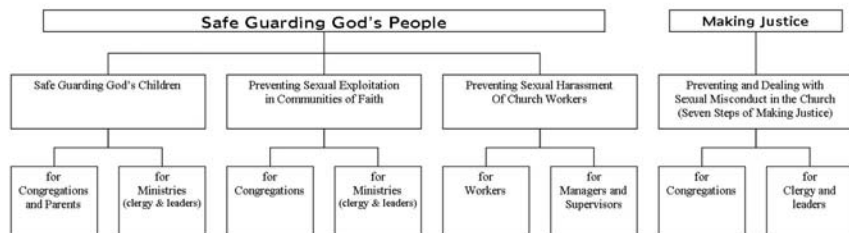


Safe Church

Revised Safe Church Training is now available. Contact Rev. David Blanchett, revdavid@gci.net to schedule classes. Below is a chart of the training and who should attend. Go to the diocesan website to view info on pdf.

Safe Church Program's Training Sessions Episcopal Diocese of Alaska



Note: Certificate of Attendance given for each session taken and after background release turned in.



Safe Church Training is required in the Episcopal Diocese of Alaska for all who engage in ministry in the church. Examples include clergy, candidates for holy orders, lay pastors, missionaries, spiritual directors, Stephen Ministers, lay Eucharistic minister, volunteers who engage in ministry in Alaska from another state, Sunday school teachers, nursery workers, child givers, weekday teachers, mentors of youth or adults, all paid employees, all managers and supervisors, those who visit the sick and shut-in regularly and others as determined by the Diocese of Alaska. All parish members age 17 and over are encourage to attend all sessions geared for Congregations as shown

PAROCHIAL REPORT AND DIOCESAN DIRECTORY

Parochial Reports are due March 1, 2009. If you need assistance please contact Lynnette Winfrey –lwinfrey@gci.net, or call her at the office.

The 2009 Diocesan Directory will be mailed out the week of February 9. Please remember that we can only make changes to addresses/telephone numbers/email addresses if you tell us.

GOOD NEWS IN THE DIOCESE

Monthly Report from the Bishop of Alaska

February 2009

A Message from Bishop Kimsey

These thoughts are for my brothers and sisters in Christ of the Diocese of Alaska . . .

You perhaps have heard that your Standing Committee and I have reached an agreement in which I will be your Assisting Bishop until an electing convention chooses the eighth Bishop of Alaska. Hopefully, for your sake, that will not be too long.

So, we do not have a lot of time to come to know one another and develop a depth of friendship we both deserve and which would please God. To do the best we can, we need to assume certain beliefs about one another. The first is that we have what we need, by grace, to do the work God gives us to do. I met with your Standing Committee and members of your Bishop's staff in the past few days, and each day we prayed and studied portions of Jesus' life via the Gospel Based Discipleship method. The insights of these persons, guardians of your future, were fresh, meaningful and helpful in our striving to map the next chapters of your diocese's life. I testify to those moments because I believe in you, the people of Alaska. If we follow such simple steps . . . praying for one another, studying Holy Scripture and striving to build quality friendships between ourselves and all who make up our lives . . . we will be well.

I am visiting the four deaneries in the months ahead, and I pray I have the good fortune to meet as many of you as possible. If you have issues you would like to discuss with me or if you would simply like to make contact with me, please do so by emailing me at rustin@gorge.net or call me on my Alaskan cell phone. Since I do not have this cell phone as of this writing, please call the office – 1-800-478-3043 for my number.

I cannot begin to express my gratitude to God for the privilege of serving with you in the coming months. You are a bell weather for the Anglican Communion in significant ways, and my heart is glad to be a part of your life in Christ. Gretchen, my wife, will join me on at least one of my visits to Alaska, and you will be truly blessed when that occurs.

Take care of one another, stay warm and be well.
Faithfully yours, Rustin, Assisting Bishop for the Diocese of Alaska

Bishop Kimsey's schedule for February

February 5	Nenana, assist with funeral
February 6	Bishop Rowe House
February 8	St. Matthew's, Fairbanks
February 10-11	Good Shepherd, Venetie
February 12	Bishop Rowe Chapel, Arctic Village
February 13	St. Timothy's, Chalkyitsik
February 14-15	St. Stephen's, Fort Yukon
February 16	Rest day in Fairbanks
February 17	St. Mark's, Nenana (evening)
February 18	St. Jude's, North Pole (evening)
February 19-22	Arctic Coast Deanery meeting, St. Alban's, Point Lay

Please pray for safe travel and good weather for Bishop Kimsey!



