



CROSSROADS VIRTUAL

Supporting Small Church Ministries

Board Meeting 2011

Rural Ministries Network, August 25-26, 2011, at Todd Hall Retreat Center, Columbia, Illinois

During the RMN annual Board meeting, discussion focused on two main items. First, the financial viability of this ministry. And second, the early work towards workshop/training/consultancy plans for small congregations—the development of what this ministry is all about.

President Warren Frelund, vice-president Sue Norton, secretary Patsy Barham, Jimmy Martin, John Harris, David McCaffrey and membership secretary Netha Brada were present for this meeting in late August. Three of the nine elected board members were unable to attend: treasurer Steve Christy, Doyle Turner, and Bishop Dan Edwards.

After an evening for arrival, sharing, and setting the agenda on August 25, the gathering was ready next morning for worship and prayerful business.

The group reviewed and accepted notes and checked the time-line that resulted from the last face-to-face meeting, in August 2010.

Funding/Income

John Harris reported his findings about the Endowment Fund. The fund's principal was in fact not dedicated, monies simply having been set aside in CDs when income was at least sufficient to cover all expenses.

BOARD MEETING continues on page 11

New Training Program—

for Seminarians, New Clergy, and Lay Leaders

The Episcopal Church Foundation (ECF) is very pleased to announce a new pilot program, The Barnabas Project: Parish Life Education for Seminarians, New Clergy, and Lay Leaders.

While seminarians receive excellent theological education, changing realities throughout the Episcopal

Training for Seminarians Church have resulted in fewer curacies and assistants: positions that formerly provided new clergy with the opportunity to learn the practical skills needed to navigate the day-to-day challenges of leading a parish, under the supervision of a more experienced

BARNABAS PROJECT continues on page 5

A Great Cloud of Witnesses—3

This issue brings a story of which I have heard only parts. Thank you to The Rev. Ben Helmer for sharing his story with us. Ben has been a friend for a good number of years and also has been involved with rural ministry and small churches for many more. In fact, I am indebted to Ben for introducing me to what was then called Rural Workers Fellowship and now, of course, is known as Rural Ministry Network. And now the story.....

Netha Brada

Fr. Ben writes:

What forms us and shapes us? In my life it has been small churches. My earliest recollections are driving to Northern Michigan with my family in the summer of 1953 where my father was to be lay minister in charge of a parish in a mining community, mother reciting “The Song of Hiawatha” from Longfellow as we drove. My grandmother’s earnest concern was whether we would have indoor plumbing.

The church in that little town in the Upper Peninsula was comprised mostly of Cornish people, Cousin Jacks and Cousin Jennies they called themselves. The men lived hard and dangerous lives. I think my father buried two men killed in the iron mines during his time there. They were people of faith and generosity. Women,

GREAT CLOUD continues on page 3

Undies Sundays a big hit

While on vacation in Michigan, the editor and her

Small Congregation in Action

husband attended St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Gladwin. During announcements came a report on their **Undies Sundays**.

Attendance and requests for child’s underwear sets rose markedly, from fewer than 70 to 150 or more, as the giveaway program was repeated at 4-month intervals through the year. The program has generated much interest throughout the diocese (E Michigan) where unemployment continues high.

With more funds in hand, orders have already been placed for the initial supplies for next year.

The background story:

In December 2010, St. Paul’s Church Vestry reported that “Our request of \$2000 from the Convocation

UNDIES SUNDAYS continues on page 5

Meditation

I'm saving the three pine needle remnant that I discovered on the hall floor this morning. It caught my attention and gently reminded me of the second topic of our Community of Hope retreat today in which we were to reflect on "Finding God in the Stuff that Needles Us".

One of the quotes that we could use to inspire us in this quiet time session was this:

"Agitation drives out consciousness of God. When we're driven by agitation, consumed by fretting, we become immersed in our own agenda and it is always exaggerated. We get caught up in things that, in the final analysis, simply do not count, in things that pass away, in things that are concerned with living comfortably rather than living well."

Joan Chittister, "The Rule of Benedict: Insights for the Ages"

After settling down for the reflection with a view of the neighbor's cattle farm, I quickly took note of several situations that needle me, agitate me.

When someone adds another assignment to my already crowded daily "to do" list.

When someone interrupts my deep concentration while I am making an effort to complete a task.

When someone attempts to pass their

God, we affirm that you are still speaking. May we still listen. Amen.

Crossroads is the quarterly Journal of the Rural Ministries Network (formerly Rural Workers Fellowship, Inc.), a community of small-church leaders: clergy and laity within the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Church of Canada.

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by The Rev. Patsy Barham
assignment to me instead of taking responsibility to complete it.

When "I have given myself" too much "to do" in one day.

Then at a slower pace I reviewed what I had written as agitations and turned my attention to the more challenging question, "Where is God in each of this particular stuff that needles me?"

I humbly prayed and found God in every single agitation. Thank you, Lord.

God is found in the adjustment of the overcrowded daily "to do" schedule. He makes his way into my thoughts to remind me that it is He who I need to turn to each morning for what He wants me "to do". Thank you for the reminder to wait for You to give me the labor of my hands.

God is found in the interruption of important concentration. He sent Jesus, the one who knocks at the door to capture my thoughts. Thank you for the interruption.

