



South Dakota Episcopal

ChurchNews

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November/December 2013

Convention Recap

Another Diocesan Convention is over. It was the 129th convention in South Dakota – the 43rd since we became a diocese. The first time we met in Pierre was in 1925; this was the 16th time.

Thanks to the Ramkota in Pierre for their usual excellent food and service throughout the weekend. Thanks go especially to the Eastern Deanery for their hospitality: Good Shepherd in Sioux Falls for most of the worship details; Calvary Cathedral for the clergy dinner and cookie coordination; Mike Mornard from Huron for watching over the microphones; Dean Ward Simpson for his tech prowess; those individuals who served as ballot counters, helped with registration & credentials, and donated the wonderful cookies and bars.

150 clergy and lay delegates attended, with another 75 alternates, visitors, exhibitors, and other interested or related persons in, out, and around.

The weekend began with an It's Great To Be An Episcopalian picnic – not a new event in this diocese, but this was the first time in recent memory that it was held as a lead in to convention. The predicted 70 attended, despite the wind and cool temperatures. Another big thank you to those who furnished food, grills, and beverages.

Episcopal Church Women met on Friday to listen to a presentation by Portia Corbin, Missioner for Youth and Young Adults, and conduct business. Cora Koss was elected Treasurer, replacing Gloria Pearson.

The TEC Board also met during the weekend. Among other items of business, they appointed Don Metcalf to be TEC (Thunderhead Episcopal Camp)

Facilities Manager.

Guests for the weekend included the **Rt. Rev. Gordon Scruton**, retired bishop of Western Massachusetts, and the **Rt. Rev. George Young**, bishop of our companion diocese, East Tennessee. Bishop Young preached at the Convention Eucharist; Bishop Scruton led the clergy conference and a Saturday workshop.

Budget

Administrator Randy Barnhardt, resplendent in his day-glo green accessories, presented the diocesan budget for 2014. The Budget was printed in the last issue of *ChurchNews*.

Resolution

St. James, Belle Fourche, presented a resolution which passed un-amended. From now on, congregations which qualify under diocesan canons for only one convention delegate have the option of sending up to two delegates. Congregations which qualify for two or more delegates may send the number of delegates currently provided by canon.

Elections

Elections were held on Saturday. The results are as follows:

DIOCESAN COUNCIL (Convention Representative)
The Rev. Kim Fonder, Mni Sose Cluster

Registrar/Historiographer

Dr. April Brooks, St. Paul's, Brookings

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**The Diocese
of
South Dakota**



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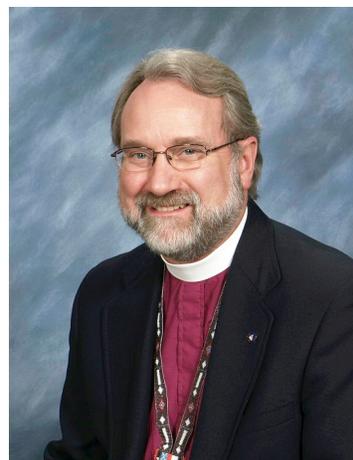
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**Bishop's address to 2013
Convention**

As I complete my fourth year of serving as your bishop I am thankful to God for you, the laity, and your faithful ministry through the church and outside of the Church. I am thankful for the clergy who faithfully live out their ordination vows among us. I am thankful for the Diocesan staff who offer dedicated service to God through their work on your behalf. And as always, and especially, I am thankful to God, who for reasons I still do not fully understand, has called me to be a servant of Christ among and with you in the hope that through our work together God's Kingdom might become more real to the world around us.

This year, like every year, has seen joys and sorrows, triumphs and disappointment. We have baptized, confirmed, married and, of course, buried many in our communities. For both those who have come to the church and to those the church has gone out to meet, we have walked in the transitions of their lives. We have held their babies, held their hands and all too often we have held their broken hearts. We have been the church, the body of Christ, the outward and visible signs of God's inward and spiritual grace. Thank you for being the sacramental Church.

