

The e-Vangel

A Monthly Summary of Diocesan Outreach and Service Activities

March 2008



Trinity, Jeffers; The Rev. Karen Hall

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BISHOP BROOKHART'S EASTER MESSAGE:

The mystery of the resurrection of our Lord---that is what we celebrate during the fifty days of Easter. We lift up the stunning news that God has raised Jesus from the dead so that Christ is now alive, now beyond the power of death, now is the Victor over all the forces of evil. Easter says that Jesus is the last word on life, not death and decay.

This is a mystery. In the language of the church this means that the resurrection is a truth that we can know and explore, but can never fully grasp or understand. It is a fact that grasps us more than a set of propositions that we grasp by the exercise of our minds.

The resurrection calls us to live beyond the usual categories of the mind or the normal set of emotions we feel. In Baptism, God has transferred us from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of light, and God has joined us to the resurrection of Christ. We share fully in the new life of our Lord. While we cannot understand or feel our way into this, we can choose by an act of the will to step into the new reality of resurrection. We choose to act as if it is true, and in so doing we experience that it is, in fact, true. We begin to know that Christ is the Victor, and that nothing can separate us from the life and love of the Lord.

My prayer for our diocese is that we choose to live in the new reality of the resurrection, that we step out in trust and learn that the Lord lives. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

+Franklin



OUTREACH AND SERVICE:

BELIZE MISSION TRIP

By Samar Fay

Many reasons for a mission trip

The thin old woman gently wraps her brown arms around the doctor's neck and gives him a hug.

"God bless you," she says in a whispery voice.

The orthopedist from Montana (the Rev. Dr. Mike Fay) blinks and accepts the hug. He is beginning to realize that the practice of medicine is different in Belize. It is his first mission trip. He is learning.

Forty-five people made up the mission to Belize this January, the largest group yet to be shepherded by the Rev. Peter Kalunian and his wife, Kathy. It is the tenth year they have led the mostly Episcopal missions to the former British colony tucked under Mexico's Yucatan peninsula. Belize is known for the great diving and snorkeling in its barrier reef, the second largest in the world, after the one in Australia.

These people haven't come for that. Their week is spent in the coastal town of Dangriga, in the poor southern part of the country. It's hot and humid compared to the weather in the Washington state Dioceses of Olympia and Spokane, where most of them are from. It's absolutely sweltering for the little group of five from the Diocese of Montana.

The trip has three goals. About half of the people are medical: seven doctors, 12 nurses, two EMTs and a dentist. One doctor and one EMT are also priests. They set up shop in borrowed space in Dangriga's Southern Regional Hospital and field everything that comes along. The population has a high incidence of diabetes, dental problems, musculo-skeletal complaints, HIV/AIDS, obesity and hypertension.

A half-dozen men are on the construction crew. This year their task is to replace the rotting roof on the seaward side of Christ the King Anglican School, a long concrete block building right on the edge of the Caribbean Sea. The salty wind pokes its fingers under the fascia and rusts out the nails. Last year they built the computer lab at St. Matthew's Anglican School in Pomona.

One man sets up 12 laptop computers at Christ the King School and teaches some older students how to install the software. The schools are acutely aware that computer literacy is necessary for the success of their students. During this week, the Rt. Rev. Philip Wright, Bishop of Belize, dedicates the computer lab with 16 stations at St. Matthew's.

Another 15 or so, ranging in age from young teenagers to retired people, are listed as helpers. Some are children or spouses of other volunteers on the trip. They lead patients from the triage area outside the hospital to the doctor they are directed to see. They dispense medications from the supply of donated drugs that the group

brought with them. They translate for Spanish-speaking patients and solve computer problems. They screen blue-uniformed children in the two Episcopal schools and stay with them while they are at the hospital.

Father Peter, the rector of the Church of the Resurrection in Bellevue, Washington, lists himself as a helper. It's more seemly than founder, head honcho or cultural liaison, all of which are true. His wife, Kathy, a nurse educator, is his co-equal on the trip, the one who organizes the clinic, decides the locations of doctors, assigns nurses to doctors and other functions. Their work in Central America started with a friendship. Father Peter went to the Church Divinity School of the Pacific in Berkeley with a man who became the Bishop of Belize. When Bishop Silvester Romero came to see his son installed as a youth minister, the two priests renewed their acquaintance. "Why don't you come to Belize", the bishop said.

Father Peter accepted the offer and went to Belize City, the country's largest city, with a little group that repaired the bishop's derelict guest house. He enjoyed the visit and the country. ("I'm comfortable with the language. It's English.") The next year they made their way to Dangriga.



