Katherine?Brewer 113 N. Union Madison, SD 57042

Alpha & Onega Newsletter Grace Episcopal Church 306 Northwest Third Street Madison, South Dakota 57042

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The Rev. Karen Hall Deacon-in-charge 519 8th Avenue Brookings, SD 57006 1-692-2717 1-692-2617

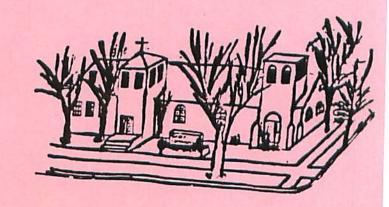
## ALPHA 8 OMEGA

Lois J. Moose Editor

Information Director
Format Director

Richard D. Moose Founder Printer Circulation

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#### VISIONS OF A VICAR

From time to time I have had people come up to me asking many questions concerning the kinds of liturgies we are using in our Sunday worship services. Some of the questions have to do with why we are not doing Morning Prayer as often as before, and the corollary to that question is why are we now doing more communion services. I suspect that underlying such questions is the deeper issue of liturgical change in general, and in a time of rampant change in our society, there is a basic need for all of us to stem the tide of change within the church, particularly when the changes that have occurred seem to come without instructions or rationale.

Since the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls and several archeological finds in the last 30-40 years, liturgical and biblical scholars, those rarified persons who can bask in the luxury of studying the Scripture and the history of the church all day long, have come to understand more fully how the earliest church constructed their communal life. Their findings seem startling in light of contemporary worship practices. First, the early church was eucharistic centered, that is, whenever the community gathered for worship, the eucharist was celebrated, and the life of the community was nurtured and sustained by the presence of the risen Christ in the sacrament. Second, the premier sign of incorporation into the community was Baptism and the preparation for Baptism involved the entire community. Baptism and Eucharist -- the outward and visible signs of the inward and spiritual grace of a loving God, incarnate in his Son and given freely and for all times through the power of the Spirit -- were the sacraments that bestowed life to the community, which, in turn, strenthened by the sacraments, stretched out their hands in love to a broken world.

The authors of the 1979 Book of Common Prayer intended to recover the centrality of Baptism and Eucharist to the worship life of the Christian community. The Eucharist, the repeatable portion of Baptism, is to be the principle service on Sundays, as it was at the beginning. The Daily Offices, on the other hand, are to be said daily as part of a disciplined life of prayer. And the church is slowly moving in that direction, albeit, with fits and starts. I hope that this fall we can find some time to share together about liturgical change and renewal so that what we do on a Sunday morning is, in fact, an experience of renewal and hope, and one that brings us all into the presence of God who will love us into wholeness. But that requires some time of listening, reflecting, studying, and learning. I invite you to take that time with me.

Karen

#### Schedule for September

September 7: Morning Prayer, Rite II, 9:00am

Officiant: Kitty Brewer Acolyte: Annie Brewer

September 7: Installation of The Very Rev. James Gundrum as Dean of Calvary Cathedral at 10:00am. If anyone wishes to attend that service, they need to call the Cathedral office for reservations. Karen will be attending as a representative for the Wider Area Ministries.

September 14: Deacon's Distribution of Communion, 11:00am Sunday School: 10:00am

Lay Reader: Merrill Hunter Acolyte: Ben Johnson

September 16: Lay Readers Meeting: 7pm

Bishops Committee Meeting: 7:30pm

September 21: Deacon's Distribution of Communion, 11:00am

Sunday School: 10:00am

Lay Reader: Rex Page

Acolyte: Jennifer Rethorn

September 28: Deacon's Distribution of Communion, 11:00am

Sunday School: 10:00am

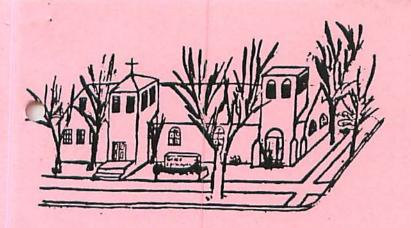
Lay Reader: Beverly Hunter Acolyte: Annie Brewer











### Echo's from the Past

This Month we continue with the life of Grace Church parish and its growth. In 1898 the Rev. Albert Fillmore was the priest. There were 3 baptisms at Grace Church and 4 at St. Stevens in the Jones school house in Junius. There were 2 marriages at Grace Church. In 1899 there were 9 baptisms and a Rev. Frank Durant filled in for Rev. Fillmore. There were 2 baptisms at Jones school house by Bishop Hare - these were Clara Rounds and Ruth Owens. These two were the babies at Jones school who were baptized. The mother's were sisters - Alice Larrington Owens and Etta Larrington Rounds.

1900 - 8 Baptisms at Grace Church 3 Marriages

1901 - 3 Baptisms 3 Marriages

1902 - 8 Baptisms at Grace Church
1 Marriage
In March - 9 Baptized at Hammer School
On Easter Sunday - 3 at Hammer School
5 at Grace Church

1903 - 6 Baptisms 1 Marriage 1 Bapism at Hammer School

1904 - Rev. Corbett priest 4 Baptism 4 Marriages

1905 - 9 Baptisms, Clarence Beers priest

1906 - 14 Baptisms No Marriages 1907 - Rev. R.M. Hardman priest

- 4 recorded Baptized, but an entire page of records has been torn out of the record book.
- 3 Marriages by Rev. Hardman including Wm. J. Larrington and Elizabeth C. Powers, parents of present members of Grace Church Mildred Rumrill and Hazel Moose
- 1908 13 Baptized by Rev. Hardman 3 Marriages
- 1909 13 Baptisms | Marriage
- 1910 2 Baptisms by Rev. Hardman

### For A Laugh

#### REAL RECTORS:

- tall back to their choir directors.
- smile during Baptism even when the baby is wet.
- never have to pay for their own lunch.
- never preach someone else's sermon without giving credit, unless they forget.
- sec. tly admire Robert Schuller.
- don't lead tours of the Holy Land.
- have actually read every book in their libraries.
- have children by immaculate conception.
- aren't afraid to take on the mother of the bride.
- remember everybody's name.

