



Hiawathaland

News for and about the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Michigan

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Visit the diocesan
website at
www.dionomi.org

DEADLINES

March 2004
Tuesday, February 2

April Issue
Tuesday, March 9

Inside Episcopal Life

*"Orthodoxy
Movements
in modern churches"*

5th Annual Baptismal Conference Journey through the Waters

Arlene Gordanier, Carolyn Orchard

Thirty people gathered at St. Stephen's, Escanaba, for the 5th Annual Baptismal Conference on January 10, and they were indeed blessed in hearing the story of a journey through the waters of baptism as experienced by Cynthia and Joshua Ivey Abitz.



Cynthia and Joshua Ivey Abitz, and Joan Slater, all of Trinity, Mackinac Island, share a light moment at the Baptismal Conference

The moving story of this young couple seeking a spiritual community deeply enriched all of us. It reminded us about hospitality and of the importance of being inviting to those who come into our Church families. We are often given the opportunity to be present and supportive of those seeking a community of faith.

Cynthia and Joshua were baptized on October 9, 2003 at Trinity Church on Mackinac Island. The

journey began for both of them early in their lives in other places. It was always fueled by a desire for a relationship with Christ and a Church Family.

The community at Trinity welcomed them, and for Josh and Cynthia that was just what they were looking for. It was a place where people were "real" and they could make a home for themselves. "This was the place and these were the people we wanted to be surrounded by as we were preparing to be baptized," they said. Trinity's community gathered in discussion groups as Cynthia and Joshua prepared for baptism. Together they explored their own stories and scripture and other catechumenal writings. It was for them a freeing experience, about the life of the people gathered and not about knowing the right answers to the questions, or even the right questions.

Josh and Cynthia said they were refreshed and surprised at how interested the people of Trinity church were in them being baptized. "The support from the community made the journey very special," they said. The baptism was set at a time when the community could gather and each person had a part in the service.

After Josh and Cynthia's talk, participants at the Baptismal Conference watched and reflected on a video about St. Gregory of Nyssa Episcopal Church in San Francisco. Tom Ray, retired bishop of Northern Michigan, reflected



Charlie Piper, Cynthia Ivey Abitz and Bonnie Turner participate in the liturgy at the Baptismal Conference in Escanaba.

Leadership meets to set goals, make Strategic Plan

Rise Thew Forrester

The Diocesan Council and Leaders from around the diocese met November 14-15 in Marquette. They reviewed the year 2003 and began the process of developing a long-range strategic plan that would assist them in allocating time, talent and resources to support the gifts, needs and opportunities existing within their congregations. Cliff Crockford, a strategic planning consultant, facilitated the process, helping participants to identify accomplishments of the past year, existing conditions that we need to take into consideration in the future, our vision and mission, and possible strategic goals.

The planning team began with an overview of accomplishments of the past year, and worked toward specific strategies. The areas that surfaced as important were: discernment of gifts, leadership, expansion of participation, welcoming environments, understanding of the worldwide Anglican communion, financial vitality, and geographical connectedness.

What resulted was a working plan that is designed to be a guide, and flexible. Crockford indicated, "It is reasonable to assume that conditions will change, and therefore, this plan is a beginning and a catalyst for new ideas. As new priorities surface, the plan will need to be changed and decisions will be made in reshaping how time and talent are deployed."

Some of the significant successes that the group named from the past year included the progress in creating *LifeCycles*; new Covenant Groups forming, and Ministry Support Team commissionings; Camp New Day; progress at Page Center for Spiritual Life; the diocesan advertising campaign; numerous workshops and conferences; a broader scope and participation in the diocesan budgeting process; leadership nationally and internationally in mutual ministry and church reform; cohesiveness in the face of controversy at General Convention; and a good deal of outreach and justice work around the diocese; among many other things listed.