This past year we have seen some of our youth and young adult ministries blossom, some are in transition, and some are still in the early development phase. Rita Powell left us to serve on the staff of Trinity Church, Boston in July. Portia Corbin began serving as Missioner for youth and young adult ministry in September. Although this is a transition, Portia, who grew-up in this diocese, has been very involved in our camp min-



The Rt. Rev. John Tarrant

istry, Taize and other ministries since she was in her teens. Many of you already know her; she will be available to get to know many more of you. She was raised in this diocese, she knows this diocese, and she feels privileged to have the opportunity to serve with us.

Brandon Mauai left as our youth minister on Standing Rock in April. We found it to cumbersome for him to drive down from Ft. Yates on a regular basis to serve in the capacity needed. We are reconfiguring how that program is led, but we have learned much from this two-year pilot project. We know there is both a need and receptivity on the part of the young people for a consistent church-led youth ministry.

We are looking to start a second youth ministry on the Cheyenne River Mission. Again, here too, the challenge is to find the leadership which is both gifted and dedicated to serve with the youth. This program may be more 'event centered' in its early stages. We are blessed to have funds set aside that enable us to continue to explore the most effective ministry plan within the context we are serving. In other words, if youth ministry were easy, everybody would

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(CONVENTION—Continued from page 1)

Treasurer

Chris Clem, Calvary Cathedral, Sioux Falls

Secretary to Convention

The Rev. Lauren Stanley, Rosebud Mission

STANDING COMMITTEE

Tamara Fonder, Holy Comforter, Lower Brule

Dean Ward Simpson, Calvary Cathedral

2015 GENERAL CONVENTION DEPUTIES

The Rev. Canon David Hussey

The Rev. Kim Fonder

The Rev. Paul Sneve

The Rev. Annie Henninger

Tamara Fonder

Don Metcalf

Twilla Two Bulls

Carol Traversie

Thank you to outgoing Treasurer **Gary Conradi**, Standing Committee members the **Rev. Sandy Williams** and **Don Metcalf**, and Convention Secretary **Pat Woolley** for your service to the diocese over the past few years.

Our next convention will be held at the Ramkota in Pierre, September 26-27, 2014. The Northeast Deanery will be our hosts. See you there?

(BISHOP—Continued from page 2)

be doing it and we would have started a long time ago. We are committed, because we know it is important. We are in this for the long haul.

Our Intentional Christian Young Adult Community continues to transition into its second year. Mikayla Dunfee, one of last year's residents, is off to seminary at Yale Divinity School. Anna Robinson, and Taylor Andrade have joined Kieran Conroy at the Noah Brokenleg House in Mission on the Rosebud Reservation this fall. This ministry will always be in transition, it is the nature of the community.

We had the highest attended camp this summer in nine years. Over thirty young people attended the middle school camp alone. All of the children who go to TEC are financially subsidized to some degree. Thunderhead Camp needs your support, if it is to continue to thrive. We need people who will drive children to camp. We need people who will come to TEC on work weekends and help prepare the facility. We are also asking congregations, missions or deaneries to "adopt a cabin," so that needed renovations are more cost effective. John Beebe served as interim facilities manager this past summer. He developed a property plan to help us address the physical needs of the camp.

The TEC Board, chaired by David Wheeler, is working on a plan to address the financial needs of the camp as well. We are going to re-invigorate TEC Sunday and we hope to develop a planned giving program to build TEC's endowment. The endowment has about \$200,000 in it now. We need to increase that by about eight times to assure Thunderhead's future sustainability. With your help this is a very doable goal. For example, one of our board members has challenged the rest of the board to commit to \$1.00 a day pledge toward the TEC endowment. If we could get one hundred people from around the Diocese to make a similar pledge, those 100 would generate \$1,460.00 in interest income each year in perpetuity. More information will be forth coming on these opportunities in the weeks ahead.

