

GOOD NEWS IN THE DIOCESE  
Monthly Report from the Office of The Bishop  
January 2009

### News from Denali Way

*By: The Rev. Ginny Doctor*

It's That Time of Year (Again). The staff at 1205 Denali Way is disappointed that we won't be seeing many of you at the Convention but we are committed to "moving along." At our last convention I told you that we would continue with the ministries implemented under +Mark and would also be looking at launching new initiatives. This HAS NOT changed!

In the spring we want to launch the Episcopal Academy for Gospel Leadership and Evangelism (EAGLE) for young adults from across the diocese. We want to have quarterly training events to begin equipping our young adults for ministry. We want to teach such courses as Church History, Old and New Testament, and Liturgy (these are just a few).

Shirley Lee will be looking for at least sixteen young adults to participate and we have already received some funding from the Roanridge Foundation and the Domestic Missionary Partnership.

Anna will continue providing pastoral care to our churches without clergy. There will be at least one training event in each of our deaneries sponsored by the Father David

Salmon School for Ministry. The school is a co-sponsor of the training to be held in the Southeast in conjunction with the deanery meeting.

The Good News will be published monthly and there will be an annual edition of the "Epiphany" coming out before the end of Epiphany. Sherrill will continue making "The Good News Songbook" for our churches that need them. Suzanne and Lynnette will maintain the financial integrity of the diocese.

These are not the only things we do, there is more. Many of you have asked, "How can I help?" My normal response is "Pray for us." But, it's that time of year. In a few days we will be mailing out our annual pledge letter and cards. I know that we are in rough, unsettling financial times but please give what you are able. It is all about doing "God's work." Not many may know this but our staff has been very Gospel driven. Much of what we do comes from that third question in Gospel Based Discipleship, "What is Jesus calling you to do." So, engage the Gospel to see what God is calling you to do.

We're in this together; we have been given much and we are thankful to all of you. But above all we "praise God from whom all blessings flow." Help us sing the doxology really loud! Thank you for your prayers and support over our past months without a bishop. We will continue to keep all of our congregations and leaders in our prayers. Happy New Year!

With Epiphany blessings,

*Ginny*

## BISHOP SEARCH UPDATE

On January 6, 2009, the Rev. Dawn Allen-Herron, President of the Standing Committee, provided an update on the Bishop Search. Thanking the Bishop Search Committee for their dedicated work to date the Standing Committee has created a Bishop Discernment Committee that will continue the search. Members of the former Search Committee were invited to participate in the newly created discernment committee. The discernment committee will work to identify other candidates to add to the one candidate identified to date. In the interim the Right Reverend Rustin Kimsey, retired Bishop of Eastern Oregon and Retired Assisting Bishop of Navajoland, as been asked to serve as the Assisting Bishop of the Diocese of Alaska. Bishop Kimsey will be making his first visit to Alaska in that capacity in February. Copies of the update letter and Bishop Kimsey's biography are available from the diocesan office or at our website – [www.episcopalak.org](http://www.episcopalak.org).

## ARCTIC COAST DEANERY MEETING SET

The Arctic Coast Deanery meeting will be held in Point Lay from February 19 to February 22, 2009. The Assisting Bishop to the diocese, Bishop Kimsey, is planning on attending along with other diocesan staff. This will be the first of the deanery meetings held this year.

## WINTER TALK 2009

Winter Talk 2009 is being hosted on the Standing Rock Nation at Prairie Knights, North Dakota. Limited to 50 participants, the Native Ministries gathering will include networking, breakout sessions and a Domestic Poverty discussion. Winter Talk will begin January 18<sup>th</sup>. Attending from Alaska will be Lorraine and Louis Pavlick, Teisha Sommers, The Ven. Anna Frank and Alicia Hill.

## DIRECTORIES

Lynette Winfrey has been working hard to update the diocesan directory. A draft of the final version is available on our website at [www.episcopalak.org](http://www.episcopalak.org) for review. The directory will be finalized the last week of January. If you want to make a correction or comment about the directory, please contact Lynette as soon as possible.

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*EPIPHANY BLESSINGS TO ALL!*

*WISE PEOPLE STILL SEEK HIM!*

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