

Diocese Ministry Conference successful, "It's All About Mission"

The Second Annual Ministry Conference celebrated opportunities for growing the church in the Diocese of Nebraska. "It's All About Mission," was the theme of the Sept. 14-15 event at the Grand Island Interstate Holiday Inn.

In his opening remarks to the conference attendees, the Rt. Rev. Joe G. Burnett, Bishop of Nebraska, cited the Gospel of Luke which centers on the journey of Jesus to his destiny in Jerusalem.

"Many of the parables in Luke are about making the most of the time you've got," Burnett said. "Jesus spoke and taught in anxious and urgent times, just as we live in today. The church has always lived in urgent times; the church has always been on the Journey to Jerusalem."

The question becomes how do we make the most of our time on our journey? Burnett said the conference was about Mission and Ministry in Jesus' name on our own way to Jerusalem.

"By focusing our time and passion on Jesus and His teachings, we will work toward the well-being of our souls, our parishes, and our diocese," he said.

He then introduced the Rev. Dr. James B. Lemler, Director of Mission for the Episcopal Church U.S.A., who presented his keynote remarks.

Lemler asked everyone to talk to the person next to them about one good thing that has happened in their church during the past year. A spirited discussion followed.

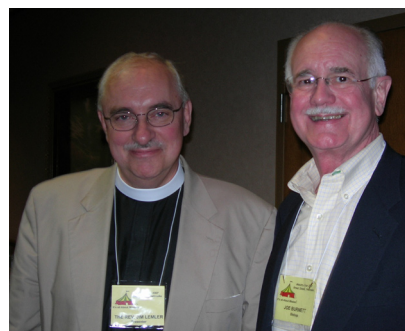
"You just had a conversation about mission," Lemler said "You had a new opening to succeed in telling the story of your church."

Mission talks about something good in the world and in the local community. God is present and at work in you and your church, he said. God empowers us and gives us the growth.

"The church today is in a moment of profound mission, a 'Mission Revolution,'" he said. "Mission is at the heart of who we are as a people and as a church. It is good for us to remember that we are doing God's work by working in mission."

Lemler directed his audience to the catechism in the Book of Common Prayer and the questions and answers it gives regarding Mission. He also referenced a portion of a prayer from the service of Morning Prayer, "... you stretched our your arms on the hard wood of the cross that we might all come within your saving embrace. . . ."

"How does your church open its arms to others?" he asked. "By shaping the way your arms and the arms of your con-



The Rev. Dr. James B. Lemler, left, and the Rt. Rev. Joe G. Burnett.

gregation are open to serve, you can participate fully in the servanthood of Jesus in mission."

He said the audience were leaders for mission by virtue of the participation in this conference indicating a willingness to grow and to serve.

"What you like most

about your local congregation is mission in action," he said. "Those things you value and love become your mission. Mission is your belief and action to continue to grow."

A primary question of mission is are you still growing, willing to share your faith story, to invite someone into your church, he said. Numerous national studies show the best way to get a new member into your church is to invite someone and share your story with them.

"You are each an agent of God, a source of mission empowered to do His work," he said. "God sends you into the world in mission every day. How are you growing? How are you doing mission?" he concluded.



The crowd Friday night participated in a Godly Play worship and had many questions for Dr. Lemler following his keynote address. Attendance grew for the Saturday workshops.

St. Matthew's welcomes new priest



The Rev. Craig E. Gavin was installed Oct. 10 as the 11th Rector of St. Matthew's, Lincoln. Officiant and Celebrant at the Eucharist was the Rt. Rev. Joe G. Burnett, Bishop of Nebraska. Participants included, left to right, Pat Shafer, Junior Warden; Mary Crooks; Chet McClain; Amy Schmaderer; Margie McClain; Mollie Baldwin; Joan Reist, Co-Chairman, Search Committee; Bobby Brown; Mike Weseman; Gavin; Will Thomas; Ed Vigna, Co-Chairman, Search Committee; Molly Esseks, Organist (partially hidden); Verneda Kelly; Deacon Rich Kelly; Dick Esseks; and Russ Inbody, Senior Warden.



Nearly 20 organizations and programs presented their stories in the conference display area. Throughout the day, especially between workshop sessions, attendees were drawn to the displays. Breakout workshop topics included mission trips, natural church development, Total Ministry, Godly Play, Journey to Adulthood, youth programs, honoring the small church and practicing Millennium Development Goals. The workshops enabled congregations to enhance the efforts of their ministry teams and to encourage renewed cooperation within the diocese.

Asboe dies, co-founder of St. Monica's

The Diocese of Nebraska mourns the Sept. 26 death of the Rev. Eric Bewley Asboe, 91, in Nebraska City.

Asboe was born in Hopedale, Labrador, Newfoundland, to the Rev. Andrew E. and Margaret E. Jefferys Asboe. He moved with his parents to Beatrice in 1932 and graduated from Beatrice High School in 1934, Doane College in 1938 and Seabury-Western Episcopal Seminary in 1941.

Ordained in December 1941, Asboe served congregations in York, Crete, Dewitt and Central City from 1941 to 1947; St. Mary's, Nebraska City, from 1947 to 1959; St. David's, Lincoln, 1959 to 1976; St. Andrew's, Paris, Ill., 1976 to 1980; and Grace Church, Tecumseh, 1981 to 2006.

He was a co-founder of St. Monica's Home, Lincoln, in 1964 and served as its chaplain until 1974.