On the first day of clinic, there are 400 people waiting outside the hospital. They are a moving sea of all the races in this Caribbean country, the Mayan and Arawak Indian, African and Spanish ancestors that have mingled and produced groups called Mestizo, Kriol and Garifuna, proud of their heritage. Many speak only Spanish or Mayan. They don't have tidy medical records and X-rays with them.

These are people with no regular preventive medical care, so they have conditions that American hospitals don't see much, like congenital rickets.

While the first-timers gape, the experienced members of the mission wade in and begin triage, taking medical histories with translation help from bystanders, separating out urgent cases, sending people to the ENT or the urologist or the general practitioner.

By the end of the week, the medical team has treated about 750 patients and performed various surgeries on OR tables repaired by the construction crew.

More than \$20,000 in medicines, equipment and supplies were donated to the hospital by civic clubs, hospitals, medical supply companies, a computer company and members of the mission. Five Episcopal churches in the Dioceses of Olympia and Spokane provided over \$5,000 for the construction team.

The motives for taking time off from work, paying for plane tickets and hotel, and swallowing anti-malarial pills to make this trip are myriad.

Joelene Young, a Certified Medical Assistant from Sheridan, Montana read about the mission to Belize in the newsletter of the Diocese of Spokane, where they used to live. Her husband, the Rev. Todd Young, is the rector of Christ Church in Sheridan, and St. Paul's in Virginia City. This is the second year that Joelene and their daughter, 14-year-old Cece, have made the trip.



“It sounded good four or five years ago but we couldn’t go then, with Todd in seminary,” Joelene Young said. “I just wanted mission work in general. One drive is to go abroad and vaccinate children.” She said her daughter was interested in the mission from the beginning, although the trip was candy-coated with the prospect of visiting Mayan ruins. Last year, while Joelene

triaged patients outside in the rain, Cece was a “gopher” in the hospital, running errands as needed. Now Cece thinks her whole school should do construction projects, because these people need help and we’re better off than they are. She may have convinced her art teacher to come next year.

One last reason to make this trip, according to Young: “There is no better place to be in January than spending a week where it’s warm.”

That’s a pleasure to revel in for the short while it lasts. The temperature in Montana when they returned was 100 degrees colder than it had been in Belize.

Dawn Thrasher, an EMT and retired special Ed teacher from Troy, is here for the first time. A former law enforcement dispatcher, a CPR instructor and the wife of a police officer, Thrasher has spent a lifetime in occupations of service.



“I heard Joelene give a talk at a workshop. I said I was going and I’m here!” Thrasher said. “I’ve always wanted to go on a medical mission.”

“I’m having a wonderful time. I feel like I’m making a difference,” said Dr. Michael Fay, a recently retired orthopedist who is the priest at St. Matthew’s Episcopal

Church in Glasgow. "I'm exhausted but I feel good about it. I haven't worked so hard in years. I see 30 patients every day."

Fay was accompanied by his wife, Samar, a newspaper editor, who took notes and photos for diocesan newsletter stories, and was a gopher as well.

Fay celebrated mass at two outlying Anglican churches on Sunday, before donning scrubs in the hospital on Monday. He said he enjoyed blessing so many children at St. Matthew's in Pomona, and encouraging the congregation to sing more verses at St. Jerome's, a thatch-roofed, open-sided church on the beach sand at Hopkins.

For Father Peter, it's not about helping others. Yes, the mission gives medical care. Yes, well-off Americans come to understand life in a place that doesn't have everything that we do. But in a fairly blunt statement about the value of service he said, "We come here to be helped."

The emotional peak of this trip was early in the week. The work was winding down on Tuesday afternoon, through with taking basic medical information from hundreds of patient people, the blood pressure cuff, and the finger stick for a diabetes test. Many of the volunteers were in the conference room that doubled as pharmacy, locker room and gathering place. A message crackled over everyone's two-way radio, set to channel 5: Trauma coming into the ER. The trained emergency room nurses who had been draped over chairs rose straight up, adrenaline flaring.

Six ER nurses, women and men barely acquainted with each other, made themselves into a team as they awaited whatever came through the door. It was a real mass casualty that would have overwhelmed any community hospital, seven severely injured people. Their pickup was hit by a big truck about 20 miles out of Dangriga. Working in a chaotic ER, without the ventilators, heart monitors and everything they take for granted at home, the American doctors and nurses merged with the Belizean staff to give the best they could. Three patients were stabilized and flown to Belize City by military airplane, thanks to the persuasions of the ER chief, a Nigerian doctor. One child was DOA and one person died in Belize City. The others survived because a medical mission was visiting that week.

Father Peter called a debriefing after dinner that night. Everyone needed to talk out what they had experienced.

