

# Eau Claire *The Herald*

Volume 71, No.

A publication of the Episcopal Diocese of Eau Claire



## Calendar

### October

- 05 Visitation St. Simeons, Chippewa Falls
- 11 Eastern Convocation, Grace Church, Rice Lake
- 14-16 Diocesan Clergy Conference, Bundy Hall
- 19 Visitation St. John's, Sparta
- 25 Western Convocation, Grace Church, Menomonie
- 26 Visitation Grace Church, Menomonie

### November

- 02 Visitation St. Andrew's, Ashland
- 07-08 **75TH DIOCESAN CONVENTION AT ST. KATHERINE'S, OWEN**
- 09 Visitation Holy Trinity, Conrath
- 10 **DIOCESAN OFFICE CLOSED**
- 10 **Deadline for December Herald**
- 20 **Bundy Hall Board, Bundy Hall**
- 22 **Diocesan Altar Guild, Christ Church Cathedral**
- 23 **Visitation St. Alban's, Superior**
- 27 **Thanksgiving Day**
- 28 **DIOCESAN OFFICE CLOSED**

### December

- 07 Visitation St. Luke's, Altoona
- 11 **Diocesan Trustees**
- 13 **Standing Committee**
- 24-29 **DIOCESAN OFFICE CLOSED**

## St. Katherine's, Owen to host 75th Diocesan Convention



Photo by Eldon Main

**Saint Katherine's Church**, Owen, will host the 75<sup>th</sup> annual Convention of the Diocese of Eau Claire on Saturday, November 8. Though the actual Convention does not begin until Saturday morning, the festivities will begin on Friday evening, at 7:00 PM, with a brief organ recital by Mary Bukovich, St. Katherine's Organist. At 7:30 PM, the service of Solemn Evensong and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament will be held. Following the service, there will be a time of refreshments and socializing for all in attendance. It is hoped that all those who will be spending the night in or around Owen will come to the Friday evening celebration. There will be several displays available for viewing both days, in the undercroft of the church.

Convention will convene on Saturday morning, with registration at 9:30 AM and Call to Order at 10:00 AM. The Holy Eucharist will be celebrated at noon, with a working lunch to follow. Adjournment is scheduled for no later than 3:00 PM.

As this is a special anniversary Convention, everyone in the Diocese is invited to attend any or all of the

proceedings. Owen is located about fifty minutes drive east of Eau Claire, just off Highway 29. Turn left (north) on County Road DD, go past the golf club and high school, and turn right at the first stop sign. This will take you directly into Owen and to St. Katherine's. Watch for the Church on the left.

### St. Katherine's an integral part of Diocesan history

The first service of what was to become St. Katherine's Church, Owen, was held in 1914, in the home of A. R. Owen, for whom the city is named. Officiating at the service was The Rev. Philip H. Linley, Rector of Christ Church, Eau Claire. Within a year, the group of worshippers had grown to the point where they felt the need of a permanent church building.

It just so happened that Christ Church, Eau Claire, had ceased to use their church building, built in 1870, when new parish hall had been built a few years before, and the church building sat unused and unneeded. This building was purchased, cut up into pieces, loaded on a train, shipped to Owen, and reassembled as St. Katherine's

Church. The congregation was in the "new" building by May of 1916. The large stained glass window now in the west end of the building had previously been above the altar, and a new entrance was constructed on the south side. This window is dedicated to the memory of the first two Bishops of Wisconsin, The Rt. Rev. Jackson Kemper and The Rt. Rev. William Armitage, who had original jurisdiction over all the state of Wisconsin, including what is now the Diocese of Eau Claire.

Owen was at that time a part of the Diocese of Fond du Lac, and the Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Reginald H. Weller, dedicated the new church in honor of St. Katherine of Alexandria, Virgin and Martyr, who was martyred in 307 AD. St. Katherine's was also named for Katherine Owen, the young daughter of Mr. & Mrs. A. R. Owen, who had died recently, and whose

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**The Herald**  
510 S. Farwell St.  
Eau Claire, WI 54701  
**Change Service Requested**

# Pen and Crosier

Dear friends in Christ,



This is my first word to you since the events of General Convention led to much upset around the Church. The Convention's action in consenting to the election of The Rev'd Gene Robinson as Bishop of New Hampshire has been a source of rejoicing for some and great pain for others. The emotional reactions on both sides have been strong and deep. Both sides striving to be right, in fact both are certain of the rightness of their position. The only thing that is clear to me in that process is that we cannot speak with one voice as a Church on issues of sexuality. The vote indicates we are nearly evenly divided on the issues. So how do we go forward as a Church when there is such a divergent opinion about this action?