Well we pulled it off... Taizé 2013 happened! Thanks be to God, working through the Two Bulls Family, Rita, the brothers from Taizé, the Oglala Sioux Tribe, and many, many, many others our Diocese hosted an international Taizé gathering at Christ Church, Red Shirt Table on Memorial Day Weekend this past May. You will hear more about this tomorrow, but it was a major event and we, with God's help, did it! Over 500 young adults were part of a significant spiritual experience. We will continue our relationship with the Taizé Community in France and hope to send another group of young adults in the summer of 2014.

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(BISHOP—Continued from page 3)

A follow-up: our M&M fundraiser from last year's convention has generated \$3,032.87 toward a youth ministry endowment. You can still return tubes or send a check marked M&M fundraiser. Earlier this year we received a generous bequest that, combined with other donations, has established the Native American Youth Works Foundation. It presently has about \$100,000 in it. The interest from this growing fund will assure youth ministry can be maintained for many years to come.

We are also in the process of revamping the Niobrara School for Ministry program. This program seeks to educate and train leaders for both lay and ordained ministry throughout the Diocese. This new and improved program will be ready to launch in the next few weeks.

Things have not gone as well as we thought they would with the congregation re-start in Watertown and the Diocese is unable to financially sustain the fulltime clergy position. As a result Jackie Bernacchi, who has been very faithful, has accepted a position in the Diocese of Minnesota. She will be leaving for White Earth Reservation in late October. I am very thankful for her ministry. I don't know what we are going to do, but I have a feeling that God is calling us to do something very different, something we could not come up with on our own. I look forward to exploring that "something" with the folks in Watertown and elsewhere who are open to listening to the Spirit.

Now some reflections:

How many here today are under the age of 20? How many under the age of thirty? Forty? Fifty? Sixty? That's far enough. There are not many hands raised under the age of forty.

The temptation is to say, "if we could just go back to way things were," to some remembered time in the past when everything was 'peachy keen'. I hear this all over the diocese, mostly from those of us over the age of 50. There are a few things I do know for sure. I know that the past is most helpful when used as our teacher. We can learn from it, but we cannot go back to it. We are like the Hebrew people in the wilderness, life is very uncomfortable, but there is no

going back to Egypt. We can't live in memories. Again, this does not mean we cannot learn something from the past, but if we want there to be a future we need to live in the present.

There is no great plan, marvelous program or inspiring bishop's address waiting on the horizon that will make everything better. We can't program our way into the Kingdom of God. So, what do we do? I think, for starters, we need to get back about our business (*defined as: 'purposeful activity', or 'function'*) as a church, the body of Christ. What is it about our relationship with Christ Jesus that empowers, enlivens and gives us hope? As followers, don't we gather in community to praise and worship the living God and give support to each other disciples? Isn't that why we gather? If it is, why do we spend so much energy fighting with each other?

On the second Sunday of Advent this year we will read from Isaiah 10:

**⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.**

This is a wonderful image of the "peaceable kingdom." It is often part of our Christmas pageants, but it is only an image.

It is not a "little child" that leads us, but it is an adult, the incarnate God in the person of Jesus. It is as an adult that Jesus brings a vision of what the world can be and the willingness to die for that vision. What is our vision for the church? Is it one of mere institutional survival or is in one that embraces God's dream for us and our world, and are we willing to die for it?

The church of the 21st century, the church that will attract and enliven those who are not invested in the institution, will need to be grounded in a passion for Jesus that is so personally transforming that it become infectious to those around us. It is not the programs we offer that will attract people to our faith communities, but it is the lives that we live: as sinners broken, as sinners healed, and as sinners broken again for the sake of God's kingdom.

People are not coming to our churches, because they do not believe us. They do not believe, "that God so

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(BISHOP—Continued from page 4)

loves the world that he gave his only begotten Son.” They do not see in our communities the glow of the Kingdom of God. If we want our churches to be alive, we need to be alive. We need to set aside all pettiness and ill thoughts. We need to quit looking at what is in it for us, but instead we need to empty ourselves, so that we might be filled with the very Spirit of God. And remember, if it were easy everybody would be doing it.

