



NEWS & NOTES

News and notes from the Bishop's office

September 2018

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From the Bishop's Pen

Is it still summer? I have always been someone who does not care what the official start of the various seasons are. It simply makes no sense to me, for instance, to say that winter begins on December 21st if it has been snowing for months. How can it be still be summer if school is back in session? We have the four seasons, but it is not clear to me which one, if any, of those four seasons is the "first" one. We have the school year, and for many that is the true start of a new year. Then there is Advent, the start of the Christian year. Of course, we also have the calendar celebration of New Year on January 1st. In my mind, someone other than the calendar sets the seasons. I suppose I find this all very interesting because there are so many different ways we mark the various aspects of the transitions of our year. I think it is meaningful that humans have celebrations for marking transitions, for celebrating and acknowledging the different seasons of our year and of our life.

In our normal life, we are aware that change is constantly happening around us as we move from one season to the next, from one school year to the next, one calendar year to the next. We do not simply ignore that change, that transition: we have liturgy and ritual for it. In our congregation and church life, we also have changes and transitions that take place. Some are obvious and marked with liturgy, such as our church calendar, others are less obvious, but no less important. The end of the Camp Cross summer season and the celebration with the staff as they left. The transitions in clergy or lay leadership that naturally takes place over time.

Transitions can be times of anxiety, even if they are planned and happy ones. We can lessen that anxiety by acknowledging that transitions and changes have both grief and excitement, and allow those expressions; ritually marking them as needed.

I love fall best, but I miss what I love about summer. Winter has glorious moments, but I also miss roads with no snow! Times of transition will always include times when we look back with longing on what was. At the same time, the new season brings its own delights and joys.

One common phrase in our church life is that we don't like change. Yet, we know that it is constant. When we mark our changes and transitions within our worship and fellowship life of our congregations and as a diocese, we can offer up to God our loss and give thanks to God for the new life. So whether we are talking about students heading back to school or a new vestry beginning to work, consider how we might help one another, through our prayers and liturgies, to celebrate the changing seasons of our lives.

+Gretchen

CAMP CROSS SEASON OF 2018

What an amazing, God filled, fun and joyous summer we had at Camp Cross in 2018! There were all the great camp activities of hiking, swimming, canoeing, many camper's choices, all camp games and many other experiences that were not only fun, but brought us together as a loving community centered in Jesus. We lived out our theme of Loved and Called; Listen and Respond. The program was powerful and the leadership outstanding.

Three of the things that made camp special this summer were:

Prayer Stations - The staff arranged several stations where campers could pray individually in many ways. They could write a prayer to God in chalk, paint a prayer, pray with a priest, skip a rock to let go of their burdens or just have an imaginary conversation with God. This was done mid-week each session and centered our time in prayer.

Leadership of young people - The gifts of high school aged youth were lifted up as they served as counselors or in other leadership ways. Twenty-one teens served as leaders this summer. They also led small groups as "Peer Facilitators" at Sr. High Session which was a new innovation that was not only a blessing to campers, but to the facilitators themselves. We are blessed by the leadership of our high school age people in this diocese.

Special outside staff and leaders - Several outstanding and experienced people were brought in as staff and session leaders. They brought many gifts and came away touched by the experience at Camp Cross which they are sharing with many across the country. This special group included nationally known musician Fran McKendree, musicians Barney Waterbury and Leta Woloshuk of the Urban Gypsies of Florida, Tony Walter, Madison, WI, Elaine Patrick, Formation and Children's Ministry Director, St. Petersburg, and Adam Palarine, Youth Presence Ministries. All of our Resource Teams, summer staff and counselors made a big impact on the lives of the campers and all who were with us.

We had 179 campers at the youth sessions and it was a great summer. We give thanks to our Bishop and all of you who did so much to support campers and Camp Cross. Lives were changed through the power of Christ. We are already planning for an incredible 2019 Camp Cross season. More exciting news about camp coming out soon!

Blessings on the journey,

The Rev. Dr. John Palarine
Camp Cross Director

**LOVE THY NEIGHBOR SPOKANE:
GATHERING FOR ORDINARY REVIVAL**



Across the Pacific Northwest there is an ordinary revival brewing.

Churches are moving from:

Fragmented Isolation TO Neighborhood Presence
Religious Consumerism TO Collaborative Participation
Unrecognized Privilege TO Equitable Inclusion
A Scarcity Lens TO Abundant Ecology
Toxic Charity TO Community Caring

On September 7-8, we will gather in Spokane to celebrate what God is already doing in our midst and to plot towards what is possible. We will reignite our communal imagination towards God's work in our neighborhoods and nurture the culture shift of churches and leadership as we cast a vision for the next 10 years. You will not want to miss this! This event is hosted by The Greater Northwest Conference of the UMC & Parish Collective and will include Bishop Gretchen Rehberg as a speaker. Buy tickets: <https://bit.ly/2Pn3muS>

Date and Time

Fri, Sep 7, 2018, 6:30 PM - Sat, Sep 8, 2018, 4:00 PM PDT

Location

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

HELP US SHARE OUR STORY

Everyday Episcopalians, as individuals and congregations in our diocese, are doing amazing work serving our neighbors and sharing God's love. The challenge of course is that we tend to be shy people, and so many do not know our story. Many in our communities don't even know what the Episcopal Church is, they don't know why we offer free meals, have food pantries, work on Habitat builds, volunteer at nursing homes, clean up trash, and all the many works of service that take place every day in our diocese. Many in our communities are unaware that we are a church that offers God's love to all people and believe that God's love is not limited. We need to share our stories.

