

# Iowa connections

June 2008

NEWS OF THE DIOCESE OF IOWA

## "Make Us One with Christ," Episcopal, Methodist congregational leaders dialogue

By Lydia Kelsey

Episcopal Bishop Alan Scarfe joined United Methodist Bishop Gregory Palmer in an invitation to clergy and lay leaders from their respective denominations to gather on May 15 for an ecumenical dialogue.

Thirty-one leaders from the Episcopal Church and seventy-one leaders from the United Methodist Church gathered to meet with the bishops to discuss and explore the goal of entering into full communion with one another.

Bishop Palmer welcomed the group, explaining that the intent of the day was to bring together those who are leaders to begin a conversation, get to know one another, and discuss the goal of

entering into shared communion. According to Palmer, "Currently we're in the process of exploring arrangements and leaning toward full communion."

Bishops Palmer and Scarfe consider each other good friends and close colleagues, and offer their relationship as an example of collaboration. Both bishops have been guests at the other's convention.

Each participant was asked to read a study guide, *Make us One with Christ*, which is a process for facilitating fellowship among Episcopal and United Methodist congregations. According to Scarfe, "The goal is to get to the place where we see in each other the full Gospel of Christ proclaimed."

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From left, Bishop Gregory Palmer and Bishop Alan Scarfe

## Waters of Hope circles diocese

By Lydia Kelsey

Nearly six months ago, Bishop Scarfe and The Rev. Mitchell Smith from Trinity, Waterloo revealed to the 155th Annual Diocesan Convention their vision for Waters of Hope.

The grandiose dream became reality May 1-10 when riders of all ages and abilities from Iowa and beyond made the 10

day, nearly 1,000 mile ride across Iowa to raise awareness and funds for clean water in Swaziland and Sudan.

The ride, which took months of planning and coordinating, and required a large number of volunteers, was smooth sailing, with no injuries and only one minor leaky bike tire.

Smith and others posted

online blogs, photos, and videos throughout the trip, receiving local media coverage in most towns they visited. (Check out [www.watersofhope.org](http://www.watersofhope.org) to read the blogs!)

Smith, equipped with a vision of turning a passion for riding bikes into ministry, served as primary organizer of the event.

Bishop Scarfe's annual appeal letter, mailed at the beginning of Easter, encouraged Iowa Episcopalians to contribute to the cause. With each letter came a coin box, with the intent to contribute one quarter for every glass of water consumed.

The amount collected is unknown at this time due to incoming pledges, boxes, and rebates, however more than \$30,000 has been confirmed to date.

Overall, there is little doubt that Waters of Hope was a huge success. The Rev. Brian McVey, a rider from St. Albans, Davenport said, "God took passions of a diverse group of people and used it to bring life and health to the neediest among us."



From left, Joe Company, The Rev. Mitchell Smith, Paul Solomon, and The Rev. Joe Chambers

### THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF IOWA

IN MISSION WITH CHRIST  
THROUGH EACH AND ALL.



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# From Bishop Scarfe

Last month, my wife acted in a lone act play at the Civic Center in Des Moines, called *Miss Wither- spoon*. The play opens with the principal character anguishing over the state of the world. She is distressed in particular by the possibility that Skylab was disintegrating and large chunks of machinery were about to fall from the sky. As the woman screams out her anxiety, the brief opening scene ends with an adult sized chicken running across stage shouting "the sky is falling."

Jesus prepared his disciples for such scenarios. He left them with no illusions about the kind of world they would inherit. He also counseled them against looking for easy outs, especially of a messianic nature.

"Be not afraid" was his constant encouragement, and "don't be surprised" was its corollary. It was into this kind of turmoil their message would be preached, and Christ's life would be made known. The center of their message was more radical than anything that life's changes could bring - a man had risen from the dead and in Jesus Christ, God had walked among us. There is still no more astonishing statement than our affirmation that in Christ we see God and that He truly is the Savior of humanity.

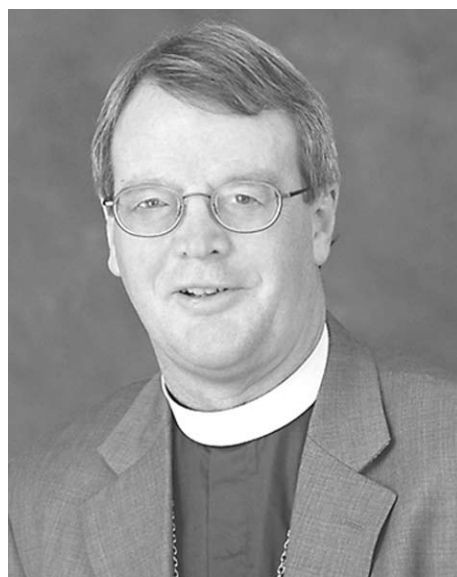
This is our core belief around which everything else spins. It is what holds us steady when the temptation to shout that the sky is

falling comes upon us. At the recent Clergy Conference on wellness, we began by looking at the question - "How goes it with your soul?" Some may have found this an old fashioned question. But I addressed it within the context of that old hymn chestnut - *It is well with my soul*. Paul talked about treating abundance and scarcity alike.