The church of the 21st century is not about the institutional church at all; it about the body of Christ living into the Kingdom of God. That is our business and that is our only business.

+John

Sheets collected for MASH

During August 2013, the members of Grace Church, Madison, collected twin-sized sheets as part of “Operation Bed Sheets,” a program that supplies bed sheets to military MASH (Mobile Army Surgical Hospital) units in the war zones of Afghanistan and Iraq. Their sheets are often torn, stained, and worn-out from use and washing.

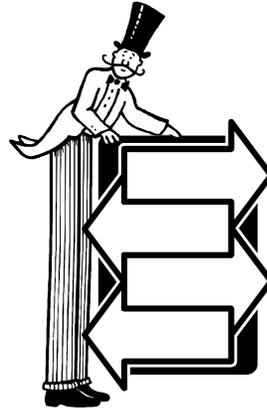
Linda and Mike Parks of Grace Church sponsored the drive to collect sheets. Monetary donations were also solicited to help defray the shipping costs.

United Thank Offering

Thank you for your generous thankful giving to UTO at Convention. \$233.55 was contributed. This amount will be added to contributions from the congregations throughout the year and forwarded to UTO by December 31.

To be counted toward 2013 giving, please schedule a Fall Ingathering, convert the coins of thanks to something easier and safer to mail, and send it to the Diocesan Office, marked UTO—before Dec 20.

Then continue—or start!—giving daily thanks for the blessings in our everyday lives – with a coin in your blue box.



Diocesan Changes & Transitions

There have been a few clergy changes recently:

- The Rev. **Jackie Bernacchi**, Trinity, Watertown, has accepted a position at the White Earth Reservation in Minnesota, beginning Nov. 1.
- The Rev. **Rich Ressler**, left Emmanuel, Rapid City, to pursue Interim Ministry. He recently accepted a post in Hawaii.
- The Rev. **Chris Roussel** has accepted the position of Priest-in-Charge of Emmanuel, Rapid City. A former Roman Catholic priest, he comes to South Dakota from Louisiana and Northern Indiana.
- Two Deacons have been re-assigned: Deacon **Judy Graves** to Good Shepherd in Sioux Falls, and Deacon **Virginia Bird** to Emmanuel, Rapid City.
- The Rev. **Paul Sneve** has accepted the call to St. Paul’s, Vermillion, beginning January 1. He will serve there part time in addition to his Niobrara School and Archdeacon duties.

The Diocese also lost two clergy members to death:

- ELCA Pastor **Ron Brugger** of Huron died in Sioux Falls on September 12, 2013. In his retirement he served interim ministries for the diocese in Huron, Watertown, and Brookings.
- Deacon **Vernon Cloud**, Sisseton Mission, died on September 23, 2013. A lifetime lay leader and minister, Vern was ordained a deacon on September 10, 2011.

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(TRANSITIONS—Continued from page 5)

Gov. Dennis Daugaard announced that he will appoint **Gloria Pearson**, of Yankton, as Secretary of Human Services. The Department of Human Services oversees the Division of Developmental Disabilities, the Division of Rehabilitation Services, the Division of Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired and the South Dakota Developmental Center at Redfield.

Pearson is a Sisseton native. She and her husband, the Rev. Jim Pearson, Rector of Christ Church in Yankton, have three adult sons. Pearson will enter her new role on Nov. 4.

All Saints' Day and Halloween

by Archdeacon Paul Sneve

The Feast of All Saints occurs on November first. Most children (and adults) probably won't know much about All Saints' Day, but most do know about the day before, that is All Hallows Eve, or Halloween.

