

The Lifeline

The monthly newsletter for St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Shawnee, Kansas

August 2009

A Letter from the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church on General Convention

My brothers and sisters in Christ:

The 76th General Convention is now history, though it will likely take some time before we are all reasonably clear about what the results are.

We gathered in Anaheim, as guests of the Diocese of Los Angeles, for eleven full days of worship, learning, and policy-making. The worship was stunning visually, musically, and liturgically, with provocative preaching and lively singing.

Our learning included training in Public Narrative, as well as news about the emergent church, in the LA Night presentation.

We welcomed a number of visitors from other parts of the Anglican Communion, including 15 of the primates (archbishops or presiding bishops), other bishops, clergy, and laity.

You can see and hear all this and more at the Media Hub: <http://gchub.episcopalchurch.org>

The budget adopted represents a significant curtailment of church-wide ministry efforts, in recognition of the economic realities of many dioceses and church endowments, which will result in the loss of a number of Church Center staff who have given long and laudable service. Yet we will continue to serve God's mission, throughout The Episcopal Church and beyond. This bud-

get expects that more mission work will continue or begin to take place at diocesan or congregational levels. Religious pilgrims, from the Israelites in the desert to Episcopalians in Alaska or Haiti, have always learned that times of leanness are opportunities for strengthened faith and creativity.

As a Church, we have deepened our commitments to mission and ministry with "the least of these" (Matthew 25). We included a budgetary commitment of 0.7% to the Millennium Development Goals, through the NetsforLife® program partnership of Episcopal Relief & Development. That is in addition to approximately 15% of the budget already committed to international development work.

We have committed to a domestic poverty initiative, meant to explore coherent and constructive responses to some of the worst poverty statistics in the Americas: Native American reservations and indigenous communities.

Justice is the goal, as we revised our canons (church rules) having to do with clergy discipline, both as an act of solidarity with those who may suffer at the hands of clergy and an act of pastoral concern for clergy charged with misconduct.

The General Convention adopted a health plan to serve all clergy and lay employees, which is expected to be a cost-savings across the whole of the United States portion of the Church. Work continues to ensure adequate health coverage in the non-U.S.



parts of this Church. The Convention also mandated pension coverage for lay employees.

Liturgical additions were also included in the Convention's work, from more saints on the calendar to prayers around reproductive loss.

What captured the headlines across the secular media, however, had to do with two resolutions, the consequences of which were often misinterpreted or exaggerated. One, identified as D025, is titled "Anglican Communion: Commitment and Witness to Anglican Communion." It

- reaffirms our commitment to and desire to pursue mission with the Anglican Communion;
- reiterates our commitment to Listening Process urged by Lambeth Conferences of 1978, 1988, and 1998;
- notes that our own participation in the listening process led General Convention in 2000 to "recognize that the baptized membership of The Episcopal Church includes same-sex couples living in lifelong committed relationships 'characterized by fidelity, monogamy, mutual affection and respect, careful, honest communication, and the holy love which enables those in such relationships to see in each other the image of God'";
- recognizes that ministry, both lay and ordained is being exercised by such persons in response to God's call;
- notes that the call to ordained ministry is God's call, is a mystery, and that the Church participates in that mystery through the process of discernment;
- acknowledges that the members of The Episcopal Church, and of the Anglican Communion, are not of one mind, and that faithful Christians disagree about some of these matters.

The other resolution that received a lot of press is C056, titled "Liturgies for Blessings." The text adopted was a substitute for the original, yet the title remains unchanged. It

- acknowledges changing circumstances in the U.S. and elsewhere, in that civil jurisdictions in some places permit marriage, civil unions, and/or domestic partnerships involving

same-sex couples, that call for a pastoral response from this Church;

- asks the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music, and the House of Bishops, to collect and develop theological and liturgical resources for such pastoral response, and report to the next General Convention;
- asks those bodies to invite comment and participation from other parts of this Church and the Anglican Communion;
- notes that bishops may provide generous pastoral responses to the needs of members of this Church;
- asks the Convention to honor the theological diversity of this Church in regard to matters of human sexuality.

The full text of both resolutions is available here: <http://gc2009.org/ViewLegislation>. I urge you to read them for yourself. Some have insisted that these resolutions repudiate our relationships with other members of the Anglican Communion. My sense is that we have been very clear that we value our relationships within and around the Communion, and seek to deepen them. My sense as well is that we cannot do that without being honest about who and where we are. We are obviously not of one mind, and likely will not be until Jesus returns in all his glory. We are called by God to continue to wrestle with the circumstances in which we live and move and have our being, and to do it as carefully and faithfully as we are able, in companionship with those who disagree vehemently and agree wholeheartedly. It is only in that wrestling that we, like Jacob, will begin to discern the leading of the Spirit and the blessing of relationship with God.

