



The Sheaf

March 2021

The Commission on Youth Ministry Holds First Meeting

Article by Erika Morlan

Dear beloved in Christ:

Lenten greetings to one and all. I trust your Lenten observance continues as a sacred journey through the wildernesses of life, with the company of angels surrounding you and reminding you that you are beloved of God.

I am now beginning my third month of ministry with the people and congregations of the Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota and enjoying this ministry very much. These past two months have been filled with lots of Zoom meetings in which I have met many, many wonderful people who are committed to God's mission and the future of the Episcopal Church in North Dakota. I thought this would be a good time to share with you some of what I have been doing, learning, experiencing, and thinking about.

First, I have greatly enjoyed the opportunities to join congregations for worship and/or conversation. In one fashion or another, I have connected now with nine of our congregations directly and have watched Sunday worship services on Facebook with four others. I am eager to make some

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Following the discernment that resulted in the New Season of Ministry Report, the Diocese of North Dakota has identified Youth Ministry as an area that need rebuilding. There are pockets where Youth Ministry is taking place, but there has been little diocesan wide support for congregational youth ministry or events.

The Commission on Youth Ministry was formed to lead in that rebuilding. Members of the Commission are: Dn. John Anderson, Robert Fox, Josh Floberg, Don Henderson, Ericka Morlan, and Kara Shaw. The Chair of the Commission is Ericka Morlan from Gethsemane Cathedral. Ericka serves at the Cathedral as the Cathedral Life Coordinator.

Through the years the Diocese has sponsored many events. They include Acolyte Festivals, Teens Encounter Christ Weekends, Diocesan Youth Events, Diocesan Camp, Short term mission opportunities, leadership training, promoting the Episcopal Youth Event (EYE), promoting Province VI opportunities, and having a presence during Diocesan Convention.

The immediate goal of the commission is to make connections between those doing youth work in the congregations around the state. We hope to foster the sharing of resources and ideas. We believe that growth and excitement within our congregations is necessary for diocesan growth. A Facebook group has been started for anyone to join who is interested in this growth. Contact any member of the commission to be added.

The long-term goals include planning and promoting the events listed above that we have participated in, when Covid-19 restrictions are lifted. We are also considering some Zoom "get-togethers" while we wait to be in-person again.

In following with the circular leadership model that the diocese has identified, we as a commission are only here to be the organizing body. We are excited to work with those around the diocese who are already doing youth work. We look forward to creating a strong youth foundation for North Dakota.

(Bishop - continued page 2)

connection with each congregation, whether by sitting in on a Vestry meeting, or joining you live for worship, or for a Zoom “coffee hour” conversation, or whatever might work best for you, either on a Sunday or weekday. Simply, reach out to me at bishop@ndepiscopal.org and we can set something up.

Second, I have had several opportunities to meet with leadership bodies, including the Diocesan Council, Standing Committee, Commission on Ministry, the North Dakota Council on Indian Ministries (NDCIM), and several other committees. I am deeply impressed by the quality and commitment of these diocesan leaders and the shared vocation they have to the implementation of the New Season of Ministry Report (formerly the DDTF Report that was adopted by Convention in October). I am very blessed to have the support, wisdom, and counsel of a fabulous Transition Committee in their role of helping me navigate this new role and ministry, not the least of which is the challenge of being part-time. Along with them are some other key leaders (you know who you are) upon whom I have leaned heavily for help with my orientation, with history, with culture and with policies. All of this and more is part of our shared commitment to embrace, nurture, and live into, a circular model of leadership.

Third, we are making progress on the calling of a full-time Diocesan Minister. There is a strong and capable team working closely with me in the calling of someone to this important role. We have just posted the official documents inviting applicants and look forward to interviews ahead. You can find that material on the diocesan website <https://ndepiscopal.org/>. I had hoped we might complete this work before Easter, but now it looks more likely that it will take a bit longer. I am also trying to address the need for administrative assistance, which I have discovered is a pressing need. Please keep these efforts and the team in your prayers.