His pastoral words were adapted from a familiar passage in Matthew 25: 'Lord, when did I give you water? When did I feed you? When did I heal you? Whatever you did for one of the least of these, you did for me'.

It is good to cry together on a hot night on a concrete roof in a strange city, when the Gospel moves you.

More photos at: http://s245.photobucket.com/albums/gg42/Belize_2008/

CHRIST CHURCH, KALISPELL

God is Good...

So I am sitting at the Y.W.A.M. (Youth With A Mission) base on Saturday night, February 16th absolutely amazed at God's goodness. I am helping Kristine pack for her mission trip to Italy and Croatia that leaves in about 8 hours. Her group was going to get on the plane tomorrow morning still owing \$17,000 for their trip. But they weren't worried. They were going in complete faith with no doubt that God would provide. Well, provide he did!!! About 45 minutes ago, an anonymous person donated ALL their remaining money. All seventeen thousand dollars! WOW WOW WOW! God is so amazing.

I write this because I just love stories that remind us of what a loving and supportive Father we have. "Ask and you shall receive." I also write because I KNOW WITHOUT A DOUBT that God will also provide the youth group's financial needs for our mission trip to Uganda this coming June.

For those of you that don't know, our youth group is going to Uganda from June 22nd-July 14th, 2008. We are going with a group called Missions Adventures, which is a break-off of Y.W.A.M. There are about seven youth and five adults going. We are going to work in orphanages and lead some sports camps and vacation Bible Schools. This has been a dream of our group for a few years, and we are beyond excited at this opportunity.

Our group wants to change the world, and this is just one of many ways we hope to do that. The price tag for this life changing trip is high, about \$40,000. And in all reality, that's a lot of money to raise in the remaining four months we have. However, as I've just personally witnessed, God can do ANYTHING! One of the ways we're raising money is selling raffle tickets to win a '94 Ford Explorer donated by Greg Scarff. (His generosity is astounding... thanks Greg!) We're selling tickets for \$2.00, and we are of course hopeful that this will bring in much of our money. The drawing will be on June 8, 2008. I ask for your continued prayers for this trip. I want this trip to inspire our young people to come back home and use whatever they've learned to change the world here. If you're led to donate financially, make checks out to Christ Church youth group, AFRICA, and send to Christ Church Episcopal/Attn: Sassi, 215 3rd Ave. East Kalispell, MT 59901.

Whatever you're going through, whatever you may be struggling with, God hears you and loves you. Even when you seem alone, be assured that you are not.

How blessed are we to belong to such an amazing family. God bless you this day,

Janelle D. Fuller

ST. JAMES', DILLON

Camp Marshall and Grace Camp

On Camp Marshall Sunday, February 24, 2008, St. James of Dillon, as part of their outreach ministry, **donated \$915** to the programs. Praise the Lord!

Episcopal Relief and Development

On Episcopal Relief and Development Sunday, February 10, 2008, St. James of Dillon, as part of their outreach ministry, **donated \$675** to the program. Praise the Lord!

Exciting Vestry News

Praise God! A truck (for use by the head Wood Chuck) was donated by **Dennis Holschbach** to St. James' Wood Bank Ministry: 1984 Chevy $\frac{3}{4}$ ton 4 wheel drive long box.

Two outstanding St. James women were nominated for the Jaycees Woman of the Year award: **Millie Brown** and **Dorothy Remely**.

Senior Warden, **Barbara Boyce**

(Ed. note: Not Outreach or Service, not Financial or Stewardship, nor Episcopal Relief and Development, just a heartwarming true story from parishioner Joan Howe of St. Paul's of the Stillwater in the Yellowstone Cluster):

"Teachings from Christopher"

As hard as it is for me to believe, Christopher has just about three months of school left. I did not realize Kindergarten would be such a learning experience for both Christopher and me, but yesterday it was once again me who learned.

Kindergarten parents wait on the bench inside the school lobby for their children to be dismissed. While waiting yesterday, another parent told me they had seen Christopher and another little boy waiting to speak with the principal. My nature, it seems, is to assume the worst so I sat there unnerved. Sure enough when the class was dismissed his teacher called Christopher, the other little boy, the principal, and me back into the classroom. The events were not what I had imagined, indeed an injustice had been done to Christopher and the other little boy was asked to apologize. The other little boy shook Christopher's hand and told him he was "sorry". But then Christopher without any prompting hugged him and you could see relief flood the little boy's face.

Forgiveness in a hug – simple and without any fanfare, but two little boys left the building smiling and talking of the next time they would get together. And a mother left realizing once again that life is about waiting, watching, and learning, and not about assuming.

