



# CROSSROADS

*Supporting Small Church Ministries*

## A Great Cloud of Witnesses

Welcome to our first virtual issue of Crossroads. And the debut of a new feature column—A GREAT CLOUD OF WITNESSES. The title of this new column comes from our Board Secretary, The Rev. Patsy Barham, and I thank her for such an appropriate title. It comes straight from Holy Scripture: Hebrews 12:1:

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us.”

Great direction and encouragement for the work that we do!

In each issue of Crossroads, we will feature one or more stories of RMN members, stories that they have written in their own words, stories of faith, stories of joy, stories of love. I encourage every member to send your story to me so that, in time, we will have a wonderful record of the work that Rural Ministries Network has done.

**New Column** Your story may be as long as you want to make it—if it won't fit, in its entirety, in one issue, we will run it as a serial and print the “rest of the story” in the next issue. You may send your story to me by emailing me, or sending it via the US Post Office to The Rev. Netha N. Brada, 345 Lincoln Avenue, Iowa Falls IA 50126-1936.

Our introductory story for this issue comes from Canada, the Province of Nova Scotia. Our contributor is The Venerable C. Russell Elliott, who lives in Wolfville, Nova Scotia. I was enthralled with his story and I hope that you will enjoy it also. I look forward to hearing from you also!

*Netha*

WATCH THIS SITE for more news from Rural Ministries Network!

What approaches have helped your congregation to fulfill its vision of remaining a vital source of assistance to the community and to the world?

## January Meeting

The Rural Ministry Network Board **Board News** members met via conference call on January 10, 2011. Those in attendance were Patsy Barham, Warren Frelund, Netha Brada, Dan Edwards, David Caffrey, Doyle Turner, Steve Christy, and Sue Norton. Also on the line were Crossroads editor Jane Helmer and Prayer Cycle Co-chair Laura Parks.

The board approved Steve Christy as treasurer, and made provision for transfer of funds and banking to Sundance WY. Netha read the resolution concerning Sandra Elledge's years of service in Rural Ministry

See **BOARD** on page 2

## ONLINE Religious Studies Coming

The Hazelnut Connection is coming to your computer. The Hazelnut Connection is an online community for people who want to learn about religion, faith, and spirituality without being pressured to convert. Thanks to the surveys offered by Hazelnut Connection, anybody anywhere can find people to read and discuss topics related to world religions and spirituality.

It will offer learners two kinds of groups, reading groups and study groups.

Reading groups begin in June **Continuing Ed** 2011. People interested in the same topic form informal reading groups online with and meet in videophone conferences. These groups offer people a chance to enlarge their spiritual horizons

Study groups begin in September 2012. They will include a core curriculum of Christian studies taught at different levels which can supplement the educational programs of dioceses preparing people for ordination without formal seminary training.

Group membership, as participant or leader, can serve as continuing education.

Executive Coordinator of Hazelnut Connection is Kathryn Campbell, who served on the RMN board for eight years, five of them as Secretary. To learn more and help planning, visit the website, hazelnutconnection.org.

Kathryn Campbell  
106 3rd Ave, Charles City, IA 50616  
ccpiskie@rconnect.com

### Officers of the Rural Ministries Network

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Warren Frelund '11  
707 South Crescent Place  
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345 Lincoln Avenue  
Iowa Falls, IA 50126-1936

*Prayer Cycle Coordinators*

Limuel & Laura Parks

**BOARD**, from page 1

Network particularly as Treasurer. The resolution was adopted, and was sent to Sandy with Board thanks.

President Warren Frelund noted that RMN is now operating without a formal budget. After the new account is opened, Warren, Steve, Sue and Patsy will meet via conference call to create a budget.

Warren asked all board members to review the timeline for tasks to be completed through August 2011 created for us by Ben Helmer at the August 2010 meeting. New members were to receive this document via email.

With no small congregation bulletin insert created to date, Jane volunteered to work with others to prepare copy on small church activities for this insert. Warren called for volunteers.

Netha reported good response to

the new membership procedure [details below].

Sue asked about the possibility of a name change, using the word Small rather than Rural Discussion took place. After discussion, Warren will check on potential conflicts in conversation with Bob Honeychurch.

Warren reviewed categories of membership and asked the board to consider the addition of a category for church membership. Current memberships are individual and patron.