Fourth, a good portion of my time has been devoted to “getting up to speed” with various administrative and structural components of diocesan life. These include finances, diocesan

canons and policies, institutional history, and a general orientation to the Diocese and State of North Dakota, including the cultural and geographical diversity of both. Along the way, I have benefitted from many one-on-one conversations with clergy and lay leaders within the Diocese of North Dakota and the wider church. There is still much for me to learn, and I am most grateful for all those who have been willing to spend time with me helping me feel more at home. I continue to read and visit websites and talk with folks about life in North Dakota and the Episcopal Church in North Dakota and daily feel more and more connected to you and your ministries.

Finally, of course, I do long for the day when it is COVID-19 safe for me to travel and be with you in person. Hopefully, that day is not far off. Until then, I continue to hold you all in my prayers, especially those who have died and those who are grieving from the horrendous impact of this pandemic.

I wish for you a holy and meaningful remainder of Lent and anticipate with you the celebration of Holy Week and Easter and the Easter season of hope and resurrection. Please know how blessed I feel about sharing in this New Season of Ministry with you. There is much work ahead for us on many fronts and with many priorities. I believe that through it all, with God’s grace and our mutual commitment to one another and our shared priorities, that good things are blossoming and will continue to blossom in the Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota. May God be with you and may you embrace and ever hold fast your identity and dignity as beloved of God.

Steadfast in the faith of Jesus as the Way of Love, I remain,
Faithfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, sweeping initial 'T'.

The Rt. Rev. Thomas C. Ely

Episcopal Church Young Adult Service Corps: Application Deadline for 2021-2022 Extended

YASC

March 1, 2021 - *Office of Public Affairs - New deadline: April 9, 2021*

Applications for 2021-2022 placements with the Young Adult Service Corps (YASC), the international missionary program of The Episcopal Church, will now be accepted through Friday, April 9, 2021. YASC offers Episcopalians ages 21-30 the opportunity to follow the [Way of Love](#) into deeper relationship with God and the global Anglican Church while spending a year living and working with communities around the world.

“When we opened the application for 2021-2022 placements earlier this year, we shared that those interested in serving in YASC would need to be more flexible than usual. That is true for everyone involved with the program,” said Elizabeth Boe, mission personnel officer and former YASC volunteer in Tanzania from 2008-2010, “As we have continued to monitor the COVID-19 pandemic and have conversations with our partners around the Anglican Communion, we feel that there are too many variables to move forward with our normal processes and timelines for YASC service. However, we are excited to share our plans for a new way forward for both YASC and Episcopal Volunteers in Mission (EVIM) this year.”

“In order to minimize risks for both YASC members and partners around the Anglican Communion, we will dramatically shift our timeline and discernment/training procedures. This will allow us to be both creative in terms of what we offer and how we offer it as well as ensuring the safety for applicants, staff, and partners,” continued Boe.

“2021 is the 20th anniversary of YASC and, while we wish that many things were different, it feels appropriate to try something new and creative as we celebrate 20 years of relationship building, listening, learning, and transformation,” said the Rev. David Copley, director of global partnerships and mission personnel, and a former missionary in Liberia and Bolivia, “YASC service is traditionally a one-year commitment and while that may be possible for some applicants, our new timeline will allow those who applied to YASC in 2020 and

2021 to serve for 6-8 months, one year, or even up to a year and a half depending on their particular situation and future plans.”

The Rev. Charles Robertson, the canon to the presiding bishop for ministry beyond The Episcopal Church, shared “I am incredibly excited about the thinking and energy behind this reimagining of the YASC program process in particular and of our overall mission training timeline. By truly embracing the opportunities that virtual discernment and training offer, we will be able to include more voices and experiences from around the Communion as well as involve more Episcopal Church leaders and thinkers. While there is still much that is up in the air, we hope that the new timeline will also allow us to safely return to Holy Cross Monastery for a shorter in-person session later this fall as the Brothers have become an integral part of the community that trains and supports YASC and EVIM members.”

