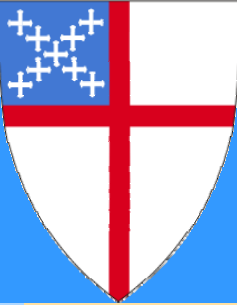


Advent 2008



EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF IOWA

Living Arrows

Ministry with Young People

Diocesan Youth Ski Trip

The 5th Annual Diocese of Iowa Ski Trip will take place February 6-8, 2009. The weekend will include worship, food, skiing, games, a Saturday evening party, and plenty of time to get acquainted with other youth from around the Diocese of Iowa. This event will be graciously hosted by St. John's, Du-buque. Each parish will receive a registration packet in the mail. Here are a few things to keep in mind as you plan for this exciting event:

- Youth and youth leaders from each parish register as a group
- Each group needs to contact Sundown directly to make reservations
- If possible, plan to arrive by Friday at 7 pm
- Each group leader should review the diocesan policies and procedures concerning sexual boundaries to ensure there are an adequate number of adult chaperones per number of youth. If you have any questions about these policies or would like a copy please contact Lydia at 515-277-6165 or lkelsey@iowaepiscopal.org.
- There will be a \$25 registration fee per youth, plus either a \$33 lift fee or \$57 ski/snowboard package which includes the lift fee, equipment rental, and a lesson. *As always, scholarships are available to assist with cost.*



What is P.R.O.M.?

By now you may have heard about the P.R.O.M. committee and wondered what on earth it is and what they do! P.R.O.M. stands for Praying, Relaxing, and Opening Minds. This committee was the idea of a number of youth who attended the Episcopal Youth Event in San Antonio in July. The youth wanted to get together to organize more youth events and reach out to other youth. The P.R.O.M. committee is an open group, so any youth who are interested in working on a diocesan level to advocate for youth and plan events are welcome to participate.

A P.R.O.M. business meeting/lock-in will be held December 19-20 in Des Moines to plan events for 2009 and develop goals and objectives for this newly formed group.

If you are interested in working with this youth group as an adult leader or if you know of youth who would like to join please contact the Diocesan Youth Missioner, Lydia Kelsey.



Episcopal Peace Fellowship Needs Test Sites for Peace Projects

Episcopal Peace Fellowship is developing a toolkit of peace-action resources. They are seeking up to 10 TEST SITES to test a peace project in your parish and/or community.



A parish or EPF chapter can either select one of the tools from their Peace Tool KIT (vestry tool, Jr./Sr. High tool and here or community peace tool) OR they can create their own peace project.

With a grant from the National Church, EPF is able some funding for supplies, transportation etc. up to \$500 for each site. They're looking for sites representing a wide spectrum of geographical locations and congregational profiles (size, age, race, urban, rural). Application Deadline is February 1st.

Guidelines may be found here:

http://epfnational.org/our_resources/creative_peacemaking_toolkits/epf_test_site_application.html

Apply here: http://epfnational.org/our_resources/creative_peacemaking_toolkits/test_site_application.html

Souper Bowl of Caring

Looking for a fun, meaningful youth event for the new year? Why not use Super Bowl weekend, a time when people come together for football and fun, to also unify the nation for a higher good: collecting dollars and canned food for the needy? Youth collect donations at their schools and churches in soup pots, and then send every dollar DIRECTLY to a local charity of THEIR choice. Check out www.souperbowl.org to sign up your youth group.



FREE Retreat for Youth Workers

Lutheran Lakeside Camp in Spirit Lake will be hosting a Youth Workers retreat over the weekend of January 23-25, 2009. According to Program Director, Brent Stanek, "It is going to be a very low key weekend of fun, relaxation, and fellowship."

The Diocese of Iowa will be partnering with Lutheran Lakeside in the summer of 2009 to offer camp to Episcopal youth in 3rd through 8th grade. Come check out the location and accommodations and spend time with other adults who work with youth! Contact Brent Stanek for more information at stanek@lutheranlakeside.com or (712)336-2109. Or go to www.lutheranlakeside.com to see the camp!