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A Vision for the Future: Strategic Planning

Continued from front page

Crockford then asked the participants to name the assumptions that we need to recognize as we plan our goals. They include aspects of our situation that we do not have control over, and some that we do. Those named included: the population decline in the Upper Peninsula; financial situation is under stress, within the church and in our communities; embracing strategic alliances to make better use of our gifts; general affirmation of mutual ministry across the diocese; effective leadership; aging congregations; and high visibility in the wider Episcopal Church as a result of the decisions of General Convention last summer. Many others were also listed.

The participants then read through the current mission statement, felt it did not quite speak to what we are about, and came up with this Vision and Mission statement (the first part is identical to the Page Center Vision Statement):

*We envision a world
in which all people
live together in peace
and in harmony
with all of creation,
where all can contribute
and the gifts of all
are joyfully received,
nurtured, and supported,
where our diversity
is celebrated in community,
and every human being
is recognized as having
eternal significance.*

*We commit ourselves to identify,
nurture and support
the baptismal ministry
of every single member/person
of this diocese.*

*The baptismal covenant
is our guide and inspiration.*

These two statements guide the planning and living out of our goals and life together.

Next the participants listed our strengths, which included: diversity of gifts and experience; strong collaborative leadership; embracing the gifts of everyone; high level of communication; sharing our gifts beyond our borders; and appreciation of the geographical region and its environment; among other items listed. These strengths will support the goals that were chosen for the near future.

The full group brainstormed possible goals, and then small groups refined them. The list that resulted is the following, condensed for limited space here:

Discernment of Gifts within community transformation: *Goal* is to expand the level of awareness of all in the community of faith of their God-given

gifts; deepen commitment to share these gifts within their areas of influence; all within ongoing community transformation. *Objectives* include creating opportunities for everyone to understand their gifts, and support ongoing community transformation.

Leadership: *Goal* is that we will have discovered and are demonstrating new expressions of shared leadership. *Objectives* include having a new model for a shared episcopate (bishop's oversight).

Reinvigorate and expand the leadership circle: *Goal* is to expand participation in congregational and diocesan leadership teams. *Objectives* include growing the levels of leadership participation throughout our diocese, reducing fatigue experienced by our current leaders, increasing the joy of doing Christ's work.

Welcoming Environment: *Goal* is that congregation and churches in the Diocese of Northern Michigan will be welcoming and accessible to all. *Objective* is that all who visit our churches will experience a welcoming environment and will be able to access our facilities, regardless of physical challenges.

Worldwide Anglican Communion: *Goal* is to create a greater awareness and understanding of our relationship to the worldwide Anglican Communion. *Objective* is to insure that all within our diocese have an understanding of the Anglican communion and how we can learn and grow from this relationship.

Financial Vitality/Stability: *Goal* is to establish financial goals and models that will support current and future programs and initiatives. *Objectives* include being financially secure and able to fund current and future programs, as needed, and to assure that all members of our diocese understand our financial condition and issues/opportunities.

Congregational interdependence: *Goal* is to create a holistic approach to connect all congregations throughout our diocese. *Objective* is that all members of each church feel they are an important part of the diocese and feel their opinions and ideas are welcomed and being heard.

Each strategic goal and objective also includes the strategies and action plan (steps) that need to be taken to make the goals happen. Crockford said in his report, "The "strategic goals" and the respective outlined strategic programs are a beginning. These initiatives will need to be completed in further detail and "champions" will need to be assigned in order that progress will be

The "champion" is not do the work, but will have a the goal and be willing to leadership necessary to

accomplish the respective objectives." At their December meeting, the Diocesan Council looked at each strategic goal and assigned a champion, or accountability person for each one.

"Plans are simply an outline that frames a journey. The journey reflects the calling of our continuously creative God, and so is dynamic and evolving," Crockford wrote to the participants.

Full copies of the Strategic plan draft are available from the diocesan office at 228-0033 or 800-236-0087.