The new program timeline will look like this:

April 9: YASC application deadline

May: Virtual discernment retreat featuring both on-demand and live sessions (exact dates for live sessions will be worked out with the applicants)

June-August: Online informational sessions/conversations with staff, partners, and former missionaries

September-October: Hybrid orientation for all new YASC and EVIM members begins with online sessions

November: One-week in-person orientation session (anticipated)

January 2022: New YASC and EVIM members depart for placements

The program anticipates returning to the regular January application deadline in 2022.

Additional information, as well as the application form and instructions, for a 2021-2022 placement is available at:

www.episcopalchurch.org/ministries/global-partnerships/young-adult-service-corps/. The application deadline is Friday, April 9, 2021.

For more information contact [Boe](#), 347-805-2142.

Two Young Men - Two Episcopal Families - Two Congregations - Two Communities

Family reminds others to look for signs after Fargo Davies student dies by suicide

Written By: Kevin Wallevand | Feb 8th 2021 - *used with permission* -

A south Fargo family tells their story of loss, hoping to help others who may be struggling with mental illness.

FARGO — All it takes is a few photos to figure out 15-year-old Liam Medd was an active, popular student and son that liked to live large.

"He was beautiful and thoughtful. We talked all the time. I took him to school every day and brought him home every day. We had conversations in the car. He was thoughtful and caring," said Liam's mother, Elizabeth Medd.

In just a few short years, he fished in the ocean, shot his first deer and attained the rank of Life Scout. He was a standout ball player and wore the number six on the Davies High School football field. But just days ago, life for Liam's parents changed forever.

"We left the house on Monday night for an hour and came home to a different reality," said Liam's father, Todd Medd. "When we walked out the door, he was having ice cream with his sister, and if it can happen to Liam, it can happen to anyone."

Without warning or anything that would have sparked worry, Liam died by suicide.

"There were no (red) flags," Todd Medd recalled. "You always look back and wonder if you missed something, and that goes back to that 'what if' conversation."

At Liam's funeral Saturday, Feb. 6, students, scouts and athletes from Davies heard a plea from a coach who urged them all to look out for each other.

"I want you all to know that nobody saw this coming, and nobody knows why this happened. This is hard enough; don't blame yourself," said Liam's coach, Neil Ebeling.

The family is hoping to raise money through the school in Liam's memory. A memorial and money raised will go to help Davies get a turf field in honor of Liam. The family also wants to help schools in the community deal with getting rid of the stigma of mental illness.

"You have to realize that, by sharing our story, that this will resonate with others. When people say, 'my kid wouldn't do that,' well ... my kid wouldn't either," Todd Medd said. "This sounds cliché, and I hate saying it, but if it could happen to Liam, it could happen to anyone. So we want parents to know the importance of that."

*This story from the Forum Newspaper
Is featured on Gethsemane Cathedral's
Facebook Page*

Liam Garrett Medd

Anders Lassey

Death of Cartwright teen has sparked Montana's first SAVE chapter

By Renée Jean Updated Jan 14, 2021 - The Sydney Herald - *used with permission* -

He had an exuberant personality, always ready for adventures, and he loved to run.

When 15-year-old Fairview track star Anders Lassey took his own life last month, it shocked everyone who knew him. No one saw it coming. Least of all, his Cross Country Coach, Bert Olson, who the family asked to give Lassey's eulogy.

"He was looking at going back next year and being part of the team," Olson said. "I had talked to him about stepping up into a leadership role, possibly even becoming a team captain. And he showed interest in that."

After Lassey's death, his parents showed Olson the letter the youth had left behind.

"I think it just has to do with mental illness, and not being able to find someone to relate to, and maybe feeling out of place, like he didn't belong," Olson said. "But he did belong. Our team loved him, and he was loved by a lot of people in the community. It's just a matter of, I think, teaching people that people do care and people do love them, and we want to be able to teach them to choose life. There is so much life to be had."

Anders loved facts, and was full of useful information, Olson recalled. For Lassey's Eulogy, Olson decided to research the facts behind suicides in Montana.