I believe we have to do first things first. You and I are called into mission by the words of the Gospel. General Convention decisions have not changed that call one bit. Our ministry is carried out in the local setting. Realistically I know the pain of these decisions will cause some to leave the Church. I can only speak for myself. I am an Episcopalian by choice and I have no intention of leaving this Church or of doing anything that will contribute to even more disunity than we are already experiencing. This moment in our history has only challenged me to deepen my commitment to the mission of Christ as it has been given to us in this Diocese. I would invite every member of our Diocese, clergy and lay alike, to rededicate themselves to serving the mission of Christ. I think on the martyrs of the early Church. It is difficult to witness in difficult times, especially when we suffer from inner turmoil. But it is our calling.

I think we can also pray. Prayer for our Church, our Diocese, our own congregation daily will help invigorate the spiritual foundations of our common life. Let's be honest, how often do we lift up these situations in prayer? Prayer is the solid rock of all that we are as a Church. Please join me.

Lastly, we can listen to one another, to the wider Church, and especially those with whom we disagree. This is not a time to end dialogue but to open it. Conversation is a must. We must hear the many voices of our Church, all of them.

My thanks for your patience and dedication to serving our Lord in the Diocese of Eau Claire. I pray the Lord will continue to bless our work together, most especially as our Church struggles.

In Christ

Bishop Keith



## From the Editor

This will be my last "From the Editor" column, as I have decided that the time has come for me to pursue retirement a bit further. I retired from active parish ministry nearly four years ago in order to relieve some of the stress in my life. Due to continually deteriorating health, I feel that I must try harder to reduce the stress level. I am

going to concentrate my energy on some personal projects, namely family genealogy and model trains, assist at St. Katherine's Church, Owen, and do occasional supply work.

I have several reasons for giving up THE HERALD. Among them is the fact that I am just not 'in the loop' anymore. It is difficult to report on things that I am not involved in and with and have to take second hand. I am not able to spread myself thin enough to cover all that is happening in the diocese, and, indeed, I really do not want to anyway! I have spent many years in the councils of the Church, and I have now left those tasks to others. In fact, due to our overall poor communication, there are many things that I do not even know about, and which, unfortunately, do not make it into THE HERALD because I do not hear about them in a timely manner.

I also have to add that there are things going on in the Episcopal Church, and in our diocese as well, that I simply cannot accept. It has become increasingly difficult for me to remain unbiased and objective in what I report and write. A good Editor cannot let a publication become a personal soap box. And I will not do so!

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*The Herald*

The official voice of the  
**Diocese of Eau Claire**

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Subscriptions are \$10 a year.

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**National News** ..... **Episcopal News Service**  
<http://ecusa.anglican.org>

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**Printing:** Eau Claire Press Co., Eau Claire, WI  
**Postmaster:** *The Herald* is published bimonthly by the Diocese of Eau Claire. Periodicals postage paid at Eau Claire, WI 54701. Please send address changes to the Diocese of Eau Claire office, 510 S. Farwell St., Eau Claire, WI 54701. Publication number 241620.

# A New Vision for Vacation Bible School

By The Rev. Joy A. Rose

This summer saw something entirely new at Christ Church Cathedral. Trying an entirely new format, the Cathedral, under the direction of The Reverend Joy A. Rose, in conjunction with First Baptist Church, under the direction of The Reverend Dr. JoAnne Juett, with supplies and advice from Bethesda Lutheran Church put together an ecumenical, intergenerational, evening vacation bible school. This VBS stressed Christian unity – rather than age or denominational differences. And it was a huge success.

Every evening at least 55 people showed up to participate, in spite of the sweltering heat. The youngest participant was in a stroller, the oldest – well past the three score and ten. We were joined by participants who were “unchurched” seekers and some who were from the local Roman Catholic church. Everyone was delighted to take part and also to wear the 2003 Vacation Bible School tee shirts that were the gift of the Bishop and Suzie Whitmore.

The program began each night at 5:30 PM with prayer and singing, and dinner provided by the two churches. After dinner the children, following the rotation model, went to various “stations” where they learned Bible stories, saw videos, did arts and crafts, and had a dramatic biblical presentation. The adults had their own special session of videos, bible study, and group discussion. At the end of the evening both groups gathered together for snacks, a closing presentation and worship.

Using the SCUBA curriculum, children and adults took off on a deep sea adventure that taught them about the wonderful qualities of the one true God. They learned the deeper facets of God’s love for us, as shown through Jesus Christ, and how we can return that love by obeying God, trusting God, loving God, and telling others about God.