Online Interactive Advent Calendars

If you are looking for a way to build daily reflection and meditation into your life this Advent Season you may be interested in one of many online Advent calendars.



Here are a few to check out:

Trinity Wall Street: <http://www.trinitywallstreet.org/welcome/?advent08>

Diocese of West Texas: http://www.dwtx.org/index.php/prayer/Advent_Calendar

Diocese of Maryland: <http://www.ang-md.org/index.php#advent>

Questions or comments email us at
lkelsey@iowaepiscopal.org

Diocese of Iowa
225 37th Street

Des Moines IA 50312-4305

www.iowaepiscopal.org

Tel: 515-277-6165

FAX: 515-277-0273

Three generations of diocesan involvement!

Pictured right is the Bjorklund family, (a well known family in the Diocese of Iowa Youth Ministry world!), who represent three generations of diocesan involvement and leadership. From left to right: Bryan Bjorklund, Bruce Bjorklund, Dorothy Yoerger, and Diane Bjorklund.

Bruce and Dorothy served as lay delegates for St. John's by the Campus in Ames, while Bryan was a Junior Youth Delegate, and Diane assisted with registration and served as a chaperone to youth delegates.

Congratulations to Diane who was elected to both the Board of Directors and Standing Committee and to Bruce who was elected a lay Delegate to Provincial Synod and 4th Lay Alternate to General Convention.



Youth Ministry and Christian Education program at Seminary of the Southwest January 18-24

Lay ministers will be on the campus of Seminary of the Southwest January 18-24 for the new year's first session of the Certificate Programs for Youth Ministry and Christian Education. The curriculum offers two one-week sessions exploring topics like culture and society, Bible themes and contexts, images of God, theology, ethics, cross-cultural ministry, prayer and spirituality, liturgy and theology, and interpreting the Bible – just to name a few. Sessions are held in January and June on the seminary's campus in central Austin. Completion of two sessions leads to Basic certification – followed by Associate and then Advanced levels in following years.

The Certificate Program is part of Southwest's Center for Christian Ministry and Vocation where people of faith can deepen their knowledge of Christian thought and practice and pursue specialized training. Activities outside the classroom include opportunities like a meditation labyrinth, evening worship services, centering prayer and Anglican rosary. Free time is available for students to explore the music and culture of Austin. If you are interested in applying for this program, contact Molly Bennett at mbennett@ssw.edu or 512.472.4133, ext. 340.

Check out possible mission experiences for youth!

Visit www.episcopalmissionexchange.org to learn about EMX, an Episcopal program designed to help match parishes or dioceses up with mission opportunities and to provide groups with the tools to organize your trip and prepare your team. New 2009 Opportunities have been updated!



Have you visited Children at Worship?

Did you know we have a diocesan subscription to the website “Children at Worship—Congregations in Bloom”? This website was created by The Rev. Caroline Fairless to “explore the possibilities of congregational transformation through full inclusion of your children and youth in your worship services.” The website provides access to resources, lesson plans, and tons of creative ideas for ministering with children and youth.

To log in go to <http://www.childrenatworship.org/>. Type “dioia” for both the username and password.

Save the Date!

February 6-8

Ski Trip
St. John's, Dubuque

July 24-26

Ministry School and Retreat
Grinnell College, Grinnell

March 6-8

Happening #26
St. Paul's Cathedral, Des Moines

July 26-31

Diocesan Camp for those completing 6th-8th grade
Lutheran Lakeside Camp, Spirit Lake

April 17-19

PROM Committee hosts Prom
Christ Church, Burlington

August 9-15

Diocesan Camp for those completing 6th-12th grade
Camp Shalom, Maquoketa

April 24-26

New Beginnings #2
Pictured Rocks Camp, Monticello

August 22

Day with the Bishop
St. Paul's Cathedral, Des Moines

May 8-9

Faith Formation Forum
St. John's, Ames

September 4-7

Happening #27
Northwest location to be determined

July 5-10

Diocesan Camp for those completing 3rd-5th grade
Lutheran Lakeside Camp, Spirit Lake

Check the youth section of www.iowaepiscopal.org for up-to-date information about all of these events!!!!