"During the process of that, I found the organization, [SAVE.org](https://www.save.org) and I noticed there were no charters here," he said. "Not even in our state or the surrounding states.

So I decided to fill out an application to start a charter for Eastern Montana and the northwestern North Dakota region."

This newly chartered SAVE chapter will cover a 100-mile radius, and seek to not only raise awareness of the problem of suicide, but to connect area schools with resources that can help.

Among these, there is a school curriculum, Students Mobilizing Awareness and Reducing Tragedies, which would be available to any district within their region.

"SAVE would give them a \$500 budget for the students, to purchase pamphlets and suicide awareness wallet cards and key chains, and just help them with whatever they'd want for their program," Olson said.

Meanwhile, May will be mental health awareness month, and the group is hoping to have a conference to bring together community stakeholders ranging from law enforcement and teachers to community members and others.

"We would open it up to everyone to come in and get the training we think our community needs," he said.

To do pull off the conference, however, the group will need to raise money, and it is planning an event sometime in March of 2021 for that purpose.

The group is also thinking about events for next year, including the Emotions in Motion 5K Walk-Run for Mental Health in July, and, potentially, activities for September, which is mental health awareness month.

The group still has a few key leadership positions not yet filled, and it's seeking more volunteers to help with upcoming events and efforts.

Anthony said he asked to be involved in the group because of his own experiences with friends and family members who have lost a loved one to suicide.

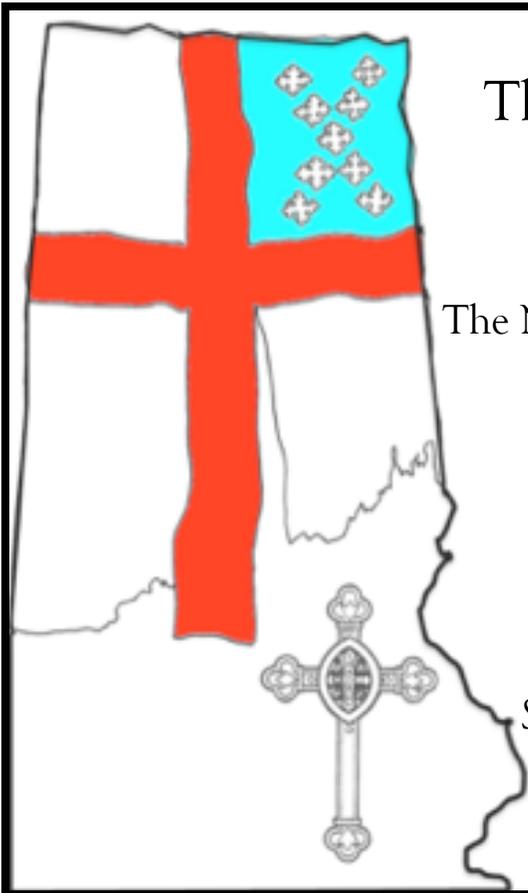
"When he read the eulogy to me during a meeting we had, it really touched me," he said. "I felt like this was a thing I'd love to be part of, so I asked to assist him in any way possible."

The need, Anthony and Olson said, is very great in Montana as a whole, and in rural areas like Fairview and Sidney in particular.

Montana has ranked in the top 5 nationwide for suicide rates the past 30 years for all age groups, according to Olson's research. In 2016, Montana had the second highest suicide rate with 267 deaths, an estimated rate of 25.9 percent.

For 2020, Montana was already at 312 suicides in November, with an estimated rate of 28.9 percent, which is putting it on track for the nation's highest suicide mortality rate.

"We have to let our community know that there are resources available," Olson said. "There are people who will listen. People they can talk to to help them get through the pain they are feeling. SAVE's mission is to prevent suicide through public awareness and education, to reduce stigma, and (to provide) resources for those touched by suicide."