Above all else, this Convention claimed God's mission as the heartbeat of The Episcopal Church. I encourage every member of this Church to enter into conversation in your own congregation or diocese about God's mission, and where you and your faith community are being invited to enter more deeply into caring for your neighbors, the "least of these" whom Jesus befriends.

The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori
Presiding Bishop and Primate
The Episcopal Church

Parish News 'n Events

International Dinner

Come and enjoy an International Dinner in the Church parish hall on Saturday, August 08, 2009 at 6 pm. This dinner is part of our Fund-raising effort for the 50th Anniversary celebration. The dinner will be prepared by members of our church showing the diversity as well as unity within our parish. There will be authentic food from USA, Barbados, Hawaii, Kenya, Scotland, India and may be more. The tickets will be sold at church on July 26th and August 3rd (\$5 for adults, and \$3 for children under twelve). If you have any questions, please contact any 50th anniversary committee member."

Music Notes

Do you plan an instrument? Sing? Sing as a family? Would you like to offer your talent as a gift to the parish one Sunday this summer? See Vicki Penny, or sign up in the narthex.

Choir News

Calling all people interested in singing in the choir! The first choir rehearsal and organizational meeting will be on Sunday, August 30, at 9:15 in the choir loft. We will start rehearsing, discuss rehearsal options and possible singing times. In order to maintain the choir, we need fresh voices! Please consider if it is your gift to "make a joyful noise to the Lord" and join the choir this year! We need YOU to make a difference.

Bell Choir

Playing bells can enhance worship for everyone. Please sign up on the list on the bulletin board if you are interested in playing bells. We need at least 8-10 people to show interest. Players can be grade 4 on up. Rehearsals will take place weekly. If there is enough interest, Fr. Jim has given the go-ahead to raise funds for a two octave set of bells. The costs will be between \$5,200 and \$6,200 for a basic set.

The Dinner Club

This month's dinner will be our Parish International dinner on Saturday, August 8, at 6 p.m. See International Dinner below for more details.

The Book Club

In August, we will discuss the book, "Taken on Trust" by Terry Waite. This is a recount of the 5 years of captivity Terry endured in Lebanon in the 1980's. Ruth Knabel is our gracious hostess. We'll meet, on Friday, 8/28, at 7 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

Community Food Pantry

In August, we are asked to donate Peanut butter, jelly, & jam . And, as always, Best Choice labels with the bar code included can be redeemed by the pantry for 3¢ each. They also need empty, cleaned 16 to 32oz water bottles.

Garden Day

We will meet at 9 am on the third Saturday of each month (Aug 15, Sept 19, Oct 17), however, any day is a good time. There are many gardens around the Church that require our attention. Don't hesitate to pick an area and give it your tender loving care...any day any time...Amen!

- Dan and Ginny Wheatcroft

Welcoming Committee

The Welcoming Committee had it's second meeting on Sunday, May 24. A lot of new ideas are being formulated following the Magnetic Church Conference that some of our group attended. We want to begin by being more deliberate in our greeting and follow-up of newcomers. One immediate need is that of recruiting more greeters. It was the consensus of the committee that couples would be ideal. So...if you feel this could be your "ministry", please let me know. I am hoping to have some "new faces" in place by July. You can contact me at 631-8597 or at mmjones@st-lukes.net.

- Maxine Jones

Sunday School

There will be a meeting for Sunday School teachers and parents, August 9, after the 10:15a.m. service in the Christian Education room. We will be making plans for the upcoming school year. Please come with your ideas! Contact Pat Jones (jones.p.w@att.net or 268-4787).

Children & Youth Chapel

A special worship service each Sunday morning at 10:15a.m. continues throughout the summer. Children and youth will be returned to their families during the Peace. FYI: Our VBS vitamin drive donated 5,564! Thank you from the children of Haiti!

Unite for Sight a Success!

"As a follow up to the 'Unite for Sight' eyeglasses outreach ministry, Dr. Mulhern and I want to thank you all for your support. The response was

great and we collected nearly 80 eyeglasses. You will be touching someone's life across the globe when these eyeglasses are distributed in eye clinics in India next month." - Vincy Abraham

Pictorial Directory in the Works

Beginning on August 16, and continuing for about four Sundays, Jim Darnell and Emily Cook will be taking pictures for the upcoming pictorial parish directory. These pictures will be similar to those posted on the walls in the church hallway. If the weather is nice, we'll shoot outside in front, if not then in the classroom behind the parish hall.

