



CROSSROADS

Journal of 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.
www.ruralministriesnetwork.org

Feeding ministry receives grant to expand services - and hearts

by *The Rev. Lisa Hamilton*

The Diocese of Bethlehem in northeastern Pennsylvania has awarded The Church of the Good Shepherd in Scranton a \$200,000 grant to help expand its "Seasons of Love" ministry to the community's needy.

The funds will be distributed over five years in \$40,000 installments. At the end of five years, said husband and wife parishioners Warren and Pam Shotto, what began as a monthly feeding ministry will include a food pantry, a renovated clothing exchange area, showers, restrooms and an overflow homeless shelter.

On one Sunday each month, between 75 and 100 working poor, homeless persons and struggling seniors from throughout the Scranton area enjoy a meal—a favorite menu features meatloaf and macaroni and

See *FEEDING* on page 4

Summer Outreach for a Tiny Church

Church of the Saviour (Clermont, Iowa) began an outreach ministry at Skip-a-Way, a campground at a local quarry. Members and Vicar, Mother Kate Campbell, planned to offer weekly services between Memorial Day and Labor Day last summer. The service is a modified form of Morning Prayer, with occasional eucharists. The Old Testament lesson of the first service of June last year described Noah's flood.

Little did anyone expect the next Sunday's flood, which wiped out a large part of the campground, washed away campers and mobile homes, and broke the dyke between the quarry lake and the river. So the second service, officiated by members of the congregation

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Mo. Kate Campbell and campers at Skip-a-Way Sunday service, summer 2008.

The Gift of Giving

The generosity of the parishioners at St. Matthew's, Henderson, Texas, astounds me. They gave to charitable needs locally over \$4,000.00 in 2008. The gift of giving financially is only one of their spiritual gifts.

I will take the definition of the gift of giving from my Methodist church friends. "The gift of giving is a deep commitment to provide whatever resources are needed to support God's will and plan. In addition to radical generosity, those who possess the gift of giving have the uncanny ability to discover and channel new sources of money, time and energy to needs." This

See *GIFT*, on page 11

Small Church Activities

Grace: Small church makes big impact

by *The Rev. Leslie Fleming*

Members of Grace Church, Pomeroy, warmed the hearts and feet of more than 100 local children by giving away \$20 vouchers for shoes and cold-weather gear. The giveaway was spearheaded by Grace's junior warden, Don Shaffer. After consulting with the Meigs Cooperative Parish, a coalition of 20 local churches, Shaffer discovered that a local bank was providing warm coats for families. However, no one was providing shoes, scarves or hats for children.

Working with the local Shoe Show store, Shaffer purchased 100 vouchers. The giveaway, which also included a free hot-dog lunch, was advertised in local newspapers and at the Cooperative Parish. On the day of the give-away, a cold Saturday, those needing the vouchers began lining up outside the church two hours early. As people filed in, many accompanied by the children who would wear the shoes, the 100 vouchers were soon exhausted. Church members took the names of all those who still needed them, and Shaffer bought additional vouchers. In the end, the parish gave away a total of 130 vouchers, meeting the needs of all who asked for them. The giveaway of \$2,300 was funded by the generous donations of parishioners, with a small supplement from the parish outreach budget. The church volunteers, who gave up their time on a Saturday morning, and the local Shoe Show store

See *GRACE* on page 2

Oneness in Christ is celebrated despite different opinions

*The Anglican Journal, Featured letter
February 1, 2009*

Dear editor,

“Why should we attend church?,” asked one writer (January letters). Why indeed?

My experience in the Anglican church has also been long (almost 70 years). When I recently returned to my parish of St. Luke’s in Ottawa after a few years away, I found myself welcomed, literally, with open arms.

Do we all share the same theological understandings? I am sure we don’t. In the summer when our rector experimented with worship in the round and the altar centrally placed, some found it meaningful but not everyone liked it. On Monday evenings I join a group which has begun meeting for centering prayer, while others continue in the fellowship and fundraising group they have belonged to for more than 40 years.

Our church houses a lunch club where the hungry are fed. Beneath our old roof, all are welcomed and nurtured in a variety of ways.

Twice a week, I meet with young children in an atrium, using an approach not well known to Anglicans: the Good Shepherd Catechesis. It is a profound way of “listening to God with children.” The children love coming to a place where we wonder at God’s boundless love. Some of these children, with their families, attend a downtown church that has just broken away from the Anglican Church of Canada. Are the children still coming? Yes. Do we still love one another? Yes.

Surely, the church is greater than any of us. The broken bread speaks of our oneness and our brokenness. Is it not a scandal when we refuse to be nurtured at one table?

*Jennifer Camfield, Ottawa
From The Anglican Journal, Feb, 2009*

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which helped recipients get the maximum benefit from the vouchers, contributed to the success of the project.

In organizing the shoe voucher giveaway, parish members sought to reinvigorate their outreach to the local community through a specific project addressing a real unmet need. This project is part of a broader reassessment by Grace of the ways the parish can live out its Baptismal Covenant through cooperation with other churches and community agencies in serving the poor of Meigs County. By publicizing the event, parishioners also hoped to increase the visibility of the parish in the community.

The Rev. Leslie Flemming is Priest-in-Charge at Grace Church, Pomeroy, and contributor to the Diocesan newsletter INTERCHANGE, The Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio, February 2009

From the Editor

This issue is a polyphony of themes that have gathered on my desktop recently. It may be a little raw, put together in the window between our return to the ‘mainland’ after 19 months on Guam, the arrival of our boxes, and the printing schedule.

