



The Sheaf

A publication of the Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota

June 2022

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

— Acts 2:1-4

A Pentecost Greeting from Bishop Ely

Submitted by: The Right Reverend Thomas Ely

Pentecost marks the beginning of the Season of the Spirit. It is the longest season in the Church Year and for those of us in the Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota it is a season in which much is happening as we take stock of our common life and plan for a new season of ministry in the life of our diocese. It is a journey that will involve many, many people from all parts of our diocese, engaging the work of reconciliation, transformation, imagination, and inspiration. I am grateful for all who have a role in this journey. It is a joy to be sharing it with you, even amidst all its uncertainties, surprises, and revelations. The Season of the Spirit is an invitation to God's people for deeper engagement in God's mission, not just in our local faith communities, but in our day to day lives at home, at work, in school and in our various communities.

Many think of Pentecost as the birthday of the church, and that's okay as long as we don't understand "church" in that context to mean institution, but rather as the *ekklesia*, the assembly of those "called out" to witness to a particular way of being in the world; a way that by its very definition is not static, but dynamic; not a club or a clan, but a transformational community sharing in God's reconciling mission for the world, even as we ourselves are guided into new "truths." Or, as Presiding Bishop Michael Curry reminds us, the Jesus Movement, to whom the loving liberating and life-giving mission of God has been entrusted.



Continued on page 2

In the Acts of the Apostles, the Day of Pentecost marks a significant transition in the life of the community of faith. The transition is from being a band of Jesus followers, to a community with its own responsibility to witness to Jesus and his mission. Interestingly, Acts places the Pentecost story between the narrative about the selection of Matthias to replace Judas, and the narrative about the early church breaking bread, attending to the teaching of the apostles, and trying to take care of the poor in their midst. In other words, between organization and mission. Both are important, but the unfolding story in the Book of Acts is all about engaging God's Mission, and the ever-stirring Holy Spirit is the driving force behind this mission entrusted to the community.

My hope for this Season of the Spirit in the Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota is that every member, every faith community, every gathering of committees, commissions, foundations, and boards will know that Holy Spirit to be at work in and through us, guiding us more deeply and ever more faithfully into the *missio dei*, the Mission of God, where our hearts and lives will be open to God, open to one another and open to those among whom we "live and move and have our being."

Faithfully,

+ Thomas

Creation Care Circle

Brought to you by the Diocesan Creation Care Circle Committee



After an endless, snow-packed, and frigid winter, we have finally found a bit of warmth here in North Dakota as summer nears. With these rising temperatures, many people have one thing on their minds—gardening!

Gardening is a wonderful activity for rejuvenating one's relationship with the Earth. It also has many benefits¹ for your health, as being outside allows your body to take in some fresh air and vitamin D. Additionally, the CDC argues that gardening is a great exercise both physically and cognitively as it reduces stress and anxiety. So put on your gardening gloves, grab your favorite vegetable seeds, and dig your hands into the dirt, for this splendid season is finally here!

If you don't have the space or patience for gardening, houseplants are also a great way to spruce up your life. Similar to gardening, houseplants reduce stress levels and can improve productivity.² Another benefit is that some can actually purify the air! Plants that undergo this process include Spider plants, Snake plants, English Ivy, and many more!³

As part of our Creation Care Ministry, we would like to invite you all to share photos of your gardens or houseplants! Please submit these images to Solveigh Barney (Solveigh.barney@gmail.com).

As always let us know if you have any questions or would like to get involved with the Creation Care Committee at Solveigh.barney@gmail.com.



Solveigh Barney's Houseplant collection

¹<https://www.healthline.com/health/healthful-benefits-of-gardening#builds-strength>

²<https://www.healthline.com/health/healthy-home-guide/benefits-of-indoor-plants#7-benefits>

³<https://www.countryliving.com/uk/wellbeing/a668/houseplants-to-purify-house-air/>

Diocesan Convention October 21-22, 2022 Ramada by Wyndham ~ Fargo, ND

Theme: Living into the Way of Love

Special Guest



The Most Rev. Michael Curry, our Presiding Bishop, will be visiting the Diocese of North Dakota on October 21-24. He will be attending our Diocesan Convention and celebrate with the Cathedral Congregation at their 150th Anniversary.



Resolutions

Resolutions are due to the Diocesan Office by August 21st.

Workshops and Display Tables

Have a ministry idea or resource you want to share with the wider diocese? Think about organizing a workshop or creating a display table.

Nominations

Positions that are open for election:

- 1 Lay Standing Committee term
- 1 Clergy Standing Committee term
- 2 East Region Council terms
- 2 West Region Council terms
- Secretary of Convention
- Treasurer of the Diocese
- 4 Lay General Convention Deputies
- 4 Clergy General Convention Deputies

There is a nomination form on the website: www.ndepiscopal.org/convention2022.

Convention Website

Convention information will be available online at: www.ndepiscopal.org/convention2022.

Check here often, as this is where we will put materials as they are available.

Delegates

Each congregation is entitled to bring a certain amount of delegates based on the number of communicants in good standing. (*A communicant in good standing is someone who for the previous year has been faithful in worship, unless for good cause prevented, and has been faithful in working, praying, and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God.*) Please send in the list of delegates from your congregation.

Delegates shall be appointed by the Vestry if the election is not held at the annual meeting or a special meeting. (Canon 8.4f)

Questions, comments, or concerns?