What brings this to the surface? Probably the approaching weeks at Lambeth are in my mind, where we face divisive issues but are being encouraged to center ourselves on Jesus Christ, and meet each other in that holy relationship.

But also, the reality of the past weeks in human affairs presses upon me: the China earthquake, the Myanmar cyclone and the rigidity of the ruling party in face of the world's compassionate outpour, the brokenness of our immigration policy and loss of our bearings as a place of sanctuary for the world's poor and tired, and the huge breakthrough in California on gay marriage which sends its own waves of joy or shock through us.

Where are we to fix our gaze to be able to truly pay attention? This is where we place our boundaries in unexpected places: in a world view that has room for resurrection and the kind of surprising element that is; in a world view that centers on a creator God whom we know as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, but in whom we also see creator, redeemer



**Bishop Alan Scarfe**

and sanctifier, and whose unity in diversity speaks volumes as to how we are supposed to live together.

We are invited to allow no gap between love of God and love of neighbor; and we limit our life and actions within the boundaries of whatever is honorable, just, pure, pleasing, commendable, of excellence, and of praiseworthiness.

Above all we seek to have a mind that patterns after Jesus Christ who emptied himself of divine glory to be a human servant and an example of perfect obedience. This was His and is our road to exaltation. It is our centering principle for this life.

+ Alan

## Bishop's Schedule

### June

- 1 Shenandoah, St. John's
- 4 Davenport, Trinity Cathedral, Kent Anderson and Thomas Williams, Ordination to the transitional diaconate
- 15 Marshalltown, St. Paul's
- 21 Denison, Trinity, p.m.
- 22 Winterset, Trinity
- 22 Spirit Lake, St. Alban's, p.m.
- 29 Burlington, Christ Church

### July

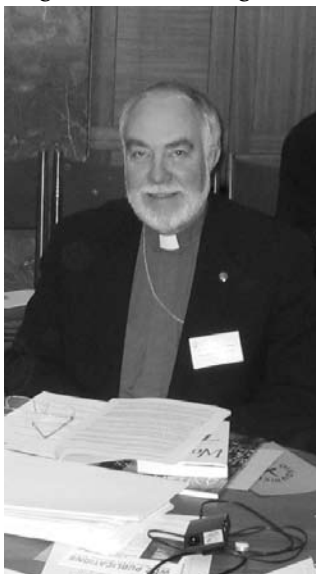
- 6 Durant, St. Paul's
- 16-31 Lambeth Conference

### August

- 1-4 Lambeth Conference (continued)
- 17 Clinton, Christ Church
- 24 Ottumwa, Trinity
- 30 Mount Pleasant, St. Michael's
- 31 Keokuk, St. John's

# Bishop Epting returns to Iowa

The Rt. Rev. Christopher Epting, eighth bishop of Iowa, and his wife, The Rev. Susanne Watson Epting are relocating to their home in Davenport after seven years in New York.



**Bishop Chris Epting**

Bishop Epting will continue as the Presiding Bishop's Deputy for Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations and Deacon Watson Epting will continue as Executive Director of the North American Association for the Diaconate.

"The Presiding Bishop's vision for the Church Center," Bishop Epting explained, "is a 'flattened' organization with more collaboration between departments in New York and the opening of several regional offices to relate more closely to dioceses and congregations on the ground."

Los Angeles, Seattle, Omaha, Atlanta and Washington are the proposed sites for regional offices. Bishop Epting's associate, Dr. Thomas Ferguson, already lives in Madison, Wisconsin and both Epting and Ferguson will relate primarily to the new Omaha office, based at Nebraska's Trinity Cathedral.

"Both positions involve extensive travel which can be done as easily from the Midwest as the East coast," Epting pointed out. "We will be hiring an Associate Program Officer in Anglican, Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations who will be our New York anchor."

"My work is also a 'moveable feast,'" said Deacon Watson Epting. "While much of my work is on the road, it's great to be back in the Midwest. I'll continue our Association's initiatives in both formation and lifelong learning; teach two CDSP online courses next year on the prophetic voice of the deacon; serve on the editorial board of the next volume of *Women's Uncommon Prayers*; and continue work on Beijing Circles and MDG #3.

The Eptings are enthusiastic about returning to Iowa and being closer to family and friends and to the diocese both served for many years. "We welcome the Eptings back to Iowa," said Bishop Alan Scarfe, "and look forward to ways of working together in the years ahead."



**Deacon Susanne Watson Epting**

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### Note from the Editor:

*Iowa Connections* will not print in July or August.

Send editorial material and photos throughout the summer to the address above or email [lkelsey@iowaepiscopal.org](mailto:lkelsey@iowaepiscopal.org).

# Safety Walk-Throughs Help Congregations

By Anne Wagner

When congregations and dioceses promote basic steps to reduce risk, it makes our churches more welcoming and safe places of gathering and worship. Safety awareness can prevent accidents and control insurance costs and that is practicing stewardship.

This year the Diocese of Iowa has partnered with the Church Insurance Agency Corporation to use the Episcopal Safety Program. This program is free of charge to congregations and is sponsored by our insurance carrier, Church Insurance Company of Vermont, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Church Pension Group.

