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Aurora e-Newsletter

Serving the clergy of The Episcopal Diocese of Northern California

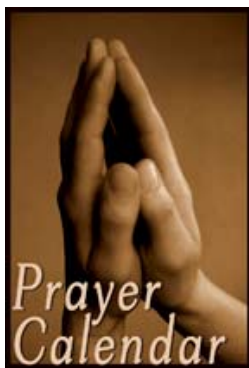
July 2012

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Celebrate!

Tue Jul 17
Carroll Morgan+ Birthday
Fri Jul 20
Linda Huggard+ Birthday

Sat Jul 21
Norman+ & Deirdre Cram's
Wedding Anniversary

Sun Jul 22
Elizabeth Whitmore+ Birthday
Dcn Trish Ross Anniversary of
Ordination

Mon Jul 23



From the Bishop...

Dear Friends in Christ:

Grace and peace to you. It is good to be home again, after twelve days away for General Convention. I trust that you have been getting all the up-to-the-minute information and analysis you may have been looking for from the combination of the Diocesan and Episcopal Church websites, and the several postings there. Our Deputation **blogged** and **posted photos** (many thanks!); **Episcopal News Service** had good continuous coverage, and the **General Convention** part of **TEC** website has a complete and detailed list of **resolutions and actions**. These-and NOT the Wall Street Journal and New York Times editorial pages-are the best sources of information about what actually happened at Indianapolis. (For a helpful correction to Ross Douthat's confused piece in the last Sunday's New York Times, see **Diana Butler Bass's response on Episcopal Cafe**. As for a response to the gross distortions, errors, and untruths cobbled together by Jay Akasie in last Friday's WSJ, see the **Bishop's Blog by Bishop Kirk Smith**, Diocese of Arizona, and the links he provides there.)

General Convention is normally a time of some very hard work, and for me, this one was particularly so, as I was the Bishop Secretary to the cognate Committee on Ministry. We were assigned over thirty resolutions on which to make recommendations to the Houses of Bishops and Deputies. For the first several days, the pressure was on to move through that portion of the list related to matters with funding implications, or needing additional review by the Committees on Constitution or on Canons. For me, that meant each morning began with a half-mile walk from the hotel to the meeting room via the Bishop's Secretariat, in time to be organized and ready for our 7:30 meeting start. Committees often met in the evening, and sometimes in the afternoon as well. Add in the House sessions, daily Eucharist, other Committee meetings with Hearings of interest, as well as other special events, and often there was hardly time for a meal before the end of the day-which often came quite late.

Some of the intense busyness of General Convention is certainly of our own making, and could be eased if we simply did not attempt to consider so many resolutions in such a format. Under our current system, any one of the many Committees, Commissions, Agencies, and Boards of TEC, or any

[Click here to view the Bishop's message in a different format.](#)

John+ & Barbara's Wedding
Anniversary

Tue Jul 24

Dcn. Stephen Shortes
Anniversary of Ordination
Saralu Methven Birthday

Wed Jul 25

Rod+ & Mary McAulay's
Wedding Anniversary
David Englund+ Birthday

Thu Jul 26

Ed Howell+ Birthday
Anne and John Mangels
Wedding Anniversary
Peggy Moore+ Birthday

Fri Jul 27

Tara Kellermann's Birthday
Jocelynn+ & Chris Hughes'
Wedding Anniversary
Anne Beatty+ Anniversary of
Ordination

Sat Jul 28

Dcn. Bob Olsen Anniversary of
Ordination

Sun Jul 29

LA King+ Anniversary of
Ordination

Mon Jul 30

Arthur AseLINE+'s Birthday
Frances Carpenter Birthday
Sally Thomas' Birthday
Kurt+ & Leighanne's Wedding
Anniversary