The polyphony: I hear voices of the small congregations clamoring with vigor—congregations that could have rolled up the carpet for the last time but didn’t; people that hung together in prayer after many others had left with the building keys; folks that seized an opportunity once and then kept on doing it.

If this issue doesn’t excite you and fire your imagination, read it again to see if you can’t find just one thing to talk about and perhaps use in your life.

jane

PS Check out the improved speed and usefulness of www.episcopalchurch.org and many diocesan websites.

Crossroads, the quarterly magazine of the Rural Workers Fellowship, ISSN 1047-8390, is published in Chillicothe, Missouri. Circulation 400
Mailing address: 11333 Liv 2315, Chillicothe, MO 64601-8343
Editor: Jane Helmer, 671-632-2307
jhelmer@greenhills.net

Looking for information and resources on alcoholism and substance abuse? Check with
Recovery Ministries of the Episcopal Church:
www.episcopalrecovery.org/

Member Mission Leadership Institute

Pastors and lay leaders . . . empower the laity, God’s primary agents, for mission in today’s world

Make the Sunday to Monday connection for every member

Learn to use resources that work

Deepen personal spirituality

Improve leadership skills

Meet new colleagues

Four-day event, starting with dinner on October 11 and ending with breakfast on October 16. Participants will leave better equipped to lead their congregations’ members to embrace more fully what it really means to live as Christians every day.

Place: La Casa de Maria Retreat and Conference Center, Santa Barbara, CA

Cost: Registration \$350 Up to 50% travel reimbursements available.

Space is limited. Register by September 15, 2009, For information: www.membermission.org Click “Training”

Notes from all over

Ohio—Bishop's Bike Ride 2009

This year our ride will begin in Marion and end in Steubenville. With stops in Gambier (June 29), Wooster (June 30), New Philadelphia (July 1) and East Liverpool (July 2). The route will be between 250-275 miles. Riders may ride the whole trip or just a leg or two.

Riders will be hosted at churches for meals and hosted in parishioners' homes for overnight stays.

Don't want to ride? There are lots of ways to be involved like having a parish "team", volunteering for all or part of the ride, prayer, donating snack and water supplies for the riders.

Money raised from the Bishop's Bike Ride supports youth mission trips in the Diocese of Ohio.

It is a wonderful, rich experience for all involved, not just those who choose to ride.

Information will soon be available on-line at dohio.org or contact Rita Rozell at rrozell@dohio.org or 216-774-0460

Resignation with regret

Recently RMN Board member Carol Tookey wrote, with sadness, to say that since she is no longer able to take part in any Board activity or event and will need to resign her Board position. In her new job she has little to no access to e-mail and printer, nor free time for Board matters. She wrote "I remember from my former days using all of my vacation days to go to church meetings." The Board, too, regrets this and wishes Carol well in her new life as "a person in secular employment."

Last summer The Rev. Carol Tookey returned to full-time nursing responsibilities after serving as administrator in the Navajoland Area Mission and regional vicar of the New Mexico Region of Episcopal Church in Navajoland

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during Mo. Campbell's vacation, was six weeks later. Spirits were good in spite of it all: Church of the Saviour will minister to campers again this year, come whatever or high water!

How did this come about?

Visibility pays, especially when none of the congregation lives in the same town as the church building. After Sunday services, church members and the vicar regularly eat lunch at the quarry restaurant. The minister who had been doing Skip-a-Way services for years had to retire and one church member volunteered the vicar for the services.

Then the vicar volunteered the whole congregation.

And they agreed!

The Rev. Kathryn Campbell

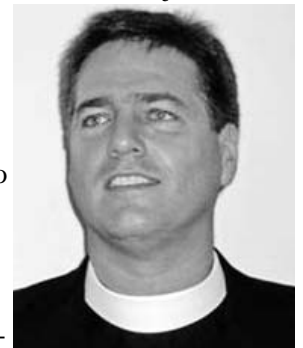
Visit the Episcopal Relief & Development web-site for the latest on MDG opportunities:
www.erd.org/programs_36756_ENG_HTM.htm

Hawkins elected bishop in Saskatchewan

Michael Hawkins was elected bishop of the diocese of Saskatchewan on Dec. 6 at a synod held at St. Alban's Cathedral in Prince Albert. Bishop-elect Hawkins, who has served as the rector at St. Alban's Cathedral and as dean of Saskatchewan since 2001, was voted in by a decisive margin in both clergy and lay houses on the first ballot.

Bishop-elect Hawkins was pleased but said he was also apprehensive about the challenges of his new job.

He mentioned the need to develop a missionary or strategic plan. "A big part of that plan for the future will be moving towards a more self-determining aboriginal church in the diocese," he said. The diocese is also still struggling with the fallout from residential schools. Healing and reconciliation "will take time and work and prayer," he said.



Moving toward financial self-sufficiency will also be a big challenge, but Bishop-elect Hawkins said: "I look forward to the support of the people and the clergy in the diocese as well as diocesan bishops in our province and nationally."

He was rector of two parishes in the diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island — Pugwash and River John, and Petite Rivière and New Dublin. He will be consecrated as bishop on March 6.

From Staff article, The Anglican Journal, January 5, 2009

'Feeling the winds of God'— theme for General Synod 2010

The Council of General Synod (CoGS) has approved the theme, "Feeling the Winds of God – charting a new course" as the theme for the next General Synod, scheduled June 4 to 10, 2010 in Halifax.

At its fall meeting, CoGS also approved a resolution that a representative from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) be included as participant in planning the meetings for General Synod 2010, the Anglican Church of Canada's triennial governing convention.

