



South Dakota Episcopal

Church News

www.diocesed.org

March/April 2015

Will our grandchildren have camp?

Are you tired of winter? Last year about this time we ran the following article. Here it is again—to help you think ahead to warmer days and to offer again the opportunity to be a part of making Thunderhead Camp a solid, thriving, expanding part of each new generation’s religious formation.

Making Thunderhead Camp’s future solid

Recent research has shown that children and youth who attend a religious camp are more likely to participate in their religious community than those who don’t. The camp experience can be an important formative time in a child’s life.

Five years ago there were conversations about selling part of the property at Thunderhead Camp so that we could establish an endowment. After much prayerful discernment and many passionate pleas it was decided that selling property in the Black Hills was not the most faithful response to the present or future needs of the camp.

We are launching the first of several plans to build a solid endowment for Thunderhead Camp and its future. We have an initial fund of \$200,000. We need to increase that by about eight fold to assure Thunderhead’s future sustainability.

The first step in reaching our goal is to accept the challenge of one of our TEC board members who has pledged a dollar a day toward the TEC Endowment. If one hundred people from around the diocese would accept the \$1.00 a day challenge it would increase our endowment by \$36,500.00 a year and generate \$1,460.00 in income for TEC each year in perpetuity.

I (We) _____
accept the \$1.00 a day (or other amount _____)
challenge to help make Thunderhead Camp sustainable.

Please send your pledge (and donation) to
Thunderhead Camp
The Episcopal Diocese of South Dakota
500 S. Main Ave., Sioux Falls, SD 57104
Or: office.diocese@midconetwork.com

I gave. Will you? Thank you for your support.

+Bishop John

TEC Sunday is March 22nd

YOU can help!

- Talk to your congregation about TEC
- Have a special offering that Sunday
- Consider a fund raiser
- Invite youth in your area to register for camp
- Help find ways to get youth to camp or to the van
- Consider giving to TEC to help support our camp ministry and young people
- Consider adopting a cabin at TEC

TEC Financial Facts

Registration Fee for an individual camper—\$150

Actual Cost for an individual camper—\$620

Which means—Every camper is subsidized by at least \$450.

YOU can help subsidize these costs so that EVERY young person has access to camp.

85% of campers report that building relationships and making new friends is what “makes camp special.”

**The Diocese
of
South Dakota**



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*“At camp I learned that
I am a child of God who
is blessed and loved.”*

-- High School Camper

Good, faithful people can come to different conclusions in reference to the same issue. Only occasionally do I speak out publicly on very specific issues I believe are important and consistent with the positions of the larger Episcopal Church. Roman Catholic Deacon Denny Davis met with me almost two years ago and asked for support in efforts to repeal the death penalty in South Dakota. I agreed.

It is important that we speak out on issues as Christian citizens of a Nation that allows freedom of expression even when we don't agree with each other, and perhaps especially when we don't agree with each other. I was impressed with the respectful testimony on both sides of the issue and the fair handling of the hearing by the chair, Senator Tim Rave. Below is my testimony before the Senate State Affairs February 11, 2015 in reference to the legislation to repeal the death penalty in the State of South Dakota.

“I appreciate this committee’s work on legislation that if passed will in effect repeal the death penalty in South Dakota. In this case, your decisions are literally life and death decisions and I know you do not take this lightly. I speak as the bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of South Dakota. The Episcopal Church first took a stand against the death penalty in 1958. I also speak as resident of South Dakota and as a Christian.

When a person is executed, it is done on behalf of the people of South Dakota, so it seems that if lives are going to be taken on my behalf, I should not keep silent. Lutheran pastor and theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer said, “Silence in the face of evil is itself evil: God will not hold us guiltless. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act.” In 1945, his government executed him for actions they felt deserved death.

I offer this brief testimony with the awareness that if it were my loved one that had been brutally murdered, deep within me I would want that person to die. My pain and grief would desire retribution.

