

Hiawathaland

News for and about the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Michigan



Inside this Issue

Page B

Camp New Day U.P.
Election Results
Diocesan Spring
Conference
New Email Addresses

Page C

Around the Diocese
Meetings and Events
Transitions
Preaching Workshop
Goal-Setting Meeting
ECW Winter
Gathering

Page D

Bishop's Address

Visit the diocesan
website at
our NEW address

www.upepiscopal.org

DEADLINES

December Issue
Tuesday, November 2

No January Issue

**We have a new Web
address and Diocesan
Staff Email**

We are now at
www.upepiscopal.org

Please see the new email addresses
listed in the box on Page B, and
change your email address books!



Bishop Jim Kelsey is pictured receiving a framed copy of the Earthkeeper's Covenant from diocesan representatives Anita Wingert and Nancy Auer.

Bishop's Address to Convention

James A. Kelsey
Episcopal Diocese of Northern Michigan
October 15, 2004
Franklin Square Inn, Houghton, Michigan

Grace to you, and Peace, my sisters and brothers, in the Name of the One who gives us life and awakens us to all of the promise and hope of creation.

From The Baptismal Covenant:

Do you believe in God the Father?
I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

+++

This is my sixth address to you as Bishop of Northern Michigan. And I begin it with this portion of the Baptismal Covenant, because this year it is the theme chosen by the Diocesan Council for our focus during this Diocesan Convention. Each year, we are using

another portion of the Baptismal Covenant.

And this year, it is this series of questions and responses which affirm for us the Trinity: The One-in-Three and the Three-in-One. That great, incomprehensible Doctrine which emerged in the earliest years of our tradition amidst fierce debate and struggle about the mysterious encounter people of faith were having with a God who is known as the source of all creation, and who still is creating and calling us to share in that life-giving and life-transforming project.

And this, the same God, who is so enfleshed, so startlingly present to us through the person of One who was and is in our midst in a way we will never understand yet who demonstrates for us and, remarkably, makes possible for us a healing, saving touch, known through a smile and a physical embrace; through the encounter of a sacred friendship which does make incarnate the love of life and the life of love. One who bears our pain and shares our pain and travels through it, with us, through the long dark night of sorrow into the new birth of resurrection: new life offered every morning. Known to us still in the breaking of the bread and the water of Baptism and through the Word of God, still proclaimed in our midst, still calling us towards the Realm of God's most perfect love. And challenging us to confront the evil forces of this world and within our own hearts - which so threaten to divide us, to alienate us from that which gives us life.

And, finally, this same God, as Spirit, known to us in every breath we

Continued on Page B...

109th Annual Diocesan Convention Gathers in Houghton

Rise Thew Forrester

Gathering in Houghton on the first windy, snowy weekend of the season, October 15-17, the 109th annual Diocesan Convention commissioned the Core Team to work with the bishop in apostolic oversight, elected new leadership and General Convention deputies (results on page B), heard reports from various new and continuing ministries, and reflected together on anti-racism material.

Wayne Teasdale, who was planned to be the convention Chaplain, was unable to attend due to serious illness. The Convention theme he was to have spoken on was picked up by the Bishop's address and others, including Kevin Thew Forrester, who offered the sermon at the Convention eucharist on Sunday morning at Trinity Church, Houghton. The Bishop's address is excerpted in this issue of *The Church in Hiawathaland*, and available in its entirety from the diocesan office or on the web, at www.upepiscopal.org.

The Episcopal Church Women also held their Annual Meeting on Saturday. Due to deadlines and space constraints, further reports on both Convention and the ECW meeting will be in the next issue of *The Church in Hiawathaland*.

*Inside Episcopal Life:
Initial news of the
Lambeth Commission
on Communion.
Look for further
reports in the December
edition.*

CAMP NEW DAY U. P. Doubles Attendance

Kay Payant

Inner city kids seldom get to catch frogs, roast hotdogs on a campfire, hike through the U. P. forests, or swim in a U. P. lake. They had all these experiences and more this summer at Camp New Day U. P. Rain and cool temperatures, frequent at some of the camps, didn't stop the fun of the campers and staff.

