

GOOD NEWS IN THE DIOCESE

Monthly Report from the Office of The Bishop
July 2009

REMEMBERING KARL "BILL" CASWELL...

Former Meier Lake Board member Karl "Bill" Caswell passed away July 7, 2009. Bill was a member of St. Bartholomew's in Palmer since 1977. Many Episcopalians around the state, young and old, will remember his service at Meier Lake, cooking, baking and doing whatever needed to be done. He is survived by his wife of 33 years, Susan and five children and stepchildren.

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH GENERAL CONVENTION

The 76th General Convention was held July 8–17, 2009 in Anaheim, California. Deputies from the Diocese of Alaska included The Reverends David Blanchett, Michael Burke, David Elsensohn and Bessie Titus. Lay deputies attending were Clarence Bolden, Mary Margaret Davis, Rebecca Snow and Stacy Thorpe. Also in attendance were Assisting Bishop Rustin Kimsey and the Reverend Canon Ginny Doctor. Others from Alaska also traveled there as well. Reports will be forthcoming in the August Good News.

DIOCESAN CONVENTION PLANNING

The Standing Committee, diocesan staff and Assisting Bishop Kimsey have begun planning for the upcoming 34th Diocesan Convention, which will be held at St. Mary's in Anchorage. **Finding and Sharing Our Old and New Treasures**, from Matthew 12:52, is the convention theme. In keeping with the theme we are asking for your help. We would like to put together a PowerPoint presentation of ministries and stories of the life of our congregations, especially new exciting ministry that you are willing to share. We need pictures and captions for the slides that will explain your ministry so that we can share them with the whole body. Please send your pictures and captions/ brief summary electronically, if possible, to Lynnette Winfrey at lwinfrey@gci.net, or if you only have hard copy please mail to Lynnette's attention at 1205 Denali Way, Fairbanks AK 99701.

Registration material has been mailed.

DANCING WITH THE SPIRIT UPDATE

By: Rev. Belle Mickelson

Happy Summer! I'm just back from helping chaperone Tanana kids attending the Bearfoot Bluegrass Camp for Kids in Fairbanks. Besides learning lots of tunes, being in bands, and square dancing—the kids toured the Calypso Organic Farm and got to hold the baby sheep. That same week, Pete Peter was teaching music up in Chalkyitsik at the Rev. David Salmon Arts and Culture Gathering with Virgil Titus, John Christian, Walter Newman, Albert Gilbert, Jr., and Chester Fields. Earlier, Pete went up to Arctic Village to help teach music with the Rev. Trimble Gilbert, Walter Newman, and Albert Gilbert, Sr. at the Gwitch'in Gathering. Now Pete Peter and his son Lewis are teaching music and vacation bible school in Navajoland with the Rev. Duncan Burns and his youth group from Kingston, New York.

The first week in June, we did a kids' music camp at St. Matthews Episcopal Church in Fairbanks for 45 Yukon River flood victims and their friends. We are now raising money to do a summer camp in Eagle, the community most impacted by the Yukon River Flooding this spring. Check out: www.dancingwiththespirit.org.

We are also happy to report that the Bearfoot Band's new CD, "Doors and Windows," was listed as Number 1 on Billboard Magazine's Bluegrass Charts in mid-May. This Alaskan band www.bearfootband.com came out of the Cordova 4H Music Camp 10 years ago when they were 14-17 years old.

We are so grateful for your continuing prayers and support. Masik 'cho and Ana basee! Contributions may be sent to the diocesan office.

Love and blessings, Belle