In new business, the board accepted the job description for editor as filed by Jane.

*From meeting notes prepared by  
The Reverend Patsy G. Barham,  
Secretary*

MEMBERSHIPS: As of January 1 this year, memberships for the current year are due in January, rather than by month of check receipt.

### Honoring Sandra Elledge

—Recently retired treasurer for RMN, long-time member, friend of small congregations

#### RURAL MINISTRIES NETWORK

##### A Resolution

#### SANDRA M. ELLEDGE

WHEREAS Sandra Majors Elledge has been a long-time friend of rural and small church ministries, and

WHEREAS She has provided dedicated service to the Rural Ministries Network as a board member, membership chair, and treasurer, and

WHEREAS She has provided consistent reports and has promptly paid bills, expenses, and has given other services since 2004 in her role as board treasurer: now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED That this Board of Directors of the Rural Ministries Network (formerly known as the Rural Workers' Fellowship) offers its sincere thanks to Sandy for her dedicated service not only to the Rural Ministries Network but to other parts of the Episcopal Church, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the Chair and members of the Board of Directors declare her a life-long member of the Rural Ministries Network in thanksgiving for her service and witness to rural and small town ministry in the Episcopal Church.

*Adopted January 10, 2011*

God, we affirm that you are still speaking.  
May we still listen. Amen.

**Crossroads** is the quarterly Journal of the Rural Ministries Network (formerly Rural Workers Fellowship, Inc.), a community of small-church leaders: clergy and laity within the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Church of Canada.

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## Notes from all over

### From the Membership Office

One of the renewals received was from The Rev. Herman Page, Topeka KS, who also sent this note, which I thought worthy of sending to all of you.- *Netha*

### Renewal

Please renew my RWF membership for 2011. Check enclosed.

I've been interested in rural/small town ministry a long time—served them from 1952 to approx 1980 when I came to Topeka. I was National Church's resources person out of Roanridge, Kansas City, for about 4–5 years. (Who now remembers Roanridge?)—worked with diocese and conferences. So it goes.....

Best wishes, Herman Page, Topeka KS

### Memb. Office again

The thought occurred to me that there are still a few of those who were earlier connected to Roanridge and served the rural churches. Wouldn't it be nice if, at some point, when we gather physically, we could invite someone like Fr. Page who, I am sure, would have lots of stories/information to share with us? Those stories will at some time be lost to us.

*Blessings, Netha +*

### CORRECTION

Typographical error makes Bishop Jones older by 100 years.

"It seems likely that Bishop Jones' death date at March 21 is out by a century since his wife Marilyn was a school mate of mine, and I wasn't born till 1930. "Thanks to mjh for her hand on the reins!

*John Matheson, REGINA, SK S4V OE9*

Thank you for bringing this to our attention; we regret this piece of mis-information in the Prayer Cycle entry for March 21. Bishop Jones died in 2003, not 1903.-*Ed*

### From our former treasurer

Thank you for sending along the resolution passed by the Board. That was kind of all of you. I've enjoyed my work with RMN/RWF.

*Sandy Elledge*

### From the Editor's Desk

The first issue of VIRTUAL CROSSROADS is a reality. Its format will undoubtedly be altered in future editions; please be patient with your editorial folk as the formats evolve.

I hope you'll find here much of what you have come to appreciate in the past. Tell us what you would like to see, as well as what you find most useful here. We look forward to hearing from you.

I look forward, too, to being able to pass this task to another in the near future. Meantime, please use the contact information shown in the box on page 2 for correspondence.

*jane*

## A Great Cloud of Witnesses

### RUSSELL ELLIOTT—UNMASKED

*Jan. 28, 2011*

THE OBJECT Sitting in front of his computer, wearing a hearing-aid, with a OCTLEC reading machine for Macular Degeneration vision-loss beside the computer, he pick-picks his way through this reply to a request for identification, or at least a profile of a reader of CROSSROADS who lives in Nova Scotia, on the east coast of Canada.

He is evidently 93 years of age and almost (even without a collar) as evidently a priest of longstanding, though now sitting. Alone now in a central apartment, though twice a widower, one of whose four children now also a senior-citizen like himself, he does pastoral visiting one afternoon a week with a driver and is free to participate generously in spiritual and devotional exercises in parochial and interchurch groups. His busiest activity seems to be trying to give the impression to everyone that he is busy!