God is found in the opportunity to help someone find another way to complete a task- another resource. Thank you for the reminder that Jesus is the answer to all our needs.

God is found in being kinder to myself. Thank you for helping me to be more realistic and for the gift of humility.

Thank you, Lord, that I found you in the stuff that needles me. Thank you for keeping me conscious of who you are in my life. Thank you for allowing me to see You, to hear You. Thank you for leading me on the path to serenity. Amen.

The Rev. Patsy Barham, St. Matthews Episcopal Church, Henderson TX, serves as Chaplain on the Board of Community of Hope International

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Netha Brada, Acting Coord.

The Virtual Editor's Desk

is in the process of being cleared for a few weeks of respite ... and rest from the chaos of balancing deskwork with locating lost printer drivers in the system, watering the garden, and so on.

NEW EDITOR NEEDED is my chief message, and if you or someone you know is interested in taking on the task, please contact me.

This issue is LATE, and I trust you all have received the Prayer Cycle in time for October 1. After proofing and checking, I am finally able to print .. or am I?

God's peace,

Jane

Notes from nearby

For Members Only

At the end of December 2011, I will be sending reminders for renewing your subscription for 2012. I am sending this reminder also, as there are a number of subscribers who have not renewed for the last several years. Such late renewals MUST be sent to me by the end of this calendar year, December 31, 2010. If those older renewals have not been received by that date, those names will be removed from the subscription list. Please send your renewal for the years 2008, 2009, 2010, and 2011 before the end of this year.

Netha N. Brada, Membership Chair

Close to the Board

I'm sad to let you know that Lim died early Friday, September 2. He had a massive stroke on Wednesday, August 24. ... Lim was able to talk to us some, but was weak and hard to understand. However, I will always remember asking if he knew who was beside him, and his reply was, "the love of my life."

When the doctor laid our options before us, there were two. One, put him in a nursing home; or two, put him into Hospice Care, which we did. ... I told the doctor that sometimes love is letting the other partner go.

Love, Laura

For those not acquainted with Lim and Laura Parks, they cared for our Prayer Cycle List for many years. Lim was a retired priest in the Diocese of Arkansas—Ed

Board Members write . . .

—I am so sad that Lim has died. For me, he was the picture of a true Southern gentleman and also a priest.

—I appreciated Lim and Laura's model as a married couple- faithful and true and the manner they corrected each other on details when telling a story which happens when two have been together a very long time. It was a sweet moment.

Obituary on page 8

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GREAT CLOUD from page 1

many of them seventy and older, gathered each month and made hundreds of Cornish pasties which they sold. Their treasurer stood up every Christmas Eve and with a flourish deposited a check with all their earnings into the Christmas offering. The pasty ladies' annual Christmas party was something I looked forward to. The table rivaled Dickens' description of the feast of the ghost of Christmas present.

Faithful abundance was a value I learned from them. Nobody had any money, yet there was an abundance that resulted in giving and cooperation to see that the church flourished, although Dad's salary was less than \$3,000 a year and we had to pay half the coal bill for the rectory.

Dad moved on to serve other parishes, but that first place is the one I remember with a child's eyes; it was a place of safety and unconditional love for my family.

I am one of those folks who cannot remember a time when the church was not important to me. I can remember feeling puzzled by it, annoyed with its politics, angry when it hurt us as it sometimes did, but always wanting to be part of it. When I decided in college that I wanted to go to seminary, my Dad's only advice was, "Don't do it if there is anything else you would rather do."

At some point I had to transition from the focus of church to the focus of Christ. That did not happen quickly, but as a slow journey of learning to know Jesus. Seminary was a time of formation, and the daily round of worship and life in a mostly believing community helped prepare me for meeting Jesus in the congregation and community

I was fortunate that nine of us in my seminary class opted to do an intern year. Mine was to be in a parish in Western Kansas where with the help of a good mentor I learned what parish life was like for a priest. The congregation embraced me and I had a great time living in a new place and discovering the beauty of the Kansas prairie.

After seminary and marriage my first cure was a small parish in Northern Michigan – a contrived position arranged by a loving bishop to make sure I had a job. But I experienced for myself the words of Thomas Wolfe, "You can't go back home to your family, back home to your childhood ... back home to a young man's

GREAT CLOUD continues on page 4

sion to use the item in a form other than as published. SAMPLE for words to *Christ Our Passover*. Since we did not reproduce music, we did not cite the composer.

From Wonder, Love, and Praise #880
Words: Carl P. Daw, Jr. (b, 1944) È 1987 Hope
Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188.

