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THE ALPHA & OMEGA

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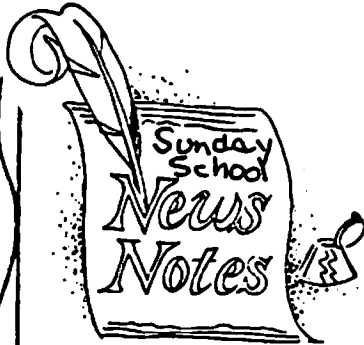
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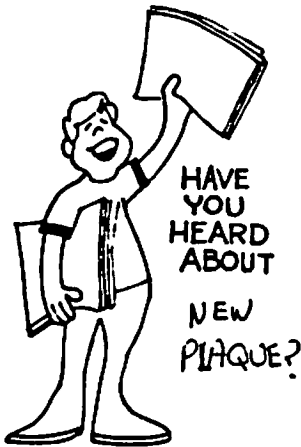
The Sunday School has been busy this spring. For May Day they gave a gift to the members of the congregation. The gift was a "Love Kit" - it contained many items of showing love and how to remember others. Thank you so much it was very much appreciated! Some members of the Sunday School received awards for excellent attendance. Kayla Hill received a first year pin. Mary Johnson, George Johnson, Heather Kinyon and Tara Winters received a wreath that fits around the first year pin - this denotes the second year attendance. Congratulations and keep up the good work!

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On May 14 the preparation for Grace Episcopal Church centennial began. Warner Boyd and Catherine Jung present a plaque to Grace Church in honor of relatives. The plaque consisted of a picture of Alice Mary Boyd and Sarah Boyd Larrington, and a short writeup about each. These two ladies were very active in Grace Church as well as the rest of their families. Take a look at the plaque that is located in the Guild Hall. Thanks so very - it is really a lovely thought and plaque! It was blessed during the service that day after many kind words and thoughts from Warner Boyd.

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May 3 was an unique experience for Grace Church - we held a house blessing for Gary & Jennifer Jeratowski and family. The house and garden were blessed and then a wonderful potluck meal was held to celebrate.



Have You Heard?



Congratulations to Abbey Ericsson on her graduation from high school. Good Luck!

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We want to applaud the following for their wonderful performance in the instrumental music contest held. They all received firsts.

Annie Brewer on the clairinet.

Heather Kinyon on the clairinet.

Mary Johnson on the flute.

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* The Centennial Committee of Madison and a few other organizations held a "Centennial Scrapbook Contest!" Grace Church just so happened to have five volumes of happenings covering the first 99 years of its existence. Lola Boyd began the scrapbooks, Hazel Moose finished the last remaining one of Lola's, and Mildred Rumrill is continuing with another scrapbook.

Anyway, the scrapbooks were turned in and judged. The Grace Church books were awarded 1st place in the clubs and organization division. They are now on display at the Smith-Zimmerman Museum in Madison. We are very proud of the those that have taken the time to keep the memories recorded - thanks so much. This is very exciting when the centennial of the Church is so close.

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Mo. Karen was the speaker at the Baccalaureate Service for Lake Central School District, Madison, On May 21. We have heard excellent reports.

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This ends the news for May. God Bless You!



Local Speaker

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OTHER POTPOURRI

In place of the Visions of a Vicar, there is printed "A Pastoral Letter from the Presiding Bishop." I encourage all of you to read that. If there are any questions concerning the issues covered in this letter, please let Mo. Karen know.

The Rev. Ben and Ida Zimmermann, long time clergy in this area, will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary on June 4, 1989. There will be a reception for them in Ramona at the church parish hall from 2:30pm - 5:30pm. There will also be a special organ/piano recital in their honor at Trinity Lutheran Church on Friday, June 2, at 7:30pm. The performers are Donald D. Zimmermann and Christine M. Zimmermann. Donald Zimmermann, son of Ben and Ida, is organist-choirmaster of St. John's Episcopal Cathedral in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

In 1989, as all of South Dakota celebrates her Centennial, Christ Episcopal Church in Yankton joins in celebrating 128 years of service to the glory of God. Christ Church, "the Mother Church of the Dakotas", is planning a special "Homecoming Celebration", August 12-13, 1989. You are cordially invited to attend. The schedule is as follows: Saturday, August 12: a no-host picnic at Christ Church. Reservations are requested. Sunday morning, August 13: Holy Communion according to the 1857 BCP. Sunday evening, Solemn Evensong at 7pm followed by a reception. This homecoming celebration will be held in conjunction with the Centennial events in Yankton that week.