THE SUBJECT If God insists, I will be marking, on the Feast of S. James the Apostle in July this summer, 70 years as a priest. Without being blamed for the outcome, I think everyone will agree that I have been privileged to live through the most incredible period of human history, a century of astounding developments and changes like no other century in our calendar, though minuses as well as pluses scatter along the pathway.

From 1941 I settled into a parochial ministry among ordinary and beautiful saints and sinners where I grew spiritually and was able to get deeply involved in community life as well as in diocesan Church operations. If I were to rate this long experience I would have to say, about parish life, that God must love ordinary people because He has made so many of us. In respect to Church officials and synods I would have to say that my role seems primarily to have been that of a burr under the saddle, sometimes a thorn in the flesh.

The 1939-45 War awakened Christianity to its social responsibilities more than ever and it participated generously in the postwar progressive revolutions, in human rights, civil rights, sexual and gender revolutions etc. We should be excused for thinking that maybe, by some chance, the Kingdom might really be coming as it is in heaven. However, by the 1960's, the marketplace consumer economy began to take over. The new secular society started Toynbee's western and mid-east (Christian) civilizations on their decline. Secularism is sidelining Christianity by using the very same progressive forces that Christianity had supported, the advance by using the very same revolutions.

*Russell Elliot*

## The Pumpkin Patch of St. Matthew's

Here's a ministry that could become a tradition in your community—as it has in Henderson, TX. The time to plan and to plant is coming right up!—Ed

The Pumpkin Patch is an all of October outreach ministry with multiple events that fill the senses and charge the emotions of the St. Matthew's parish [80] and the community of Henderson, Texas. This is the sixth year of this now eagerly anticipated autumn happening.

The vision of some 12 varieties of pumpkins in their harvest colors is spectacular. For example, one sees Jack-O-Lantern orange, Lumina white, molty green Long Island Cheese, the more subdued and dreamy oranges of the Cinderellas and Fairytales and the funny awkward hot oranges and white of the Wharty Hubbards and Turk's Turban cause one to be pleasantly surprised as the driver reaches the crest of the drive up the hill on College Street. Right there by the little church on the hill is this wonderful display of fall leaved, decorated wagon, bales of hay announcing in tin cut out Fall Fun with weathered scarecrows and pumpkins lovingly piled on pallets waiting to be purchased.

Families come for photographing memories year after year. One family now celebrates part of their reunion in the patch each year by taking yet another picture to add to the scrap book. Girl Scouts and school aged children make field trips to experience the joy of what pumpkins might feel like and what they are good for nutritionally. A first grader dressed in cowboy gear ran up to me, threw his hat back, embraced me with a brief hug of gratitude, stepped backwards, spread his arms all the way out by his side, and leaning back, and emphasizing each word, he proclaimed, "This is the best day of my life!"

Every October Sunday has its own complimentary activity for the public. We ask God's blessing on the animals to celebrate St. Francis' love of animals. The animals range from the formidable sheriff's mounted patrol horses, to tiny bristly hedge hogs, to untraditional llamas with every loveable critter in between. Each pet receives a priestly blessing, a kerchief with a medallion for remembering, and all the owners—young and old—receive a personalized certificate and a St. Francis prayer card. An observer made this astute comment, "Have you noticed that when the prayers for the service begin, all the dogs and cats and critters get quiet?" Silence and respect for God's presence are traits of the pets and owners.

On other Sundays parishioners host pumpkin painting and crafts for creating pumpkin shaped photo frames for those individual or family keepsake photos



Photo: Contributed

taken in the patch. These latter Sunday activities are for young families and fun.

On one of these Sundays the women continue their famous bake sale. The reputation of these tasty treats has brought buyers to visit the church afterwards to make purchases of pumpkin bread that "the whole town is talking about" and that pecan pie that is now known as the "holy pie because the priest baked that one" and to make phone calls to the church office to get "the recipe for those little pecan muffins that are so good." The three day bake sale is warmly received as one of the most successful events of the pumpkin patch.

