



Reformed Episcopal Church

Since 1873

Diocesan Newsletter

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Reformed Episcopal
Church
Diocese of the
Northeast and
Mid-Atlantic

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Visit our website
www.rechurch.org

Welcome to...

Tonya Forsberg, the new voice you hear when you call the diocesan/seminary office. Tonya began her career with us in January '07 to support the day-to-day operations in the office. Her husband, Justin, is a 2006 RES graduate and is currently training for the diaconate in the REC. We are blessed that God has called the Forsbergs to minister in the Reformed Episcopal Church.

Short-Term Summer Mission Trips for 2007 to: Nigeria, Germany, and Paraguay.

Nigeria

This trip departs July 2, and stays two and half weeks till around July 19. The Rev. Paul Ekezie will lead this team from the United States. Team members will go to serve the Igbo people in the Eastern Nigeria under Bishop Alfred Nwaizuzu. He oversees 30 big churches and 60 small churches in his rural diocese of Okigwe-North. There is much to do. The team will be able to participate in an Ordination Retreat from July 11-14. Many of the Anglican believers will gather to celebrate the ordination of deacons and presbyters. Additionally, work can be done in the mission hospital if someone has medical skills. The cathedral church needs some repairs: painting, fixing windows, flooring and tiling, and constructing pews. Everybody can join one of the evangelism teams and see how they do that. Music is a major part of the worship. Come ready to sing and/or bring your musical instrument. **The age range for this is 15 years old and higher.** The places for touring are still being worked on.

Estimated cost: \$2,000.00

Contact: The Very Rev. Dr. Paul U. Ekezie: ugopaul11@cs.com Telephone (646) 226-5698

Germany

The dates for this trip are August 3-24. Bishop Gerhard Meyer and family live on a beautiful spot called the Knull Camp. Every summer, as a ministry, he invites German young people to what is called "English Camp." This is a great opportunity for you to attend. Bishop Meyer is hoping for **young people from 17-30 years old.**

Team members will have much contact with German youth, worshipping, working, sharing meals and leisure time, sports, swimming, music and drama. There are many opportunities to use whatever gifts God has given you to encourage and disciple German young people. The last three or four days Bishop Meyer will take team members to exciting tourist places in Germany and possibly France

Estimated cost: \$1,600.00

(Note: If students return earlier due to college beginning the cost will be reduced.)

Please contact Bishop Meyer at: Bischof-Meyer@gmx.de

Paraguay trip information, see page 3

Traditional Liturgical Evangelical Scriptural

Northeast & Mid-Atlantic Reformed Episcopal Church

RETREAT 07

by Rev. Gregory J. Miller, Rector
Covenant Chapel Reformed Episcopal Church, Basking Ridge, NJ

Those who attended this year's ministry retreat were the blessed recipients of the teaching and experience of Bob and Judy Pardon. Bob and Judy run Meadowhaven, the only long-term resident care facility in the world for people who are recovering from their experiences in cults and aberrant Christian groups, the former being those whose doctrines of God and man do not align with orthodox Christianity, the latter being those groups whose theology is acceptable but whose practice of authority is destructive and tyrannical.

At first blush it might seem that a discussion of cults might not be relevant to the daily walk of most Christians. In fact, that is not true. In the first place there are many "walking wounded" in our midst who have been victimized by a cult-like atmosphere, whether it be in a cult, a group claiming to be Christian, a church, or an unhealthy family situation. The effects of any one of these organizational cultures is equally devastating. There are more ministry needs, with and among, such people than we realize.

Secondly, groups that distort either their theology or their authority are found along a continuum. We may not like to admit it but many churches and/or pastors can fall into attitudes and behavior that is cult-like and destructive. During a seminar Bob and Judy were leading one time in which they were discussing the attributes of cults, a pastor candidly said, "Please pray for me. I do every one of those things." Praise God for the conviction of the Holy Spirit! I believe most of those who attended the retreat could honestly say that they saw tendencies in their own personalities or churches that were potentially cult-like and destructive.

