



NEWS & NOTES

News and notes from the Bishop's office

May 2018

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FROM THE BISHOP'S PEN

When I lived in Pennsylvania and served in the local volunteer fire department I had a blue light on my truck. Firefighters and officers had blue lights, chiefs had red and white lights (Police had all three colors). When a call came in I would go to the station while running my blue light, which told people that I was headed to a call and they would pull over for me, usually. At first I simply thought this was really cool. Over time I learned that the light on my truck served another purpose - it was a very public symbol and witness to my service. I would sometimes be asked to help a person because they had seen the blue light and knew I was a person that would show up when asked to help. When I would work with the training officer for rookie orientation, part of my task was to teach the proper use of those lights, I would tell them that if they were ever engaged in actions that would be an embarrassment to the department that they must remove the lights so that they could not be easily identified as members of the department. The blue light identified us to the public and held us to a standard that mattered to the whole department.

As a priest I learned to think about my collar in a similar fashion. The collar identified me to others in a very public way. I have been approached by strangers in a variety of places for all sorts of questions and conversations. I have been accosted by people offended by the collar and people who needed what the collar represented. I found myself holding back from expressing opinions of other drivers while I was wearing the collar. It is a public symbol, and represents a standard which matters.

This month we celebrate Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit and what we often call the birth of the Church. It is a time when we remember that we are given the gift of the Holy Spirit at baptism and our lives are transformed. We hear of that first Pentecost that the disciples had tongues of fire rest upon them. I have not ever seen that at a baptism, but there are times I wish those tongues of fire were still visible. Just imagine what it would be if everyone who was sealed by the Holy Spirit in baptism walked around with a flame of fire above their head! What a visible symbol that would be - "Here is a follower of Jesus, this is one who walks the way of Christ!" Talk about public witness! Instead, we have the Holy Spirit within us, and yet it is possible to go through our day and have nobody even know it.

"You are my witnesses," Jesus told his disciples. We are his witnesses. How do we witness to Christ? How do we publicly demonstrate that we are followers of the Risen Lord, that we dwell within God and live with the Holy Spirit at all times?

I think back to the blue light I used to have on my truck those years ago, it meant I would be someone who would show up. I think that being a person who will show up is a good start for a witness for Christ. Show up. Show up for worship as we continue in the apostle's teaching and fellowship, the breaking of bread and the prayers. Show up in the face of violence, oppression, and hatred as we persevere in resisting evil. Show up in admitting when we have ourselves done wrong, be courageous in seeking forgiveness for when we fall into sin we repent and return to the Lord. Show up in places of despair as we proclaim the good news of God in Christ. Show up in places of need and division as we seek and serve Christ in all persons and love our neighbor as ourselves. Show up in places of injustice, war, and discrimination as we strive for justice and peace and respect the dignity of every human being.

Most of us do not go through our daily life wearing some very public visible witness to the fact that we are followers of Jesus. There are no tongues of fire resting over our heads. It is how we live, where we show up, how we serve and how we love that we witness to our faith. As this month we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit let us think about how each one of us has been called to show up and witness to Jesus. May our own lives be that blue light to the world, telling everyone that we are people who will show up.

+Gretchen

CAMP CROSS: UPCOMING & NEW!

Labor of Love (youth), May 25 - May 27, 2018 – free

A mission weekend designed for Sr. High aged youth. Spend part of the Memorial Day weekend at Camp Cross giving back and helping Camp Cross set up for its upcoming season. This is a weekend to work hard, relax, and enjoy times with friends while making new ones.

Register here: https://spokanediocese.formstack.com/forms/camp_cross_youth

Creation Care Environmental Camp, June 8-10, 2018 - \$100

Join Earth Ministry/Washington Interfaith Power & Light and the Episcopal Diocese of Spokane June 8-10 for a Creation Care Camp at Camp Cross, on the shores of Lake Coeur d'Alene in Idaho. Fill the well of your soul with spiritual time in nature, sacred spaces, and in community with others seeking to embrace and enfold care of creation into daily life and in our communities of faith.

This 2.5-day retreat will refresh and renew participants, and will provide tools and resources to learn:

- How faith and environment are connected.
- How to establish a "green team" in your faith community.
- Ideas for implementing sustainable practices in your house of worship.
- Why and how to engage in faithful environmental advocacy.
- How to put your faith into action for the Earth.

We'll create an altar with sacred objects from nature, enjoy a nature walk, present four creation care workshops, and have time for shared learnings.

Register here: https://spokanediocese.formstack.com/forms/camp_cross_adultandfamily

CELEBRATION OF NEW MINISTRY

We will be celebrating the new ministry of the Rev. Jonathan Myers. Please save-the-dates below for their celebrations:

Celebration of a New Ministry: The Rev. Jonathan Myers to St. Andrew's Episcopal Church and West Central Episcopal Mission in Spokane, Washington on Sunday, the 20th day of May, 2018, at five o'clock in the evening. We will begin at West central Episcopal Mission and move to St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. Your prayers and presence are requested, the festival color is red, reception following. Please RSVP to Tracey Waring, tlwaring728@msn.com.

