

Eau Claire *The Herald*

Volume 72, No. 4

A publication of the Episcopal Diocese of Eau Claire

August/September 2004



Mark Your Calendar

September 6: Labor Day,
Diocesan Office Closed

September 18: Executive
Council, 10:30, Our Saviour's,
Lugerville (Philips)

October 5: Deadline for *The
Herald*

October 8-9: Tri-Diocesan
Deacon's Gathering, Camp
Webb

October 16: Western
Convocation

October 23: Eastern
Convocation

November 5-6: 76th
Convention of the Diocese of
Eau Claire, Diocesan Office
Closed November 8.

November 20: Executive
Council, Christ Church,
Chippewa Falls

November 25: Thanksgiving
Day, Diocesan Office Closed

November 26: Diocesan Office
Closed



The Reverend John Ambelang completes locum in Larnaca, Cyprus

For the last two years I've been doing what is called, a locum, in Larnaca, Cyprus. Cyprus is an Island in the Middle East off the coasts of Turkey, Syria, & Lebanon. Paul and Barnabas traversed the Island on their first trip as missionaries as recorded in Acts. As locum, I basically do a month's supply while the Rector is on vacation. The church is St. Helena's

me when he looked for a locum.

Danny works for expenses, car and health insurance, and the use of an apartment. The congregation is fortunate to have him. The parish provides me with a small stipend which almost covers the airfare; I live in the apartment, and use the parish car – somewhat harrowing as they drive English rules. And of course, they are nice to



St. Helena's Anglican Church, Larnaca, Cyprus

Anglican Church, a worshipping congregation of about 50, mostly British. Some of them have married Cypriots; most have retired for the climate as well as its less expensive standard of living.

St. Helena's was named after the Greek Saint who was reputed to have found the true cross in Jerusalem and on her returning to Constantinople left a piece at Stavrovouni Monastery atop a mountain just north of Larnaca. The church itself is relatively new; financed by the building of an apartment building and reserving the first floor for the church.

I first met Danny and his wife, when I did a similar locum in Saudi Arabia in 2000. Danny was working for the Saudi Aramco Oil Company prior to retirement after which he took up parochial ministry. He remembered

me, entertaining me – the food and company are wonderful.

Danny knows when to leave on vacation. Last year the car broke down, the air conditioning stopped working, and the satellite TV went out. This year it was funerals. There had only been five burials at the British cemetery, in two weeks my four almost matched that.

I've sought out some of the clergy this trip — last year Karen and I were busy finding our way around and touring. So I went to Agia Napa, the 'party city', to meet Robin Brookes who's had wonderful success. They host youth for two months from the 24/7 prayer movement. In the evenings they witness to the partiers. His attendance has increased from about 10 to over 100. Worship is at a monastery which 40 years ago was the

By The Rev. John Ambelang, Tomah, WI

only building in the area. In the summer they gather in the cloister, in the winter crowd into a space the size of a Church School classroom.

He had raised his support in England but doing 5-10 weddings a week for British couples has made the church self-supporting. Many couples are opting for a wedding overseas as a cheaper alternative to a wedding at home. Another church on the Island hires a full time assistant to do nothing but weddings. It should be said that the couples are expected to do their marriage preparation in England before they arrive.

I went to Limissol to meet Colin Noyce who recently moved from the



St. Barnabas', Limissol

LOCUM, 3

The Herald

510 S. Farwell St.
Eau Claire, WI 54701
Address Service Requested

Shortfall in apportionment commitments

By Pete Dawson, Business Manager

At our convention last year we voted on and passed a financial budget for 2004. The budget consists of two parts: the commitments made by the Diocese to help support the churches in their mission work, and the parish's commitment to give back, through apportionments, so that the work of the church can continue throughout the Diocese of Eau Claire. Simply put the budget is a balance between receipts and expenditures. We have experienced a shortfall in receipts that has resulted in the Diocese' inability to meet its commitments. We think it is important for the people of the Diocese to understand the seriousness of the situation. Listed below are the churches that have not met their apportionment commitment for this year.

