
The Messenger

All Saints Episcopal Church, East Lansing, MI

July/August 2008

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Anglicans in the news

By **KIT CARLSON**, All Saints Rector

This summer is liable to be as interesting, media-coverage-wise, for us, as was the summer of 2003, when Gene Robinson's election as bishop of New Hampshire was confirmed by the General Convention. There are a number of things going on in the wider world and the wider church that may draw the attention of national and international media.

Your friends and colleagues are likely to become aware, once again, that there is such a thing as the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion, and you may get that curious inquiry: "You're an Episcopalian, aren't you? What is going on in your church anyway?" Here's some background to try to help you understand what is going on this summer.

The main event liable to get media coverage is the Lambeth Conference, to be held in July, beginning officially on July 16. This is a conference convened by the Archbishop of Canterbury every ten years for the bishops of the Anglican Communion. More than 800 bishops are invited solely at the Archbishop's discretion to come to England for two

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weeks of fellowship, study, conversation and of course, tea with the Queen. The last Lambeth Conference, held in 1998, had a more legislative bent, although Lambeth itself is not a legislative body or gathering.

This summer's conference is planned to promote discussion among the bishops of the Communion and to avoid a legislative approach. However, there is still a deal of controversy surrounding the gathering, and some of the key issues are:

1.) Who's in and who's out? Bishop Robinson was not invited, although he plans to be in England and be available for conversation in the "Marketplace," the area of displays and events outside the conference. Also not invited was Martin Minns, a former Episcopal priest who was ordained a bishop for the Convocation of Anglicans in North America, a program under the Archbishop of Nigeria that seeks to bring Episcopal churches out of The Episcopal Church in the United States, and into another confederation of Anglican churches that are not bound by geographical dioceses.

2.) Who's coming and who's not coming? While 880 bishops were invited, a group of bishops have stated that they will not attend Lambeth. This includes five of the 38 Primates (or heads of national churches, generally archbishops, although our Presiding Bishop is also a Primate) in the Anglican Communion, representing the provinces of Nigeria, Uganda, the Southern Cone, Kenya and Rwanda. Also the bishops of Sydney, Australia, under Archbishop Peter Jensen, have said they will not attend. There is an "alternative" gathering planned by these folks in June in Jerusalem, called GAFCON (Global Anglican Future Conference). Some of the worldwide bishops will attend both conferences. Others have abandoned Lambeth entirely.

3.) What's going to happen there? Well, it's all very private and the media will not be allowed into the sessions. The official conference begins with a two-day spiritual retreat. The daily program for the next two weeks features Bible study in groups of eight bishops, a wider-ranging discussion time in groups of 40 bishops, and self-select workshops and presentations in the afternoons. Each day has a theme, related to "Bishops and ...," including Bishops and Mission, Bishops and the Bible, Bishops and Social Injustice, Bishops and Evangelism. There will be a day in London and tea with the Queen. (It wouldn't be Lambeth without tea with the Queen.)

4.) So what's the fuss all about then? The fuss centers around a seemingly inevitable split of some sort in the worldwide Anglican Communion. The presenting problems are the ones we all hear about -- gay clergy, gay bishops, gay marriage, women clergy, women bishops -- the things that the media love to focus on because they have to do with sex and gender. The deeper problems lie in the expectations and convictions of a wide range of Anglicans with a wide range of opinions on Biblical authority, bishops' authority and congregations' authority. Because we can't agree on what authority is binding, we can't agree on how to go forward on any number of these issues. And the fights are really over who gets to SAY what is right or not right for the Anglican Communion. Who gets the authority? Who will have the power?

This is a really complicated question that has been under discussion for decades now. We have gone through Virginia Reports and Windsor Reports, and now a number of drafts for a proposed Anglican Covenant, which would spell out in some detail how we are all to be connected to each other, who is in charge, and how different churches or

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provinces could be kicked out of the Communion. There is more discussion on these issues floating around out there on the internet than anyone would ever really want to read. But if it's of interest to you, I suggest you Google Anglican Covenant, and be prepared to read a lot of hyperbole, vitriol, bitterness and chest-thumping from voices across the Communion.

The last two days of Lambeth will include discussion on the proposed Covenant. This will probably be the thing the media will try to focus on. I have no idea how the discussion will go; certainly the bishops of the Anglican Communion are not the only ones who can approve and implement a Covenant. (There's that question again: Who has authority? Who has power?). American Episcopalians have a good bit of hesitation over the Covenant as it is currently worded, because it seems to end up focusing on how to kick churches out of the Anglican Communion.