Joan Howe

EPISCOPAL RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT:

An Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) Milestone

By Barb Hagen

It all began in 2004. Every year, the ERD Network meets and brings together diocesan coordinators from all over the country. We learn about what is new with ERD and discuss new ways to share information in our diocese about ERD. We were strongly encouraged at that meeting to visit our churches and talk with people in the congregations about ERD. Prior to that meeting, we had discussed making church visits, but in 2004, it became clear that we were to get out there and just do it!

I didn't want to do this. I had read in my church (scary) and had talked with them a little bit about ERD, but not in an official, sermon-giving way. And, that was scary enough.

But, being the compliant person I am, I sent a letter to the clergy offering to visit their churches and talk about ERD. I didn't think anyone would be interested. I thought to myself, I can just say, "Well, I tried and they didn't want to invite me and I can't force myself on their congregation." And, that would be that. I wouldn't have to worry about it any longer.

The *day* after I sent out the letter, I had a response from the Rev. John Toles, Vicar of the Pintler Cluster (Anaconda, Deer Lodge, and Philipsburg). He asked, "Do you want to visit all three of my churches or just one?"

Gulp.

I said, "I'll visit all three. Thanks for asking!" I hung up and my heart raced and I wondered what I had done and realized that now, I really had to do this. Fortunately, I remembered I did not have to do it alone.

I sent a panicked email to our ERD Network Director and asked her to pray for me. I had resources from ERD staff. I had sermon samples and lots of great information from the ERD website.

My first visit was on Halloween and the first church was St. James in Deer Lodge. They were welcoming and kind and were interested in what I had to say. I know I was nervous, but they helped me to just do it!

Fast forward now to March 5, 2008. On that day, I visited St. Patrick's in Bigfork. With that visit, I have spoken in (almost) every church in Montana about ERD. (note: I have not yet visited the newly formed All Saints in Columbia Falls, but I did visit the two congregations that merged to form All Saints. I haven't visited the fellowships at White Sulfur Springs, Seeley Lake, or the community churches in Gardiner or Birney. Nor have I visited the Native American group, Togendowagen that meets at St. Peter's.) Some of our churches (like the Pintler cluster); I've visited every year since 2004. I hope to continue visiting churches, and would like to visit the fellowships and community churches as well.

This milestone would not have been met without you. I have been blessed to sit in your congregations and worship with your church families. I have usually been welcomed, loved, and greeted warmly. I want to thank you for inviting me into your churches and into your lives. It has been a tremendous privilege and I am so grateful to you for challenging me in this way and allowing me the room to grow into this new role. I am especially thankful to the Bishop for his support (he has read every sermon I've ever written), to my priest, Brenda McLellan for her endless encouragement (especially since I am gone so much from my own church family), and to John Toles who was the first to call.

Most of all, I thank you all for your support of the work of ERD. That is what it is about - changing the world and making it a better place is what we do through ERD and I thank you for your part in that ministry.

Faithfully,

Barb Hagen
Diocesan Coordinator
Episcopal Relief and Development

ERD Information for Montana

From: Barb Hagen

In last month's E-vangel I mentioned the ERD Parish Reps. I asked them in early February what they were doing to share information about ERD in their churches. They are doing a lot!

What we are doing in 2008 to promote ERD:

For ERD Sunday and During Lent:

- ✚ Used Hope Chests and Gifts for Life catalog with the youth. A notice was sent to the parents and the children were asked to save a portion of their allowance or do extra chores to earn money. The money was then put into the Hope Chest and the kids decided how they wanted to use the money to help needy children using *Gifts for Life* catalog.
- ✚ Gave out Hope Chests and the ERD Lenten devotionals on Ash Wednesday
- ✚ Diocesan Coordinator spoke at our congregations on ERD Sunday and focused on the malaria nets.
- ✚ Used MDG stations of the cross and ERD Prayers of the People
- ✚ Forty five minutes into the service, talked about how 90 children had died of malaria in that time.
- ✚ Reviewed MDG list and distributed copies of Lenten booklet
- ✚ Handed out ERD prayer cards
- ✚ Held ERD Sunday instead on February 17 and invited Diocesan Coordinator to church and to the congregation's outreach meeting and luncheon. Committee determined that ERD would be the focal point for outreach for 2008.
- ✚ Shared information two Sundays before ERD Sunday letting people know that February 10 was ERD Sunday and that they could make a special offering and that undesignated gifts would be directed to ERD.
- ✚ Distributed Lenten booklets
- ✚ Used the Prayers of the People, had envelopes available for people to send their donations directly to ERD.
- ✚ Announcements in the bulletins and made announcements about it prior to and on February 10.
- ✚ Made announcements about ERD Sunday and took up a special collection.
- ✚ Handed out the Lenten books and asked people to contribute what they were comfortable with.
- ✚ Announcements about ERD Sunday and the devotional booklets.
- ✚ Talked about it during announcements and raised \$114.12 on ERD Sunday.