The Anglican Church of Canada and the ELCIC have been in full communion since 2001. Full communion means that Anglicans and Lutherans can freely worship and take communion in each others' churches, and their clergy can officiate at each others' services.

In its report, the General Synod 2010 planning committee said it was looking at the possibility of online registration and possibly an electronic convening circular to save on costs.

Staff, The Anglican Journal, January 5, 2009

November Board Meeting concluded

Rural Ministries Network's Board of Directors reconvened the 2008 Annual Meeting in a conference call at noon EST on January 15, 2009. Eleven of a possible 14CHECK members attended. Netha Brada, retiring President, chaired the meeting.

After reading and accepting minutes from the first portion of the meeting in November '08, the 2008 financial report was reviewed and accepted. The 2009 budget was approved and adopted. It was noted that the budget permits a face-to-face board meeting this year.

To complete the slate of officers, elections results were LaDonna Wind, President, and Mike Watkins, Secretary. Existing officers are Steve Cuff, Vice President; and (Ad Hoc members) Sandra Elledge, Treasurer; Laura and Limuel Parks, Prayer Cycle Coordinators.

Pensions for Part Time Workers

The Board finalized plans to promote a resolution to the 76th General Convention of the Episcopal Church. The resolution addresses how the Pensions formula affects part time small church workers. In 2006, the 75th General Convention adopted the RMN resolution on the same subject, and asked the Church Pension Fund to study the complex formula used to calculate benefits. To date, we are not aware of any CPF study.

Currently a retiree's pension is based on salary and years of service. Unlike Social Security and other pension funds whose calculations are based on simple calendar years, Church Pension Fund recipients' years of service are based on their full or part time status. In one calendar year, half time workers receive credit towards half a year of pension. Thus church workers are penalized when they retire from part time jobs, receiving less of their already small pension because the calendar years component is reduced to fewer years than if they'd worked full time for the same money.

Board members will be working towards adoption and passage of a resolution that asks the CPF to change the formula for crediting years of CPF participants' service from its present system to reflect the calendar years served; to make any resulting changes retroactive to current recipients' gain; and to report progress toward this goal to the 77th General Convention in 2012.

Board 2009

For the 2009 face-to-face meeting, board members are looking at a location in Cody, Wyoming, for a meeting in June or September.

After noting that it was cold everywhere except in southern California, the meeting was adjourned.

From Board Minutes & Notes

Small Churches' Blog Up and Running Again

After a period of inactivity as I was getting my legs under me in this new position, I've finally gotten the "Small Church" blog moving once again. I will be regularly posting information, resources, or just my own wandering thoughts, so I invite you to check it out at <http://smallepiscopalchurch.blogspot.com/>



Also, if there are any particular topics you'd like addressed through this venue, drop me an email, and we'll see what we can do. This site (like all blogs) will work best if there is a process of interaction between authors and readers. So, feel free to make your thoughts and reactions known as we strike up a conversation. I will look forward to hearing from you... and, as always, I appreciate the journey together.

*Bob Honeychurch
Program Officer for Congregational Vitality*

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cheese—in Good Shepherd's parish hall.

Good Shepherd's ministry began in 2004, when "a group of people who wanted to help" began serving a meal every month in the parish hall, said senior warden Warren Shotto in an interview. Then as now, news of the meal is spread through word of mouth, and hand-written signs in homeless shelters and senior housing complexes.

It was the same year that about 15 parishioners left the Episcopal Church with the rector, who converted to Roman Catholicism. Average Sunday attendance was around 35.

"We were on the verge of closing our doors," said Pam, the parish's vestry liaison to outreach. Yet we called our program "Seasons of Love" because of the song from [the musical play] *Rent* that speaks to how we value one another."

Warren added, "We had to decide [whether] to continue Seasons of Love with a deepened commitment or to just call it quits. Finally we said, 'We're here already and we need to stop worrying about how to pay the heating bill and start worrying about how we're going to help needy people in our community.'"

The vestry decided to limit finance discussions to five minutes each monthly meeting, a practice that continues today. "Miraculously, we were able to meet our bills each month, and last year the budget even had a surplus," Warren said.

"When you do good things, the money comes," said Pam.

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Focused outward, Falls Church parish regroups

Lay ministry highlights continuing community's growth

Just more than two years after the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia parish of the Falls Church split in a theological dispute, the remaining Episcopalians, many of whom long to return to their parish home, are learning that a church is more than a building.

"You definitely feel the Holy Spirit moving through the place," said Matt Rhodes, who joined the parish with his wife and two young daughters about six months ago.

Rhodes, a lifelong Episcopalian, said his family came to worship at Falls Church expecting to find a group of people focused on what had happened to them and anxious about the future.

"That's not at all what we saw," he said. "There was a tremendous sense of fellowship" and "this overwhelming sense of vitality."

Falls Church was one of 11 congregations of the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia in which the majority of members and clergy left in late 2006 or early 2007 to form congregations of the Convocation of Anglicans in North America (CANA).

When she visited the parish on January 11, House of Deputies President Bonnie Anderson said she encountered rebirth as she worshipped with the members in their current home at Falls Church Presbyterian across the road from the Falls Church Episcopal building (currently used by the CANA congregation).

"There's a strong sense of community, commitment and excitement," said Anderson.

Meet, pray, worship

As parish members gathered after the split, beginning with a group of three men who continued their tra-

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Today, Good Shepherd's average Sunday attendance is between 40 and 70. "On 'low church Sunday,' the Sunday after Christmas when most people stay at home, we had 57 people worshipping in our pews," Warren said proudly. Last month, 12 people joined the parish through confirmation and reception. "You see new faces nearly every week, and many of them want to be involved [in Seasons of Love]," Warren said.