Tue Jul 31

Patricia Kempster+ Birthday

Thu Aug 2

Austin+ & Jane Leininger's
Wedding Anniversary

Fri Aug 3

Dan+ & Diane Williamson's
Wedding Anniversary
Ray Potter Jr. Birthday

Sat Aug 4

Maryly Adair+ Birthday
Seth Kellerman+ Birthday

Sun Aug 5

Blake Leighton Birthday

Tue Aug 7

James Young+ Birthday

Wed Aug 8

Bishop, or any Diocesan Convention, or any Deputy can submit a resolution, requiring Committee attention, and a public Hearing, and some eventual action by the two Houses (together comprising over a thousand voting members). The result is hundreds of resolutions, and many hours of work; and, as the flood of resolutions before the Houses grows, weariness increases, and time for careful consideration becomes increasingly scarce. Did I mention that we also have elections, and special reports, and addresses by honored guests? And also-in the House of Bishops, at least-small and large group discussions on matters of relationship and process and other concerns of the House, since this gathering at General Convention takes the place of our usual Fall meeting.

It may not be the best, nor only way to do the work we really need to do as a Church. To more appropriately make use of our resources, especially the invaluable resource that is the many committed, faithful, talented persons who gather in this way every three years, this way of governance must be reconsidered. We can certainly do better-and will, I pray, in the future.

Meanwhile, what did this 77th General Convention accomplish? Quite a lot, actually. Here are a few of the actions that stand out for me:

The headline-grabber in the secular press was, of course, the approval of **resolution A049**, a provisional liturgy for same-sex blessings. The practical effect in this Diocese is that a third liturgical option will be added to the two that have been available to priests in charge of our congregations since February 2010. This action will happen Advent I (December 2). At that time, I will no longer require all of the preliminary steps that have accompanied these liturgies; I will, however, still expect to receive your reflections on the actual experience of these liturgies, as this will aid the Church's work going forward. These are pastoral resolutions given to our clergy; it is up to the priest in charge of each congregation to decide if they are to be available in that church.

One accomplishment that was especially important to me as the initial proposer was the passage of **resolution B019** on peace in the Holy Land. I will have more to say about this later; for now, please remember to name the Christians of the Holy Land in your congregation each Sunday.

Resolution C095 establishes a special task force to look at reform in all levels of structure, governance, and administration, with the expectation of concrete, specific action at the next General Convention. More about that later, too.

Resolution D016 calls for the relocation (not sale) of the Episcopal Church Center, out of NYC.

Resolution D025 establishes a Development Office for TEC.

And we approved a **balanced budget for 2013-15**, based on the **Five Marks of Mission**.

I will have more to say about these things, and about many of the other actions of this General Convention soon, with special attention to those items that call for some follow-up on the part of dioceses and congregations. On the whole, it was a good Convention; exhausting, but good. I am grateful for your prayers during the past two weeks. And I am very glad to be back home in the Episcopal Diocese of Northern California!

Yours in Christ,

Dec. Dave & Dett Ferrell
 Wedding Anniversary
 Seth+ & Tara Kellermann's
 Wedding Anniversary
 Bonnie Bowers Birthday



Ps. Join me in my 2013 Pilgrimage.

Thu Aug 9
 Pat Park's Birthday

Have an anniversary to share?

Please e-mail your special date to Tamoya Brewster, tamoya@norcalepiscopal.org.

Please be sure to clarify whether this is an anniversary of birth, ordination, marriage, etc. Thank you!

News from the Office of the Bishop

Canon Britt's Sabbatical

Canon Britt begins sabbatical July 29. The practice of sabbatical for clergy has become normative over the past twenty years. Its purpose is to allow for rest, reflection, deeper learning, reconnection and renewal.

[Click here](#) to continue reading.

Clergy News & Updates

Clergy on the Move

The Rev. Joseph F. Duggan from the Diocese of Nevada has accepted the position as Priest in Charge at **St. Francis' in Fair Oaks** effective September 2, 2012.

Prayer List



Bishop Lamb is home from the hospital and General Convention after suffering a series of reportedly small strokes and is recovering. Please pray for Jane and for

his continued recovery.

