

Inside this issue...
 Page 2B LifeCycles training
 Page 3C Calendar, Learning Opportunities, Transitions
 Page 4D 106th birthday, Outreach far and near, Youth



Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori is coming to Northern Michigan October 1 (photo: ENS Robert Williams)

Presiding Bishop to visit Northern Michigan October 1

The Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, Katharine Jefferts Schori, will be coming for a pastoral visit October 1, before heading to Mackinac Island for the All Michigan Episcopal Network (AMEN) Conference October 2-4.

Jefferts Schori had expressed a wish to come for more than a momentary visit to Jim Kelsey's funeral in June, and

so waited for a time when she can spend a day with the leadership of the diocese, and worship with the diocese as a whole.

Plans are shaping up to include meetings and dinner with the Standing Committee, Core Team, and Diocesan Council, then a Eucharist at St. Paul's, Marquette. All are invited to come to the Eucharist, at 7pm on Monday, October 1.

Standing committee asks Tom Ray to offer Episcopal Oversight during Bishop interim

The Standing Committee decided at its July meeting that they would pursue an agreement with Tom Ray, retired Bishop of Northern Michigan, to provide "Episcopal oversight" for the Diocese. At press time they were planning to work out the details of an agreement with Tom. This is one possibility they had as they looked at the needs of the diocese in the interim before we elect a new bishop. There are sacramental things only a Bishop can do (i.e., ordinations and commissionings, and confirmation) The Standing Committee will continue as the Ecclesiastic Authority until the election of a new bishop. Linda Piper, President of the Standing Committee said, "Tom Ray served the Diocese of Iowa in a similar way several years ago when they were in their search process for a new bishop. Unlike Iowa, of course, Tom lives here and already has a role as missionary and member of the Trust Assoc...I think that his wisdom, experience and vision will be of the greatest value as we explore a collaborative episcopate."

As many know, Tom Ray was hospitalized at Mayo Clinic for a very treatable malignancy on his spine. His

prognosis is very good, and he is looking forward to offering what he can in the diocese at this time, while taking care to safeguard his health.



Tom Ray, retired bishop of Northern Michigan

Dar es Salaam Already One in God

On the 19th of February, 2007, the Primates of the Anglican Communion, meeting in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, released a Communiqué. We, as the Diocese of Northern Michigan, offer our response.

UNITY IS A GRACE

We recognize that a basic challenge to us in the Anglican Communion is centered in our vision of who God is and who we are. In classical theology, we only exist because God exists in us. The ramifications of this insight are both profound and extensive. Unity is not an achievement. Unity is not, in its most basic sense, a work of human hands. Unity is a grace. Unity is a given.

We affirm the theological truth that we are always already one in God; otherwise we would not be. The tragedy of the current moment, which is recurrent throughout history (remember the conflict that led to the first council in Jerusalem), is that we fail to see this unity and so we grow anxious and afraid.

In our anxiety, we tend to confuse the absence of conflict with love. Love is patient and love is kind, to be sure. Love also knows conflict is a part of the human condition, as we respond to God's invitation to remove any and all boundaries to the scope of God's eternal embrace.

LISTEN, LEARN, LEAD

We acknowledge that our Communion is in conflict. We know this conflict in our parishes, in our dioceses, in our church, in our culture. We often fail to recognize, however, that conflict is not resolved by assuming the agenda of the person across the table and making it our own. Years of interfaith dialogue have taught this truth. Conflict is not resolved by the denial of who one essentially is. Decades of ecumenical dialogue have taught this truth.

Conflict is resolved through honest recognition and respect of who we all are, in our diversity. The Anglican Communion is itself rooted in this mutual recognition

Continued on Page 2B...

An Affirmation of life in God

Continued from front page...

and respect among its Churches. Unity may not be collapsed into uniformity, making one parish's, dioceses' or Church's polity or ethics determinative for everyone else.

Because God is always already present, leadership begins with being receptive to what someone has to say. Leadership is about continually learning and being transformed in heart, mind and body. Leadership is a response to this learning, which is a continual movement of the Spirit.

We invite all to God's table. What we expect, in turn, is that those who come to the table likewise recognize the right, by being children of God, of everyone else to be at the table.

BAPTISMAL ECCLESIOLOGY

We proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ that everyone and everything belongs. We are continually being created in the image of God, in whom we live and move and have our being. Baptism confirms this most basic truth which is at once, the Good News: all is of God, without condition and without restriction.

