

Hiawathaland

News for and about the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Michigan



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Caroline Fairless and Jim Sims, explore drama as a way to tell the scripture story at the "Everyone Belongs" conference in Marquette, while Liam Thew Forrester looks on.

EVERYONE BELONGS

"It's not just about children"

Rise Thew Forrester

"Worship does not belong to any one group or person. Sometimes somebody has got to move over." But how do we create worship that includes all without some feeling *shoved* over or forgotten? This theme was at the heart of the conference entitled "Everyone Belongs" March 19-20, at St. Paul's,

Marquette, and sponsored by the Diocesan Children's Ministry Committee and St. Paul's Church. Thirty-six people gathered to learn about ways to plan worship and mission to include all ages and learning styles.

The quote at the beginning of this article is from Caroline Fairless, who

led the workshop along with husband and musician Jim Sims. They are directors of Children at Worship, Congregations in Bloom, an organization that provides resources for leadership, education and worship. Their focus begins with the belief that children must be included fully *Continued on Page D*

Visit the diocesan website at www.dionomi.org

DEADLINES

June 2004
Tuesday, May 4

July/August Issue
Tuesday, June 7

*Next Month
in the CIH...*

Province V Episcopal Church
Women meeting at
Mackinac Island

Council approves property grants

Rise Thew Forrester

The Diocesan Council received and decided on requests for the Property Grants at their last two meetings. Each year a percentage of income is designated as available for congregations to use for property improvements or maintenance that would otherwise be beyond their means, or put strain on the congregational budget. Requests are made to Council for up to \$2000, and in the spring of each year (and at other times if funds are still available), they make decisions how to apportion the funds. Most years there are

more funds than requests. However, this year there were seven requests, more than available funds. After a good deal of discussion, Council approved requests from St. Mark's, Crystal Falls, \$2,000 to help put in a lift for accessibility; St. James, Sault Ste. Marie, \$2,000 to help in renovations to an entrance (both of these were approved at the February meeting); St. Stephen's, Escanaba, \$2000 toward replacing large windows in the parish hall; Trinity, Gladstone, \$2000 for new furnace for upstairs; and Trinity, Mackinac Island, \$1,800 for exterior

painting of the parish hall.

Requests from St. John's, Negaunee, for pipe organ repair, and St. Alban's, Manistique for painting the inside of the sanctuary were tabled until there is more money available.

Council also worked on further planning for Diocesan Convention this fall, setting a three-day convention, citing the need to not be pressed for time, and the importance of strengthening bonds of relationship between individuals, and the various communities of the diocese. Dates for the Convention are Friday

Kelsey reports on House of Bishops meeting

James A. Kelsey

(The first draft of this article appeared on UPChat, the email list of this Diocese. To subscribe to UPChat, go to www.dionomi.org.)

I have just returned from the House of Bishops meeting at Camp Allen in the Diocese of Texas. I know that there have been numerous public media reports, including those from our own national Episcopal News Service, but I would like to describe the gathering as I experienced it from inside.

I actually arrived the day before the meeting of the full House, so I could participate in a special meeting held for about 30 bishops who are forming a new network to focus work in the Church on doing and making justice through Public Policy. We are calling ourselves Bishops Working for a Just Society, and a wonderful vision was shaped for this work, which will unfold over the coming months and years. There are several dimensions to it, but a good deal of energy and resources will be to respond to issues stemming from economic injustice - particularly as it impacts the poor: health care, education, and housing. Many other issues stem from those concerns, of course, and they will be explored as well, but there was some sentiment expressed that we should focus on two or three issues, rather than spreading the work of the coalition too thin. In all we do, we will draw upon the staff support of the national Church's Government Relations Office in Washington DC. Watch for more on this as our Coalition takes fuller shape.

On Friday, the House of Bishops meeting itself began. As a "Core Group" Leader, I was involved in a preliminary meeting, setting out the process for the days which would follow. Coming in, there was growing anxiety about the need to respond to the Primates of the 38 Provinces of the (world-wide) Anglican Communion. When that group met last October, they asked for the Episcopal Bishops to develop a process for providing what they called "Adequate Episcopal Oversight" for congregations in dioceses who disagree with certain decisions related to homosexuality made by General Convention last summer. There is concern for conservative congregations in dioceses which support those actions, and also for progressive congregations in dioceses which are opposed to them. In some cases, congregations are saying to their Bishop: "We feel alienated from the positions you have taken" and feel strongly enough about it that they do not want their bishop to visit and perform Episcopal Acts (such as Confirmation, Ordinations, meetings with Vestries, and so on).