Church/Location	Commitment through August	Payment To Date	Arrearage
St. Luke's/Altona	979.36	-0-	\$ 979.36
Christ Church/Bayfield	4,801.36	500.00	4,301.36
Christ Church/Chippewa Falls	8,662.64	7,616.98	1,005.66
St, Simeon's/Chippewa Falls	3,892.64	3,497.80	394.84
Christ Church/Eau Claire	38,648.00	28,986.00	9,662.00
St. Katherine's/Owen	5,332.64	4,999.64	333.00

The Legislation: What the New Law Means for Clergy & Congregations

On April 9, 2004, Governor Jim Doyle signed Senate Bill 207 which impacts the ministry of every clergyperson and congregation in the State of Wisconsin. The legislation aims at protecting God's most precious creation: the children of Wisconsin. The bill requires clergy to report suspected cases of child sexual abuse, extends the statute of limitations for filing criminal and civil charges of alleged child sexual abuse, and clarifies the conditions under which religious organizations can be sued for actions of offending clergy.

The Wisconsin Council of Churches, in collaboration with Christos Ministries, is committed to the task of educating the entire religious community about the meaning of the new law and equipping the clergy of this state to fulfill their new responsibilities as mandatory reporters.

Training Opportunities

Wednesday, Sept 29 - English Lutheran Church, Chippewa Falls, WI

Format:

+Morning session (9:30 a.m. - 12 noon): "Mandatory Reporting for Wisconsin Clergy: What the New Law Means for You and Your Congregation"

+Afternoon session (1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.): "Before the Catastrophe...training for clergy and staff to prevent hurtful boundary violations."

Cost: Morning or afternoon session: \$50. Both sessions (including lunch): \$75.

The workshops are open to anyone from any faith tradition who is interested in attending. Clergy, judicatory leaders and staff are encouraged to attend. We will offer subsequent rounds of regional workshops on an as-needed basis over the next couple of years. Watch www.wichurches.org for additional information about the locations and registration procedures for upcoming training opportunities.

Registration

Check Sessions Desired:

Wednesday, September 29, English Lutheran Church, Chippewa Falls, WI

___ a.m. ___ p.m.

___ a.m. ___ p.m.

Name(s): _____

Street: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Religious Affiliation: _____

Special Needs: _____

___ One Session \$50 ___ Morning & Afternoon Session, Including Meal \$75. ___ Please make my lunch vegetarian.

Total amount enclosed for registration : \$ _____

Register on-line at www.wichurches.org, or mail registration form and a check payable to "Wisconsin Council of Churches" or "WCC" to:

Wisconsin Council of Churches
750 Windsor Street, Suite #301
Sun Prairie, WI 53590 (608) 837-3108

Eau Claire *The Herald*

**The official voice of the
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LOCUM, Continued

Anglican mission in Yemen. The church is quite nice seating about 100 people and is full nearly every week. They live as most clergy in a furnished rectory as it's too expensive to ship furniture. The quality of the furnishings can sometimes be problematical as things are donated of questionable quality. Colin doesn't have enough wedding income to support his position so it's made up by the Mission to Seafarers. A gathering place for seafarers is maintained near the harbour where they can relax and situate themselves. The ministry includes going on board to minister to the sick and the providing of emergency help; it's not unheard of for a ship to strand its crew so as not to pay them.

The last place I visited was the Cathedral in Nicosia meeting Stephen Colins who has been dean for about 3 years. The frequent clergy turnover he says makes the forming of sup-

portive relationships difficult. And if it's difficult for the clergy, it's more so for the Bishop. Additionally, the Bishop is Primate of the Middle East giving him jurisdiction over the Anglicans in Iran, Saudi, the Anglican Church in Baghdad, etc.



St. Paul's Cathedral, Nicosia

However the dean is busy as well, he has a service at the Cathedral and then at a mission in the mountains; in the summer time that's a treat as it's cooler and less humid there. Then on Mondays and Tuesdays, he has been journeying to Paphos to do weddings to assist the Cathedral's finances.

He and his wife live in a wonderful home adjacent to the Cathedral and a place of some historical significance.

Forty-five years ago Archbishop Makarios signed many of the documents acknowledging Cypriot Independence in the church office. With the Archbishop being the Island's first Prime Minister, it's not too surprising that the church continues to be deeply involved in the political climate. In fact in an English speaking newspaper while I was there ran a headline, 'Bishop says anyone voting for ... will go to Hell.'

