



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE *of* SPOKANE

News & Notes | August, 2026

ARTICLE FROM THE BISHOP'S PEN

I was thinking this past month about the first time I was taught the phrase “duty, honor, country.” I was taught that duty was *what* we did, honor was *how* we did it, and country was *why* we did it. So we did our duty with honor for our country. As I pondered that memory, I thought about our Christian life, and how we might consider what we do as followers of Jesus, how we do that, and why we do it and if it is possible to condense that down to three words. Of course the words “duty, honor, country” are quite expansive, so we can also use expansive words!

As I thought about it some phrases came to my mind, such as “covenant, community, Christ.” We “do,” or we live out, our baptismal covenant, we do this in community, and because of our faith in Christ. Or how about “discipleship, vulnerability, grace.” Or perhaps “love, humility, salvation.”

Perhaps it is impossible to fully capture in three words what we do, how we do it, and why we do it, as followers of Jesus, but it is a good exercise to try! This exercise allows us to think about our daily life in Christ, our day to day actions, our feelings and approach to our actions, and the reasons behind them. The exercise helps us with naming our values that guide our actions, and our approach to living our life as followers of Jesus. As Episcopalians we often say that praying shapes believing, and in our prayer book we find our baptismal covenant, our focus on daily prayer both as individuals and as communities, the centrality of the Eucharist which both names the saving act of God and unites us with that saving act, and the reality that sin exists and so we are called to name that and turn from it. Our life of worship and action can help us consider how we might come up with a phrase which captures,

even if imperfectly, our commitment to how we live as followers of Jesus with what we do, how we do it, and why.

This exercise is one that can be done by individuals, small groups, and congregations. As we finish the summer and head into fall, it might be useful for you to consider engaging in this process of finding what words speak to you, as your phrase, for following Jesus in your daily life.

Faithfully,

+Gretchen

Disaster Relief Fund

In times of crisis, we are called to be the hands and feet of Christ.

As devastating wildfires continue to impact communities across the Spokane region, burning more than 7,000 acres and destroying hundreds of homes, The Episcopal Diocese of Spokane has established a Disaster Relief Fund to support those affected.

Gifts to this fund will provide direct assistance to individuals, families, and congregations as needs arise. Whether offering emergency aid, helping communities begin the long journey of recovery, or responding to unforeseen needs, your generosity will allow us to act quickly and compassionately where help is needed most. Together, we can remind our neighbors that they are not alone.

Thank you for standing with our community during this difficult time. Every gift, no matter the size, is a tangible expression of hope, healing, and God's love.

[Donate Here](#)

IMPORTANT EVENTS COMING!



Calling All Clergy!

Join us at Camp Cross on August 10th - 13th for some rest and renewal in our brand new retreat center and cabins.

[More Info Here](#)



Fall Gathering Day

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

[More Info Here](#)



DIO CON | Pasco, WA

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

[Register Here](#)

CAMP CROSS CORNER

CAMP CROSS CABIN FURNITURE FUNDRAISER

Our new cabins create more accessible, comfortable spaces for rest, retreat, and renewal. Thank you for helping us furnish these places where faith and community thrive.

PILGRIMS (\$1+)	COMPANIONS (\$100+)	WAYFINDERS (\$200+)	STEWARDS (\$500+)
Sandra Blackaby The Rev. Rachel Endicott Susan Fisher Fred Guimond The Rev. Shanna Hawks Bettina Katz Melissa & Tim Martin The Rev. Ashley & Taylor Mather Skyler Oberst Victoria Perkis Roberta Rebeck Jim Rees Richard Walling Linda Wharton Andy Zahl	The Rev's Linda & Adam Bartholomew Theresa Bartol MaryAnn Bennett Sandra Chubb Cathy Dean Nicole Dietrich Vicki Gerton Craig Gunsul Janine Hales Peter Kahlunian Jr. Martha Klaveano Janyce Johnson David & Ann Newton The Rev. John Palarine Louise Palls The Rev. Elaine & Tom Pitzer Elizabeth Priest Rosalie Ramsden Dean & Catherine Ritchie Rebecca Robins Trinity Church, Oroville St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Coeur d'Alene C. Benson Smith Bill Tubbs Marilyn Yule Andy Zahl	Pam & Dan Bernardo Theresa & Richard Brim Jennifer Casper Glenn & Vanita Davis Episcopal Church of the Resurrection, Roslyn The Rev. Dr. Peter & Kathy Kalunian Evita Krislock David Langstaff Mary McPherson Meredith Rawls & Mike Bigelow Ray & Nancy Rosch Kathy Russel St. David's Episcopal Church, Spokane Suzanne Vogt The Rev. Linda & Gia Young	Eric Kimball Pia Longinotti Methow Episcopal Church 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 Virginia Kellog Dorothy LaMastus The Rev. Nic & Krista Mather Frem & Marta Nielson Andrea Oetman Arvid Olson The Revs. Bob & Kay Totten	Colleen Knowles Campy Wampy	The Rev. Susan & Brian Cleveley Joanne & Dan Ceniz	All Saints' Episcopal Church, Richland The Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist The Rt. Rev. Brian & Staci Prior The Rt. Rev. Gretchen & Margaret Rehberg St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Prosser St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Spokane
TOTAL RAISED: \$135,033.17			