The plan developed with extended conversations from throughout the Church over the past eight months is called "Caring for All the Churches" (based on the scriptural phrase by St Paul). There was great debate as to whether the word "Oversight" should be used. Some suggested replacing "Episcopal Oversight" with "Episcopal Pastoral Care". The concern is whether,

when a Visiting Bishop would have "jurisdiction" over the congregation, or whether the regular Diocesan Bishop would retain legal jurisdiction, even while the Visiting Bishop would provide Pastoral Care until such time as the broken relationship with the Diocesan Bishop could be reconciled. It is agreed that the purpose for this arrangement is not to lead the congregation away from relationship with the Diocese and the Episcopal Church, but to create a bridge by which a traditionalist bishop and a progressive bishop could work in partnership to hold relationships together until healing can some day take place.

The confusion is that in England, the word "oversight" does not include "jurisdiction", but in this country, it usually does. So, when the traditionalists in this country saw the statement by the Primates last October which asked us to create "adequate episcopal oversight" for dissident congregations, some thought the use of the term "delegated episcopal pastoral care" was not going far enough. During the discussion about this we learned even the traditionalist bishops present at the meeting, including one from England who explained that their "flying bishops" plan (instituted for those congregations opposed to the ordination of women) does not grant jurisdiction to the flying bishop (one who flies in to provide Episcopal Acts). In typical Anglican compromise, the final document approved uses the phrase: "Delegated Episcopal Pastoral Oversight" - thus incorporating both terms. There is also an explanation in the text about these differences in meaning for the word "oversight" in England vs. in this country.

There are other features to this agreement which I won't go into here, but I will be happy to answer any questions that may come my way. Another issue which generated a lot of energy was how the House of Bishops would respond to the five retired American bishops who (along with one from Brazil) presided at a confirmation service in the Diocese of Ohio in March (just days before the House of Bishops convened). This service was done without the permission, or even the knowledge of the Bishop of Ohio, Clark Grew. (Clark is about to retire, and the new bishop, Mark Hollingsworth, will be ordained on April 17th). This is a clear violation of the Jurisdiction of a Diocesan Bishop. That is an offense our Church has stood firmly against since the Council of Nicea in the year 325 (the same Council which produced the Nicene Creed). The canons are clear that any bishop who commits this offense can have charges brought (or presented) against him or her. The House of Bishops had every right to initiate that process against these bishops, but chose instead to denounce the action, to call them to meet with the Council of Advice (made up of the bishops who are President or Vice-President of the various Provinces of our national church). The resolution passed also states clearly that any bishop

who repeats this action will have charges brought against him or her. It was a strong and firm statement, calling for accountability and mutual respect, but also a remarkable degree of charity. I am sure that some who were not present for the deliberations and conversations around these two actions could miss the nuances and characterize them one way or another. The truth is that literally hours were spent in conversation amongst groups of bishops, carefully designed to help bishops with very different points of view listen to one another and to come to consensus. There is still a lot of pain and anger out there in the Church, as evidenced by the fact that several traditionalist bishops chose to boycott the meeting altogether, and some came for only one day (or even part of a day). That makes it hard, if not impossible, to discover Christ's healing reconciliation in our midst - but the degree of conversation and communication amongst those who did commit to the gathering really was something quite powerful to experience. There were, of course, other matters discussed. Global Mission was a major theme. We had the Primates from Central America, from Sudan, and from the Solomon Islands, as well as the Bishop of Liberia. It was tremendously moving to hear them describe the problems of violence, disease, and poverty with which

they contend on a regular basis. They also expressed strong support and affection for the Episcopal Church. Theirs was a powerful witness.

I also helped lead an evening discussion of the Title III Ministry Canons, passed at the General Convention last summer. Now that the new canons are in effect, we are all learning from one another about how to implement them, and to plan ahead for further revisions in the future.

I also sang in the Bishops' Choir, and there were various other small group meetings and conversations. During the time I was there, Mary was in the Dominican Republic with a group of about 60 bishops' spouses.

Every meeting of the House of Bishops is a remarkable mix of very gifted folk from every corner of our Church. As usual, I find myself profoundly grateful to all of you in our Diocese who have asked me to play this role on your behalf. We are a part of a vibrant and faithful Church, in an exciting and important time in our history. It is indeed a difficult season for some in our community. It is also a time in which we are moving ahead in the mission and ministry to which we have been called.

+FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE HOUSE OF BISHOPS MEETING AND THE DELIBERATIONS, SEE THIS ISSUE OF EPISCOPAL LIFE.

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

Council Plans Convention, Budget Process for 2005

Continued from Front page...
 evening to Sunday morning, October 15-17, 2004 in Houghton. It was noted that members of all congregations of this diocese are welcome at Convention, with seat and voice in discussions, and all are especially invited to participate in the Sunday morning worship at Convention.

Council set regional responsibilities as follows: Western Region- hosts convention; South Central- plan worship and music; Eastern Region- registration packets, managing registration table; North Central- plan ahead to host in 2005; and Council- theme, business agenda, chaplain.

Council received a report from Dick Graybill, diocesan Treasurer, that the Finance Committee is beginning to meet to discuss issues for the 2005 budget process, as well as other issues meeting the diocese in budgeting. (See sidebar on Budget Process Timetable)

Page Center Operations Committee has developed an agreement with Virginia Peacock, as Interim Manager of the Page Center. The newly forming Page Center Board of Trustees is working on forming a 501(c) 3 corporation. Jim Kelsey, Bishop, will be the interim chair of the new board. In the long term, the Executive Director of Page will be hired by the new Board of Trustees.

At their April meeting Council set the 2005 cost of living in-

creases for paid staff at 1.9%, the percentage figured by the US Dept of Labor and Statistics. It was noted that while funds are tight, we are still losing ground in relation to salaries in other dioceses; currently we are one of the lowest paying dioceses in the country.

Budget Timetable

June 1: Regions and Committees submit budget requests for 2005, first draft of budget is assembled.

June 19: Diocesan Council meets and discusses first draft, considers apportionment percentage, identifies issues and options to be deliberated, and sends draft to all regions, congregations, rectors and missionaries, and Diocesan Committees for feedback.

July 15: Deadline for all feedback on first draft. Prior to July 24 Council meeting, Finance Committee meets to review feedback and prepare recommendations to Council.

July 24: Council finalizes budget for submission to Diocesan Convention. Prior to Convention, budget is sent to all readions and congregational delegates for review and discussion.

October 15-17: Convention votes on Budget.

Culture of welcome: A point of good manners

Heidi Shott
 (Heidi Shott is Commincation Officer for the Diocese of Maine, and a member of the Episcopal Life Board of Governors.)

"It was the way in that college not to use the high table every day; instead, the Scholars were encouraged to sit among the students, and the teachers and older pupils from the school, of whom Lyra was one, did the same. It was a point of good manners not to sit with a clique of the same friends all the time, and it meant that conversation at dinner had to be open and general rather than close and gossipy."

From Lyra's Oxford by Philip Pullman. Published by Knopf, 2003

Early one evening in May 1999 I sat on my bed in a spare monk-like dorm room at the School of Theology at the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee. I was waiting to go down to the opening night reception at my first Episcopal Communicators conference. I didn't know a single soul. And while I can hear the guffaws across the diocese [of Maine] as those of you who know me read this, the fact is -- I'm a little shy. The thought of meeting 125 new people without one pal to cling to was intimidating. I think it harkens back to the trauma of when my freshman year roommate dropped out after less than 24 hours and left me all alone to deal with a three-hour Dixieland dinner cruise around Boston Harbor with 400 other freshmen, each of whom had a roommate to fall back on when the conversations stalled. These things scare the hell out of me.

But, what to do? Stand up, open the door, adjust the underwear and dive toward the social abyss. Well, much to my surprise, there was no social abyss. It was as though I, and the other newbies, were the special guests all my fellow communicators from across the country had been waiting for. It was the antithesis of the high school lunchroom or the dreaded dinner cruise. Every meal and session was just the same. Find an open seat at any table, and you've just made five new friends. While it was obvious that many of these people had known each other for years and special friendships existed, everyone was made to feel important and special and included in an effortless sort of way. And so it continues each time I'm with this group. What's more, it is not that we all agree about every point of theology. At one of these conferences a few years ago, a priest/diocesan newspaper editor from a diocese that doesn't ordain women tried to teach me the Texas two-step. I said, as I stepped on his cowboy boot, "So what are you doing way up there if you're from Texas?"

"Oh," he drawled, swinging me around and smiling, "I'm doin' a little missionary work."