Nicosia as you may know is the world's last divided city. The Turks occupy the northern third of the Island including half the city, while the nation of Cyprus, a people of mainly Greek descent, rules the rest. On the mountain range which overlooks the city has been carved a Turkish flag – a taunting reminder of the Turkish presence. However, last year the two sides were allowed to cross the border for the first time in 40 years and see what had become of their lands and homes. Some have been invited into their old

homes, and have had precious pictures and jewellery returned to them.

Being locum has been a wonderful experience and one that I hope to often repeat.



Fr. John and Karen Ambelang at "Aphrodite's Birthplace".

From the Cathedral

Submitted by The Very Rev. H. Scott Kirby

In June the Cathedral was graced with the presence drums, dancers, and song from *My People*. *My People* is an international organization that relates to people in Native communities all over Canada. Their mission is to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to these people in the language they understand and in their own community settings. Their programs include: vacation bible school, leadership training, youth ministries, and camps. This makes their ministry a spiritual witness that is culturally sensitive, brings social healing through empowered communities, and makes co-operation among Christian churches a reality.

The program at the Cathedral placed the mission of *My People* in bright and beautiful colors. *My People International* is a cross-cultural ministry dedicated to sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ holistically and in collab-

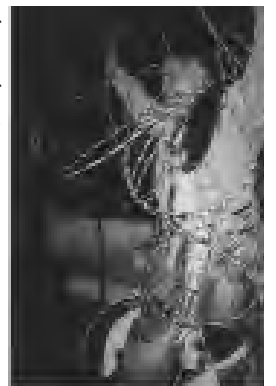
oration with Native North Americans. We seek to enhance Native North American life through the promotion of social healing in communities and families, the encouragement of cultural values and forms in Christian life and worship, teaching and mentoring in Christian faith and partnership with others.

To learn more about this exciting ministry that all of us can become a part of, either as a congregation or as an individual, you may write to:

My People
International
PO Box 295
Evansburg,
Alberta TOE OTO

The work and ministry of *My*

People makes the message of the Gospel a tower of strength for many Native peoples who are caught between conflicting value systems resulting in confusion, anger and sometimes despair. Those closing words highlight the important work of this organization and encourage our prayers and support.



St. Andrew's, Ashland, to host 76th Convention of the Diocese of Eau Claire

Preparations are underway for the annual Convention of the Diocese of Eau Claire. This year's host congregation is St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Ashland. The dates of Convention are November 5-6.

Requests for submission of nominations have been sent to clergy and deputies asking for names of qualified individuals willing to be on the ballot for the various elected offices. If you know of someone whose name you would like to submit and have no nomination form, please see your clergy or any of the deputies. Nominations need to be in the Diocesan office by September 10, 2004.

Among the those to be elected at the Convention are the persons who will be Deputies to the General Convention to be held in Columbus, Ohio, June 13-24, 2006. Those Deputies will elect the next Presiding Bishop of ECUSA.

Further information will be mailed to clergy and deputies in the next few weeks.

CAMP HORSTICK 2004 A HUGE SUCCESS

Submitted by The Rev. Art Hancock, Mrs. Barb Simpson, The Rev. Ward Simpson

Camp Horstick 2004, held during one beautiful week in June, was once again a huge success. Over 50 young people and adults participated in this year's camp that was held at CrossWoods Adventure Center in Delta, Wisconsin. Over the course of



Alex Simpson adventures in the cargo net.

six days participants did everything from canoe on the wild and scenic Brule River to rock climb on the cliffs overlooking the beautiful Marengo River Valley. While campers were certainly challenged physically by the myriad of adventure activities offered, they were also challenged spiritually to live lives of faithful obedience to our Lord. Each day was framed by worship in the morning and evening. At least one of the daily offices was said by all campers each

day and the Eucharist was celebrated three times during the week. All participants were blessed with a visit by Bishop Whitmore who celebrated the Holy Eucharist on Monday. Many thanks to the clergy and lay adults who provided such excellent leadership during the week.

Despite their sore muscles and lack of sleep, they put on brave and happy faces and joined with the CrossWoods staff in faithfully serving the young people of the diocese. Please mark your calendars for next year's camp which will be held June 26 through July 1, 2005. If you have any questions about Camp Horstick, would like to receive an information packet for next year's camp, or would like to volunteer as an adult leader, please

contact Father Ward or Barb Simpson at (715)682-4225 or Father Art Hancock at (800)876-5533.



