

# *The e-Vangel*



Near All Saints, Big Sky

July 2008

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## A Push over the Edge

By Jené Matzkanin  
St. Mark's, Anaconda

Ephesians 4:29, 31-32:

*Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.*

Envision the imagery of a long, steeply winding road which happens to be lacking guard rails, perhaps something very similar to the Montana back roads. The very edge of this road is lined with people of all walks of life; some dressed immaculately, some in nothing more than tattered fabric. A few of these people are wearing their hearts on their sleeve and it is quite obvious whether they are full of joy or consumed by sorrow. However, the majority of those standing on the edge are expressionless and indifferent, doing all that they can to conceal their true emotions. Now imagine you are running up behind each person and pushing them over the edge. What was on the other side of the edge? What exactly were those people pushed into? Did they fall into darkness or were they enveloped by the light? I suppose it depends on whether they were pushed by bitterness, anger and wrath, or kindness, forgiveness and love.

How often are we the hand that pushes a person over their edge? A harsh word, a lack of compassion or unintentional predatory actions can often push someone farther away from God, making the enemy more credible, and leaving the person filled with sorrow and grief. Perhaps that same person was on the very edge of surrendering their life to Christ, when that little bitter hand pushed them farther away from the light. In the same manner, a person could be on the very edge of self destruction, but with a kind word, loving gestures and an open heart we are very able to send someone straight into the arms of the Savior. By demonstrating the love that Jesus demonstrated to us we shine the light of love, we can save a life, we can lead a soul. We aren't always aware of our immediate impact on another life and it is very difficult to understand and accept that our day to day comings and goings could leave a lasting imprint on a stranger's heart, either positive or negative.

I am sure that most everyone has heard the saying, "You never know what someone has gone through until you have walked a mile in their shoes". Unfortunately, we do not usually get that opportunity. Sure, we can walk next to someone, holding their hand and comforting them every step of the way, but we never truly understand what they feel, and we may never know what is truly in the depths of their heart. Fortunately, Almighty God does. As disciples of the Risen Christ we are called to be the kind, forgiving and loving hand of God. We will be held accountable for the words that we speak, and our words are the very seeds of life or death. Our words and our actions are the determining factors of whether a person falls into the darkness of deceit, vengeance and pain, or into the arms of God, to be completely engulfed by everlasting love.

You may be one person to the world, but to one person you could be the light of the world.

**CAMP MARSHALL:** *(Ed. note: the remarks from the campers are unedited)*

Dear friends,

This week at Camp Marshall (Junior-Middler II), our daily themes are based on Acts 2:42: "And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and the prayers." Yesterday was about the "apostles' teaching." We talked about how we are all apostles (messengers) too-- and we have teaching to do! As an example of this, I asked the cabin groups to write letters like those we find in the new Testament. They were to write to the diocese, to tell the story of the presence of Jesus at Camp Marshall. Most of them came out as thank you notes, which was not quite what I imagined when I asked them to do this! But since so many of the Epistles often give thanks to God for one thing and another, perhaps the kids are on the right track. You good folks do so much to make this place possible, that it seemed right to share some of them with you (and I'm doing my best to transcribe them verbatim, which is why spelling and grammar sometimes seem creative).

God's peace,

Jane+ *(The Rev. Jane Schmoetzer, Vicar of the Yellowstone Ministries)*

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Dear D. of Montana,

We are the cabin of St. Alfred, we'd like to tell you what we think about camp.

Dominic - I like everything about camp!

Gabe - I remember coming here when I was 3 and I still like coming here and playing games.

Isaac - I like fishing, arts and crafts, games, swimming, church, and playing with my friends.

James - I like swimming, church and friends

Bayson - All the activities, arts and crafts, waterfront

Thank you for everything, we love this place!

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Dear Diocese of Montana,

Thank you for all the opportunities you've given us, including this beautiful camp. And for all the priests and helpers who have taught us about the Body of Christ. We are truly grateful. Here at camp there are many friendship-building activities. For example, swimming, kayaking, a ropes course, and art projects. Going to chapel every morning helps us to learn about Jesus. Having chapel outside, right on the lake, helps us come

closer to nature and to God, both mentally and physically. Thank you for all you have done.

St. Dunstan

\*\*\*\*\*

dear Diocese of Montana,

thank you for donating your time, money, and energy to make this such a fun and wonderful camp. We are all enjoying our time here at Camp Marshall and fully appreciate everything you have done.