Asboe spent his retirement restoring the 132-year-old building now known as

the Old Freighters Museum, Nebraska City.

Survivors include Ruth, his wife of 55 years; son Eric B, II, Lincoln; four grandchildren; two sisters and one brother.

Services were held Sept. 29 at St. Mary's, Nebraska City, with burial at Park Hill Cemetery, Syracuse.

Memorials may be made in Asboe's memory to St. Monica's, 120 Wedgewood Drive, Lincoln, NE 68510 or the Nebraska City Historical Society.

Free Organ can be yours

St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, Elkhorn, is giving away a beautiful Lowery Jubilee Organ. No strings attached! Features: 2 - 49 note keyboards, 13 bass pedals, Stereo sound (2x40 Watts), 2 - 12" full range speakers, 2 - 3" Tweeters, Ports for Stereo headphones, MIDI, AUX In/Out. Dimensions: 43.25" Wide, 26" Deep, 49" Tall, bench included. Call the church at (402) 289-4058 for more information.

Omaha pantry feeds the hungry, honors Dean Fricke by its service

Information provided by Bill Roberts

President, Board of Directors, Dean Fricke Memorial Episcopal Food Pantry

Although many Nebraska Episcopalians may never have heard of it, the food pantry operated by Episcopal churches in and around Omaha continues to build quite a reputation for its efforts in feeding the hungry.

The Dean Fricke Memorial Episcopal Food Pantry, named in memory of The Very Rev. Jack Fricke, dean of Trinity Cathedral from 1970 to 1990, is one of the largest church-based pantries in the city.

Volunteers from seven Omaha-area Episcopal churches gather each week in Trinity Cathedral to prepare 100 family-sized sacks to be distributed by the Lutheran social services agency Project Hope. In addition, volunteers pack larger "Parish Pantries" for local Episcopal churches and 60 travelers lunch sacks each month for the Door Ministry program of Holy Family Roman Catholic Church downtown parish. The pantry serves more than 7,000 individuals a year.

Beyond distributing groceries, in recent years the Fricke pantry has been able to share funds with other worthy agencies, earning it a reputation for generosity and cooperation throughout the service agency community.

The pantry works with the Omaha Food Bank in selecting agencies that have effective programs and a genuine need, including: Kids Café, Backpack Program, Dietz United Methodist Church, St. Benedict Catholic Church, Bethesda Pantry, Christ Child Day Care, InterTribal Alcohol Treatment Center, Mission for All Nations, Siena Francis House, St. Benedict the Moor, Dorothy Day House, and the Miller Park Elementary After-School Program, served by the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection/CORE.

As cold weather and the holidays approach, the needs of hungry people become more urgent and the Episcopal food pantry's resources are at a low point. If you'd like to help, donations can be made through the United Way, the Combined Federal Campaign for federal employees, or by direct contribution. The address: Dean Fricke Memorial Episcopal Food Pantry, c/o Trinity Cathedral, 113 N. 18 Street, Omaha NE 68102.

All Episcopalians who support the Dean Fricke Food Pantry, whether through monetary donations, gifts of food, volunteered time or simple prayer, can be proud to know of the impact this ministry has throughout the Omaha area.

New at the Resource Center

Several new books are available in the Diocesan Resource Center. Of particular interest are two books by Phyllis Tickle, one of America's most well known spiritual writers.

In "The Shaping of a Life: a Spritual Landscape," Tickle shares stories of her life and spiritual journey and her deepening understanding of prayer.

A second book is "God Talk in America." According to Publishers Weekly, this book is, "part history of American religion and part story of people putting faith into practice in their everyday lives...Tickle contends that the religious reformation she sees now occurring in America is to be found not in churches, synagogues and seminaries but in America's streets, cafes and homes."

"Silent Lives: How High a Price?" by Sara L. Boesser, is a resource that could be used for personal study and group discussions about sexual orientation. Boesser is a human rights advocate who works for equal rights for all regardless of sexual orientation and equal access for people with disabilities.

If you are interested in these titles or other offerings in the Diocese of Nebraska Resource Center, e-mail the Rev. Ruth Jaynes at rjaynes@episcopal-ne.org or visit the Resource Center at the Diocesan Office.

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The Pastoral Staff



A Brief Reflection on the Recent Statement from the House of Bishops

The Rt. Rev. Joe G. Burnett

(Note: the full text of the Bishops' Statement follows this reflection.)

At the conclusion of our recent meeting in New Orleans, some 150 bishops approved a document entitled "Response to Questions and Concerns Raised by our Anglican Communion Partners." This approval came on a voice vote with only one audible dissenting vote. Anytime such a document receives this level of support in our diverse community of bishops, you can be sure that it either represents a wide consensus, or that it reflects the fact that most, if not all, of those present and voting are not completely happy with the results, but have chosen to compromise on one or more elements. My own sense is that the latter reality is in play here. And my guess is that individual members of our own diocese will find themselves in a similar place; i.e., in agreement with some parts of the statement, but not with others.

As I think about what we said in New Orleans, I am reminded of an old saw about preaching: "Tell them what you're going to tell them. Tell them. And then tell them what you told them." In many ways, our statement was part three of that homiletic counsel. We told them, our Anglican Communion partners, what we have already told them twice before.

Our statement of Response is in three parts: (1) an introduction and preamble; (2) a "bullet point" summary; and (3) an elaboration and explanation of the bullet points. Also, this statement is carefully worded and nuanced. An accurate interpretation of any one part must be undertaken in terms of the overall content of the whole.