Make Your Plans Now To Attend
The 149th Niobrara Convocation
June 24 - 27, 2021

Hosted By
The North Dakota Council on Indian Ministries
St. Sylvan's, St. Thomas, St. Paul's,
St. James', St. Luke's, Church of the Cross

The Convocation will be held within
the Standing Rock Nation

Save the date!
Schedules, Registration Forms, and more to follow.

Web Sites: www.ndepiscopal.org
and/or <https://episcopalchurchsd.org>

Diocesan Council ...

There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under heaven.

Submitted by Quinn Palmer, Diocesan Council Member

The diocesan council met over Zoom on the 5th and 6th of March, to set the stage for where the Diocese of North Dakota is going for the next year. After being led in evening devotions, the first day's meeting was focused on all of the good work that various committees have been doing. Reports were given from the Reconciliation Committee, the Congregational Development Committee, the North Dakota Council on Indigenous Ministries, the Commission on Ministry and the Youth Commission, among others. The second day focused on business, approving some budget changes, as well as moving forward with the Task Force's report that we approved at convention. Bishop Ely has been referring to this report now as the New Season of Ministry Report.

After the financial business was attended to, we broke into small groups to discuss where we would like to see the diocese next year at about this time. It was this that really got a fire kindled in everyone. With the heartening information from the various committee's reports, people were bringing forward their hopes and plans for the future of our diocese and the church at large. Coming back together, the groups shared with the entire council what they'd discussed, which will be collated into a report that will form the basis for our Mutual Ministry Review process a year from now. It seemed that when we adjourned the meeting, there was a hopeful feeling among the group.

Personally, as someone who has mostly been at meetings as the gopher, or the one taking notes or to clean the room afterwards, I felt extremely excited and humbled to be a part of the virtual room where it happened. It's clear that God is moving in North Dakota, and thanks to the leadership of Bishop Ely and the others on the Council, I think we have a solid path forward. We'll get there, wherever there turns out to be, with God's help.

EFMHE Scholarships Available for North Dakota Episcopal College Students

North Dakota undergraduates may receive scholarships for participating in a local Episcopal church while they are in college. These scholarships pay up to \$1,000 per semester. Students may participate in a local church in a number of ways, depending on their interests and talents and the needs of the local church. For a brochure giving details, contact Dr. James E. Coomber (coomers@gmail.com or 218-236-1031) and/or consult the Episcopal Foundation for Ministry in Higher Education website (www.ndepiscopal.org/ministries/episcopal-foundation-for-ministry-in-higher-education/). Deadline for applications can be found on the Website.

Diocese Applies for Two UTO Grants

In February the Diocese applied for two UTO Grants that respond to the Covid-19 Pandemic. One grant is for the Diocese and five of the congregations in the Northwest quadrant of the state. From Cartwright to Dunseith with Minot, White Shield and Williston there is a project that is being developed to strengthen these congregations with a renewed emphasis on total/mutual ministry that will be able to provide pastoral care, sacramental coverage in worship and support to those in the congregations that are engaging in their ministry. This grant is specifically for those places that have at some time received a UTO Grant and the maximum of the award could be \$10,000. In Bishop Ely's

endorsement for this grant he writes: "I am excited about this project because it represents a pro-active and collaborative response to an emerging crisis which has been exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic. The congregations in this widespread region of North Dakota were facing many challenges prior to the pandemic, but now the situation is acute. The strategy of forming a regional ministerial support system to develop congregational vitality and equip people for ministry in a total/mutual ministry model is, I believe, the right and best approach."

The second grant is for the congregations of the North Dakota Council on Indian Ministries. In the words of Bishop Ely's support of the grant, "One of the significant customs/sacred rituals among our Native American congregations that I have come to learn about in my short time as Bishop Provisional of North Dakota is the memorial meal, which a family provides a year after the death of a loved one as part of the Native American grieving cycle. Covid-19 has greatly disrupted this practice, even as the need has grown due to the disproportionate number of Covid-19 related deaths among Native Americans." The grant will provide financial resources into these communities and among their families as they tend to the grieving cycle that include Memorial Feeds. Additionally, it would provide funding to the Niobrara Convocation as it also remembers the many elders and others that have died in the pandemic and support for St. Gabriel's Camp as it addresses teens in the effects that Covid-19 has brought among them and their peers.