Each evening’s adventure started when children and adults walked through a gigantic whale’s mouth into the gathering room. The whale was the work of several hardy volunteers and covered the doorway which was the entrance to the Cathedral. The meeting room and the various classrooms were decorated to look like the ocean with bubbles and fish hanging from the ceilings, coral lining the walls, and everything draped in blue sheeting to look like water.

Everyone had a wonderful time. Instead of talking about our first EVER evening, intergenerational, ecumenical vacation bible school, people are now talking about our first ANNUAL evening, intergenerational, ecumenical vacation bible school and eagerly looking forward to next year! (If you would like some information or ideas on doing something similar in your congregation next year, please contact Joy at the Cathedral. She will be more than happy to speak with you.)



ALL ASHORE THAT’S GOING ASHORE THE S.S. SCUBA IS ABOUT TO SET SAIL TO TRUST GOD, OBEY GOD, AND LOVE GOD!



A skit about the crucifixion of Jesus with actors L-R Kendra Kitchens, Kara Hobbs and Jared Juett.



Singing Songs About God!



Children of ALL ages including Cathedral Secretary, Theresa Hobbs at far right, sing action songs aboard the S.S. Scuba



The Rev. Joy Rose informs Jonah (Adam Hobbs) that he has won a trip to NINEVAH!



HARLEY SMALSTIG, 5 year old son of Jon and Jessica Smalstig of Christ Church Cathedral and grandson of “Butch” and Joan Smalstig, Diocesan Secretary, beams with pleasure during vacation bible school. **THE S. S. SCUBA WAS A VERY GOOD THING!**

# Hayward Happenings



## JULY CONFIRMATIONS IN HAYWARD

Bishop Whitmore confirmed a class of young people at his annual visitation to the Church of the Ascension this past July 27<sup>th</sup>. Pictured here with the Bishop are Fr. Bruce Gardner, rector, and confirmands Richy Hogue, Allison Jonjak, and Mike Jonjak.

IN THE PICTURE TO THE RIGHT Father Bruce Gardner toasts Bishop Whitmore and the 2003 confirmation class at the champagne brunch which followed the Confirmation Liturgy at Hayward's historic Church of the Ascension last July 27<sup>th</sup>.



Helen Salisbury is pictured selling the Hayward Church's cookbook, "Loaves and Fishes and Delectable Dishes" at this summer's Craft in the Park festival. Copies of the cookbook are still available and make wonderful Christmas gifts. You may order by mail: Church of the Ascension, PO Box 637, Hayward WI 54843. Cost is \$18 per book by snail mail, or \$15 if picked up at the church. Get yours' while quantities last!

## E.Y.C. RETURNS TO HAYWARD CHURCH

This fall sees the reactivation of the high school youth group at the historic Church of the Ascension, Hayward. While the old acronym remains, it now denotes Episcopal Youth Church Types. So maybe it ought to be E.Y.C.T. The group will initially meet one Sunday a month following Mass as a "lunch bunch." Young people in grades seven through twelve are involved and on the Sundays they meet, they are encouraged to bring friends who are unchurched or under-churched to the Liturgy. Those who do so have the added incentive of having lunch paid for by the benevolent and handsome rector, Fr Bruce Gardner.

## ST. GREGORY-THE-TEACHER SEEKS ITEMS

By Dr. Frank Hull IV

The newly formed Mission of St. Gregory, the Teacher, serving adults in the Greater La Crosse area, has an urgent need for a few things that some Diocesan parishes might be able to donate or loan. Specially, they are seeking an altar cross, 30 or more prayer books, seasonal color stoles, candle sticks, a reserve box, a current and 1928 edition missal and kneelers. Also needed is everything necessary to using incense. The parish and members would welcome involvement from our more senior sister churches who will embrace our unique mission and commitment and add meaning to our fellowship together.

Contact the Bishop's Canon down there if you can help: Dr. Frank Hull amra227@yahoo.com

## Consultant in Christian Education

By The Rev. Joy A. Rose

The Reverend Joy A. Rose, assistant priest at Christ Church Cathedral, is available to provide resources and assistance to parishes in their educational ministries with children, youth and adults.

Joy is a trained and certified educational consultant. She is willing to visit parishes for teacher support and mentoring of lay leadership with those who will oversee Christian formation ministries. She is available to arrange for workshops which can include teacher training, curriculum planning, and goal setting.

She also has experience in planning, leading, and arranging retreats for youth and adults. Most recently she has led retreats at St. Bede's Monastery for students at UWEC on the topics of *Personality and Prayer* and *Women and Jesus*. She is available to advise and make suggestions concerning retreats your church may be considering.