Is Your Employer Hiring?

Please contact the parish office and we'll put that information in the Sunday bulletin announcements and do some networking.

A Moment of Meditation ...

"You created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made." – Psalm 139:13-14

Have you ever noticed how uniquely adapted each animal is to its environment and its way of life? On land, a duck waddles along ungainly on its webbed feet. In the water, it glides along smooth as glass. The rabbit runs with ease and great bursts of speed, but I've never seen one swimming laps. The squirrel climbs anything in sight but cannot fly (unless you count the great airborne leaps from limb to limb), while the eagle soars to mountaintops.

What's true of creatures in the forest is true of Christians in the family. God has not made us all the same. He never intended to. He planned that there be differences, unique capabilities, variations in the Body. So concerned was He that we realize this. He spelled it out several times in His Word. I charge you to take the time to read 1 Corinthians 12 slowly and aloud. Those thirty-one verses tell us about His desires and designs -

which are more attractive than any thirty-one flavors!

The subject is commonly called "spiritual gifts," and it is as helpful as any truth the believer can ever know. In a nutshell, here's the scoop.

God has placed you in His family and given you a certain mixture that makes you unique. No mixture is insignificant!

That mix pleases Him completely. Nobody else is exactly like you. That should bring you pleasure, too.

When you operate in your realm of capabilities, you will excel and the whole Body will benefit ... and you will experience incredible satisfaction.

When others operate in their realm, then balance, unity, and health automatically occur in the Body. It's amazing!

But when you compare ... or force...or entertain expectations that reach beyond your or others' God-given capabilities, then you can expect frustration, discouragement, mediocrity, and, in the long run, defeat.

If God made you a duck saint - you're a duck, friend. Swim like mad but don't get bend out of shape because you wobble when you run. Furthermore, if you're an eagle saint, stop expecting squirrel saints to soar...or rabbit saints to build the same kind of nests you do.

Accept your spiritual species. Cultivate your capabilities. Stop comparing. Enjoy being you!

– Charles Swindoll

So fearfully and wonderfully made,
How could they say there is no God?
Reminded every breath that I take,
It's by Your hand I have been formed
So what am I going to do
with this life You gave me?
What could I do but live for Your praise?

You gave me this breath,
And You gave me this strength,
And every day I'll live to obey You.
With all of my heart,
With all of my soul;
Let every breath I'm breathing
display You God.

There's elegance in all you create
Your grand designs leave us amazed.
The wonders of the way we've been made
Speak of Your power, tell of Your grace.
So what am I going to do
with this life You gave me?
What could I do but live for Your praise?

So what am I going to do
with this life You gave me?
What am I going to do with this life?
What I am I going to do

in these days You've ordained?
What am I going to do with this life?

– Matt Redman

This month as we experience Unity in Diversity during the "International Dinner", let us ponder how God's plans work in such unique ways. It amazes me how in detail He has planned each of our lives. First, each of us was fearfully and wonderfully made in different regions of the world, according to His plans. Then, He guides us on through life to places (even across the globe, for He has no boundaries) and helps us to build friendships and relationships with people we never expected to meet, people with different capabilities and backgrounds (for example, at school, in our neighborhood, at work, at church and so on).

He not only creates us physically unique but also emotionally, mentally and spiritually. How intricate are His plans for each one of us! Nothing is by accident in His sight!

"We cannot live for ourselves alone. Our lives are connected by a thousand invisible threads, and along these sympathetic fibers, our actions run as causes and return to us as results."