Please contact the Diocesan Office and Jess, our Diocesan Administrator, will route your inquiry through the proper convention committees.

Email: office@ndepiscopal.org • Phone: 701-235-6688

Ramada Hotel Information

3333 13th Avenue S • Fargo, ND 58103
701-526-8096 or 701-235-3333

Book your hotel room by calling the Ramada. Mention the "Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota" to be reserved in our room block.

Calendar and Upcoming Events

Bishop Ely's Schedule:

June

- 8-18: Bishop Ely on vacation
- 20-27: Bishop Ely in North Dakota
- 23-27: Bishop Ely at Niobrara Convocation

July

- 7-12: Bishop Ely at General Convention
- 20-27: Bishop Ely in North Dakota
- 20: Sunday Visitation at Fort Totten

August

- 1-14: Bishop Ely on vacation

Diocesan Events and Dates to Note:

June

- 23: Finance Committee Mtg. (Jamestown); 4pm
- 28: Diocesan Council Mtg. (Zoom); 7pm
- 29: Personnel Committee Mtg. (Zoom); 12pm
- 29: Convention Planning Mtg. (Zoom); 7pm

July

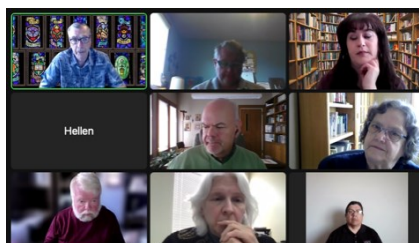
- 5: Clergy/Congregation Leaders Mtg. (Zoom); 7:00pm
- 22-23: Diocesan Council Mtg. (Devil's Lake)

August

- 2: Clergy/Congregation Leaders Mtg. (Zoom); 7:00pm

Diocesan Council Meeting Update (May 14, 2022)

Submitted by: Donna Pettit



What is your favorite thing to do on a Saturday in May in North Dakota? Seventeen of us attended a Zoom meeting of Diocesan Council, which put

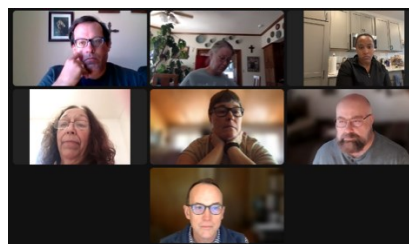
us indoors and staring at our computer screens from 9am to 12:30pm. Best time ever—probably not but we are satisfied we fulfilled obligations we made by choosing to be on Council. We feel up to date and confident we have overseen the running of the Diocese and the work being done by committees and individuals for the benefit of us all.

This year there are seven Diocesan Council meetings scheduled; half in person and the rest Zoom or some combination of live and Zoom. And in October there is the Diocesan Convention.

For each meeting Committee Chairs, the Treasurer, Diocesan ministers, the Bishop and anyone else who has something to report to the Diocese, are asked to submit a written report on what they have done and information to be made available to the diocese. The bishop sends these out the week before Council meets so we can read, digest and decide what we have questions about or what additional info we would like.

At the Council meeting, each of these reports is mentioned and the name of the person reporting and there is a chance to ask questions or have a conversation when needed. By the end of the meeting we all have a sense of how our plans are moving along or where they need a nudge. We know how the annual budget, income and expenses are doing for that time of the year. We see how the Bishop and Diocesan ministers are spending their time and how we might be more efficient in their use of time. I will mention that having Jessica in the Diocesan Office has made a huge difference in Clergy workloads.

Because I have chosen to share with you how Diocesan Council works, I have not given specific details about what was decided at the recent meeting. BUT—you can ask any member of Diocesan Council your questions or concerns and they will give you or find the answer you need.



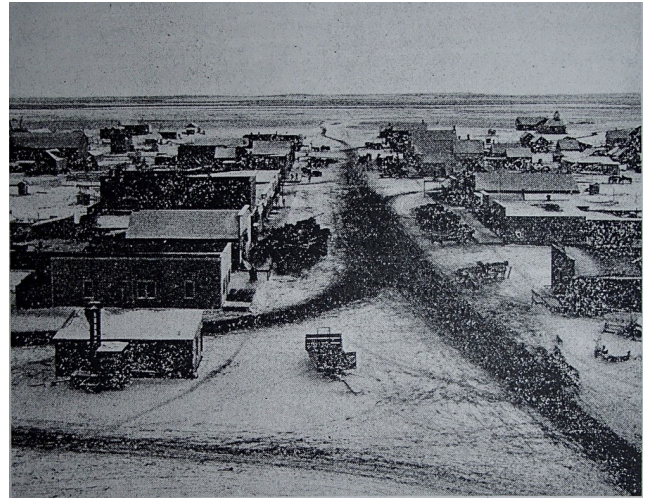
St. Michael's Episcopal Church, McHenry

*Based upon articles in the February and August, 1903, issues of The North Dakota Sheaf
Submitted by: Tom Tudor*

A typical example of what may be accomplished for the growth of the Church here in the Missionary District of North Dakota, in a case where faithfulness and energy on the part of the missionary find a response in the interest and generosity of the people, is found in the history of St. Michael's Mission, McHenry.