In short, here is my interpretation, followed by a couple of closing comments.

First, we said nothing new in terms of our strong desire to remain part of the Anglican Communion, or in terms of our responses to requests that have been made of us by our Anglican Communion partners.

Our description of General Convention resolution B033 was just that—a description—along with a word about what we believe the resolution means to most bishops. I say "most," because some of the bishops feel bound by this resolution, and some do not. I count myself in the latter group, as I believe it is canonically and constitutionally inconsistent for bishops and/or standing committees to surrender, categorically and in advance, the sacred duty to give or to withhold consent to any Episcopal consecration.

With regard to the question of same-sex blessings, we also reiterated what has already been said many times before, that most bishops/dioceses do not provide for these. The fact is, no bishop can "authorize" rites in any institutional sense apart from the action of General Convention.

That such blessings do occur in some places and at some times is a pastoral reality. These blessings are "outside" the official umbrella of the authorization of General Convention. However, they are within the provisions of the resolution of General Convention 2003 which affirmed that such pastoral actions are "within the bounds of our common life."

In keeping with this theme we also reaffirmed our message to the church from

our Spring 2007 meeting in which we called for justice and dignity for gay and lesbian persons throughout the world, and, in particular, across the Anglican Communion.

Second, we reaffirmed our intention to live within the constitutional and canonical framework of The Episcopal Church. We did this not only by affirming our Presiding Bishop's plan for "Episcopal Visitors," but also by acknowledging that changes of policy on various issues could only occur by action of General Convention—and quite apart from any "consensus" in the wider Communion.

Third, we strongly urged an end to extra-provincial incursions by uninvited bishops. We insisted on fulfillment of the promise to implement a "listening process" around the Communion on matters of human sexuality. And we encouraged the Archbishop of Canterbury in his "expressed desire to explore ways for the Bishop of New Hampshire to participate in the Lambeth Conference."

Finally, I offer two thoughts—one hopeful and one not so.

Here is the hopeful thought: Since our meeting I have been heartened by the generally positive response to our statement by the Joint Standing Committee of the Anglican Consultative Council and the Primates—many of whom, by the way, share our frustration that we have been prodded by a few (who do not have the authority to do so) to go through these machinations. I hope this process will lead to a more productive unity with those who really do cherish the broad traditions of Anglicanism. We shall see.

My not so hopeful thought, however, has to do with my nagging sense that in our fervor to preserve the institutional ties within our Communion, in some cases with provinces and persons who have already declared themselves out of communion with us, we have yet again postponed our full commitment to a truly inclusive church. If that is the case, then I seriously doubt that what we have said and done in New

Orleans will either preserve the Anglican Communion as we have known it, or promote the gospel of Jesus as we have received it.

As always, I stand ready to visit and discuss these issues with clergy groups and or parish groups across our diocese.

Grace and peace,
+Joe

Summer Collegium offered at Virginia Theological Seminary

The Summer Collegium, a project in support of small congregations, is now accepting applications for the Summer 2008 event, which will take place June 25-July 3.

This nine-day, all expenses paid conference for clergy and their spouses or partners is open to those who pastor small congregations of 100 or fewer average Sunday attendance and are committed to small church ministry. Singles and non-ordained pastors are welcome to apply for one of the 25 openings.

The conference consists of keynotes and workshops on all aspects of small church ministry, with a special emphasis on worship and preaching.

Keynotes include Tony Pappas, who has written extensively on small church life, and Peter Bush and Christine O'Reilly, authors of the new book "Where 20 or 30 are Gathered: Leading Worship in the Small Church."

John Bell of the Iona Community in Scotland will be music leader.

This is an ecumenical project sponsored by the Lilly Endowment Inc. Applications may be downloaded from our Web site, www.vts.edu/education/collegium, or contact Dr. Marilyn Johns, mjohns@vts.edu or (703) 461-1760.

Applications must be postmarked by Dec. 15.

House of Bishops response 'to questions and concerns raised by our Anglican Communion Partners. September 25, 2007

In accordance with Our Lord's high priestly prayer that we be one, and in the spirit of Resolution A159 of the 75th General Convention, and in obedience to his Great Commission to go into the world and make disciples, and in gratitude for the gift of the Anglican Communion as a sign of the Holy Spirit's ongoing work of reconciliation throughout the world, we offer the following to The Episcopal Church, the Primates, the Anglican Consultative Council (ACC), and the larger Communion, with the hope of "mending the tear in the fabric" of our common life in Christ.

The House of Bishops expresses sincere and heartfelt thanks to the Archbishop of Canterbury and members of the Joint Standing Committee of the Anglican Consultative Council and the Primates for accepting our invitation to join us in New Orleans. By their presence they have both honored us and assisted us in our discernment. Their presence was a living reminder of the unity that is Christ's promised gift in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Much of our meeting time was spent in continuing discernment of our relationships within the Anglican Communion. We engaged in careful listening and straightforward dialogue with our guests. We expressed our passionate desire to remain in communion. It is our conviction that The Episcopal Church needs the Anglican Communion, and we heard from our guests that the Anglican Communion needs The Episcopal Church.

The House of Bishops offers the following responses to our Anglican Communion partners. We believe they provide clarity and point toward next steps in an ongoing process of dialogue. Within The Episcopal Church the common discernment of God's call is a lively partnership among laypersons, bishops, priests, and deacons, and therefore necessarily includes the Presiding Bishop, the Executive Council, and the General Convention. Summary

- We reconfirm that resolution B033 of General Convention 2006 (The Election Of Bishops) calls upon bishops with jurisdiction and Standing Committees "to exercise restraint by not consenting to the consecration of any candidate to the episcopate whose manner of life presents a challenge to the wider church and will lead to further strains on communion."