This August in three separate camps, Camp New Day U. P., an ecumenical Christian ministry for children of prison inmates, served forty-one campers, nearly doubling the attendance of last year. Held at Presbytery Point (Presbyterian), Camp Michigamme (United Methodist), and Page Conference Center (Episcopal) in Little Lake, staff members included all these denominations and our first Roman Catholic deacon. Campers hailed mostly from urban areas downstate, but also included a number of U. P. children.

The program at Camp New Day U. P. is similar to other church camps. Children live together in cabins supervised by trained counselors; activities include swimming, crafts, games, ecumenical bible study and worship, campfires, singing, and cookouts. The staff's goal is to surround children, who might otherwise never be able to go to camp, with a secure atmosphere where they can experience Christian love and acceptance. Camp New Day hopes to break the cycle of incarceration that is so typical in such families: children of prison inmates are 6-7 times more likely to be incarcerated themselves. In all camp activities, we emphasize cooperation — working together to achieve common goals — and increasing self esteem by providing opportunities for the children to be successful.

This year some of the special activities included hikes to Mount Baldy and the McCormick Tract. At Presbytery Point, our "craft lady" Jacquy Shellenbarger, from St. Paul's was essential to keeping kids occupied in creative

projects during the rain. Another fun project was a nature scavenger hunt, where kids learned to identify various specimens from their environments. Without a doubt, though, the children's favorite activity was "capture the flag."

Camp New Day U. P. has been generously supported by individual, group, and business donations, everything from money to a quilt for each child. These financial and material contributions are absolutely necessary to continue our work. We also appreciate the donations of the time and talents of our staff and board members.

People who enjoy working with children should consider volunteering their time next summer. We need staff members with many types of skills and talents. As Co-Dean (along with Mark Engle) of the camp at Presbytery Point, I can testify to the satisfaction of seeing a child's face glowing with pleasure as he/she runs up with a flower to identify, or giggles at a s'more that is a bit too crisp. This is an exhausting, yet deeply rewarding ministry to a group that needs it so much.

Camp New Day U. P.'s board meets monthly (every third Tuesday) all year long to plan all aspects of the program. Since there is much to do besides staffing the camps, we could also use more board members. In the past our board has included Methodists, Presbyterians, Episcopalians, Lutherans, and Roman Catholics. Another benefit of this ministry is meeting and working closely with other Christians.

If you are looking for a ministry that is rewarding and fun, consider working on the staff or as a board member. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, November 16, at 6 pm at St. Paul's in Marquette. For more information call Kay Payant, 225-5068 or Mark Engle, 226-2912.

Bishop's Address, Continued...

Continued from front page...

take granting us the precious gift of being alive and sustaining us each moment we've been given to share. The grace of life itself, which is also a grace which saves us from ourselves and from the hand of all who would do us harm; also a grace which does transform us and our daily lives into something which is sacred so that every single moment of every single day is simply teeming with magnificence, teeming with possibility vibrating with meaning and purpose simply because the God who made everything is so near to us, in the flesh and breath of our daily existence.

Holy Trinity, One God. Father-Mother-Creator. Jesus-Child-Savior-Healer-Word Incarnate. Spirit-Life Giver-Sustainer-the Inspiration of all that is. This ancient doctrine is so familiar to

us, woven into the fabric of almost every prayer in our tradition, yet it is unknown (or unknowable) to us because it points towards unfathomable mystery which rests at the heart of everything that is. Beyond our understanding yet experienced in such a clear and concrete and unmistakable way: that this thing we know as Community and community life is as basic as it gets within the reality of existence. That God's own Self is a Community. And so, we are called to be together - all of us - and so many others not in this room tonight. We are called by God's own community (of Trinity) into unity with one another in faith. And that, you see, is why I find this theme to be so rich and so appropriate for us to hold before us during this Diocesan Conven-

Continued on Page D...