Here we have the honorable, but, alas!, unusual distinction of being the first Christian body of any name to begin the building of a church in McHenry. For rarely does the Church seem willing to spare from the consolidation and extension of her work in the great centers of the East—from the enlargement and adornment of her churches there—the men and the means necessary to seize the golden opportunities which present themselves in the West.

The rise of the McHenry mission is characteristic of the snap and “go” of a country which believes in its future and is willing to prove its faith by its works. A year ago it was as absolutely unknown upon our list of missions, and unvisited by any clergy as are a hundred other little towns in North Dakota. Early in the summer of 1902 the Rev. D. H. Clarkson of Jamestown went there on an exploring tour. He met with a most cordial welcome and went again. After this second visit he wrote Bishop Mann asking him to visit there. This was done, and a service held at night in the schoolhouse, there being, as we have indicated before, no religious edifice of any kind in town. After consultation with several of the citizens, it was determined to build a church at once. Before the Bishop left on the day following this service one lot had been bought, and another given by the Land Company. A subscription of over \$400.00 for the building was made there and then by the McHenry people. A glance at the town as pictured below will show how generous was this response considering the size of the place.



McHenry, ND

St. Michael's is in the upper right rear of this picture, behind the schoolhouse

The building, a simple but neat wooden one, 20 by 30 feet, and capable of seating 100 people, is now complete. It has cost about \$1,250 (thanks to the tremendous price of lumber this year), of which over \$600 was given in McHenry, \$100 by the Church Building Fund, and the remainder through the Bishop. The furniture is temporary, being that of the old Cathedral Car. [see the January 2019 issue of the Sheaf for a story about the Cathedral Car.] The organ and stove, however, are permanent, and are the gifts of the McHenry folk.



St. Michael's Episcopal Church

Bishop Mann, on the left, and the Rev. Clarkson are seen on the Church steps

Continued on page 6

The consecration of St. Michael's has not yet been arranged for, but will be soon, as the building is free from debt.

The building of this Church means much; for McHenry, though small in size, is an important place, being the terminus, and likely for some time to remain so, of a branch of the Northern Pacific Railway. It is, therefore, a point of considerable trade, and has a good farming country around it.

But to the Church, the story of this Mission means much more. It means that the same thing could be duplicated a dozen times within a year had we had the men and women to reach and hold the points of vantage, and the means to do the work, but first and foremost the men and women.

The Consecration of *St. Michael's*

The Bishop, accompanied by the Rev. L. G. Moultrie, Priest-in-Charge, journeyed to McHenry on August 5th for the consecration of the St. Michael's.

This Mission, as stated in the February issue of The Sheaf, is a result of the good work initiated by the first missionary at this point, Rev. Clarkson, who made his first visit to McHenry less than a year ago. The Church was completed, free of debt, last February, and since that time has been waiting for the Bishop's visit to consecrate it.

On arrival at McHenry the clergy proceeded at once to the Church, where the Bishop baptized four adults and one infant. A service was held in the evening, when the accommodations of the little Church were taxed to the utmost to seat the large congregation which assembled to attend the first service held in it by the Bishop, and to witness the confirmation of six candidates, who were presented by the Priest-In-Charge. A delightful reception was held at the Walsh Hotel after the service, when a large number of the residents of the village and the surrounding country took the opportunity of greeting the Bishop, and showing their interest in the church work.

The consecration service was held the next morning at 10:30, and was most impressive, as the consecration of a Church to the worship of Almighty God must of necessity be. The Instrument of Donation was read by Mr. Ellis Willoughby, to whose untiring activity the building of the Church is largely due; the sentence of consecration was read by the missionary, after which the Bishop declared in the solemn words of the liturgy, St. Michael's to be duly and canonically consecrated to the service and worship of God. And, thus has a most promising start been made by the Church in McHenry, which, under the providence of God will most surely result in much good to the Community.

Note: The city of McHenry is in Foster County, on State Highway 20, approximately 50 miles north of Jamestown. In 2020, the population of McHenry was 53; in 1910 the population was 398.

Big Rocks for Tribal Youth Ministry

Submitted by: The Reverend Steve Godfrey, Diocesan Minister

Photos by: The Reverend John Floberg and The Reverend Kim Becker



Brad Pearce a YoungLife Development Staff and former Regional Director

One of the priorities we have identified for our New Season of Ministry in the Diocese of North Dakota is to develop youth and young adult ministry. One great opportunity is to build on and expand the thriving youth ministry on Standing Rock.

The Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota has partnered with Young Life for developing and sustaining transformational youth

ministry on Standing Rock, with support from a sustainability grant from The Episcopal Church. That same grant is also funding the expansion of this partnership to Fort Totten and the Spirit Lake Nation.

Young Life's mission is "to introduce adolescents to Jesus Christ and help them grow in their faith." They accomplish their mission by "praying for young people; going where kids are and building personal relationships with them; earning the right to share the Good News of Jesus Christ; providing fun, adventurous, life-changing and skill-building experiences; inviting kids to personally respond to the Good News and walking in friendship with them regardless of their response; and working in community alongside like-minded adults (volunteer leaders, committee members, donors and staff)" (younglife.org/about).



Dn Angela Goodhouse Maui (center)
Chair of NDCIM:
Welcoming the group

On May 11, leaders from Young Life's national, Prairie Lakes Region, and Standing Rock organizations, and from around the diocese, met in a summit at St. James in Cannon Ball, to brainstorm challenges and opportunities, experience the weekly Wednesday evening "club" (with about 40 kids participating, activities led by youth and young-adult volunteers, and a powerful reflection by Chaská Moore), and identify some goals or "big rocks" targeting the challenges and opportunities.



