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Alpha & Omega Newsletter
Grace Episcopal Church
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ALPHA 8 OMEGA

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THE NEWEST PRIEST

On November 16, 1986 Karen E. Hall became the newest of the Episcopal priests in the South Dakota Diocese.

Rev. Hall was ordained by the Bishop of South Dakota the Rt. Rev. Craig Anderson at St. John Lutheran Church of Madison, South Dakota.

Participants in the ordination from Grace Church were:

Katherine Brewer as Lector
Merrill Hunter as a Presenter at Ordination
Richard & Lois Moose, Fred & Ruby Stewart, and Janice
Johnson as Presentors at Institution
Jennifer Rethorn as Crucifer Bearer
Ben Johnson & Annie Brewer as Torch Bearers

Grace Church Members served the family meal and the reception with the help of Members from St. Pauls Episcopal Church (Brookings) and St. John's Lutheran Church (Madison).

Members of Grace Church honored Rev. Karen Hall with a gift of a Home Communion Set.

Note: We are going to try out the following addresses for our new priest to determine which one(s) we are comfortable with:

- Mother Karen
- Father Karen
- Pastor Karen

Echo's Of The Past

We are now entering the years of the 30's. Fifty years have gone by at the end of '39 from Grace Church. The biggest change was the building of the Guild Hall. The west end of the church was torn out, the Altar was moved to the east end of the church, the entry door closed and of course the seating reversed. As was common in the drought years, finances became a serious problem.

During these years the priest were A. J. Haines, Henry Pried and R. D. Gaugh, Dale Doren in latter part of 1939. Bishop Hugh Burleson and Blair Roberts still served.

YEAR	BAPTISMS	CONFIRMATIONS	MARRIAGES
1930	2	0	2
1931	3	8	1
1932	0	4	0
1933	1	3	1
1934	1	11	1
1935	9	25	5
1936	12	0	2
1937	7	8	0
1938	6	11	2
1939	0	4	0

There were 102 communicants recorded for the year 1938. No record was kept of the members as families. In the records of baptisms there are four pages missing, pages 93-94 95-96. No way of knowing if the pages were removed or not.

DIOCESAN BUDGET ITEMS

Diocesan Voluntary Pledge

The Bishop sent out the following statement concerning the voluntary pledge from each parish and mission:

The 1987 budget presupposes some increases in voluntary pledges. He will be going to C-14 (a consortium of 14 eastern diocese who support South Dakota among others) and asking for an increase in how this diocese is doing on voluntary pledges. It is his hope that he will be able to report that the Diocese has increased voluntary pledges. As we consider a budget in this parish for 1987 and our voluntary pledge for 1987, we need to keep in mind that the standard that C-14 has established for voluntary pledges is 25% of parish income designated for diocesan support. 80% of every dollar sent to the Diocese goes for outreach and mission within the Diocese and outside of the Diocese to the larger church. Our diocesan pledge, therefore, is primarily a pledge to reach out and support ministry at the local level.

At the present time our church is giving approximately \$1200 per year to the Diocese. Our challenge from the Bishop is \$1600. We might not be able to meet that challenge, but if each member of the parish would consider a percentage or two increase in their parish pledge, we might be able to increase some and also have sufficient funds to meet current expenses. Hopefully by the first of the year, we will have prepared a proposed budget for 1987 for all of you to look at. It will give you a better idea as to what our obligations are for 1987.

T.I.M.E. Campaign

At our last Diocesan Convention it was agreed that we should try to finish the fund raising portion of TIME by our next Diocesan Convention of October, 1987. To date, of the pledges to TIME, over 60% of the pledged amount has been received. We will receive a letter from the Diocesan office in the next week or so indicating where we stand. As you probably know there is a significant tax break in making contributions during the tax year 1986. While the Bishop recognizes that some persons pledged on the basis of a three year commitment, others have already indicated an interest in completing their pledge by next October. The sooner the money is received the sooner it will go to work for us in increasing the number and training of clergy to provide leadership with the Diocese.

* * * * *

Additional items

Lay Ministry Task Force

A Lay Ministry Task Force has been formed within the Diocese. This group has been formed to look at the variety of lay ministries that are available to lay persons. It is an exciting group, meeting together to share, study and help the Bishop discern the role of the laity within the Diocese. If you are interested in more information, please let Karen know.

Annual Meeting

We will schedule our Annual Meeting on January 18 unless that date is difficult for you. Please consider those persons that you would like to represent you at Diocesan Convention in October 1987. We are eligible for one delegate and one alternate.

Bishop's Visitation

The Bishop will make his annual visitation to Grace Church on February 1. If you are interested in being confirmed, or received into the Episcopal Church, please let Karen know. An inquirer's class is being formed. At the moment we will be meeting on Thursdays at 3:30, but that time can be adjusted to meet the needs of those who wish confirmation or reception, or for any of you who would like to review what it means to be an Episcopalian.