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Prepared by J. Helmer

Setting the Table

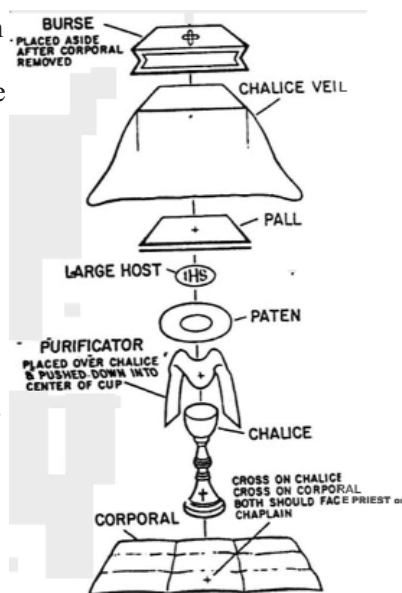
from Laura Parks, Batesville AR

Our is the privilege and responsibility to make preparations for the banquet. Linens, clean and white, polished silver and brass or carefully washed pottery vessels are brought out of storage and made ready to be placed in their proper places on the table. We, the Altar Guild, make certain there is plenty of food and drink for the feast. The fare is not fancy, but, oh, so special. So life-giving are these elements, bread and wine!

As we work, we think about the special guest who will be present with us all, the one who promised to be with us always, Jesus, the Christ.

In setting the table, we first remove the dust cover to reveal the **fair linen**, symbolic of the death shroud wrapped around Jesus at the time of burial. Carefully centered and spread out on the fair linen, we place the **corporal** that corresponds to the linen napkin that was wrapped around Jesus' head in the tomb. The function of the corporal is to catch any crumbs that may fall.

Next, we place the empty **chalice** (communion cup) in the center of the corporal. Across the chalice we drape the tri-folded linen **purificator** that is used to wipe the rim of the chalice during communion. On top of the purificator we place the **paten** (bread plate) holding the **priest's host**, usually a large wafer. We then place, on top, the **pall**, a covered-with-white-linen cardboard or metal square that functions as a base to hold the **veil**. Finally, on top of the veil, we place the **burse** (purse) that holds an extra corporal and, often, extra purificators.



On the **retable**, the narrow shelf behind the altar, we make certain that the cross is centered and the vases for flowers are in place, and that the candle-wicks are trimmed, or, in the case of oil-burning candles, that candles are filled with oil.

The **credence** is the table or shelf where the unconsecrated elements are placed. First we cover the table with a cloth. Then we place wine in one **cruet** (covered pitcher) and water in the second cruet. The cruet with wine is placed on the right with handle turned toward the back of the credence table. In like manner, the second cruet with water is placed on the left. Between the cruets is the **bread box** with an appropriate quantity of

GREAT CLOUD, from page 3

dreams of glory and of fame.” Two years later we accepted the invitation of a small town in Northwest Kansas and I become the vicar of small parish.

Goodland brought some of the happiest times for Jane and me. The town was totally immersed in agriculture and its support services. It was full of colorful and sometimes quirky characters and had a western outlook that offered everyone a chance, even green-horns like us. It was here that I learned that small churches (and towns) offer plenty of opportunities for ministry. Pastoral needs were demanding, especially with few support services nearer than 150 miles. I saw pastoral responses from a congregation that I never imagined. Cursillo was a new thing then and over a dozen attended from our congregation changing its outlook for mission dramatically. There were tragic deaths, sad divorces and the wedding of a couple who had been divorced for many years but sought the church's blessing on their reunion in the later years. There was politics as I ran and was elected to the school board, and then there was the time of leaving after six years.

After that came eleven years of working for the bishop of Western Kansas as an archdeacon and to serve churches in central Kansas. The job enabled me to connect with regional and national church programs and to be elected to the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church.

All that time I was well-grounded because of the small churches I served. They were the reality check, not terribly impressed with the politics of the larger church, but very interested in the local scene—sounds

***GREAT CLOUD** continues on page 10*

wafers or bread. We place to the side or behind the elements a small bowl, the **lavabo**, and a small linen towel: these are for the priest to use before the consecration.

The last thing we do in setting the table is to place the **alms basin(s)** on shelf or table in the customary place.

These instructions are basic and are always subject to fine-tuning by the parish priest or deacon. May our duties as Altar Guild members fill us with peace and joy as we perform this service.

Laura

One way this table-setting procedure may be modified or fine tuned is for the priest or deacon to set the table at the time of the Offertory, immediately before the Great Thanksgiving.

For this, the bread box is placed with the cruet of wine on the Credence Table or in another location designated for presentation at Offertory time.

BARNABAS PROJECT, from page 1

priest or rector.

The Barnabas Project will support the ministry of seminarians and newly ordained priests by providing them with training, skills development, best practices, and other resources in the area of parish finance and administration, as well as working with lay leadership. Third year seminarians at five identified Episcopal seminaries, and newly ordained priests and their lay leaders in three to five dioceses, will attend a training workshop to be followed up with a series of web-based seminars and individualized assistance.

“The Church is changing more rapidly than ever,” noted Donald V. Romanik, ECF President. “It’s



absolutely critical that priests and lay people be equipped to lead our congregations in the 21st century. After three years, the Barnabas Project will have trained 180 graduating seminarians and an estimated 180 newer ordained priests and lay people.”

This innovative initiative is made possible through the generosity of the Rev. Canon Carlson Gerdaud.

Canon Gerdaud was a parish priest in the Diocese of Northern Michigan for 20 years, Archdeacon in Missouri, and understands the needs of clergy at the congregational level. “I’ve always been proud of my profession and vocation and want my fellow clergy to be as well trained as possible,” said Canon Gerdaud. “This is a program which will build upon the excellent education that many receive at the Church’s seminaries, and will hone their skills in non-theological and practical aspects of ordained ministry so that the Church and its ministry will be strengthened.”