Challenges include social media/relational disconnect, walking through multiple cultures, abandonment, isolation, loneliness, anger, teen pregnancy, mental health, and historic trauma. "Good medicine" that addresses these challenges includes laughter, caring adults, sex-ed, sports, healing relationships, longevity/consistency, family, elders, positive friends, hospitality, and safe places/belonging. Big Rocks for good medicine include collaboration, training/equipping leaders already in the community, and exploring possible growth opportunities, such as Dunseith and White Shield.



Ethnic identity was a key concern, including pride in community, respecting elders, and valuing kids as they are. Big rocks include creating space to honor diversity; organic combination of Christianity and culture; and considering "who has God created me to be?"

Continued on page 8



Infrastructure issues identified include reliable transportation, financial stability, recreational equipment, employment opportunities, and funding. Infrastructure Big Rocks include developing financial resources; providing safe and reliable transportation; creating visibility and exposure (swag!); and helping kids access fun, life-giving activities.

Online follow-up conversations have moved the conversation toward defining plans to address these Big Rocks that are specific, measurable, and “budgetable,” leveraging Young Life’s connections, and to identify leaders and hire staff for launching Young Life in the Spirit Lake Nation.

I am impressed by the youth ministry that has developed on Standing Rock, and excited that the “like-minded adults” of the Diocese of North Dakota and Young Life are collaborating to sustain and expand this ministry to Spirit Lake and beyond. I look forward to supporting these efforts to connect the next generations to Christ and the church in ways that are culturally sensitive and life-giving.



Reps from Episcopal Churches in Standing Rock, White Shield, Dunseith and Ft Totten along with some tribal leadership and YoungLife Regional and National Leadership

New Christian Education Programming: Coming Soon!

Submitted by: Michelle Weidman, Christian Educator at St. George, Bismarck

Earlier this year I counted how many churches or ministries I have served and how many years I have served as a Director of Christian Education. This will be my 6th church or ministry and I am in my 34th year. I have never tired of my ministry. I have been thrilled to do the planning, research, and collaboration it takes to meet the needs of the congregation that I am serving. So, to say that I am excited to be here in North Dakota and starting a new program is an understatement.

The program that I would like to share with you is *Godly Play*. I have used this program in some form with every group that I have served. *Godly Play* is much more than Sunday School, it is a ministry. It works well with children and adults. It can be adapted to almost any situation such as camps, catechism, vacation Bible school, retreats, and even congregational and liturgical settings. *Godly Play* is an intriguing process in which very detailed materials are provided for students to explore. These materials combined with carefully worded presentations make stories from the Bible, our worship, articles used in communion, and books of the Bible become a part of the students. Color, signs, and symbols that we use in worship, the

mystery that exists in our liturgies and reverence for God is fostered not only by the lessons but by the relationships formed with program leaders, helpers, and fellow students. This program is an Episcopal program that is used by many other Christian denominations.

Last November I wrote a grant to the North Dakota Episcopal Foundation for the materials to start this program. A grant for \$10,000 was received to create a program, not only at St. George’s in Bismarck, but also to create a lending library for other diocesan congregations to use. The materials have been ordered and will start arriving soon. I look forward to sharing these materials with you as we are preparing space, training teachers and helpers and mailing and delivering materials to congregations throughout the diocese. If you are interested or have questions regarding the *Godly Play* program please contact me at education@stgeorges-bismarck.org. If you feel that you are called to this ministry you will be most welcome and be trained and supported in this work by me.

St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church Camp

Submitted by: Sloane Floberg

St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church Camp is scheduled to have yet another exciting summer of camping! Located just 7 miles west of Solen or 45 miles south of Mandan, Camp Gabriel offers a variety of fun for students entering the 6th grade to 12th grade. Enjoy playing group games, singing songs, hiking the butte, tubing or kayaking at Froelich Dam, swimming in a huge swimming pool at the camp, hanging out in the canteen with a pop, roasting marshmallows around the campfire, listening to the coyotes yap and learning about God and His vast love for you. The camp offers bunk-style camping in five cabins that fit roughly 8 campers per cabin. Star lodge will offer traditional bedroom style sleeping for camp staff or families once construction is finished.

St. Gabriel's is celebrating its 26th year in operation and is always looking for groups to help keep the

camp around for generations to come. We have several projects in need of help including, but not limited to: life jacket station, replacing decking at the chapel, fixing steps and railings, outdoor chapel seating, landscaping, flowers and tree planting, siding cabins and continued construction on the lodge. If you or someone you know would love to travel to St. Gabriel's as part of a service project with your youth group or just take a long weekend with the guys or gals to do some simple construction work that can go a long way in the ministry offered here, simply contact Father John Floberg at 701.891.2911 or jffloberg@gmail.com for more information. We'd love to have ya!

Registration form is available online at www.ndepiscopal.org/youth

Lectio Divina

Submitted by: Christie Iverson



The reconciliation committee would like to unite the people of the diocese through dialogue and common experience. We would like for us to get to know each other in friendship and develop trust. This is the groundwork that allows us to continue to do the hard work of reconciliation called for by the DDTF report. One way to bring the diocese together would be through the virtual practice of Lectio Divina.

