



The Sheaf

A publication of the Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota
Epiphany Edition ~ February 2024

The First Letter from the Bishop Provisional



Episcopal Sisters and Brothers,

As I write, I am the Bishop Provisional of the Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota - twenty-five days old. It was a Spirit-filled event on January 7th when Bishop Tom Ely presided over the special Zoom convention where I was elected to follow in his deep footsteps. It is my honor to succeed Bishop Tom as Bishop Provisional and it is my joy to be joining you in pursuit of the New Season of Ministry goals you claimed for yourselves at your 2023 Diocesan Convention. It appears clear to me that you have wisely discerned whom God is calling you to be and to what ministries God is pointing you.

In the thirty-five months ahead, my primary task will be to help the diocese live into its earnest desire to call its own Bishop Diocesan. The gathering of facts, figures, and fortitude will be the necessary components of that process; many diocesan leaders will be involved. Along the way, we will also explore and deepen/broaden the Diocese's call for the care of creation, reconciliation among/between us, the enhancement of Native American and youth ministry, and congregational development that meets the realities of our time, talents, and treasures.

I carry deep interest in these initiatives and acknowledge growing edges for myself in each of them.

The journey is better together! I pledge to you my energy, commitment, and prayers. Please know I'll be asking the same of you!

God gives the growth,

+Brian

North Dakota, Bishop Provisional

Calendar

**All noted times are Central Time*

Bishop Thom's Schedule

February 2024

- 14th-19th: Bishop Thom in North Dakota
- 18th: Bishop's Visitation at St. John's, Dickinson
- 27th-March 5th: Bishop Thom at House of Bishops

March 2024

- 26th-April 2nd: Bishop Thom in North Dakota

Diocesan Events and Dates to Note

February 2024

- 6th: Clergy/Congregation Leaders Meeting (Zoom); 6:30pm
- 6th: Reconciliation Committee Meeting (Zoom); 7pm
- 6th: Province VI Small Church Gathering (Zoom); 7:30pm
- 8th: Diocesan Ministry Support Team Meeting (Zoom); 9am
- 8th: Finance Committee Meeting (Zoom); 5:30pm
- 14th: Ash Wednesday
- 22nd: Diocesan Ministry Support Team Meeting (Zoom); 9am
- 22nd: Commission on Ministry Meeting (Zoom); 7pm
- 24th: Diocesan Council Meeting (Zoom); 9am

March 2024

- 5th: Clergy/Congregation Leaders Meeting (Zoom); 6:30pm
- 5th: Province VI Small Church Gathering (Zoom); 7:30pm
- 7th: Diocesan Ministry Support Team Meeting (Zoom); 9am
- 12th-17th: Diocesan Minister on Spiritual Retreat
- 21st: Diocesan Ministry Support Team Meeting (Zoom); 9am
- **22nd: Easter Sheaf Deadline!**



Cycle of Prayer

**Tuck this in your prayer book for easy access for weekly prayers!*



Sunday, 11 February 2024

Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan

St. Paul's, Grand Forks: Harvey Henderson, Priest, Don Leroux, Deacon, Susan Owens, Senior Warden; and for the Catechists and Church School Teachers of the Diocese.

Sunday, 18 February 2024

Province of the Episcopal Church of Sudan

Grace Church, Jamestown: Robert Hoekstra, Rector; Marilys Carter, Senior Warden; and for the Eucharistic Ministers and Eucharistic Visitors of the Diocese.

Sunday, 25 February 2024

The Anglican Church of Tanzania

All Saints, Minot; Kathy Hintz, Senior Warden; and for the Diocesan Haiti Mission Project: Andrea Stomberg, chair.

Sunday, 3 March 2024

The Church of the Province of Uganda

St. John the Divine, Moorhead: Barbara Olson & Hellen Lodu, Deacons; Charles Cherry, supply priest; Oliver Mogga, Senior Warden; and for the Diocesan Safe Church Team.