West Central Episcopal Mission
1832 W Dean Ave
Spokane, WA 99201-1829

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
2404 N Howard St
Spokane, WA 99205-3215

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY WORKSHOPS

Did you know that the Commission on Ministry is offering classes for clergy, Eucharistic visitors, Stephen Ministers and other interested lay people?

The coming workshop on pastoral care for the dying and their families is Saturday, May 26, 2018 from 9:15a to 3:30p at Immaculate Heart Retreat Center. Please register online by May 11, 2018. The cost is \$30.

https://spokanediocese.formstack.com/forms/diocesan_events

GATHERING DAYS

We gather next on 2 different Saturdays: SW - May 5 at All Saints', Richland; NE - May 12 at St. Stephen's, Spokane. All Gathering Days: Doors open at 9:30a; Session is 9:50a-3:30p.

We will focus overall on this year's diocesan theme: Loved and Called; Listen and Respond. What it means: to be Loved by God, to be Called to a closer relationship through Jesus Christ, to Listen to the Spirit and the community, and to Respond in our congregational and community life. Part of the day will explore the ways that our congregations can grow deeper in faith, richer in community and more effective in mission.

Bishop Rehberg will be at each Gathering Day, to be in conversation with us about the diocese - about our congregations, our ministries, our opportunities and our struggles.

General Convention of the Episcopal Church meets this July in Austin, TX. We'll have a presentation of how General Convention works, and the issues that will be addressed. And how to find out what's really happening, not just what's reported in the media.

LOVED & CALLED; LISTEN & RESPOND

Thank you for your participation in the diocesan council exercise around being loved by God. As you know our diocesan theme this year is "loved and called; listen and respond." It is our hope that by the time we get to diocesan convention in October we will have thoroughly explored what it means to be loved and called and to listen so that at convention we can focus on responding. We are now asking that each congregation participate in an exercise that focuses on being called by God. Specifically, we ask that you:

By May 27th at the latest, in a way appropriate to your place, invite parishioners into the following exercise:

- 1) Read 1 Samuel 3:1-10 and reflect together on the following questions:
 - Samuel does not recognize that God is calling to him at first, what might block/hinder our ability to recognize that God calls us by name?
 - Eli helps Samuel know that it is God calling him, has anyone ever helped you to know that God calls you by name? Have you helped anyone to know this? What might be ways that we can help each other know that God calls us each by name, and to help each one hear God's voice? How can your congregation nourish its spiritual life in order to hear God's call?



- Names can offer important clues to identity and the mission we are called into. The name Samuel can mean "God has heard," and reflects how God heard the prayers of his mother and reminds us that God hears our prayers. How does the name of your congregation reflect the ministry you are called into? If you have never thought about your congregation's name and what it might mean for your identity and ministry, spend some time engaging this question.

Thank you for your participation, we pray that this is a fruitful exercise for each member and congregation.

SILENT RETREAT ON CENTERING PRAYER

Lead by the Rt. Rev'd Gretchen M. Rehberg, July 29 - 31, 2018
 Immaculate Heart Retreat Center, Spokane, WA
 6:00 pm registration, 1:00 pm departure

Contact Us

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Centering prayer is a type of contemplative prayer. Contemplative prayer, in the words of Fr. Thomas Keating - a Trappist monk and priest, is the opening of mind and heart to God, beyond thoughts and words and emotions. We open our awareness to the God whom we know by faith is within us, closer than breathing, closer than thinking, closer than consciousness itself. Centering Prayer is one method, not the only method, of contemplative prayer. Centering Prayer never meant to replace other types of prayer; it simply adds to our prayer life and invites us into a form of prayer where we can be still and be with God in silence and listening. \$196 per person, \$302 couples, \$110 commuters. Please register with Immaculate Heart Retreat

Center, (509) 448-1224.

BISHOP'S MAY & JUNE SCHEDULE

Find the diocesan calendar [online here](#).

Date	Itinerary Item	Location
5/5	SW regional gathering day, All Saints'	Richland, WA
5/6	Bishop's visit to Christ Church	Zillah, WA
5/12	NE regional gathering day, St. Stephen's	Spokane, WA
5/13-18	Bishop gone to New Bishop's College	Richmond, VA
5/19	Ordination to the Priesthood, Jane Gober	Walla Walla, WA
5/20	Bishop's visit to Church of the Resurrection	Roslyn, WA
5/20 @ 5p	Celebration of New Ministry, St. Andrew's & WCEM	Spokane, WA
5/23-30	Bishop's vacation	
6/1-2	Diocesan Council	Camp Cross
6/3	Bishop's visit to Cathedral	Spokane, WA
6/10	Bishop's visit to Trinity Church	Oroville, WA
6/16	Music & Liturgy Workshop with Dent Davidson @ St. Luke's Episcopal Church	Wenatchee, WA
6/17	Bishop's visit to St. Luke's	Wenatchee, WA
6/23	Project Resource Training	Yakima, WA