Diocese Changes Health Care Insurance Carrier

Health Care Insurance premiums rose substantially again for 2004, one of several pressures on the budget for the year. During the budget planning process a recommendation was made that those covered pay part of the premium increase. A health care insurance benefit committee was named and asked to explore options available, then make a recommendation to Council. The committee discovered that by changing carriers and utilizing higher co-payments

Page Center Summer Dates

If your congregation or group wish to reserve dates at page Center for the coming summer and early fall camping season, now is the time to contact Virginia Peacock, Page Center Manager. Dates fill up fast, so don't delay, make sure your group gets to take advantage of Page's beauty and tradition. Contact Virginia at vpeacock@nmu.edu or by phone at 906-346-3165.

and deductibles, the insurance costs would come in under the projected figure by a substantial amount. They proposed to Council that this change be made to higher user costs in lieu of sharing premium payments. Council agreed that as long as the costs were below budgeted figures, it was acceptable. The new carrier is through the Medical Trust, part of the Episcopal Church, an will allow us to be part of a larger advocacy group on health care insurance issues.

THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF NORTHERN MICHIGAN

We envision a world in which all people live together in peace and in harmony with all of creation, where all can contribute and the gifts of all are joyfully received, nurtured, and supported, where our diversity is celebrated in community, and every human being is recognized as having eternal significance.

We commit ourselves to identify, nurture and support the baptismal ministry of every single member/person of this diocese. The baptismal covenant is our guide and inspiration.

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Deadline: the fifth of the preceding month

EPISCOPAL LIFE: THE CHURCH IN HIAWATHALAND Edition is prepared ten times a year in the Diocese of Northern Michigan and published by the domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, Inc. (ISSN 1050-0057). Periodicals Postage PAID in New York, NY and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send change of address to Episcopal Life, PO Box 1337, Belmawr, NJ 08099-1337

Meetings and Events

All times Eastern

February 2004

4	Trust Association	10:30 am	Diocesan Offices, Marquette
6-8	NonViolence Conference		Marygrove Center, Garden
11	MinisDevelopStrategyTeam	10:00 am	Diocesan Offices, Marquette
14-18	Living Stones		San Francisco, CA
25	<i>Ash Wednesday</i>		
28	Diocesan Council	10:00 am	Diocesan Offices, Marquette
29	Commissioning of Support Team		Holy Trinity, Iron Mountain

March

11	Judicatory Leaders	12:30 pm	ELCA Offices, Marquette
16	MinisDevelopStrategyTeam	10:00 am	Diocesan Offices, Marquette
19-24	House of Bishops		Camp Allen, Texas
20	Children & Ministry Conference		Marquette

April

3	Diocesan Council	10:00 am	Diocesan Offices, Marquette
11	<i>Easter Sunday: Christ is Risen!!</i>		
14	MinisDevelopStrategyTeam	10:00 am	Diocesan Offices, Marquette
30	Trust Association	10:30 am	Diocesan Offices, Marquette

To have meetings included, call 1-800-236-0087



Keweenaw Family Resource Center Receives Grant

The Church Periodical Club has announced a Mile of Pennies grant to the Keweenaw Family Resource Center in Houghton in the amount of \$749.25. The grant was for the purchase of 15 Successful Living Skills books, to be used in their program for teen parents who are enrolled in the Home Visitor program.



The Miles of Pennies Fund of the CPC is specifically for books and other forms of educational information for children, 0-18 years old.

Transitions

Deaths

Betty Jepson
St John's, Negaunee

Dolores (Dee) Chesney
St Paul's, Marquette

Bunker Clark
Transfiguration, Pointe Aux Pins

Barbara Rector
St Paul's, Marquette

Ty Bernson
Trinity, Gladstone



Baptismal Conference reflects on journeying "in the Waters"

Continued from Page A...

with the group about baptismal ministry, saying that the God of creation is always present, "woven into the fabric of our lives from the very beginning. So it doesn't matter when in our lives we are baptized." God is there "for better or



Tom Ray reflects on baptism and our daily lives in Northern Michigan at the Baptismal Conference

worse, in sickness and in health, for richer or poorer." We all have great stories to tell of persons and events that have fed and supported us along the way, especially our church communities. Every day we "walk through the waters," stopping to re-affirm our Baptismal vows and grow in the knowledge that Jesus, the Christ awaits to serve us the "best wine" at the great celebration.