Sunday, 10 March 2024

The Episcopal Church

Church of the Cross, Selfridge: John Floberg, Rector; Sloane Floberg, Deacon; Sylvia Culbertson, Senior Warden; and for the Diocesan Finance Committee.

Sunday, 17 March 2024

The Church in Wales

All Saints', Valley City: Bart Davis, supply priest; and for the work and ministry of the Mother's Union and the Daughters of the King.

Sunday, 24 March 2024

The Church of the Province of West Africa

St. Peter's, Walhalla: Elsie Magnus, Deacon; Ross Blair, Senior Warden; and for the work of the Diocesan Reconciliation Committee.

Sunday, 31 March 2024

The Church in the Province of the West Indies

St. Paul's, White Shield: Kim Fox, Priest-in-Charge; Wes Fox, Senior Warden; and for United Thank Offering: Vanessa Strobel and Mary Massad, co-coordinators.

Episcopal Relief & Development Pilgrimage to Tanzania

By Andrea Stomberg, St. George's, Bismarck

In January, Steve Godfrey (Diocesan Minister), David Martin (St. George's, Bismarck) and Andrea Stomberg (St. George's, Bismarck) from the Diocese of North Dakota participated in a pilgrimage to Tanzania organized by Episcopal Relief & Development. Episcopal Relief & Development is the compassionate response of The Episcopal Church to human suffering in the world. It works globally to partner in long-term programs to improve the lives of people who struggle with hunger, poverty, and disease and to respond to disasters at home and abroad. This pilgrimage focused on economic and climate resiliency programs in Tanzania coordinated by the Anglican Diocese of Central Tanganyika. The group of 19 pilgrims was led by Julia Ayala Harris, President of the House of Deputies of the Episcopal Church, and Rob Radtke, President and CEO of Episcopal Relief & Development. Our group also included several members of the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church and Episcopal Relief & Development staff and board members.

Our visit began with worship in the Cathedral in the capital, Dodoma, followed by a detailed introduction to programs in the diocese. The programs we visited were near Dodoma, a full day's bus ride northwest of Dar es Salaam. We were warmly welcomed by the members of a Savings With Education (SWE) group in a village in the country. These women have been meeting for six years and currently invest about \$2 weekly under guidelines that were recited, ensemble, by the group at the beginning of their meeting. In this village, the group uses an electronic record keeping system and



simple cell phones to track investments. Women are able to take loans from the group assets, and are obligated to a repayment schedule including interest. At year's end, the accumulated assets will be returned to the members in equal shares. Episcopal Relief & Development has also provided this well-established group a separate grant to enhance the amount of money available for loans. The women displayed some of the items from their businesses set up using their loans: chickens, eggs, cooking oil, peanuts, sunflower products, and fabrics. We also visited another, larger savings group that used hard currency and paper records—the only option available in areas with unreliable cell coverage. There are 123 small SWE groups in this diocese, facilitating economic growth and independence for their members who otherwise have little or no access to loan services.



Agricultural practices to improve food security are also a focus of Episcopal Relief & Development programs. In this area, the Diocese coordinates with TARI, Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute, in developing conservation agricultural programs for area farmers. These programs focus on soil health and conservation, reduced tillage, soil cover, use of improved seeds and intercropping. We visited an agricultural research station coordinating with area farmers to modify planting techniques and also visited the farms of people implementing new methods. The woman shown here farms about an acre using these new methods, which are labor intensive but provide greater yields of millet and legume than traditional methods. In time, she hopes to extend areas farmed in this manner.

Water availability is a critical concern in much of the world. We visited a community that has a new cistern to store water pumped from an area well, and which will have distribution points in the village. This is an expensive installation and is awaiting government funds to be completed. When complete, water access should be greatly improved, easing the burden of women and children who now haul buckets to their homes.