- We pledge as a body not to authorize public rites for the blessing of same-sex unions.

- We commend our Presiding Bishop's plan for episcopal visitors.

- We deplore incursions into our jurisdictions by uninvited bishops and call for them to end.

- We support the Presiding Bishop in seeking communion-wide consultation in a manner that is in accord with our Constitution and Canons.

- We call for increasing implementation of the listening process across the Communion and for a report on its progress to Lambeth 2008.

- We support the Archbishop of Canterbury in his expressed desire to explore ways for the Bishop of New Hampshire to participate in the Lambeth Conference.

- We call for unequivocal and active commitment to the civil rights, safety, and dignity of gay and lesbian persons.

Discussion

The House of Bishops concurs with Resolution EC011 of the Executive Council. This Resolution commends the Report of the Communion Sub-Group of the Joint Standing Committee of the Anglican Consultative Council and the Primates of the Anglican Communion as an accurate evaluation of Resolution B033 of the 2006 General Convention, calling upon bishops with jurisdiction and Standing Committees "to exercise restraint by not consenting to the consecration of any candidate to the episcopate whose manner of life presents a challenge to the wider church and will lead to further strains on communion."^[1] *The House acknowledges that non-celi-*

bate gay and lesbian persons are included among those to whom B033 pertains.

We, the members of the House of Bishops, pledge not to authorize for use in our dioceses any public rites of blessing of same-sex unions until a broader consensus emerges in the Communion, or until General Convention takes further action. In the near future we hope to be able to draw upon the benefits of the Communion-wide listening process. In the meantime, it is important to note that no rite of blessing for persons living in same-sex unions has been adopted or approved by our General Convention. In addition to not having authorized liturgies the majority of bishops do not make allowance for the blessing of same-sex unions. We do note that in May 2003 the Primates said we have a pastoral duty "to respond with love and understanding to people of all sexual orientations." They further stated, "...[I]t is necessary to maintain a breadth of private response to situations of individual pastoral care."

We affirm the Presiding Bishop's plan to appoint episcopal visitors for dioceses that request alternative oversight. Such oversight would be provided by bishops who are a part of and subject to the communal life of this province. We believe this plan is consistent with and analogous to Delegated Episcopal Pastoral Oversight (DEPO) as affirmed by the Windsor Report (paragraph 152). We thank those bishops who have generously offered themselves for this ministry. We hope that dioceses will make use of this plan and that the Presiding Bishop will continue conversation with those dioceses that may feel the need for such ministries. We appreciate and need to hear all voices in The Episcopal Church.

We call for an immediate end to diocesan incursions by uninvited bishops in accordance with the Windsor Report and consistent with the statements of past Lambeth Conferences and the Ecumenical Councils of the Church. Such

incursions imperil common prayer and long-established ecclesial principles of our Communion. These principles include respect for local jurisdiction and recognition of the geographical boundaries of dioceses and provinces. As we continue to commit ourselves to honor both the spirit and the content of the Windsor Report, we call upon those provinces and bishops engaging in such incursions likewise to honor the Windsor Report by ending them. We offer assurance that delegated episcopal pastoral care is being provided for those who seek it.

In their communiqué of February 2007, the Primates proposed a "pastoral scheme." At our meeting in March 2007, we expressed our deep concern that this scheme would compromise the authority of our own primate and place the autonomy of The Episcopal Church at risk. The Executive Council reiterated our concerns and declined to participate. Nevertheless, we recognize a useful role for communion-wide consultation with respect to the pastoral needs of those seeking alternative oversight, as well as the pastoral needs of gay and lesbian persons in this and other provinces. We encourage our Presiding Bishop to continue to explore such consultation in a manner that is in accord with our Constitution and Canons.

The 1998 Lambeth Conference called all the provinces of the Anglican Communion to engage in a "listening process" designed to bring gay and lesbian Anglicans fully into the Church's conversation about human sexuality. We look forward to receiving initial reports about this process at the 2008 Lambeth Conference and to participating with others in this crucial enterprise. We are aware that in some cultural contexts conversation concerning homosexuality is difficult. We see an important role for the Anglican Consultative Council (ACC) in this listening process, since it represents both the lay and ordained members of our constituent churches, and so is well-placed to engage every

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part of the body in this conversation. We encourage the ACC to identify the variety of resources needed to accomplish these conversations.

Invitations to the Lambeth Conference are extended by the Archbishop of Canterbury. Those among us who have received an invitation to attend the 2008 Lambeth Conference look forward to that gathering with hope and expectation. Many of us are engaged in mission partnerships with bishops and dioceses around the world and cherish these relationships. Lambeth offers a wonderful opportunity to build on such partnerships.

We are mindful that the Bishop of New Hampshire has not yet received an invitation to the conference. We also note that the Archbishop of Canterbury has expressed a desire to explore a way for him to participate. We share the Archbishop's desire and encourage our Presiding Bishop to offer our assistance as bishops in this endeavor. It is our fervent hope that a way can be found for his full participation.

It is of fundamental importance that, as we continue to seek consensus in matters of human sexuality, we also be clear and outspoken in our shared commitment to establish and protect the civil rights of gay and lesbian persons, and to name and oppose at every turn any action or policy that does violence to them, encourages violence toward them, or violates their dignity as children of God. We call all our partners in the Anglican Communion to recommit to this effort.