Thanks again,  
the girls of St. George  
Junior Middler 2 2008

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Dear Dienes of Montana

we are the cabin of St. Stevens we would like to thank you for the fun exsperience of the sailboat.

Also thank you for keeping Flathead Lake pollution free.

Also for taking fishing and kayaking at Camp Marshall.

Thank you for including me at Camp Marshall so I can see Jesus more.

thank you for leting us come to camp marshal.

We see God in everything we do here. From sailing to just being in this holy place. We hope you will experience Him if you ever come to Camp.

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Dear People of the Church,

We hear Jesus in the songs that we sing.

We see Jesus in our cabins and friends.

We feel Jesus when we pray, and we thank him every day.

We know Jesus loves every son and daughter,  
and we know he loves us even when we spill water.

We love to pray. No, we're not rookies.

Thank you so much.

P. S. Please send cookies.

St. Charles

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My fellow brothers and sisters,

We thank you very much for supporting Camp Marshall. We have a lot of fun at camp by playing in Flathead Lake, taking pictures, name games, field games, and spending time with our new friends. We also enjoy going to chapel and learning about God. Campfire songs are a lot of fun to sing and to worship God. We love eating the food that you have allowed us to buy. Spending a week in the same cabin helps us to work on our social skills and our patience. Helping each other get through the week and learn more about God.

Sincerely,  
The St. Augustine Angels

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Dear diocese,

At the beginning of the day we love to go fishing, kayaking, polar bearing and folging, all things that are awesome to do before breakfast which is delicious. After that we go to chapel where we pray, sing, and learn about Jesus and God. Then we do morning activities where we swim, play fun games, and do arts and crafts. Then we have delicious lunch. After that we take an hour long nap or be quiet. And then at afternoon activities we do the same fun things as at morning activities. Fun fun fun! Then we have Christian ed where we learn about community, fellowship, koinonia and Jesus. Then there's dinner. Then we have evening games where we go down to the field where we do sports. Then we sing songs and do skits at campfire. Then we go to bed.

From St. Awesome (Patrick)

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Dear Diacis of Montana,

We thank you for facilitating camp programs. And Making sure we are safe. We enjoy the activities and church at camp. We couldn't have camp staff without you. We enjoy fishing, swimming, boating, arts and crafts and chapel. Thank you for everyting youv'e done and the time youv'e donated.

Sincerely,  
Charlie, Brien, Nate, Brady, Chaye



This is a photo of the banner that Kathy Thomas made for the Youth Conference (EYE) in Texas.

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## **EPISCOPAL RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT:**

### **Episcopal Relief & Development Responds to Disasters in Asia**

7/2/08

Episcopal Relief & Development is responding to Typhoon Fengshen, which battered the Philippines on Saturday, June 21. The typhoon left at least 229 people dead with 700 still missing after a passenger ferry capsized during the storm.

Many villages have been flooded. Fields containing the recently planted rice crop have been washed away, intensifying concern about a looming food crisis in the nation.

In partnership with Action by Churches Together (ACT) International, Episcopal Relief & Development is assisting in meeting the immediate concerns of families impacted by the disaster. People are in need of emergency food, clothing and shelter.

Episcopal Relief & Development is also responding to heavy rains that have been falling in northeast India since June 16. Many areas in the eastern states of Assam, Orissa and

West Bengal are flooded, leaving at least 93 people dead and close to 2.7 million negatively affected.

More than 1.5 million people have been displaced to government- run relief camps. That number is expected to increase as rescue operations continue. Rail and road transportation routes are severely affected in the three states, as well as in other neighboring states in northeast India.

In partnership with Church’s Auxiliary for Social Action (CASA), Episcopal Relief & Development is contributing to a feeding program for 1,500 families for a period of ten days. In addition, plastic sheets will be distributed to 1500 families to serve as temporary shelters.

“With increasing disasters in many parts of Asia, we are grateful to be able to rely on our international partnerships in supporting critical relief efforts in all corners of the continent,” said Nagulan Nesiah, Episcopal Relief & Development’s Program Associate, Asia.

To help people affected by disasters in Asia, please make a donation to Episcopal Relief & Development’s “Emergency Relief Fund” online at [www.er-d.org](http://www.er-d.org) , or call 1.800.334.7626, ext. 5129. Gifts can be mailed to: Episcopal Relief & Development “Emergency Relief Fund” P.O. Box 7058, Merrifield, VA 22116-7058.