There are several midweek offerings in ministry. One afternoon's event is the Senior Sippin' Cider in the patch. Elder care facilities are invited to bring residents to the patch for an afternoon of sipping cider, sharing homemade cookies and muffins, and taking a group photo in the patch. Everyone receives a mini pumpkin to take home. The visitors are all smiles. One lady stepped out of the van and declared, "I do not want to be here!" At the end of her visit when it was time to return in the van and go home, she smiled and protested, "I don't want to leave; I like it here!"

Another midweek offering is story time for pre-schoolers. Invitations are sent to preschool facilities and teachers make reservations for little ones to come to story time. The children hear a story told by a costumed character, enjoy a snack, receive a mini pumpkin and a potted seed to watch grow. Smiles and thank you notes demonstrate appreciation from the learners, parents and teachers.



Photo: Contributed

The pumpkin patch ministry is a gift of love to the community and has been well received. It has also brought St. Matthew's some needed and welcomed recognition as a vital church in the community of Henderson, Texas. At the Fina station the cashier greets me, whether in clericals or not, as the "Pumpkin Patch Lady"! A teacher sent us this first grader's picture-with-pumpkins composition: "I've been 2 the pumkin patch at sunny mathews. I got 3 pumkins & going 2 carve 2night." If we are allowed only one word to capture the attitude and emotion of both the parishioners' gift of the Pumpkin Patch and the community's spirit of receiving the gift, it would be to say, also, "We are "sunny mathews!" (St. Matthew's Episcopal Church of Henderson, Texas!) Amen.

*Rev Patsy G. Barham, Priest-in-charge, St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Henderson TX  
Board Member and Secretary, Rural Ministries Network*

+ + RMN PRAYER CYCLE + + +  
Second Quarter, 2011

\* indicates new address (see note below)  
**Bold type indicates Town and Country Heroes**  
<sup>B</sup> indicates new board member

April 1

Rev & Mrs Gordon S Price, Dayton OH

April 2

Rev Sue Ann Raymond, Independence IA

**Rt Rev Steven Tsosie Plummer (d. 4/2/2005) First Navajo bishop in Episcopal Church, first elected bishop of Navajoland Area Mission; worked toward greater incorporation of Navajo traditions into Episcopal Church worship; encouraged indigenous leadership and a more self-reliant Navajo Episcopal Church.**

**April 3—Fourth Sunday in Lent**

Rev Thomas N Rightmyer, Asheville NC

**William S Paddock (d. 4/3/2006) Captain in Church Army, served at Roanridge and in Southern Ohio as Director of Wayside Cathedral program & Proctor Conference Center.**

April 4

Rev Canon Holladay Sanderson, Boise ID

April 5

Rev Stephen Schaitberger, Mesa AZ, Brainerd MN

April 6

Rev Frederick Smyithe, Bemidji MN

April 7

Rev Paul M Sneve, Rapid City SD

April 8

Joan Stein, Las Vegas NV

April 9

David A Storm, Seattle WA

**April 10—Fifth Sunday in Lent**

Rev Francis Tatem, Harrisonburg VA

April 11

Rev Carol Tookey, Farmington NM

**Rev Clifford Samuelson (d. 4/11/1994) Samuelson was the leading light in the Town and Country movement from 1941-'70.**

April 12

Rev Doyle Turner, Waubun MN

April 13

Garrick Valarde, Bloomfield, NM

April 14

Mrs Nancy Viggers, Prairie City OR

April 15

Rev Roy C Walworth, Evanston WY

April 16

Rev D Delos Wampler, Schenectady NY

**Rev W Francis Allison (d. 4/16/1969) Allison was director of Roanridge; a close friend of the Cochels and Samuelson.**

**April 17—Palm Sunday**

Ven Michael Watkins, Kamloops BC Canada

April 18

Ms Cather Weber, Arapahoe NE

***Prayer for members/friends***

**A**lmighty God, bless we pray you, the work and witness of the Rural Ministries Network, and of each member, especially your servant(s) *name(s)*, whom we remember before you this day. Grant that by our work, prayers and witness, your Church's ministry in towns, country and small cities may be strengthened and extended to your praise and glory. **AMEN**