The ministry draws on helpers from the Scranton community, including a Presbyterian youth group that helps serve the meals; a Methodist church that provides toiletries; eight high schools that have made Seasons of Love an accredited program for high school community service hours; hair stylists who give haircuts; and nurses who offer health care screenings.

One of the community's most visible ways of giving is through its clothing distribution project. With the purchase of some shelving from a clothing store that is closing its doors and the use of a 3,500-foot basement,

See FEEDING on page 6

By Mary Frances Schjonberg, January 14, 2009

dition to meet for prayer together, they realized that coming together to worship was a crucial first step, said the Rev. Michael Pipkin, priest-in-charge. When other parishes that have faced similar splits call him to ask how to get over their sense of defeat, Pipkin said he tells them "the answer is: 'you worship'."

Members of the parish, who now average about 80 in attendance on Sunday, have pledged \$250,000 for mission and ministry this year. Ten percent of the budget will go to work with local outreach agencies, including the Falls Church Community Service Council. "This is something we've taken on for ourselves," stated Pipkin.

Focus Outwards

These days, continuing Falls Church members "celebrate that God is still present and acting in their lives," Pipkin said, calling Falls Church parish a "celebrating congregation."

Such a stance attracts others, he added. "There's a lot to be joyous about," Pipkin said.

Still, he acknowledged that parish members, many

See FOCUS on page 9

Nothing impossible for St. Jude's

Emerging community gathers young people into church

By Greta Huls, December 11, 2008

It's safe to say there never has been another worship service in the Diocese of Arizona quite like the one taking place regularly at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Phoenix.

Between 40 and 60 people gather each week as the community of St. Jude's, sponsored with the help of Trinity Cathedral and in partnership with Urban Young Life groups at two Phoenix high schools. St. Jude's is designed to meet the needs of 15- to 30-year-olds in a crime-troubled area of Phoenix known as the I-17 corridor who have not connected with traditional churches for personal and cultural reasons.

Much of what the members do at St. Jude's will not look familiar or feel comfortable to many people. Some of the members know first-hand about challenges such as incest, child rape, drugs, homelessness and prostitution — and they talk about it freely during the gatherings by way of words or song. St. Jude's is intentionally multicultural, multi-denominational, multigenerational and socio-economically diverse.

"We think that it is easy for people who are similar to love one another," the community's website says. "But when people who are vastly different choose to lay aside difference and worship together and live in love for one another, it demonstrates the power of the

See ST JUDE's on page 6

WHO ARE THE HEROES?

TOWN and COUNTRY HEROES—Second Quarter 2009

These outstanding ministries in small church work are remembered this quarter in our prayer calendar.

April 2—Rt Rev Steven Tsoie Plummer

April 3—William S Paddock

April 4—The Reverend Martin Luther King (d 4/4/1968)

Not listed in Prayer Cycle: See Lesser Feasts & Fasts.

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—Rev John Johnson Enmegahbowh

First recognized Native American Priest in the Episcopal Church. d 6/12/1902 *Not listed in RMN Prayer Cycle: See Lesser Feasts & Fasts 2003 and later.*

June 13—Edna Eastwood

June 14—Rt Rev Leonidas Polk

June 14—Rev E Dargan Butt

June 24—Rev Val Sessions

Information about Town and Country heroes is available in earlier issues of CROSSROADS and on the RMN website at www.ruralministriesnetwork.org

Prayer for heroes

We 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.

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parishioners plan to create an area where clothing can be distributed to the needy “in a way that gives them dignity along with clean clothes,” said Pam.

“Many of these people don’t have a way to wash their clothes,” said Warren, “so they rely on clean new-to-them-clothes from us each month.”

“It’s been eye-opening for every one of us participants—even the folks who weren’t so sure they wanted homeless people in the church building” said Pam. “But once somebody comes once to volunteer, that’s rarely the last time we see them. High school kids who have completed their community service hours continue to come.”

One of the most moving events Pam has witnessed occurred when a homeless man asked a 17-year-old volunteer for toothpaste at a dinner when none was available. “No sooner had I begun worrying because the kid had disappeared than he came back with 50 tubes of toothpaste he’d bought himself so he could give one to each guest.”

“The best part of all this for me,” said Warren, “is seeing lives of people who are serving changed. It’s amazing to see minds and hearts open because of the people we serve.”

Episcopal Life article by The Rev. Lisa B. Hamilton, correspondent for Provinces I, II, III and IV. She is based in Venice, Florida and Sandisfield, Massachusetts.

RMN Prayer Cycle (next 2 pages)

—Pray for members/friends

Almighty 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

ST JUDE’S, from page 5

good news that Jesus loves sinners and changes our lives and communities when we follow him.”

“So it is occasionally very uncomfortable ... but very right. Come see what we mean!”

Where are young people?

The idea for St. Jude’s began several years ago when Young Life staff member Rick Tucker was frustrated that young people weren’t connecting with church. Then, in February, diocesan Director for Youth Ministries Matt Marino and two friends, Jesse Villegas and Joel Joa, were praying for struggling teens as they drove back from Flagstaff. They said the Lord gave them the idea that “we just need a church in the neighborhood that fits them, and allows the leaders they already have to connect with them, and that feeds those leaders as well.”

When Marino, a former area director of Young Life* in Central Phoenix, shared their thoughts with Bishop Kirk Smith, he responded: “What a great idea!”