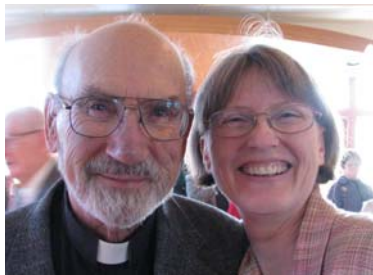
The Ven. Elijah and his wife Doris Attungana with Bishop Rusty—January 2009

[A Note from Ginny](#)

The Standing Committee recently met in Anchorage so all could attend the surprise 90th Birthday celebration for The Venerable Norman Elliott. It was good to see everyone! I jokingly told Michael Burke that he should call to order the diocesan convention! I even saw a couple of folks from Fairbanks whom I hardly ever see in Fairbanks.

In my years of ministry here in Alaska I have had the opportunity to travel a few places with Father Norm and he has always graciously consented to teach for the Father David Salmon School of Ministry. In November he taught Church History. We were able to video tape the session but I am looking for someone to edit it so we can distribute it to those who are interested. Any takers?

Father Norm has served over fifty years in the Diocese of Alaska. Father Mark Boesser and Father Norm both attended Virginia Theological Seminary. I kiddingly told Father Mark that I didn't know he was 90 years old as well. Father Mark quickly told me, "Norm is several years older than me." Both of them taught together in Fort Yukon at one of our training events. They missed their call – what comedians! Father Norm, may God continue to bless you!



Fr. Norman Elliott and Mary Parsons—January 2009

[Dancing with the Spirit](#)

The Rev. Belle Mickelson and Pete Peters will be in Hughes from February 9-14, conducting another music camp for the youth. Please pray for their safe travel! The Native Village of Hughes is paying for all of their expenses. We are thankful for Belle's ministry and her persistence in raising funds to sustain the program that is an official program of the Bishop's office.

[Developing a Parish Disaster Plan](#)

Since we are not immune from severe weather storm destruction, terrorist attacks, biological threats, nuclear dangers, wildfires, volcanoes, snow slides, tsunamis, floods, earthquakes, etc., the Episcopal Diocese of Alaska has a mandate that all its churches, missions, and centers develop a Parish Disaster Plan. "Being prepared for a disaster is an important obligation of the church body." It shows Christian love and readiness to care for our own, our community and the strangers in our midst.

A packet containing an Episcopal Diocese of Alaska training DVD titled "Developing A Parish Disaster Plan" has been mailed to the vestry of each church/mission. We are asking that all vestry members of each parish view this 8 minute DVD together and begin the process of developing your local plan.

http://www.episcopalak.org/diocesan_disaster_preparedness.htm will take you to our web page where you can view the Disaster Preparedness Manual, Risk Survey, Preparedness Checklist and other information you will need. The training film is also viewable on this site. For questions or assistance, contact Rev. David Blanchett at revdavid@pci.net or 907 232-2821.

[St. Simeon & St. Anna Nominations Due](#)

Members of the Society of St. Simeon and St. Anna are elders who have worked in the church in Alaska for at least 15 years and who follow a rule of life which includes daily prayer for the diocese. The deanery meetings are the place to bring your congregation's signed nomination forms for The Society of St. Simeon and St. Anna. We will be mailing the nomination forms to each church by February 11, 2009. The forms and a list of members can be found in the Diocesan Directory, pages 23-25 and 63 (both online and hard copy). The nominations made at the 2008 Deanery meetings still hold and we will be accepting new nominations at the 2009 Deanery meetings. Both 2008 and 2009 nominees will be inducted at the October 8-11, 2009 Diocesan Convention.

[An Update from the Standing Committee](#)

The Standing Committee is pleased to announce the appointment of the following persons to the Bishop Discernment Committee:

- Mr. Dan Hall, Southeast, Chair
- Ms. Deatrea Marciel, Southeast
- The Reverend Wilfred Lane, Arctic Coast
- Mr. Martin Oktollik, Arctic Coast
- Mr. Clarence Bolden, Interior
- Ms. Linda Demientieff, Interior
- The Reverend Ann Whitney, South Central
- Ms. Stacy Thorpe, South Central

We are grateful for the many people who indicated their willingness to serve on this committee, and we pledge our support and prayers for the work that this committee will do.