The Rev. Leigh Waggoner, Vicar, St. John's, Sparta, hooking safety equipment before the thrill of a walk 35 feet in the air.



Team work is a key to fun, safety, and adventure

Request from Myanmar (Burma) Mission

Submitted by The Rev. Dr. Canon Frank Hull

My home parish is St. Gregory of Nyssa, San Francisco, a lively and colorful Episcopal parish that attempts to walk as well as talk in love. Sometimes this is very hard to do given our passions and prejudices!

I am teaching in Myanmar. My students are perhaps 50% Buddhist, 40% Muslim and 10 percent Hindu and Christian. Most of my colleagues are young men from Turkey, as is my principal, and Muslim. I am home room teacher for 9th grade and teach 9th and 8th grade English, and 5th grade history and geography.

My students, and the 10th and 11th grade students, have little reading matter. We have Harry Potter and The Lord of the Rings (both of which I appreciate). But I was taken by surprise when a 10th grade Bangladeshi student asked if I could find any Nancy Drew books.

Yes. Nancy Drew. I'd like to ask your help and ask if you could search your libraries for Nancy Drew — and other books suitable for kids of any age.

My students would like more about the Vikings and Daniel Boone, for instance, and National Geographic magazines on any subject. The younger kids are especially interested in Egypt, ancient China and India, the Aztecs and the Mayas, and 'Red' Indians.

If you have any young people who would like pen pals (or email pals) in far-away Myanmar (also called Burma), we can make some special friends too.

I worship at Holy Cross Parish, which is the parish church for the main Anglican seminary in Myanmar (also called Holy Cross). The archbishop often worships here, as do visiting bishops from Myanmar's eight dioceses.

Corina and I also worship at Holy Trinity Cathedral, also our daughter Hannah



Holly was baptized there in January last year. Hannah is fortunate to have a warm family of godparents, Anglican, Baptist (my wife's family is Baptist), and Pentecostal!

Please remember us in Yangon. We live in a bamboo house beside a pond. When it rains I have to turn off the computer because the leaf roof does not entirely keep out the rain! But we are healthy and happy.

Blessings from Yangon.

Lance Woodruff
Horizon International Education Center, 25 Bo Sein Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, Myanmar

See related story on Page 5

A New Mission

by Erika Gullerud of Christ Church Chippewa Falls

The Diocese of Eau Claire launched its mission partnership with the Diocese of Haiti and the Diocese of Milwaukee on July 24 with a festive evening comprised of food, folk art, and fellowship. The evening began with a delicious buffet of authentic Haitian food, including a variety of meat dishes, rice pilaf, and slices of sweet ripe melons, papayas, mangos and pineapple. After eating, all were



Kitchen Duty

L-R Cindy Stamm (Chippewa Falls), Lisa LeBarron Johnson, Fr. R. J. Johnson (Altoona). Peeking over his mother's shoulder C. J. Johnson

encouraged to peruse the displays of Haitian folk art for sale, including metal work, woodcarvings, and colorful paintings. There were also comprehensive displays and pictures of the school and the church and mission work done throughout the years.

The highlight of the evening for me, however, was the moving speech given by Patrick Croy (Our Saviour's, Lugerville) detailing his experience in Haiti last January? He spoke of the dramatic impact the Haiti Partnership has had in the lives of the people "on the mountaintop" in Jeanette. The town has a strong Episcopal church, a medical clinic, plans for adult vocational training

classes, and a wonderful school which many children walk several miles to attend; in short, hope for the future.

The evening ended with a short video detailing mission work in Haiti. Although

the Diocese of Milwaukee has focused on Jeanette, the Episcopal Church has been active in other Haitian cities, which like Jeanette stand in stark contrast to the crippling poverty, widespread violence, and general hopelessness throughout most of Haiti.

The evening was a success. Of the roughly 55 attendees several pledged to sponsor children. Quite a bit of artwork was sold. I understand that \$2,300 was raised. And I came away with a feeling of encouragement. The people of Jeanette have come far in 17 years and we can keep the momentum going. Last winter Christ Church Chippewa Falls collected sewing supplies, which were taken for the vocational school by Patrick Croy in January. Several years ago we sent a large amount of agricultural supplies for the Agriculture Coop on the mountain. There are many ways in which people in the Diocese of Eau Claire can respond to this call to mission. And we can begin by praying for the people of Haiti, for those at St. Marc's Church and School and the people of the community of Jeanette.