Episcopal Relief & Development is the international relief and development agency of the Episcopal Church of the United States. As an independent 501(c) (3) organization, Episcopal Relief & Development takes its mandate from Jesus’ words found in Matthew 25. Its programs work towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Together with the worldwide Church and ecumenical partners, Episcopal Relief & Development strengthens communities today to meet tomorrow’s challenges. We rebuild after disasters and empower people by offering lasting solutions that fight poverty, hunger and disease, including HIV/AIDS and malaria.

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## **OUTREACH & SERVICE**

### **CHRIST CHURCH, KALISPELL**

#### **The Uganda 9**

Hi everyone!

We made it! We’re in Africa right now, and it’s so beautiful! Getting here was a long, tough battle! (Six air plane rides, 52 hours of lay overs, and as of right now 6 lost bags..

oh ya.. and no showers during that time!)

But the important thing is that we're here safe and sound. We stayed in an amazing hotel last night in Entebbe. They fed us an incredible breakfast of pineapples, bananas, mango juice and eggs... YUM! We also got to take cup showers out of a bucket of cold water... this adventure rocks! Currently we're in Kampala shopping and exchanging money. We get on a bus to go to Rakii this afternoon, about a 5 hour bus ride.

The people here are beautiful and amazing. We're all so excited to get to the orphanage and do some real work. We'll be there for 12 days, and then we head home. We'll be back in Spokane on the 14<sup>th</sup> of July, in Kalispell the 15<sup>th</sup>. Keep us in your prayers. Everyone's healthy and happy.

Much love

Janelle & Kristine

*The Uganda 9 is four adults and five youth on mission to Rikii, Uganda.*

*Last September, the Youth Group prayed, discerned and decided that they were called to go Africa. Nobody gave them any chance of raising the money.....the congregation's been tapped out over the years of Youth Events. Anyway, they\* persevered, got a real talking-to by Minister Janelle in March, and nine of them turned-to: working additional jobs, gobs of fundraisers, etc., etc., and finally some "angel" help. They are working with YWAM ["Youth With A Mission"]. They were commissioned on Sunday, June 22, at the Eucharist, went to LA for a week's mission training.....then to NY, then to Kampala, Uganda. I am sure we will receive photos and further updates...we'll keep you in the loop.....after all, we are a Looopy Congregation.*

*\* Youth Ministers Janelle Fuller and Kristine Stanfield; Youth Chauncey Allison, Steven Quade, Amber Blodgett, Charden Wood, Jaben Wood; Adult Missioners Colby & Eric Wood.*

*Bill, (The Rev. Bill Baumgarten, Vicar of Christ Church, Kalispell)  
(Definitely...definitely...a mission-minded group!)*

..... they're baaaaack! ☺ :

### **Uganda 9 Return from 2 Week Mission**

Nine members of Christ Church, Kalispell, recently returned from a two week mission to Rakii, Uganda.

Last September, Youth Ministers Janelle Fuller and Kristine Stanfield asked the Youth of Christ Church to discern how/where God was calling them into mission. Within three weeks, the Youth had discerned *Africa* and thus began a year's work:

- Prayer
- Planning
- Fundraising
- Preparation

The Youth contacted *Youth With A Mission* for planning and project: two weeks of mission work at a Christian orphanage in Rakii, Uganda. The entire year was filled with planning, sharing with the parish family, and fundraising, taking on extra work and jobs after school.

On Sunday, June 22, five youth and four adults were commissioned and their trip to Uganda began in earnest.

- Three days of training at YWAM in Los Angeles
- Flying to Uganda with a 2-day delay in New York
- Arrival in Kampala, then a five-hour bus trip to Rakii [with the leaders left in Kampala to await errant baggage!]

At the Orphanage/School, the Christ Church missionaries were met by 200 children/youth singing a rousing welcome.....and they went right to work.

Ministry included:

- Eric & son Jaben using slight-of-hand magic to present lessons on how God cares for us;
- Colby introducing *Godly Play* and leaving materials/know-how for 3 biblical stories; also, with all the others, lugging water day after day after day;
- Chauncey singing [this guy is *good!*] Camp Marshall songs and entralling the youngsters with his witnessing;
- Janelle, Kristine, Charden, Steve and Amber forming teams to teach the Gospel in a wide variety of ways: crafts, dance, drama, song, and their own stories.

