

Faith Into Tomorrow (FIT) - REMINDER:

The Faith Into Tomorrow (FIT) Endowment Fund Committee sent out application packet to congregation and clergy in February for the following 2008 grants:

Case 5 – Caring for Victims of Poverty and Abuse. - \$4,959 Examples of programs that this grant provides funding for are: food pantries, food banks, clothing, service to the homeless, shelters, soup kitchens, support of ministry to victims of substance abuse, victims of abuse, and prison ministries.

Case 6 – Encouraging Spiritual Growth and Outreach. - \$1,657 Examples of programs that this grant provides funding for are: gatherings, retreats, workshops, conferences dedicated to enhancing spirituality; travel for the purpose of sharing Christian education, music, worship, resources; or the support of media programs (TV, radio, video, etc.) to reach out to people with the Good News of the Gospel.

Applications must be postmarked no later than **June 2, 2008. ** Applications are available through the Diocesan Office by calling 1-800-478-3043. Grant awards will be in October and announced in the November “Good News” and at the Diocesan Convention, January 22-25, 2009.

2008 Diocesan Convention—January 22-25, 2009

Positions (other than Bishop) open for election/nominations:

Commission on Ministry:

Arctic Coast Lay position, Elected
Currently held by Joe Swan
Term: 3 years

Voc. Deacon – Bishop appointment
Currently held by A. Whitney
Term: 3 years

Standing Committee:

Seat #6, Southeast Lay
Currently held Barbara Learmonth
Term: 1 year remaining

Seat #7, Arctic Coast Clergy
Currently held by The Rev. Jerry Norton
Term: 2 year remaining

Seat #1, Arctic Coast Lay
Currently held by Martin Oktollik
Term: 3 years

Seat #2, Interior Clergy
Currently held by The Rev. John Holz
Term: 3 years

Seat #3, Southeast Clergy
Currently held by The Rev. Dawn Allen-Herron
Term: 3 years

Ecclesiastical Court

Seat C, Clergy
Currently Vacant
Term: 5 years

St. Simeon and St. Anna:

No longer limit
Nominated by local Congregation
affirmed by Deanery in prayer.
Crosses paid for by local
Churches/Congregations (\$25).

Youth Commission

Appointed by Bishop
One youth and One Adult who has
worked with youth.

FIT (Faith into Tomorrow)

(1) Clergy position, elected
Currently held by The Rev. Oral
Hawley
Term: 4 years

(1) Bishop Appointment position
(either clergy or lay)
Currently held by Laura Bender
Term: 4 years

GOOD NEWS IN THE DIOCESE

Monthly Report from the Bishop of Alaska

March 2008

'Tis the Season for Deanery Meetings!

The Arctic Coast Deanery meeting has already been held. Representatives from most of our Arctic Coast congregations met in Kotzebue from February 14-17. The Rt. Rev. Andrew Attaagulak was the visiting bishop. We are proud to report that they passed a resolution calling for each congregation to contribute to a deanery meeting fund to help defray costs of transportation to the meetings. This is a good example of taking responsibility for their ministry. Other Deanery meetings are scheduled as follows:

South East: April 3-5, St. Brendan's, Juneau. Bishop Rustin Kimsey retired of Oregon, will be the visiting Bishop.

Interior: April 17-19, St. Matthew's, Fairbanks. Bishop Carol Gallagher, Suffragan residing in New Jersey will be the visiting bishop.

South Central: May 2-3, Meier Lake Conference Center, Wasilla. Bishop Vincent Warner, retired of Olympia will be the visiting bishop.

Keep our deanery meetings in your prayers!

Task Force on the Suffragan Bishop

The Rev. Wilfred Lane and the Rev. Jan Hotze have agreed to co-chair the task force. This task force was set up at the convention in response to the Interior Deanery's resolution to “call for an Indigenous Suffragan Bishop. Other members include: The Rev. Bessie Titus, The Rev. Gordon Blue, The Rev. Ronald Kotrc, the Rev. Bella Jean Savino, the Rev. Marian Nickelson and the Rev. Anna Frank. The Task Force will meet in the near future.

New Members of Standing Committee

Sara Fujioka, South East Deanery, resigned recently after the birth of her premature daughter, Alexandra. When born, Alexandra weighed a little over one pound but as of February 28, Alexandra had grown to over 5lbs! Alexandra is still in Providence Hospital in Anchorage. Pursuant to the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese, The Standing Committee has appointed Barbara Learmonth from St. Brendan's, Juneau to replace Sara. Thank you Sara for all your good work and welcome Barbara.