Joy has experience with the *Godly Play* program, the *Life Together* program, and the *Journey to Adulthood* program. If you are interested in information about any of these specific programs do not hesitate to contact her at the Cathedral. [715-835-3734]

## The Magnetic Church Conference A Success

Sixty clergy and laity spent Friday evening and Saturday, September 19-20, at Christ Church Cathedral learning very realistic techniques and tools for new member ministry as presented by Andy Weeks, founder of *The Magnetic Church*.

In a presentation peppered with personal experience, wit, humor, and serious reflection, and utilizing an intriguing Power Point presentation, Andy presented diverse methods and means of reaching out to new members, reinvigorating a stagnant congregation, and just plain having fun in carrying out the Great Commission—"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..." Matt.28:19

Andy also utilized small group breakout sessions. In one session participants "practiced" being greeters—a very special ministry and completely different from being an

usher. The group "practiced" because Andy knows Episcopalians do not enjoy "role playing". The second breakout session provided an opportunity to review the newsletter and bulletins of congregations learning various ways to more effectively communicate.

Everyone went home with handouts and ideas that could be implemented immediately and with relatively minimal expense.

Anyone interested in learning more about this exciting program is encouraged to contact the diocesan office or sign on to the web site of *The Magnetic Church* [www.magnetic-church.com](http://www.magnetic-church.com) - it's definitely worth your while!

## Annual Fall Diocesan Altar Guild Meeting Set

By Mary Bukovich

The annual meeting of the Diocesan Altar Guild will be held on Saturday November 22 at Christ Church Cathedral in Eau Claire. Meeting in the Memorial Lounge, registration is at 9:30 AM and the program will begin at 10:00 AM. Our program will include practical tips and information to help us in our work, and a very short discussion of the National Altar Guild Association meeting held this past summer in Minneapolis, including photos of the Liturgical Art Display. We will also have new fall catalogs from area church goods companies. To continue last year's successful 'Show and Tell', we encourage you to bring any new 'churchy' acquisitions (such as vestments, metalware, or linens),

recent refurbishings, and helps and guides you have acquired or put together.

At noon, we will gather in the Cathedral for a festival celebration of the Eucharist. At this service we will also commission all altar guild members who are present and remember those of our number who died this past year (please send any names to Mary Bukovich, 2720 LaSalle St., Eau Claire, 54703 or email [mjbukovich@charter.net](mailto:mjbukovich@charter.net)). Following the Eucharist, we will enjoy a lunch of beef stew and have time for fellowship and sharing of ideas. We will be finished with everything by 2:30 PM. A letter will be sent to all clergy and altar guilds with registration and lunch information.

## No Job For the Faint of Heart



Pete Dawson rides high in the bucket during a painting session at Christ Church, Chippewa Falls.



**Chris Murray** (front row right) was received into the Church at Bishop's Visitation to St. Katherine's, Owen. Pictured with Mr. Murray are (back row l-r) Deacon Tony Ring, Bishop Keith Whitmore, Father G. R. Usher, Sr., SSC, Assistant Priest at St. Katherine's, (front row left) Father Guy Usher, Jr., SSC, Vicar of St. Katherine's.

### Chippewa Falls Chili Feed

We want to invite everyone to Christ Church's Annual Chili Feed. Saturday December 6, 4:30 - 8:00 PM following Chippewa Falls' Annual Christmas Parade at 6:00 PM. Come join us for a steaming bowl of chili and fresh baked corn bread before or after the parade.

We will have our bake sale and 3rd Annual Doll House Raffle drawing. For a dollar a chance, some lucky person will go home with an heirloom quality doll house completely furnished and complete with wall papering and lighting.

**Mark your calendars now!**

Submitted by Dianne Dawson

### From the Editor

Continued from page 2

I have enjoyed this work immensely, both the good times and the bad. My dislike for computers has grown even stronger! Unfortunately, there is really no other way. I want to thank anyone and everyone who has helped with any aspect of THE HERALD over the past two years. You are much appreciated. If I mention names, I shall surely miss someone, and be in deep trouble! So, thank you to one and all. Together we have done our best to serve the Lord by reporting on the work of the Church and the carrying out of His Mission in this place.

I pray that you will all be as gracious and helpful to my successor as you have been to me, and that God will continue to richly bless our diocese and this newspaper.

Faithfully,  
The Rev. G. Randolph Usher, SSC  
Editor

### Clergy Changes

**The Rev. Alan P. Coudriet**, former vicar of St. Alban's, Spooner and St. Luke's, Springbrook has accepted a call to Christ Church, Oil City, Pennsylvania. Fr. Coudriet and his wife, Karen, left for their new ministry October 11.