The Rev. Jim Wilson (Eau Claire) and Mrs. Ellie Michaud (Chippewa Falls) prepare to enjoy Haitian culinary delights

Books in the Diocese's Name Build Bridges to a Better Future for Students in Myanmar

Submitted by the Rev. Canon Dr. Frank Hull

YANGON, Myanmar [formerly known as Rangoon, Burma] English books are at a premium in this quiet Asian capital that has for years suffered from political unrest. The Diocese of Eau Claire, through the work of the remnants of Greg's Place in La Crosse, Wisconsin, has insured that students now have some books to read in English.

Horizon International Educational Center (HIEC) sits on a quiet street which winds through an old Muslim neighborhood near the massive Shwe Dagon Pagoda, one of the largest Buddhist monuments in the world. Burma, today called Myanmar, is a country of some 50 million persons, as many as 10 percent of whom are Muslim and 10 percent Christian æ Baptist, Anglican, and Catholic, with few Methodists, Presbyterians, plus a variety of evangelicals.

Horizon School currently serves about 250 students, from kindergarten through Grade 11. Although an international school, most HIEC students are Myanmar (Burman Buddhist) in nationality and ethnicity, although many come from long-established Burmese Muslim as well as from Indian and Pakistani Muslim communities. Perhaps half a dozen students are Christian.

Almost immediately, 29 young men and women in Myanmar checked out all 29 books that arrived from The Diocese of Eau Claire last month. A second, much larger shipment of more books, including some children's classics like *Charlotte's Web*, is on the way thanks to Kevan M. Snyder, Houghton Mifflin Publishers, and will arrive any day. The students are now reading more, and learning more, because of the generous instinct of Episcopalians in rural Wisconsin.

Yangon, Myanmar is a world away from small town La Crosse, Wisconsin, but



Ayesha proudly displaying the gift from the Diocese of Eau Claire

the world has become smaller because of Mrs. Corkey Waite, the project's coordinator for the remnants of St. Gregory's in Diaspora.

It all started with a request from a Grade 10 student named Ayesha from Bangladesh, who longed to read Nancy Drew books. Books are very difficult to come by in Myanmar and neither bookstores nor school libraries have many on hand. Corkey and the remnants of the people of St. Gregory, the Teacher, responded.

The kids at Horizon School are excited about St. Greg's, The Diocese of Eau Claire, and the books donated. Grade 8 and Grade 9 students are sharing stories of what they are reading with their brothers and sisters, as well as younger (and older) students. And they are talking about how they can help other students, including children who are less educationally privileged than they are.

"Auntie Corkey?" Myanmar-style, students wanted to go visit their benefactor to say "Thank you". It is very rude,

Myanmar-style, not to personally visit and thank those who have contributed to the well-being of students. So students are now learning how to write 'thank you' notes.

These students are learning about multi-cultural, multi-faith and multi-racial living in our increasingly complicated world. They can all now locate La Crosse and Eau Claire on the few old, out of date maps that are still around. All of them now know the word, "Episcopalian" because the Diocese of Eau Claire Episcopalians are making a difference in the lives of school children in Myanmar today.

Bishop Unveils 2004 Plan for Diocese of Eau Claire Cursillo

Submitted by Mary Bartos

The Bishop was the honored guest at a reception in La Crosse of June 19, 2004. The reception was to celebrate his Pastoral Plan for Cursillo in the Diocese. Bill and Merrie Jo Chamberlain were the hosts for the event in the basement of Christ Church, La Crosse. The written plan is printed below. Additional copies are available from Mary Bartos by calling 608-781-0270.

During his oral comments at the reception, the Bishop emphasized several additional points. First, the ministry of Cursillo occurs when people gather in small groups to talk about Christian living as well as when they attend Cursillo



Reception hosts, **Bill and Merrie Jo Chamberlain**, with **The Rt. Rev. Keith Whitmore**

Weekends. Second, in his diocese he does not want Cursillo to act like a secret society and charged the Secretariat plus each person present to work to eliminate that image. Thirdly he shared the plan for a diocesan wide renewal event in the near future, which he will lead focusing on fun, fellowship and foundations. The fun will come from being at Bundy. The fellowship will be with people from around the diocese. The foundations will be for people who want to live their lives with a Christian emphasis on a daily basis. The first phase of this renewal will be a workshop on the mission of the church. Mark your calendars for October 8-9, 2004, at Bundy Hall. More information is available by calling Mary Bartos, 608-781-0270.