When I was growing up, my friends would tell me that Halloween was an evil occasion and that it was the "Devil's New Year" or "Witches New Year"! Such silly stories made the evening scary and spooky. Since then I've encountered (adult) members of certain Protestant denominations that also tell such scary stories about All Hallows Eve, some even forbid their children from observing the occasion. This disturbs me on a number of levels.

First of all, their ignorance of Church history and the Church calendar takes a wonderful Christian holiday and gives it to the Devil. Secondly, nearly all Christian holidays (including Easter and Christmas) have roots in pagan events. And finally, by not allowing their children to observe this holiday, they are also missing out on a very good lesson about Jesus.

Christianity is a unique religion in that it enculturates many symbols from the local religions around it. This means that it takes symbols that also have meaning within the Church and makes it her own. This is why Christianity has flourished and is appealing.

The reason why we continue to use the ancient practices of dressing up, carving pumpkins and going door to door "Trick or Treating" is because by doing so we

mock death, of which, because of Jesus, we no longer have to be afraid. Doesn't it make better sense to teach our children this rather than instilling fear into them—especially when Jesus was supposed to do away with fear?!



I hope everyone had fun this Halloween, but be sure to keep this a Christian Holiday by also celebrating All Saints' Day. By doing so we will really have a good reason to celebrate!

Dakota Experience

November 1-2, 2013

Calvary Cathedral in Sioux Falls

Call Pat Woolley @ 605-842-2033
or email dsdmsm@me.com

Please meet Portia Corbin,

Missioner for Youth & Young Adult Ministry:

Portia grew up in this diocese. She was a camper through her middle and high school years; she served as Counselor in 2005 and as Head Counselor in 2009 and 2012.

In 2005, as a high school senior, Portia picked up the dropped reins and put on the Diocesan Middle School Youth Convention in Pierre.

During college she served as a Middle School Youth Group leader. Upon graduation she lived a year in an intentional community in Washington DC, experiencing intergenerational ministry by coordinating a service program for young people to help senior citizens with home & yard care.

During her seminary years, Portia developed and taught a one-room schoolhouse Sunday School for a small Episcopal church.

We are privileged to have her, her skills, and her insights, back in the diocese to help us all work together toward our goals.

Youth Missioner reports

As one who grew up in this diocese, it is an honor and a privilege to return as the Missioner for Youth and Young Adult Ministry.

You might notice the slight change in the name of this position. We have moved away from “coordinator” and replaced it with “missioner.” This language is important. A coordinator is often seen as one who directs—thereby suggesting an amount of higher authority. By contrast, a missioner builds up the body by serving alongside others as a resource and support. As the Missioner for youth and young adults, I will begin by supporting the many wonderful ministries already taking place across this diocese that involve children, youth, and young adults.

- This summer Thunderhead Camp saw its highest numbers in recent history. Campers—regardless of age—overwhelmingly reported that camp is special because of the people. The camp is growing because of a deep sense of community and trust among both the campers and the staff.
- The Young Adult Intentional Community in Rosebud has grown to three members this year. Through prayer, listening, and hospitality, this community is beginning to imagine new ways of being church—of being present to one another, as well as offering themselves as a presence in the world.
- The Rosebud Mission has also seen the successful beginning of a Wednesday School Program. GLORY (God Loves Our Rosebud Youth) was launched this month, and is bringing joy and community to both children and youth in the area.
- The relationships that were cultivated through the Taizé event on Pine Ridge continue to thrive. More friends are made every day through vibrant Taizé prayer ministries all across the diocese as young people gather together across denominational lines to pray. Youth and Young Adults at The School of Mines, USD, SDSU, and Calvary Cathedral all host regular Taizé prayer.

There are many more ministries taking place across

this diocese and even more that are in the early stages of dreaming and imagining. I look forward to working alongside each of you as we continue the ministries that are already in place, and explore and imagine those to come.

The Rev. Deacon Portia Corbin

Rosebud Young Adult Intentional Community

Introducing the 2013-2014 contingent:

Kieran Conroy is entering his second year in the community. He hails from the Hudson Valley of New York, and has served in Intentional Communities and nonprofits benefiting urban Native American communities in Omaha and Boston prior to this. He has interests in youth ministry, education, hiking and gardening. Kieran looks forward to deepening the relationships he established in his first year.