Several unique aspects to the Episcopal Church make the denomination a great fit for urban students

See ST JUDE’S on page 10

+ + RMN PRAYER CYCLE + + +
Second Quarter, 2009

Italics indicates New Members/Friends
**indicates new address*
Bold type indicates Town and Country Heroes

April 1

Rev Jerry Adinolfi 613 Elm St Coffeyville KS 67337

April 2

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

William S Paddock, Captain in Church Army. Served at Roanridge and in Southern Ohio as Director of Wayside Cathedral program and Procter Conference Center.

April 4

Rev Jeunee Cunningham PO Box 387 Appomattox VA 24522-2010

April 5- Palm Sunday

Ms LaDonna Wind 4434 Buttonbush Glen Drive Louisville KY 40241-4189

April 6

Rev W G Portman 39 Bobolink Bay Regina SK S4S 4K2 CANADA

April 7

Rev. Kathryn Puckett 26376 Legion Rd Langsville OH 45741-9746

April 8

Rev Gordon S & Mrs Ruth Price 2849 Dwight Av Dayton OH 45420-2607

April 9- Maundy Thursday

Rev Sue Ann Raymond PO Box 264 Independence IA 50644

April 10- Good Friday

Rev Thomas N Rightmyer 450 Crowfields Dr Asheville, NC 28803-3281

April 11- Holy Saturday- Easter Eve

Rev Clifford Samuelson (d 4/22/1994) The leading light in the Town and Country movement from 1941- 70)

April 12- Easter Day

Rev S Paul Rowles PO Box 116 Edinburg VA 22824-0116

April 13

Rev Derek S Salter PO Box 433 Okanagan Falls BC V0H 1R0 CANADA

April 14

Rt Rev William E Sanders Retired Bishop of East Tennessee 404 Charlesgate Ct Nashville TN 37215-1841

April 15

Rev Holladay Sanderson 3805 Sherwood Dr Coeur D'Alene ID 83815-7834

April 16

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

April 17

Rt Rev Alan Scarfe Bishop of Iowa 225 37th St Des Moines IA 50312-4305

April 18

Rev Stephen Schaitberger 1402 S 8th St Brainerd MN 56401-4429

April 19- Second Sunday of Easter

Rt Rev Gordon Scruton Jr Bishop of Western Massachusetts 37 Chestnut St Springfield MA 01103-1705

April 20

Rev Stephen Sedgwick 647 Reid Av Lorain OH 44052

April 21

Rt Rev Ronald Shepherd 110 Ensilwood Rd Salt Spring Island BC V8K 1N1 CANADA

April 22

Rev Webster L Simons Jr 207 W Queen St Edenton NC27932-1839

April 23

Rt Rev James H Otey (d 4/23/1863) First Bishop of Tennessee; served a wide area of the South including Arkansas.

April 24

Rt Rev John H Smith Retired Bishop of West Virginia 1 Algonquin Ln Brunswick Me 04011

April 25- Saint Mark the Evangelist

Rev Robert A Smith 212 Courtland St Dowagiac MI 49047-1248

April 26- Third Sunday of Easter

Rev Roger S Smith 70 Country Club Rd Manchester ME 04351

April 27

Rev Frederick K Smyithe 1348 S Camino Seco Tuscon AZ 85710-6529

April 28

Rev Paul M Sneve PO Box 1606 Rapid City SD 57701

April 29

Rev David A Storm 2611 Broadway E Seattle WA 98102-3906

April 30

William C Tapley 1604 W Kansas Av Midland TX 79701

May 1- Saint Philip and Saint James, Apostles

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

Rev Francis Tatem Jr 1552 Park Rd Harrisonburg VA 22802-2410

May 3- Fourth Sunday of Easter

Rev Carol Tookey PO Box 720, Farmington, NM 86504

May 4

Rev John Scott Trotter 209 Park Dr West Memphis, AR 72301-3055

May 5

Garrick Velarde PO Box 953 Bloomfield NM 87413

May 6

Rev Jack Viggers PO Box 834 Prairie City OR 97869-0834

May 7

Rev Roy C Walworth 216 Southridge Rd Evanston WY 82930-4638

May 8

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

May 9

Rev D Delos Wampler 5 Union St #3 Schenectady NY 12305-1715

May 10- Fifth Sunday of Easter

Ven Michael Watkins 26-1880 Old Boucherie Rd Westbank BC V4T 2B3 CANADA

May 11

Rev Suzanne Watson Episcopal Church Center 815 2nd Ave New York NY 10017-4510

May 12

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

May 13

Ms Cathy Weber 42751 Rd 732 Arapahoe NE 68922

May 14

Mrs Kathleen Wilkinson 7 Avenue Rd Parry Sound ON P2A 2A6 CANADA

May 15

Dave & Alice Williams PO Box 306 Kimberling City MO 65686

May 16

Rev Jim Wilson 7619 Beech Spring Ct Louisville, KY 40241-6410

May 17- Sixth Sunday of Easter

Rt Rev Wesley Frensdorff (d 5/17/1988) Bishop of Nevada 1972-78 and advocate of Roland Allen's vision of ministry.

