

**Monthly Report from the Office of The Bishop  
October 2008**



**UTO IN-GATHERING**

*By: Winnie Nowak, Diocesan UTO Coordinator*

In-gathering is quite a bit later this year due to re-organization and late mailing from the head office! November 7th is our set date and I would be most grateful if you could get your check or money order to me by December 1<sup>st</sup>, so that I can mail our final check to headquarters before the end of the year.

There is a change in the new Grant Application form; each Diocese may now only submit one Grant request. If you are thinking of applying please contact the Diocesan office. You may also access information from the UTO website at [www.episcopalchurch.org/uto](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/uto).

Our Diocese was not the recipient of a grant this year, although we did submit two requests. In August I sent in a check for \$6,076.76, this was Spring In-gathering and some late 2007 fall.

I stopped in to see the new Church in Homer, St Augustine's; they have done a fine job with the grant they received last year. Thank you all for being a part of this ministry, don't forget to see that checks are made out to: UTO, Diocese of Alaska, but please mail to me at 207 W. 22nd Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska, 99503.

Peace and Blessings.

**SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE**

*By: Stacy Thorpe*

In September, as a final step of the discernment process, committee members went to visit the finalists in their home environments. These visits were very informative and enlightening. The weekend of October 3-5, the Search Committee met in Anchorage for it's final working retreat of our Search process. We met at a bed and breakfast in the lower hillside of Anchorage, eliminating outside distractions, enabling us to fully focus on our task at hand. Our time together was spent discussing the candidate visits, and prayerfully creating our final slate to present to the Standing Committee on October 19th.

We also finalized the Petition Process, which will open October 20, through our webpage (found through the Diocesan web page link). Our final item of business was to create a DRAFT schedule for the candidate "Fly-about" in January. We have created a schedule, which will allow them to get a good taste of each of our four deaneries (in the heart of winter)!

We are in the homestretch folks! By the Grace of God, we have persevered as a Diocese. In a short three months, we will be sheep in a shepherd's fold. Until then, please continue to keep your Search and Transition Committees in your prayers.

*Updated Search Timeline*

October 20	Announcement of Candidates to Diocese Petition process opens (October 20 – November 14). Information to be found on Bishop Search Website
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- November 14 All Petitioner packets MUST BE RECEIVED BY MIDNIGHT  
Petitioner background checks underway
- December 1 Nominee information DVD's sent out to Congregations
- January 2 – 12 Candidate Fly-Abouts with Search Committee escort/liaison
- January 22 – 25 Electing Convention, St. Mary's Anchorage
- March-April Transition of new Bishop.
- April 18 Consecration VIII Bishop of Alaska – in Anchorage (Please note **date change due to scheduling conflict of presiding bishop.**)**



**FR. SALMON SCHOOL OF MINISTRY**

The Father David Salmon School of Ministry will be holding an Interior "Almost" Winter School session on November 21-22, 2008 at St. Matthew's Church in Fairbanks.

The schedule for the session is as follows, with lunches provided each day:

11/21, 9 am – 5 pm, Church History with the Ven. Norman Elliott

11/22, 9 am – 5 pm, Bible Teaching on the Book of Hebrews, Peter Newton

If you are interested in attending please contact the Rev. Ginny Doctor at the Diocese, 907-452-3040 or 1-800-478-3043. Please note that we are not able to provide help with housing.



**CONVENTION IS COMING!**

The 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of The Episcopal Diocese of Alaska is to be held at St. Mary's in Anchorage, January 22-25, 2009. The theme is "**Finding and Sharing Our Old and New Treasures**", (**Matthew 13:52**). Election of our new Bishop will be at the upcoming convention. *Our hope is to have at least one delegate from each congregation!* Check your mail – Registration Forms will be mailed by October 17. *The deadline for Pre-Filed Resolutions is November 23, 2008.* Pre-filed resolutions can be mailed to the Episcopal Diocese of Alaska, 1205 Denali Way, Fairbanks, AK 99701, Attn: Convention Secretary – Pre-filed Resolution **or** faxed to (907) 456-6552 Attn: Convention Secretary – Pre-filed Resolution **or** emailed to [alaskcopalian@gci.net](mailto:alaskcopalian@gci.net), noting pre-filed resolution in subject box. The Clergy Conference is scheduled for January 21 – January 22 – details to follow. Check out the diocesan web-site [www.episcopalak.org](http://www.episcopalak.org) for updates and on-line registration.