Lectio Divina is the ancient practice of reading scripture, using the four steps of Lectio (reading); Meditatio (meditation); Oratio (prayer); and Contemplatio (contemplation). It can be traced back to Origen in the 3rd century, established as a monastic practice by St. Benedict in the 6th century. The process was then formalized by Guigo II in the 12th century. The Second Vatican Council in the 20th century recommended Lectio Divina be practiced by the general public, which Pope Benedict XVI affirmed at the beginning of the 21st century.

The first time I practiced Lectio Divina was during the election of Bishop Michael Smith and I fell in love with it. It was a way for me to connect in a personal way to God through scripture. It was a way to hear, digest and incorporate scripture that was very different then I had ever done before.

The process is relatively simple.

- Begin with an oral prayer
- Read a passage of scripture listening for a word
- Silence for 5 minutes
- Each participant says the word that caught their attention.
- Read the same passage using a different Bible version, this time listening for a phrase.
- Silence for 5 minutes
- Each participant says the phrase that caught their attention
- Read the same passage using a different Bible version, this time asking God what it means to you personally
- Silence for 5 minutes
- Group discussion on what the passage means to the members of the group.
- Read the passage for a fourth time and let the words just sink in, no thoughts or intentions
- Silence for 5 minutes
- End with oral prayer

Lectio will be on the first Thursday of every month beginning at 7pm. The passage we will focus on will be the upcoming Sunday's gospel. Lectio Divina will take about an hour, depending on the depth and extent of conversation. The sessions are open to everyone, as often as you'd like. Anyone interested should email me at christieiverson@icloud.com to receive the Zoom link.

News from the Episcopal Church

Office of Public Affairs

May 17, 2022

Dear Friends in Christ:

Last week, as COVID-19 rates continued rising across the United States, we appointed the Presiding Officers' General Convention Design Group to plan a shorter, smaller, safer General Convention to take place in Baltimore in July. We appointed House of Deputies Parliamentarian Bryan Krislock and House of Bishops Parliamentarian Sean Rowe to co-chair the group.

The design group met for the first time today and plans to meet again during the weeks of May 23 and May 30. It plans to finish its work by May 31. During the first week of June, both the Joint Standing Committee on Planning and Arrangements and the Executive Council will meet, which will make it possible for us to formalize the new plan for General Convention.

Today, the Design Group made several recommendations to us that we have accepted. While these plans will not be official until the first week in June, we have every confidence that our colleagues in leadership will receive them well.

Here are the recommendations:

- The dates of the 80th General Convention will be July 8-11. Travel days for all but those coming from the greatest distances will be July 7 and 12. Registration will be available on July 7.
- The only attendees at the 80th General Convention will be bishops, deputies, essential staff and volunteers, and a limited media presence. There will be no exhibit hall. Visitors will be accommodated only in extraordinary circumstances, such as companions for people with disabilities.
- We will ask each diocese to consider sending just one clergy alternate deputy and one lay alternate deputy, and to consider asking inactive bishops and other alternate deputies to stay home.

- We will ask all church-affiliated organizations to refrain from holding events and receptions in Baltimore during July 8-11.

Next week, we plan to share with you the Design Group's recommendations about COVID-19 precautions and care for those who become infected at General Convention; and during the week of May 30, we plan to share recommendations about the legislative process we will use at this shortened General Convention.

Like many of you, we continue to grieve our inability to gather as a whole church this summer. But even since last week, when we first made the decision to reduce the scale of the meeting, COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations in the United States have continued to rise steeply. Although we regret that need to make this decision, we are confident that we have chosen the right path. We realize that this smaller, shorter convention is a particular blow to our generous hosts in the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland, who had planned so long and well for this gathering. We are especially grateful to Bishop Eugene Sutton and all the people of that diocese for their gracious flexibility.

We give thanks for those who are working tirelessly to make this General Convention safer for everyone who will attend and everyone who will receive us in Baltimore. As the United States marks the grim milestone of one million deaths from COVID-19, we ask you to pray for all those whose lives have been lost and all those whose lives will never be the same.

Faithfully,

The Most Rev. Michael Curry
Presiding Bishop and Primate

The Rev. Gay Clark Jennings
President, House of Deputies



The Day of Pentecost

St. George's Episcopal Memorial, Bismarck

Submitted by: The Reverend Hal Weidman

Pictures Submitted by: Joanne Lassiter, Sr. Warden and Elton Lassiter

The Day of Pentecost at Saint George's Episcopal Memorial Church in Bismarck was a Spirit-filled one. On one of the seven principal feast days of the Episcopal Church, we passed out our new St. George's **RED** t-shirts, celebrated Holy Communion, and gathered for a parish wide picture.

The combined planning efforts of various ministries made this day the glorious celebration it turned out to be: Acolytes; our Administrative Assistant [*Virtual*] via St Paul, Minnesota, Alekz Thoms; Altar Guild; Choir and Worship Team, especially Director of Music, Traci Juhala; Eucharistic Ministers; Executive Committee, especially Sr. Warden Joanne Lassiter; Lectors; Deacon Beth Lipp; Tom Tudor; and Fr. Hal.

The parish was encouraged to wear their new St. George's **RED** t-shirt—one of the Vestry's goals for the year. If anyone wanted one, they were given one as a sign of parochial love and unity.