We seek and serve Christ in all persons because all persons are the living Christ. Each and every human being, as a human being, is knit together in God's Spirit, and thus an anointed one – Christ. Jesus of Nazareth reveals this as the basic truth of the human condition:

*God is more in me
than if the whole sea
could in a little sponge
wholly contained be.
~Angelus Silesius*

We strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being, because each person embodies the living God. Life is inherently and thoroughly sacramental, which is why we love one another without condition.

We stand with Meister Eckhart who, when he gazed deep within himself, as well as all about him, saw that "the entire created order is sacred" as it is grounded in God. We do harmful and evil things to ourselves and one another, not because we are bad, but because we are blind to the beauty of creation and ourselves. In other words, we are ignorant of who we truly are: "there is no Greek or Hebrew; no Jew or Gentile; no barbarian or Scythian; no slave or citizen. There is only Christ, who is all in all." (Colossians 3:11).

Everyone is the sacred word of God, in whom Christ lives. This baptismal vision of a thoroughly blessed creation leads us to understand the reason for the incarnation in a new way:

People think God has only become a human being there – in his historical incarnation – but that is not so; for God is here – in this very place – just as much incarnate as in a human being long ago. And this is why he has become a human being: that he might give birth to you as his only begotten Son, and as no less. ~Meister Eckhart

AFFIRMATIONS

Because each and every one of us is an only begotten child of God; because we, as the church, are invited by God to see all of creation as having life only insofar as it is in God; because everything, without exception, is the living presence, or incarnation, of God; as the Diocese of Northern Michigan,

We affirm Christ present in every human being and *reject* any attempt to restructure The Episcopal Church's polity in a manner contrary to the principles of the baptismal covenant;

We affirm the full dignity and autonomy and interdependence of every Church in the Anglican Communion and *reject* any attempt of the Primates to assume an authority they do not have nor have ever possessed;

We affirm the sacramental gift of all persons, their Christ-ness, especially those who are gay and lesbian, and *reject* any moratorium on the blessing of same-sex unions and consents of gay bishops, as it would compromise their basic dignity.

Affirmed by:

Standing Committee
Core Team
Diocesan Council
General Convention Deputation

11 August 2007

Editor's note: The Primates are the bishops who lead the various churches of the Anglican Communion around the world. The Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church is our Primate. You can read the Communique from Dar es Salaam online at http://www.episcopalchurch.org/78650_82722_ENG_HTM.htm Further news accounts are available at www.episcopalchurch.org Click on news, and search for Dar es Salaam. The meeting of the Primates took place in February 2007.

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.

Diocesan Offices

131 East Ridge Street, Marquette, Michigan, 49855
Telephone: 906-228-7160 or 800-236-0087 Fax: 906-228-7171
Web Site: www.upepiscopal.org

Diocesan Staff

Gloria Price, Office Administrator: gloria@upepiscopal.org
Jane Cisluyecis, Diocesan Operations Coordinator: jane@upepiscopal.org
Dan Weingarten, Website dweingarten@mac.com



THE CHURCH IN HIAWATHALAND
Episcopal Diocese of Northern Michigan

Rise Thew Forrester, Editor

402 Harrison Street, Marquette, MI 49855
(906) 228-0033 rissetf@sbcglobal.net

Deadline: the fifth of the preceding month

LifeCycles: training companions to be guides on the way

Fran Gardner

Seven visitors from across the United States came to Marquette in late July to attend the first annual LifeCycles Companion Training. The visitors traveled from the dioceses of East Tennessee, Minnesota, and Wyoming to learn best practices for serving as Companions to LifeCycles groups. The Companions are integral to the LifeCycles process: they help form LifeCycles groups and help guide groups through the LifeCycles sessions, modeling appropriate leadership and mentoring new leadership. The two day training was led by local members of

the LifeCycles Team: Fran Gardner, Marion Luckey, Charlie Piper, Rayford Ray, Kevin Thew Forrester, and Anita Wingert. A number of folks from around the diocese (cheers to Diane Horst and Larry Rice for driving all the way from the Soo!) joined us on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings to create LifeCycles groups for the trainees to join and companion as part of their training. All seven Companion Trainees gave the training high marks and said that they would recommend the training to other companions. The next training is scheduled for May of 2008.