– Herman Melville



Ministry Schedule: August 2009

	August 2	August 9	August 16	August 23	August 30
Altar Guild 8:00	V Clarke	D Wallower	B Carl	B Carl	B Carl
Altar Guild 10:15	P Jones	R Cantwell	C Parkhurst	D Fowler	B Carl C Uhrmacher
Acolytes 10:15	P Kariuki E Sullivan	G Rohrer J Rohrer	A Garton C Garton	L Riddle L Riddle	E Cook S Grandgenett
Ushers 8:00	S Holmberg	S Holmberg	S Holmberg	S Holmberg	S Holmberg
Ushers 10:15	G Kelley M Jones	V Clarke C Burris	S Jarvis C Smith	C Keller G Keller	B Carl J Carl
Greeters 8:00	S Holmberg	S Holmberg	S Holmberg	S Holmberg	S Holmberg
Greeters 10:15	D Breidenthal	S & B Jarvis	D Kissane	D Fowler	M Jones, G Park
Lay Ministers 8:00	M Neufeld .. L/Ch	U Prescott L	R Jones L/Ch	B Carl L/Ch	M Neufeld .. L/Ch
Lay Ministers 10:15	C Burris ... Ps/Ch V Clarke ... Cr/Ch K Wood L/I	R Wrede .. Ps/Ch B Carl Cr/Ch B McGuinn ... L/I	J Carl Ps/Ch K Wood ... Cr/Ch J Darnell L/I	C Burris ... Ps/Ch T Jones Cr/Ch K Wymer L/I	J Carl Ps/Ch V Clarke ... Cr/Ch C Speicher ... L/I
Lay Eucharistic Visitor	V Clarke, B McGuinn	J Carl B Carl	M Neufeld M Neufeld	R Jones P Jones	M Neufeld M Neufeld
Counters	R Knabel S Sullivan	J Carl B Carl C Werly	J Speicher C Speicher C Keller	J Darnell R Knabel D Callaway	C Ball S Sullivan
Coffee Hosts	Zones 8 & 9				
Lawn Mowers On or Before:	C Speicher Aug. 8	D Uhrmacher Aug. 15	J Darnell Aug. 22	C Burris Aug. 29	T Grandgenett Sept. 5

Legend

D = Deacon
 L/Ch = Lector, Chalice (usually at 8 A.M. only)
 Ps/Ch = Psalm, Chalice
 Cr/Ch = Creed, Chalice
 L/I = Lector, Intercessors

If you cannot serve when scheduled, please try to find a replacement, or contact the parish office no later than the Friday that you are scheduled. We appreciate it very much!



Remember in Your Prayers

Health & Strength Prayer List

Linda Ahrens, Alan, Ed Allen, Kay Allen, Vanessa Allen, Bill Allen, Mika Allison, Don & Blanche Anderson, Larry Andrews, Rob Arend, Alecia Arnold, Family of Asher Arcand, Kathy Bagby, Donna Ball, Anita Bergman, Bob, Terri Brown, Jeanette Burris, Brian Busch, Caydence, Paul Chastain, Laine Clements, Amanda & Jason Coleman, Henry Cook, Darrell Corson, Theophilus Cumberbatch, Diane Damro, Virginia Davis, Pat DeLong, Larry Denny, Christa Devonshire, Lily Dieter, Joanna Diviney, Joan Duran, Karen Erny, Angela Evans, Theresa Fletchall, Dr. Wayne Fowler, Sr., Jack Francis, Heidi Gentry, Jonathon & Adam Goff, Marsha Gribble, Erik Grissell, Christie Gutierrez, John Habley, Virgil Hall, Jeff Harper, Carmel Harper, Bill Harper, Barbara Hart, Tom Hayselden, Valeria Henderson, Teddy Hodges, Boo Hodges, Sherry Holtman, Alex Howard, Kathy & Zach Hudon, The Hoffman Family, Colleen Hurley, Tim Janicke, Carmen Jarvis, Merle Johnson, Katelyn, Gail Kent, Bob Kuemmerlein, Elizabeth Laird, Fr. Arleigh & Betty Lou Lassiter, Anne Liebst, Roger Liebst, Vic Lenoir, Jurie Lindley, Dee Lispi, John Long, Harold Luttrell, Steve Lynch Family, Martha Manning, Tom McAnerney, Alan McDonald, Tasha McDonald, Elizabeth McGranahan, Karlee McQueen, Marcheschi Family, Maugham Family, Leo & Donna Mealman, Vicky Meyers, Bruce Miller, Jeanne Miller, Natalie Miller, Sid & Mary Morris, Chris Mueller, Ellene Nash, Colten Newman, John Owen, Christie Owens, Barb Parkhurst, Sandy Parsons, Lilly Passler's Great-Aunt, Lauren Perry, Amy Pfannensteil, Jerre Plunkett, Deb Quintero, Sarah Reese, Chris Roesner, Ray Rowie (Roy), Bud & Frank Rowan, Sabrina, JJ, & Katie, Dwayne Sax, Ann Shaw, Edith Sheahan, Jimmy Shelton, Kirsta Sherman, Jason & Autumn Smart, Pat Smith, Steven Smith, KT Speicher & Family, Helen Stambaugh, Jim Stegeman, Ivan Straker, Nancy Stramel, Sherry Sullivant & family, Skylar Tatham, Ethel Thomas, Laura Tindel, Kathy Uhrmacher, Carl Van Winkle, Charles Verstaete, Heather Vipond, Mary Ann Wagner, Ginger Waters, Charles Werly, Clancy Wiedel, Sherry Wilson, Bud Wrede, Brad Wright, Wilbur Wright.