What we have done during the year to share information about ERD:

- ❖ Send ERD emails to parishioners and friends of the congregation.
- ❖ Cite outreach examples of ERD in sermons when appropriate.
- ❖ ERD information is prominently posted at the church, with information available for people to take home.
- ❖ The vestry discusses different groups requesting donations. ERD is a priority.
- ❖ We had a Women's night out potluck and pooled the money we would have spent on gifts and food and instead raised over \$300 for Gifts for Life.
- ❖ Make ERD a regular part of charitable donations, to honor a birthday or as a memorial.
- ❖ Monthly article in the newsletter.
- ❖ Use the *Gifts for Life* catalogs.

- ❖ Forward ERD emails received to others in the congregation.
- ❖ Include the Barbara Crafton meditation in the Bulletin and the newsletter.
- ❖ During Advent, shared that gifts could be given in another's name at Christmas and that the proceeds would help a family in a developing country. Shared Gifts for Life Catalogs.
- ❖ Vestry voted to give .07% of the church budget for the Millennium Development Goals Inspiration Fund. This was announced to the parish through the bulletin and parish news letter and the annual meeting.
- ❖ Birthday offerings during the course of the year are given to ERD for the MDGs.
- ❖ Maintain a bulletin board in the parish hall with the ERD postings so people can see what ERD is doing throughout the world and in response to crises.
- ❖ Table near the bulletin board that holds ERD materials and offering envelopes.
- ❖ Purchased a cow as part of the "Diocesan Cow Challenge."
- ❖ *Gifts for Life* catalogs available and many people (especially grandparents) used this as an alternative type of Christmas giving.
- ❖ Used the ERD placemats at the Lenten potlucks.
- ❖ Used Bishop's blend coffee as a fundraiser for youth
- ❖ Updated bulletin board with information about ERD.
- ❖ Fielded questions about *Gifts for Life* Catalog.
- ❖ Talked about ERD during announcement time and put information in bulletins.
- ❖ Flyers and information on display table with African Team Ministries crafts for sale.
- ❖ Share information from ERD emails during coffee hour.
- ❖ Purchased a cow.
- ❖ Made regular announcements about ERD and gave updates to the congregation.
- ❖ Kept current ERD info on the bulletin board.
- ❖ Used the Gifts for Life catalogs and Lenten devotional booklets.
- ❖ Notified congregation about new needs where ERD can help as soon as the needs arose.
- ❖ Attended Ministry of Administration Workshop in the diocese and learned more about MDGs.
- ❖ Used bulletin inserts, posters, boxes, and handouts.
- ❖ Made announcements to the congregation about ERD.
- ❖ Post mailings on bulletin board.
- ❖ Encouraged use of the catalog.
- ❖ Raised \$375 toward a cow.
- ❖ Put up posters in the parish hall.
- ❖ Went to all three of the church services and talked about ERD.

- ❖ Prayer.
- ❖ Church sends monthly outreach funds to ERD.
- ❖ Sunday School children collected funds during Advent to purchase 12 mosquito nets.
- ❖ Tried to incorporate more information about MDGs.
- ❖ Raised \$1007 for cow and clinics, ducks, share of a pig, flock of chickens, seeds, and malaria net.
- ❖ Invited the Diocesan Coordinator to do an Adult Forum at our church.
- ❖ Bucket on the table at coffee hour for donations.
- ❖ ERD brochures are available at all times in the parish hall.
- ❖ Vestry makes ERD a priority.
- ❖ MDG magnets on church refrigerator.
- ❖ Used bulletin inserts, posters, boxes and handouts in our common room.
- ❖ Visited New Orleans last year and shared information and pictures.
- ❖ Used bulletin inserts.
- ❖ Spoke during announcement time about efforts from ERD.
- ❖ Our priest used the MDGs in sermons.
- ❖ Asked for money to promote MDGs as our monthly outreach for plate and designated checks.

Plans for 2008:

- Give Hope Chests and Lenten devotionals at the Ash Wednesday service, use funds to purchase items from the *Gifts for Life* catalog.
- Promote *Gifts for Life* Catalogs in the fall for Christmas presents.
- Utilize forums and the parish newsletter to share information about ERD.
- Hoping to have a spaghetti dinner and youth event to raise awareness for ERD.
- Include more info about ERD in our newsletter.
- Invite the Diocesan Coordinator back to our church.
- Plan to use more posters.
- Hope our new priest has fresh ideas about ERD.
- Provide information and education regarding all aspects of ERD.
- Go to Camp Coast Care and volunteer.
- Emphasize the MDGs even more.
- Use the Bishop's Blend coffee as a fundraiser for our youth.
- Promote the Gifts for Life on-line catalog this spring – great ideas for gifts for Mother's Day, Father's Day, graduations, weddings etc.