These site visits highlighted only a small sample of the types of programs supported by your dollars donated to Episcopal Relief & Development. Much more information about the impact of Episcopal Relief & Development in the world is available on their website (www.episcopalrelief.org). Andrea Stomberg (andrea.stomberg@yahoo.com) is the Diocesan coordinator for Episcopal Relief & Development and she would love to help you get materials to promote this organization in your parish!



Safe Church, Safe Communities

Praesidium and Safe Church Training Update

Thank you to those who have taken time to attempt the online safe church training through Praesidium Academy. We know that the system is challenging, so we appreciate your efforts to take safe church training. Unfortunately, we have learned from your experiences that the old courses are still available in the Praesidium Academy database. This fact has created confusion about what the current courses are that need to be taken to be safe church certified. *Please be sure you take the courses listed below, and avoid the old courses on the website, which do not lead to certification.*

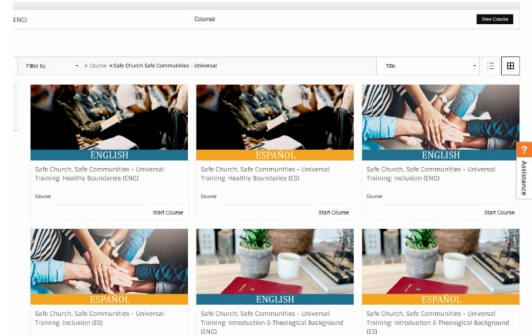
Please refer to Appendix A-2 in the updated policies to identify the current courses you need to take for certification. Depending on your role(s) within your congregation, you generally need to complete anywhere from four to eight courses. **All the currently required courses will start with this title: SAFE CHURCH, SAFE COMMUNITIES, except the KNOW YOUR POLICIES: Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota.** Four courses are considered universal and are essential for anyone required to have the training.

The essential/universal courses for our diocese are:

- Know Your Policies: Policies: Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota
- Safe Church, Safe Communities: Introduction & Theological Background
- Safe Church, Safe Communities: Healthy Boundaries
- Safe Church, Safe Communities: Inclusion

The specialty courses are:

- Safe Church, Safe Communities: Abuse & Neglect
- Safe Church, Safe Communities: Bullying
- Safe Church, Safe Communities: Power & Relationships
- Safe Church, Safe Communities: Pastoral Relationships



	Universal courses				Specialty courses **					
	Introduction & Theological Background	Diocesan * Policies & Rules	Healthy Boun-daries	Inclusion	Power & Relation-ships	Abuse/ Neglect	Pastoral Relation-ships	Bullying	Anti-Harassment	
R = Required									Sexual Harassment	Sexual Harassment
S = Suggested/recommended									Supervisors	Workers
# = Required if paid										
* - Required if involved in active ministry										
Clergy										
Bishop	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Priests	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Deacons	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Retired Clergy	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Postulants	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Seminarians	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Children's Ministry Worker (paid/vol.)										
Church school/VBS teacher	R	R	R	R	S	R	S	R		R
Acolyte leader/trainer	R	R	R	R	S	R	S	R		R
Camp counselors, other staff	R	R	R	R	S	R	S	R		R
Youth Group/Confirmation leader/mentor	R	R	R	R	S	R	S	R		R
Nursery worker	R	R	R	R	S	R	S	R		R
Other youth-involved volunteers	R	R	R	R	S	R	S	R		R
Lay leadership										
Wardens	R	R	R	R	R	S	R	R	R	
Vestry	R	R	R	R	R	S	R	R	R	
Eucharistic visitors	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	
Eucharistic ministers	R	R	R	R	S	S	S	S	S	
Altar Guild	R	R	R	R	S	S	S	S	S	
Treasurer/related financial responsibilities	R	R	R	R	S	S	S	S	S	
Convention delegates	R	R	R	R	S	S	S	S	S	
Adult forum leaders	R	R	R	R	S	S	S	S	S	
Driver - program related transportation	R	R	R	R	S	S	S	S	S	
Other staff										
Choir director	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	
Organist	R	R	R	R	S	S	S	S	S	R
Administrative support	R	R	R	R	R	S	S	S	S	R