May 18

Rev Daniel O Worthington Jr PO Box 83 Gloucester VA 23061

May 19

Mrs Elizabeth York 350 Allview Rd Westerville OH 4308

May 20

Chaplain Jim Adams 404 Hiawatha Tr. Pineville, LA 71360

May 21- Ascension Day

Rev Jami Anderson 516 Tilden St Holdrege NE 68949

May 22

Rev Paul Baker E 750 Turnpike Rd Eagle Bridge NY 12057-2617

May 23

Rev Richard A Bamforth PO Box 5068 Augusta ME 04332-5068

May 24- Seventh Sunday of Easter

Charles H Bardenwerper, DDS, 910 Whitewater Ave Fort Atkinson WI 53538-263

May 25

Ms Jennifer Bartos 2311 State Hwy 113 Waubun MN 56589

May 26

Rev Chris Beebe PO Box 212 Paragould AR 72451

May 27

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 James Benbrook 403 Holly St Vidalia LA 71373-2637

May 29

Rev Joseph A Bordelon 5704 Monroe Hwy Ball LA 71405-3359

May 30

Rt Rev Frederick H Borsch Retired Bishop of Los Angeles 2930 Corda Ln Los Angeles CA 90049

May 31- The Day of Pentecost

Rev Netha N Brada 345 Lincoln Av Iowa Falls IA 50126-1936

June 1

Dr Francis M Bradley 427 Timberlake Dr Melbourne FL 32940-7741

June 2

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

June 3

John Brooke PO Box 6885 San Antonio TX 78209

June 4

Rev Allen Brown Jr 3625 SE 17th Pl Cape Coral FL 33904-5070

June 5

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

Canon Basil J Buckland 857 Main St Unit 2 Sussex NB E4E 2M8 CANADA

June 7- First Sunday after Pentecost

Rev Martha R Byer 3907 Ivanhoe Blvd Columbia MO 65203-0491

June 8

Rev Kathryn S Campbell 106 3rd Av Charles City IA 50616-2902

June 9

Rev Roland Allen (d 6/9/1947) Stated that mission of Church is work of the Spirit [in *Missionary Methods; St Paul's or Ours?*]

June 10

Rev Leslie Campbell PO Box 533Waubay SD 57273

June 11- Saint Barnabas the Apostle

Rev Larry Carver 18 E 28th Av Hutchinson KS 67502-2402

June 12

Charlie Chitwood PO Box 307 Jefferson TX 75657

June 13

Edna Eastwood (d 6/13/1989) Served as Secretary for Home Study among the isolated from 1929 until the 1950's.

June 14- Second Sunday after Pentecost

Rt Rev Leonidas Polk (d 6/14/1864) Missionary Bishop of Arkansas and the Indian territory; provisional Bishop of Louisiana, with Episcopal oversight of Mississippi, Alabama, and Republic of Texas. A founder of the 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

Ven Frank N Cohoon 44 SW Peppertree Ln Topeka KS 66611

June 16

Rev Patricia Cook PO Box 85 Bluff UT 84512

June 17

Rev B Shepard Crim 357 SW Butterfield Pl Corvallis OR 97333

June 18

Rev Letitia C Croom PO Box 292 Cove OR 97824

June 19

Rev Stephen Cuff 5238 Crested Owl Ct Morrow OH 45152

June 20

William & Sarah N Cummings PO Box 940 Green River WY 82935-0940

June 21-Third Sunday after Pentecost

Rev Bob Davidson 1005 Cimmaron Dr Loveland CO 80537-4315

June 22

Mary (Mrs William) Davidson Lakeview Commons 1422 W 29th St Apt#211 Loveland CO 80538

June 23

Rev Kathryn Dawson-Puckett 26376 Legion Rd Langsville OH 45741-9746

June 24- The Nativity of Saint John the Evangelist

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

June 25

Pat & Larry Dickerson 4000 Judd Rd Amelia OH 45102

June 26

Rt Rev Philip Duncan Bishop of the Central Gulf Coast PO Box 13330 Pensacola FL 32591-3330

June 27

Rev Joseph & Shirley Dunne 414 Ranchwood Dr Leesburg FL 34748-8126

June 28- Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

East Arkansas Episcopal Ministries c/o Holy Cross Church 209 Park Dr West Memphis AR 72301-3055

June 29

Sandy M Elledge PO Box 51931 Knoxville, TN 37950-1931

June 30

Ven C Russell Elliot 4 Westwood Av Apt 4 Wolfville NS B4P 1X9 CANADA

Visit Rural Ministries Network On-line:
www.ruralministriesnetwork.org

FOCUS, from page 5

of whom he called “refugees of the split,” needed time to heal. The former Navy chaplain said he used his military chaplaincy training to help the parishioners.

Having been a member of other Episcopal Church parishes, Rhodes said he was pleasantly surprised that unlike some parishes that are much larger and have many more resources, the Falls Church parish is not focused inwards. “That’s really part of the reason why — even in the time we’ve been here — it’s grown,” Rhodes said of the parish.

In addition, most members of the parish volunteer for some role in the community’s life, Rhodes said, likening the parish to the early church’s lay-led gatherings.

Emergence of Ministries

In her sermon January 11, Anderson suggested that “the strife and pain that many have experienced in our church over the last few years is yielding unexpected blessings. “In the midst of turmoil and strife in our church in the last few years, instead of falling into depressed defeat when some in the Episcopal Church choose to leave, instead of quietly walking away, Episcopalians in dioceses and congregations are bearing witness to Christ wherever they may be,” she said.

“According to the gifts given them, they are carrying on Christ’s work of reconciliation in the world. They are taking their place in the life, worship and governance of the church. Episcopalians are using their gifts in new ways, to begin new ministries to be ‘reborn.’ Make no mistake about it; the Holy Spirit is at work.”

“There’s a huge recognition of lay ministry” among the continuing Falls Church members whose example could benefit the entire church. “It’s not in a competitive mode [with the clergy],” she noted. “It’s a sense of cooperation.” The congregation, she said, is living into the understanding that everyone brings different gifts to ministry.

“God’s doing a new thing with these people,” she added.

While many of the members are “still praying, thinking about and hoping” for a return to the parish’s property, Pipkin said, “what replaced it was a sense of mission and wonder that we were able to put this together again.”