April 19

Rev Gail Wheatley, Port Angeles WA

April 20

Rev Jim Wilson, Louisville KY

**April 21—Maundy Thursday**

Ms LaDonna Wind, Louisville KY

**April 22—Good Friday**

Chaplain Jim Adams, Pineville LA

**April 23—Holy Saturday**

Rev Jerry Adinolfi, Coffeetown KS

**Rt Rev James H Otey (d. 4/23/1863) First Bishop of**

**Tennessee; served a wide area of the South including Arkansas.**

**April 24—Easter Day**

Rev Jami Anderson, Pinedale WY

April 25

Rev Paul E Baker, Eagle Bridge NY

April 26

Charles H Bardenwerper DDS, Fort Atkinson WI

April 27

Rev Patsy G Barham, Henderson TX

April 28

Ms Jennifer Bartos, Waubun MN

April 29

Rev Chris Beebe, Paragould AR

April 30

Rev Joseph Bordelon, Ball LA

**May 1—Second Sunday of Easter**

Rev Netha N Brada, Iowa Falls IA

**Wilber (d. 5/1/1955) and Caroline (d. 11/27/1950) Cochel. Gave their farm, Roanridge, in west Missouri as the site for the National Town and Country Church Institute.**

**May 2—St. Mark (TR)**

Dr Francis M Bradley, Melbourne FL

**May 3—St Philip and St James (TR)**

Rev Martha R Byer, Columbia MO

May 4

Rev David Caffrey, Redlands CA

May 5

Rev Kathryn S Campbell, Charles City IA

May 6

Rev Leslie Campbell, Waubay SD

May 7

Rev Larry Carver, Hutchinson KS

*Note concerning Prayer Cycle:* Street addresses are omitted in accordance with Board policy respecting personal privacy on website.

**May 8—Third Sunday of Easter**

Mr Steve Christy, Sundance WY

**Rt Rev William Davidson (d. 5/8/2006) Served congregations in Montana, N Dakota, Bishop of Western Kansas. National Secretary for Town & Country work; Honorary President of Rural Workers Fellowship (now Rural Ministries Network)**

May 9

Ven Frank N Cohoon, Topeka KS

May 10

Rev Patricia Cook, Bluff City UT

May 11

Rev Letitia C Croom, Cove OR

May 12

Rev Stephen Cuff, Morrow OH

**Rt Rev Norman L Foote (d. 5/12/1978) Director of Roanridge 1950-'56 and Bishop of Idaho 1957-'72.**

May 13

Sarah Cummings, Green River WY

May 14

Rev Jeunee Cunningham, Farmville, VA

**May 15—Fourth Sunday of Easter**

Patricia P Dickerson, Amelia OH

May 16

Rev John Drymon, Batesville AR

May 17

Rt Rev Dan Edwards, Las Vegas NV

**Rt Rev Wesley Frensdorff (d. 5/17/1988) Bishop of Nevada 1972-'88. Advocate of Roland Allen's vision of ministry.**

May 18

Sandy M Elledge, Knoxville TN

May 19

Ven C Russell Elliot, Wolfville NS Canada

May 20

Rev William M Fay, Berkley CA

May 21

Rev Michael B Ferguson, Virginia Beach VA

**May 22—Fifth Sunday of Easter**

Rev Warren Frelund, Mason City IA

May 23

Rev Robert T Gribbon, Church Creek MD

May 24

Rt Rev Sanford Z K Hampton, Anacortes WA

May 25

Rev Inez Hannett, Olds AB Canada

May 26

Rev John Harris, Gridley CA

May 27

Ms Mary Hassell, St Paul MN

**Rt Rev William W Horstick (d. 5/27/1973) Bishop of Eau Claire WI, advocate and leader in various positions in Town and Country work in the Episcopal Church.**

May 28

Rev Dr Frederick Haworth, Greenville PA

**May 29—Sixth Sunday of Easter**

James and Betty Heathcoate, Georgetown OH

May 30

Rev J Robert Hector, Mineral Point WI

**May 31—Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

Rev Ben and Mrs Jane Helmer, Holiday Island AR

June 1

Rev Richard E Helmer, Corte Madera CA

**June 2—Ascension Day**

Ms Lillie Henderson, Montezuma Creek UT

**Ven Harrison Foreman (d.6/2/1949) Named second Executive Secretary of National Division for Rural Work in 1926.**

June 3

Rt Rev Rayford B High Jr, Tyler TX

June 4

Rev Russell M Johnson, Hilo HI

**June 5—Seventh Sunday of Easter**

Mr Jim Jordan, Gualala CA

**Rev Canon H Boone Porter (d. 6/5/1999) Director of Roanridge 1970-'77, then editor of The Living Church; advocate of Roland Allen's Missionary philosophy.**