Camp Cross Cabin Furniture Campaign Update

Cn. Alex Flannagan

It was over a year ago on the 4th of July 2025 that we gathered for the official groundbreaking of the new construction project at Camp Cross. What followed was the clearing and preparation of the site, 7 straight weeks of jack-hammering (not my favorite!), concrete foundations and walls going up, infrastructure installed, and many, many boats back and forth for people power and supplies.

Every step of the way was part grit, part prayer - countless conscious design choices large and small to honor the past and herald the future at Camp Cross. It's been hard work and an honor to partner with our contractors to bring the vision for our new cabins and retreat house to life. And now we're on the cusp of the ribbon-cutting ceremony and I'm as close to speechless as

you'll ever find me.

In the last two weeks, everything has started to come together from five new and separate buildings, into a little village. A whole space, waiting to welcome folks, connected by pathways and waiting for new wild (and planted) growth and greenery to creep back in and bind everything into the landscape. It's better than I ever could've hoped or imagined, and humbly, respectfully, as someone with just three summers under my belt here, it feels like camp.

I owe so many of you so many thanks, for your financial contributions, for your messages of support and encouragement, and for your time on the ground sharing your feedback and opinions. Thank you to everyone featured in the fundraiser graphic across all tiers, especially to: Susan and Brian Cleveley, Joanne and Dan Ceniz, All Saint's in

Richland (THANK YOU!), the Cathedral, Brian and Staci Prior, St. Matthew's in Prosser, and St. Stephen's in Spokane. My greatest thanks of all to Bishop Gretchen and her mom Margaret, whose unconditional love and support for Camp Cross and all who come here fill me with strength on the long days and in tough situations.

Camp Cross is blessed to have such a passionate and connected community and a rich history. We're cutting the ribbon and blessing the new area of camp on August 8th. Cheers to the next chapter - come out and experience it for yourself!



Queer Camp

Bring the whole family to Queer Camp, August 28-31, for a joyful weekend of connection, fun, faith, and belonging.



Labor Day Camp

Make the most of your Labor Day weekend by joining us September 4-7 for a camp full of adventure, community, and time to recharge.



Creation Care Retreat

Take time away this October 2-4 for the Creation Care Retreat, where you'll find rest, inspiration, and practical ways to care for creation as an expression of your faith.

HERE'S THE NEXT 3 MONTHS

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

3 - Wardens and Treasurer's
Zoom Meeting

5 - Theological Ethics | Iona
Collaborative Course Begins

10 - Church History | Iona
Collaborative Course Begins

11 to 13 - Music That Makes
Community at Camp Cross

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

26 - Fall Gathering Day

OCTOBER

1 - Wardens and Treasurer's
Zoom Meeting

2 to 4 - Creation Care
Retreat at Camp Cross

4 - Bishop Visit:
St. Timothy's
Yakima, WA

11 - Bishop Visit:
St. Paul's
Walla Walla, WA

25 - Bishop Visit:
St. Peter's
Pomeroy, WA

16 to 19 - Diocesan
Convention | Pasco, WA

HAPPENING AROUND THE DIOCESE

CHURCH HISTORY

Presented By The Iona Collaborative



Theological Ethics

Presented By The Iona Collaborative

