

IDAHO IDYLL* - MARCH 2006

**Idyll: A simple descriptive work in poetry or prose that deals with rustic life or pastoral scenes or suggests a mood of peace and contentment.*

AROUND THE DIOCESE

- With **St. John's, American Falls** and **Trinity, Gooding** putting the pressure on with their early submittal, 12 additional parishes have gotten their parochial reports in before (or shortly after) the March 1 deadline. The bar has been raised for those 16 parishes yet to be heard from. We have faith, though.
- Speaking of raising the bar, **St. Paul's, Blackfoot**, is at it again. With their recent \$1,500 contribution for the Clean Water Fund for the Children's Home in Meru, Kenya, they are issuing a friendly challenge to all parishes to consider a donation of \$1,500 (or more) toward the fund within the next six months. *(For additional details, see Kit Bainbridge's article below.)*
- **St. Michael's, Boise**, has a Lenten "priest in residence." As one of their Lenten offerings, The Rev. John Smylie will present a workshop, "Grace for Today", at the Cathedral on Saturday, March 25. This one-day workshop seeks to open the participant to God's grace found in ordinary moments of daily life. You can check out the Cathedral website at www.stmichaelscathedral.org for additional information about this workshop and Father Smylie.
- Six young people from **Ascension, Twin Falls** (along with their two chaperones) headed off on their Senior High Mission Trip to Gulfport, Mississippi on March 18 to lend their hands to the recovery effort in that town. They will be there for a week, returning on March 23. For those few days, they will be the "Heart and Hands of Jesus" in Gulfport.
- **Holy Week at Calvary, Jerome:** You are invited to join the Episcopal community in Jerome for prayer and meditation during Holy Week. Services will be held at Calvary Church each evening at 7:00pm, April 9th through 15th. Various clergy and friends from around the deanery are being invited to offer a short meditation. The week will conclude with an Easter vigil service April 15th at 7:00pm. The church will be open at 6:30 for prayer and meditation.

DIOCESE HAS NEW ADMINISTRATOR

Jeanne Thomas has accepted the position of Diocesan administrator, effective March 6. She is currently working with Ruth Bassett to soak up the accounting part of her position before Ruth ends her tenure on March 31. Says Jeannie, "I believe that a good part of communication depends on relationship and I clearly intend to spend time and energy getting to know the diocese, its finances and its people." Check out the April *Messenger* for a more in-depth picture of the gifts and talents that Jeanne will bring to this position.

GOOD NEWS/BAD NEWS - Update on the Meru Bore Hole Project

At last fall's Diocesan Convention, we unanimously passed a resolution to raise funds for an orphanage in Meru, Kenya, for a bore hole (well) and plumbing for water to meet their health and sanitation needs, and to support their work toward financial self-sufficiency with a dairy and grist mill. The total cost of the project is \$45,000. The GOOD NEWS is that, to date, nine congregations (Burley, Rupert, Caldwell, Payette, Blackfoot, Boise [St. Michael's], Idaho Falls and Mt. Home) and several individuals have given more than \$23,000 toward our goal. While participation in this project is voluntary, it is evident that if the remaining 21 congregations

participate, we will reach our goal. The BAD NEWS is that Northeast Kenya is in the midst of a severe drought, and while it has not yet impacted Meru, it draws ever nearer as the rain refuses to fall. The sooner we can complete this project, the safer the children will be from the threat of drought.

Can your congregation lend a hand in this diocesan project? Use your imagination and see what you can do together to help a worthy outreach effort succeed. You won't be sorry, and others will benefit for many years to come by your generosity. -- Kit Bainbridge

NEXT STEP FORWARD: A CONVERSATION ON LATINO MINISTRY

Mark your calendars for April 28 & 29 for a conversation about ministry with and among the Latino community in Idaho. In response to the resolution passed at the 2005 Diocesan Convention, this conversation will include folks from Province VIII & the National Church and will address the essential questions of resources, initial contacts and commitment. The conference will begin at 7:00pm on Friday, April 28 and continue until 3:00pm on Saturday. Call the Diocesan Office at 208/345-4440 to register. (See the April *Messenger* for an in-depth article about this Conference.)

PREACHING WORKSHOP SCHEDULED

A workshop on *Authentic Biblical Preaching* will be conducted by The Very Rev. Rich Demarest on Saturday, May 6 from 9am to 3pm, at Ascension Church in Twin Falls. In our high-tech, sound bite, post-literate culture, authentic biblical preaching is more important than ever. Where many churches utilize the Bible to strengthen the message they already have, we are called to preach a transforming Word that emerges from the text. Given the billions of dollars spent on crafting images and ideas, how does the preacher begin to compete? Come and find out! This workshop is open to all clergy and lay ministers interested in honing their preaching skills. Call the Diocesan Office at 208/345-4440 to register.

SEXUAL ETHICS TRAINING OFFERED AT MINISTRY FAIR

Deacon Nancy Bardsley and Youth Missioner Wicky MacColl are offering a sexual conduct training session on Friday, May 12, from 1:00 to 5:00pm at St. Thomas Church in Ketchum, to precede the Ministry Fair on Saturday the 13th. This training is mandatory for clergy, youth ministers, Eucharistic Visitors and any other person at your church who works one-on-one with minors. (It is highly recommended for Church School coordinators as well.) For lunch and registration, call the Diocesan Office at 208/345-4440.

ANNUAL MINISTRY FAIR TO BE HELD MAY 13

Centering on the theme, "Focus Your Vision," the Diocese will hold its second annual Ministry Fair on Saturday, May 13 at the Sun Valley Lodge in Ketchum. Workshops will be held under the umbrellas of "Capturing the Vision," "Learning New Skills" and "Searching More Deeply." Registration information and a catalog of workshops will be sent to all parishes in early April. Plan now to celebrate your mothers in Sun Valley and relish another opportunity to be with your extended Diocesan family.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mar 25	Paradise Point Camp Board - Diocesan Office
Mar 28	Meeting of General Convention Deputation, Twin Falls
Apr 1	Eastern Deanery Pre-General Convention Meeting, Idaho Falls
Apr 20	Central Deanery Pre-General Convention Meeting, Twin Falls
Apr 22	Joint Meeting of Commission on Ministry, Diocesan Council & Standing Committee, Ascension, Twin Falls
Apr 25	Western/Southwestern Deanery Pre-General Convention Meeting, Meridian
Apr 28-29	Next Step Forward: A Conversation on Latino Ministry, Twin Falls
Apr 29	Idaho Episcopal Foundation Annual Meeting, Meridian