#### REAL EPISCOPALIAMS:

- believe in the Bible, but they memorize the Prayer Book.
- have an unerring capacity to detect, within a tolcrance of 38 seconds, when a service lasts more than one hour.
- are the salt of the earth, and often they have a salty story or two to prove it.
- are very good about money: they know how to make it and how to keep it.
- are easy-going about heresy and errors in doctrine, but do not like unfamiliar hymns.
- secretly admire Robert Schuller.
- want to keep politics out of religion, as long as the pulpit is solidly Republican.
- don't go on clergy-led tours of the Holy Land.

--taddled from St. John's, Ross, and St. Andrew's, Saratoga. Cheers!



# Announce ments

On August 17th Jim and Carol were married in Mobridge. Best Wishes from Grace Church!



If we have missed anyone's birthday or anniversary we apologize for this. We missed two birthdays in August - Bernice Rethorn on 21st and Jennifer Rethorn on the 18th. Hope they were happy.

Remember to sign up for your turn at serving coffee.



On September 14 remember that the Church Services are going to be held at 11:00 from then throughout the winter. Sunday School will resume then and will be at 10:00. Coffee will be at 12:00.

#### COUNT ON GOD

Count your blessings instead of your crosses.

Count your gains instead of your losses.

Count your joys instead of your woes.

Count your friends instead of your foes.

Count your smiles instead of your tears.

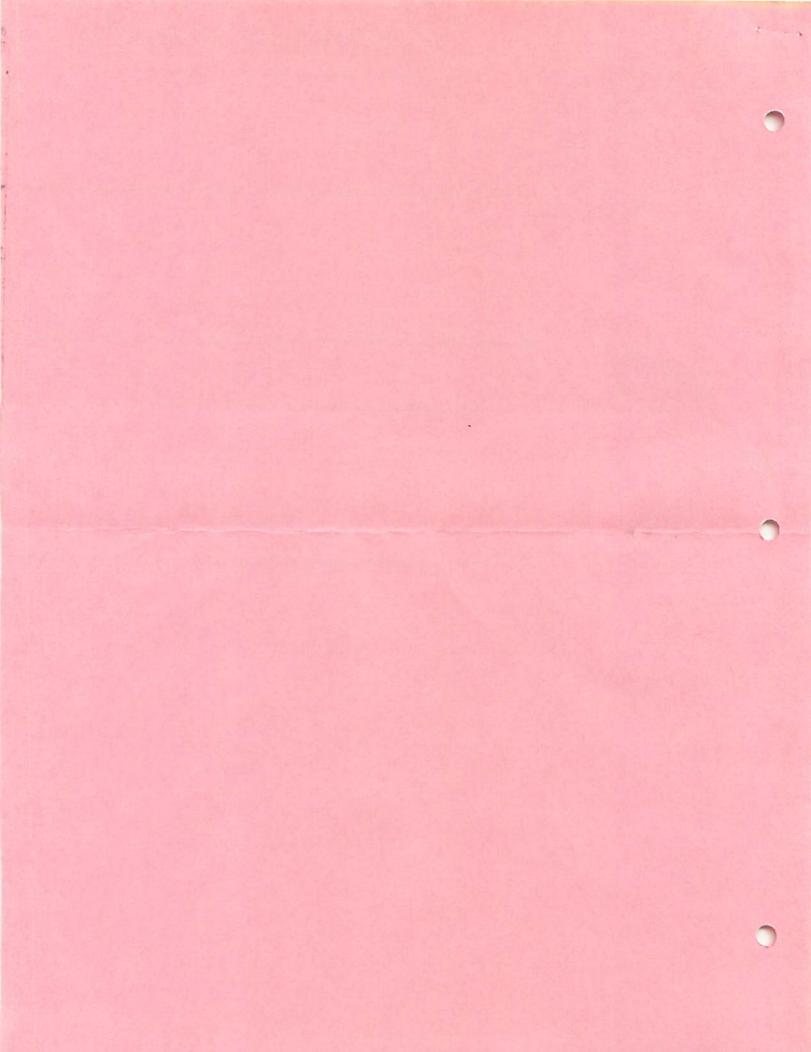
Count your courage instead of your fears.

Count your full years instead of your lean.

Count your kind deeds instead of your mean.

Count your health instead of your wealth.

Count on God instead of yourself!



# September ?



BACK	TO	SCHOOL	

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturda
	Labor Day	1	Anniversary - Tom Campbell's	4	5	6
7 9:00 Morning Prayer 10:00 Coffee Installation of The Very Rev. Jame Gundrum	9	9	10	11	Anniversary - John Johnson Birthday - Scott Johnson	13
10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Communion 12:00 Coffee Birthday - George Johnson		7:00 Lay Reader's Meeting 7:30 Bishop's Committee Meetin	17	18	N	30
10:00 Sunday Schoo 11:00 Communion 12:00 Coffee	22 pl	23	24	25	Birthday - Cori Wroble	27
10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Communion 12:00 Coffee  Birthday - Evelyn Delay		30				