

Bishop's Road Show - The Season of Epiphany - January 14, 2010

Dear Friends:

Every where I go people are talking about the devastation that has happened in **Haiti**. Bishop Hanson has already sent out information via the ELCA News Service. He invites us to go to <http://www.elca.org/haitiearthquake> to download and print bulletin inserts related to how we can respond to this tragedy. Several of our pastors have already notified me that they will be taking an offering on Sunday to assist the people of Haiti so that they may have hope. Now is the time to respond to one of the poorest nations in the world.

In some ways this Road Show could also bare the title of hope and or hope restored. **Evelyn Weirick** received exceedingly good news on Tuesday. It seems that her x-rays were a false positive. The doctor carefully searched but could find no new cancer. Instead of still being in the hospital, Evelyn was released the next day.

With the two Call Processes that we have announced, I am happy to announce that **The Rev. Matthew Holbert** will be the next pastor for Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Fairmont, WV. It is Pastor Matt's hope that he will begin at Grace on Ash Wednesday. This past Monday the Holbert's were in Fairmont house hunting and placed a bid on a home.

Our process of last weekend also concluded in a Call to **Seminarian Kyle Hayes**. I was able to meet Kyle, Amanda and their one year old son Tobias on Monday. Kyle has verbally accepted this call and we are now working upon a date for his ordination in his home congregation in Woodstock, GA. Kyle would like to start at St. Johannes in early February.

Let this Road Show serve as a reminder that next Sunday, January 24, **The Rev. Jacq Campbell** will be installed in an Ecumenical service as the pastor of the Church of the Covenant at 4:00 pm. Clergy of that conference are invited to bring their robes and green stoles to be involved in the opening procession and recession as a show of support. Should you need directions to the Church of the Covenant, Grafton, WV please call Pastor Campbell at 304-365-0164. Please share this announcement with your people who are also invited to attend worship and the meal to follow.

If you have phoned or E-mailed the synod office this week and not had much of a response that is because **Maureen Corrigan** has the flu and possibly a stomach virus too. Maureen's hope and mine, is that she will return to work on Monday, January 18.

My travel schedule will bring me to Fairmont tomorrow for our Team Meeting for all Committee Chairs at 7:30 pm and for the All Committee Day on Saturday. Sunday I will be with Trinity, Charleston for a luncheon discussion of the ELCA Churchwide Assembly decisions. Next week should be a return to a semi-normal week where I will be in Synod all week.

My prayers are with you as you give hope to others.

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