

July 2009

Staff Development

Our staff held a retreat at Pam Larson's home on Tuesday, June 23, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. We studied the book *Improving Your Multiple Staff Ministry: How to Work Together More Effectively* by Anne Marie Nuechterlein. We are presently in the process of writing a staff covenant that will be completed shortly after August 11. I will make copies of the covenant available to the Council and Personnel Board when it is complete. The staff covenant resides in the employee handbook.

Some Time Away

Thanks to the Council and congregation for providing time for re-creation and refreshment. My family and I spent time in Boston and in South Dakota touring and visiting relatives. It was restful and restorative. I was gone from June 25 to July 6, 2009.

National Youth Gathering

Next Monday I will join Angie and a host of youth and parents on mission trip to the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans. (You can hear more about it from Angie.) This is my ninth National Youth Gathering and my third youth trip to New Orleans. I'm so excited. This year I am triply blest, as in addition to traveling with Angie, I will also be traveling with my wife Linda, and son Jonathan. The entire group will be commissioned this Sunday at the 10:00 a.m. worship service. We covet your prayers.

Annual Meeting

This Sunday is the annual meeting. I hope you will hold this meeting in your prayers and that you will drop everything to be there. It is a very important meeting at a very important time in the life of our parish. We will vote on the budget that you have passed and the direction of the future ministry that it implies.