June 6

Mr Andrew Kerr, Casper WY

June 7

Rev Marcia Kilpatrick, Park City UT

June 8

Ms Lauri Lawson, Holdrege NE

June 9

Rev Jodi Lediard, Virginia City, NV

**Rev Roland Allen (d. 6/9/1947) In "Missionary Methods; St Paul's or Ours?" states that mission of Church is work of the Spirit.**

June 10

Revs Richard H and Sarah V Lewis, New Hartford NY

**June 11—St Barnabas**

LTC Sarah D Lopez, Hawkeye IA

Stay in touch!!  
Please send your ideas, comments,  
stories, to the editor, Crossroads:  
address on page 2.

***Prayer for members/friends***

**A**lmighty God, bless we pray you, the work and witness of the Rural Ministries Network, and of each member, especially your servant(s) *name(s)*, whom we remember before you this day. Grant that by our work, prayers and witness, your Church's ministry in towns, country and small cities may be strengthened and extended to your praise and glory. AMEN

**June 12—Day of Pentecost**

Rev Donald & Carolyn Maddux, Shelton WA

June 13

Rev Irene Maliaman, Saipan MP

**Edna Eastwood (d. 6/13/1989) Appointed Secretary for Home Study among the isolated in 1929 and served until the 1950s.**

June 14

Mr Michael Maloney, Cincinnati OH

**Rt Rev Leonidas Polk (d. 6/14/1864) Missionary Bishop of Arkansas and the Indian territory; provisional Bishop of Louisiana, Episcopal oversight of Mississippi, Alabama, & Republic of Texas. A founder of University of the South at Sewanee. Became a Lt General in Confederate Army; died in battle.**

**Rev E Dargan Butt (d. 6/14/1979) Founder of Valle Crucis Southern Rural Church Institute; lecturer at Seabury Western.**

June 15

Rev Irene Martin, Skamokawa WA

June 16

Mr Jimmy Martin, Ft McKavett TX

June 17

Very Rev Hugh Matheson, Kenora ON Canada

June 18

Rev John E Matheson, Regina SK Canada

**June 19—First Sunday after Pentecost**

Joseph E Mazza, Sturgeon Bay WI

June 20

Mr Charles McCray, Carson City NV

June 21

Rev Richard H McGinnis, River Falls WI

June 22

Rev Richard Mendez, Randlett, UT

June 23

Rt Rev Steven A Miller, Milwaukee WI

**June 24—Nativity of St John the Baptist**

Rev James Moore, Tamuning GU

**Rev Val Sessions (d. 6/24/1948) Served over 30 years in rural Mississippi—a founder of RWF and first editor of Crossroads.**

June 25

Janet & Richard Moriarty, Cheneyville LA

**June 26—Second Sunday after Pentecost**

Rev Warren Murphy, Cody WY

June 27

Mr Werner Noesner, Cody WY

June 28

Sue Norton, Edinboro PA

**June 29—St Peter and St Paul**

Rev Herman Page, Topeka KS

June 30

Rev Sue Palmer, Albia IA

**WHO ARE THE HEROES?  
TOWN and COUNTRY HEROES,  
Second Quarter 2011**

In our prayer cycle this quarter, we remember these outstanding individuals whose ministries were in small church work:

**April 2—Rt Rev Steven Tsosie Plummer**

**April 3—William S Paddock**

**April 4—The Rev Martin Luther King (d 4/4/1968) *Not listed in RMN Prayer Cycle\****

**April 11—Rev Clifford Samuelson**

**April 16—Rev W Francis Allison**

**April 23—Rt Rev James H Otey**

**May 1—Wilber & Caroline Cochel**

**May 8—Rt Rev William Davidson**

**May 12—Rt Rev Norman L. Foote**

**May 17—Rt Rev Wesley Frensdorff**

**May 27—Rt Rev William W. Horstick**

**June 2—Ven Harrison Foreman**

**June 5—Rev Canon H Boone Porter**

**June 9—Rev Roland Allen .**

**June 12—The Rev John Johnson Enmegahbowh**

(d 6/12/1902) First recognized Native American Priest in the Episcopal Church. *Not listed in RMN Prayer Cycle\**