Michelle Marshall of St. Timothy's Church in West Des

Moines will be performing safety walk-throughs for 12 congregations in Iowa this summer, with a goal of providing safety inspections to every church in Iowa within 5 years.

The Episcopal Safety Program is designed to help protect your congregation's people and property. One of the principles behind the Episcopal Safety Program is that some basic steps can reduce the amount of risk that parishes face.

In most instances, recommendations will focus on basic changes to improve or enhance safety such as moving fire extinguishers, securing a handrail or removing loose carpet.

Congregations selected for safety walk-throughs this



Michelle Marshall

summer will receive a letter introducing the program and advising them that they will be contacted by Marshall to arrange a time to meet.

# St. Paul's Indian Mission 1st annual talent show

By Kit Red Wing

On Friday, April 4, St. Pauls Indian Mission hosted the first annual talent show.

After an opening prayer by The Rev. Anne Scissons the beautiful tones of Native flutes being played by Charles Lonewolf opened the evening's entertainment. Lonewolf also shared interesting facts about the flutes and the care of them.

The children's choir, "The Precious Jewels" sang "This Little Light of Mine," and "Mansion over the Hilltop." The choir consisted of Red Wing grandchildren Lemeul, Tiersa, Kitty, and Ezekiel Turner, Belle Walker, and Jahni Rush.

Next on the agenda was well known Sioux City guitarist and country singer, Vernon "Willie" Chedester. Everyone enjoyed his renditions of "Waltz Across

Texas" and "Okie from Muskogee."

Dorothy Thomas, Floyd Red Wing and friends sang from the Dakota hymnal #166, which in English translates to "Take the Name of Jesus With You."

Marge Magnuson and Kit Red Wing, who have been doing duets for 30 years, sang "Sweet Hour of Prayer" in the Dakota language. Over the years it has not been unusual to hear these two singing into the wee hours of the night.

Tracie and Connie Meyers from the Faith Christian Fellowship Church sang several country gospel songs. Their pastor, Bob Rasmussen and wife, Donna, accompanied them to the show.

Julius Turner recited the old cowboy song, "Deck of Cards." Julius proved to be handy with the cards as well as an entertainer and natural storyteller.

Floyd and Kit Red Wing sang "Red River Valley" accompanied by Willie, and Kit read her poem, "A Three Word Prayer." Yolanda Thomas then played a piano solo.

Rose Walker, Rose's granddaughter Aurelia, Gianni Gerneau, and Charles Lonewolf offered native dancing, accompanied by Rose's brother, who is an instructor of native culture and language at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion.

As the evenings entertainment drew to a close, another Sioux City guitarist, Rick Borg, entertained the crowd, singing a

*Continued on page F*

# Swaziland team named for October visit

By Melody Rockwell, Diocesan Global Missioner

Eighteen Iowans from around the diocese and one priest from Swaziland plan to join Bishop Alan Scarfe and his wife Donna for the journey to Swaziland, October 16 - 30, 2008. The group will celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Diocese of Swaziland, work on mission activities, and participate in evangelism. Mission activities that will take place include school construction and chlorinator training.

The team accompanying Donna and Alan Scarfe include: Lydia Brown, St. Mark's, Fort Dodge; The Rev. John Doherty, St. Paul's Cathedral, Des Moines; The Rev. Mary Jane Oakland, St. Paul's, Marshalltown; Marva Eck, Church of Our Savior, Clermont; The Rev. Charles Lane, Trinity, Waterloo; Lydia Kelsey, Bishop's Staff; The Rev. Carl Mann, Mike Mears, Jane Perrett, Stevie and Terry Shively and Elizabeth Ward, all from St. Alban's, Spirit Lake; Jim Bradley, Iowa City; Bill Witt, St. Luke's, Cedar Falls; Jane Ringwald, St. John's, Ames; Dan and Melody Rockwell, Christ Church, Cedar Rapids; and Angela Zahn, Christ Church, Burlington.

The Rev. Charles Kunene from Swaziland, now serving in southwest Iowa, will accompany the team to his homeland for the 40th anniversary celebration and mission trip. Ron and Toni Noah, diocesan mission team leaders, are providing team cross-cultural and mission training sessions (tentatively scheduled for June 21, July 26, September 6, and October 4) and will continue to make logistical arrangements, such as travel, for the team.

The team would greatly appreciate your sustaining prayers and support as it prepares for its time in Swaziland and during its time there in celebration, mission and evangelism.

If you would like to be a prayer partner for a member of the SwaziTrip 08 mission team, please contact: Melody Rockwell at mrockwrite@netins.net or call: 319.854.7393. Prayer partners have the opportunity to join the journey with a team member in prayer and correspondence.

# St. James, Independence celebrates 150 years

By The Rev. Sue Ann Raymond

Though the first Episcopal service was held in Independence in 1855, the parish was not organized until February 19, 1958. In May of 1858 it became part of the Episcopal Diocese of Iowa.

The present congregation is celebrating its 150th anniversary on May 31 and June 1 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

The celebration will include tours and displays of the history, as well as an ice cream social on Sunday, June 1.

In preparation for this event, the local newspaper the *Independence Bulletin Journal* featured a story on St. James, urging community members to submit photos of past members and events. The congregation published the names of the first vestry people, hoping descendants would share stories and contribute to the rich history of St. James.