Generosity to the **Ingathering of the UTO** is the source of UTO's grants each year.

Please mail your donation - by May 31st, 2021:

The Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota
and in the Memo designate "UTO Ingathering"

The Episcopal Diocese of ND
3600 25th St S, Fargo, ND. 58104

or:

United Thank Offering DFMS - Protestant Episcopal
Church USA
PO BOX 958983 St Louis, MO 63195

To Donate Online, please
visit: unitedthankoffering.com/give/



Early Episcopal Churches in North Dakota

- Submitted by Tom Tudor

[This article is an edited and abbreviated version of a documentation form prepared by an independent architectural historian for the purpose of identifying properties eligible to be included in the National Register of Historic Places. The form was submitted to the State Historical Society of North Dakota for certification to the National Register.]

The Episcopal Church constructed fifty-three churches in North Dakota in the years 1874-1922. Most of these churches were built with wood frames, with board-and-batten siding, pointed arch windows, an offset chancel, and a steeple located on the side of the church opposite the chancel.



Grace Church, Jamestown - south elevation

Despite their small numbers, early Episcopalians in North Dakota were able to muster the resources and commitment to construct a visually cohesive and highly distinctive set of church buildings. The most prominent examples of early Episcopal churches in North Dakota were built of fieldstone.

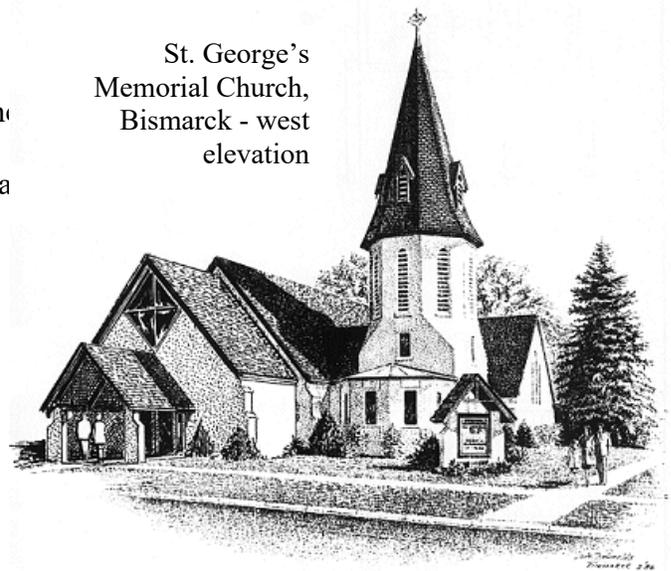
(These churches will also be referred to this article as “stone churches”). The Episcopal stone churches of North Dakota constituted a distinctive exception to the pattern of wood frame churches described above. It does not appear that other denominations made as much use of the abundant supply of fieldstone for their churches in the state.

The design of Episcopal churches in North Dakota including stone churches, can best be described as “liturgically correct.” These churches were meant to show a return to medieval forms of church design referred to as

“Gothic” or “Late Gothic

Revival.” Gothic architecture is the architecture of the late medieval period, characterized by use of the pointed arch. Other features common to Gothic architecture are the rib vault, buttresses, including flying buttresses; large windows which are often grouped, or have tracery; rose windows, towers, spires and pinnacles, and ornate façades. As an architectural style, Gothic developed primarily in ecclesiastical architecture.

(continued on page 7 - *Early Churches*)



St. George's
Memorial Church,
Bismarck - west
elevation

(Early Churches: Continued from page 4)

The identifying design features could also include a steeply pitched roof; a distinct chancel; decorated verge boards (a verge board is decorative boarding, also called bargeboard along a projecting roof eave, and is often carved or scrolled, and is highly ornamental); pointed-arch windows; sometimes stained glass; an asymmetrical design; a richly decorated interior; a Gothic window above the entry; and a one-story porch with flattened, Gothic arches. The Episcopal churches constructed in North Dakota usually included one or more of these Gothic architectural features.