Currently the Anglican Communion is a "gentleman's club." Membership in it is simply a result of the Archbishop of Canterbury's decision to be "in communion" with an Anglican/Episcopal province or national church (he doesn't pick and choose individual churches or dioceses ... yet. He only relates to large, national or international bodies.). How that changes, if it changes, won't happen in one summer.

I think ...

I hope this is helpful as you get the media's always-incomplete and never-comprehensive picture of our goings-on this summer.

In Christ's love,

-- Kit

‘Knitting for others is a joy’

Summer lounging, travel, or sun worshipping are great times to knit or crochet something quick and easy. Knitting for others who really need a hat or mittens for warmth is a joy. Here is a short list suggested by Outreach and Shawl Knitters:

- 1) Five-and-a-half-inch squares of machine washable Mission Falls 1824 wool to make into afghans for local young adults transitioning from foster care to their own apartments. Knit any color or stitch pattern.
- 2) If you have odd bits of machine washable yarn, consider making 7-by-9-inch rectangles for Warm up America, an organization that donates afghans to the homeless.
- 3) Mittens and hats for preschoolers will be collected by Outreach in October for a Lansing area Head Start program.
- 4) Newborn caps and clothing collection for the Christ Child is an All Saints Epiphany tradition. The Infant Needs Bank at Christian Services especially appreciates handmade gifts for babies in our area.

Yarn and patterns for these projects available in the undercroft coat area. Have a relaxing and creative summer!

Re-leathering of organ is under way

The organ is now under construction until July 16. As many of you know, we are re-leathering the instrument at a great cost.

This is like a lung transplant for the instrument. While we are without the organ, we will be using the piano at the front of the church.

This should be the last of the major work needed on the instrument. If an organ is properly and regularly maintained, it should last a lifetime or

more. However, there are always little things and tuning.

Usually, one big tuning a year will suffice, along with several “touch-ups” for the reeds (like the trumpets). The reeds are very sensitive about the temperature and weather changes.

So let’s keep up good maintenance work and keep our fingers crossed for the next 50 years.

-- **MICHAEL CROUCH**,
Minister of Music

Calling All Newcomers ‘Come and Be Fed’

If you are new or you feel new to All Saints, please join us on Sunday, July 13, to “Come and Be Fed.” We will meet immediately after the service in the lounge. There will be delicious snacks and a chance to ask Pastor Kit any questions you may have about All Saints or the Episcopal Church. We will also offer a tour of the building to anyone who’s interested. Please join us in welcoming you.

The Welcoming Committee

FORE!!!

All Saints Golf Scramble planned for Sept. 14

Plans are under way for the 11th annual All Saints Golf Scramble.

The date is Sept. 14. The event is open to all golfers -- young, old, male, female, pros and duffers -- the more, the merrier.

Family and friends are invited to join the golfers at a potluck after the driving,

chipping and putting. More details will be announced in August.

If folks would like to have a simultaneous Putt-Putt scramble while the “real” golfers are golfing, that will be arranged as well.

We can all share a potluck together at the end.

Standin' in the need of prayer

We all know people in great need. Maybe there's an illness or crisis in the family, maybe they need a job, maybe they've lost a loved one, maybe they're just having a really tough time. And so often there is so little we can do for them.

But we can pray. The ministry of intercessory prayer, praying for other people, is something anyone can do, and it can be done at any time and at any place. We can take all those people and problems that are carried in our hearts, and lift them up into the presence of God and invite God's healing and blessing into these troubled situations.

There are several ways at All Saints to offer prayers or to ask for prayers for yourself or for someone you are concerned about. First and foremost is to pray yourself ... at home, in the car, during the Prayers of the People in church.

You also can have private prayer with a prayer minister after the 10 a.m. service each Sunday. These are members of All Saints who feel called to the ministry of prayer. Each Sunday, someone is in the chapel immediately after the 10 a.m. service to pray with anyone who has something on their

mind. Also, these people pray over the prayer cards that you can fill out and drop in the prayer bowl at the back of the sanctuary. After service, just duck into the chapel and you will find someone ready to join you in prayer.