One of the lesser-known developments of last year's General Convention in Minneapolis was the funding of a national advertising campaign for the

Episcopal Church to the tune of \$750,000. (In recent years the United Methodists have spent more than \$3 million on a national campaign, as have other denominations.) The television ads to be used were developed by Grace Cathedral in San Francisco and have been used in that diocese and also by the Diocese of Utah. They target seekers and fence sitters and Episcopalians who need a reason to come back to church. They're pretty good. They invite people to phone a toll-free number to find a nearby Episcopal Church or to visit the newly designed Episcopal Church website at www.episcopalchurch.org.

The National Church has called for the ad campaign to begin in Lent 2005. (The fall of 2004 was dismissed because of the heighten advertising costs in a presidential election year.) Such a plan will give dioceses and congregations time to do a couple of things: Budget for supplemental, local print and cable advertising, if that's discerned to be a good thing, and get our members ready to welcome seekers, newcomers, homecomers, and anyone else who walks in our doors as the result of a national ad campaign.

What I need to prepare myself for is not shaking someone's hand at The Peace or saying "hello" as I pass by on my way to the comfort of the coffeepot. I need, we all need, in each and every one of our congregations in this diocese, to become communities like Episcopal Communicators that say in word and deed, "We're so glad you're here! We've been waiting for you. Pull up a chair to any table and join in any conversation. We want to hear what you have to say."

I'm not entirely sure how to do that. The National Church has resources they will share with us. Consider this column the first small blip on our diocesan radar screen. We have a year to work on cultivating a culture of welcome, where, as mentioned in the quote at the top, it is a "point of good manners" to be open and welcoming.

Of course we, as followers of Jesus, are motivated by more than the need to display good manners. But, as we look and pray toward next spring's campaign and the way our exquisite Anglican tradition will be lifted up before the American public, it's not a bad place to start. And I'll take good manners over a dinner cruise any day of the week.

Correction

In the April issue of *The Church in Hiawathaland*, the phone number listed for the diocesan office was incorrect, it is 906-228-7160. We apologize for any inconvenience.

MEETING AND EVENTS

All Times Eastern

MAY 2004

1	LifeCycles	9:00 am	Diocesan Offices, Marquette
1	Standing Committee	11:00	Diocesan Offices, Marquette
2-4	Trinity Institute Teleconference		
3-4	Provincial Synod		Detroit, Michigan
4-5	Provincial Ministry Conf.		Detroit, Michigan
7	Page Operations Board		Page Center
8	Page Work Day		Page Center
8	Diocesan Council	10:00 am	Diocesan Offices, Marquette
14-16	Prov V ECW		Grand Hotel, Mackinac Island
18-19	Michigan Dioceses		St Augustine, Conway
20	MinisDevelopStrategyTeam	10:00 am	Diocesan Offices, Marquette
21	South Central Region	6:00 pm	St Stephen's, Escanaba

JUNE 2004

5	Work Day		Page Center, Little Lake
8	Judicatory Leaders	1:30 pm	Diocesan Offices, Marquette
11-12	ECW Board		Page Center, Little Lake
12	Commission on Ministry	10:00 am	Diocesan Offices, Marquette
14-15	Prov V Bishops/Chancellors		Chicago, Illinois
19	Diocesan Council	10:00 am	Diocesan Offices, Marquette
20-25	Senior Camp		Page Center, Little Lake
27-Jul2	Junior Camp		Page Center, Little Lak

JULY 2004

21	Trust Association	10:30 am	Diocesan Offices, Marquette
24	Diocesan Council	10:00 am	Diocesan Offices, Marquette
31	Commission on Ministry	10:00 am	Diocesan Offices, Marquette

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

Conference offers ideas and resources

Continued from front page

in the church's worship and mission life if it is to be whole and healthy. It moves on to say that not only do we often plan and create our worship in a way that is not inclusive of young people, but we can create a kind of "fill in the blanks" liturgy that primarily serves those who learn or make contact with their world best through listening (auditory learners) or written words (visual learners). "This is not just about children," they said. "We lose a lot of adults who do not connect with the way we have planned our worship. It's now two, going on three generations that are mostly not connecting with the church."

Setting the stage of why it is important to plan liturgies and mission that is inclusive of the entire community, they spent most of the conference sharing ideas and strategies for making that happen. One method is called Appreciative Inquiry: a method of decision-making that suggests that instead of focusing on problem-solving, a planning group or Vestry can focus on what is working. "You build up what works, and as you do that, it crowds out what doesn't work," Fairless said. Beginning with a set of questions about what is working well, the group explores the context that allowed that good outcome to happen, the creates action statements or a vision from that. Over time, it leads the group away from fixing what's broken and toward that which is lively and working.