The Rev. Enoch Adams, Kivalina, also found it necessary to resign. Enoch has two young children and is also very involved in protecting Kivalina from the great erosion problem. At the Arctic Coast Deanery meeting, the delegates unanimously recommended the Rev. Jerry Norton to replace Enoch. The Standing Committee officially appointed Jerry at their March meeting. Thank you Enoch and welcome Jerry!

[The Nauska – Salmon Episcopal Community](#)

The Nauska – Salmon Episcopal Community, formerly the Episcopal Native Fellowship, will begin a new schedule. The ministry team of The Reverends Gayle Nauska, John Hanscom, Benedict Masillem and Dave Blanchett are working on a schedule to do services the first and third Sunday of every month, 5:00pm, at their new home at St. Christopher's. The "Community" is in addition to our worship services in Anchorage. While this ministry has a Native Alaskan focus, the organizers really want to include all those who want to participate. If you have family and friends in the Anchorage area who are looking for a spiritual "charge," let them know about this opportunity to engage the Gospel and sing praises to God. Contact Gayle Nauska for more information (gnauska@gci.net, 337-2974).

[Comings and Goings](#)

The Rev. Wayne Britnell is retiring from St. Christopher's, Anchorage. His last Sunday will be March 23rd. God bless Father Wayne and family!

The Rev. Paul Smith has resigned from St. James'-the-Fisherman effective March 31. Paul will be discerning what God is calling him to do. God bless Father Paul in his journey!

The Rev. Will Crist and his wife Mary (Diocese of Los Angeles) will be visiting the Interior during Holy Week. They hope to get to Huslia.

The Rev. David Terwilliger formerly at All Saints is now at Fort Nelson in the Diocese of the Yukon.

[The Alaskan Epiphany](#)

The Alaskan Epiphany was mailed out February 28th. This is a journal of the ministry of the Diocese of Alaska. Depending on finances, we may do a summer edition. It is our practice to only have the cover printed in color. If you want to see a color copy, please visit our web site episcopal.org.

[Search Committee Update](#)

What an exciting time we enter into; our Diocesan Profile finished, our web-page fully functional and our hearts open to entering the process to follow God's Will in finding our next Bishop. If you haven't had a chance to check out our newly updated web-page, be sure to check it out at: www.alaskabishopsearch.org

In the short time June until February, the Search Committee has done some phenomenal work. Coming together as strangers, we soon became family. By holding many local gatherings and talking circles within communities across our State, we have identified many of the hopes, dreams and desires of our Diocese. We were able to compile them into one incredible Profile, beautifully expressing the blessings and challenges of our Diocese, offering a candid peek at our true essence. (A printed copy of this Profile will be mailed out to each of the Episcopal congregations within our Diocese.) Our faithful friend and consultant, Betsy Greenman, of the Diocese of Olympia, has been invaluable as our consultant, guiding us through the process and serving as deployment officer for the National Church as we move forward in opening our Call to the wider communion.

It is now that we move into the next phase of our Search. We open our hearts and minds to listen carefully to whom God has called to lead us. The nomination and application processes are now open through April 30th, both locally and nationally. Interested persons are encouraged to enter into this discernment process with us to explore God's Call. Forms for nomination and application can be found on our webpage, www.alaskabishopsearch.org

Please continue to keep the Search Committee in your prayers. Looking forward to this next step of our journey together,

Stacy Thorpe
Search Committee Communication Liaison

[Report from the Standing Committee](#)

The Great Silence

We are now in the liturgical countdown towards the Great Vigil of Easter and it made me think of the great silence we have now entered with regard to our search process as we continue to seek God's will for the person who will be the next Bishop of Alaska. .

I'm sure all of you know by now that we are in the middle of the process in our search for our next Bishop. The Standing Committee, Search Committee, and Transition Committee have been working hard to make sure everyone knows what is going on and where we are at in the process. In fact, the Search Committee has established a web site in an attempt to keep everyone informed. You can access it at: <http://www.alaskabishopsearch.org/>

We have now moved to that part of the search when nominations are being received and scrutinized by the Search Committee. This is a time when, unless you are on the Search Committee, you will not know very much about what is going on. The names of the nominees remain confidential as our Search Committee prayerfully reviews nominations, applications, resumes, recommendations and a veritable avalanche of paperwork while discerning God's direction in recommending nominees for our next Bishop.

This can be a time when people get very frustrated, because while a lot of work is being done, not much information will be provided. We are entering a great silence until the culmination of the work of the Search Committee in November of this year when the names of the nominees will be announced. We will need to exhibit patience and trust in the working of the Holy Spirit during this process. The Standing Committee encourages you to join us in holding up the members of the Search Committee in prayer during this important phase of our search process.

Robert Thomas+
Vice-President, Standing Committee