**The Rev. Paul Smith** former priest at St. Alban's, Superior, has accepted a position in Morgantown, West Virginia.

### A REFLECTION ON CURSILLO

by Father John Rasmus, Diocesan Spiritual Director

Twenty-eight years ago I was a young teacher in the Osseo-Fairchild School District. I was also a member of Christ Church Cathedral in Eau Claire. Some good friends from church came to me and invited me to attend a weekend experience that was called **Cursillo**.

I balked at accepting the invitation. It would require me to miss a day of teaching. I was almost certain that I would not be given the day off by my superintendent. My friends convinced me to go ahead and at least ask. I did - and I was right, the superintendent felt that I could not be given the day off without setting a terrible precedent. So I went back to my friends and told them I couldn't go. They prayed for me. The following week my superintendent called and said he'd had a change of heart. He would let me go to the weekend, but I would have to take the day off without pay. Now the pressure was on me. If I said I wouldn't go, then it would seem that I really didn't want to go very badly. If I said I would go then it was going to cost me about \$100 for being gone that day. I swallowed hard and took the day.

Now twenty-eight years later I must tell you I have never once regretted my decision to go through the Cursillo Weekend. It was at that Weekend that I came to realize that God really did love me. It had always been in my head, but that Weekend it traveled to my heart. My wife Rose

went the following weekend (in 1975 men and women went on different weekends) and it touched her life, too. Shortly after she came home, she indicated to me her willingness to allow me to pursue Ordination to the Diaconate. I did and the rest is history. That Weekend changed my life.

I invite everyone who longs for a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ, anyone who wants to make a difference in their personal, home, work or school environment to consider taking the opportunity to experience this great Movement of the Spirit of God called Cursillo. I would tell you that Cursillo is not *just* a Weekend, but it begins there.

The Cursillo Movement seeks to shape lives by changing hearts and changing habits. It opened me up to a touch from the hand of God. It could do the same for you. I know that because God has always been in the business of changing hearts; especially hearts that seek to hear his voice and seek his face.

By the way, there is a Cursillo weekend coming up on **October 9-12, 2003**. Maybe you might want to experience this for yourself. I encourage you to pray about it; talk about it, discuss it with your priest; and prepare your heart. May God bless you in your life in Christ Jesus.

family had been so instrumental in obtaining the building.

In these early days, Owen was a thriving community, as was St. Katherine's Church. The Guild Hall, now referred to as "The Great Hall", on the north side of the church, was opened in January of 1925, and was used for many years as a Community Hall. Many community activities and organizations met there over the years. In its heyday, St. Katherine's had more than 200 members.



Interior of St. Katherine's, Owen, site of 2003 Convention of the Diocese of Eau Claire  
Photo by Eldon Main

When the Diocese of Eau Claire came into being in 1928, St. Katherine's, Owen, became a part of the new diocese. At one point in history, St. Katherine's was the fourth largest congregation in the diocese. Unfortunately, the fortunes of the church are closely tied with those of the community in which the church is located, and as Owen's population began to decline, so did the church membership. During its seventy-five years as a part of the Diocese of Eau Claire, St. Katherine's has had a full-time Rector, has been yoked with one or more other congregations, was a part of the "Mission District", has had part-time Vicars and Rectors, has been a self-supporting "parish", has gone back to aided or "mission" status, has been served by various supply priests, and for a number of years also had a Deacon.

There have been very few architectural changes at St. Katherine's over the years, except for moving the communion rail and the placing of a free-standing altar in the chancel. St. Katherine's was notified late this summer that they are to receive a

grant from the United Thank Offering to assist in upgrading an antiquated heating system, and hopefully to add air conditioning. A new glass door for the entrance to the Great Hall is to be installed soon.

Fortunately, the grace and love of God have carried the congregation through thick and thin. While the present membership is not large, they are faithful, enthusiastic and welcoming. They strive to be positive in their outlook, and look forward to the chance to welcome the people of the diocese into their midst. St. Katherine's regular

Sunday Eucharist is at 10:30 AM. There is another celebration of the Holy Eucharist on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 PM, with a study group following, led by the Vicar. St. Katherine's is blessed with a very fine modern organ, purchased by the Episcopal Church Women several years ago. Organist and director of the small but faithful choir is Mary Bukovich.

The Vicar of St. Katherine's Church is The Rev. Guy R. Usher, Jr., SSC. The recently ordained Deacon is the Rev. Anthony Ring. Non-stipendiary assisting Priest is The Rev. G. Randolph Usher, SSC.