All Saints' Episcopal Church, Valley City

Stone Churches

Sixteen of the fifty-three Episcopal churches (seventeen, including St. John the Divine, Moorhead, which was constructed with a fieldstone foundation) were constructed using fieldstones, beginning with All Saints', Valley City, in 1881, and ending with St. Alban's, Lidgerwood, in 1910. St. John the Divine is included because Moorhead is in the Diocese of North Dakota. Thirteen of these stone churches are still standing, but four have been demolished.

In North Dakota, there were fields and fields of stones in grey, tan and pink north and east of the Missouri River, products of the glaciers. This glaciated area

varies from "rolling plains to hummocky areas of closely spaced hills and sloughs." Just east of and along these glaciated plains is the approximately forty-mile strip of the Red River Valley. The mixture of glacial sediment (till) deposited as glaciers ground along the landscape resulted from glacial activity. With the exception of churches at Mayville and Casselton, all the stone Episcopal churches are located in the fieldstone strewn glaciated plains. (Lidgerwood is on the edge between the geological entities of the Red River Valley and the glaciated plains.) The colors and types of fieldstone used in the churches were variable, but shades of grey and pink typically dominated, with tans and browns and white also present. Granite, gneiss, sandstone, and chert were well represented.

The locations of the four Episcopal stone churches which have been demolished, and their construction dates, are as follows:

Calvary Church, Mayville (1885)
Christ Church, Sanborn (1885)
St. Michael's Episcopal Mission, McHenry (1903)
St. Clement's Episcopal Church, Webster (1903)

The locations of the thirteen remaining stone churches, and their dates of construction, are as follows:

All Saints' Episcopal Church, Valley City (1881)
Grace Episcopal Church, Jamestown (1883)
Episcopal Church of the Good Shepard, Lakota (1885)
St. Stephens' Episcopal Church, Casselton (1885)
Calvary Episcopal Chapel, Buffalo (1886)
Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Lisbon (1886)
Episcopal Church of the Advent, Devils Lake (1886)
St. John the Divine Episcopal Church, Moorhead (1898-99)
St. Matthews' Episcopal Church, Linton (1902)
St. Pauls' Episcopal Church, Rugby (1903)
Our Savior Episcopal Church, Langdon (1904)
Grace Episcopal Church, Minnewaukan (1905)
St. Albans' Episcopal Church, Lidgerwood (1910)

Sacred Ground

<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/sacred-ground>

This is a race dialogue series designed for these times. It is an attempt to be responsive to the profound challenges that currently exist in our society. It is focused on the challenges that swirl around issues of race and racism, as well as the difficult but respectful and transformative dialogue we need to have with each other about them. It invites participants to walk back through history in order to peel away the layers that brought us to today, and to do so in a personal way, reflecting on family histories and stories, as well as important narratives that shape the collective American story. It holds the vision of beloved community as a guiding star – where all people are honored and protected and nurtured as beloved children of God, where we weep at one another’s pain and seek one another’s flourishing.

By way of overview, here are some key characteristics of the Sacred Ground Dialogue Series:

- It is built around powerful documentary films and readings, which we are pleased to bring you and which will serve as the jumping-off point for dialogue.
- It focuses on Indigenous, Black, Latino, and Asian American histories as they intersect with European American histories.
- It emphasizes personal story-sharing and deepening relationships.
- It strongly encourages people to constitute dialogue groups with socioeconomic and political diversity, which may involve partnering with another congregation (Episcopal or other).
- This series, framed as a spiritual journey, is grounded in the Christian faith – in the example of Jesus Christ and the power of scripture, prayer, God’s grace, and the Holy Spirit to help us step closer to the dream of beloved community.

The class is open who are interested but there is a limit of 15 per class.

