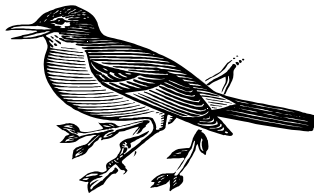


## *GOOD NEWS IN THE DIOCESE*



*Monthly Report from the Office of the Bishop  
May 2008*



### NEWS FROM REV. GINNY DOCTOR

We received word that our grant application for Gospel/Bluegrass Music Camps in three villages has been approved for funding of \$10,000. The Rev. Belle Mickelson coordinates these camps and has also set up a support organization called “Dancing with the Spirit.” Our goal is to provide this camp in every church that wants to sponsor one. It takes commitment but it is well worth it.

In years to come we hope that many of the youth who are learning will be “church musicians.” I have been involved with the camp in Tanana and have been moved to tears while watching our youth on stage playing and singing. Music builds discipline and also self-esteem. When I was in grade school we had one of the best elementary school bands in the area. I started playing the clarinet but ended up playing the saxophone, yep, just like Bill Clinton! The training I received there has been a great benefit in my ministry. I taught myself how to play the guitar and because of my knowledge of music theory I am able to “chord” just about any song. Music in our churches can draw people in; draw them closer to the word of God.

Did you know there were over 70 baptisms in our churches during The Great Vigil and on Easter Sunday? From the Arctic Coast to the Southeast, many were welcomed as being “sealed and marked Christ’s own forever.” The three churches with the highest number of baptisms during this time were:

1. St. Matthew’s, Fairbanks, Rev. Scott Fisher – 15 Baptisms
2. St. John’s in the Wilderness, Allakaket, Rev. Belle Mickelson – 11 Baptisms
3. St. George’s in the Arctic, Kotzebue, Rev. Wilfred Lane – 9 Baptisms

Please pray for the newly baptized and for those to come!

***IF YOU HAVE NOT SENT IN YOUR PAROCHIAL REPORT, PLEASE DO IT TODAY!  
IF YOU HAVE SENT IT IN, THANK YOU!***



### DEANERY REPORTS

*South Central Deanery:* The South Central Deanery met on May 3, 2008 at Meier Lake Camp, with Dean Michael Burke presiding. Most parishes were present. Reports were heard from the Standing Committee, the Bishop's Search Committee, the Commission on Ministry, the Diocese, and Women Ministry. A bylaw change was made to establish and implement "Members-at-Large" to the deanery composition. Workshops were then held in the afternoon and evening.



## BISHOP SEARCH UPDATE

*The nominations are in! As of midnight, April 30th, we closed nominations for the 8th Bishop of Alaska. It looks like we have many fine candidates, from both inside and outside Alaska. Now comes the arduous task of perusing each of the applicant packets. The look for Committee will be spending many hours filtering through material. Unfortunately, you will hear little from us during this stage. Our next major deadline is June 1st, when we will be notifying candidates if they are still under consideration for the position. We have much work ahead of us this summer and fall to be ready to announce the three finalists to the Diocese by November. Do not take our silence as a sign of slow progress; know that the Holy Spirit is working mightily amongst us! By this time next year, we will have welcomed our new Bishop into our Alaskan family.*

*Please continue to keep the Search Committee in your prayers during this next phase of our Search process!*

*Continued Blessings,  
Stacy Thorpe  
Search Committee Communication Liaison*

Post Note: Shirley Lee recently resigned as Co-Chair of the Search Committee to accept a position at the Diocese. See Diocesan Staff report below.



## DIOCESE STAFF NEWS

Shirley Lee has joined the Diocese staff as Youth Ministry Coordinator and Communications Specialist. She will be working with the Youth Commission; visiting with congregations to develop youth ministry; recruiting youth representatives for youth events; and producing the Good News newsletter and other communications. Mrs. Lee is a member of St. Matthew's in Fairbanks, where she has served on the Vestry and assisted with youth programs, including LOGOS. She and her husband, Gary, have been married for 29 years. They have six children and six grandchildren. A Postulant for Holy Orders, Mrs. Lee is enrolled in the Vancouver School of Theology at the University of British Columbia, where she is working towards a Master's of Divinity degree. Previous to joining the Diocesan Office, she was the Executive Director of the Fairbanks Native Association, a large social service non-profit.



## FAITH INTO TOMORROW (FIT) GRANTS

REMINDER! The deadline for Faith into Tomorrow (FIT) grant submissions is **June 2, 2008**. Grant funds are available for two different areas: “Caring for Victims of Poverty and Abuse” and “Encouraging Spiritual Growth and Outreach”. For more information or for application forms, please contact the Bishop’s Staff at 1-800-478-3043. Grants will be awarded in October.