Bishop's Pastoral Plan for Cursillo

In the Diocese of Eau Claire, Cursillo is a tool of the Bishop. As such, the Eau Claire Cursillo Movement, ECCM, will have as its aim the training of Christian Leadership. These leaders will then return to their parishes to carry out the mission of the church, to reconcile all people to God through the Lord Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit. This work of reconciliation is accomplished thru apostolic action within their own environments.

The aim of ECCM will be to equip as many people as possible, both clerical and lay, to engage in apostolic action. This will be accomplished in accordance with the Bishop's Pastoral Plan or goals for the Movement. These goals include:

- Members actively using Prayer and Study to grow into the likeness of Christ.
- Members persistently seeking God's guidance for intentional witnessing opportunities.
- Members coming together in Reunion Groups to support each other.
- Members coming together at parish, deanery or diocesan levels for Ultreyas.
- Members acting as sponsors to persons within their parishes
- Members supporting the weekend experience of others as Team or prayer partners.
- Members continuously nurturing themselves thru training opportunities like

a Day of Deeper Understanding or the Cursillo Leadership Workshops.
- Members deepening their involvement with the National Episcopal Cursillo Committee (NECC) and utilizing the resources of the NECC.

The diocesan Secretariat, appointed by the Bishop, will be responsible for the procedures to be used to accomplish these goals. The procedures include:
Training themselves and meeting to study the method called Cursillo.
Communicating regularly with members of the Fourth Day community.
Providing training opportunities for the members of the Fourth Day community.
- Appointing, with the Bishop's approval, the leaders for the Three Day Weekends.
- Maintaining useful Team Manuals for the diocesan weekends.
- Establishing Parish Representatives for as many parishes as possible.
- Encouraging wider participation in the diocese thru the Parish Visits Committee.
- Establishing an annual schedule for all diocesan level activities.
Handling the financial details for the diocesan and national level involvement.

The vision of Cursillo in this diocese continues to be to empower Christians to desire and to accomplish apostolic action within their parishes and their wider communities.

Easter, 2004

HOLY TRINITY LETS THE LIGHT SHINE IN

By Rick & Ellen Allison

Improvements continue to be made on the church building in Conrath. After putting in a new heating and air conditioning system, and seeing the heat literally going out the window, the vestry decided the next project would have to be new windows. The windows were very old and not energy efficient. They contained amber glass which made the church quite dark and blocked the view outside. In discussions about the new windows it was decided that it would be nice to restore the arched windows that had been replaced when the drop ceiling had been put in. A parishioner who works at the Jen Weld window factory, Bonnie Gryga, went to work getting estimates and reported that prices were going to be going up shortly. Two other parishioners, Doug and Debbie Hoffman, proposed that they buy the windows and the congregation raise the money to have them installed. Our Building Fund soon took off and we

had the money to have them installed. Doug found a contractor and now light shines brightly in Conrath.



Doug & Debbie Hoffman

Songfulpsalms.net

An innovative set of responsorial psalms for the *Book of common Prayer (1979)* lectionary is now available for free downloading at <songfulpsalms.net>. These melodic psalm settings include arrangements of well-known hymn tunes and familiar choral music by Faure, Haydn, Mendelssohn, and others. The refrain texts are from the *Gradual Psalter* (Church Publishing, Inc.) and are the same as those printed in bulletin inserts for Episcopal churches. The composer-arranger, Dr. Thomas Hoekstra, received his PhD in choral music from the University of Iowa and is the parish musician at St. Andrew's Church in Grayslake, Illinois.

Dr. Thomas Hoekstra
<tom@songfulpsalms.net>

New Richmond acolytes commissioned

By The Rev. Jonathan Mayo

Recently, 4 young people were commissioned as acolytes at St Thomas & St John Church, New Richmond. They were ably trained by Kirby Symes, Lay Reader. The addition of these great young people serving at the altar has greatly enhanced our worship, and we are grateful to have them.