New things we tried in 2007:

- ✓ Invited the Diocesan Coordinator to speak at our church.
- ✓ Made more out of the alternative Christmas shopping with the Gifts for Life catalog.
- ✓ ERD Sunday the first Sunday in Lent was new this year. We normally focus on ERD throughout all of Lent and then collect the funds at Easter. The timing did not work well for our congregation and we think that we

will raise less money doing it this way. We also had a diocesan conflict that month for Camp Marshall Sunday. We will think about having ERD Sunday at another time next year.

I thank the ERD Parish Reps (listed below) for their work and dedication to ERD.

If there is no rep for your congregation and you are interested in being a part of this ministry, please let me know. There are many ways it can be done, so please be in touch with me, either by email mtbizmgr@gwestoffice.net or by calling 800-247-1391.

**Episcopal Relief and Development
Parish Coordinator**

<u>Church</u>	<u>Rep Name</u>
St. Paul's of the Stillwater - Absarokee	Marilyn Simmons
St. Mark's - Anaconda	<i>vacant</i>
St. Mark's - Big Timber	Mary Jo Engle
St. Patrick's – Bigfork	Nancy Potoczny
St. Christopher's - Big Sky	Ellie Nolan
St. Luke's - Billings	Jolene Harriman
	Dr. Laura Rathe
	Bob Burris
St. Stephen's – Billings	<i>vacant</i>
St. James' - Bozeman	Joan Coffin
St. John's - Butte	Jim Fay
All Saints - Columbia Falls	Cynthia Benkelman
	Bea Bott
St. James' - Deer Lodge	Joann Nelson
St. James' - Dillon	Carol Meacham
St. John's - Emigrant	Eileen Story
St. Michael & All Angels - Eureka	Mary Lou Peterson
Ascension – Forsyth	Sue Adams
St. Paul's - Fort Benton	<i>vacant</i>
St. Matthew's - Glasgow	<i>vacant</i>
St. Matthew's – Glendive	Mike Archdale
Incarnation - Great Falls	Vi Stahlecker
St. Paul's - Hamilton	Mary Lyn
St. Mark's - Havre	Carol Reifschneider
Church of the Nativity – Helena	Barb Hagen
St. Peter's - Helena	Ann Dooling
Trinity - Jeffers/Ennis	Cam Leach
Our Savior's - Joliet	Doris Spaulding
Christ Church - Kalispell	Patty Basko
St. Alban's - Laurel	Mary Lou Hatfield

St. James' - Lewistown
St. Luke's - Libby
St. Andrew's - Livingston

Gethsemane – Manhattan
Emmanuel - Miles City
Holy Spirit - Missoula
St. Andrew's – Philipsburg
St. Andrew's - Polson
Calvary - Red Lodge
Christ Church - Sheridan
St. Stephen's - Stevensville
St. John's - Townsend
Holy Trinity - Troy
St. Paul's - Virginia City

Gail Gransbery
Betty Cooper
Donna Pace
Piksyaki Stringfellow
The Rev. Valerie Webster
Linda Stoler
Judy Parock
Judy Bohrnsen
John Laimbeer
vacant
vacant
Mary Beth Henningfeld
Frances Etwiler
Dale Smith
vacant

Cowboy's Ten Commandments

1. Just one God.
2. Honor yer Ma & Pa.
3. No tellin' tales or gossipin'.
4. Git yourself to Sunday meetin'.
5. Put nothin' before God.
6. No foolin' around with another fella's gal.
7. No killin'.
8. Watch yer mouth.
9. Don't take what ain't yers.
10. Don't be hankerin' for yer buddy's stuff.

Courtesy of St. James', Dillon Vine & Branches Newsletter

FINANCE NEWS

Simple Abundance, A Day Book of Comfort and Joy

By Sarah Ban Breathnach

Another step toward financial serenity is taking on a "Silent Partner" with a vested interest in your prosperity. This is done through tithing: returning a portion of your wealth to the work of Spirit. When you tithe, you acknowledge and honor the true Source of your supply. Tithing is an ancient spiritual tradition and a universal prosperity

law used by the great wealthy civilizations—Egyptians, Babylonians, Chinese, Greeks, and Romans—to ensure abundance.