Canon Gerdaud served as Canon to the Ordinary to former Presiding Bishop Frank T. Griswold and has been a trustee for the Church Pension Fund. He continues his dedicated service to the Church at many levels.

Romanik went on to express his thanks to Canon Gerdaud. “ECF would not be able to offer this important new pilot program without Carl’s partnership, experience and wisdom. Together we have developed an innovative approach that we believe will effectively address a clearly articulated need in the Church. We are enormously grateful for this opportunity and for Carl’s support.”

To learn more about the Barnabas Project or about partnering with ECF to serve the changing needs of the Episcopal Church, please contact Kate Adams, Vice President of Programs at 800-697-2858 or email her at kate@episcopalchurch.org.

Extracts of release from Episcopal Church Foundation, September 7, 2011, New York, NY

UNDIES SUNDAYS, from page 1

Council will be accepted for the Undies Sundays project. This project will involve three Sundays during the year that underwear will be collected and distributed to the Gladwin Schools.”

From the Outreach Committee report (December 2010):

Recently, our convocation gave St. Paul’s Outreach Committee \$2000 to start an underwear ministry in Gladwin County. With money we had, and money we expect to raise, we will have over \$4000 to buy underwear for needy kids. Orders at Pamida and J.C.

Penney’s catalogue are already sent in for lots of underwear.

On Sunday, January 16, the church will be open from 1-3 pm.

People with a Bridge Card or Medicaid Card are invited to come in and receive a complete set of underwear (briefs, shirts and socks in unopened packages) for all their children between the age of four and nine. The committee plans to do this again in May and September. The fliers announcing the event will be everywhere. The whole community seems thrilled to help us, including the missions in Beaverton and Gladwin, the Baby Pantry, Shelterhouse, the United Way, DHS and many more. All the school social workers at the elementary schools in Beaverton and Gladwin think this is a wonderful idea and will be sending home notices with selected children in January. Remember the big day is January 16, and the Outreach Committee can use all the help it can get. Please see Fr. Tom or Pat Stacey to volunteer for January, May and/or September. It is only 3 hours once a year.



From “A Letter from St. Paul’s ...” December 2010

What approaches have helped your congregation to fulfill its vision of remaining a vital source of assistance to the community and to the world?

Weekly Bulletin inserts are informational and teaching tools. EpiscopalLife Online offers weekly bulletin inserts for congregations. Downloads are in more than one printer-friendly format, and bring to your congregation news, timely remembrances, and more about the Episcopal Church, its mission and ministry. See bulletin inserts at http://www.episcopalchurch.org/95270_11765_ENG_HTML.htm

? Who Are the Heroes ?

TOWN and COUNTRY HEROES

Fourth Quarter 2011

In our prayer cycle this quarter, we remember these outstanding individuals whose ministries were in small church work:

October 3—Eva Hasell

October 21—Rev Samuel N Keys

October 28—Rev Sampson W Foster

November 11—Rt Rev Herman Page

November 12—Rt Rev Harold Jones

December 3—Rev Dr Richard O Comfort

December 10—Rev John Philbrick

December 10—Rev Lloyd Delaney

December 27—Rev. Shelby Walthall

December 28—Rev George A Smith

Prayer for heroes

We bless you, merciful Lord, for all those who have served your Church in small congregations and places throughout the land, remembering especially on this day your servant(s) *name(s)*. Grant that, inspired by this ministry, our work, prayer, and witness may share your love with all who hunger and thirst for your coming; who live and reign with the Father and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. AMEN.

More Town and Country Heroes are available on the RMN website at ruralministriesnetwork.org

WEBINARS ... from the EPISCOPAL CHURCH FOUNDATION

Upcoming ECF Webinars: Fall 2011

Editor's note: While these dates may already be past, the ECF website at www.episcopalchurchfoundation.org will show future similar webinars.

As part of ECF's on-going efforts to assist congregations in developing their leadership and financial resources, we are offering a wide range of webinars for clergy and lay parish leaders this fall. There is no cost to participate in any of these webinars and all lay and clergy leaders are welcome to participate.

Topics include vestry leadership, capital campaigns, endowments, and planned giving.

Creating and Managing Your Endowment: Basic Principles & Best Practices

(October 6, 6:30 - 7:30 PM ET)

This workshop reviews basic principles and best practices for endowment management. You will examine important, and easy to use, documents to use for structuring your endowment and for clarifying its purpose. Participants will also learn about endowment policies and investment options which not only seek to protect an existing endowment, but will demonstrate how endowments can be used as to enhance your ministries and overall mission, and build trust and confidence among your potential donors.

Sound Practices for Vestry Leaders

(October 11 and November 8, 6:30 - 7:30 PM ET)

This webinar will help you understand roles, responsibilities, and best practices for vestries. You will learn how to move your vestry from a focus on day-to-day management or crisis response to a more effective leadership. Designed for clergy, wardens, and vestry members, this webinar will explore the role of the vestry in selecting new leadership, orienting new members, planning and evaluation, and supporting staff and volunteers.