Which leads me to the other ways to offer prayer -- by filling out a prayer card to drop in the bowl for the prayer minister of the day to offer, or by filling out one of the purple forms on the same table. The purple form is a chance to ask to be on the Sunday prayer list -- which is generally for prayers for members of All Saints who are sick or in some life situation that needs prayer -- or on the prayer chain. The prayer chain is a larger list of family members, friends, co-workers, and others that you would like prayers for. The prayer chain is prayed by All Saints members who maintain the discipline of daily prayer and also the discipline of confidentiality.

And finally, whenever you share your burdens or concerns with me, know that I pray for you in my own prayer time and keep you in my thoughts. It is an important part of my own ministry here to share your joys and sorrows with you and with our Lord.

+ Pastor Kit

Yes, All Saints can field a softball team

The following Children of God stepped to the plate and took a swing during the softball game at the June 22 parish picnic at Patriarche Park:

Jim Lynch, Carrie Burgess, Louie Burgess, Emily Lynch, Matt Lynch, Greg Veltema, Carol Wheeler, Nicolas Gisholt, Matt Helm, Ben Staszewski, Glen Staszewski, Eileen Marshall, Val Smith, Martha Lynch, Wendy Hedeem, Dan Chegwiddden, Marija Miklavcic, Sue Hoppe, Claudia Miklavcic, Nathan Titus, Will Miklavcic, Peter Miklavcic, Caden Helm.

Thanks for a great game. Everyone won!

- GREG VELTEMA, Super Organizer



Mariachis returning for Día de los Muertos

Mariachi Nuevo Zapopan, the group that performed at last fall's Day of the Dead celebration, is available for our second annual presentation on Nov. 1, according to Bob Dalton, a member of the planning committee.

This year's celebration will again be held in the undercroft.

Initial plans call for live music and dance, traditional Mexican food and drink and an altar for flowers and mementos of departed loved ones.

Last year's celebration drew more than 250 people.

The planning committee's next meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. July 17 in the lounge.

Volunteer opportunities will be offered, along with projects in advance for all ages.

Anyone is welcome to attend planning sessions.

For more information, contact Vic or Ellen at vrbjrmk@aol.com or 351-9908.

Parish Life July/August Events

We've got a date with the **Lugnuts** at 2:05 p.m. Aug. 10. It's part of Family Christian Day. A free concert will follow the last pitch. Children will have a chance to run the bases while the stage is set. Reserved seats are \$8. A signup sheet is on the Parish Life bulletin board outside the undercroft. **Bob Kilbridge** will answer your questions.

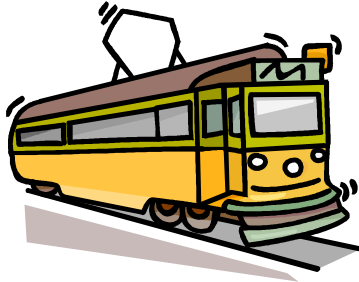


The **August Coffeehouse** will begin at 5 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 23, at the farm home of Dan Crane and Gail Shafer-Crane. The first edition of this outdoor music and food fest was a huge success, and we want to be sure everyone can do the things they want to do, such as see the horses and antique cars, go on a hayride or sit at the campfire. A potluck meal will replace the usual coffeehouse snacks. Maps, a list of things to bring and more information will be available as the date gets closer. Watch the Web site and upcoming Sunday bulletins.

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Thoughts at large on a summer day

1. Vacations give us a chance to attend services in other churches. Several come to my mind primarily because of how welcome I felt or something special about the service or the church itself. We've got great music, superb sermons and delightful people. What else is unique about All Saints? What impression do we give our visitors? How can we make it better?



2. Weaning ourselves of the automobile is a challenge, especially for those of us who started driving in the '50s and '60s. Our dependency was assured as streetcars and interurbans were eliminated, the interstate highway system built and intercity bus and passenger train service drastically scaled back. It's hard to imagine the days of getting around by horseback or wagon on unpaved paths and traveling by rail, boat or canoe, but many are thinking about "bundling" our errands, as we did in the 1800s and early 1900s.

3. If I were a roller skater, I'd be tempted to try my skills on our freshly resurfaced parking lot. It seems like the whole surface was done and relined overnight. But something more my speed might be making a corner of the lot into a prayer labyrinth. If our Day of the Dead celebration gets bigger, is the lot a good place for a big tent?

4. Sarah's sermon June 15 touched on turning unexpected delays or changes, such as being stranded somewhere in Africa, into memorable opportunities. Any one of these occasions can be turned into an adventure. It happened to me in Tennessee when a water pump on a station wagon went out on a trip to Florida with my wife and five young children. During the repair time, we used a loaner car to visit beautiful waterfalls we'd have never seen from the freeway.