The Buchanan County Historical Society is also participating in the celebration, honoring Frank Megow, a former vestryman and leader of St. James Church and the city of Independence.



St. James, Independence

# YOUTH AROUND THE DIOCESE

## Rite 13 youth from Christ, Cedar Rapids compete in Canstruction

By Leslee Sandberg

Service projects and community volunteerism take on many different forms. This year, the Christ Church, Cedar Rapids, Rite 13 youth competed in the annual Corridor Canstruction event, held in April at Lindale Mall.

Yes, that's CANstruction and not construction. However, these youth did plenty of constructing to be part of this event. They created a complete breakfast structure entirely out of cans of food! The title of their structure was called "Together We Break the Fast."

This annual event is part of a national competition whose primary goal is to feed hungry people. Recipients of the food are food pantries that are part of Second Harvest. In Linn and Johnson counties, it's called HACAP (Hawkeye Area Community Action Program). Christ Church co-sponsors a Jubilee Center food pantry with Westminster Pres-

byterian Church in Cedar Rapids and those 100 weekly guests receive some of the collected food through this event.

The Rite 13 group started early in the year with planning their structure. John MacDonald, a Christ Church member and engineer with Rockwell-Collins, guided the youth through the selection, design and building of their structure. They created a skillet of eggs and sausage on a stove top with pop tarts in a toaster on the side!

Obtaining the cans with just the right labels to form the picture of the breakfast was also a challenge. The youth made an appeal to the congregation and quickly raised the funds to go shopping for their food items.

Boxes of canned goods were loaded on to pallets and delivered to their build site at the mall. Groups had four hours to form their structure before judging took place. Area architect



Above, the structure made by Christ Church, Cedar Rapids youth.

and engineering firms as well as youth competitors created the 11 structures that were then on display for a week at the Cedar Rapids mall. All of the structures can be seen at their website: [www.corridorcanstruction.org](http://www.corridorcanstruction.org)

In total, the event had 17,249 food items weighing 20,600 pounds and costing \$14,751.00. It was one way for the youth to put into action the words of Matthew 25: "for I was hungry and you gave me food."

## Iowa youth prepare for Episcopal Youth Event (E.Y.E.)

The 2008 Episcopal Youth Event (E.Y.E.) is scheduled for July 8-13 on the campus of Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas. The theme of E.Y.E. 2008 is "Sown in the Heart of Christ."

E.Y.E. is a triennial gathering of young people in 9th through 12th grade from throughout the Episcopal Church to immerse youth in an intentional community in the Baptismal Covenant.

The E.Y.E. 2008 Design Team states, "It will be an event that plants promise and hope in the hearts of all participants and bears witness to the world that the Episcopal Church is yielding abundant fruit."

Participants are housed in the dorms at Trinity University, which has been exclusively reserved for E.Y.E. Activities at E.Y.E. include daily worship and small group discussions, large Eucharists, a huge fiesta, a healing service, and an opportunity to explore San Antonio.

Eighteen youth and 4 adults from the Diocese of Iowa will take a chartered bus with other youth and adults from Province VI, giving them an opportunity to get to

know one another on the way.

Youth attending from the diocese are: Audrey Clark (Trinity, Muscatine), Shayla Schellhorn and John Doughty (Trinity, Waterloo), Kristina Kofoot (St. Thomas, Algona), Michael Hild, Amanda Hild, and Jeff Lehman (Christ Church, Burlington), Pat

LaPage (St. John's, Dubuque), Graham Klemme and Robin Olson (Trinity, Iowa City), Bryan Bjorklund and Abby Levis (St. John's, Ames), Jack Greve (New Song, Coralville), Elliot Burke and Connor Bascom (Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Des Moines), Melissa Canova, Hanna Hagen,

and Jellyn Bacdayan (St. Anne's, Ankeny).

Adults accompanying the youth are Angela Zahn (Christ Church, Burlington), Lydia Kelsey (Missioner for Children and Youth), John Greve (New Song, Coralville), and Denise Smith (Trinity, Waterloo).

### Wright selected as E.Y.E. Peer Minister

Emily Wright, a 17 year old from St. Martin's, Perry, was selected by the national Episcopal Youth Event (E.Y.E.) design team to serve as a peer minister at EYE 2008.

Wright was chosen from a national pool of applicants to serve as a peer minister based on her demonstration of leadership skills in youth ministry. She also serves on the *National Happening Committee*, a group that oversees and advises the popular youth program, *Happening*.

Peer ministers will arrive in San Antonio on July 5, three days prior to the start of the event in order to be trained to effectively minister to the whole Episcopal Youth Event community.

Wright, the daughter of Diana Wright from St. Martin's, Perry, is currently finishing her junior year at Shattuck Episcopal Boarding School in Faribault, Minnesota.



Above, Emily Wright

# St. Tim's youth pilgrim to New York for Holy Week

Eleven St. Timotheans embarked on a Holy Week pilgrimage to New York March 15-22. The purpose of the pilgrimage for St. Timothy's youth was to journey to a sacred place to seek and experience God in new and unexpected ways.

Guided by their theme of "Practicing Resurrection" seven youth and four adults explored resurrection in places such as Ground Zero, Ellis Island, St.

