



# THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE *of* SPOKANE

News & Notes | July, 2026

## ARTICLE FROM THE BISHOP'S PEN

It is a delight to be home! I love sleeping in my own bed, eating meals with mom, relaxing in my chair. There is a comfort in being home, it is where I belong. While my apartment in Seattle was nice, it was a house, not a home. As I was reflecting on the difference, it occurred to me that for many who come to visit our churches this is what they are looking for – not just a house of worship, but a spiritual home, a place where they belong.

Home is where you find love, solace, comfort. Home is where you are accepted and included. Home is where you are fully known. Now, I don't want to imply that this is true for every family and every household, but if we think about a home at its ideal, this is what it means. I think that people are looking for a spiritual home, where they are fully known and loved, where they are accepted and included, where they can flourish and grow.

One challenge to the image of home is that we can become too comfortable, too set in our own ways, too used to where the furniture goes or how we do the chores. We might even become so comfortable with the familiar that we miss that the things are starting to decline, the roof that is getting old, the window that doesn't shut right anymore. Ok, I might be pushing the metaphor a bit, but no metaphor is always perfect. We might want, even need, a spiritual home but we also need to recognize that we don't just stay inside our home. It might be our "home" but not where we are called to be at all times. Our true home is always with God, and God is and can be found everywhere. Our church home must compel us out just as much as it embraces us in.

Fall is a classic time when people visit and "try out" congregations. Summer is a good time to prepare for this. Take a look at your congregation and reflect on how well it is a home and not just a house. If you were coming for the first time, would you be welcomed at the door, assisted as needed with the liturgy, invited to coffee hour by someone who will sit with you? Does your congregation clearly welcome all, and not just welcome but accept and fully include, and how would a visitor know? Does your congregation provide ways to deepen and grow in faith, and engage in the practices of Jesus? Does your congregation find ways to play together and eat together?

These are important questions at all times. Being intentional about asking them and fearless about answering will allow us to be the spiritual homes that we all seek. I invite all of us to think about how we can provide spiritual homes to the many who are spiritually homeless, and a true home to those who currently experience only a house.

Faithfully,

+Gretchen

IMPORTANT THINGS COMING!



### Ribbon Cutting

Join us at Camp Cross on August 8th to celebrate the opening of our brand new retreat center! More info and registration coming next week!



### Fall Gathering Day

Save the date for Fall Gathering Day happening on September 26th!



### DIO CON | Pasco, WA

Diocesan Convention 2026 is in Pasco, WA on October 16th - 18th. Register today to reserve your spot!

[Check It Out](#)

[Register Here](#)

[More Info Here](#)

**CANON'S CORNER**

# CAMP CROSS CABIN FURNITURE Fundraiser!

NEW CABINS. MORE WELCOME. DEEPER REST.

Our new cabins are ready—and with your help, we can fill them with comfortable, modern furniture that invites more people to experience God's love in this sacred place. *Thank you!*

PILGRIMS (\$1+)	COMPANIONS (\$100+)	WAYFINDERS (\$200+)	STEWARDS (\$500+)
Sandra Blackaby The Rev. Rachel Endicott Susan Fisher Fred Guimond The Rev. Shanna Hawks Bettina Katz The Rev. Ashley & Taylor Mather Skyler Oberst Robert Rebeck Jim Rees Rebecca Robins Ray & Nancy Rosch Linda Wharton Andy Zahl	The Rev's Linda & Adam Bartholomew Theresa Bartol MaryAnn Bennett Sandra Chubb Nicole Dietrich Vicki Gerton Craig Gunsul Janine Hales Laura Harper Peter Kahunian Jr. Martha Klaveano The Rev. John Palarine Louise Pallas The Rev. Elaine & Tom Pitzer Elizabeth Priest Dean & Catherine Ritchie St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Coeur d'Alene C. Benson Smith Bill Tubbs Andy Zahl	Pam & Dan Bernardo Theresa & Richard Brim Jennifer Casper Glenn & Vanita Davis The Rev. Dr. Peter & Kathy Kalunian Evita Krislock David Langstaff Mary McPherson Meredith Rawls St. David's Episcopal Church, Spokane Suzanne Vogt The Rev. Linda & Gia Young	Eric Kimball Pia Longinotti Nancy Luebbert Sarah Moore St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Wenatchee
WITNESSES (\$1,000+)	ANGELS (\$2,500+)	ARCHANGELS (\$5,000+)	LUMINARIES (\$10,000+)
The Cocchiarella Family Michael & Lisa Church Paul Cross Patricia Drake Alex Flannagan Dave & Sylvia Hutton Dorothy LaMastus The Rev. Nic & Krista Mather Frem & Marta Nielson Andrea Oetman Arvid Olson The Revs. Bob & Kay Totten	Colleen Knowles Campy Wampy	The Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist The Rev. Susan & Brian Cleveley Joanne & Dan Cenis	All Saints' Episcopal Church, Richland The Rt. Rev Brian & Staci Prior The Rt. Rev. Gretchen & Margaret Rehberg St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Prosser