As a Christian person I know that retaliation and retribution are not the way that leads to wholeness and life. I speak to you today **not** out of my instinctive desire for retribution (there is enough of that in the world), but as

a person of faith who believes God has the power to redeem everything. In particular I speak as a man who tries to follow the teachings of Jesus. Whatever your decision in regards to this legislation, I hope it is grounded in your religious and moral convictions.



The Rt. Rev. John Tarrant

Most of us would agree that the death penalty is not about justice, since it is not applied equally among those convicted of murder. Its application is highly dependent on the particular people in power and the legal representation of the accused. Since 1947 only three executions have taken place in South Dakota and all of them since 2007.

The death penalty does not save the State money, although that should not be an acceptable reason to apply it. There is no evidence to support that it deters crime. Obviously, it did not deter those recently executed or on death row. Only the families of victims can testify to its effectiveness in enabling closure. Note however, retribution for other crimes is not offered so that victims might have closure.

In no way should this testimony be construed as a desire to protect the rights of the perpetrator over those of victims. I believe for the State to execute its citizens is immoral and a very dangerous practice. It assumes a justice system without error which the evidence does not support. One of the 18 executed in South Dakota was later found innocent.

“An eye for an eye; a tooth for a tooth” justice is ‘justice’ based on retaliation and retribution, which is an unsettling moral position. Jesus in the Gospel according to Matthew said, “You have heard that it was said, ‘an eye for an eye a tooth for a tooth.’ But I say to you,if any one strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also.... You

(Continued on page 8)



Come to
The Niobrara Benefit
An evening of art and music to support the
Niobrara School for Ministry

Proceeds will enable lay and ordained leaders in the Episcopal Diocese of South Dakota to participate in quality educational and faith opportunities to strengthen their ministries.

Join us for



- Art (that could be yours)
- Music (to entertain you)
- Hors-d'oeuvres (to tickle the taste buds)
- An enjoyable evening that will support this important Ministry Formation Program!

Friday Evening
May 1, 2015
Calvary Cathedral in Sioux Falls

For more information about the school, please visit <https://www.diocesesd.org/ministries/niobrara-school-for-ministry>

Many of the EFM group sold chances individually - to their friends, co-workers, strangers in the beauty parlor, etc. Before the drawing, representatives from St. Thomas Catholic Church, Grace Episcopal, First Presbyterian, and Living Hope Wesleyan, all in Madison; and Calvary Episcopal Cathedral, Holy Apostles Episcopal Church, and Central Baptist Church, all in Sioux Falls; had sold raffle tickets and collected donations.

At the time of the drawing \$3,085 had been collected and turned over to the Catholic Foundation for the mission of the Bishop Dudley House.

The Bishop Dudley Hospitality House offers shelter and a safe, secure and warm place to start the road back to a more stable long-term way of living. The facility is within walking distance of several agencies that provide programs for the needy, supporting the proven plan to work in partnership with existing agencies to coordinate many services under a single roof.

It promises to make a difference in the lives of some of its lodgers. Many other fund-raising drives will be held to help support BDHH. Many, many other groups and individuals have done, and will do, so much to show love to neighbors not yet known. Other quilts have been made and donated to the residents as a gift, for the time when they leave the facility. So many people and organizations are making this possible without reward or recognition.

At the time you read this, the drawing has been held. The winner has been notified. The quilt raffle is over, and the EFM studies resumed in earnest once again. If ministry is the act of serving; how much did this dedicated group learn on the subject of action outside of their books and classroom?

Ministry in Action

On November 12, 2014, Irma Swiftbird died in a parking ramp stairwell in Sioux Falls of hypothermia. Dan Mueller, a fourth year Education for Ministry (EFM) student in Sioux Falls, sent the article to his classmates as a topic of reflection. In that same time period, another article in the Argus Leader outlined the plans for the new Bishop Dudley Hospitality House. Also in November the EFM group had been given a quilt by the Grace (Madison) No Name Quilters.

“This is a sharp group of individuals, God only has to hit us over the head a few times before we leap into action,” claimed a student. It was decided to raffle the quilt and give the proceeds to the Bishop Dudley House. By mid-December the group was ready to start selling chances to win the quilt.