[Click here](#) for more prayer requests.

Events

Adjusting the Lens of Mission

Church Divinity School of the Pacific presents an evening discussion featuring three Christian leaders: **the Very Rev. Dr. W. Mark Richardson**, President and Dean, Church Divinity School of the Pacific, **the Right Rev. Dr. Frank Griswold**, former Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, and **Dr. Mark Jordan**, professor of Humanities at Washington University, St. Louis. In recent years, Christians have been examining what the mission of the Body of Christ is in this post-Christendom world. Free and open to the public - 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, July 24

[Click here](#) to continue.

Senior Care Solutions

A free symposium for faith leaders on assisting an aging congregation and their families dealing with memory loss. September 25, 2012 9:00 am - 1:00 pm. Unitarian Universalist Society 2425 Sierra BLVD, Sacramento, CA 95825.

[Click here](#) to continue.

[Click here](#) to view the calendar.

Employment Opportunities



Healdsburg

St. Paul's, Healdsburg is receiving applicants for a full-time Priest in Charge position. The position provides full benefits and there is a rectory available. This small but thriving parish is very active in the beautiful community of Healdsburg.

It offers a Spanish-speaking worship service, traditional worship and significant outreach to those marginalized by life's circumstances. [Click here](#) to view their Ministry Portfolio. The Vestry will be interviewing candidates for **Bishop Beisner's** appointment.

Interested persons should send a resume, Ministry Portfolio and 5 references to The Rt. Rev. Barry Beisner, barry@norcalepiscopal.org. If you have any questions, please contact **Jenifer Campo**, Executive Assistant to the Bishop at 916.442.6918, ext. 213.

Vacaville

Epiphany in Vacaville, is currently looking for a full-time Rector to can guide our spiritual lives through both preaching and teaching; someone who possesses an ability to translate Jesus' command to love one another into action in our daily lives; someone who will be able to lead our congregation in partnership with the Vestry as we move forward in our ministries and programs. The Rector will be easily approachable, closely connected to parishioners, and will enable each person to discern God's call.

Interested persons may send an OTM Personal Ministry Portfolio, resume, 5 references and cover letter to **the Rev. Canon Britt Olson** at britt@norcalepiscopal.org. For questions please call 916.442.6918, ext. 214. This position is open to applicants through **July 24, 2012**.

[Click here](#) for more employment opportunities.

News In & Around Our Diocese

Apportionment Rebate

In accordance with the **Apportionment Forgiveness Guidelines Memo** posted on November 23, 2010, congregations that remain fully current on all financial obligations to the diocese at the end of the year 2012 will be eligible for an **apportionment rebate** of 2 percent.

[Click here](#) for more information.



Radical Welcome - "Pray Like You Mean It"

In her sermon at **General Convention**, the Rev. **Stephanie Spellers** challenged us once again to have a **Radical Welcome**:

...right now, here's what our legendary welcome sounds like: "The Episcopal Church Welcomes You. We're so glad you're here! Now, this is the Book of Common Prayer. Obey it. This is our musical tradition. Master it. This is our English heritage. Adopt it. This is our sense of order. Assimilate it. And the gifts from your home culture, your young culture, your lower-class culture? Would you leave them at the door and pick them up on your way out? They're not quite Episcopal enough." [Click here](#) to read the full article.

[Click here](#) for more News In & Around Our Diocese.

National & International News

- [UK Primates/Bishops Appeal to UN Regarding Iraqi Refugees](#)
- [The Five Marks of Mission: A checklist for mission](#)
- [Episcopal Church iPad Ap: Wayfarer](#)



[Click here](#) for more National & International News.

Submit an article

Submissions for the monthly Aurora Clergy

-Newsletter must be received by the second Monday of the Month.

[Click here](#) to submit an article or event.

[Click here](#) to give us feedback on the new Aurora format.

"Making Disciples, Raising Up Saints & Transforming Communities for Christ"



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