**For a Church Convention or Meeting**

Almighty and everliving God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with those who take counsel in the Diocese of Eau Claire for the renewal and mission of your Church. Teach us in all things to seek first your honor and glory. Guide us to perceive what is right, and grant us both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Diocesan Staff Appointments

The following appointments have been made by the Bishop.

The Rev'd Jeanne Stout will serve as Archdeacon of the Diocese of Eau Claire. She will assist the bishop in the selection, development, and training of Deacons. Deacon Jeanne will also continue to serve as Diocesan Administrator. Her new title will be the Venerable Jeanne Stout. Venerable is not a reference to her age but the traditional title for Archdeacons.

Mr. Pete Dawson has begun serving as Diocesan Business Administrator. Pete has volunteered to work part-time in the Diocesan Office to help organize and oversee all the business functions of the Diocese.

The Rev'd Bruce Gardner is appointed Canon for Deployment and Clergy Development. He will assist the Bishop in the aforementioned areas by assisting congregations in the transition process and helping clergy in their ongoing development.

The Rev'd Joy Rose is appointed Canon for Education. She will oversee the Diocesan Education program, which provides assistance for congregations in the area of Christian Education and also provides educational programs for the people of the Diocese.

The Rev'd Dennis Michno has been appointed Canon for Liturgy for the Diocese. He will assist the Bishop and congregations in the area of liturgy.

The Rev'd Frank Hull has been appointed Canon for the People. He will be available to congregations in the area of marketing and congregational development.

Canons are staff persons assisting the Ordinary (The Bishop). They have the Bishop's authority to act in their assigned areas. The proper title for a canon is The Rev'd Canon and they are referred to as Canon.

## Contemplative Prayer Experience

By The Rev. John Ambelang

Have you ever wondered what Contemplative Prayer is all about? Come and find out at Bundy Hall on Sat, Nov 22, 2003 [a Friday night session will also be available.]

It will feature three sessions; two on listening to God through Scripture and one on listening to God through intercession. There will be time for silence as well as sharing.

The facilitator, Lois Lindbloom, has been trained at the Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation in Washington D.C. The Shalem Institute was founded by Tilden Edwards, an Episcopal priest.

Ms Lindbloom facilitates group spiritual direction and contemplative prayer with clergy and with laity in her community of Northfield, MN, and worked for sixteen years as psychologist and director of the counseling center at Carlton College.

The Saturday session will begin with coffee at 9 am and the first session will be at 9:30 pm in the Conference Center. The cost for Saturday will be \$20 including lunch. For those who are able to stay Friday evening, the Session will begin at 7:00 pm. Bed and Breakfast costs an additional \$24.

# THE THIRD SIDE OF CONFLICT

By Jo K. Glasser  
Christ Church, La Crosse

This past summer Episcopalians across the country became acquainted with conflict in the Christian community in a rather dramatic fashion. The highly publicized controversy over the confirmation of Bishop-elect Robinson has had some form of impact on every member of our church. You may have had friends and acquaintances ask you for your opinion or position, as if you were personally involved. Actually, you *were* personally involved – we all were and are. That idea might make you somewhat uncomfortable, and understandably so, since we have no well-developed, time-tested procedures for addressing this kind of conflict at the parish or personal level. The Diocese of Eau Claire has plans in place to remedy that situation.

In our Diocese we have the advantage of a Diocesan Conflict Resolution Program and several talented Peer Mediators who have been trained to help others resolve interpersonal conflicts. I am pleased to report that their efforts have already reaped some promising results. There will be another training series for additional Peer Mediators early in 2004. While this is a good beginning, no community should rely on only a few “specialists” to manage its inevitable disagreements. Respectful resolution of conflict in the community is everyone’s responsibility.

Our society tends to regard disagreements as the exclusive property of the disputants. We believe that the rest of us should avoid getting involved in what is “none of our business”. But escalating conflicts place the entire community at serious risk. Every damaged or destroyed relationship that results from mismanaged conflict weakens the fabric of community cohesiveness until, finally, it tears.

William Ury, prominent Harvard expert on negotiation and mediation, advises that we turn to primitive societies for more effective models of the community’s role in conflict. In those cultures, the entire community is involved in

every conflict. Family and friends of the disputants work to calm them down. All of the parties air their grievances. Each community member voices his or her opinion on what needs to be done to restore harmony. The talking continues until the dispute is resolved. Ury refers to the community’s role and interests in the issue as the Third Side of conflict.

Granted, we do not live in a primitive culture, but we share some important characteristics with those who do. We depend on our faith community for spiritual sustenance just as much as those peoples depend on their communities for physical survival. Our typical responses to conflict, denial and avoidance, do not address the root causes of the issues, nor do they provide support for strained relationships. The church cannot afford to continue dealing with interpersonal differences in this way. There is too much at stake.