Basics of a Parish Capital Campaign

(October 18, 6:00 - 7:00 PM ET)

The webinar will provide a step-by-step understanding of the three phases: Discernment, Feasibility Study, and the Gifting Phase. This time-tested methodology has led hundreds of Episcopal parishes to successful efforts. Learn how to prepare for and execute a campaign for your church.

Setting Up a Planned Giving Program for Your Parish

(October 19, 6:30 - 8:30 PM ET)

You will learn the basics of planned giving, how it differs from annual stewardship and capital campaigns, how your parish can build endowment through life income gifts, and you will have a plan of action by the end of the webinar.

All you need to participate in one of our webinars is a computer (PC or Mac) with an internet connection and a telephone. If you have a headset and microphone, you can also participate over VOiP from your computer without the need to call in on the phone.

There is no charge to participate. Once you have registered, ECF will email you call-in instructions and instructional materials for the webinar.

Please note that registration will be a 2-step process. Once you register on the ECF website, you will receive an email with instructions to sign up on the Go To Training website, where you will log in to participate in the webinar.

If you have any questions please email us at ecf@episcopalchurchfoundation.org or call us at 800-697-2858.

09/21/11, Episcopal Church Foundation

+ + RMN PRAYER CYCLE + + +

Fourth Quarter, 2011

* indicates new address (see note below)

Bold type indicates Town and Country Heroes

^B indicates new board member

October 1—Remigius of Rheims

The Rev Herman Page Topeka KS

October 2—16th Sunday after Pentecost

The Rev Sue Palmer Albia IA

October 3

The Rev Lisa Pang Yona GU

Eva Hassell (d. unknown) In the 1920's organized a ministry to isolated persons in western Canada, inspiring some 31 similar programs in Canada and later mobile ministries in the U.S.

October 4—Francis of Assisi

The Ven William Parnell NY

October 5

Mrs Laura Parks Batesville AR

October 6

The Most Rev Michael Peers Toronto ON Canada

October 7

Mrs. Helen Philbrick Duxbury MA

October 8

The Rev Gordon & Ruth Price Dayton OH

October 9—17th Sunday after Pentecost

The Rev Sue Ann Raymond Independence IA

October 10

The Rev Thomas N Rightmyer Asheville NC

October 11—Philip, Deacon and Evangelist

The Rev Canon Holladay Sanderson Boise ID

October 12

The Most Rev Katharine Jefferts-Schori New York NY

October 13

The Rev Stephen H Schaitberger Brainerd MN

October 14

The Rev Frederick Smyithe Bemidji MN

October 15

Joan Stein Las Vegas NV

October 16—18th Sunday after Pentecost

The Rev Paul M Sneve Rapid City SD

October 17

The Rev David Storm Seattle WA

October 18—St. Luke the Evangelist

The Rev Francis C Tatem Harrisonburg VA

October 19

The Rev Carol Tookey Farmington NM

October 20

The Rev Doyle Turner Waubun MN

October 21

Garrick Velarde Bloomfield NM

Rev Samuel Keys (d. 10/21/1984) Rural pastor and leader in Province 5 Town and Country seminars

October 22

Mrs Nancy Viggers Prairie City OR

October 23—19th Sunday after Pentecost

The Rev Roy C Walworth Evanston WY

Prayer for members/friends

Almighty God, bless we pray you, the work and witness of the Rural Ministries Network, and of each member, especially your servant(s) *name(s)*, whom we remember before you this day. Grant that by our work, prayers and witness, your Church's ministry in towns, country and small cities may be strengthened and extended to your praise and glory. AMEN

October 24—St James of Jerusalem, Brother of our Lord Jesus Christ, and Martyr (tr)

The Rev D Delos Wampler Schenectady NY

October 25

The Ven Michael Watkins Kamloops BC Canada

October 26

The Rev Gail Wheatley Port Angeles WA

October 27

Cathy Weber Arapahoe NE

October 28—St. Simon and St. Jude, Apostles

Ms LaDonna Wind Louisville KY

Rev Sampson W Foster (d. 10/28/1985) African American priest served in Mississippi for over 50 years

October 29

The Rev James B Wilson Louisville KY

October 30

Chaplain Jim Adams Pineville LA

October 31—20th Sunday after Pentecost

The Rev Jerry Adinolfi Coffeyville KA

November 1—All Saints' Day

The Rev Jami Anderson Pinedale WY

November 2—All Faithful Departed

The Rev Paul E Baker Eagle Bridge NY

November 3

The Rev Chris Beebe Rutherfordton NC

November 4

Charles H. Bardenwerper, DDS Fort Atkinson WI

November 5

The Rev Patsy G. Barham Henderson TX

November 6—21st Sunday after Pentecost

Ms Jennifer Bartos Waubun MN

November 7

The Rev Joseph A Bordelon Ball LA

November 8

The Rev Netha N Brada Iowa Falls IA

November 9

Dr Francis M Bradley Melbourne FL

November 10

The Rev Martha Byer Columbia MO

November 11

The Rev David Caffrey Joshua Tree CA

Rt Rev Herman Page (d. 11/11/1977) Bishop of Northern Michigan and leader in ministry to the isolated

November 12

The Rev Kathryn S Campbell Charles City IA

Rt Rev Harold Jones (d. 11/12/2002) As Suffragan Bishop of South Dakota he was first Native American elected Bishop