**TOTAL RAISED: \$91,873.68** | **GOAL: \$160,000**

*Thank you for helping make Camp Cross a place of welcome, community, and transformation. ♥*

## Camp Cross Cabin Furniture Campaign Update

Cn. Alex Flannagan

Camp Cross Cabin Furniture Fundraiser is cookin! Let's keep it going!

What an incredible journey! Thanks to the generosity of individuals, families, and congregations across the Diocese of Spokane, the Camp Cross Cabin Furniture Fundraiser has now raised \$91,873.68 toward our \$160,000 goal.

That means we've surpassed the halfway mark and have less than \$70,000 left to go! Every dollar raised helps furnish

our new cabins and will ensure these spaces remain welcoming, comfortable, and accessible for generations to come. These cabins will provide a place where campers, retreat guests, and future generations can encounter God, build community, and experience the beauty of Camp Cross.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who has contributed so far. Your generosity is helping turn a vision into reality. As we move closer to our goal, we invite you to help us

keep the momentum going. Together, we can cross the finish line and fully fund this exciting project.

Thank you for investing in the future of Camp Cross!

### **Grant Announcement**

By Cn. Susan Cleveley

Congratulations to this year's Church Growth and Development Grant recipients! These grants support innovative ministries and creative outreach that strengthen congregations and help share God's love in our communities. We celebrate the exciting work these congregations are undertaking and look forward to seeing the impact of their projects.

The Church Growth and Development Grant is available annually to congregations across the Diocese of Spokane. If your church has a vision for a ministry or project that could benefit from grant funding, we encourage you to learn more and apply. Visit our website for eligibility, application information, and deadlines.

Hit the button below to celebrate the congregations that received the grant and read how they intend to bless their congregations with it!

[See The Full Article Here](#)

**HERE'S THE NEXT 3 MONTHS**

## JULY

2 - Wardens and Treasurer's Zoom Meeting

9 to 12 - Sandpoint PRIDE

27 to 31 - Hawaii Pilgrimage

## AUGUST

6 - Wardens and Treasurer's Zoom Meeting

10 to 13 - Clergy Camp Camp Cross

23 - Bishop Visit:  
Holy Trinity  
Grangeville, WA

25 - Beloved Community Zooms Continue

28 & 29 - BB;HD In-Person meeting

30 - Bishop at All Saint's Richland, WA

## SEPTEMBER

6 - Wardens and Treasurer's Zoom Meeting

11 to 13 - Music That Makes Community at Camp Cross

13 - Bishop Visit:  
St. Stephen's  
Spokane, WA

26 - Fall Gathering Day



### HAPPENING AROUND THE DIOCESE

#### Lay Leadership Retreat Recap

Lay leaders from across the Diocese of Spokane gathered June 5 - 7 for the Lay Leadership Retreat, joined by students from the Iona Preaching Class for a weekend of learning, fellowship, and spiritual renewal. The retreat provided space to rest, deepen leadership skills, and encourage one another as participants continue serving their congregations and communities. We give thanks for everyone who made this meaningful weekend possible and for the faithful leadership growing throughout our diocese.



## **PRIDE Parade 2026**

On June 13, members of the Episcopal Diocese of Spokane gathered to march together in the Spokane Pride Parade, celebrating God's inclusive love alongside thousands from across our community. It was a joyful day filled with fellowship, smiles, and a shared message that God loves you, no exceptions.



Thank you to everyone who walked, volunteered, cheered from the sidelines, and helped represent our diocese with love and welcome. Together, we celebrated the dignity and belovedness of every person and witnessed to God's love in our community.

## **Province 8: Aloha Youth Pilgrimage to Hawaii**

We are island bound! Diocese of Spokane is sending a delegation of twelve to join with over 100 pilgrims from around our Province. Our youth will in encounter native culture and liturgies, visit historic sites and even have a day at camp! You can view our itinerary and the details of the trip [HERE!](#)

Our delegation asks for your prayers during this time of discovery and discernment:

Anna, Jack, Lorelei, Julianne, Gwyneth, Leigh, Claire, Iris, Reese, Katy, Chuck, and Elaine.