Election Results from 2004 Diocesan Convention

Treasurer of the Diocese

Dick Graybill

Standing Committee

*Sue Jamison,
Carol Clark,
Myrtle Weston*

Diocesan Council

Judd Spray

Trust Association

Jack Lenten, Patricia Micklow

Ecclesiastical Court

Bill Hyry, Mark Engle, Virginia Peacock

General Convention Deputies

(Those persons nominated but not elected as Deputies shall be listed as Alternates)

Unordained:

Jan Buchman

Dick Graybill

Patricia Micklow

Judd Spray

First Alternate:

Peg Lippart, Pam Nygaard (tie)

Ordained:

Rayford Ray

Kevin Thew Forrester

Bonnie Turner

Anita Wingert

First Alternate: *Mark Engle*

Spring Conference: Celtic Spirituality

The Diocesan Spring Conference (previously known as MSTYC) will be held on March 4-5, 2005 at the House of Ludinton in Escanaba. We will focus on Celtic Spirituality, and also explore some new music together. Ed Leidel, bishop of Eastern Michigan, has just published a new book on Celtic Spirituality, and has accepted an

invitation to be with us. David Vickers, an accomplished musician from Indian River, Michigan, will be with us as well to help with music.

If you would like to help with the planning, please contact Kevin Thew Forrester, Diocesan Ministry Development Coordinator, at 1-800-236-0087 or kevintf@upepiscopal.org

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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THE CHURCH IN HIAWATHALAND

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Deadline: the fifth of the preceding month

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Around the Diocese...



Russ Murphy, rector of St. James, Sault Ste. Marie, blesses a friendly dog at the Blessing of Animals in October.

The people of Church of the Transfiguration, Ironwood, rejoiced in the celebration of Evelyn Bedora's 104th Birthday on Spetember 29. Congratulations!

Trinity, Houghton, held a fund raising Lasagna dinner on Saturday October 2nd to support the **Keweenaw Family Resource Center**, a diocesan Jubilee center. Nineteen people participated as cooks, servers, ticket takers, wait staff and a variety of other odd jobs. The Canterbury Club served as the kitchen crew. There were over 135 people served and desserts and lasagna which was not served was sold Sunday during Coffee Hour. Over \$1,000 was raised.

Trinity, Mackinac Island, had two joint services with the Little Stone Congregational Church the first two Sundays in October. One was at Little Stone Church and one was at Trinity. It was nice to get the two congregations together at the end of the summer season.

Preaching workshop November 20 in Escanaba

The South Central Region will host a Preaching Workshop on Saturday, November 20th beginning at 1:00pm and ending by 3:00pm. Those interested in preaching are invited and encouraged to attend. The workshop will take place at St. Stephen's Church in Escanaba. The focus of the preaching workshop includes the following:

- Resources for Year A (adults and children)
- Preparing a sermon and delivery (with notes and without notes)
- Giving a critique of a sermon presented by a workshop leader
- Time for questions/reflection/discussion

Lunch will be provided for those arriving early. To register for the workshop please contact JaneCislucis at 1-800-236-0087 or email her at jane@upepiscopal.org by November 12. Please let her know if you will attend the

lunch.

Diocesan Goal-setting planned for November 12-13 in Marquette

The Annual Diocesan Goal Setting sessions, from which the Diocesan Council gets its charge for the coming year, will be **Friday & Saturday November 12 & 13, 2004**. The location is St. Paul's Church in Marquette. Friday's session is 7:00 pm – 10:00 pm & Saturday will be 9:00 am – 4:00 pm. Lunch will be provided. For those people needing help with housing, please contact the diocesan office. (There is room for four in the diocesan apartment—depending on gender combination.) Please let us know whether you will be attending, and if you are not able to attend, please let us know who from your committee will attend in your stead. Thank you in advance for your participation.