5. I wonder if "forum" sounds too formal or "writers" too restrictive. Despite its name, I hope more of you will begin attending the East Lansing Writers Forum. We're taking a sort of summer break, with one session scheduled on July 20 and another on Aug. 17, both at 2 p.m., in the church library. Weekly sessions will resume Sept. 7. The forum is open to everyone, whether you've written something or not. Listeners are welcome and appreciated. And it's free.

– **VIC RAUCH**, Messenger Editor

Children to share in God's Big Backyard

All Saints' Vacation Bible School, God's Big Backyard, will begin with a simple meal at 5 p.m. Monday, July 7. Activities, including crafts, games, and skits, are scheduled from 5:45 to 8:15 p.m. The program continues each evening through July 10. Some of the songs from the week will be shared at the 10 a.m. service on Sunday, July 13.

For more information, contact children and youth ministry director Sheila Wiitala at allsaintssheila@hotmail.com

Also, Sheila is planning get-togethers for families with young children from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, July 23, and Wednesday, Aug. 6. Families are to bring a dish to pass. Special activities are planned for after the meal.

AUGUST 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 1 p.m. Duplicate bridge Sandy away Pat W. away	2 10 a.m. Advent House Sandy away Pat W. away
3 8 a.m. Holy Eucharist 9 a.m. Adult Bible Study 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist 5 p.m. Canterbury MSU Sandy away Pat W. away	4 9:15 a.m. Staff Mtg. 7 p.m. Prayer/ Study group 7:30 p.m. AA Pat W. away	5 6 a.m. Elections 12:15 p.m. Bible Study 7 p.m. Sine Nomine 7:30 p.m. AA Pat W. away	6 5:30 p.m. Family Night Pat W. away	7 7 a.m. Holy Eucharist with breakfast following 6:30 p.m. ACLU 7:30 ACOA 8 p.m. AlAnon Pat W. away	8 1 p.m. Duplicate Bridge Pat W. away	9 Pat W. away
10 August birthday recognition 8 a.m. Holy Eucharist 9 a.m. Adult Bible Study 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist Middle School Car Wash 5 p.m. Canterbury MSU Pat W. away	11 9:15 a.m. Staff Mtg. 12 noon MRC 7 p.m. Prayer/ Study group 7:30 p.m. AA	12 12:15 p.m. Bible Study 7 p.m. ECW 7 p.m. Sine Nomine 7:30 p.m. AA	13	14 7 a.m. Holy Eucharist with breakfast following 6 p.m. Outreach 7:30 ACOA 8 p.m. AlAnon	15 Messenger deadline 1 p.m. Duplicate Bridge	16 9:30 a.m. Shawl Knitters
17 8 a.m. Holy Eucharist 9 a.m. Adult Bible Study 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist 2 p.m. Writers Forum 5 p.m. Canterbury MSU	18 9:15 a.m. Staff Mtg. 7 p.m. Prayer/ Study group 7:30 p.m. AA	19 8 a.m. Men's breakfast, Coral Gables 12: 15 p.m. Bible Study 7 p.m. Sine Nomine 7:30 p.m. AA	20 7:30 p.m. CMSU Board	21 7 a.m. Holy Eucharist with breakfast following 7:30 ACOA 8 p.m. AlAnon	22 1 p.m. Duplicate Bridge	23 5 p.m. Coffeehouse/ Potluck at Shafer-Crane home
24 8 a.m. Holy Eucharist 9 a.m. Adult Bible Study 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist 5 p.m. Canterbury MSU	25 9:15 a.m. Staff Mtg. 7 p.m. CCFC 7 p.m. Prayer/ Study group 7:30 p.m. AA	26 Loaves and Fishes 12: 15 p.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Quilters 7 p.m. Vestry/ Parish Council 7 p.m. Sine Nomine 7:30 p.m. AA	27	28 7 a.m. Holy Eucharist with breakfast following 7:30 ACOA 8 p.m. AlAnon	29 1 p.m. Duplicate Bridge	30
31 8 a.m. Holy Eucharist 9 a.m. Adult Bible Study 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist 5 p.m. Canterbury MSU						

AA = Alcoholics Anonymous

ACOA = Adult Children of Alcoholics

AlAnon = Family and Friends of Alcoholics

MRC = Michigan Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice

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