From ENS article by The Rev. Mary Frances Schjonberg, national correspondent for the Episcopal News Service.

SmallChurchBlog

You know the terms—“family, pastoral, program, resource” and maybe ‘transitional’ thrown in for good measure. They are the language of congregation size models used throughout the Church. For the past 25 years, since Arlin Rothauge wrote *Sizing Up a Congregation*, the “gold standard’ for most congregations in the Episcopal Church (not to mention churches in lots of other denominations as well) seems to have been “let’s work toward becoming a Program Size parish.” You see it in parish profiles. You hear it when talking with diocesan staff members. You sense it in the eyes of countless seminarians who are just looking for their first big break as a curate or associate in a Program Church.

So... here’s the rub—if it’s such a great model, then why isn’t it working? Churches are cutting their associate positions right and left [even more in today’s economy]. Congregations that have languished with an Average Sunday Attendance of between 100 and 150 for the last 50 years have never “gotten over the hurdle”... despite well-meaning clergy and lay leaders; despite every new gimmick, or program, or study, or consultant they’ve tried.

Maybe it’s because “striving to become a Program Church” is a dead model, a style of church more attuned to the Age of Christendom, even though we’re now firmly ensconced in a Post-Christendom world. Let’s face it... “Build it and they will come” can’t be the mantra for the Church of the 21st Century.

So what might take its place? I think that the operative terms for the faith community of the future (and they had better become the operative terms for the faith community of the present, if there are to be faith communities of the future) are no longer “size” or “program offerings”. Instead terms like “flexibility”, “nimbleness”, and “context” should instead be at the forefront of our conversations. Vital communities of faith are asking themselves, “How do we offer the ‘faith once delivered’ in a way that will make a difference in the lives of those around us?” The question needs to be asked in churches of all sizes, in all locations, and of every theological or ecclesiological bent. Those who ask the question – and then are willing to embrace the reality of the answer – are those who will make a difference in the days to come.

The Rev Bob Honeychurch 2/23/09

THE SMALL CHURCH BLOG website address:
<http://www.smallepiscopalchurch.blogspot.com/>
For information on how to start a blog of your own, visit
www.blogspot.com

Mountain Grace VI: Keeping the Faith in Hard Times

The sixth annual Mountain Grace Conference will be held September 11-12, 2009 at St. John's, Huntington, West Virginia. The theme will be Keeping the Faith in Hard Times. Workshops will include

Steadfast Prayer in Hard Times
A Vision for Wholesome Living
Land Use / Local Food Production
Jubilee Ministries in Appalachia

This conference will include people from six Episcopal dioceses exchanging stories on how the church is responding to meet the challenges of these difficult times. National Church staff officers the Rev. Bob Honeychurch (Los Angeles office) and the Rev. Christopher Johnson, Director of Domestic Justice and Jubilee Ministries will be among the resource people present. Attendees will receive a tool kit of prayers and disciplines for ministry for hard times.

Conference Sponsors include the dioceses of Southern Ohio and West Virginia, DisciplesNet, Episcopal Appalachian Ministries and the Episcopal Community Services Foundation.

ST JUDE's, from page 6

and young adults, Marino said. They include:

- * An understanding of the holistic ministry of Jesus, who cared about meeting people's physical, emotional and educational needs.
- * A focus on discipleship and allowing for a deep experience of the holy.
- * A sense of familiarity for people raised as Roman Catholics.
- * A belief in apostolic succession that provides a sense of an unbroken link to the ancient church and of being part of "God's eternal family."
- * An openness to mystery, sacrament and symbolism.

Participatory liturgy

A Sunday evening at St. Jude's begins by gathering at 5:30 p.m. to eat while someone delivers a two-minute "life story." There's a "joy box" to drop offerings into and a "lil-help" board where people can sign up to give (or get) assistance.

The worship service starts at 6 p.m. with music, followed by what the community calls a "special." This might be a rap, solo, drama or some sort of testimony. Next, some Scripture is read, and someone preaches.

The worshipers often break into groups to talk about their lives and helping one another apply what they heard in the sermon. A priest leads them in celebrating Eucharist. (Smith was among those volunteering to lead the initial services.) Finally, the worshipers clean up

ALASKA: Kimsey to serve as assisting bishop Search for diocesan bishop continues

The Rt. Rev. Rustin R. Kimsey became assisting bishop of the Diocese of Alaska on February 1. He is to serve until the election of the next bishop.

Kimsey retired in 2000 after 20 years as bishop of Eastern Oregon and had served from 2005 to 2006 as assisting bishop in the missionary diocese of Navajoland.

"I've been part of Province VIII [western Episcopal Church dioceses] all my life and aware of the active ministries of this diocese," said Kimsey, an Oregon resident who said he is in the process of scheduling extended visits to the diocese.

"I have a lot of respect for the efforts of the church in a place where it is difficult to live, where travel is difficult and the weather severe. The church does a wonderful job of preserving and being faithful to the various cultures represented by Alaskans," Kimsey said. He views his role as "encouraging mutual ministry ... coaching to bring the Gospel to people in a way that is contextually appropriate, where we honor native people and other expressions of culture here in Alaska and how to interpret all of that with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It's a great privilege to be a part of that."

The Fairbanks-based diocese has been without a bishop since the Rt. Rev. Mark MacDonald resigned in 2006 to become national indigenous bishop in the Anglican Church of Canada. He also serves as assisting bishop of Navajoland.

The diocese had planned to elect a bishop during a special January 22-25 convention, but that election has been postponed until 2010. The change in plans occurred after one of two candidates nominated by the search committee withdrew from the bishop search.

