



DIOCESAN DIGEST

for Central Pennsylvania

March 28, 2011

FROM THE DESK OF.....

BISHOP NATHAN BAXTER

Dear Sisters & Brothers;

I am writing to you from the Spring House of Bishops Meeting at Kanuga, N.C. We continue until Wednesday night, with our final business session and closing events. Besides the pre-meetings which certain bishops were asked to attend (I had to come early in my role as a peer coach for new bishops) the full meeting began on Friday the 25th. Each day has been filled with worship, learning, excellent speakers and fellowship. It is important to remember that our Province (as distinct from the old term "The National Church") is comprised of Dioceses in 16 nations. We always have translators in at least Spanish and French, plus the language of any special guests.

At this conference an entire day was given to Ministry with Young Adults, with scholars and local leaders of outstanding ministries with young adults. On another day we had a healthy discussion with all of the Seminary Deans regarding educating and forming young church leaders (lay and ordained). Another day was given to discussion of Islam and Christianity and how, as Episcopalians, we are uniquely positioned to model understanding and partnership. Several Primates from Provinces in the Anglican Communion (Congo, Korea, and Canada) told the story of their Province and the Anglican Covenant. They also shared their desire to stay in conversation and fellowship with the Episcopal Church.

On the business side, progress reports were received and discussed on matters such as Church reorganization and structure, and liturgies for same-gender blessing. Our gathering is very spiritually grounded each day in the Daily Offices, meditation and Bible study, and the Eucharist with stirring sermons. These are just a few highlights of a very demanding but rich gathering of our bishops to pray, learn and consider critical matters for the life of the Church.

We were joined by our new Full Communion partners, Bishops of the Moravian Church, which leads me to the Diocesan Digest Series for Lent: *What constitutes full membership in the Episcopal Church?* In the interests of space, I have put my answer in a separate document, which is attached with this Digest. So please keep all of your bishops in your prayers in these final days of our meeting that we may be more and more faithful as servants of the servants of Christ.

Peace & Grace,

+Nathan

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UPCOMING EVENTS...March 17-May 1

- Mar 24-31** Bishop at House of Bishops
- Apr 1** Deadline for Nominations by Petition
- Apr 3** Bp. Creighton visits All Saints, Hanover
- Apr 3** Bp. Baxter visits St. Thomas, Lancaster
- Apr 3** 6pm Evensong for Haiti, St. Andrew's, State College
- Apr 4-5** Bishop at Union of Black Episcopalians Young Pastors Consultation at Virginia Seminary, Alexandria, VA
- Apr 7** 10am Council of Trustees Meeting at the Diocesan Office
- Apr 10** Bishop visits St. Paul's, Wellsboro
- Apr 14** 9am Commission on Ministry & Standing Committee at St. Andrew's, Lewisburg
- Apr 16** 9am-3:30pm Warden & Vestry Leaders Conference at Trinity Pro Cathedral, Williamsport
- Apr 17** Palm Sunday - Bishop at Trinity Pro Cathedral, Wport
- Apr 19** 10am Renewal of Ordination Vows & Clergy & Spouse Lunch, St. Stephen's Cathedral, Harrisburg
- Apr 21—Apr 25** Diocesan Office closed for Easter Break
- Apr 21** Bishop at Christ Church, Williamsport for Maundy Thursday services
- Apr 23** Easter Vigil at St. Stephen's Cathedral. Bp. Baxter celebrating, Cn. Ted Babcock preaching
- Apr 24** Easter Sunday - Bishop at St. Stephen's Cathedral
- Apr 29-30** Bishop to Dioc. of W. NY for consecration of Rev. Dr. Bill Franklin as Bishop
- May 1** Bishop visits St. John's, Carlisle
- May 3** Spring Convocation meeting—Lancaster & Southern
- May 5** Spring Convocation meeting—West Branch & N. Tier
- May 8** Bishop visits St. Mary's, Waynesboro
- May 10** Spring Convocation meeting—Susquehanna & Altoona
- May 12** Spring Convocation meeting—Harrisburg
- May 15** Bishop visits St. John's, Lancaster
- May 18** 7pm Celebration of New Ministry & Installation of The Rev. Duncan Johnston, Mt. Calvary, Camp Hill
- May 22** Bishop visits St. Luke's, Mechanicsburg
- May 29** Bishop visits Trinity, Renovo
- May 30** Diocesan Office closed for Memorial Day

If you have an event of interest to the Diocese that you would like to have listed on the Diocesan website calendar, please contact the Diocese at officemailbox@diocesecpa.org or 888-236-5959

LENTEN MEDITATIONS ONLINE

Lenten Meditation podcasts continue at www.diocesecpa.org.