Niobrara Convocation

June 18-21, 2015

Wakpala

Hospitality Funds can be mailed to

Bea Skinner

PO Box 534

McLaughlin, SD 57642

Creation Care Activities for Spring

By Chuck Berry

The Creation Care Network is an informal group of about a dozen congregations in the Diocese. One goal is to have a “communion” of Creation Care events across the State on Earth Day Sunday, but there are several other good opportunities to awaken congregations to a Creation Care ethic.

Creation Care is one term for environmental stewardship. The word Creation means something special to people of faith, invoking thoughts of God’s Garden - our planet earth - and scriptures wherein God gives humanity dominion over the earth and the obligation to be stewards of the Garden.

Upcoming Opportunities

Palm Sunday (March 29) Wave Ecopalms on Palm Sunday. Eco-palms (<http://ecopalms.org/>) are fair-trade palm fronds that are harvested in Guatemala and Mexico. The palms signify social and environmental justice because they are harvested by sustainable forestry practices by small businesses in impoverished communities.

Earth Day Sunday (April 19; Earth Day is always April 22) There are hundreds of Earth Day resources. One group that focuses on faith communities is Creation Justice Ministries (<http://www.creationjustice.org/>). It embodies the creation care and environmental justice policies of major Christian denominations as it promotes Earth Day Sunday.

Rogation Days (May 11-13) are another time that we are reminded about the moral obligation of stewardship of Creation. It is an Episcopal tradition (BCP page 258), but may need to be tweaked to fit today’s thinking. We still pray for good weather and crops, but these days we think more broadly about our obligations to care for the Creation as well as our hope for abundant services from the Creation. Contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District. The National Assoc. of Conservation Districts has free materials for churches to use to inform members about conservation stewardship and wise use of natural resources (e.g., guide to faith-based programs, litany, bulletin insert; <http://www.nacdnet.org/stewardship/2014sw>).

A New Awakening in the Episcopal Church

The Creation Care mission of The Episcopal Church is to heal, defend, and work toward justice for all God’s creation and to respect the kinship and connection of all that God created (<http://www.episcopalchurch.org/page/eco-justice>).

A basic must-read 45-page booklet is titled *A Catechism of Creation, an Episcopal Understanding*, available free on-line at www.episcopalchurch.org/science. The question-and-answer format is divided into three themes: 1) Theology of Creation, 2) Creation and Science, and 3) Caring for Creation.

This year may see heightened awareness within the Episcopal Church because of actions at the upcoming General Convention in Salt Lake City in June. The Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music has liturgical materials honoring God in Creation ready for consideration of Convention deputies. Our South Dakota Deputation will also learn of a new Legislative Committee on Environmental Stewardship and Care of Creation that will receive eco-justice/environmental resolutions.

If you would like to join the Creation Care Network in South Dakota or want more information, contact Charles R. (Chuck) Berry 605-693-7750 cberry@itctel.com. Help build the network and fashion the future Creation Care programs in the Diocese.

Read the full version of Chuck’s article at <https://www.diocesesd.org/ministries/creation-care-network/>

Diocesan Calendar

MARCH

- Mar 1** Bishop visits Trinity, Watertown
- Mar 8** Bishop visits Sisseton Mission
- Mar 8 Daylight Savings Time begins
- Mar 12-18** House of Bishops
- Mar 20-21 Dakota Experience, Rapid City
- Mar 29** Bishop visits St. Paul’s, Vermillion

APRIL

- Apr 2-5** Holy Week/Easter on Standing Rock
- Apr 10 *ChurchNews* deadline (May/June issue)
- Apr 12** Bishop visits Christ Church, Milbank
- Apr 17-18 Province VI Synod, Mpls
- Apr 19** Bishop visits Calvary Cathedral
- Apr 26** Bishop visits St. Mary’s, Webster

MAY

- May 2 Ministry Weekend—Wedding Liturgy
- May 3** Bishop visits All Angels, Spearfish
- May 9 Diocesan Council, Pierre
- May 10** Bishop visits St. Mary’s, Mitchell
- May 17** Bishop visits Rosebud Mission (W)
- May 31** Bishop visits Christ Church, Lead
- May 31 Summer Seminary begins

Diocese of South Dakota 2015 Summer Youth Camps

Be a part of the excitement of camp at Thunderhead Episcopal Camp this summer! We will sing and laugh and explore and pray in the rich beauty of this remote area of the Black Hills. Without a doubt, you'll make unforgettable memories and lifelong friends.