As we stated at the conclusion of our meeting in March: "We proclaim the Gospel of what God has done and is doing in Christ, of the dignity of every human being, and of justice, compassion and peace. We proclaim the Gospel that in Christ there is no Jew or Greek, no male or female, no slave or free. We proclaim the Gospel that in Christ all God's children, including women, are full and equal participants in the life of Christ's Church.

We proclaim the Gospel that in Christ all God's children, including gay and lesbian persons, are full and equal participants in the life of Christ's Church. We proclaim the Gospel that stands against any violence, including violence done to women and children as well as those who are persecuted because of their differences, often in the name of God." [1] *The Communion Sub-Group noted that "the resolution uses the language of 'restraint', and the group noted that there has been considerable discussion since General Convention about the exact force of that word. By requiring that the restraint must be expressed in a particular way – 'by not consenting ...', however, the resolution is calling for a precise response, which complies with the force of the recommendation of the Windsor Report."*

The group also noted "that while the Windsor Report restricted its recommendation to candidates for the episcopate who were living in a same gender union, the resolution at General Convention widened this stricture to apply to a range of lifestyles which present a wider challenge. The group welcomed this widening of the principle, which was also recommended by the Windsor Report, and commend it to the Communion."

[Episcopal News Service]

Scott to Holy Trinity

The Rev. Catherine Scott will become Interim Priest at Holy Trinity, Lincoln, Nov. 15.

Scott is well-known in the Diocese for her work as the Ministry Development Coordinator for Total Ministry and as Rector of St. Luke's, Plattsmouth. She will work at Holy Trinity full time.

"The anticipated length of her stay with us is around two years," said Robert Schlisman, Senior Warden. "By the very nature of her designation as 'Interim Priest,' she will not become our eventual permanent Rector; but, she is well-qualified to lead us to that point." The parish had been without a rector since the April 30 retirement of the Rev. Jane Heenan.

Trinity Church, Norfolk, co-hosts ecumenical worship service

Trinity Episcopal Church and Sacred Heart Catholic Parish jointly hosted an ecumenical Taize service for the Norfolk area. Choirs from a number of local churches and Trinity organist Kari Henkel provided music for the evening service.

Meditation, reflection, readings and singing in the style of the ecumenical monastic Taize community of France celebrated the love of Jesus Christ.

In addition to the host churches, worshipers from other Catholic parishes, United Church of Christ, Presbyterian and American Baptist churches participated. A reception followed in the Trinity Fellowship Hall.

Holy Trinity hosts bazaar

Saturday, Nov. 3, Holy Trinity, Lincoln, will hold their Annual Bazaar from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the church, 6001 A St. This event is Lincoln's oldest church-sponsored bazaar, according to information provided by the bazaar chairman.

This year's bazaar will be based on an "old-world" theme. Vintage linens, collectibles, and antiques will be featured. Of course the usual homemade baked goods, jams, pickles and holiday treats will be available.

Of course, the bazaar would not be complete without the ever-popular gourmet soups and sandwiches available for eat-in or take-out.

Proceeds will help support many human service agencies in the Lincoln area. The public is invited to park in either lot and enter through the north doors.

Historic Calendar features Trinity Church

Trinity Church, Norfolk, will represent the Diocese of Nebraska in the 2008 Historic Episcopal Churches Engagement Calendar. With photographs and historical vignettes, the calendar features one Episcopal Church from every state plus three more.

The oldest featured congregation dates to 1618, Martin's Brandon, Burrowville, Va., formed when Capt. John Martin patented his plantation. Close on its heels is St. Peter's in Salem, Mass., which began in 1626 but was forced underground for a century by ruling Puritans who had outlawed worship according to the rites of the Church of England. The donor of the land on which St. Peter's stood was found guilty of witchcraft, but escaped the colony.

Parishes in the Western United States can't claim such age, but are historic nonetheless. St. Peter's, Seattle, a Japanese-American congregation, celebrates its centennial in 2008. Also celebrating its centennial is St. Mark's, Honolulu, begun as a mission to Hawaiians and today the only Angle-Catholic congregation in Hawaii.

A story of each church is told with its photograph, such as St. John's, John's Island, S.C., who had a parish organized, a vestry elected and a church under construction before its rector arrived from England in 1742. Or, the founders of Emmanuel Church, Newport, R.I., who believed the church should be free to all, including those who could not afford to rent a pew. And the women of St. John's, Ames, Iowa, who wrote into the constitution and bylaws of their guild that its goal "shall be to pay the current expenses of the church and other such expenses as the Guild may see fit to assume." And the madam who saved Holy Trinity Church in Nevada City, Calif., from financial ruin.

The spiral-bound, week-at-a-glance calendar, features major feasts and fasts as well as secular holidays. Its cost is \$15.95 or \$10 in bulk orders of 10 or more, plus \$2 or 10 percent of the total order to cover shipping and handling. Order from National Episcopal Historians & Archivists, 509 Yale Ave., Swarthmore, PA 19081. For further information, call (610) 544-1886 or e-mail nehahqs@aol.com.

A Day in the Life, The Bishop's Journal for September 2007

Sept. 1-2. Weekend off.