John's the Divine, and the streets of New York City.

There was also time built in for fun in the Big Apple, visiting Rockefeller Center to view a taping of the *Today Show* and returning later that day to enjoy some evening ice skating.

The second half of the pilgrimage the group entered into community with Franciscan brothers at Little Portion Friary, in Mt. Sinai, New York.



*Above: George Cole-Duvall examines the San Damiano Cross*

The friars, who vow to live the way of St. Francis of Assisi, are committed to helping people discover a joyous spirituality.

Little Portion is located on 65 acres of mostly wooded land and includes an outdoor chapel and labyrinth. Pilgrims had an opportunity to talk one on one with the brothers, explored contemplative prayer, and assisted in their ministry of bread baking. The group shared all meals with the brothers, participated in daily prayers, a community potluck and Labrynth walk, and a Taize service.

Pilgrims updated an on-line blog during their travels, keeping in touch with friends and family back home.

The pilgrims returned on March 22 to celebrate Easter Sunday and be welcomed back by the community of St. Timothy's.

Those who made the pilgrimage include: Heather Barkley, Mary Barkley, George Cole-Duvall, Krystal Cudworth, Jenna Guy, Kiera Morrill, Taylor Poplewell, Lydia Kelsey, Kay-Kay Saunders, Kevin Saunders, and Elizabeth Poplewell.



*Above from left: Brother Jacob, Brother Derek, Kiera Morrill, Brother Leo Anthony, and Taylor Poplewell.*

## Iowa Christian Educators attend NAECED conference

The National Association for Episcopal Christian Education Directors (NAECED) met April 24-26 in Minneapolis for its 11th annual conference. NAECED is an association of Christian Educators, with the goals of: providing a forum for networking with other leaders, encouraging practices of spiritual reflection, theological studies and excellence in vocation, and providing members with tools and resources for their ministry.

The annual conference followed the TAPESTRY Workshop model, a conference style branded by NAECED, which is designed to promote the balance of professional development and spiritual enrichment. Participants were given the opportunity to choose workshops relevant to them.

Some topics included "Strategies for Reviewing Curriculum," "Children and Stewardship," and "Trends in Christian Formation: Looking to the Future."

Christian Educators who attended from Iowa will share resources from the conference at the annual *Day at the Cathedral with the Bishop* in Des Moines on August 23.

To join NAECED go to: [www.naeced.org](http://www.naeced.org).



*From left, Angela Zahn, Missy Morrain, Meg Wagner, Lydia Kelsey, and Wanda Stahl.*

# Family Camp

"The Gospel According to Dr. Seuss"

June 20th -21st

Hosted by Church of the Saviour  
Clermont, Iowa

Friday Check-In:

3:00 pm—5:00 pm

Saturday Check-Out:

5:00 pm

All meals are provided

Fun for All Ages!

\*Pre-Registration is required\*

[www.iowaepiscopal.org](http://www.iowaepiscopal.org)

Some activities include:

Dr. Seuss Bible Study

Games

Worship

Outdoor camping

Swimming & Fishing

Campfire

## St. Thomas, Sioux City opens hearts, minds with AWARE Sundays

In September 2007 AWARE Sunday was introduced at St. Thomas, Sioux City, replacing the tradition of Gathering Sunday, which was a simple meal offered following the 10:30 a.m. service the 4th Sunday of every month.

AWARE Sunday brings in speakers from outside the Episcopal faith community to share both some of their life and their faith walk. Speakers have included Adam Bakali, reporter on the

news team of KCAU, Sister Gwen Hennesey from Claire House (a home helping women released from incarceration to readapt to the Community), Jay Denne, an attorney (a member of the Lutheran church) who is on a faith walk leading to ordination, as well as a speaker from the Jackson Recovery Center, an addiction center helping those recovering from various addiction problems.

AWARE Sunday has been very well attended and supported

by the Sioux City community in securing outside speakers and volunteers to provide the lunches. In addition to the speakers, the worship service begins with the reading of the Mission Statement of the congregation. "It is an attempt once again to remind us of who we are and what we are. As an 'Open Door' parish, we are a family of St. Thomas, in our diversity, responding to God's love through worship, prayer and celebration," says The Rev. Curt Moermond.

Another important aspect of AWARE Sunday is the inclusion of a special prayer for all those in the Armed Forces, naming those who are a part of their extended family as well as friends of the parish. Over the months this list has grown to include over 20 names. This too is an attempt to make the people of St. Thomas AWARE of the need to hold one another up for God's protection and deliverance.

## Learning about and praying for Millenium Development Goals



By Dorsey Phelps

Asking questions and visiting informally with Dr. Alan Brody (right), guest speaker for The Vision of Abundant Life: A Day of Learning About and Praying for the Millenium Development Goals, are (left to right): Marilyn Will, Trinity, Iowa City, Ro Bany, Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Des Moines, Kate Rose and Leslee Sandburg, both from Christ Church, Cedar Rapids, and Sharon Looschern, from the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Des Moines.

Through film and story Dr. Brody introduced participants to children and families he met working on HIV/AIDS relief education and prevention during his twenty-two years with UNICEF in Swaziland. The retreat was sponsored by the Iowa Assembly of the Order of the Daughters of the King, and held at Trinity, Iowa City on Saturday, Marcy 10.