First session for white participants is 3/14/21 (Sundays) starting at 4:30 pm central time

First session for people of color is 3/15/21 (Mondays) starting at 6 pm central time

The sessions are 1-2 hours long and there are 10 sessions total.

We are grateful to Rev. Dr. Erin Kirby from St John’s Episcopal Marion, North Carolina for leading us.

Please immediately contact Dr. Christie Iverson christieiverson@icloud.com for more information. This information was shared with church leaders throughout the Diocese on February 24th, as well as the web site and Facebook on February 23rd. The class begins on March 14 / 15 for the two groups.

Snippets From St. George's Newsletters

November, 2020 - Reflections on Diocesan Convention by Mark Hanlon

The convention further supported my belief that our church is in need of fundamental changes unless we are willing to age into oblivion. Though I don't know exactly what those changes may be, I think they will be changes that lead to vibrant mission-oriented congregations attractive to young families and younger members generally. Our solemn assemblies, though we love them, seem to be out of step with this changing world. We sorely need new ideas as yet unthought in our larger leadership and administration. As difficult as it is for dominant paradigms and narratives to see outside themselves, that appears to be our church's clear need. Maybe you are an Eldad or Medad and have some of those needed new ideas. I hope you do and hope you bring them forth. As they say in Mexico, Ojala'....here's hoping.

St. George's New Nativity and the Living Stones

February 2021 by Andrea Stomberg

Hopefully you have had a chance to enjoy the new nativity set this Christmas season! Purchased with memorial gifts, this lovely set comes from Abraham's, a small- really tiny!- store across the street from St. George's Cathedral and College, just a short walk north of the Damascus Gate which leads into the old city of Jerusalem. The store was started by the current owner's grandfather in 1940.



The pieces are carved of aged olive wood. Look particularly at Joseph's knee - there lies the Star of Bethlehem. And the animals have lovely and serene faces! Most olive wood pieces are small, as they are carved from branches that are pruned from existing trees. Proper, slow aging prevents checking or cracking of the wood after it is carved.

Abraham and his family are Palestinian Christians- a dwindling population in the Holy Land. These people who trace their ancestry back to the founding of the Christian faith, are the descendants of the original Christians, called the Living Stones. And of course, Palestinians of every faith are challenged each day to continue to thrive in Israel.

You can visit Abraham's store virtually, and purchase from him at: stgeorgestore.com.

As you enjoy these lovely carvings, say a prayer for reconciliation and peace in the Holy Land. This prayer is posted at the Cathedral of St. George:

Pray not for Arab or Jew, for Palestinian or Israeli but Pray rather for ourselves, that we might not divide them in our prayers But keep them both together in our hearts.



St. George's Annual Meeting - The Vestry for 2021

February 2021 - by Canon Hal Weidman

During our "virtual" Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 24th, the following were elected to leadership roles: Dr. Joanne Lassiter, Sr Warden; Tom Hopkins, Jr Warden; Beth Lipp, Treasurer; Steve Tillotson, Foundation Treasurer; Bonnie Gorder-Hinchey to a one year-term on the Vestry and Anne Reynolds and Supo Olagoke were elected to serve three year terms. They join Josh Gendron, Mark Hanlon, and Mary Henderson, our current Vestry members to form our leadership team. I invite all St Georgians to pray for our leadership throughout the year as they do their best to serve Christ and our St George's family.



The Sheaf

Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota
3600 South 25th Street
Fargo, ND 58104-6861

Diocesan Calendar – *God Giveth The Increase*

March

28 - Palm Sunday

April

2 - Good Friday

4 - Easter Sunday

May/Spring

May 6 - Diocesan Council

TBD - World Council of Churches Pilgrimage to
Standing Rock

June

TBD - St. Gabriel's Camp Reopens for Middle
and High School Youth

24 through 27 - Niobrara Convocation on
Standing Rock

July and August

TBD - St. Gabriel's Camp is Open for Middle
and High School Youth

*Congregations wishing to arrange virtual
visitations for worship and/or conversation
should contact Bishop Ely directly at
bishop@ndepiscopal.org*