Do you know someone who is good at doing just that - at writing or speaking with conviction about the good ministry happening? Do you know someone who can help write up stories that are of interest and then help get congregations get those stories onto their Facebook page, into the local paper, on the local TV station? Do you know someone who has expertise in the news business that can help us with this work? Might that person be you? If we don't tell our stories nobody else will.

What we would love to have are names of people who would be interested in helping with this work. We would like to have a diocesan team of folks who work together and share ideas for us to increase our publicity in the interest of sharing the good news of God in the work we are doing. Please contact Mallory Davis, malloryd@spokanediocese.org at Paulsen House if this is something you can help with. Thanks!

GATHERING DAYS

Our regional fall gathering day is coming up September 29, 2018 from 9:50a-3:30. Convention Delegates be aware that your presence is requested. This gathering day we do a lot of work around Diocesan Convention, including elections for regional positions on Diocesan Council.

Locations:

NW Region - St. Martin's, Moses Lake, WA

SE Region - Church of the Nativity, Lewiston, ID

SW Region - St. Timothy's, Yakima, WA

NE Region - Episcopal Church of the Resurrection, Spokane Valley, WA

BETWEEN THE RIDGES ANNUAL DINNER & AUCTION

Join us at St. Michael's Episcopal Mission on November 10, 2018 at 5:00pm for an evening of entertainment, dinner and an auction to support Between the Ridges. Tickets are \$30, please contact St. Michael's, stmichaelsyak@gmail.com, for ticket sales or the Rev. David Hacker, davidhacker916@gmail.com.

BISHOP'S VISITATION SCHEDULE RELEASED

You can find the next 18 months of the Bishop's schedule including visitations now online. Simply go to Bishop Rehberg's webpage on the diocesan website here: <http://www.spokanediocese.org/Diocese/bishop-rehberg.html>

EMPTY BOWLS FUNDRAISER



Please join us at St. John's Episcopal Cathedral for an evening of conversation, dinner, and desserts from some of Spokane's best bakeries on September 28th! Doors will open at 6:00pm and the program will begin promptly at 6:30pm. This year's theme features a conversation on Partnership with a panel of special guests including Bishop Gretchen Rehberg and Dena Carr, Executive Director of River City Youth Ops.

Follow us on facebook to learn more about the event and get the announcements of additional special guests! After our wonderful conversation and program finishes, each table will get to participate in our Dessert Dash! Local bakeries such as Sweet Frostings, 27th Heaven, Nothing Bundt Cakes, Celebration Sweet Boutique, Boots, and Rocket Bakery are donating their best deserts and tables will bid on who gets the first crack at choosing the dessert for their hearts and bellies desire.

This fun and informative evening will support Dinner Table and Breakfast Table, a community meal ministry of West Central Episcopal Mission, through 2019.

Buy Tickets Online:

Tickets are only \$25 and tables seat 8, so grab your tickets now as seating is limited and this event sells out fast! For tickets, reserving a table, or additional information, contact your church's ticket provider or buy online at Brown Paper Tickets.

Church Ticket Providers:

St. John's Cathedral - contact Ann annhharder@gmail.com 509.994.8938

St. Stephen's - contact Elaine evpitzer@aol.com 509.991.6108

St. David's - contact Kathy john-kathy4506@msn.com or 509.953.6677

St. Andrew's - contact Tracey office@standrewsspokane.org

TODAY IS THE LAST DAY FOR EARLY-BIRD DISCOUNT

In the midst of summer, it can be hard to think about an event in October, but it is not too soon to be planning for our diocesan convention! Registration is up, register now and receive an early bird discount! Registration rate increases after September 1st. So don't wait, act now! For more information about our convention please see the Bishop's invitation letter and more on the diocesan website, <http://www.spokanediocese.org>.

REGISTER HERE: https://spokanediocese.formstack.com/forms/convention_registration



Contact Us
 245 E 13th Ave
 Spokane, WA 99202-1114
 509.624.3191, Fax 509.747.0049
malloryd@spokanediocese.org
www.spokanediocese.org

BISHOP'S SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER SCHEDULE

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

Date	Itinerary Item	Location
8/30-9/4	Bishop's Vacation	
9/1	Paulsen House diocesan office closure, Labor Day	Spokane, WA
9/8 @ 6:30p	Love Thy Neighbor Spokane: Gathering for Ordinary Revival	WCEM , Spokane, WA
9/9	Closing Visit for St. Dunstan's, Grand Coulee & Bishop's visit to Methow Bishop's Chapel	Grand Coulee, WA Winthrop, Wa
9/14-9/15	Diocesan Council	IHRC, Spokane
9/16	Bishop's visit to St. James'	Cashmere, WA
9/23	Bishop's visit to St. Matthew's	Prosser, WA
9/28 from 6- 8:00p	Empty Bowls Fundraiser for West Central Episcopal Mission	Cathedral of St. John, Spokane, WA
9/29	Fall Regional Gathering Day	Various Locations
9/30	Bishop's visit to Episcopal Church of the Nativity	Lewiston, ID
10/6	Music & Liturgy Workshop @ St. James'	Pullman, WA
10/7	Bishop's visit to St. James'	Pullman, WA
10/14	Bishop's visit to Grace Church	Ellensburg
10/19-21	Diocesan Convention	Cathedral of St. John, Spokane, WA
10/23-30	Bishop's Vacation	