After Fr. Hal's welcoming remarks, the choir sang the Introit, "Heleluyan," a traditional Muscogee Indian song. Then the procession began as we sang, "Hail thee, festival day." During our worship, the choir chanted the Psalm, sang the offertory, "Meadows and Mountains" and led the congregation in singing "Like the murmur of the dove's song," "Send us your spirit, O Lord," and "Everyone Moved by the Spirit." And Fr. Hal chanted portions of the eucharistic prayer which he attempts 2-3 times each year. This was the choir's last Sunday to sing and chant and lead us singing before the Summer break. They were accompanied by our organist, Mrs. Arlene Gray. The combination of the gifted artists "raised the roof!"

Fr. Hal was the celebrant and preacher for our service. The chosen text for his reflection was Genesis 11:1-9 with the title being, "*Babel: Selfishness and United.*" He reminded everyone in attendance (personally and via social media) that the word "*scattered*" was mentioned in the text three times. He believed the people were so afraid, they also feared being *smothered, countries, covered, topped, capped, peppered, diced, chopped* or any of the other 1,572,864 ways the Waffle House™ prepares hash browns.

He also related to listeners the main sins of the Babel-builders was excessive pride, outright arrogance and close-minded individualism, i.e., not following God's wishes to learn new things and meet new people.

He told us our rigid individualism (read: selfishness) and closed-mindedness has led to genocide, wall-building and wars. In Christian denominations and our own churches, we believe we're diverse. The typical kind of diversity we list is that we listen to different music genres. Actually, it's just different preferences. He invited us after our worship had ended, to go into the world to "do" ministry, seeing the world differently, quit our selfishness, stop bickering over who has the "greatest gift," and to start living in *Kairos* time.

After renewing our baptismal vows, praying the prayers of the people, and announcements, we transitioned into the Holy Communion portion of our service. In preparation for the holy sacrament, Miss Averie Gendron helped Deacon Ed Wos ready the altar for Holy Communion. Then Averie lifted Christ's Body in the air as Fr. Hal said, "The Gifts of God for the people of God." She also received Christ's body and blood with the deacon, organist, crucifer/eucharistic minister and priest in the sanctuary.

After Deacon Ed's dismissal the gathering of St Georgians gathered around our St George's sign and Ukrainian flag for a parish wide picture. Many thanks to our photographer, Elton Lassiter.



Northwest Pentecost Update

Submitted by: The Reverend Kim Becker

Dear Beloved in Christ,

I hope you all had a joyful Pentecost! At All Saints, Minot, we all wore red and celebrated the "Church's Birthday" by renewing our baptismal vows.

I got to wear my late dad's stole and the altar hangings were beautiful.

Among us, we had studied German, French, Spanish, Cherokee, Hebrew, Latin, Greek, and even a little Arikara! As we reflected on the call to break down barriers in communication, we reaffirmed our commitment to striving for justice and peace and respecting the dignity of every person.

We exchanged stories of hope and renewal and the color red was a vibrant reminder of how precious life is, all the more so in light of shooting upon mass shooting. We prayed for those in authority to make wise and just decisions.

In Cherokee, the word for red contains the word for blood. Yes, there will likely be suffering and perhaps even bloodshed along the Way, but our Savior has given us the Advocate to advocate (from the Latin *advocare*/to call) for us when we have "thoughts...too deep for tears."

I hope your Pentecost was likewise a reminder that the Holy Spirit is at work in our lives doing far more than we could ever ask or imagine. How is the Holy Spirit calling you to serve with your own Creator-given gifts?

St. Paul's, White Shield, has been called to fulfill their plans for their United Thank Offering grant award for creation care, specifically environmental reparations as they plan elder-led classes, a prayer path, and traditional garden that will collectively serve as a pilgrimage site for the diocese for reconciliation reflection.

St. Peter's, Williston has been called to work with Partnership for Renewal to help them discern direction with their ministry and identify existing assets.

All Saints, Minot was recently called to partner with Lutheran Campus Ministry at Minot State University to offer a prayer service and hospitality to LGBTQIA students.

St. Michael and All Angels, Cartwright, is called to apply their covid relief grant funds to walk to increase awareness of suicide prevention.

St. Sylvan's, Dunseith is called to explore opportunities for youth ministry and support for grandparents raising grandchildren in challenging circumstances.

The Holy Spirit is doing new things in our New Season of Ministry, thanks be to God! There are no guarantees of success in a secular sense, but with the Advocate's help, we are following the risky business of living out our faith and it is good!



Altar at All Saint's Episcopal Church, Minot.

Eulogy for Ellen (Tillotson) Davis Kelsch

November 2, 1916 – September 21, 2021

Funeral: May 7, 2022 at St. George's Episcopal Memorial Church, Bismarck

Submitted by: Steven Tillotson, nephew

On Saturday, May 7, 2022 a memorial service for Ellen (Tillotson) Davis Kelsch, who died on September 21, 2021 was conducted at St. Georges Episcopal Memorial Church where she had been a life-long member. Born in Bismarck on November 2, 1916, Ellen was the first of five children of Benjamin F. Tillotson and Catherine Mary (Lowman) Tillotson. Benjamin and Catherine were both raised as children in the Episcopal Church, he at St. John the Divine in Moorhead MN and she at St. Stephens in Casselton and at Gethsemane Cathedral in Fargo, ND. Benjamin and Catherine settled in Bismarck where they raised their five children in the Bismarck St. George's congregation.