## Genereux honored for children, youth work

Sue Genereux, former Youth Missioner for the Diocese of Iowa, was honored by her home parish, Christ Church, Burlington on Sunday, May 18.

Senior Warden, Lynda Hild and Children and Youth Minister, Angela Zahn presented Genereux with a figurine and a framed copy of the Diocesan Resolution from the 155th Annual Diocesan Convention recognizing Genereux's ministry with children and youth in the diocese.



Pictured above: Lynda Hild, Sue Genereux, and Angela Zahn

## New Song takes home CROP Walk trophy

New Song, Coralville, was awarded the CROP Walk Trophy for Crop Walk 2007, in recognition for having the largest percentage increase in money raised.

Every year, Church World Service sponsors CROP Walk, where people of good will walk for food. The food is distributed around the world, but also 25% of the funds raised remain locally distributed. For the Iowa City area, the local focus is on the Iowa City Crisis Center.

CROP Walk 2008, was taken on as a ministry project for the second and newest New Song Ministry Development Team. The group raised over \$3,500, more than four times the amount raised in 2007.

Sydney Conger (left), CROP Walk coordinator for 2007, is pictured receiving the trophy on March 4 from Pat Gingrich (right), local Church World Service coordinator.



## Stimulus checks bring added joy

As part of its *Renew the Rebate* campaign, St. Timothy's will be sending over \$2,000 in extra donations to three of its partners in mission. *Renew the Rebate* is a vestry challenge issued to parishioners to tithe or donate a portion of their economic stimulus rebate to a charitable organization.

At its retreat in February, the vestry selected 3 organizations to receive the extra dollars. Keeping with their desire to make a difference locally, nationally as well as globally, the vestry chose the West Des Moines Food Pantry, Katrina Relief Efforts (through the Diocese of Louisiana), and Waters of Hope.

"We are excited to be able to reach out to our community and beyond to offer help and hope," says Mary Sheldahl, senior warden.

Having a connection to each of the organizations also factored into the campaign. "People from our parish already participate in these efforts which

made our giving more personal," Sheldahl explains.

"We have an long-standing, ongoing relationship with the Food Pantry; as a parish we've been to New Orleans three times to aid in the rebuilding efforts; and in addition to having a rider for Waters of Hope, our youth group has been selling coffee to raise funds in support of clean drinking water."

With over \$6,000 pledged, Sheldahl is pleased with the parish's response. "I'm grateful for the generosity people continue to show towards others," she says, adding, "The stimulus checks were an unexpected bonus to many of us, it's humbling to be part of a campaign that encourages us to share that joy with others."

St. Timothy's was also featured on the Episcopalians for Global Reconciliation website, as an example of what one congregation can do to make a difference.

## St. Paul's Talent Show *Continued from C*

entertained the crowd, singing a couple of folk songs and playing bluegrass.

As the finale, everyone sang, "An Unclouded Day," accompanied on guitars by Rick and Willie, after which the group adjourned to the dining room for refreshments, served by Carol Buffalo Chief, her daughter Chanin, and some helpers.

Everyone headed home by around 10:30 p.m., some taking with them crafts, frybread, and other goods they had purchased.

Scissons called the evening a success, still singing "Waltz Across Texas" several days later.

Pidamiya and Blessings of Wakantanka to all who attended or participated in making the evening so memorable.

## Stewardship, anti-racism trainings offered by Province in conjunction with Synod

The Province VI Synod will gather June 12-14 at Fort Yates, North Dakota on the The Standing Rock Reservation in North Dakota.

This year's theme, "Yield All to Welcome All" comes from a prayer written by former Presiding Bishop, Frank Griswold. Synod organizers invite participants to bring stories from their dioceses of people and congregations who have chosen to "Yield all to welcome all" and have found a sense of vitality in giving all to God.

This year two trainings will be offered in conjunction with and prior to Synod. Both trainings are open to all.

"The Spirituality of Stewardship OR 'You mean there is more to stewardship than asking for money?'" will be led by The Rev. Canon Kevin Goodrich, O.P., Canon Missioner of Southeast North Dakota on June 12.

This workshop will discuss the theology of stewardship and how it is part of all we are and all we

do. It will also offer specific ideas for doing year round stewardship education in our parishes. The registration form can be downloaded at [www.iowaepiscopal.org](http://www.iowaepiscopal.org).

Anti-racism training will be provided June 10-11. This 14-hour basic anti-racism training is consistent with the design approved by Executive Council, plus an optional planning session (at no additional charge) to enable participants to design local follow-up initiatives.

This training is designed to help people gain comfort, context and judgment in talking about "race" in America, with particular attention to our faith tradition, and to empower them in groups and institutions to help move our society to a new level in its struggle for reconciliation.

To register for the anti-racism training please contact Lou Schoen, Coordinator of the Province VI Anti-racism Network, at [louschoen@aol.com](mailto:louschoen@aol.com) or (952) 377-6702.

Ellen Bruckner from Christ Church, Cedar Rapids serves as Coordinator for Province VI.