Jane

Meetings and Events

All Times Eastern

NOVEMBER 2004

6	Sexual Boundaries meeting	10:00 am	Diocesan Offices, Marquette
7	UTO Fall Ingathering		
12-13	Council Goal Setting		Diocesan Offices, Marquette
13	ECW Board	1:00 pm	Diocesan Offices, Marquette
18	MinisDevelopStrategyTeam	11:00 am	Diocesan Offices, Marquette
20	Commission on Ministry	9:00 am	St Stephen's, Escanaba
20	South Central Region	10:00 am	St Stephen's, Escanaba
20	Preaching Workshop	1:00 pm	St Stephen's, Escanaba
21-2	Prov V Bishops		Chicago IL

DECEMBER 2004

1	Judicatory Leaders	12:30 pm	Roman Catholic Offices, Marq.
4	Standing Committee	11:00 am	Diocesan Offices, Marquette
9	Western Region Board	5:00 pm	Little Old School House
11	Diocesan Council	10:00 am	Diocesan Offices, Marquette
15	MinisDevelopStrategyTeam	11:00 am	Diocesan Offices, Marquette
18	Commission on Ministry	10:00 am	Diocesan Offices, Marquette

JANUARY 2005

8	Baptismal Ministry Conf	10:00 am	St Stephen's, Escanaba
11	MinisDevelopStrategyTeam	11:00 am	Diocesan Offices, Marquette
15-6	Affirmation Weekend		Christ Church, Calumet
19	Trust Association	10:30 am	Diocesan offices, Marquette
30	Ordination - Leon Jarvis	2:00 pm	Marquette General Hospital

FEBRUARY 2004

4-6	ECW Winter Gathering		Marygrove Center, Garden
5	ECW Board		Marygrove Center, Garden
12-15	Living Stones		
24	MDST	11:00 am	Diocesan Offices, Marquette

MARCH 2004

4-5	Diocesan Spring Conference		House of Ludington, Escanaba
9-16	House of Bishops		Camp Allen, TX
11-13	Prov V ECW Annual Mtg		Milwaukee WI

Calendars are mailed with Council Minutes. To have meetings included, call 1-800-236-0087

Transitions

Julie Stuart
Holy Trinity, Iron Mountain

Grace Johnson Smith
All Saints, Newberry

Jim Hall
St. Stephen's, Escanaba

Listening Hearts at ECW Winter Gathering

The annual Episcopal Church Women's Winter Gathering will feature Suzanne Farnham, founder of Listening Hearts Ministries, a non-profit organization that seeks to make spiritual discernment more comprehensible and tangible. She is co-author of the books *Listening Hearts*, and *Grounded in God*. She leads

spiritual discernment retreats and workshops throughout the country.

The retreat will be held at Marygrove Center in Garden, Michigan, from Friday evening February 4 through lunch on Sunday, February 6, 2005. More information will be in the next issue of The Church in Hiawathaland.



Responding to a story about Lawrence Welk, Bonnie Turner of Grace Church, Menominee, provides impromptu bubbles for Kevin Thew Forrester, Diocesan Ministry Development Coordinator, at Diocesan Convetnion in Houghton.

Bishop's Address: We turn to God in Faith

Continued from Page B...

tion. Because, I believe that if we, in this diocese, have discovered anything about God, about our world, and about ourselves, it is that we do belong together in community, just as we minister together, in community.

"We envision a world in which all people live together in peace and 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."

That is our diocesan vision statement, and many of you have heard me repeat it over and over again in my preaching and speaking with you as Mary and I have traveled around the diocese over these past several years. I hold it up before us this evening as we gather to begin our annual Convention.

I need to tell you that this has not been an altogether easy year for me, and for a number of us in this diocese. We have had to deal with some difficult matters here and there, having to do with sexual misconduct and fiscal oversight and accountability, with property dispute, and in the case of St Luke's on Sugar Island, a community which has decided to become a Community Church rather than to remain as an Episcopal congregation. It's enough to get a bishop down, every now and then.