1989 Diocesan Convention will be held in conjunction with the Centennial Celebration of Calvary Cathedral, Sioux Falls, October 5-8. Bishop Browning will be at the convention and the Cathedral on Saturday and Sunday of that weekend. On Sunday morning, October 8, there will be a Cathedral Centennial celebration with a festive Eucharist at which the Presiding Bishop will celebrate and preach. That service will be held at the Lincoln High School auditorium. The Diocese is encouraging all Eastern Deanery congregations to join in that celebration on that Sunday. But the Diocese also needs to know approximately how many people intend to participate in that festive occasion. Obviously October is a long way off, but the Diocese needs to begin serious planning now. So, if you think you would be interested in participating, please let me know as soon as possible. The Diocesan office needs an approximate head count by June 28th.

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A PASTORAL LETTER
FROM
THE PRESIDING BISHOP

"Spare no effort to make fast with bonds
of peace the unity which the Spirit gives."
(Eph 4:3)

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Two events occupy my mind in this great season of Pentecost. One, just past, was the meeting in Cyprus of the Primate of the Anglican Communion, a time for me of refreshment and encouragement. The other, lying just over the horizon, is the June meeting in Fort Worth called by the Evangelical and Catholic Mission of our Church. As your Presiding Bishop and Primate, I am compelled to share with you my thoughts and concerns about these two events. In so doing, I will call you to greater prayer and effort in preserving and pursuing the unity and mission of our Church and Communion.

The Evangelical and Catholic Mission (ECM) is a group of laity and clergy formed after the action of the 1976 General Convention authorizing the ordination of women to the priesthood and episcopate. The ECM has not accepted such ordinations and for them the recent consecration of a woman bishop precipitated a crisis. The gathering in Fort Worth is, in their own words, for the purpose of considering how the members of the ECM "shall be the Church within the Episcopal Church and to adopt a detailed and unified plan for active witness in the face of the institution's present disintegration."

Since the call to the June meeting, groups in our Church and the secular media have been full of speculation and rumor about separation and schism. Mistrust, misinformation and suspicion have been rampant. Voices have been raised and unkind and contemptuous words spoken. Patience, tolerance and unity have been sorely tested on all sides, some already declaring that communion has been broken.

I want to affirm the June gathering in Fort Worth. While upholding absolutely the authority of the 1976 General Convention, I believe there is value in the coming together of those in our Church who disagree with the majority decision. There is value and dignity in coming together in love and charity as Christians to share fears, uncertainties, hopes and faith. I am happy that our Church is one which can provide such opportunities. Yes, I am greatly concerned about the stated purpose of the Fort Worth gathering, but I affirm that meeting for what it can accomplish positively. My prayer is that the

unity of the Church be maintained both in Fort Worth and throughout the Anglican Communion.

I want to make clear my unshakable belief that God is calling us to maintain our unity even in the midst of our diversity, our tension and our pain. I believe with all my heart that the unity we have in baptism is a gift whose preciousness we dare not squander, for it is a unity bought with the very blood of Christ. For this reason I reject the ECM's characterization of our Church as in "disintegration" and "crisis." I simply do not believe it. To the contrary, my experience as your Presiding Bishop and my faith in Jesus Christ convince me that the Episcopal Church can maintain its unity, that we as the children of the One God can live together, can pray and worship together, and can witness to the gospel together even in the tension of our diversity.

I have been immeasurably strengthened in this belief by the actions of the Primates of the Anglican Communion meeting in Cyprus earlier this month. Under the wise leadership of the Archbishop of Canterbury, we the twenty-seven Primates received and affirmed the report of the Archbishop's Commission on Communion and Women in the Episcopate. That report (often called the "Eames Report" after the commission's chairman, Archbishop Robert Eames of Ireland) encouraged us to believe that the highest possible degree of communion can be maintained among the Provinces of the Anglican Communion in the face of differences in principle and practice on the ordination of women to the episcopate.

The Eames Report has positive implications for the unity of the Anglican Communion; it also, I believe, contains good news for our own situation within the Episcopal Church. Let me share with you some of the report's insights.

The Eames Report insists that we see our present tensions and disagreements in the context of our history as a Christian community. Seen in this larger context, we learn several things. First we learn that (in the words of the Report) "there has never been a time when ecclesial communion has perfectly reflected the unity which is both God's gift and promise." From earliest New Testament times, "we see the maintenance of communion through mutual acceptance and respect and the toleration of a diversity of practice." Thus our times are not unique. We are not alone. Others before us have struggled and prevailed. So, I believe, shall we.

We learn too that the often painful lessons of the past can be applied to our present internal divisions. The Eames Report refers specifically to the ecumenical movement. "The first prerequisite for ecumenical dialogue is the mutual recognition of the partners as belonging together in the one Body of Christ

through faith and baptism. From this it follows that what the partners have in common is more important than what divides. Precisely because the other partner also belongs to Christ, they must be accorded an integrity which commands respect and courtesy."