As a first step toward a more practical, tangible approach to conflict, Bishop Whitmore and I will lead a one-day workshop entitled “Conflict in the Christian Community: Taking the Third Side” on Saturday, December 13, 2003 at the Cathedral in Eau Claire. All members of the Diocese are invited. Details will be forthcoming in your church newsletters and bulletins. Please join us to explore how we all can take the Third Side, for the health and vitality of our faith community. To register for the workshop, or for further information, call the Diocesan office or contact Jo Glasser at (608) 788-9177; email address [joglasserassoc@centurytel.net](mailto:joglasserassoc@centurytel.net).

*Jo Glasser has been a member of Christ Church, La Crosse, since 1997, and currently serves as Senior Warden. She is also a doctoral candidate in industrial-organizational psychology. The subject of her dissertation research is the development of conflict resolution models for Christian congregations.*

# ERD OFFERS BISHOP’S BLEND COFFEE

ERD offers new program, a taste to be sampled at Diocesan Convention

Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) is the compassionate response of the whole Church – helping people in need worldwide.

Working on behalf of Episcopalians, Episcopal Relief and Development partners with local communities and churches within the Anglican Communion to provide emergency assistance and find long-term solutions to issues such as hunger, poverty, and disease.

You can be part of this ministry. Episcopal Relief and Development is offering you a new opportunity to respond to human suffering in the world.

ERD has partnered with Pura Vida Coffee to offer Bishops Blend, a premium line of dark roasted coffees from Central American and Indonesia. The Bishops Blend coffee program is an exciting way for you to make a difference. It combines great taste and a commitment to fair trade with ERD’s ministry of improving lives around the world.

## Parish Blend Program

Are you interested in helping others while enjoying a good cup of coffee at your church coffee hour? Keep your mugs full of Bishops Blend during your parish social gatherings. Your parish can sign up for regular delivery service. Depending upon the quantity of the order, parishes may receive discounted prices on weekly, monthly, or quarterly purchases.

Would you like to use Bishops Blend for your church fundraisers? Here’s a great way to help people around the world, while raising money for a local church project!

Episcopal churches and church organizations, -hospitality committees, youth and women’s groups, and other social ministries –can benefit from selling Bishop’s Blend. Buy the coffee at wholesale prices and sell it to raise funds for special church projects.

It’s a great coffee for a great cause and cost!

Individual sales – Constant Cup  
Can your family, neighbors, and friends also enjoy Bishops Blend? Of course! Just order the 12-oz bags of coffee!

If you participate in the “constant cup” program, you will receive a regular supply of Bishops Blend mailed to your home. It’s fast, flexible, and convenient!

There are three premium coffees available

## Bishops Blend

This smooth and rich French Roast offers a bold flavor to complement any meal or dessert.

## Bishops Blend Decaf

The Swiss water Process ensures a chemical-free decaf coffee, featuring great aroma, mild taste, and a soft finish.

## Bishops Cinnamon Spice

This blend combines pure, ground cinnamon with flavor of toasted hazelnuts.

## Here’s how you can order

Bishops Blend coffee is very competitively priced. Individual 12-oz. Bags for home delivery cost \$8.95 (decaf and special flavors \$9.95). Significant discounts are available for churches and groups to purchase coffee at wholesale prices on a regular basis.

To place an order to Bishops Blend or learn more, please call customer service representatives toll-free at 877-469-1431 and ask about Bishops Blend or visit the web site at [www.er-d.org](http://www.er-d.org)

**Diane Bilderback, ERD Diocesan Coordinator, will be on hand at St. Katherine’s, Owen, during Diocesan Convention with more information. ERD is providing the coffee for convention. Come – taste – enjoy!**

## Margaret Guenther to Present in Eau Claire

By The Rev. Canon Joy Rose

Margaret Guenther, nationally famous Spiritual Director, Priest, Author and Retreat Leader will present a program on prayer and spirituality for the Diocese of Eau Claire on February 26, 27 and 28th, 2004.

She is a retired professor of ascetical theology at The General Theological Seminary in New York, where she was the director of its Center for Christian Spirituality. She is also a wife, mother, and grandmother and therefore in touch with the practical realities of life.

Margaret Guenther has written many books including "Holy Listening: The Art of Spiritual Direction" and "Toward Holy Ground: Spiritual Direction for the Second Half of Life" as well as the very popular, "The Practice of Prayer."