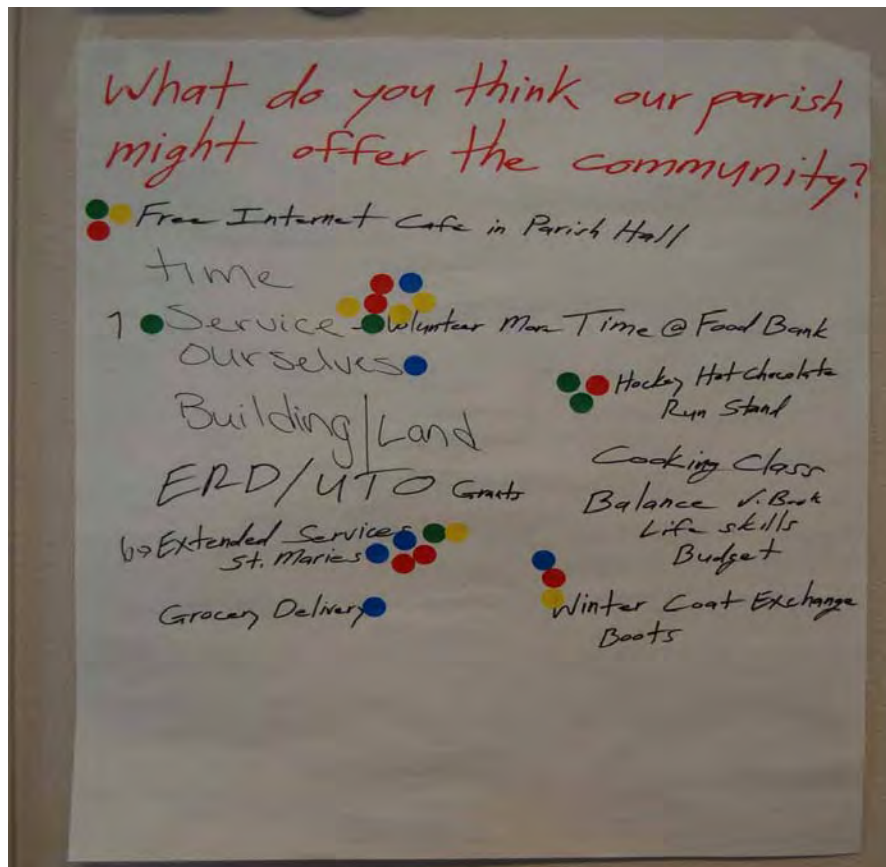
Fred, the remarkable Christian Pastor of the orphanage, arranged numerous times for the Missioners to share insights about Jesus, life in the United States, challenges American Youth face in being Christians. Pastor Fred remarked that our youth made a deep impression on the youngsters and faculty of the orphanage/school.

To a person, the *Uganda 9* spoke of the event as *completely changing how we look at life, at Christ, and the many things we take for granted in our country*. The Uganda Missioners will be presenting a program to the Senior High youth at Camp Marshall as well as developing venues to take out the message of the Christ they received and shared in Uganda.

Christ Church, Kalispell

## A New Outreach for St. Matthew's, Glasgow

Do you recognize the sign below?



It has been up in the Parish Hall since our retreat on April 25-26. On those two days we enjoyed the help of the Rev. Todd Young and his wife, Jolene, from Sheridan and Virginia City. They facilitated a program that began with a great barbeque at the Fays' house and ended with those attending answering the question on the sign below: "What do you think our parish might offer the community?" To get to that point, attendees had to ask themselves other questions, like: If this parish were not here, what would be missed? And what does the wider community need right now? And what are two personal hopes and wishes (for St. Matthew's)?

So what has happened since? Was it just another church meeting with nothing done? By no means, to borrow from St. Paul.

We have the bishop's approval to begin an ecumenical worship service at St. Marie. Our intent is one weekday evening a couple of times a month to start. Fr. Mike has written the liturgy and Alice Hawkins has volunteered to be in charge and lead the worship.

Fr. Mike has spoken with Terri James of the Valley County Office of Public Assistance who is in charge of the Food Bank, and is excited about the possibility of help. She says the most important issues facing the Food Bank are lack of food and lack of people who

are available, not just during Food Bank regular hours, but for emergencies as well. They are ready for anything we can give.

What we need now is a chairperson to serve as a contact point and get us going. People are hungry and we need to remember what Jesus said in Matthew 25: “Whatever you have done for the least of these..”