Thunderhead Episcopal Center Youth Camps are open to all young people throughout South Dakota. No matter where you come from or where your faith is, *you are welcome*. Please fill out and return this form so we can prepare to welcome you this summer!



**Send this form & payment to: TEC Registration
500 South Main Ave.
Sioux Falls, SD 57104**

Questions: contact the Rev. Portia Corbin at
youth.diocese@midconetwork.com or 605-280-4927

Calvary Cathedral will provide transportation to/from all three camps from Sioux Falls and at pre-arranged stops along I-90. Please check the "Transportation" box on the registration form if you will need a ride. Register EARLY so we can plan the routes.

Camp Schedule

All camps begin between 5-6 pm on the first day and end at 10:00 am on the last day.

High School Camp • Sunday, June 7–Saturday, June 13

Make unforgettable memories and lifelong friends as you explore God's work in the world, in this beautiful, peaceful setting. Hikes in the woods, artistic opportunities, and music around a campfire is guaranteed. Open to all entering grades 9-12, and those who have just graduated high school.

Cost: \$150 per person

5th & 6th Grade and Family Camp • Sunday, June 14-Wednesday, June 17

For those entering 5th & 6th grade: Build memories around hiking into the woods and telling stories around a campfire—all while building your faith.

Family Camp: Start a tradition of camp with your family. You'll have your own space and all meals are provided. Open to all families and kids of any age, especially elementary-aged kids. A great way to introduce your kids to camp!

Cost: \$100 per person or \$250 per family.

Middle School/Confirmation Camp • Sunday, June 21-Saturday, June 27

Open to all who are entering grades 7-8. This session will have all the camp fun you could want AND it will give you what you need to know about being confirmed in the Episcopal Church. Come explore God's amazing work!

Cost: \$150 per person

Registration Form

All about YOU, the Camper; your Parents; and your Health

My name is: _____

I am Male Female

My birth date is: _____

My address is: _____

My e-mail is: _____

My Parent or Guardian is: _____

Their phone is: _____

Their e-mail is: _____

Are they who we should call in an emergency?

If not, please list another name & contact info:

Please tell us about your health:

Do you have any dietary restrictions, allergies, or restrictions on activities?

If you take medication of any kind: Please attach a list of medications with instructions as to the time and dosage for administering them. Medications need to be in their original containers and will be turned over to camp staff upon arrival.

PARENT / GUARDIAN RELEASE

The health history for this child is correct to the best of my knowledge. This child has permission to attend camp and engage in all activities, except as noted above. If I cannot be reached in an emergency, I hereby give permission to the physician selected by the Camp Director or Nurse to hospitalize, secure treatment, and to order injections, anesthesia, or surgery for my child.

Please attach a copy of Camper's insurance card, Medicaid card, or IHS number!!!

Parent / Guardian Signature and Date

Cost of camp

The Diocese of South Dakota feels strongly that its youth should have the opportunity to experience the sacredness of the Black Hills within the community of their peers in the church. We want you to come to camp! **No one should feel they can not go to camp because they don't have the money.** The Diocese subsidizes the operations and staffing of its youth camps to keep the camper fees down.

Check which camp you'll attend:

- Family Camp: \$100 per camper, \$250 per family
- Middle School: \$150
- High School Camp: \$150

Camper fees include room and board, all activities.

Check one:

- I will need a full scholarship to come to camp.
- I will need a partial scholarship for camp.
I can contribute \$ _____
- I do not need a scholarship to come to camp.