A second helpful strategy is to look at worship planning as a creative process; not fill in the blanks (which lesson, hymn, psalm, readers, etc.). "If we ask, what is at the center, what is the beating heart of this liturgy, then we can

begin to see what will serve best as we plan it," said Fairless. Then you can explore the different ways people experience the world and make sure there is something there for each way: listening, moving, looking, touching, smelling. Then you can explore what kind of music you use, how you enter the sanctuary, the stories you use, the prayers, how you involve people in the worship.

Much of Saturday was spent experiencing creative ways to share the scriptures in worship, storytelling, responsive readings, music and drama. The website for Fairless and Sims' organization has various levels of subscriptions services available that provide Sunday-by-Sunday resources for creative intergenerational worship. They also offer several resources for congregational planning, including one called "The Bloom Box," a process for planning which ensures that all views are heard in planning. These have been purchased by the Diocesan office and are available to borrow. Most of the conference was videotaped and will be available soon from the Diocesan office.

This conference was the first step in a process looking at how we can renew and reform youth ministry in the Diocese of Northern Michigan. Other opportunities for learning are being planned.

+FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE EVERYONE BELONGS CONFERENCE, OR THE RESOURCES DESCRIBED, PLEASE CONTACT KEVIN THEW FORRESTER AT KEVINTF@CHARTERMI.NET OR 800-236-0087.



Burnie Stripling, Marguerite Thyne, and Mike Cutlair (left to right) celebrate Thyne's 17 years as the organist at Grace Church, Menominee. Early this spring she was given a certificate of recognition for her service to the congregation.

People and Places...Around the Diocese

St. James, Sault Ste. Marie, was part of an ecumenical Good Friday Faith Walk on April 9 in the Soo. Their purpose was "to help create a visible presence of Christians moving from one congregation to another, to remember Jesus' sacrifice made for our salvation." The event began with prayer and song, and travelled through town past the Presbyterian, Wesleyan, Roman Catholic, Church of Christ, and United Methodist churches, and ending at St. James' Episcopal Church. Volunteers were available to help those who were not able to walk with the other participants.

A video account of last summer's **General Convention** of the Episcopal Church is available from the diocesan office. Produced by the national church's Office for Communication, it offers an

overview of the broad work of convention, and could provide a basis for interesting conversation and learning for study groups or Ministry Support Teams. It is brief about 15 minutes. Contact Rise Thew Forrester at rise@chartermi.net or 906-228-0033 for more information.

Kevin Thew Forrester's book *I Have Called You Friends* has been chosen as the gift given by the faculty for graduating seniors of Church Divinity School of the Pacific, a seminary of the Episcopal Church.

Holocaust Memorial Service set

Each spring the Interfaith Forum of Marquette presents a remembrance service for the Holocaust. This year's service is scheduled for Sunday, May 2 at 8:00pm at St. Peter Roman Catholic Cathedral in Marquette. It will feature author and investigator, John Loftus, whose books and articles have been instrumental in exposing the roots of hatred and prejudice around the world. He is the first Irish-Catholic President of the Florida Holocaust Museum in St. Petersburg. Also assisting at the memorial will be local singer/songwriter Jim Stedman and friends. He has been active promoting a special shared community in Israel where Jews and Palestinians live cooperatively. The students of Phelps Middle school will provide a Holocaust display for viewing before and after the service.

+FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT JOHN LOFTUS, SEE WWW.JOHN-LOFTUS.COM, AND FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE EVENT, CALL DAN RYDHOLM OF THE INTERFAITH FORUM AT 906-226-6448, EX 407

Transitions

Baptisms

Colin Mason Hudson
Trinity, Gladstone

Dylan Scott Sundin
Drake Daniel Sundin
St. Alban's, Manistique

Reaffirmations

Emily Kralovetz
Kristoffer Rusch
Ashleigh Young
Scott Young
Jena Young
St. Stephen's, Escanaba

Confirmations

Ashleigh Zerbst
Kate Zerbst
Emily McCarthy
Trinity, Houghton

Deaths

Harriet Burnis
St. Alban's, Manistique

Preparing for Summer at Page

You're invited to come to the Page Center for Spiritual Life at Little Lake to help spruce it up and prepare for a summer of camping. There are two Saturday opportunities to help, May 8 or June 5. Lunch is provided, bring some tools for working in your preferred area, outside or in. Come when you can, leave when you want!