## **ST. JAMES, LEWISTOWN**

We are starting a new venture in mission!! For people who are looking for a private retreat, please consider coming to Lewistown and taking advantage of one of the three locations we have to offer:

1. Our primary spot is a lovely three bedroom, two storey home located about ten miles outside of town on the ranch of one of our parishioners. It is unoccupied but fully



furnished with everything you would need for a relaxing and quiet retreat. Even though it is in a secluded area where you can really “get away from everything” you still have all the amenities of “civilized living” and you are close enough to make coming into town an easy trip. It is also – as is nearly every place in

Lewistown – an easy drive to the mountains, lakes, and of course our premier trout stream. Besides the three bedrooms, living room, full kitchen, and dining room, the house sports a wonderful fully screened porch where you can relax, read or just enjoy the beauty of God’s creation.

2. If you are more adventurous and enjoy really “roughing it” another of our parishioners has made her property available for anyone wanting to spend some time up in the Judith Mountains. This site is primitive with no accoutrements other than what God has provided – the beauty of nature all around you. You would need to provide everything you might need for your stay – especially a tent or a sleeping bag if you prefer to just lay out under the stars. Again, you would be close enough to easily come into town for whatever you might need – including meals if you didn’t want to cook out all the time.
3. If being in a more remote spot is not appealing to you, you might want to take advantage of the small suite/apartment that is upstairs in the rectory, located right in Lewistown. There is a bedroom, full bathroom, and small sitting room upstairs which provides a measure of privacy while still having access to the rectory kitchen, office area and living room. You are close enough to walk down to the church for quiet meditation

or even to the downtown area with all its unique shops and eating establishments. Our wonderful walking path, which circles the town, is just right across the street from the rectory front door.

The need for having a time for reflection and a place where you can move out of the normal routine to build that closer relationship with God is something each of us should consider. Here at St. James we have been blessed with these wonderful gifts, of these special places, and we want to offer others an opportunity to enjoy and make use of them as well. If you are interested in taking advantage of any of our retreat accommodations and would like more information, please contact Rev. Jane Smith at 406-535-9162 or by e-mail at: [the4wind@midrivers.com](mailto:the4wind@midrivers.com).

### **CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FIRST DIESENROTH AWARD WINNER**

The first recipient of the Pat and Malcolm Diesenroth Award—given for a parish effort to preserve and tell its history—has been awarded to St. James Church, Lewistown, Montana, for the special project undertaken by member Mary Jean Golden of Lewistown, and her parish priest, the Rev. Jane Smith.

"St. James is a small church with 22 members and a 100 year history. They are having a hard time but are pursuing their dream with a great deal of pluck," said Eleanor Smith, EWHP grants chair.

They are gathering the special stories of their people—women like Cherry Stapleton, 91 years old, who tells stories of a fascinating life as an Army Air Force nurse in WWII (she still sings in the community choir and had sung in the St. John the Divine Choir in New York City when she was a student at Julliard). Mary Jean, a writer, (her published story on St. James' 100th anniversary was called "The Little Stone Church That Got Plastered") is researching World War II nurses. She is also encouraging church members to research the nine women who were responsible for the church's founding. Her current goal is finding creative ways to get Cherry started on her life story by giving her themes and "assignments".

To preserve and share these stories, the church needs a tape recorder, video equipment if possible and some help in making the church's Guild Hall operational for such events as "story telling". Their plan is to use the award money in ways that will help them on their way to collecting and sharing their stories. As important as the writing is, both women believe, is the telling—a calling to which both are dedicated. It was apparent in the wording of the response to the grant that what St. James lacks in membership, it makes up for with enthusiasm for the preservation of the history of church and community. Timelines congratulates this effort.

From TIMELINES, The Newsletter of the Episcopal Women's History Project  
Volume XXVII No. 4, Winter 2008

## **Congregational Development Committee**

By: Barb Hagen

On May 30 and 31, the Christian Stewardship Committee and Commission on Mission Planning Commission met together to discuss our similar missions and how we can better serve the people of the diocese.

We decided to combine the two committees and are now called the, "Congregational Development Committee."

We will continue to work with congregations to help them develop a vision and to wisely use their resources of time, talent, and treasure to make that vision a reality.

We will be contacting clergy and congregations to find out how we can help you.