** Additional courses when available

News from Missioner for Reconciliation, Creation Care, and Congregational Development

Exciting news from the Reconciliation Committee: Stephanie Garcia (St. Stephen's, Fargo) has been appointed new Chair and the Committee convenes for the first time this year on February 6th, 7pm. Stephanie brings her professional expertise in trauma-informed care to this work. If you are interested in participating in this vital ministry, please let Stephanie know: sgarcia88@gmail.com

Creation Care Committee continues its work with the inspiring guidance of Solveigh Barney, Chair (St. George's, Bismarck). The Committee always welcomes new members. Contact Solveigh at: solveigh.barney@gmail.com

The work of reconciliation and creation care is deeply intertwined. The United Thank Offering grant in creation care/environmental reparations is underway at St. Paul's, White Shield. Please contact Robert Fox, Project Manager (St. Paul's, White Shield), at rffox1501@gmail.com if you would like to offer your time and talent to this three-fold project that has already garnered national attention:

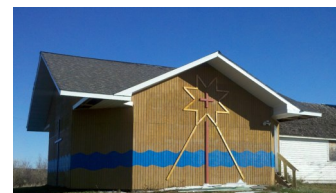
<https://www.episcopalnewsservice.org/2023/04/13/north-dakota-diocese-plans-prayer-path-traditional-garden-as-environmental-reparations-for-native-americans-displaced-70-years-ago-by-river-dam-project/>



Ministry Opportunities

Ministry Opportunities: Please Share!

The Diocese is now seeking candidates for full-time **Missioner for Youth, Young Adults, and Congregational Ministry Development** to be Priest in Charge of St. Thomas, Fort Totten; develop diocesan youth & young adult ministry; and provide sacramental and congregational development ministry in small congregations. This position addresses the New Season of Ministry goals of developing youth/young adult, Native American, and congregational ministries.



St. George's in Bismarck is seeking candidates for their next full-time **rector**. They are looking for an organized and passionate leader who is open to effectively managing a congregation in collaboration with part-time professional staff and many volunteer leaders and maintaining and improving worship through sermons that meet them where they are and challenge them to action, with a deep understanding of the importance of music in worship. St. George's values outreach in the community and education in the congregation.

Details, including application instructions and deadlines for both positions are available at <https://www.ndepiscopal.org/ministries/employmentopportunities/>.

For more information or to suggest priests to invite to apply, contact the Rev. Steve Godfrey at 515-450-9858 or sgodfrey@ndepiscopal.org.

40 Days of Grateful Presence: A Lenten Journey with the United Thank Offering

This Lent, UTO invites you to reflect on the ordinary things in your life and give thanks for them.

Science shows that committing to a gratitude practice will improve your spiritual and physical health, and what better time to take on a new gratitude practice than in Lent when we work to deepen our spiritual practices as we await the Resurrection of Christ. To help **people of all ages** explore their personal practice of gratitude, we've created free materials for a variety of ages and with a variety of time commitments so you can find the path that best fits your needs.

For Families, but also as a wonderful resource for anyone who enjoys coloring, we've created a Lenten Coloring Page with a Gratitude Journal to help focus the season of Lent on gratitude.

For Individuals:

- A daily text message gratitude prompt that invites you to consider a routine part of your life that you may not have thought to give thanks about before, as we spend Lent using gratitude as a tool to be more present.
- A weekly book group on Zoom where we'll explore together AJ Jacobs' book, *Thanks A Thousand: A Gratitude Journey*.
- Lenten gratitude prayer card from Kristen Wheeler, Ministry of the Saints, to help ground each day in gratitude.