And while we have been blessed as a diocese not to be drawn into the emotional and divisive struggle experienced by many other dioceses in our national church and the world-wide, Anglican Communion this past year in the wake of decisions made at our General Convention in Minneapolis in the summer of 2003, there are certainly some in our midst who have had their loyalties tested; some who have struggled with these changes, even while others have celebrated what seems to be a clear call by the Holy Spirit to move boldly into our future ...

Of course, on the national and international political scene, this has been a troublesome year as well, with the war in Iraq stuck in its deadly quagmire and violence escalating throughout the Middle East and in other spots such as Sudan and Chechnya and Columbia, and the list goes on

And here at home, with a struggling economy a growing segment of our population falling more deeply into poverty, with increasing millions joining the ranks of the uninsured and the under-employed.

Yes, there have been difficult days, to be sure, over these past twelve months since our last Convention, but I am here to witness to you that we, as a diocese, and as a people have also thrived in the face of it all. God is good. God is all powerful. We are in the Hands of One who rests above it all, and in the heart, in the midst of it all, and who still calls us towards that vision of New Creation - of Shalom. And, you see, these are precisely the days we are called back to the vision of Love which first touched our hearts as

people of faith in our given generation.

I have come to be reminded over this past year, as we have tried to confront and deal with difficult matters here and there that every day as we rise from bed, we have to make a fresh choice as to whether we are going to allow ourselves to be defined by the struggles which beset us or by the mission and vision we have been offered by our faith. I choose the latter. And it is vision and mission which I want to talk about this evening, and which I pray we can stay focused upon over the months and years to come.

There has been exciting growth and advances in the arena of Ministry Development throughout our diocese. A new and expanded Ministry Support Team was Commissioned in Iron Mountain, and that congregation is thriving - even as Charlie Piper journeys on his sabbatical. There has been discernment through Discovery Processes in Marquette, in Negaunee, in Ishpeming, in Sault Ste Marie, in Calumet, and in all of these places, Covenant Groups have been started, using *LifeCycles*, the formation process we have developed in partnership with the dioceses of Wyoming and Nevada and LeaderResources. Other congregations are also using *LifeCycles* and other resources for ministry formation. In fact, at this point in time, twenty out of our twenty-seven congregations are engaged in mutual ministry development.

It's an exciting time for us...(*Kelsey outlined many of the past years events and ministry developments here. --Ed.*)

...In November, as we gather for our annual goal setting workshop, all of these things, and more will be considered. Our facilitator for that goal setting will again be Cliff Crockford, who has also served an invaluable coach for me throughout the year. Cliff is also working closely with our developmental process with the Page Center.

Whatever other goals are set, we know that we will be putting extra energy over the coming year into re-gathering and re-focusing our ministry with youth & young adults...We will be initiating a new Council on Diaconal Ministry... There will be renewed focus upon Stewardship and Planned Giving. We will continue our efforts to make all of our church building physically accessible to everyone, as well as being increasingly inviting and welcoming to all. We will look to expand our forays into advertisements on TV and radio, which have been so well received.

We will be re-vamping our web site, drawing upon the gifts and remarkable steadfastness of our Web Servant, Barbara Susan,...and Dan Weingarten...

Also, in this coming year, we will work to deepen our companionship with communities of other faith traditions.... (*Then Kelsey listed a number of transitions, upcoming and in the past year, of various people.--Ed.*)

...The list goes on and on. My point in mentioning these few specifics as examples of a much longer list that must go unspoken is that life indeed

does go on, for all of us. And in the midst of it, with all of the daily joys and sorrows we carry the torch of our faith having received it from those who have gone before and preparing to hand it along to the generations which will follow us here.