Sept. 3. Labor Day. Drove to St. Luke's, Kearney for lunch meeting with Karen Park and Richard Kauders re: Search Committee matters, and Executive Commission business. Stayed over to celebrate closing Eucharist for youth "Happening," which included a great turnout of parents and friends, and a fine group of "Happeners," staff and assisting clergy. Back to Omaha late afternoon.

Sept. 4-6. Flew to Cleveland for one-and-a-half day meeting with colleagues in my "class" of bishops, in preparation for our upcoming House of Bishops' meeting. Returned very early Thursday. Thursday afternoon I worked in home office and had telephone conferences, plus final preparations for Executive Commission meeting tomorrow.

Sept. 7. Full day meeting of the Diocesan Executive Commission at St. David's, Lincoln. Overnight in Central Nebraska.

Sept. 8. Visitation to St. Mary's, Bassett. Arrived Saturday afternoon for meeting with the parish Development Committee which is considering ways to enlarge the nave to accommodate growing attendance! Dinner tonight with Priest in Charge Randy Goeke and committee members.

Sept. 9. Celebrated, preached, and received new members, followed by a delicious champagne brunch in the parish hall. Attendance at today's service was double what it was on the occasion of my first visit here in December 2003! Wonderful to see the newly designed and landscaped Prayer Garden, which has become the talk of the town!

Sept. 10. Stopped in Grand Island for morning appointment with Mother Catherine Kuschel. Lunch appointment en route back to Omaha. Took Monday afternoon off.

Sept. 11. Morning meeting of Bishop and Trustees. Late morning meeting with Canon Anderson, Deans Hurley and Medina, and Fr. Ron Whitmer to discuss strategies for supporting the emerging ministry and parish life of St. Martin's in South Omaha. Afternoon spent catching up on e-mail, correspondence.

Sept. 12. Morning sermon preparation for tonight's service. Midday meeting with Canons Anderson and Schaefer at St. Augustine's. Stayed for afternoon meeting with Omaha Presbyters to discuss upcoming meeting of House of Bishops. Late afternoon meeting with chairs of the Commissions on Ministry and the Standing Committee, along with Fr. Bob Bee. Drove to St. Martin's for evening service celebrating their new ministry with Fr. Ron Whitmer as interim rector. A wonderful spirit and turnout, both from continuing members, visitors, and representatives from area parishes. A blessed new beginning! Home late.

Sept. 13. Dropped off car early for service. Morning meeting of Finance Committee in my office. Drove to St. Martha's, Papillion, for annual Eucharist, luncheon, and board meeting of the Fricke Food Pantry. A good turnout for this vital ministry of feeding which supports many efforts in the metro area—what a fitting legacy to the ministry of Dean Jack Fricke. Brief appointment with Mother Judi Yeates. Chancellor Woody Bradford joined me for an afternoon telephone conference in my office with David Beers, Chancellor to the Presiding Bishop. Canon Anderson sat in for part of the session.

Bishop's Calendar & Diocesan Events

November 2007

Nov. 4 Bishop's Visitation, St. Alban's, McCook
Nov. 5 Clarkson Regional Health Services Board, Clarkson Hospital
Nov. 10 Eastern Deanery Meeting, St. Martha's, Papillion 10:00-2:00 p.m.
Nov. 11 Bishop's Visitation, St. Paul's, Arapahoe and St. Elizabeth's, Holdrege
Nov 17 SE Deanery Meeting place TBA
Nov. 18 Bishop's Visitation, St. Matthew's, Alliance
Nov 26-Dec3 Credo for Bishops, Del Ray Beach, FL

December 2007

Dec. 9 Bishop's Visitation, St. Thomas, Falls City
Dec. 11-12 Province VI Bishops, Minneapolis, MN
Dec. 12-14 House of Bishops Theology Committee, TBA
Dec. 16 Bishop's Visitation, Holy Trinity, Lincoln
Dec. 24 Bishop in Residence, Trinity Cathedral

Sept. 14-15. Participated in the second annual Ministry Conference in Grand Island, and was extremely gratified by the attendance, and the very high quality of the many workshops offered. Keynoter Jim Lemler, Director of Mission for the Episcopal Church, provided a strong foundation and closing for our efforts. Celebrated the early morning conference Eucharist on Saturday. Conference concluded mid-afternoon.

Sept. 16. Early morning drive on to Lexington for visitation. Celebrated and preached, and enjoyed good visit with Mother Liz Montes, and Fr. Kay Knudson and parishioners of St. Peter's in the Valley after services. Returned to Omaha in the afternoon, and immediately began final packing and preparations for upcoming trip to House of Bishops meeting in New Orleans.

Sept. 17. Day off, preparing for trip.

Sept. 18-26. House of Bishops'/Spouses' Meeting in New Orleans. We were joined for the early part of the meeting by the Archbishop of Canterbury, and several members of the Joint Standing Committee of the Anglican Consultative Council and the Primates. Several, including the Archbishop, addressed and/or otherwise engaged our gathering. During the weekend, members of the House engaged in various work or orientation projects related to Katrina recovery. On Sunday, I traveled at the invitation of Bishop Phil Duncan of the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast to Mobile, and was guest preacher at their largest congregation, St. Paul's. Enjoyed a wonderful morning, including lunch and conversation with their vestry afterwards. Our meeting in New Orleans resumed on Sunday evening, and continued through Tuesday night. (See related story elsewhere in this issue, and in my Pastoral Staff article).