November 13—22nd Sunday after Pentecost

The Rev Leslie Campbell Waubay SD

November 14—Samuel Seabury

The Rev Larry Carver Hutchinson KS

November 15

Steve Christy Sundance WY

November 16

The Ven Frank N Cohoon Topeka KS

November 17

The Rev Patricia Cook Bluff UT

November 18

The Rev Letitia C Croom Boise ID

November 19

The Rev Jeunee Cunningham Appomattox VA

November 20—Last Sunday after Pentecost

The Rev Stephen Cuff Morrow OH

November 21

Sarah Cummings Green River WY

November 22

The Rev John Drymon Batesville AR

November 23

Patricia P. Dickerson Amelia OH

November 24—Thanksgiving Day (US)

The Rt Rev Dan Edwards Las Vegas NV

November 25

Sandy Elledge Knoxville TN

November 26

The Ven C Russell Elliott Wolfville NS Canada

November 27—First Sunday of Advent

The Rev William M Fay Berkeley CA

November 28

The Rev Michael B Ferguson Virginia Beach VA

November 29

The Rev Leslie C Ferguson Suffolk VA

November 30

The Rev Warren Frelund Mason City IA

December 1

The Rev Robert T Gribbon Church Creek MD

December 2

The Rt Rev Sanford Z Hampton Anacortes WA

December 3

The Rev Inez Hannett Olds AB Canada

Rev Dr Richard O Comfort (d. 12/3/2002) Ecumenical Presbyterian hero – friend and advisor of Town and Country leader Rev Clifford Samuelson

December 4—Second Sunday of Advent

The Rev John Harris Gridley CA

December 5

Ms Mary Hassell St Paul MN

December 6—St. Nicholas of Myra

The Rev Dr Frederick Haworth Greenville PA

December 7

Jim & Betty Heathcote Georgetown OH

December 8

The Rev J Robert Hector Mineral Point WI

December 9

The Rev Ben & Jane Helmer Holiday Island AR

December 10

The Rev Richard E Helmer Corte Madera CA

Rev John Philbrick (d. 12/10/1984) He and his wife Helen were innovators in homestead movement for clergy.

Rev Lloyd Delaney (d. 12/10/2002) A recognized leader in the Canadian Anglican Church nationally and provincially.

December 11—Third Sunday of Advent

Ms Lillie Henderson Montezuma Creek UT

December 12

The Rt Rev Rayford B. High Jr Tyler TX

December 13

The Rev Russell M Johnson Hilo HI

December 14

Jim Jordan Gualala CA

December 15

Andrew Kerr Casper WY

December 16

The Rev Robert Honeychurch New York NY

December 17

The Rev Marcia Kilpatrick Park City UT

December 18—Fourth Sunday of Advent

Ms Lauri Lawson Holdredge NE

December 19

The Rev Jodi Lediard Virginia City NV

December 20

The Revs Richard & Sarah Lewis New Hartford NY

December 21—St. Thomas the Apostle

LTC Sarah D Lopez Hawkeye IA

December 22

The Rt Rev Mark MacDonald Toronto ON Canada

December 23

Donald J & Carolyn Maddux Shelton WA

December 24—Christmas Eve

The Rev Irene Maliaman Saipan MP

December 25—The Nativity of our Lord

Michael Maloney Cincinnati OH

December 26—St. Stephen

The Rev Irene Martin Skamokawa WA

December 27—St. John the Apostle

Jimmy Martin Christoval TX

Rev Shelby Walthall (d. 12/27/2002) Early leader in 20th century rural/small town church revival as Episcopal Church sought to strengthen work in these areas.

December 28—Holy Innocents

The Very Rev Hugh S Matheson Kenora ON Canada

December 29

The Rev John E Matheson Regina SK Canada

Rev George A Smith (d. 12/29/2005) Native American, 63 years a faithful priest in northern Minnesota with congregations in small town, rural, and Ojibwe reservation settings

December 30

Joseph E. Mazza Sturgeon Bay WI

December 31

Mr Charles McCray Carson City NV

THE REV. LIMUEL G. PARKS, JR.

Lim Parks will be remembered for his hard work, caring spirit and service to others.

The Rev. Limuel G. Parks, Jr., 82, of Batesville, died Fri., Sept. 2, 2011, at Little Rock Hospice Home Care, Little Rock, Ark.

He was born July 11, 1929, in Batesville, the son of Limuel G. Parks, Sr., and Emily Ellen Handford Parks. He grew up hunting, fishing, working in the family hardware store and worshipping at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, said his wife of 45 years, Laura Bailey Parks.

After graduating from Batesville High School, he attended Arkansas College (now Lyon College) in Batesville before transferring to the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. There he earned a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in chemistry.

After college, Mr. Parks worked in the United States patent office in Washington, D.C., and later with nerve gas experimentation at Dugway Proving Ground in Utah. He also served in the United States Air Force and was stationed in Korea during the Korean War. He was promoted to the rank of Major.

Mr. Parks attended seminary at the University of the South, Sewanee, Tenn., where he earned a Master of Divinity degree in 1958 and was ordained a deacon in the Episcopal Church. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1959.