Meetings and Events

All times Eastern

SEPTEMBER 2007

3	Labor Day		
5	MinisDevelopStrategyTeam	10:00 am	Diocesan Office, Marquette
7	Interfaith Forum	12:00 noon	Wildcat Den - NMU, Marquette
8	Diocesan Council	10:00 am	Diocesan Office, Marquette
8	Open Door Commission	1:30 pm	Diocesan Office, Marquette
12	Core Team	10:00 am	Diocesan Office, Marquette
13	Western Region Board	6:00 pm	Bruce Crossing
15	Commission on Ministry	10:00 am	Diocesan Office, Marquette
15	Diocesan Liturgy Workshop	10:00 am	St Paul's, Marquette
19-26	House of Bishops		New Orleans, Louisiana
22	Preaching Workshop	10:00 am	NC Reg - St Paul's, Marquette
22	Preaching Workshop	1:00 pm	SC Reg - St Stephen's, Escanaba
27-29	ECW Guided Retreat		Page Center, Little Lake
28	Core Team	10:00 am	Diocesan Office, Marquette

OCTOBER 2007

1	Presiding Bishop visit		
2-4	Michigan Clergy/Support Teams		Grand Hotel, Mackinac Is.
10	Core Team	10:00 am	Diocesan Office, Marquette
12-14	Annual Convention		Eastern Region (Sault Ste Marie)
24	Trust Association	10:30 am	Diocesan Office, Marquette
25	Core Team	10:00 am	Diocesan Office, Marquette

NOVEMBER 2007

3	Commission on Ministry	10:00 am	Diocesan Office, Marquette
4	Commissioning	11:00 am	Grace Church, Ishpeming
9	Core Team	10:00 am	Diocesan Office, Marquette
9-10	Council Goal Setting		Marquette
22	Give Thanks!!		
27	MinisDevelopStrategyTeam	10:00 am	Diocesan Office, Marquette

To have meetings included, call 1-800-236-0087 or email gloria@upepiscopal.org

Two Enneagram series beginning this fall

The Healing Arts Center at St. Paul's, Marquette, will be offering a series of further exploration with the Enneagram on Tuesday evenings in September and October from 6:30-9:30pm, beginning on September 11. The series will look at False Identities that are developed in childhood. We all develop false identities from childhood. We have roles to which we cling. These roles – *I'm correct, I'm sensitive; I'm powerful; I'm peaceful; I'm OK; I'm helpful; I'm loyal; I'm successful* – tend to dominate our lives, resulting in suffering. Come explore how we can compassionately recognize and release our false identities and begin to realize spiritual freedom.

THE HEALING ARTS CENTER & THE INTERFAITH FORUM OF MARQUETTE are sponsoring an "interfaith conversation" and a workshop on Meditation & the Enneagram, to be led by the Buddhist teacher, Santikaro. On Friday, October 5th, Santikaro will lead an interfaith conversation open to the public. The exact time and place of the venue are still in process. On Saturday, from 10-4 at the Healing Arts Center, located in the Morgan Chapel of St. Paul's, Santikaro will lead a practical workshop exploring the relationship between meditation and the Enneagram. The Enneagram is a system with ancient roots, which integrates spirituality and psychology. Both events are open to the public. There is no fee, but donations are gladly accepted. For further information on either event, contact Kevin G. Thew Forrester at (906)-226-2912 or email at Kevin.Thew-Forrester@StPaulsMqt.org

Brueggemann in the UP

Noted biblical scholar and author Walter Brueggemann will be speaking and leading workshops in the Marquette area on October 8 and 9, 2007.

On October 8 at 7 P.M. Dr. Brueggemann will speak at the University Center at Northern Michigan University on "Theology of Creation and the Environmental Crisis"

On October 9 he will lead a preaching workshop from 10am to 2pm at Messiah Lutheran Church in Marquette. The discussion will focus on "Biblical Preaching in the Shadow of the Empire". At 7pm, Dr. Brueggemann will speak at Bethany Lutheran Church in Ishpeming on the topic "Journey to the Common Good: Reading the Bible Towards God's Future".

The two evening lectures are free and open to the public. There is a \$20 fee for the Tuesday workshop (lunch included) and a reservation is required.

ECW Fall Women's Retreat September 27-29

A time for quiet, reflection, community with friends in the beautiful setting of Page Center.

The Retreat is open to all women, so please invite a friend from any denomination to accompany you.