Sept 27-30. Traveled from New Orleans on Wednesday afternoon to Evanston, Ill., for the annual meeting of the Anglican Theological Review Board at Seabury-Western Seminary. I enjoyed an appointment on Thursday with the Rev. Jami Anderson of Holdrege, who was attending an alumni event at the Seminary. Also enjoyed the hospitality of the Deanery, and Dean Gary Hall and wife Kathy. We were joined for our meeting by the former Presiding Bishop, Frank Griswold, who also stayed at the Deanery. Returned to Omaha Sunday midday, weary after almost two weeks of meetings.

St. Mary's, Nebraska City, was Bishop Talbot's cathedral

(St. Mary's, Nebraska City, celebrates its 150th Anniversary this year. Of great importance to St. Mary's and the growth of the Episcopal Church in Nebraska was the role of the first bishop, the Rev. Dr. Joseph Cruickshank Talbot. This article is provided by the Rev. Rick Swenson, Vicar of St. Mary's.)

The history of the Episcopacy in Nebraska begins with the consecration of David Jackson Kemper as first Missionary Bishop of the Episcopal Church. In 1838 his jurisdiction was extended to include what later became the State of Nebraska. He visited Nebraska only once, in 1856, when with Bishop Lee of Iowa he visited Omaha, Florence, Bellevue, Falls City and Nebraska City.

The 1856 General Convention of the Episcopal Church made an attempt to form a missionary district for Nebraska and Kansas territories. This effort failed. During the period between the General Conventions of 1856 and 1859, Bishop of Lee of Iowa at the request of Bishop John Henry Hopkins, presiding

bishop, performed Episcopal duties in Nebraska Territory.

Finally, at the General Convention of 1859 when Bishop Kemper who had been serving as Missionary Bishop since 1835 resigned to become Bishop of Wisconsin, the Reverend Dr. Joseph Cruickshank Talbot, Rector of Christ Church, Indianapolis, was elected Missionary Bishop for the Northwest. He was consecrated Feb. 16, 1860.

Bishop Talbot held his first service in his jurisdiction April 24, 1860, at St. Mary's, Nebraska City, the parish having been formed in 1857 and incorporated in 1858. He wrote: "Never can I forget this, my first service within my Episcopal jurisdiction."

Bishop Talbot designated Nebraska City to be his See City and St. Mary's was his Cathedral for five years. St. Mary's thus served as the first Episcopal Cathedral in Bishop Talbot's expansive jurisdiction west of the Missouri River.

Coming originally from Virginia the new Bishop

preferred the country and so bought a 40-acre tract of land three miles west of town which he named "Prairie Home." It later became known as Talbot Hall, a Church School for boys.

May 13, 1860, Bishop Talbot confirmed 11 at Trinity Church (later Trinity Cathedral) in Omaha. On May 20 he confirmed seven at St. Mary's Cathedral, Nebraska City.

He was busy during the summer of 1860 "exploring" the northern part of Nebraska and the Territory of Dakota. He also visited Plattsmouth Aug. 3 and soon after appointed the Rev. Isaac A. Hagar to serve that city. Sept. 18 Bishop Talbot held a service in Nemaha City, Nemaha County, and at some time in 1860 he visited Falls City.

By 1861, missionary work was being developed by Bishop Talbot at Arago, Rulo, and Wyoming -- a town near Nebraska City. On Trinity Sunday, May 24, 1861, Bishop Talbot performed his first ordination when Isaac A. Hagar was ordained deacon.

Nebraska College was founded in 1861 at Nebraska City and Bishop Talbot made visitations at Ft. Calhoun, DeSoto, Tekama, Omadi and Dakota City.

In 1863 a "female seminary" opened and was named "Brownell Hall." It was located at Saratoga, north of Omaha, and the Rev. O.C. Drake, Rector of Trinity Church, Omaha, was Rector and Principal of the school. It was named after Bishop Brownell of Connecticut, whose friends were benefactors of the school.

The first services at Brownville, Nemaha County, were held sometime in 1864 by Bishop Talbot, assisted by the Rev. Eli Adams of St. Mary's, Nebraska City. In March 1864, Trinity Church, Omaha, became self-supporting, and on July 5, 1864, Bishop Talbot met the "primary Convocation of the Clergy of Nebraska" in Trinity Church, Omaha.

The Diocese of Indiana elected Bishop Talbot as Assisting Bishop in 1865 and

he submitted his resignation as Bishop of the Northwest to the General Convention of the Episcopal Church.

After the resignation of Bishop Talbot, General Convention divided the territory which comprised the jurisdiction of Bishop Talbot into three parts. The Rev. Robert Clarkson was chosen to be "Missionary Bishop of Nebraska and parts adjacent, with jurisdiction in Nebraska and Dacotah."

Bishop Clarkson became the first Bishop of Nebraska when in 1868 General Convention created the Diocese of Nebraska encompassing the new State of Nebraska and named him its Bishop.

Bishop Talbot's legacy lives on in the Diocese of Nebraska and at St. Mary's and is commemorated in the beautiful Bishop Talbot Window at the east end of the church nave.

Icon Writing Workshop

An Icon Writing Workshop, led by Jane Tan Creti, will be held Nov. 2-4 at St. Benedict Center, Schuyler. The retreat begins at 7:30 p.m. Friday and concludes Sunday at 4 p.m.

This workshop is an introduction to the process of writing an Icon. Iconography is an art, but is also rooted in spirituality. It begins with prayer and is executed with the sense that the seven days of creation are being represented in the artistic endeavor, Tan Creti said.