Carol Clark, one of the organizers of the event with Charlie Piper and Rayford Ray, said, "I think this was one of the best Baptismal Conferences we have had! It was great!"

WINTER YOUTH RALLY 2004

FEBRUARY 20-22ND

WHO IS THE RALLY FOR?

All Youth in **GRADES 7-12** are invited and encouraged to attend this year's Winter Youth Rally to take place in Escanaba this year.

WHERE WILL THEY STAY?

Youth will sleep over at **ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH ESCANABA** with adult supervision.



WHAT WILL HAPPEN AT THE RALLY?

With an arrival time of about 7pm on Friday, 2/20,

the Rally will include **MEALS**, prayers, singing, *games*, *movies*, outdoor and *indoor* activities, *music*, and Holy Eucharist.

The Rally will wrap up after the 10:00am Eucharist on Sunday, February 22nd at St. Stephen's Church, Escanaba.

CAN A FRIEND COME?

All youth of any denomination are welcome, so if you have **A FRIEND OR TWO** who'd like to join in the fun, **"BRING 'EM ALONG!"**

WHAT WILL IT COST?

The cost of the Rally is \$15.00. To register please contact Jane Cysluis at 1-800-236-0087.

Kelsey Meets with Lutheran Bishops, Ministry Development Group

Jim Kelsey- These notes originally appeared on UPChat, the diocesan email list)

I'm writing this note just to fill you in on what I have been up to the past couple of days. January 5-7 I was in Chicago meeting with the 65 or so bishops of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America). I had been asked to represent the Episcopal Church at their annual "Bishops Academy". This year, their focus was Ministry, and in particular they were discussing the possibility of developing "Lay Presidency" (commissioning unordained persons to preside at services of Holy Communion). I was asked to represent the Episcopal Church both because of my involvement with the Standing Commission on Ministry Development and because they wanted to learn about our mutual ministry process in Northern Michigan. There was great interest amongst the Lutheran Bishops about what has been happening in the UP. In addition to me, there were representatives from the Presbyterian Church, the United Church of Christ (UCC), and the Reformed Church of America (RCA) (which, as you no doubt know, is centered in Holland, Michigan). These are the "full communion partners" with the ELCA, and it was interesting to hear from them as well about what is unfolding in baptismal ministry development and local ministry development in each of their traditions. What I discovered (not surprisingly) is that what we are doing in our diocese is truly on the cutting edge of what almost every other denomination is working on as well. Each of us come out of our own traditions and polities, but all of us are seeking to develop collaborative and indigenous leadership to strengthen and complement the conventional seminary-trained leadership which for so long has been the norm in our several traditions. It was really a fruitful couple of days. I learned a lot about how ministry is taking shape in other places and in other faith communities, and I found the group eager to hear about and to affirm the ministry we share in the Upper Peninsula.

After Chicago and the Lutherans, I travelled to San Antonio, Texas to meet with the Standing Commission on Ministry Development (I am now half way through my six year term). This is the group which developed the extensive revisions to the canons of the national church which deal with Ministry (ordained and unordained alike). As you may remember, this received a lot of attention at the General Convention last summer (not as much as the consent process for the election of Gene Robinson, but still, it was a major action by Convention and is apt to have implications for the Church for many years).

This was the first meeting of the Standing Commission since General Convention. I have been asked to chair the sub-committee which oversees the development of theological education, and I arranged for Donn Morgan, the Dean of the Church Divinity School of the Pacific (CDSP) in Berkeley, California, to co-chair the committee with me. The idea is that we might bring together the work of the seminaries with that of diocesan formation processes (such as our LifeCycles and Mutual Ministry Covenant Group Process). Instead of having two separate tracks, we hope to forge a more significant partnership, so the best of what each of us has to offer might complement one another, and to re-focus all of theological education on the ministry of all the baptized, in the midst of daily life. Over the coming weeks, we'll be applying for funding from the national church to bring together a major Strategic Task Force which will spend the next six years developing an analysis, a vision, and a strategic plan for the future of theological education in the Church.