✠ In Memoriam ✠

Warren Jones, Sr, Leo Mealman, Dan Vartek, Robin Birch, Thomas Bickle, Liz Hein, Sue Atherton, Christopher Colyer

Homebound & Shut-In

June Harlow, Wanda Kirkham, Annette Redler

August Anniversaries

Tim & Diane Rohrer 13
 Victor & Barbara Weaver 16
 Tom & Nancy Hayselden 23
 Victor & Monica Clarke 24
 Adam & Amy Walls 25
 Charles & Pat Smith 30

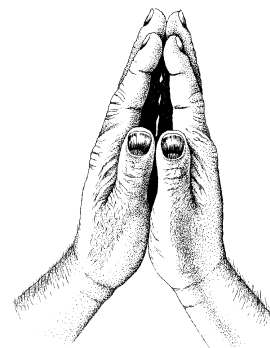
August Birthdays

Richard Smith 1
 Gary Ball 2
 Larry Still 4
 Christy Keller 6
 Mary Smith 6
 Stephen Mann 6
 Greg Speicher 7
 Aaron Garton 9
 Vincy Abraham 10
 Matt Wood 10
 Diane Rohrer 12
 Jacey Drummond 13
 Matthew Sherman 13
 Molly Weaver 14
 Jerry Lispi 16
 Adam Walls 21
 Jeanette Burris 21
 William Overton 22
 Craig Knabel 23
 Anita Bergman 24
 Maxine Liebst 27
 Mark Neufeld 27
 Claire Overton 28
 Peter Kariuki 31

In the Armed Forces

Beth Behn, John Belshe, Jonas Brown, Brett Casey, Sean Connelley, Michael Cook, Nathan Craft, Peter & Nathan Durand, Amity Feliz, Brian Fiffer, Wayne Fuller, Charles Garcia, Michael Green, Clemente Gutierrez, Evan Hall, Harvey Hayselden, Robert Heraldez, Josh Jonas, Benjamin Karpinski, James LaVine, Kurt Littlejohn, Greg Marsh, Greg McBride, Kelly Morris, Kyle Nosbisch, Sam Nosbisch, Rodney Martin, Daniel Ohlstein, Barry Palmer, Quentin Peach, David Rodgers, Matt Schiffel, Bill Simiser, Jayson Smith, Andrew Stemm, Bobby Stallings, Chris Still, Nathan Tacha, Alan Walker, Kevin Wright.

Help us keep our prayer lists up to date. On occasion, please check to see if the names you put up here are still in need of our prayers. To add or remove names from our prayer lists please contact the parish secretary. Thank you!



Saint Luke's Episcopal Church

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www.stlukes.net

Have you invited a friend to come to church with you. If not, what are you waiting for? The personal invitation is the best way – bar none! – to grow a congregation.

Something deep in me responds to the sweet and tempered ways of the Episcopal Church. Its atmosphere of reverence, its ordered and stately worship, its tradition of historic continuity, linking today with ages ago; its symbols which enshrine the faith of the past and the hope of the future; its wise and wide tolerance; its old and lovely liturgy – like a stairway, worn by many feet, whereon men climb to God – and, still more, the organized mysticism of its sacraments – all these things of beauty and grace move me profoundly.

More vital still, if possible, is the central and strategic position which the Episcopal Church holds in the confused religious situation of our time. It is the roomiest Church in Christendom, in that it accepts the basic facts of Christian faith as symbols of transparent truths, which each may interpret as his insight explores their depth and wonder.

Midway between an arid liberalism and an acrid orthodoxy, it keeps its wise course, conserving the eternal values of faith while seeking to read the Word of God revealed in the tumult of the time. If its spirit and attitude were better understood, it would be at once the haven and the home of many vexed minds torn between loyalty to the old faith and the new truth.

After all, there is one Church of Christ. It may wear many names, but its faith is one, and finally, soon or late, it will be one fellowship, drawn together by creative desire, or driven together by sheer necessity of facing the forces of destruction in our day, which, if they have their way, will end in materialism and futility. Each man should labor where he can do his best work in behalf of our common Christian enterprise; and I look forward to happy and fruitful service in a great and gracious fellowship."

From **River of Years** by Dr. Joseph Fort Newton, c. 1946. These words were written as Dr. Newton was leaving a Baptist pulpit in order to become an Episcopal priest.