Ellen's birth was followed by siblings, William (Bill), Alice, Ann and Ben, each birth separated by an average of about 18 months. As the first-born, Ellen shouldered duties often typical for the first born; her sense of responsibility characterized much of her life. [We recall her devotion to family and friends, her sense of humor, her faith, her love of country, and her resilience.](#) Since Ellen was first and longest-lived of the five siblings, we honor her and reflect on the experiences of all five. They were a close-knit family that lived through challenging and memorable times.

It is remarkable to reflect on a lifetime of 104 years and nearly 11 months. During Ellen's early childhood, our country was transitioning from the horse and buggy, World War I ravaged Europe, she and her family lived through the flue pandemic of 1918-19, and the nation enjoyed the prosperity of the roaring 20s.

There is a memorable picture of the five children gathered along with other neighborhood children dressed to go to Sunday School at St. George's Episcopal Church. Early tales include the time brother Bill, hung Ann's dolls from the dining room chandelier. Ann wreaked revenge by rolling Bill's precious marble collection down the Avenue A hill. Another tale was how Bill and brother Ben dangled a key on a long string attached to the window of their neighbors. They ran the string to an upstairs window of the Tillotson home. At night, reminiscent of Edgar Allen Poe, the young mischiefs could manipulate the string and key so "suddenly there came a tapping, as of someone gently rapping,

rapping" on the neighboring window pane, a terrorized maid looking out, into "darkness there and nothing more." Interestingly, there do not seem to be tales of great mischief about Aunt Ellen; however, a tale Ellen recalled was about the time a carload of boys from the rival town of Mandan came by the house. They became friends and had a great time playing the piano and singing songs.

In the 1930s, while the nation was gripped by a severe economic depression, North Dakota also suffered the "Dust Bowl" years of severe drought and great hardship for those living on the northern plains. Father Benjamin, an attorney went to Oregon and later to Minneapolis to find work. Ellen worked at the State Bank of North Dakota to help the family during those hard times.

As the world transitioned into World War II, Ellen married in 1939 and she had her first child, Jerry in 1941. The young family moved for a while to Akron, Ohio, a city teeming with coal-fired war-time industry, especially the newly developed synthetic rubber plants essential to the war effort. In February, 1941, brother Bill, attending college in Fargo and also serving in the National Guard was activated with North Dakota's 164th Infantry to Camp Claiborne, Louisiana for a "years training."



Continued on page 14

[Bill] would not see home for nearly five years. After the December 7 attack on Pearl Harbor, Bill was immediately transported west to protect the coast from possible invasion. Soon he shipped overseas to eventually reinforce the Marines on Guadalcanal. As an infantry combat platoon leader, Bill was engaged with the 164th Infantry, “island hopping” throughout the South Pacific and in Occupied Japan. In letters home, Bill described the support of his faith during periods of heavy tropics combat.

Brother Ben was also called into active duty, serving in Europe and later in the Pacific. Ellen, Alice and Ann did their share at home to keep the American economy going. As Jerry notes, Ellen worked at the Detention Camp at Fort Lincoln where some German citizens and (unfortunately) Japanese - Americans were interred. After returning home to Bismarck from Akron, Ohio Ellen also worked for the North Dakota State Board of Higher Education.

When the war was over, as Ellen’s daughter Jerry recalls, eight family members migrated home to the family’s downsized 2-bedroom house on 4th street; the two veterans, occupying a small pantry next to the kitchen, pilfering young Jerry’s May Day candy. As with so many of that great generation, the family members gradually restarted more normal lives. In 1946, Alice and in 1948, Ellen each married returned war veterans Ferdinand Just and Duane Davis. Bill married Doris Lyngstad in 1947 and Ben married Gladys Miller in 1951. Sister Ann who never married was a revered member of the extended family, taking care of her mother and serving as a second mother for the young members of the growing families. Ben and Gladys Tillotson settled in Montana and later in Washington. Ferdinand and Alice Just settled in South Dakota. All family members and their children remained Episcopalians.

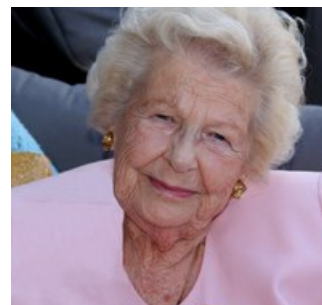
Memories of the 1950s and 1960s of Grandmother Catherine and Aunt Ann (or “GrammanAnnie” as we kids called them) include family picnics, times with Ellen and Duane at the Davis Cabin on Lake Isabel, and several summer ventures to Minnesota lake resorts for a week of swimming, rowing and barbecues with “GrammanAnnie” and other members of the extended family. In Bismarck, we shared innumerable Sunday dinners, Thanksgivings, Christmases, and just everyday events when we got together. St. George’s remained a center point for family members in Bismarck. One advantage of living in the hometown is that almost every summer the other relatives come to visit, so we got to know and enjoy all the Aunts, Uncles and cousins. Visiting

family worshipped at St. George’s during their stay. The 60s and the 70s were times when the cousins were going to college, finding careers, marrying, establishing homes and having children. Sadly, Uncle Duane died in 1966, followed by Uncle Ferd in 1970, and Grandmother Tillotson in 1972. When Ellen married George Kelsch, we welcomed new members of the family and we gained an appreciation of George’s knowledge of business and world travel as well as antique clocks, watches and fine art. Uncle George watched the stock market, and on days when panicked stockholders were selling, Ellen would find George still in his pajamas, busily buying bargains.