Pictured are:

1st row: **Hayden and Grant Nelson**, sons of Connie and grandsons of Ray & Myrna Anderson, and Paige Giske.

Back row: **Kirby Symes, Cassy Giske**, who with Paige are daughters of Ken & Katie, and granddaughters of Kirby & Ty Symes, and **Fr. Jonathan Mayo**, priest-in-charge.

Green Thumbs get down and dirty raising food for needy

By RANDY L. HERMAN, Staff Writer, Monroe County Democrat

Sparta resident Pat Nugent has several interests. He is involved with his family and loves coaching area youth, but Nugent has another hobby – he likes to see things grow.

Nugent and Reverend Leigh Waggoner, pastor at St. John's Episcopal Church of Sparta, discovered they have a similar affliction – they both have green thumbs.

Earlier this spring, Nugent discussed organizing a sort of community garden on church property and Waggoner liked the idea. And so did church members.

Waggoner, a newcomer to the area, came to St. John's in February after hearing her first call to serve. Nugent is an avid member of YES-(Youth – Experience – Success) AmeriCore, housed at WWTC in La Crosse.

A call was sent to church members and area businessmen and many responded.

The Sparta Home building Center came up with the wood needed to build the garden areas.

Church members, during Rogation Sunday, a time when special prayers are offered for a successful growing

season, donated several varieties of tomatoes, peppers, carrots, onions, broccoli, squash and bean plants.

Nugent said he ended up building nine different planting beds to accommodate the dozen of plants given.

And despite heavy rains and even a flood which put many of the plants several inches deep in creek water, everything seems to be thriving.

Nugent said once the crops are mature, all vegetables will be donated to CouleeCap where they will be given out to needy area families.

CouleeCap was chosen to receive the goods as it has coolers which will keep everything fresh until given out.

Nugent and Waggoner hope the project “grows” and encourages other businesses and individuals to try their hands at putting together a garden.

“We hope these with surplus goods will consider donating them to CouleeCap this year,” Nugent said. “Hopefully with good weather now, we'll be able to provide some good, fresh stuff for folks this summer.”

CouleeCap is located at 110 east Main Street in Sparta.

Ladysmith Youth completes mission trip to Mexico

By Rick & Ellen Allison

“Are we leaving our mark on God's world or is God leaving his mark on our world? That was the question posed to the 15 young people and 5 adult chaperones who participated in a recent mission trip to Ruiz, Mexico. Andrew Allison, a 16 year old Ladysmith High School sophomore and member of Holy Trinity Church in Conrath, joined parishioners from 4 other



Ladysmith area churches on the journey. The group first traveled by plane to Puerto Vallarta, where they joined a larger group made up of kids and adults from New Jersey, Iowa, Tennessee and Michigan. They immediately boarded a bus for a 5-hour trip north that took them to the city of Ruiz and 2 neighboring Indian reservations. While in Ruiz they helped build a house for an elderly lady whose home was damaged in a 2002 hurricane. They not only learned to construct a building from adobe bricks but also learned to make the bricks, being patiently taught by local craftsmen. They also helped to build bathrooms at a church and ran a kids club for the young children who live in the community and for children

who live on the reservations.

Andy started his journey as a somewhat reluctant participant, but on his return he said he would go back in a minute. He saw a different view of

the world, and was forced to look at his life and his relationship with God. While in Ruiz the missionaries lived in much the same way as the natives, eating

ethnic food, and while the conditions were somewhat harsh they were richly immersed in the local culture. Andy especially loved working on the house for the elderly woman and interacting with the kids at the kids club. He even got to play basketball, his favorite activity, in a pickup game with some adults at the local gym. The group also spent time each day in personal devotions and communal worship. One of the most moving parts of the trip was a foot washing service followed by communion on his last night in Ruiz. Upon completion of their mission the group spent 2 days vacationing in Puerto Vallarta before returning home, tired, and hungry but spiritually renewed.

Cursillo Community Gathers

By Mary Bartos



Members of the Cursillo Community gathered three times this summer; La Crosse, June 19; Spooner, July 24; and Hudson July 31. The gathering in the picture is from Hudson where members were present from the congregations at the Cathedral, Conrath, Hudson, La Crosse and Tomah. The main topic of conversation at each of these events was sharing briefly about prayer, study and Christian action in our daily lives.