Transportation

- I would like a ride to camp.

What to bring to camp

Please check if you need them provided

- sleeping bag and pillow
- towels and toiletries
- clothes for outdoor activities
- shoes for outdoor activities

Behavior Expectations:

When you come to camp, you will be asked to sign a behavior contract that applies to all Diocesan Youth Events. No drugs, alcohol, tobacco, or anything that can be considered a weapon are to be brought to camp. Camp is a place of spiritual community and renewal. Because of this, we will ask you to turn in all cell phones and ipods, mp3 players, electronics so you can be present during your camp time. We will also insist that you refrain from inappropriate sexual or violent behavior while you are here. And, of course, to be respectful of everything here.



You should also know that completion of registration grants permission to use photos of you, taken at camp, for publicity purposes. Smile!

**2014 PLEDGE TO THE DIOCESE
December 31, 2014**

	Pledge	Paid To Date	Balance	Churchnews	Paid To Date	Balance
PARISHES:						
Aberdeen - St. Mark's	12,000.00	12,000.00	0.00	60.00	0.00	60.00
Belle Fourche - St. James'	3,938.00	3,938.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00
Brookings - St. Paul's	12,000.00	12,000.00	0.00	195.00	195.00	0.00
Deadwood - St. John's	3,911.00	3,911.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00
Huron - Grace	15,000.00	15,000.00	0.00	195.00	195.00	0.00
Lead - Christ Church	5,748.00	5,748.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00
Mitchell - St. Mary's	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00	70.00	70.00	0.00
Mobridge - St. James'	1,927.00	1,927.00	0.00	30.00	30.00	0.00
Pierre - Trinity	9,000.00	9,986.23	(986.23)	115.00	115.00	0.00
Rapid City - Emmanuel	44,466.00	44,466.00	0.00	340.00	0.00	340.00
Rapid City - St. Andrew's	32,344.00	32,453.59	(109.59)	180.00	180.00	0.00
Sioux Falls - Calvary	60,738.00	60,738.00	0.00	1,005.00	1,005.00	0.00
Sioux Falls - Good Shepherd	14,000.00	14,000.00	0.00	35.00	35.00	0.00
Spearfish - All Angels	27,223.00	27,223.00	0.00	300.00	300.00	0.00
Sturgis - St. Thomas'	4,668.00	4,668.00	0.00	105.00	105.00	0.00
Watertown - Trinity	100.00	100.00	0.00	80.00	80.00	0.00
Winner - Trinity	4,290.00	4,290.00	0.00	90.00	90.00	0.00
Yankton - Christ Church	21,500.00	21,500.00	0.00	320.00	320.00	0.00
TOTAL PARISHES	274,853.00	275,948.82	(1,095.82)	3,420.00	3,020.00	400.00
Chamberlain - Christ Church	3,200.00	3,200.00	0.00	125.00	125.00	0.00
Cheyenne River Mission	1,336.00	950.00	386.00	365.00	140.00	225.00
Crow Creek Mission	2,080.00	1,319.78	760.22	210.00	50.00	160.00
Flandreau - St. Mary's	1,200.00	1,200.00	0.00	60.00	60.00	0.00
Ft. Pierre - St. Peter's	1,800.00	1,800.00	0.00	60.00	60.00	0.00
Gregory - Incarnation	500.00	500.00	0.00	50.00	50.00	0.00
Herrick - All Saints	252.00	252.00	0.00	70.00	70.00	0.00
Hot Springs - St. Luke's	7,050.00	7,050.00	0.00	155.00	155.00	0.00
Lower Brule Mission	2,201.00	0.00	2,201.00	40.00	0.00	40.00
Madison - Grace	2,161.00	2,447.00	(286.00)	35.00	35.00	0.00
Martin - St. Katharine's	4,200.00	4,200.00	0.00	200.00	200.00	0.00
Milbank - Christ Church	3,000.00	3,000.00	0.00	90.00	90.00	0.00
Pine Ridge Mission	2,185.00	1,885.40	299.60	315.00	285.00	30.00
Rapid City - St. Matthew's	2,300.00	2,304.00	(4.00)	120.00	120.00	0.00
Rosebud Mission	4,628.00	4,195.00	433.00	120.00	120.00	0.00
Santee Mission	1,818.00	1,818.00	0.00	140.00	140.00	0.00
Sioux Falls - Holy Apostles	0.00	0.00	0.00	85.00	85.00	0.00
Sisseton - Gethsemane	500.00	500.00	0.00	60.00	0.00	60.00
Sisseton Mission	2,620.00	2,320.00	300.00	60.00	60.00	0.00
Standing Rock Mission	920.00	560.40	359.60	160.00	90.00	70.00
Vermillion - St. Paul's	4,000.00	4,000.00	0.00	150.00	150.00	0.00
Webster - St. Mary's	1,453.00	1,453.00	0.00	45.00	45.00	0.00
Yankton Mission	861.00	861.00	0.00	175.00	175.00	0.00
TOTAL MISSIONS	50,265.00	45,815.58	4,449.42	2,890.00	2,305.00	585.00
TOTAL PARISH AND MISSIONS	325,118.00	321,764.40	3,353.60	6,310.00	5,325.00	985.00