What we have in common is more important than what divides. We dare not now lose that which has been purchased at so high a price. We dare not now squander that for which the martyrs and saints have struggled so painfully. As the letter to the Ephesians implores, "Spare no effort to make fast with bonds of peace the unity which the Spirit gives."

As your Presiding Bishop I have spared no effort nor will I. In these past few months I have met three times with the bishops of the Evangelical and Catholic Mission, as well as with groups of clergy and laity of like mind. I recognize them as partners in the gospel, in deep communion through faith and baptism. It is of concern to them, and therefore to me and to all of us, how they can offer their gifts, and the gifts of their discernment, in a Church that has been blessed by the ministry of ordained women for twelve years, and that has just consecrated the first woman as bishop.

Over these past months I have also spoken to many individuals and groups frustrated that the discussion about women's ordination continues. For them - and indeed for the majority of the Episcopal Church - the issue has been settled. They are eager to get on with the mission of the Church, not remain mired in endless talk. But they too recognize that pain and alienation and even anger remain and must be faced. I particularly feel the pain of those in dioceses where the position of the bishop is contrary to their own.

What is called for now, in the words of the Eames Report, is a willingness to "share each other's burdens and sufferings." In so doing, we "will have learned something of the meaning of communion with the God who suffers. And we shall have something to say about the unity of Christians and the unity of all humankind."

In September the House of Bishops will take up in earnest the recommendations and guidelines of the Eames Report. In our deliberations we will consider the sometimes theological issues of "discernment and reception," and the "Episcopal visitors" legislation mandated by last summer's General Convention. I am confident that we will at all times take with utter seriousness the imperative to maintain the unity of the Church. I call on you to pray for one another and for the Church. I particularly call on you to pray for and with those with whom you do not agree. Let us take no precipitous actions to separate ourselves

from those whose understandings of God's divine working in the world are different from our own.

"Be humble always and gentle, and patient too. Be forbearing with one another and charitable. Spare no effort to make fast with bonds of peace the unity which the Spirit gives." (Eph 4:2-3)

+ *Edmond L. Browning*
Edmond L. Browning
May 19, 1989

WHY DID YOU JOIN THE CHURCH?

Perhaps there are as many reasons people join churches as there are people. Some reasons are valid and consistent with God's character and principles; others are self-centered and unchristian. Hopefully you joined the church...

NOT TO receive special attention, **BUT TO** render special service...

NOT TO get your name on the roll, **BUT TO** get God's Kingdom in your heart...

NOT TO promote your private secular business, **BUT TO** become a worthy partner in God's business...

NOT TO be petted and nursed as a baby, **BUT TO** grow in Christian maturity and courage...

NOT TO improve simply your reputation, **BUT TO** strengthen your Christian character...

NOT TO be served, **BUT TO** serve...

NOT TO be praised, **BUT TO** praise...

NOT TO save your own soul alone, **BUT TO** help save others...

NOT TO do as you please, **BUT TO** be found pleasing to God...

NOT TO appear respectable to others, **BUT TO** become acceptable to God...

NOT TO find a group of perfect people, **BUT TO** worship a perfect God...

NOT TO show how good you are, **BUT TO** learn how good you ought to be...

NOT BECAUSE the church might fail without you, **BUT BECAUSE** you will fail without the church.

From Trinity Times

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

May 21, 1988

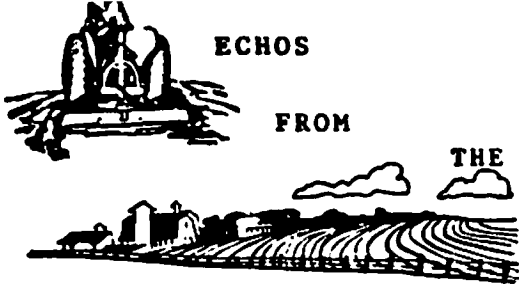


*Bath Fundraiser +
Centennial
stuff in here*

1. 7 Conduct church solution im
2. 4 Tear down steel frame adding interior i
3. 0 Hold services at church.
4. 7 Temporary \$10,000- long-range ost
5. 0 Rebuild church per Spitznagel recommendation. Cost depending on structure, \$80,000 - \$125,000.
6. 3 Rebuild church per Spitznagel recommendation. Cost: \$225,000. Complete restoration.
7. 3 Investigate construction companies that specialize in barn/silo reconstruction. Several firms listed in Dakota Farmer magazine.
8. 6 Fix just the north wall; new foundation; brick instead of stone. Add gutters and down spouts to prevent further deterioration of the rest of building.
9. 1 Do nothing at this time.

A special congregation meeting was held on May 21 to look at our various options with regards to the repair/restoration of our sanctuary. There was thoughtful and provocative dialogue in this matter. The options listed above were presented and those present at that meeting prioritized them. The figures listed above are those options that the congregation could live with. A couple of comments, however. Option one seemed to be a good compromise for the immediate future. However, there was little interest in moving the pews into the guild hall. The feeling was that a minimum of furniture from the sanctuary should be moved. There was also a feeling expressed by several that the optimum solution would be complete restoration, and that if there could be a temporary solution, that would give the church time to seek outside funding either through the church or through private foundations.