Anna Robinson is from Green Bay, Wisconsin. Her interests include music, traveling, and activism. Anna served as a Red Cloud Volunteer on Pine Ridge, and in a Franciscan program in Washington DC before coming to Mission. Anna hopes to “explore what it means to live in a spiritual community against the norms of American Society.”

Taylor Andrade grew up in Pierre. She became involved in youth ministry through Thunderhead Episcopal Center where she was a camper. She also served as a counselor the past two summers. Taylor was also very involved in the preparations for Taizé Pine Ridge. Taylor is especially passionate about mentoring and suicide prevention. She seeks to bring hope to youth facing peer pressure and negative influences by being a role model.

2014 SUMMER CAMP SCHEDULE

June 8-14	Middle School/Confirmation
June 15-21	High School Camp
June 22-25	5-6 Grade/Family Camp

Canon's Reflections

"Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well."

Luke's Gospel (17:11-19) tells us the story of the Ten Lepers; all of whom were healed by our Lord, but of which only one returns to give thanks. Why do you think that happened? If we have on our popular culture reading glasses, this passage is a no brainer. It all becomes clear in the last line of the story, where Jesus seems to be telling us that it is "our faith" which has made us well. Praise God, our tendency to believe that it really is all about us and our realizing our true potential, has been vindicated and by no less than the Son of God.

In this time that some would call the "Post-Christian era", it is not surprising to me, and I'm sure not to God, that we have reduced the God of all Creation to a brief cameo appearance in our lives. It seems as though, as my Grandma would say, that we've gotten a little too big for our britches. We no longer see God as the Agent of Good and of healing, who created all that was, all that is and all that will ever be, and raised from the dead Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Instead, we are more likely to give credit to Science, Medicine, Technology, Doctors, Nurses, Researchers, Pharmaceuticals, ourselves and the credits roll on and on. Then, as the last few lines come into view, when almost everyone but the clean-up crew has left the theatre and the screen goes blank, we see the mention of God, a tip of the hat to God's presence and nothing more.

- Canon David Hussey

**Bishop's visitation & travel
dates in bold letters**

Diocesan Calendar

NOVEMBER

Bishop Tarrant begins 5th year of his consecration
 Nov 1-2 Dakota Experience, Sioux Falls
Nov 3 Bishop visits Good Shepherd, SF
 Nov 8-9 Niobrara Council
Nov 10 Bishop visits Standing Rock Mission
 Nov 11 Diocesan Office closed
Nov 17 Bishop visits Aberdeen
Nov 24 Bishop visits Cheyenne River Mission
 Nov 28-29 Diocesan Office closed

DECEMBER

Dec 8 Bishop visits Christ Church, Yankton
Dec 15 Bishop visits Grace, Huron
Dec 21 Corbin Ordination, Pierre
Dec 22 Bishop visits St. Matthew, Rapid City
 Dec 25 Diocesan Office closed

JANUARY 2014

Jan 1 Diocesan Office closed
Jan 5 Bishop visits Tiospaye Wakan, SF
Jan 12 Bishop visits St. Andrew's, RC
 Jan 20 Diocesan Office closed
Jan 26 Bishop visits St. Paul's, Brookings

FEBRUARY

Feb 2 Bishop visits Flandreau
Feb 7-9 Bishop visits East Tennessee
Feb 16 Bishop visits Sisseton Mission
 Feb 18-21 Clergy Retreat, Rapid City
Feb 23 Bishop visits Belle Fourche

MARCH

Mar 2 Bishop visits Watertown
 Mar 7-8 Niobrara Council, Santee
Mar 9 Santee/Yankton Missions
Mar 20-26 House of Bishops, Camp Allen
Mar 30 Bishop visits Trinity, Pierre