She has trained with Master Iconographer Vladislav Andrejew, Whitney Point, N.Y. She is most influenced by the classic 14th century Russian schools of Iconography.

Tan Creti has developed her skills through her work, reading and research, and experimentation for more than 20 years. Her Icons, produced in the traditional manner using all natural materials, have been exhibited frequently.

The tuition of \$180 includes all materials. The charges for room and board are additional. To register, call St. Benedict Center at (402) 352-8819.

Quiet Day: Living in Hope

The Northeast Deanery and the Daughters of the King, Julian of Norwich Chapter, offer a Quiet Day at Grace Church, Columbus. The Dec. 1 event begins at 9 a.m. with registration and coffee and concludes with the Eucharist at 3 p.m.

Anyone who would like to meditate and reflect on their spiritual growth is welcome to attend the Quiet Day. Four meditations will be followed by individual quiet time to reflect and discern spiritual needs and concerns.

Registration is requested prior to Nov.26 to facilitate preparations.

A \$10 registration fee includes lunch and materials. Grace Church is located at 2053 23rd Ave. For further information or to register, contact Tammy Lassen at: tlassen@frontiernet.net, or (402) 562-8034.

QUIET DAY: LIVING IN HOPE
Grace Church, Columbus
Dec. 1, 2007 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ e-mail _____

PLEASE REGISTER BY NOV. 26.

St. Mary's blesses prayer garden



The congregation of St. Mary's, Bassett, conducted a Garden Blessing of its recently completed meditation garden. Dedicated to the memory of the Rev. Delmar Dorsey, longtime rector of St. Mary's, all plants and statuary were blessed during the service which also included a celebration of the Eucharist. Christine Running, left, Crucifer; Chantelle Benson, Acolyte; and the Rev. Randy Goeke conducted the blessing. (Photo courtesy Tom Sawyer)

Colegio Kids Scholarships needed

August graduation for 44 high school students highlights the importance of support from Episcopalians in the Diocese of Nebraska for education opportunities in the Dominican Republic. Thirteen of these graduates were able to complete high school thanks to support from scholarships provided through the Colegio Kids program.

The graduates each hope to attend University although only two were admitted to the fall semester. University students receive scholarship assistance only after the 99 students in San Esteban and Buen Pastor, two Episcopal schools, have been funded.

Scholarship sponsors for approximately 20 of the 99 students have not yet renewed their support. Only \$250 supports a student for the school year. Scholarships make a huge difference in their lives.

If you wish to renew your scholarship or support a student for the first time, please send your check to Colegio Kids, 3224 Sheridan Court, Lincoln, NE 68508 or to St. Matthew's Church, 2325 S. 24th St., Lincoln, NE 68502.

Seminary Report from Sahra

(Sahra Harding, former Diocesan Youth Coordinator, is attending General Theological Seminary in New York City. She provides this glimpse of her progress.)

Last week a seminarian, who is in his last year here, invited me to his parish for worship. The Diocese of New York has more than 200 parishes throughout the state and each is very distinct. I live in Manhattan, but I expect that my interests or urban youth ministry and outreach will guide me toward the less wealthy areas of the city.

Like many of the Episcopal churches here, this parish is a quaint old building established in the early 1800's and decked with many icons and a gated altar. It sold its "air rights" which is the space above the building, because in New York City,

everything builds upward and not outward like the green pastures of Nebraska. This provides the parish its strong income, though how the determine the price of air or measure its distance, I will never understand.

The congregation is very small and the baroque features of the church loom everywhere. The gates that surround the altar are very tall with sharp points on top of them. The pews are divided in half and numbered because, originally, members paid pew rent to have a seat while attending a service.

Following worship, I briefly spoke with the newly ordained rector. He is serving there while he works to earn his license as a supervisor for the Clinical Pastoral Education courses that seminarians attend. He shared with me some of his views on

St. Luke's, Kearney, Confirmands



Confirmed at the last visitaion of the Rt. Rev. Joe G. Burnett, Bishop of Nebraska, to St. Luke's, Kearney, were Morgan Smith, left, Amy Sullivan and Scott Jasnoch. (Photo Courtesy Susan Jasnoch)

Have you completed required training?

"Safeguarding God's Children" is required for all teachers, youth group leaders, nursery workers and indeed anyone who is paid or volunteers in a program with children or youth. These individuals must attend a program designed to raise awareness of how we can all work together to keep our children safe.

Please contact the Rev. Ruth Jaynes at rjaynes@episcopal-ne.org to schedule a trainer to come to your church, deanery or region to facilitate a "Safeguarding God's Children" training. Keep in mind that for your church to be covered by Church Insurance, you must keep a record that all who work with children or youth have taken the training.

discernment.

"I grew up in the Pentecostal church and when I joined the Episcopal church, it impressed me how the church treats the transition into ordained ministry. It is not a fast, painless process, though many expect that it be so."

He referred to the process as one of marinating. You sit in this blend of juices and spices, the world as you know it, that have gathered around you and begin to seep into you through the very pores of your being. You have to work at staying soft and releasing the barriers to that absorption. It takes

time. Then, when the flavor has gone all the way through, you are grilled on the hottest flame. You are scorched and toughened, and the raw places close up sealing in the taste of transformation.

Instant gratification nearly does not exist in this realm. It is always striving toward a push and a pull on what you believed to be true and what you believed to be possible.

We are still in the midst of settling into a routine. Many of us feel a bit disoriented and a bit charred from the grill, but we maintain our stance because we know it's coming. It's always coming, that first bite of a job well done.