The committee members are:

The Rev. Judy Anderson  
Geri Campbell  
The Rev. Mike Fay  
The Rev. Glen Gleaves  
Barb Hagen (staff)  
The Rev. Randy Pendergraft  
The Rev. Jane Smith  
Daryl Todd  
The Rev. Valerie Webster  
Suzanne Wilson  
Joelene Young  
The Rev. Todd Young

If you would like more information, please call me at 800-247-1391 or email [mtbizmgr@qwestoffice.net](mailto:mtbizmgr@qwestoffice.net)

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## People of Faith Awards

The Montana Association of Churches joins in celebrating the ministry of lay persons in Montana churches who live out their faith in exemplary ways in their congregation and community

### **Nominate Your Hero or Heroine of Faith TODAY!**

The Montana Association of Churches wishes to celebrate men and women of faith in Montana. This recognition is a wonderful way to thank the one who inspired you.

### **What To Do**

Simply complete the details about you and your Hero or Heroine of Faith including his/her age category. **On a separate piece of paper tell us several ways you have observed this individual putting their faith into practice.**

Each year a special committee will select award recipients from those nominated. Criteria included in the committee's consideration will be persons who have lived out their faith in witness and service. This award honors individuals whose faithfulness, compassion, or efforts to bring reconciliation to churches and community have inspired others. Mail your statements with this nomination form by **August 15** to:

**Montana Association of Churches  
525 South Ewing, Suite 408  
Helena, MT 59601**

Category: \_\_\_\_\_ **YOUTH** (ages 15-25)    \_\_\_\_\_ **SAINTS** (ages 26-65)    \_\_\_\_\_ **SAGES** (ages 66+)

About your Hero/Heroine of Faith:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City and Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Congregation: \_\_\_\_\_

About you:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City and Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Congregation: \_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTIONS?    Call (406) 449-6010**

**Email: [macexecutivedirector@montana-churches.net](mailto:macexecutivedirector@montana-churches.net)**

**SUBMIT YOUR NOMINATION FORM AND PAPERS ON OR BEFORE**

**AUGUST 15, 2008**

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR LIVING OUR CHRISTIAN FAITH

On June 27-28 the diocese sponsored a training day by nationally-certified trainers in anti-racism. These sessions were open to all people, but especially encouraged were congregational leaders, members of the Diocesan Council, and the Standing Committee.

The Resolutions of past General Conventions laid down expectations that delegates and alternates to General Convention would have this training in preparation for their Convention work, even though no one was absolutely required to attend.

All members of the Diocese have the opportunity to sample this important aspect of living our Christian Faith in the context of our respective communities. We have people trained in anti-racism issues who are very excited to take an abbreviated training to congregations or other groups in our diocese. There is already one deanery which has scheduled one such event in September. We are eager to help you explore how we all might be more loving and compassionate with people whose ethnicity and culture differ from our own.

The training we offer can be accomplished in one day, even allowing for travel to and from the event. That is how we have designed these times to come together to learn more about ourselves, our attitudes, and our neighbors.

If you have questions or want to schedule a training time, contact the Rev. Canon Maurice Champion-Garthe (“Mo”) at 800.247.1391, or [mtcto@qwestoffice.net](mailto:mtcto@qwestoffice.net).



# MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

VITAL MINISTRY IN RESORT AND RECREATIONAL SETTINGS:  
Proclaiming the Gospel in a Hyperconsumer, Vacation Mindset Society

October 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2008

The Keystone Lodge, Summit County, Colorado



## Why Resort Ministry is Unique

Ministering to God's people in resort and recreational communities is uniquely rewarding and challenging all in the same breath.

Whether for an afternoon jaunt or for a lifetime, people come to these one-of-a-kind places to be refreshed and renewed - to bask in God's creation on the mountaintop, in the swiftly moving water, on the face of a steep rock, or along the winding trail. Yet often we may find in the very same places a low receptivity to matters of faith: an individualism that may supersede the need for church. Identity, choice, and hospitality all play a role and may look very different from place to place.

In response to these challenges, the Episcopal Diocese of Colorado, with generous support from the Roanridge Trust, is pleased to offer this event as an opportunity to begin a remarkable conversation about the role of the Church in these evolving and distinctive communities.

This will be an opportunity to:

- ✦ Produce profiles for effective and creative ministry in resort/recreational areas, pulling from the wisdom of those gathered as well as other resources;
- ✦ Network with other leaders, building connections throughout the wider Church; and
- ✦ Participate in producing a lasting record of insights about the challenges that face the wider Church in today's cultural context, with special emphasis on how these challenges tend to be amplified in resort/recreational areas.

We invite you to read on, and to [register today](#). Then plan to join us in beautiful Summit County, Colorado, in October. For more information, please go to [www.resortministry.org](http://www.resortministry.org).

We look forward to seeing you!