Unless you were raised in a spiritual tradition that honors tithing, such as Judaism, and Mormonism, you may be unfamiliar with the practice and uncertain about what it involves. Understanding how tithing works metaphysically helps skeptics become more open to the ways in which its practice can enrich our lives. Spiritual law, no matter which path, tells us as we give, so shall we receive. We realize that money is a form of energy. Energy does not increase if it's hoarded. Energy must circulate freely for power to be released. When we receive an increase of money in our lives, giving away a portion of that money keeps the channels of abundance circulating freely, as Spirit intended.

On a practical level, tithing allows us to express our thanksgiving with action. Returning some of the material good we receive is a tangible demonstration of trust. But also tithing changes our attitudes about money. We become expectant, anticipating the best. We've kept our part of the bargain. Now that we are givers, we can ready ourselves to receive.

Tithing will make you more magnetic to money, whether you believe it or not. The mechanics of tithing involve taking one-tenth of all money you receive, from earnings, gifts, or interest on savings and investments—and regularly donating it to the church, temple, mosque, or other spiritual organization that inspires, uplifts, and encourages your personal growth. If there isn't one, your tithe can be given to a nonprofit organization that carries on Spirit's work in the world, caring for those unable to care for themselves—the sick, the hungry, and the homeless. This is how I tithe. But each woman should consult her own heart.

My experience with tithing on the Simple Abundance path has been erratic but amazing. When I tithe, I experience more financial serenity than when I don't. The money seems to stretch further or my expenses diminish. When I tithe I'm able to save more with ease, and new moneymaking opportunities arrive, often unsolicited. The floodgates of heaven do shower me with blessings, although I've not yet reached the point at which I can't find room for more.

When I don't tithe, I'm not struck down, but I do start to worry about money. There seem to be longer stretches between bank deposits and more unexpected expenses, which always end up costing me more than the amount my tithe would have been. So I know it's time to write a check. Wait and watch what happens. Very quickly, the ebb recedes and the flow begins again. Coincidence?

Some people say if you don't have enough money to spare, it's just as good to tithe your time or goods. It's been my discovery that when I tithe time, I receive more time. When I tithe goods, I receive gifts. If I want more money in my life, I tithe money.

When we're in great financial straits, we think we can't afford to tithe. But when our financial needs are great, can we afford not to try tithing? Or we tell ourselves that if we ever get to a point in our life at which money is not an issue, we'll be generous givers. I have no doubt. But money will cease to be an issue only when we relax about it. Affirming our abundance now, by becoming generous givers, dramatically demonstrates our prosperity to the doubter within. Let your authentic self convince her and watch what happens.

You Took My Place

One day, a man went to visit a church. He got there early, parked his car, and got out. Another car pulled up and the driver got out and said, "I always park there! You took my place!" The visitor went inside for Sunday School, found an empty seat and sat down. A young lady from the church approached him and stated, "That's my seat! You took my place!" The visitor was somewhat distressed by this rude welcome, but said nothing. After Sunday School, the visitor went into the sanctuary and sat down. Another member walked up to him and said, "That's where I always sit! You took my place!" The visitor was even more troubled by this treatment, but still He said nothing. Later as the congregation was praying for Christ to dwell among them, the visitor stood up, and his appearance began to change. Horrible scars became visible on his hands and his sandaled feet. Someone from the congregation noticed him and called out, "What happened to you?" The visitor replied as his hat became a crown of thorns, and a tear fell from his eye, "I took your place."

(Author unknown)

EPISCOPAL YOUTH EVENT

The Episcopal Youth Event (E.Y.E.) will be July 8-13, 2008 at Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas for young people who have just finished 9-12 grades that year. It serves as a celebration to inspire a deeper faith in Jesus Christ, and a renewed commitment to mission and ministry. It is the second largest event in the Episcopal Church and the single largest youth event in the Episcopal Church, typically attended by some 1500 young people, adult sponsors, bishops, staff, and resource people.

E.Y.E. is jam packed with fun and excitement! It is an opportunity to meet other youth from all over the world and experience the church on a global level. Participants are lodged in the host facility's dorms and eat meals at the campus dining facilities. The event community gathers regularly as a large group for worship, program, music, and media. Participants also meet daily in an ongoing small group. A variety of other

activities, such as carnivals, forums, workshops, sports/recreation, and free time help round out the schedule.

E.Y.E. is a triennial event (held once every three years) as mandated by General Convention of the Episcopal Church. The first E.Y.E. was held in 1982 at The University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana. The most recent EYE was held in 2005 at Berea College in Berea, Kentucky.

E.Y.E. is coordinated by the Ministries with Young People Cluster of the Episcopal Church with the help of a Design Team of youth and adults from across the U.S. and beyond.

