for bishops from African provinces not represented at this past Saturday’s meeting.

In the late afternoon our Bible Study groups discussed John 10:1-18, “I am the good shepherd.” Afterwards, the Archbishop offered his second “Presidential Address” following Evening Prayer in the Big Top. Tonight, mercifully, was a free evening, and many made their way to restaurants or other attractions in Canterbury’s City Centre.

July 30. Bible Study Groups this morning dealt with John 11:1-44, “I am the resurrection and the life.” Our Bible Study group took group photos today, and also committed to a discipline of ongoing prayer for one another during the coming years, using a collection of prayers provided by each of our members. The theme today was “Living Under Scripture: The Bishop and the Bible in Mission.” Our Indaba group had a very meaningful exchange about how we use and interpret scripture in preparing sermons. This led to a wide variety of responses, which highlighted the great diversity of approaches to understanding the Bible in Anglicanism.

Following the normal afternoon events and workshops, we attended a dinner tonight for friends and alumni of Virginia Theological Seminary, held in one of the campus venues.

July 31. “Listening to God and Each Other: The Bishop and Human Sexuality” is our theme for today. This, of course, provides our Indaba Group, as well as many others, with some real divergence of thoughts and feelings, but I am impressed again at the honesty, depth, and mutual respect, that is accorded varying voices in this conversation. Our Bible Study Group discussed John 13:31-14:14 “I am the way, the truth, and the life.”

This afternoon was the second in a series of hearings moving toward producing a document of reflections on the Conference, which will take the place of any closing statement or position paper. Discussion is intense, and varied. Tonight we joined alumni and friends of the School of Theology at Sewanee, where we served four years on the faculty, at a reception in a nearby hotel.

August 1. As we move into the last three days of the conference, we be-

(Concluded on Page H)

Diocesan youth celebrate another successful Camp Comeca



(The Lambeth Journal concluded)

gin a three-day focus on one closing theme: "Fostering our Common Life: The Bishop, the Anglican Covenant, and the Windsor Process." Obviously this emphasis is one that has roots in the "Windsor Report," issued by a commission appointed by the Archbishop in 2003-2004, following the confirmation and consecration of the Bishop of New Hampshire. Both the proposed "Covenant," and the so-called "Windsor Process" provoke a wide range of responses—and this is certainly the case in our Indaba Group—about which I will write more in-depth in the coming weeks. We had two Indaba Group meetings today, and the conversation was all over the map, with some supportive of an Anglican Covenant, including a mechanism for enforcement, some open-minded and willing to consider a covenant, and some diametrically opposed to the whole notion as a matter of principle.

Our Bible Study Group focused on John 15:1-17 "I am the true vine." Tonight is yet another free evening set aside for the many hundreds of participants to begin preparations for traveling home following closing events this coming Sunday.

August 2. Discussions continued today on the Covenant and the Windsor process in all of the Indaba Groups; and, though a wide diversity of opinion was expressed, our group had some remarkable expressions of commitment and desire to remain in communion and partnerships around the world. This was apparently the case across the board with all of the groups. One emerging question is to what extent the upper echelons of the prevailing appointed structures (the Covenant Design Group and the "Windsor Continuation Group), as well as the Archbishop, are aware of this "on the ground" reality.

Our Bible Study considered John 18:1-18 "For whom are you looking?" The afternoon was less full than usual, and the evening plenary a short one. We were able to take in one more glorious service of Evensong late today at Canterbury Cathedral. Tonight, we joined several from the Episcopal Province IV (Southeast) for a farewell dinner.

August 3. The last meeting of our Bible Study Group was a time of much emotion and expression of solidarity. We discussed and shared on John 20:19-31 "That through believing you may have life in his name." Our Indaba Group continued in the vein of sharing closing thoughts and feelings as we all prepare to depart tonight or tomorrow.

After lunch we gathered for a closing plenary, featuring the Archbishop expressing thanks to a wide variety of persons who helped throughout the planning and implementation of Lambeth. We also heard observations from two of our ecumenical guests, one from the Greek Orthodox Church, and one from the Reformed Church. Finally, the Archbishop delivered his third and closing "Presidential Address," in which he outlined in more depth his vision for the future of the Communion. Comment on that will be reserved for an upcoming article.

Following the plenary, all made one last trip down to Canterbury's Christ Church Cathedral for a lengthy closing Eucharist and reception. We departed late and drove part way to Brecon, Wales.

August 4-6. Postlude to Lambeth.

August 4-5. This long "Lambeth Summer" ended for Marty and me with a quick overnight visit back in Brecon, Wales, where I began my time here some weeks ago. Again, the hospitality of Bishop John and family was gracious, and we discussed possibilities of a continuing relationship between Nebraska and the Diocese of Swansea-Brecon. We left midday Tuesday, and drove to a hotel adjacent to Gatwick Airport.

August 6. After a very early arrival at the airport, the long trek back began. At 8 p.m. tonight, some 23 hours after we left the room this morning, we arrived at home in Omaha. A rich experience it has been, with much to ponder, pray about, and reflect upon for some time to come!



Left Photo: Participants in the 2008 Camp Comeca used white tape to form an outline of Nebraska. Then each camper stood where they came from to give each other a sense of the size and diversity of the Diocese. Above Photo: Campers gathered daily for common worship, meals, crafts and games. (Photos Courtesy Robin Heller and Nancy Nichols)

Camp Comeca 2008 was a great Success. The ministry was carried out by an amazing group of priests and lay people who truly practiced what they preached.

The theme this year was "Be an action H.E.R.O." We called all kids to action by teaching them about **H**elping hands, **E**nthusiastic Spirits, **R**eaching out and being ready to respond and, lastly but not least, doing it with a **O**pen heart.

More than 100 individuals were involved in the tradition that is Camp Comeca.

Thanks to the leaders that gave of their time this week but more importantly, I want to thank the kids and their parents for understanding the importance of the Episcopal camp experience. This experience will be there for each child long after the last camper has gone home and the last cabin has been cleaned. They will grow up to share the love of Christ with their own family and hopefully some day send their child to camp so they can pass on the message of faith.

Traditions like these are essential to the growth and development of the Youth program in the Diocese. Please find time to fit this tradition into your schedule. Camp is always the last week in July so pencil it in now for next year.

Talk to your church about being a sponsor and/or volunteer to help with camp or call me, Robin Heller, 402-699-2863, to get more information on how you can help with this ministry at the 2009 camp.

And as the campers sing the last song on the way home....I am a C... I am a CH... Ask a camper for the rest!

---Robin Heller, Eastern Deanery Youth Coordinator. To view photos and the videos made at camp go to the diocese web page and click on the youth section.

Nebraskans attend EYE in San Antonio



Participants from the Diocese of Nebraska attending the national Episcopal Youth Event included: Front row, Keli Alabi, All Saints, Omaha, left, and Renee Mandock, St. Alban's, McCook. Middle row, Travis Binker, All Saints, left; Royce Olander, All Saints; the Rev. Bill Graham, St. Mary's Holly Rushville; Daniel Schaefer, St. Andrew's, Omaha; and Lara Shine, Youth and Young Adult Minister, All Saints. Back row, Amanda Scarborough, Church of the Holy Spirit, Bellevue, left, and Janet Squires, Southeastern Deanery Youth Coordinator, St. Matthew's, Lincoln. (Photo Courtesy the Rev. Canon Judi Yeates)