The Diocese of Alaska includes 53 Episcopal congregations. The arrangement with Kimsey replaces a previous policy in which episcopal sacramental duties were delegated to visiting bishops as required.

Episcopal News Service, February 03, 2009

From article by The Rev. Pat McCaughan, Episcopal Life Media correspondent for the dioceses of Provinces VII and VIII and the House of Bishops

and hang out together or play basketball in a nearby park.

St. Jude's uses praise music with a bit of an urban bent, Marino said. Over the course of a month, all of the elements of an Episcopal liturgy are experienced, but not all in one week.

Enthusiasm is evident from the comments of people attending the services, including "Awesome. Perfect.

See ST JUDE's on page 11

Small Church, Ministry Activities

GIFT, from page 1

describes so well the response of the parishioners of St. Matthew's.

Last year I read an article in *The Episcopalian*, a newspaper published in the Episcopal Diocese of Texas, describing how The Reverend Kevin Wittmayer of Trinity Episcopal Church, Longview, Texas had been inspired by the work of The Reverend Robert Vickery of St. Michael's Episcopal Church in Austin, Texas. Each priest challenged his vestry to pledge the total open plate offering of each month to a local charity. Both churches gave generously much more than they had predicted originally that they would. It has become a story to share with both the giver and the receiver being blessed.

With these inspirations of generosity, I asked the vestry of St. Matthew's to pray and follow the same pattern of giving financially into the community of Henderson, Texas—the total of each month's open plate offering to a charity.

Outreach chair Michaëlle Green created a calendar with designated charities that we would support. The charity of the month was promoted in *The Messenger*, our monthly newsletter and in each Sunday's liturgy sheet. At the end of the month the monies collected from every Sunday's open plate offering were totaled, a check was written and hand delivered either by Michaëlle or me. Smiles radiate everywhere; thank you notes abound. The good news was published in the next month's *Messenger*.

The point is that a small rural church in East Texas is utilizing their spiritual gift of giving generously. The parishioners of St. Matthew's, Henderson, Texas were already known for their gift of giving. Now they are even more so, yet there's a whisper of "we are a small church, and we can't do very much." The total of giving was, as I said earlier, \$4,000.00. Astounding!

I pray that this story shared in like the movie, *Pay It Forward*, that you, too, are inspired to give and to give generously.

The Reverend Patsy G. Barham, Priest-in-charge, St. Matthew's, Henderson, Texas

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Or visit your local Episcopal bookseller at <http://www.episcopalbooksellers.org>, or other online bookseller

ST JUDE's, from page 10

Don't change a thing," and, "That was the most powerful Communion experience of my life."

St. Mary's allows St. Jude's to use its building free of charge. While the liturgy is "not a very high-church formula," Rector William Rhodes said, he was "very, very delighted to see how things went."

Volunteer leadership

Everyone in St. Jude's leadership has another full-time job. Small part-time salaries pay for someone to plan the music and someone to do administrative work and coordinate volunteers. Offerings and finances are handled through a restricted fund administered by Trinity Cathedral until St. Jude's can achieve mission status. The St. Jude's Board, made up of local church and community leaders, has oversight.

From Episcopal Life article. Greta Huls is communications director for the Episcopal Diocese of Arizona.

* **Young Life** is a nondenominational international organization begun in 1941 to help adolescents meet and follow Jesus. St. Jude's founders are all Young Life leaders. The community is a partnership between the Episcopal Church and Urban Young Life at two Phoenix high schools, Washington and Cortez, Marino said..

Stay in touch!! Please send your ideas, comments, stories, to the editor, *Crossroads* (address below)

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

___ Please **RENEW** my RMN [formerly RWF] membership

___ Membership was **already renewed** on ___/___(mo/yr)

(name) _____

(address) _____

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Enclosed is

___ Annual Membership \$40

___ Annual Patronship \$100 (US or Canadian Funds)

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**mail form and dues to RMN Membership Chairperson
Stephen J. Cuff**

5238 Crested Owl Court, Morrow, OH 45152

Canadian Members/Patrons mail to Mike Watkins

26-1880 Old Boucherie Road, Westbank,
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Coming events

July 8-17, 2009

The 76th General Convocation of the
Episcopal Church, Anaheim CA

August 9-15, 2009

The Anglican Council of Indigenous
Peoples (ACIP) has scheduled the
sixth Anglican Indigenous Sacred
Circle to be held at Port Elgin,
Ontario, Canada.

September 11-12, 2009

Mountain Grace VI: Keeping the
Faith in Hard Times. Conference at
St. John's, Huntington, West
Virginia. More on page 10

October 11-16, 2009

Member Mission Leadership Inst., at
La Casa de Maria Retreat and
Conference Center, Santa Barbara,
CA. Registration: \$350. Up to 50%
travel reimbursement. For informa-
tion: www.membermission.org, click
"Training." Space is limited.
Register by September 15, 2009
More on page 2.

June 4-10, 2010

The Council of General Synod
(CoGS) has approved the theme,
"Feeling the Winds of God - chart-
ing a new course" as the theme for
the next General Synod, scheduled
for Halifax in June of next year.
More on page 3

Teach them while they are still young



Photo: Terence Moore, Rupert's Land News

Kieran Young of St. Bartholomew's
parish in Winnipeg receives a few
instructions in how to play lawn
darts from Archbishop Fred Hiltz,
primate of the Anglican Church of
Canada. The primate, pointing the
way forward, attended the September
event at St. John's Park while visit-
ing Winnipeg.

The Anglican Journal, Dec 1, 2008

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