March 31 *Peregrination - Journeying through Lent*
The Rev. Cn. Stephen Casey

April 7 *Go Ahead - Take a Chance*
The Rev. Cn. Marjorie Menaul

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS...

The Rev. Lisa Schoonmaker, Chaplain at Nittany Medical Center, State College, suffered a heart attack last week while vacationing in New York. She continues to undergo treatment in Albany.

Thomas Kerr, father of The Rev. Lauri Kerr, has recently been diagnosed with advanced lung cancer.

The Rev. Jack Hoffer, Deacon, is recovering well from knee replacement surgery.

Sandi Imboden, as she continues with cancer treatments.

The Rev. Tom Gregg, father of The Rev. Rowena Gibbons and a retired Episcopal priest, who has brain cancer.

Maddie Letsche, Acolyte at St. Luke's, Altoona, who continues treatment and physical therapy for Image Negative Transverse Myelitis.

The Rev. Erica Wood, Retired Rector of St. Luke's, Mt. Joy, as she continues cancer treatment.

Bob Rose, who continues his cancer battle.

HOLY WEEK APPEAL FOR JAPAN

Bishop Baxter has asked that all parishes consider an appeal during their Holy Week services to support the relief and recovery efforts in Japan. The offering collected at the Renewal of Ordination Vows service on Holy Tuesday in Harrisburg has been designated for Japan. Our diocese has had many years of close relationship with Japan, including a companion relationship with the Diocese of Kita Kanto.

The Japan Earthquake Response Fund has been opened by Episcopal Relief and Development to collect donations for emergency relief provided through local partners in Japan and other affected areas. Checks should be made out to *The Diocese of Central PA* with the notation "ERD Japan Earthquake Response Fund" in the memo line. You may either give your check to your parish, who will send it to the diocese, or you may mail it directly to PO Box 11937, Harrisburg, PA 17108. The diocesan office will forward all amounts received on to ERD.

BISHOP'S OPEN

Mark your calendars for **Monday, June 13, 2011** to participate in the annual Bishop's Open! All golfers, regardless of ability, are encouraged to play. Registration fee is \$80. The tournament will be held at **The Links at Gettysburg** (www.TheLinksatGettysburg.com).

Attached with this Digest, and posted on our website, www.diocesecpa.org, are a registration sheet for golfers and a sponsor sheet for individuals or organizations who would like to sponsor a tee box sign. Completed forms and fees should be sent to John Stevenson c/o Prince of Peace Church P.O. Box 3005, Gettysburg, PA 17325. For more information, contact tournament Co-Chairs: John M. Stevenson j.stevenson@pa.net or Mark Wivell mark.wivell@lmco.



Convention 2011 News

Convention this year will have two important focuses: the gifts and challenges of the small church, and the celebration of our youth. Saturday's closing Eucharist will be led by the youth of the diocese and will be a celebration of their ministry.

Our keynote speaker, Jason Byassee, has a master of divinity and doctorate from Duke University. He is a research fellow in theology and leadership and an editor, writer and blogger for Faith & Leadership. He also serves as a contributing editor to *Christian Century*. He is an ordained elder in the Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church. Jason's most recent book is *The Gifts of the Small Church* (Abingdon, 2010), which will be the focus of his keynote and workshop presentations at Convention.

Convention Information is on the diocesan website. Please refer to the Diocesan website (www.diocesecpa.org) for your Convention news (Our Programs/Diocesan Convention). The following information will be available no later than April 6:

- Convention registration form and instructions
- Lodging and accessibility information
- Diocesan Convention Resolutions
- Diocesan Committee Nominations & Nominations for General Convention
- Diocesan Committee Annual Reports

All Convention information this year will be on the website. If you have difficulty retrieving the information, please phone Linda Arguedas at 1-888-236-5959.

Call to Convention Exhibitors

All persons, organizations, churches, or programs interested in exhibiting at Diocesan Convention June 10th and 11th please contact Pam Ballinger, Exhibits Coordinator, at the Diocesan Office. Pam is available Monday to Thursday afternoons and Friday morning at 888-236-5959 or at officemailbox@diocesecpa.org.

LANCASTER CONVOCATION YOUTH EVENTS

Maunder Thursday-Good Friday

St. John's Episcopal Church Parish Hall
321 West Chestnut Street, Lancaster

April 21st

Youth Convocation Lock-In

7:30pm Maunder Thursday Service & Foot-washing
9:00pm Lock-In begins. Includes *agape* feast, a fun, church-style "Minute to Win-it" and a chance to explore your faith in a deeper way. Don't forget your sleeping bag, pillow, toothbrush, toothpaste. And *bring a friend!*

April 22nd 7:00am

Youth Good Friday Service

This special service includes dramatic reading and miming to portray the passion narrative
RSVP to Mary Ellen Kilp at mekilp@yahoo.com