VISIONS OF A VICAR

The season of Pentecost is over--that season where we celebrate the life of the Spirit breathed into the body of Christ, his church. Now we enter into Advent, a season of the church year that gets lost in the shuffle of a media and retail blitz heralding the coming of Christmas. Already we are bombarded with Christmas advertising. The streets on Main Street are being decorated--carols are ringing; plastic angels singing.

But what of Advent? The season of Advent calls us to steal ourselves away--to take time out--from the bustle of the holiday season in order to contemplate the impact of the incarnation of God into this world as one of us, but also to contemplate the coming again of the Christ of God to reign as King of kings and Lord of lords at the end of time.

Advent is a vital link--a link between life in the church in time and space and the Kingdom of God, though present to us in word and sacrament, yet not yet realized in its fullness. It is a link between the promises of God to the children of the old covenant and the fulfillment of those promises in the person of Jesus. Advent is a season that provides a way to experience God as unknowable, ineffable, inexhaustible, and God as visibly present and discernible in human history and in the human heart.

To enter into Advent is to embark on a spiritual journey that will take us into the darkest recesses of our own hearts, but also lead us to the brink of eternity. The images along the way are varied: images of God's people being prepared for the coming of Christ as babe and as King; of waiting, of being vigilant and alert; of repentance and reconciliation; of the darkness of sin and living in the light of a new order; of power, of vulnerability; humility, peace; of ultimate judgment and ultimate victory. At the end of the year where the cold of winter presides, Advent offers us this journey into Christ where new birth and life eternal join hands in holy expectancy.

Let us then find those quiet moments to pray and to reflect upon the coming of our Lord--to put the harried moments to rest and prepare our hearts for the coming of the Christ of God into our lives and into the world.

Karen⁺

Oct. 30, 1986

Dear Friends at Grace,

Hi! How is everyone? We are already deep into another semester. Soon we'll be at the halfway mark. Jim's classes are: Systematic Theology, Christian Ethics, History of the Medieval and Reformation Periods, Patristics and Anglican Church History. A lot is different from the Old & New Testaments and Hebrew and Greek of last year. Jim is also actively working in his field parish in DC this semester. He gave his first sermon there a few weeks ago.

C.P.E. at Sibley was a good experience. Jim learned a great deal through first hand experience about pastoral care.

We had a wonderful vacation after CPE. We visited New England and did some camping on Cape Cod. We actually saw some whales.

Joel is in kindergarten this year. He's getting along just fine. He is in the morning K session and is in day care in the afternoon. Julian is the (7th grade) junior high this year. There are over 1,000 students in his school. He made it into the advanced band which is pretty good. They only accept a certain number of each instrument, etc. and it is made up of the 7, 8, and 9th grades. He has an old dented up horn but it still sounds pretty good.

Jamie is learning to skateboard and has out out several layers of skin. He is in the fifth grade this year and is doing fine also.

We had the new seminarian at VTS from SD over one evening to dinner. Her name is Elizabeth Bryan and she is from Rapid City. I hope we can get together frequently.

Semins is moving the office-practically to Baltimore- so I found another job. I'll be starting Nov. 10, 1986. I sure hope I like it. It's a block from where I work now. It is a regional office for the Northern Virginia and DC Dominics Company. I'm sure it will be tiring at first, trying to learn everything and adjust to new people. It always is when you start a new job. It should also be stimulating to be in a new environment. I really don't know what to expect. They said I can make it anything I want ??! It is a secretarial position so I would think that presents some limitations.

I hope that catches you all up with most of the major news. I've got to sign off. It's way past my bedtime.

Love in Christ,
Gloria, Jim, and Family





DID YOU KNOW

On October 29th, the Sunday School Children along with Pastor Karen celebrated All Saints Night. Pastor Karen was the narrator in this program. The following were saints and each gave a short speech about themselves:

- George Johnson - Saint George
- Jamie Graham - Saint James
- Janice Johnson - Dame Julian
- Kitty Brewer - Saint Kathryn
- Meredith Clites - Saint Agnes
- Annie Brewer - Saint Ann
- Chad Graham - Saint Chad
- Mary Johnson - Margaret, Queen of Scotland
- Ben Johnson - Saint Matthew

Following this Pastor Karen talked about the Sacrament of Communion and what each part and utensil represented. Each person there participated in Communion.

Afterwards, all present celebrated the fellowship with a potluck supper.

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Our Church now has a new organ. We want to thank Pete and Judy Petersen for donating the organ to our Church! They are church members at St. Paul's in Brookings and had an organ they wanted to give to a church. And we are very happy to receive this beautiful organ.

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The ECW has planned a noon luncheon at Nicky's for Dec. 12 (Friday). Please bring up to a \$3.00 gift for a gift exchange. We would like to see you there.

.....

Once again the Christmas Season is upon us. We will be having a party for the Sunday School participants sometime in December. If you have a child's name and age listed here, please buy a gift for that child and bring it to the church by Dec. 14. We would like to limit the gift to a maximum cost of \$3.00. Thank you for your cooperation.