IT'S A PICNIC AT LUGERVILLE--

By Patrick Croy

On Sunday, August 1st, the parish of Our Saviour's Episcopal Church in Lugerville celebrated God's love, parish togetherness, and summer (finally!) with an outdoor Eucharist service and an annual pot-luck picnic. Jeffrey and Christine Grohne again hosted the picnic at their lovely log home and property on the Elk River, in rural Price County.

Fr. William Radant officiated the outdoor Eucharist on a lawn mottled with sun and shade, in near perfect summer temperatures. Organist Betty Knutson provided music for the service with a portable keyboard.

Following the service, parishioners were treated to hamburgers and hotdogs, as well as many savory pot-luck picnic dishes.



Fr. William Radant officiating at service at Our Saviour's annual picnic. Fr. Radant, a retired priest from the Diocese of Milwaukee, serves both Lugerville and Park Falls as a supply priest.



A person of many talents, Fr. Radant is shown "officiating" the cooking of the cheeseburgers. L-R: Jeffrey Grohne, Fr. Radant, Ron Knutson and Len France.

--AND A BAPTISM AT SPOONER



About to be baptized Tristan Robert Kemp being held by The Rev. Bob Rodgers. Also pictured is assisting deacon, The Ven Jeanne Stout and Sue Mundale, organist at St. Alban's, Spooner.



The Rev. Bob Rodgers, Vicar of St. Alban's Episcopal Church, Spooner, proudly introduces the newest member of the congregation, Tristan Robert Kemp, following Tristan's baptism. Mrs. Donna Hook and Mr. Paul Frey joyfully look on. Parents of the newly baptized are Bobby and Rhonda (Durand) Kemp. Tristan is in regular attendance every Sunday either with his mother or his maternal grandmother, Deb Durand - although being the only baby in regular attendance means he is everyone's child!

St. Joseph statue welcomed at St. Simeon's, LaFayette township, Chippewa Falls

By Ellie Michaud



On Sunday, May 16th, The Rev. George Stamm blessed a donated statue of St. Joseph for the people of St. Simeon's church. Toni and Roy Mayberry, pictured above, donated the statue in memory of Roy's parents. Years ago the couple also donated a statue of Blessed Mother in memory of Toni's parents.

Now "little" St. Simeon's has a visual reminder of Jesus' earthly parents.

Hayward congregations bids farewell to the Roehrichs



Ascension Church, Hayward bid farewell to long-time members, Dick and Gloria Roehrich, on Sunday the 18th of July. They are pictured here with Canon Bruce Gardner, rector, and the celebratory cake. The Roehrichs now reside in Eau Claire.

From St. Alban's, Superior

Submitted by Roger Forseth

The Church picnic was held on Sunday, August 15, directly after the 10: a.m. service. Mass was held outside.

The St. Alban's Relay for Life Team, on June 25-26 at Wessman Arena, raised \$1,500.00 in memory of Ruthie Sola. The team members are: Mary Jo Putz, Nancy Sanowski, Petra Anderson, Cameron Anderson, Courtney Ellison, Cami Ellison, Kathi Polanka, Kassandra Polanka, Jeff Polanka, Lynn Karna, Leah Karna, Tina Johnson, Viola LaBernty, Dick Smith, and Kaylee Ranao.

Football is Here!

Name withheld by request

What makes a football player? He is someone who shows up for practice. If he has a part time job it doesn't matter. Practice comes first. He knows the playbook; studies it, knows it by heart. He pays attention to the quarterback if he plays on offense. He takes his assignment from the coach who tells him where he is to play and for how long. When he gets criticized, he tries to take it in a positive way, to help him become a better player. His parents generally give him lots of support, they attend the games, and they provide transportation when and if he can't. They are proud of his contributions to the team and talk to all their friends about it. If they can afford it, they send him to football camp in the summer time so that he can become even better. When the season is ended, he still does workouts and he hangs out with his football friends.

Now if on the contrary, he doesn't practice, he doesn't know the playbook, he doesn't workout, he doesn't know the coach, and he just shows up for a game or two during the season, he wouldn't be allowed to dress, he wouldn't play, and no one would consider him a football player.