### Diocesan Calendar

#### June 7

Ministry Development Team Forum  
St. Mark's, Des Moines

#### June 10-11

Province VI Anti-Racism Training  
Fort Yates, North Dakota

#### June 12

Province VI Stewardship Program  
Fort Yates, North Dakota

#### June 12-14

Province VI Synod Meeting  
Fort Yates, North Dakota

#### June 27-29

Summer Ministry School & Retreat  
Grinnell, Iowa

#### July 4

Diocesan Office Closed

#### July 7-14

Episcopal Youth Event  
San Antonio, Texas

#### July 16-August 3

Lambeth Conference

#### July 18-26

Pine Ridge Mission Trip  
Batesland, South Dakota

#### August 15-17

Trinity Choir Camp  
Trinity, Iowa City

#### August 23

Day at the Cathedral  
with the Bishop  
Cathedral Church of St. Paul,  
Des Moines

#### August 29-September 1

Happening #25  
Trinity, Iowa City

#### September 1

Diocesan Office Closed

#### October 10-11

Prayer Retreat  
Wesly Woods Camp, Indianola

#### November 7-8

156th Annual Diocesan Convention  
Des Moines

# Coming Events

## Ministry Development Team Forum

St. Mark's, Des Moines

June 7

8:30 AM - 4:15 PM

All are invited this Ministry Development Team Forum, during which the Bishop, the Missioner for Ministry Development and others will discuss the rationale, theology, historical development, formation and workings, both practical and canonical, of MDT congregations.

These forums will lay a foundation for our further conversations about these matters. We hope that they will inform you of what congregations like yours are doing, challenge you to think about how you are organized and prepared for your mission and ministry, and give you a foundation from which to consider these questions further.

## Annual Wedding Vow Renewal Ceremony for Couples Married 35 Years or More

St. John's, Mason City

June 21

Calling all couples married for at least 35 years! Come for a service of renewal of vows and Holy Communion followed by a wedding reception in St. John's parish hall. Invite your family and friends to be there with you as you reaffirm your life together before God. RSVP, please, by 3:00 pm Friday, June 13th to St. John's parish office at (641) 424-1300.

## Trinity Choir Camp

Trinity, Iowa City

August 15-17

The Trinity Choir Camp is a great way to begin the choir season with energy, fun, and lots of singing. Trinity is affiliated with the Royal School of Church Music, which includes more than 9,000 affiliated churches and schools.

Open to youth entering grades 2-12, choir parents and adults traveling with youth are invited to participate as well. Trinity, Iowa City is offering accommodations with Trinity choir families for those traveling from out of town. The camp will culminate in the Sunday morning Choral Eucharist at Trinity on Sunday, August 17 at 10:30 a.m. Limited to forty participants. \$50 registration fee. Download a registration form at [www.iowaepiscopal.org](http://www.iowaepiscopal.org).

## Day at the Cathedral with the Bishop

Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Des Moines

August 23

This second annual event is a fun day for all ages! Christian Educators come for hands-on, practical training and workshops on topics relevant to your ministry in faith formation. Topics will include "Godly Play," "Choosing the Best Curriculum for your Congregation," "Training for Youth Group Leaders," "Planning a Pilgrimage," and many more!

Meanwhile, youth can participate in Acolyte Training and everyone's favorite, Acolyte Olympics. The Royal School of Church Music will also offer a workshop for children and youth. Make sure to save the date for this great event!

## Prayer Retreat

Wesly Woods Camp, Indianola

Sponsored by St. Timothy's, West Des Moines

October 10-11

Norvene Vest, author of *Preferring Christ...A Devotional Commentary on the Rule of St. Benedict* will lead this Prayer Retreat, sponsored by St. Timothy's, West Des Moines. Norvene is a spiritual director, author, and workshop leader, especially known for her books on Benedictine spirituality for the common life. Contact [sttimsepis@msn.com](mailto:sttimsepis@msn.com) or 515-225-2020 for registration information.

# Bishops model full communion for ecumenical leaders

Continued from page A

The morning workshop session began with Episcopalians and United Methodists being asked to sit apart from one another. They were then asked what they thought of the other denomination, and what gifts they thought their denomination can bring to the table.

Some reflections from United Methodists were that Episcopalians have a liturgy rich with senses, smell, and sight, an appreciation for tradition, honor and reverence and understanding of the sacraments, and a great respect for the Eucharist. They also shared a sense that Episcopalians are becoming isolated with decreasing membership numbers.

Some thoughts from Episcopalians were that United Methodists had creativity and spontaneity with worship, rich hymns and a great appreciation for music, the ability to get large groups of people together, and that United Methodists are mission focused with a strong commitment to social action.

After lunch, Bishop Palmer and Bishop Scarfe gathered clergy and lay leaders into geographic region for a chance to get to know one another and explore the possibility of partnering up to complete the study guide as partner congregations.

During a time for questions, the bishops were asked “What does full communion really mean?”