The Standing Commission will be continuing with the Title III (Ministry Canons) revision process, looking this time especially at the canons dealing with bishops, plus a few other miscellaneous pieces which couldn't be picked up this time around. Other sub-committees are looking at Leadership Development and at Ministry in Daily Life, including the whole area of discernment.

Around the Diocese...



Mytle Weston (center) had the rare privilege of baptizing not one but two GREAT-grandchildren (Charles Ombrello and Connor Wilcoxon) at St. James the Less in Harvey at the end of 2003.

St. Mark's, Crystal Falls Welcomes New Members: The congregation of St. Mark's officially recognized new members to their family with a special welcoming liturgy during the Sunday Eucharist. New members were welcomed into the St. Mark's family and each given a small gift. Included in the photo from left to right:

Stacy, Kirston and Alexa Kille, Al and Ruth Pieper, Anita Siems, Kathy, Katie and Emily Verive. Not present but just as welcome is new member Maurice English. A celebration followed during coffee hour with a special cake and



New members of St. Mark's, Crystal Falls, smile for the camera (see the note below!)

How about a **Digital Camera** for your church? Here's a plea from the editor: digital cameras are simple to use, comparable in cost to a good film camera (there is a wide range of prices). It is so simple to take those pictures of your church event (baptisms, celebrations, commissionings), delete the ones that weren't what you hoped, print a few out, send them to people over email, and send them to the Editor of Church in Hiawathaland or our diocesan web-servant. We can scan film photos into the computer, but it often does not come out as well as a digital photo. No waiting and remembering to get the film developed. No paying for photos that didn't turn out.

(And no, I have no stock in any camera companies!)

At the end of January, Mary Kelsey took a group of Yoopers with her to San Pedro Sula, Honduras, to support the **Our Little Roses** home for girls. On their previous trips, they have helped with "extra" projects at Our Little Roses - such as painting, pizza parties for the girls, wood-carving, going to the movies, small repair and building projects. These projects are funded mostly out of the pockets of the volunteers who come (in addition to the costs for travel, accommodations, etc). Mary is inviting anyone from around the diocese (and beyond) to contribute towards this ministry. Checks can be made out to the Diocese of Northern Michigan and sent to the diocesan office (131 E Ridge St, Marquette, MI 49855). An article on their journey will be in the March issue of *Church in Hiawathaland*.

St. Stephen's, Escanaba has installed two Columbariums in their building. A columbarium is a vault with recessed metal compartments, or niches, for the placement of ashes after cremation. Their newsletter notes that from early Christian times the preferred burial place was within the church itself, and that when space was no longer available within the church, churchyard cemeteries developed. People can reserve niches for themselves or their family.

Jim Martindale of **St. John's, Negaunee**, traveled to Guatemala for his third working mission with Men's International Missions, providing building materials, labor and other resources for a facility called **Kids Alive!**, which serves children from abusive or neglectful situations. Those interesting in learning more, or wishing to support this mission work can contact Jim Martindale at 14 Stonegate Drive, Marquette, MI, or through the diocesan office.

ASH WEDNESDAY IS FEBRUARY 25 LIVING QUESTIONS IN LENT

"For some time now I have been pondering the questions of Jesus as found in the scriptures. These questions...are not meant only for the people of his time, but for all of us. Allow yourself to receive these as addressed to you personally and see what happens to your interaction with Jesus as you respond:

What are you looking for? John 1:38

Can you not stay here a little while with me? Matthew 26:40

What do you want me to do for you? Matthew 20:32

Are you confident I can do this? Matthew 9:28

Do you want to be healed? John 5:6

Who are my sisters and brothers? Matthew 12:48

(Unknown, from a clipping)