The Rev. Parks was active in churches in the dioceses of Arkansas and Mississippi. He served Christ's Church and Church of the Good Shepherd, Forrest City, Ark.; Grace Church, Wynne, Ark.; St. Peter's Church, Conway, Ark.; Trinity Church, Searcy, Ark.; All Saints' Church, Russellville, Ark.; St.



Mark's Church, Jonesboro, Ark.; Trinity Church, Natchez, Miss.; Christ Church, Church Hill, Miss.; and All Saints' Church, Paragould, Ark.

While in Conway, he was also manager of Camp Mitchell near Morrillton, Ark., the Episcopal Diocesan camp on Mount Pettijean.

The Rev. Parks is survived by his wife of 45 years, Laura Bailey Parks; two sons, Stanley J. Parks and wife, Christi, of Springdale, Ark., and John W. Parks and wife, Malan, of Natchez, Miss.; six grandchildren, Bailey, William and Katie of Springdale, Ark., and Kyler, Emily and John, Jr., of Natchez, Miss.; and one brother, James R. Parks of Batesville, Ark.

Memorial services were held at 4 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 4, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Batesville, with the Rev. John Drymon officiating. Burial followed at Oaklawn Cemetery in Batesville under the direction of Roller-Crouch Funeral Home.

Memorials may be made to Trinity Episcopal School, Natchez, MS, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 424 E. Main Street, Batesville, AR 72501, Episcopal Relief and Development, or charity of choice.

From online editions of the Clarion Ledger, the Batesville Daily Guard, the Courier News, the Natchez-Democrat, and the Log Cabin Democrat

Photo: website of Roller-Crouch Funeral Home

Coming events

October 6, 6:30 - 7:30 PM ET, ECF WEBINAR

Creating and Managing Your Endowment: Basic Principles & Best Practices

See page 6 above

October 11 and November 8, 6:30 - 7:30 PM ET ECF WEBINAR

Sound Practices for Vestry Leaders

See page 6 above

October 18, 6:00 - 7:00 PM ET, ECF WEBINAR

Basics of a Parish Capital Campaign

See page 6 above

October 19, 6:30 - 8:30 PM ET, ECF WEBINAR

Setting Up a Planned Giving Program for Your Parish

See page 6 above

December 1 to December 3

Start Up! Start Over! Small Church Conference 2011: *New Chapter: Your Church in God's Unfolding Story*. Location: Williamsburg Woodlands in Colonial Williamsburg, VA. For more information, contact Bob Honeychurch at 212-716-6218, email: bhoneychurch@episcopalchurch.org

Co-sponsored by the Office of Congregational Vitality and the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Virginia.

Register before October 30 at <http://events.SignUp4.com/suso11>

Prayer for members/friends

Almighty God, bless we pray you, the work and witness of the Rural Ministries Network, and of each member, especially your servant(s) *name(s)*, whom we remember before you this day. Grant that by our work, prayers and witness, your Church's ministry in towns, country and small cities may be strengthened and extended to your praise and glory. AMEN

Membership renewal notices for the calendar year of 2012 will be sent via email on or around January 1. If you have not paid previous years' dues, please include these with your payment. *Better yet, send your check earlier to avoid the mailing list purge!*

GREAT CLOUD, from page 4

like the small church we all know and love.

During our time in Goodland I attended the Leadership Academy for New Directions, a training program envisioned by people like Boone Porter, Bill Cox, George Harris, Chuck Wilson and others, based on the local ministry principles found in the writings of Roland Allen. I ended up working with L.A.N.D. for many years as a participant and trainer, even helping re-design the curriculum in 1994-5 to meet the changing demands of small church leadership and focusing more on the non-ordained leader.

After eighteen years in Western Kansas I came to a crossroads of my own. Would I stay in the small church or seek at least one cure in a larger congregation? I tested that and almost took a job in a suburban church in Texas, but opted instead for West Missouri to help a new cluster of five rural churches get up and running. Three of them had previously been much neglected by the diocese which sent little in the way of ordained leadership while not helping them develop their own. The task was formidable but with the collegial help of a good leadership team things began to come together. Now the cluster has its second missionary, and after almost twenty years each of the congregations has a unique mission in its community and several are developing total ministry teams.



Because of my work nationally it was no surprise that I was invited to become interim officer for rural and small communities on the national church staff beginning early in 1999. And after the job became permanent, my family opted to stay in contact with rural and small community ministries by continuing to live in Missouri.

When I retired in 2005 there came, in quick succession, twelve months as a chaplain in post-Katrina Louisiana, a four-month interim in West Missouri, and eighteen months in Micronesia (Guam and Saipan) where I helped the four Episcopal congregations prepare for a new form of ministry that would not rely on each church having its own clergy.

We returned from Guam early in 2009 to our home of sixteen years in Chillicothe, Missouri and wondered what might be next. Soon, Jane and I drove to the lovely community of Eureka Springs, Arkansas where I was a candidate for vicar of St. James'—a small church with a lot of retired folk with the energy and vitality for local mission. I was called as vicar (part time) and arrived in June.