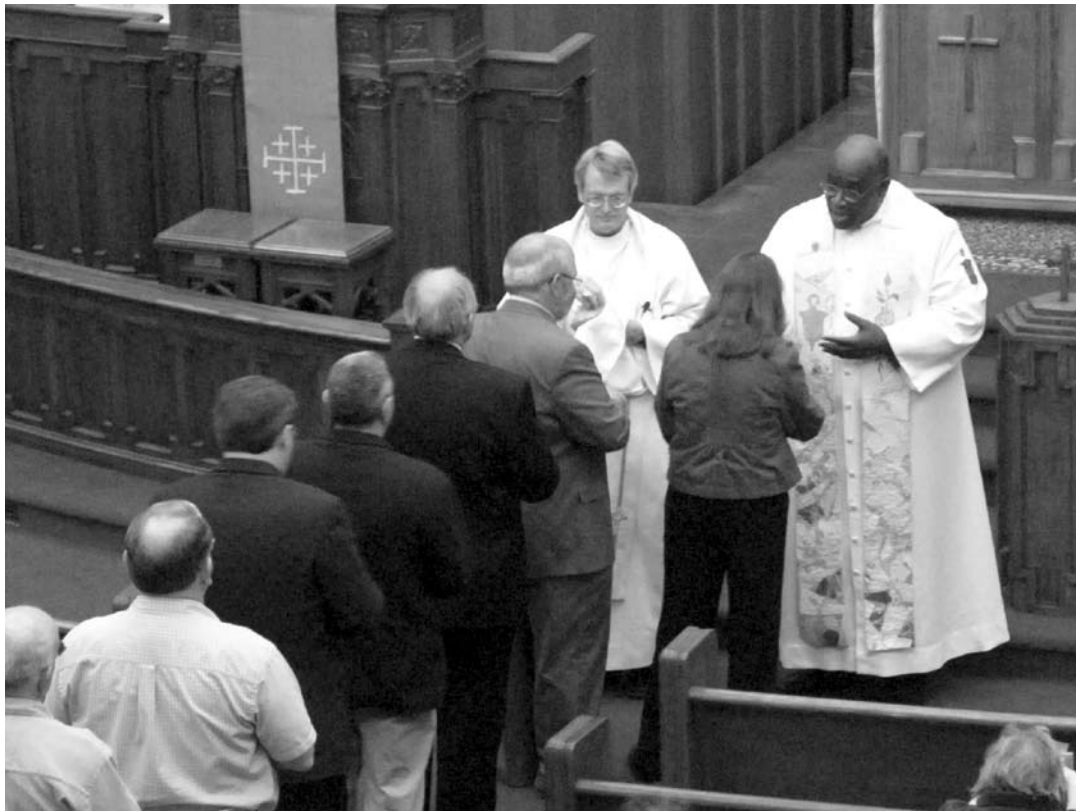
Bishop Scarfe responded, “It means we recognize in that church body that that church body is an authentic vehicle of God’s grace through activities of word, sacrament, and orders, and there is such interchangeability that one can function in another and sacraments can be administered in both equally.”

Scarfe continued, “Members no longer

would need to be received into denominations. They would be able to transfer back and forth.”

The day ended with Bishop Scarfe and Bishop Palmer sharing in a joint celebration of the

Eucharist. Palmer’s homily inspired unity, proclaiming, “We have a mission of bringing humanity together, and maybe a main place to begin is within the Christian community.”



Above from left: Bishop Alan Scarfe and Bishop Gregory Palmer share in a joint celebration of the Eucharist

## Diocese welcomes The Rev. Charles Kunene

By Lydia Kelsey

The Rev. Charles Kunene was greeted with snow showers when his plane arrived in Des Moines on April 3 to begin two years of ministry with the Southwest Cluster.

Kunene answered a call and invitation from Bishop Scarfe to serve the congregations of Glenwood, Red Oak, and Shenandoah. Kunene comes from the Diocese of Swaziland, where he serves five congregations, ranging in size from 50 to over 200.

Kunene’s first month in the Southwest Cluster has been busy, attending diocesan and chapter events, meeting with Ministry Development Teams in Glenwood and Shenandoah, preaching and presiding at services each Sunday, and blessing farms before the planting season.

The Rev. Artis Ferrel shares, “Through all this, Father Charles has gotten much publicity – newspaper and radio – and when you walk down the street with him, people will come up to him and tell him they heard him on the radio or saw him in the paper. This has certainly been good for our Cluster.”

Kunene is grateful to the kind volunteers who have provided transportation to him as he waits out the 30 day

period required in order to obtain an Iowa driver’s license.

Kunene had an opportunity to meet with the riders of Waters of Hope during their stop in Creston. He shared first hand with the riders and community members the water situation in Swaziland and assisted in demonstrating chlorinators.

Funds raised from Waters of Hope will send chlorinators to Swaziland, something Kunene is grateful for. “Each chlorinator will benefit 50 families, who come each week to make chlorine to take home and use to disinfect the water they have collected from the river or pond, and this will save them from being sick or at worst dying from using unclean water.”

Answering this call to serve in the Diocese of Iowa has been a sacrifice for Kunene, whose wife Phulie, and two children Siso, 18, and Sindi, 15, remain nearly 10,000 miles away in Swaziland. To Kunene though, it is important that he is here. “I hope to learn from our brothers and sisters here. This is a different place than Swaziland and what I can learn from a different culture and take back to my country can help assist in my work.”



Above: The Rev. Charles Kunene. Photo from Glenwood Opinion-Tribune.