The Bishop's Committee will be considering your wishes at their June meeting. If you wish to be present at that meeting, please feel free to do so. Your input is valuable.



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Echos From The Past

is from the history of GRACE CHURCH MADISON

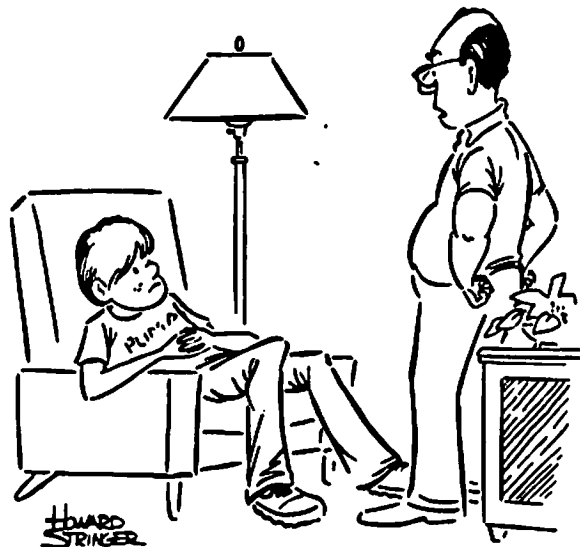
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Guilds of Grace Episcopal Church con't

Mrs. Will Boyd invited the guild to meet at her farm for July 19th meeting. 14 members & 20 visitors were present. Division I had finished their money making project and voted to hold the money. The note on the furnace due & was renewed. Mrs. Stahl & Mrs. Thomas became new members. An ice cream social at Library Park was to be held on the following Saturday evening. A bountious supper was served. \$19 was reported as profit from ice cream social. This being for Division I.

At the Aug 17th meeting, held at the farm home of Mrs. J.E. Boyd, a large group of members & visitors attended. Mrs Boyd-Mrs Van Rosendale sent cars in to help transport some of the group gathered at the Church to attend the meeting. Mrs. Boyd served a lovely meal. No meetings held in Sept and in October it was voted to hold the annual rummage sale Oct 28th, a total of \$34.48 from rummage sale.

In Nov. the usual work was carried on. The members voted to pay the Church coal bill and clean the Church with all to help.



"I KNOW THE BIBLE SAYS WE'RE JUSTIFIED BY FAITH, NOT WORKS. BUT THAT DOESN'T APPLY TO MOWING THE YARD."

J U N E

	June 4 HC Pentecost III (Prop. 4)	June 11 Pent. IV (Proper 5)	June 18 MP Pent. V (Proper 6)	June 25 HC Pent. VI (Proper 7)	July 2 HC Pent. VII (Proper 8)
LESSONS	I Kings 8:22-43 Galations 1:1-10 Luke 7:1-10 Psalm 96	I Kings 17:17-24 Galations 1:11-24 Luke 7:11-17 Psalm 30	2 Sam. 11:26-12:15 Galations 2:11-21 Luke 7:36-50 Psalm 32	Zechariah 12:8-10 Galations 3:23-29 Luke 9:18-24 Psalm 63	I Kings 19:15-16;19-21 Galations 5:1,13-25 Luke 9:51-62 Psalm 16
LAY READERS	Patty Ericsson	Richard, Moose	Kitty Brewer Beverly Hunter	Merrill Hunter	Rex Page
ACOLYTES	Seth Ericsson Torches: Adam Ericsson Heather Kinyon	Tara Winters	Heather Kinyon	Mary Johnson	Ben Johnson
COFFEE HOUR	Jeratowski	Moose	Johnson	Ericsson	Rethorn
CHURCH CLEANERS	Rethorn ----- Stewart -----				Ericsson Delay

MONTH/YEAR JUNE 1989

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 MP	2 MP 9:30 Bible study B - Karen Hall	3
4 Shut-ins Day 11:00 HC 12:00 Fellowship B- Dustin Regsdale	5	6 MP	7 MP	8 MP	9 MP 9:30 Bible study	10
11 11:00 HC 12:00 Fellowship	12	13 MP 7:30 Bishop Comm	14 MP Mo. Karen on vacation Flag Day	15 MP B - Ethyl Roberts	16 MP	17
18 Fathers Day 11:00 MP 12:00 Fellowship Mo. Karen on vacation	19	20 MP	21 MP	22 MP Niharata Convocation	23 MP	24
25 11:00 HC 12:00 Fellowship	26 B - Kayla Hill	27 MP	28 MP	29 MP	30 MP 9:30 Bible study	

Katherine Brewer