Each Diocese in the nation is allowed a certain number of students who may represent its Diocese. The diocese of Montana has been allowed 12 student positions to attend EYE. To be considered, interested students must complete an application and submit it to; David Campbell, Episcopal Diocese of Montana, 515 North Park Avenue, Helena MT 59601 before February 22nd of 2008.

To see even more information about the event you can log onto www.episcopalteen.com and click the link for EYE

PLANNED GIVING ACADEMY

Attention Clergy, Treasurers, and Senior Wardens:

On April 19 from 9:30 to 3:00, at St. Peter's Cathedral in Helena, the diocese is pleased to offer you a Planned Giving Academy. Staff from the Episcopal Church Foundation will be here to present three workshops. There will be a session on Planned Giving, Capital Campaigns, and Annual Stewardship. Each workshop will last all day, so you'll need to choose which one, or better yet, bring at least three people from your congregation.

You'll be receiving a mailing from the Episcopal Church Foundation about the sessions, and I hope you will prayerfully consider attending. This is an extraordinary opportunity for learning. Lunch will be provided and there is no charge for you. There is a per person charge that the diocese will pay, and if three or more people attend from the same church, that fee is lower.

We are having the Planned Giving Academy instead of the annual Ministry of Administration Workshops this year. If you have questions or need information, or if you need financial assistance for lodging, please be in touch with me, 800-247-1391.

Faithfully,

Barb Hagen
Canon for Finance

DO YOU KNOW YOU CAN NOW CONTRIBUTE TO THE DIOCESE PROGRAMS ONLINE?

Effective immediately, you can donate to several diocesan programs online at www.acteva.com/go/MTDiocese.

Credit/debit cards and checks are gladly accepted for: The Bishop's Discretionary Fund; Camp Marshall; Diocesan Youth Programs; Episcopal Relief and Development; United Thank Offering. Your donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law, so please keep your Acteva receipt somewhere safe.

Please note that Camp Marshall donations are NOT for specific 2008 programs – that option will come later this month.

If you prefer to go through the diocesan web site (www.mtepiscopal.org), please click on the DONATIONS button in the left column on the main page.



The Rev. Karen Hall; Trinity, Jeffers

BISHOP BROOKHART'S HOUSE OF BISHOPS REPORT

I have just returned from the spring meeting of the House of Bishops. We gathered at Camp Allen, a facility of the Diocese of Texas about an hour west of Houston. The event ran from March 7 through March 12.

These meetings are always structured around the Morning Prayer, noon Eucharist, and Evening Prayer. During our meetings, every bishop is assigned a table with about a half-dozen other bishops. These table groups are the forums for daily Bible study and discussion. I share a table with the Bishops of West Missouri, Hawaii, Rhode Island, Honduras, and South Carolina (retired). I find this is a delightful and warm group of people with which to share the days of the meeting.

The spring meeting of the HoB does not focus on business, but rather takes the form of a modified retreat. We spend some time in silence, and are also enriched by a variety of presentations and discussions. The major presentations dealt with reconciliation, the Millennium Development Goals, and the upcoming Lambeth Conference of Bishops in England this summer (see below).

There were, however, some difficult items to be dealt with. The House received the final word from the Archbishop of Canterbury that the Bishop of New Hampshire will not be invited to Lambeth. Bishop Robinson had been offered some diminished roles in the event, but he saw these as relatively minor things and declined the offer. The House issued a statement, available on Episcopal News Service, expressing dismay that Bishop Robinson could not be present as an official participant; I voted in favor of that statement. He will, however, be present at Lambeth and some are working on possible venues at which he can speak.

The House also had the sad duty of deposing two fellow bishops. A deposition is a ruling permanently removing a clergy person from any of the rights of acting as a deacon, priest, or bishop. In common terms, it is defrocking a cleric. The House voted by a large majority to depose the Rt. Rev. John-David Schofield, because he has abandoned the communion of this Church in his attempts to lead his diocese into another church. Also deposed was the Rt. Rev. William Cox, who has repeatedly carried out episcopal acts in various part of the church without the knowledge or permission of the local bishop. I voted for both depositions. These are likely not the last depositions that will need to take place.

[Every ten years the Archbishop of Canterbury invites the bishops of the Anglican Communion to meet for conversation, study, and mutual support. The conference often seeks to deal with issues that trouble all or part of our Communion. I have received an invitation from the Archbishop and will attend the conference July 16 through August 4. The original conference was held at Lambeth Palace, the London residence of the Archbishop, but since this is a rather small facility we will be meeting at the University of Kent in Canterbury, England]