Jennifer Rethorn age 16

Lord,

make me an instrument of Thy peace;
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master,

grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled, as to console;
to be understood, as to understand;
to be loved, as to love;
for it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born
to eternal life.

—St. Francis of Assisi (1182-1226)

From: Sunday Bulletin, Church of the Holy Apostles, Sioux Falls.

As a baptized person, you really have one task to achieve upon this earth: to love God. Anything else you have to do is nothing more than fuel for keeping the flame of love alive in your heart. Therefore, all your aspirations, your every thought and desire must center on one object: Jesus. How quickly you would then become an entirely different being!



Bible School
A little girl returned home from Sunday School. Her mother asked her if she remembered her Bible lesson for the day.

The little girl replied, "I sure do! I can even remember the Zip Code — Luke 19:40."

New Milford, Conn. Mrs. T.H.



Calendar Events

Sundays in Advent

December 7: Second Sunday of Advent

Lay Reader: Beverly Hunter
Acolyte: Chad Johnson
Bell Ringer: George Johnson

Isaiah 11:1-10
Romans 15:4-13
Matthew 3:1-12
Psalm 72



December 11: Lay Readers Meeting at 7pm
Bishop's Committee at 7:30pm

Rehearsal for Advent Children's Liturgy at 6pm. All children are invited to come and participate.

December 12: Guild Luncheon at noon at Nicky's

December 14: Third Sunday of Advent

Lay Reader: Kitty Brewer
Acolyte: Annie Brewer
Bell Ringer: Ben Johnson

Isaiah 35:1-10
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11
Psalm 146



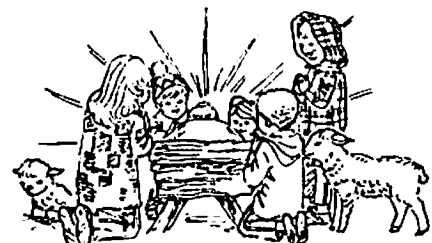
December 18: Advent Children's Liturgy at 5pm. All members of the parish are invited to attend. There will be a potluck following the service



December 21: Fourth Sunday of Advent

Lay Reader: George DeLay
Acolyte: Ben Johnson
Bell Ringer: Mary Johnson

Isaiah 7:10-17
Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 1:18-25
Psalm 24



December 24: Christmas Eve (service at 10pm)

Lay Reader: Merrill Hunter
Acolyte: Jennifer Rethorn

Isaiah 9:2-4, 6-7
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-20
Psalm 96

**CHRISTMAS
EVE
SERVICES**

December 28: First Sunday after Christmas

Lay Reader: Rex Page
Acolyte: Mary Johnson
Bell Ringer: Chad Johnson

Isaiah 61:10--62:3
Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7
John 1:1-18
Psalm 147

It's Hard to Belong to a Small Church

It's hard to belong to a small church—
You have to vacuum the rugs yourself,
Paint the woodwork, provide the flowers, coffee and wine,
See yourself scrubbing bathroom mirrors—
You have to be a caretaker of the Lord's house.

It's discouraging to belong to a small church—
You have to scrape up cash for it yourself,
Argue decisions on the Vestry, try to keep the books,
Hear your own voice murdering the hymns—
You have to be a servant in the Lord's house.



It's dismaying to belong to a small church—
You have to make the best of any priest you get,
Search for Sunday School materials and programs for Lent,
Find yourself alone with one or two in study groups—
You have to be a minister in the Lord's house.

It's blessed to belong to a small church—
You may get to meet the Lord yourself,
With all your pride, jealousy and greed,
Laziness, fear, loneliness and need,
You may be asked to join in His great work of Love—
You may get to be a disciple in the Lord's house,
And beyond.

Janet Adkins

Reprinted from Oregon Trail Churchman


Submitted
by
Beverly
Hunter



Advent



Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

	1 Birthday - Vannie Stillson	2 7:00 Adult Ed	3	4	5	6
		Birthday - Kathleen Hall				
7 2nd Sunday of Advent 10:00 Sunday Sch 11:00 Service 12:00 Coffee	8	7 7:00 Adult Ed	10	11 7:00 Layreaders Meeting 7:30 Bishop's Committee	12 12:00 Ecw Meeting	13
14 3rd Sunday of Advent 10:00 Sun Sch 11:00 Service 12:00 Coffee Children's Program	15	16 7:00 Adult Ed	17	18 5:00 Advent Childrens Liturgy	19	20
21 4th Sunday of Advent 10:00 Sun Sch 11:00 Service 12:00 Coffee	22	23	24 Service to be Announced Christmas Eve Service at 10:00 PM	25 <i>Celebrate GOD'S Gift of Love</i> 	26	27
28 10:00 Sun Sch 11:00 Service 12:00 Coffee VFW Children's Christmas Party	29	30	31 Birthday - Bob Payne			