Now, before I conclude (and I do thank you for your patience and your endurance) I want to say a little bit about a matter which is bound to claim attention of the public media over the coming days. I am referring to the release of the so-called Windsor Report by the Lambeth Commission. That report will be made public this coming Monday, October 18th when it is presented to the Primate's Steering Committee, meeting in England. (*The report was released as Episcopal Life was going to press, you can read initial reports inside this issue of Episcopal Life, with more to follow in the months ahead.--Ed.*) You can expect to hear a lot about it.

... How can we live with our differences, and hold together in Communion with those with whom we disagree? Not an easy question, yet one that is critical for the day and age we live in. This is, of course, a tremendously complex issue, and I would be happy to speak at greater length with anyone individually or in groups at any time, and any place... We know that the report had the unanimous support of all members of the Commission (and I stress: the membership of the group was as diverse as was humanly possible)...

I ask you to take a deep breath and wait until it settles into perspective...

Very truly, we are discovering, as many generations have before us, the cost of moving ahead into God's future. Those who crossed other thresholds before us, dealing with class and race and gender lived through firestorms at least as fierce as this. So let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us. Let us have patience and generosity of spirit with those who disagree with us. And let us move on with as great a measure of grace and courage as we might receive from the One who has called us into this great work of reconciliation and redemption.

Several weeks ago, we heard again the gospel passage from Luke which includes a hard saying, to be sure: "Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; they will be divided: father against son and son against father, (and so on)"

This one is hard to hear, but we know it is so - that to stand for love and compassion and justice sometimes means that there will be division. You see, the point is that even then, some 2000 years ago, Jesus understood (and warned his followers) that his gospel held within it a kernel of truth which could absolutely revolutionize the world which, in fact, could transform our relationships and, in a very real sense, save us from ourselves. And, you see, not everybody agrees with these principles:

--To learn and understand that our disagreements and power struggles

cannot be resolved by force and domination but only by the dynamics of reconciliation and peace;

--To experience the power of forgiveness (not retribution) in the face of betrayal and interpersonal failings.

--To embrace the diversity of human expression not as a threat to our familiar ways of life but as a delightful chemistry which brings variety and new creation all around us and in our midst.

--To respect the dignity of every human being, even those we once found easy to dismiss or to judge as unworthy.

--To insist on justice in the face of preferential treatment of the powerful and those in the majority.

--To discover the transforming grace of self-examination and renewal, and the honest acknowledgment, each of our own responsibility for ways we have erred and strayed from the path of health and wholeness and acknowledgment of our own need for repentance of those ways.

All of these things, and more, which are wrapped up inside the mystery of God's Word - Christ's gospel - as Jesus was saying in that lesson from Luke, these things have the power to divide us - because their truth calls us to transform our families, our friendships, our society, and not everyone is ready for such monumental change. Not everyone is prepared to redefine our relationships according to God's commandments and that is why Jesus said that his teaching would bring division. Because there is a cost to such discipleship.

Now, here, in our world today, which is swallowed up by terror, and by warfare and economic injustices and all manner of division we are called by God in Christ to rediscover what all this means for us in our own generation. We are called, to keep on moving ahead as best we can, even while knowing that our world is on the brink, and knowing that our offering is not perfect, or hardly even adequate, knowing that we are called to sing our part as best we can, as the Triune God sings along in such glorious harmony - so that this same world might be mesmerized by a sacred song of peace and justice, of hope and promise, of creation, and redemption, and inspiration.

Holy Trinity, One God; Father-Mother-Creator, Jesus-Child-Savior-Healer-Word Incarnate, Spirit-Life Giver-Sustainer-the Inspiration of all that is, we turn to you in faith at this moment in our history. We turn our hearts to you and together, this night, we re-dedicate ourselves to your service: to the service of the Spirit of Love which still has the power to transform our hearts to transform our world into Shalom - the Way of Wholeness and Peace to which we have each and all been called and to which we have given away our lives. Amen

(*The Full text of the Bishop's Address can be obtained from the diocesan office, 1-800-236-0087, or at www.upepiscopal.org You are encouraged to read the entire document, which was edited for space constraints. --Editor*)