St. James' has been intrigued with and explored and developed its own sense of baptismal ministry over the

Annual Dues for Calendar Year began for January–December 2011

Through a motion discussed and passed in 2010 by the Board, all RMN memberships—regardless of when paid—are good for the current calendar year. Beginning 2011, reminder notices will be set out January 1st and payments received will be good through December 31 rather than the anniversary of receipt, as in previous years.

course of a decade. The congregation is also blessed to have two other priests and a licensed lay preacher of exceptional skill plus a pastoral care team that looks after everybody. It is a healthy and productive place with, again, plenty of opportunity for ministry.

So, what have I learned in 38 years of ordained ministry? Small churches are versatile and many of them have a vitality that far outpaces their size. Their members are people of deep abiding faith, often with generous and abundant hearts. They can move quickly to make decisions. They can move slowly when discernment is important. While often monocultural they are transitioning into multi-cultural opportunities for mission at a surprising rate. Unlike the stereotypical stories told about them, they do not worship the past nearly as much as some would believe.

Small churches have to be innovative and willing to absorb the talents and gifts given in Baptism. They are cautious about rapid growth because getting to know one another is important to them. They are only exclusive as a matter of protection, and when they trust their leadership and each other they can be incredibly inclusive. They tend to form relationships with their clergy and grieve their departures deeply.

There is room in a small church for anything except anonymity—there is no place to hide. But then, try as we might, we can't hide from God either. Members hold one another accountable but are also forgiving and willing to grow together in grace. Years ago a wise warden warned me not to expect the small church to side with a priest in an argument with the parish crank. They may be cranky, but each is one of "us" and often deeply loved which is why they stay.

My work as a priest in small congregations is not exceptional or atypical; there are many of us, formed in seminary but trained by them and who decided to stay. It's a good life, and I commend it to people willing to be flexible and open to a great adventure.

The Rev. Ben E. Helmer

Stay in touch!!
Please send your ideas, comments,
stories, to the editor, Crossroads:
address on page 2.

BOARD MEETING, from page 1

Thus, the withdrawals of small amounts from the fund to balance the budget when needed was correct.

However, in recent years the fund became seriously depleted in the absence of alternate funding for board meetings, website hosting, and for publication and mailing expenses [through 2010]. Treasurer Steve Christy's budget report, which was accepted, shows a projected low balance of some \$4,000 after paying expenses for this 2011 meeting.

Membership

Income from memberships currently does not cover a realistic stipend for editorial work on the quarterly Crossroads. Board members are asked to continue making calls as agreed upon last year.

Membership Chair Netha Brada reported on her continued task of honing the mailing list so all might receive virtual editions of Crossroads as e-mail attachments*. The list is purged regularly to remove those who have not paid dues: Netha will send reminders at the end of this year for next year's dues.

Complimentary copies are sent to all dioceses in the US and Canada, plus seminaries and libraries.

Responding to a request, Netha will note on the mailing list database a distinction between individual and church memberships.

Future of RMN

Warren Frelund opened the discussion with a question: "Do we have something to offer to the church beyond the prayer list and the newsletter?"

John Harris noted that RMN has the potential to become a resource for individual issues and concerns, and to enhance congregations' perceptions of themselves living out the Gospel.

David McCaffrey proposed regional training session(s), calling people together for a time of prayer, worship, and support to live out their Baptismal Covenant. Multiple comments were made for future planning such as formation, youth and aging gracefully and other offerings.

Sue Norton spoke of on-line training or other platform opportunities for review for education programs and resources that could be offered through the newsletter.

Regional conference, resources

Discussion combined David and Sue's ideas with thoughts for resources of book study, theology, confirmation, baptism preparations, small church leadership,

Support RMN: Renew membership; Give memberships to others in small congregations; Become a New Patron.

tailored to specific needs and made available on CDs priced to fit small church budgets.

A brainstorming session then explored the potential and development of a **Regional Small Church Consultancy and Resource**—

- Face-to-face regional conferences/consultations
- Presentation at existing conferences
- Newsletter listing of resources
- On line training
- CD's and DVD's for training

Details for conference and other product developments were brainstormed, and a time frame drawn for many of the identified steps and actions.

Bylaws adjustment

Sue Norton reported on her review of the RMN Bylaws, revisiting the board terms in Article III. The proposed changes were then approved: the elected board term has been reduced from four to three years. After two consecutive three-year terms, a board member may not be re-elected until at least one year has elapsed after the end of the most recent term.

Two current board members' terms were adjusted, adding one year for both Warren and Patsy, so the board consists of nine elected members on a three-year rotation.

Respectfully submitted,
The Reverend Patsy G. Barham, Secretary

RURAL MINISTRIES NETWORK
prayer ~ fellowship ~ resources ~ advocacy
Sign me up, please!

Membership application/renewal

Yes! Add me as a new member of the Rural Ministries Network, which includes the quarterly Crossroads and the RMN Website at www.ruralministriesnetwork.org

Please RENEW my RMN membership

Name _____

Address _____

e-mail _____

Phone _____
(RMN will not publish your Street address, E-mail, or Phone #)

Enclosed is Annual Membership \$40
 Annual Patronship \$100
Canadian residents: send US or Canadian Funds

ALL new & renewing members: mail form and dues to
RMN Membership Chairperson Netha Brada
345 Lincoln Avenue, Iowa Falls, IA 50126-1936