Thirdly, most Christians inevitably have contact with cults sometime during their lives – most likely through a visit from Mormons or Jehovah's Witnesses coming to their door. It is helpful to be prepared for that eventuality.

So, what should you say to a cult member or person wounded by a cult-like environment? Probably not what you would think. Theological debate is not the best tactic to use. Most often the cult members are very well versed in their heresy and will win a debate of theology – or at least reach a stand-off. Moreover, since most cults have writings that supersede the authority of Scripture you don't have as much common ground from which to work.

The best tactic is to try to establish a relationship. If a cult member comes to your door invite them in. Offer them something to eat (don't offer a Mormon coffee – they don't drink it). Ask where they come from, where they work, how many children they have. Deflect all theological discussion. Don't let them push that agenda. Say, "Let's not talk about that right now. I'm more interested in you." Most cults denigrate the individual and foster lock-step fidelity to the cult leader. Care and concern for their lives is most often not part of their experience. That is where we, as Christians, are most likely to have an impact. By God's grace the time will come when theological discussions can take place.

Thanks to Bob and Judy for their preparation and valuable teaching and experience. The RE Church truly has a hidden treasure in their ministry. Please pray for them – as you can imagine it is very taxing emotionally and spiritually. If you'd like to learn more go to their web site at <http://www.meadowhaven.org/>.

Continued from Page 1 — Short Term Mission Trips

Paraguay

This trip goes from August 3-28. For several summers now, Bishop John Ellison, of the diocese of Paraguay has been receiving teams from the Anglican churches in England and Ireland. We will be working alongside Irish, English, Paraguayan, and indigenous peoples on two different projects to help the indigenous people. One project is to build a church in a remote location of the Paraguayan Chaco called Para Todai. The other project is in the city of Concepcion. Auxiliary Bishop Andres Rodriguez wants a facility to allow the indigenous people to stay when they travel a long distance to the city to receive medical treatment. No place currently exists. The building will also be used for a children's ministry for the neighborhood kids.

There will be opportunities to converse and worship with Paraguayan and indigenous Anglicans. We are looking for: Christians **18 years and older** who have skills working with children or young people, cooking, music, sports, church teaching, medical, masonry and building, electrical, etc.

Anglican ministry in Paraguay began over one hundred years ago by one of the greatest missionaries who ever lived, Barbroke Grubb. We will be working in the same region where Grubb labored so heroically. Touring spots after the work is done will include either Yguazu Falls, the biggest water falls on earth, or Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Estimated cost: \$1,200.00

Please contact Rev. Paul Howden for more information:

Telephone (570) 383-1272 home, or (570) 875-7034 cell, or pastorpaul6@verizon.net

SEND CONTRIBUTIONS

FOR SHORT-TERM MISSIONS TO:

Mr. Charles Twining, Jr.

Treasurer

2112 Fortune Road

Glenside, PA 19038

Make Checks payable to:

REC Board of Foreign Missions

and mark for "Short-Term Missions"

Liturgical Colors

March 4	Lent II	Violet
March 11	Lent III	Violet
March 18	Lent IV	Violet
March 25	Passion Sunday	Violet

Calendar of Events:

Date	Time	Explanation
Saturday, March 3	-	Philadelphia Area Ministerium - <i>NOT SCHEDULED TO MEET</i>
Friday, March 9th to Saturday, March 10th	Arrival Time 7:00 p.m.	4th Annual Altar Boys' Training Retreat All Saints, Wynnewood, PA Sponsored by The Anglican Fellowship of the Delaware Valley Call 610-415-9788 or Visit www.anglicanfellowship.com
Tuesday, March 13	Noon	NY/Northern NJ Area Ministerium at Covenant Chapel Basking Ridge, NJ
Saturday, March 17	9:00-11:30 a.m.	Maryland NJ Area Ministerium at Grace REC Havre-de-Grace, MD