Camp Remington needs your help in mid-May
to clear branches and debris and get the grounds in shape for the summer season.
Contact Tony Gonsor: 605-673-2205 or tsgonsor@goldenwest.net

Contact Barney at 605-338-9751 to reserve a cabin or two during the summer for a family reunion
or a quiet retreat. Open dates are filling up fast. Check www.diocesesd.org for availability.



Niobrara Convocation

June 18-21, 2015

Wakpala

RESERVE ROOMS EARLY! - There's a big fishing tournament in Mobridge scheduled for the same time. Motels listed below are in South Dakota with area code 605, unless otherwise indicated.

Mobridge, SD

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Grand River Casino | 605-845-7104 |
| 2. Mobridge Kountry Inn | 845-7215 |
| 3. Wrangler Inn | 845-3641 |
| 4. Morest Motel | 845-3668 |
| 5. East Side Motel | 845-7867 |

Surrounding Area

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| 6. Prairie Knights Casino
Ft. Yates, ND (56 miles north) | 701-854-7777 |
| 7. Selby Motel
(23 miles east) | 649-7979 |
| 8. Hilltop Motel/Campground, Selby | 649-7622 |
| 9. Limit Lodge n Cabins, Timber Lake
(25 miles SW) | 865-3526 |
| 10. F&M Motel, McLaughlin
(29 miles west) | 823-2170 |
| 11. Bunk House Inn, Isabel
(15 miles north) | 466-2666 |
| 12. Firesteel Creek Lodge, Isabel | 466-2452 |

"I strongly advise EARLY reservations."
—John RedBear, Host Chairman

(Bishop—Continued from page 2)

have heard that it was said, 'you shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you...." (Matt. 5:33-43) Jesus never said it would be easy, but I do believe it is Holy. God should administer ultimate judgment and not us.

As a Christian I believe that God is powerful enough to redeem anyone no matter how horrible his or her crime may have been. As a practical person I believe that redemption should only be given opportunity from a prison cell for the worst of offenders. As a Christian I believe that our decisions should not be about what others deserve, but rather about what is right in the eyes of the One who "gives us life and breath and everything" as the Apostle Paul would say.

There are some matters that should be left in God's hands. I believe life and death are two of those matters.

Thank you for your willingness to wrestle with this very emotional issue. I will pray that God will guide you in your decisions. I also pray that your committee will give the entire Senate an opportunity to wrestle with this issue on behalf of the people of South Dakota."

Note: the committee decided not to give the entire Senate an opportunity to debate the issue, but elected to let it die in committee.

God's peace be with you,

+John

Convocation Hospitality Funds can be mailed to
Bea Skinner
PO Box 534
McLaughlin, SD 57642