She will share with us her ideas on how prayer forms and informs our lives and help us to articulate the questions we must live with such as...."Where are we? Are we clear on the issues we face? What are the next steps we, as spiritual leaders, and spiritual people, can take? "

This conference will also be a gathering that provides an opportunity for

prayer, reflection, and mutual discussion around the issues we face personally and how we can learn to recognize and help with the issues of those we serve.

She will also be available to answer many of the common questions of the spiritual life, such as "How do we learn to listen to God in our prayer?" and, "How do we develop a life of prayer in the midst of busy, active lives?"

This conference will provide information on various aspects of spirituality and prayer. It may include topics such as making a confession, intercession, going on retreat, simplifying our lives, using a journal to pray, finding a spiritual director, and praying through times of desolation when God does not seem to be listening.

This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to spend quality time with a dynamic and insightful spiritual leader. Clear your calendars, reserve the days, and treat yourself to spending some time learning how to make time for God.

Time and place specifics will be announced as February draws nearer.

## Bishop Wantland Attends International Bishops' Conference

By The Rt. Rev. William S. Wantland

The Rt. Rev. William C. Wantland, retired Bishop of Eau Claire, attended the International Bishop's Conference on Faith and Order in London, England, last month. The Conference was first organized in 1990, and consists of bishops of the Anglican Communion from all over the world.

The 2003 meeting was held in St. Alban's, just outside London, under the presidency of The Rt. Rev. Jack Iker, Bishop of Fort Worth. Bishops in attendance were from Nigeria, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Botswana and Tanzania, all in Africa, Australia, New Guinea, South America, England and the U.S. The Archbishops of Sydney, Central Africa and Papua, New Guinea were participants.

Much time was spent in daily Bible study, and corporate worship of Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer, Compline, and daily Mass. A number of papers were presented by partici-

pants and visitors, including The Most Rev. Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury.

Discussion focussed on the question of lay presidency at the Eucharist, being considered by the Diocese of Sydney, and the decision of the Episcopal Church in the U.S. to consecrate a practicing homosexual as Bishop of New Hampshire, and to recognize the blessing of same-sex union.

In regard to the latter matter, the Conference adopted a resolution reaffirming the traditional teaching of the Anglican Communion in regard to sexual practices, and called on the Primates (chief bishops) of the Anglican Communion to recognize and support orthodox dioceses, clergy and congregations in the U.S. and to "rebuken and restrain" those who have acted contrary to the resolutions of Lambeth Conference.

## Wisconsin Deacons Meet at Camp Webb

By Deacon Jeanne Stout

More than twenty deacons from the dioceses of Eau Claire, Fond du Lac, and Milwaukee met for the sixth year on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, September 26-28 at Camp Webb, Wautoma, WI. The deacons were joined by The Right Reverend Russ Jacobus, Bishop of Fond du Lac, The Right Reverend Keith Whitmore, Bishop of Eau Claire, and Bishop-elect of Milwaukee Steven Miller.

the date of Bishop Whitmore's Visitation to my parish of Grace Church, Rice Lake. As much as I wanted to stay with my brothers and sisters, whom I grow to cherish more each year, my place was at the side of my bishop and with my priest at the altar in Grace Church.

I personally regret only three deacons from Eau Claire were present – The Rev. Irene McDaniel of St. John's,



Festivities Friday evening included singing, fellowship, and wiener roast in the great, albeit damp and chilly, outdoors. Saturday The Rev. John H. Peterson, a licensed marriage and family therapist with Fox Valley Pastoral Counseling Center and Episcopal priest, discussed and led an interactive program on dealing with stress in the lives and unique ministries of deacons.

The Rt. Rev. Russell Jacobus celebrated Holy Eucharist Saturday morning. Rather than a typical sermon, Bishop Jacobus sat with us as we openly and honestly discussed the events that occurred during the July General Convention in Minneapolis. The Bishop stressed that unity, understanding, and faithfulness must be our only goal.

In years past, the conference ended Saturday after lunch. However, in 2002 the decision was made to extend the time of community to Sunday which would provide an additional time of togetherness in a more retreat-like atmosphere.

This was one of the many times when two good things pull a person in two directions – Sunday, September 28 was

Mauston, The Rev. Tony Ring of St. Katherine's, Owen, and myself. Geography and time constraints preclude frequent opportunities for the depth of community, friendship, and continued education that are experienced at Tri-Diocesan Deacons Conference and those who are absent are missed and in turn, miss so much.

But 2004 is another year!



The Rt. Reverend Russell Jacobus, Bishop of Fond du Lac leading an open discussion during Tri-Diocesan Deacons Conference.

Thanks to Deacon Karen Buker of the Diocese of Milwaukee for the photos of Tri-Diocesan Deacons Conference.