In the 1980s and 90s, the five siblings and spouses continued regular reunions. My wife LeeAnn and I felt fortunate that we got to know them all as adults. They really loved each other and got along remarkably well. As we grew older, I was amazed at their increased wisdom.

With the birth of our daughter, Abby, the youngest of the second cousins, our family treasured times with Aunt Ellen. Since my parents, Bill and Doris died in the 1990s, Ellen was a grandmotherly figure. LeeAnn and Abby gained many cooking tips from Ellen and we made friends with many of Ellen’s care-givers, including handyman Merlyn Lepp, Visiting Angels from Bismarck and Anna and Dora, who accompanied Ellen up from California for the summers. Anna and Dora shared their love and knowledge of great cooking.

As worship in the beautiful St. George’s Episcopal Church, which Ellen loved and was a faithful life-long member, we recall a strong woman who early on learned to balance faith, family, friends, work and community. Our lives are richer with our memories of her. We are strengthened by the love she showed for all her children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and all extended family members and friends. May we always honor and revere the memory of Ellen as well as her brothers, sisters and the extended family members who are no longer with us.



United Thank Offering Announces Care of Creation Grant Awards

Diocese of North Dakota to receive UTO Grant to respond to Environmental Justice Issues

United Thank Offering (UTO) announced the grant recipients for the 2022 granting cycle, and we are excited to share that the Diocese of North Dakota will receive funding for St. Paul's Episcopal Church, White Shield. The focus of the granting process this year was "Care of Creation: Turning love into action by caring for God's creation to protect the most vulnerable who will bear the largest burden of pollution and climate change through justice, advocacy, environmental reparations, or the development of formational materials."

Environmental Reparations

St. Paul's, White Shield, led by The Rev. Duane Fox, the longest-serving and only Indigenous Episcopal priest in the Diocese, was awarded \$52.5K for the creation of a traditional garden, a prayer path for meditation, and development of a curriculum that will highlight cultural wisdom of congregational and tribal elders. Signage will be both in English and Arikara (Sahnish). This project is envisioned as a pilgrimage site for the Diocese for reflection on racial healing, especially as original lands of the Sahnish people along the Missouri River were flooded by the building of the Garrison Dam, forcing removal to less desirable ground, as is common for many reservations. This project recognizes the stewardship of the land by the Arikara, one of the Three Affiliated Tribes of the MHA Nation (Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara) and will be an outreach ministry of the congregation for sharing both Episcopal and traditional Native spirituality. While no one grant can compensate for generations of cultural genocide and intergenerational trauma, this award is a step in the right direction in honoring the enduring presence and vital contributions of Indigenous peoples here in North Dakota, especially this faithful community of believers. In response to the award, The Rev. and Mrs. Fox both expressed gratitude, "We give thanks to Creator for this opportunity and for giving Native people the chance to develop more visible ministry here at St. Paul's, White Shield. This will be a place for learning, for reflection, and healing."

"Caring for God's creation is one of humanity's first tasks according to Genesis, and we have done a pretty poor job of it so far. UTO's 2022 grant recipients will play a great role in remedying that situation through the ministries they develop and disseminate to encourage greater participation in creation care. As always, if we'd had more money to grant, we would have been delighted to fund more of the excellent grant projects submitted, so please continue to be thankful and make your thank offerings to UTO," shared Sherri Dietrich, UTO Board President.

Responding to notification of the grant, Bishop Provisional Thomas Ely commented, "I am grateful that the United Thank Offering Board recognized the significance of this Creation Care project, not only for the people of Saint Paul's and the wider community they serve, but also as a pilgrimage place for so many in our diocese and beyond."

United Thank Offering Funding

Every penny given to the United Thank Offering is given away the following year to support innovative mission and ministry in the Episcopal Church. Through the gratitude and generosity of those who contributed through Blue Box donations, UTO awarded over \$1,051,154.14 in grants to address environmental issues.

The UTO is a ministry of The Episcopal Church for the mission of the whole church. Through UTO, individuals are invited to embrace and deepen a personal daily spiritual discipline of gratitude. UTO encourages people to notice the good things that happen each day, give thanks to God for those blessings, and make an offering for each blessing using a UTO Blue Box. UTO is entrusted to receive the offerings, and to distribute 100% of what is collected to support innovate mission and ministry throughout The Episcopal Church and Provinces of the Anglican Communion.

For more information on about the UTO:

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Included in this issue:

An Easter greeting from Bishop Ely — pages 1-2
Creation Care Circle — page 2
Diocesan Convention Information — page 3
Diocesan Calendar of Events — page 4
Diocesan Council Update — page 4
St. Michael's Episcopal Church Article — page 5-6
Big Rocks for Tribal Youth Ministry — page 7-8
Godly Play — page 8
St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church Camp — Page 9
Lectio Divina — Page 9
News from the Episcopal Church — Page 10
The Day of Pentecost, St. George's — Page 11
NW Pentecost Update — Page 12
Eulogy for Ellen Davis Kelsch — Page 13-14
UTO Announcement — Page 15

***Sheaf* articles are due September 1st!**

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