Cost \$25 per person, includes overnight and meals. For more information, contact the diocesan office at 800-236-0087

Two Preaching Workshops will

be held **Saturday, September 22**. One, sponsored by the **North Central Region**, will be at **St. Paul's, Marquette, 10am to 2pm**. It will focus on sermon prep and delivery, as well as how to give and receive feedback.

Another preaching workshop, "**New and Old Wineskins**" is scheduled **Saturday, September 22**, in the **South Central Region**, at **St. Stephen's, Escanaba, 1pm-3pm** with a free lunch at noon.

AMEN (All Michigan Episcopal Network) Clergy Community Conference

at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island is planned for **October 2-4**. In past years, this conference was reserved for clergy. This year for the first time, our diocese will invite any members of Covenant Groups and Ministry Support Teams to attend the event. Presiding

Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori will be there, and the event is expected to fill up quickly. Registration forms have been mailed, please contact Jane Cislucyic for more information (jane@upepiscopal.org or 800-236-0087)

Mutual (Pastoral) Care Workshop

On **September 14**, the North Central Region will host the second in an ongoing series of mutual (pastoral) care workshops. The focus of the workshops for training in offering and receiving care in various settings: hospital, nursing home, homebound, etc. The workshop will take place at St. James the Less, Harvey, from 10 to noon.

Throw Wide the Doors: Creating Worship that is Holy, Inclusive, & Inviting

will be offered **September 15**, 10 am - 4 pm at St Paul's, Marquette. The day will include an "Explore Eucharist" and afternoon workshops on useful and inviting service leaflets, incorporating alternative liturgical practices, creating an alternative Eucharist, and working with theology and language in worship. For more information, contact Fran Gardner (frangardner@upepiscopal.org), Claudia Nadeau (nadeaumun@jamadots.com) or Bob Railey (rmrailey@excite.com)

Province V Annual ECW Meeting on April 4-6, 2008

in Fond Du Lac WI is asking for pre-registrations by November 15. Contact Jan Frazee (jfrazee@webtv.net) for registration information. For meeting schedule, workshops & more information go www.fdlecw.org/fdlecw/ or contact the President of Fond Du Lac - Barbara Drewry - Zimmerman (Bzimmy@excel.net)

Transitions

Deaths

Leslie Foster
St Paul's, Marquette

Bill Sottile
Trinity, Houghton

John Dixon
Grace, Menominee

John Maitland
Holy Innocents, Little Lake



Helene Merki celebrated her 106th birthday with her friends and family at Trinity Church, Gladstone

Merki celebrates 106 years

Dorothy McKnight (Escanaba Daily Press)

With multiple birthday celebrations, Helene Merki of Gladstone had such a grand time last year when she turned 105, she decided to stick around for another go-around. Ever since she turned 100 on June 30, 2001, Merki could count on a party every year at Fairview manor where she makes her home, an additional party at Trinity Episcopal Church where she has been a long-time member, and yet another with her family in Escanaba. Last year her name and photograph were even featured on the NBC Today Show in a segment by Willard Scott which regularly honors individuals who reach their 100th birthday and beyond.

But this year, there was one celebration that took her completely by surprise. The setting was June 27, three days before her 106th birthday, in the outpatient clinic at OSF St. Francis Hospital where she goes for a weekly checkup. "I had just finished with my test and was getting ready to leave when one of the nurses asked if I could step across the hall for a few minutes," Merki said. "At first I thought it was a test of some kind, but when I opened the door and walked in, here was a whole bunch of the nurses sitting at one end of a long table with a huge birthday cake in front of them. They invited me to sit down and I was so surprised I almost fell over. I didn't know whether to laugh or cry." Merki said she was very touched by the special kindness the OSF staff expressed to her.

Born in Chicago on June 30, 1901, to a musical family, Merki began taking piano lessons as a very young child. Her first teacher was her mother, an accomplished pianist and vocal coach. She was married to her husband, Walter, in 1931, and they became parents of a son, John. After her husband's untimely death from leukemia in 1946, Merki and her young son took up residence with her widowed mother and she began private organ lessons from former Gladstone resident, Robert Kee. Over the next few years, she and John were frequent visitors to the local area as guests of the Kee family. When her mother died in 1954, Merki and her son moved to Gladstone where she supported herself by giving private piano, organ and voice lessons. She also played the organ and directed choirs at a number of Escanaba churches.