For Congregations:

- Gratitude Centered Prayers of the People

All of these resources (and more) are available on the UTO website. For more information on the United Thank Offering visit: www.unitedthankoffering.com





THE UNITED THANK OFFERING PRESENTS:
40 Days of Grateful Presence
 LENT 2024

TO MAKE A
 THANK
 OFFERING TO
 SUPPORT THE
 WORK OF UTO
 VISIT:



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>THIS LENT, UTO INVITES TO YOU TO NOTICE THE LITTLE THINGS THAT MANY OF US TAKE FOR GRANTED BUT DEPEND UPON IN OUR DAILY LIVES. EACH DAY WE INVITE YOU TO NOTICE AND GIVE THANKS FOR ONE ITEM. CONSIDER THE PEOPLE INVOLVED, PERHAPS THOSE THAT CREATED IT, DESIGNED ARTWORK FOR IT, OR CONTRIBUTED TO IT.</p>			<p>FEB 14 ASH WEDNESDAY GIVE THANKS FOR ASHES & FIRE.</p>	<p>15 CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR ELECTRICITY.</p>	<p>16 CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR MEDIA -TV, PODCASTS, ETC.</p>	<p>17 CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR LAUNDRY - SOAP, MACHINES, ETC.</p>
<p>18 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR PRAYERFUL SPACES.</p>	<p>19 CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR BATHS & SHOWERS.</p>	<p>20 CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR CLEAN TEETH - TOOTHPASTE, DENTIST, ETC.</p>	<p>21 CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR THE ABILITY TO CHECK THE WEATHER.</p>	<p>22 CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR CARING FOR A PET OR ANIMALS IN YOUR YARD.</p>	<p>23 CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR THINGS THAT HELP YOU SEE.</p>	<p>24 CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR CRAFTS & HOBBIES YOU ENJOY.</p>
<p>25 2ND SUNDAY OF LENT CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR PASSING THE PEACE.</p>	<p>26 CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR YOUR TO DO LIST.</p>	<p>27 CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR DISHES & THE ABILITY TO CLEAN THEM.</p>	<p>28 CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR THOSE WHO TAKE CARE OF YOUR TRASH.</p>	<p>29 CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR YOUR BREAKFAST & ALL THAT WENT INTO IT.</p>	<p>MAR 1 CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR PHONE CALLS & TEXT MESSAGES.</p>	<p>2 CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR COFFEE, TEA, OR YOUR FAVORITE DRINK.</p>
<p>3 3RD SUNDAY OF LENT CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR PARTICIPATING IN COMMUNION.</p>	<p>4 CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR WAKING UP ON TIME.</p>	<p>5 CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR COOKING &/OR BAKING.</p>	<p>6 CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR PAYING BILLS.</p>	<p>7 CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR YOUR CLOTHES AND SHOES.</p>	<p>8 CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR YOUR LUNCH AND ALL THAT WENT INTO IT.</p>	<p>9 CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR INTENTIONAL DOWNTIME ACTIVITIES.</p>
<p>10 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR ONLINE CHURCH.</p>	<p>11 CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR MUSIC & MUSICIANS.</p>	<p>12 CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR THE ABILITY TO RECYCLE THINGS.</p>	<p>13 CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR YOUR FRIENDS.</p>	<p>14 CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR MODES OF TRANSPORTATION.</p>	<p>15 CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR BOOKS YOU LOVE & WRITERS.</p>	<p>16 CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR A SPECIAL ITEM THAT BRINGS YOU JOY.</p>
<p>17 5TH SUNDAY OF LENT CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR HYMNS AND PSALMS.</p>	<p>18 CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR SOMEONE WHO HELPS YOU TODAY.</p>	<p>19 CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR YOUR DINNER AND ALL THAT WENT INTO IT.</p>	<p>20 CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR MAIL- THOSE WHO SEND IT & DELIVER IT.</p>	<p>21 CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD.</p>	<p>22 CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR GROCERY SHOPPING.</p>	<p>23 CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR TIME OFF (SLEEPING IN, STAYING UP, ETC.)</p>
<p>24 PALM SUNDAY CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR SPECIAL SERVICES.</p>	<p>25 CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR COWORKERS OR TEAMMATES.</p>	<p>26 CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR TRADITIONS YOU LOVE.</p>	<p>27 CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR ANY MEDICINE YOU TAKE.</p>	<p>28 MAUNDY THURSDAY CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR MEALS WITH FRIENDS.</p>	<p>29 GOOD FRIDAY CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR THINGS THAT HAVE ENDED.</p>	<p>30 HOLY SATURDAY CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR GARDENS.</p>

HAPPY EASTER! CONSIDER & GIVE THANKS FOR THE NEW LIFE YOU SEE AROUND YOU!

