

"We will significantly impact the lives of women and children because of Christ's love." That is the UTO vision statement. Toward that vision, UTO supports projects that:

*Address poverty of women and children
Address compelling human need
Demonstrate new and innovative work
Are parts of a diocesan mission strategy*

For more information about 2009 UTO grants please visit www.episcopalchurch.org.



CAMP NEWS FROM THE SOUTHEAST DEANERY

By: The Rev. Gordon Blue

There was a very fun and successful Deanery Family Camp, in Juneau, August 10-15, at the Eagle River Methodist Camp. We had ample opportunity for prayer and recreation in a beautiful site with great cabins and facilities. We had between 10 and 15 young people always in attendance (people came and went throughout). There was also a good population of adults, as well.

Participants and support came from St. Peter's - Sitka, St. John's - Ketchikan, and St. Brendan's and Holy Trinity in Juneau. Fr. Bob Stevens and St. Brendan's members made sure we had plenty to eat, with potlucks on Sunday and Thursday. Fr. George and Mtr. Hunter and the Silides family, as well as Fr. Wilson Valentine and his family, all came out too.

Thank you to all who helped us have such a good time. The second week of August 2009 has already been reserved for camp in Eagle River!



GOOD NEWS IN THE DIOCESE Monthly Report from the Office of The Bishop September 2008



DANCING WITH THE SPIRIT TRAVELS TO CANADA

By: Pete Peter

Chief James Ross invited me to bring Dancing with the Spirit to the children at the Midway Festival, August 1-4, near Fort McPherson in the Northwest Territories. This gathering is so that people can "have a good time out on the land without drugs or alcohol." I took Rion Schmidt and Beth Christman with me to teach singing and guitar, banjo, mandolin, and fiddle-- and get the kids up on stage. This was the first time a project like our Alaskan model was introduced to the Canadian children at the Midway Festival, which has been going on for 20 years.

This event really touched the children's hearts and improved their self-esteem! The great thing about coming to Tetlit Gwich'in land is that their language is the same as the Athabascan Gwich'in language of Alaska, so I understood everything they said and I could even translate their city and road signs to our group!

The travel was a long journey, (1500 miles round trip), with a few road problems, but we were able to reach Midway on the 2nd of August! The Canadian people still have all their old time traditional fiddling and dancing intact! Canadian Natives honor their dances in their own styles. Their culture at the festival was a treasure to experience! I realized how much we have forgotten and lost in these traditional dances at the Athabascan Fiddle Festival here in Fairbanks!

A Cree Nation band (MEB) Mighty Energy Band also performed. They are a Native alternative band from Yellowknife. Band members are in their teens but could play professional rock music! They now have information on Dancing with the Spirit here in Alaska.

The Anglican Canadian priest, Martin, and his wife Ruth Carroll, were amazed at our program! They said they would further investigate future relations between the United States and Canadian Native people through our Dancing with the Spirit program. (The Episcopal Church here in the the United States is part of the Anglican Communion.) We also met many tribal officials and VIPs from Dawson, Inuvik and Ft. McPherson, who thought this program is what children need throughout Canada.

Now I feel good about our former Bishop, Mark MacDonald. He is in good hands with our brothers and sisters in Canada! They are good people who have lots of respect for all people. Their food mostly comes from the land. I have never eaten traditional food like this since Venetie, Alaska. Their vast land is incredible and makes you respect Mother Nature and God. The animals are wild and everywhere. I can't wait until moose season! This expedition was a success and may others follow to unite the children of the world in the model of our program. See our website at www.dancingwiththespirit.org.

God bless!
Brother Pete



SAFE CHURCH TRAINING

By: The Rev. David Blanchett

The Diocesan office is proud to present a two and a half hour Safe Church training specifically designed for congregations, titled **Safeguarding God's Children For Parents and Congregations**. This training will be held **September 13th at Epiphany Lutheran Church** in Valdez. It will also be held **September 20th and November 15th at St. Christopher Episcopal Church in Anchorage**, beginning at 9:30a.m. Training is for ALL people in the pews. Those attending will receive a certificate of attendance.

On another note, those individuals who hold church leadership positions, work in ministries of the church, or work with children, are required by the diocese to complete both the Safeguarding God's Children For Parents and Congregations training and the Safeguarding God's Children For Ministries training, which includes a session called Making Justice. The topic under Making Justice is Preventing and Dealing with Sexual Misconduct in the Church. Please plan to attend.

Training sessions are scheduled as follows:

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| 9:30 am | Safeguarding God's Children For Parents and Congregations |
| 1:00 pm | Making Justice and Safeguarding God's Children For Ministries |
| 5:00 pm | Closing Prayer |

For further information, contact Rev. David Blanchett at revdavid@gci.net or 907 232-2821. For other safe church training information see below.



CHRIST'S CHURCH SAFE TRAINING

By: The Rev. Katherine Hunt

Safe Church Training for all adults and 16 years of age or older youth in the church has been scheduled on **October 17th from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. and October 18th from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.** We encourage all members of the parish, 16 years of age or older, to receive this training as part of our commitment for fostering a healthy church and community environment.



ST. MARY'S ASSOCIATE RECTOR OPENING

By: The Rev. Michael Burke

St. Mary's in Anchorage, Alaska has finished their profile for the newly created position of Associate Rector for Family Ministries, and has the profile posted on their website at www.Godsview.org. If you are ready for God's Next Adventure, come join us!



UNITED THANK OFFERING GRANT CHANGES

The United Thank Offering (UTO) Committee has announced changes to grant policy and criteria. UTO grant applications will be released in October.

Changes in grant policy and criteria include that only one application may be submitted by each diocese, for use within the diocese. One additional application may be submitted with a companion diocese. (The term "companion" refers to any Diocese-to-Church, Church-to-Church or Diocese-to-Diocese relationship that has a partnership in mission.)