**June 13—Edna Eastwood**

**June 14—Rt Rev Leonidas Polk .**

**June 14—Rev E Dargan Butt .**

**June 24—Rev Val Sessions**

*\* see Lesser Feasts & Fasts or Holy Women, Holy Men: Celebrating the Saints*

Details of Town and Country Heroes are available on the RMN website at [ruralministriesnetwork.org](http://ruralministriesnetwork.org)

**Prayer for heroes**

**W**e bless you, merciful Lord, for all those who have served your Church in small congregations and places throughout the land, remembering especially on this day your servant(s) *name(s)*. Grant that, inspired by this ministry, our work, prayer, and witness may share your love with all who hunger and thirst for your coming; who live and reign with the Father and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. AMEN.

## Keep Your Fork

There was a young woman who had been diagnosed with a terminal illness and had been given three months to live. So as she was getting her things "in order," she contacted her pastor and had him come to her house to discuss certain aspects of her final wishes. She told him which songs she wanted sung at the service, what scriptures she would like read, and what outfit she wanted to be buried in.

Everything was in order and the pastor was preparing to leave when the young woman suddenly remembered something very important to her. "There's one more thing," she said excitedly.

"What's that?" came the pastor's reply.

"This is very important," the young woman continued. "I want to be buried with a fork in my right hand."

The pastor stood looking at the young woman, not knowing quite what to say.

"That surprises you, doesn't it?" the young woman asked.

"Well, to be honest, I'm puzzled by the request," said the pastor.

The young woman explained. "My grandmother once told me this story, and from there on out, I have always done so. I have also, always tried to pass along its message to those I love and those who are in need of encouragement.

In all my years of attending church socials and potluck dinners, I always remember that when the dishes of the main course were being cleared, someone would inevitably lean over and say, 'Keep your fork' It was my favorite part because I knew that something better was coming like velvety chocolate cake or deep-dish apple pie. Something wonderful, and with substance! So, I just want people to see me there in that casket with a fork in my hand and I want them to wonder "What's with the fork?" Then I want you to tell them: "Keep your fork the best is yet to come."

The pastor's eyes welled up with tears of joy as he hugged the young woman good-bye. He knew this would be one of the last times he would see her before her death. But he also knew that the young woman had

### Annual Dues for Calendar Year started this year

Through a motion discussed and passed by the Board, all RMN memberships—regardless of when paid—are good for the current calendar year. Beginning 2011, reminder notices will be set out January 1st and payments received will be good through December 31 rather than the anniversary of receipt, as before.

Editor's Note: This item came to me as a forwarded message. I have seen it elsewhere, and so, no doubt, have many of you. It never fails to remind me of God's welcome. -jane

a better grasp of heaven than he did.

She had a better grasp of what heaven would be like than many people twice her age, with twice as much experience and knowledge. She KNEW that something better was coming.

At the funeral people were walking by the young woman's casket and they saw the pretty dress she was wearing and the fork placed in her right hand. Over and over, the pastor heard the question "What's with the fork?" And over and over he smiled.

During his message, the pastor told the people of the conversation he had with the young woman shortly before she died. He also told them about the fork and about what it symbolized to her.

The pastor told the people how he could not stop thinking about the fork and told them that they probably would not be able to stop thinking about it either.

He was right.

And keep your fork.

*Support RMN: Renew membership; Give memberships to others in small congregations; Become a New Patron.*

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## RURAL MINISTRIES NETWORK

prayer ~ fellowship ~ resources ~ advocacy

Sign me up, please!

### Membership application/renewal

Yes! Add me as a new member of the Rural Ministries Network, which includes the quarterly Crossroads and the RMN Website at [www.ruralministriesnetwork.org](http://www.ruralministriesnetwork.org)

Please RENEW my RMN membership

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

*(RMN will not publish your Street address, E-mail, or Phone #)*

Enclosed is  Annual Membership \$40

Annual Patronship \$100

*Canadian residents: send US or Canadian Funds*

**ALL new & renewing members:** mail form and dues to  
**RMN Membership Chairperson Netha Brada**  
345 Lincoln Avenue, Iowa Falls, IA 50126-1936

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