She served as organist for Trinity Church, Gladstone, which she joined shortly after moving to the area, and remained as church organist until her formal retirement at age 99. The decision to leave the organ bench was a difficult one for Merki, who is still very much involved in making sure that the church's musical standards remain top-notch.

Anyone who meets Merki and learns of her longevity may automatically think her mental faculties have diminished along with her range of motion, which has become severely restricted in recent years by advancing arthritis. But they would be wrong. Despite the difficulty she experiences moving around, she's never without words when speaking of her family, her beloved church, her music, her memories and even the latest news of the day. A number of home-care providers has made it possible for Merki to remain in her own apartment. She still insists on attending church on a weekly basis and the only time she reluctantly agrees to stay at home is during the winter months when there's too much snow or ice. "I don't want to miss anything and besides, I really enjoy the coffee hour afterwards," she said with a smile.

Manistique reaches out

Alice Lewis

"A Small Church with a Big Heart for Carrying Out the Mission of the Church"... This might be a description of St. Alban's Episcopal Church in Manistique. Recently the Ministry Support Team took time to look at what the church family was doing in the way of outreach. It was decided that even though contributions were made frequently when needs were brought to our attention, we weren't doing enough. After much discussion, two outreach projects were decided on.

First, to reach out to those in need in our own community of Manistique. It was decided that we would "adopt" the Schoolcraft Medical Care Facility as one outreach project. A worship service will be provided on the third Wednesday of each month and a craft or activity project will be offered each Thursday morning for the residents. To insure that crafts and/or activities will remain an important part in the lives of the residents, a money raising project to buy a popcorn machine is being conducted. The machine will be used by the residents to make and sell popcorn to the employees and visitors of the facility. Proceeds from the popcorn sales will be used to purchase supplies for the crafts and activities department. An added bonus, of course, will be the residents will have fresh popcorn for themselves! (Smelling fresh popped corn may even improve appetites of those who have lost interest in eating!) Response to this outreach project has been overwhelming and very rewarding for those taking an active part. Members from the church family volunteer their time in teaching a craft and visiting residents, as well as, assisting in the worship service. This has proved to be a most worthwhile outreach and truly does allow us to show God's love to those who can no longer live on their own.

The second outreach project was prompted by a visit from Burt Purrington, Diocesan International Mission Coordinator, and his sharing about his experiences in Haiti. Hearts were touched by the nutrition project for children. An invitation was immediately written to St. Alban's Episcopal Church in Crochu, Haiti, asking them to be in partnership with St. Alban's Episcopal Church in Manistique. This partnership will result in our Manistique church adopting at least one child in the nutrition program and sending vitamins and other needed supplies for distribution to others in the program. The third Sunday of each month will be designated as Haiti's Children Sunday. Yellow envelopes will be available for cash donations and a basket is ready to accept vitamins and supplies. We hope that more than one child can be adopted in the future. Charlie Rembert presented this idea to the congregation and asked that those in agreement sign the invitation before forwarding it to Burt for delivery to Pere Val, rector of St. Alban's in Haiti. Everyone present was anxious to sign and become a part of this worthwhile outreach project.

From the UP to the UAE

Ralph and Nancy Crosslin of St. John's Newberry write:

One never knows where life will lead. Not long ago we thought Ralph would be taking an interim position at the charter school in Bay City that would last for a month or 2... recently while at a leadership conference for his company (Mosaica Education) he heard of an opportunity overseas and began asking questions about a position he was suited to. And by dinner time, I learned that we are going to Abu Dhabi, the capitol of the United Arab Emirates!!!!!!

Ralph will be the curriculum

coordinator for 2 schools there. We will be there for one year, and on mutual agreement, perhaps another year. For those of you wondering, it is a very safe country, very protective of its borders and very westernized. We are very excited (and a little overwhelmed right now) for this opportunity, but will surely miss our friends and family. We will have e-mail, and our e-address will be the same, but we are uncertain how long it will be before we get internet access. We are waiting for our passports, but expect to be gone by August 20. Please keep us in your prayers.

Youth Notes

Jamie Randall

Hope everyone had a wonderful summer! As the new school year gets underway, we hope you will be thinking about the youth event at the Diocesan Convention. If you have ideas about the event, please email them to me at jamierandall@upepiscopal.org or call me at 906-228-2155. The Youth Event calendar is posted on the Diocesan website. There are some great events coming up, and more details will follow as each event approaches.