Lent Resources

The Episcopal Church has a list of Lent Resources at:

<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/lent-resources/>

Building Faith at Virginia Theological Seminary has a list of resources for Lent at:

<https://buildfaith.org/new-and-recent-lent-resources-for-2023/>

Episcopal Relief & Development offers Lenten Meditations each year at:

<https://www.episcopalrelief.org/lent>

Forward Movement, in collaboration with Episcopal Evangelism Society, invites Episcopalians to reflect on their baptismal promises during Lent through a new small group study and corresponding book, *Will You? A Lenten Study of Baptismal Promises*, available at:

<https://www.forwardmovement.org/Products/2672/will-you.aspx>

Author & Pastor Elizabeth Magill has developed a study called *Lent, Poverty, and Christian Theology: What Do You think?*, available for use on a sliding scale at:

<https://www.elizabethmaemagill.com/>



Future Editions of the *Sheaf*

We are working on making the *Sheaf* more collaborative and celebratory of all the ministry that happens throughout the Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota. And we want YOUR input! Let us help you celebrate the ministry you are a part of!

Sheaf Deadlines and Publication Dates

Easter: March 22, 2024 Deadline | April 2, 2024 Publication

Pentecost: May 10, 2024 Deadline | May 20, 2024 Publication

Pre-Convention: September 25, 2024 Deadline | Oct 2, 2024 Publication

Advent: November 25, 2024 Deadline | December 4, 2024 Publication

Resolutions for a Sustainable 2024!

By the St. Stephen's Green Team

Are you interested in reducing your personal carbon footprint and walking more gently on God's beautiful earth? If so, here are a few simple ideas:



Minimize power use. Unplug devices when you're not using them ([they draw power even if turned off](#)) and turn off lights when you leave a room.



Choose reusable products. Avoid plastic and paper waste (use glass storage containers, reusable water bottles and coffee cups, cloth napkins, and cloth instead of paper kitchen towels). Use reusable grocery bags!



Eat less meat and dairy. The use of cows, pigs and other animals for food, as well as livestock feed, is responsible for [57% of all food production emissions](#).



Compost organic and non-animal kitchen and garden waste. When food waste ends up in landfills, it decomposes in a way that releases methane, a potent greenhouse gas. (For ideas on composting, see [Composting at Home](#))



Order fewer items online. At least 3 billion trees are cut down each year to produce paper and cardboard packaging. The logging of three billion trees each year produces equivalent to the CO2 produced [by 250,000,000 cars each year](#). *And packages we return?* In the United States, [2.6 million tons](#) of returned clothes wound up in landfills in 2020. And that's just clothing.





The Sheaf

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

Non Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
Paid
Permit No. 727
Fargo, ND

The Sheaf—Epiphany Edition

Included in this issue:

- A Letter from the Bishop’s Desk — pages 1
- Calendar — page 2
- Cycle of Prayer — page 3
- Episcopal Relief & Development Pilgrimage — page 4-5
- Safe Church, Safe Communities — page 6
- News from Missioner for Reconciliation, Creation Care, & Congregational Development — page 7
- Ministry Opportunities — page 7
- United Thank Offering: Lenten Journey — page 8-9
- Lenten Resource — page 10
- Resolutions for a Sustainable 2024 — page 11

If you would like to see a colored copy of the *Sheaf*, or read it digitally, please go to:
www.ndepiscopal.org/the-sheaf

