

Bishop's Road Show

April 17, 2008

Dear Friends:

Your Bishop has returned from his vacation and the Road Show is firing up once again.

Upon returning from a week's cruise, I planned to use Monday and Tuesday of this week to finalize a presentation that I will be making in the Upper Susquehanna Synod on Thursday and Friday. My in-box to my E-mail was well in the hundreds, and I have slowly attempted to respond. I must confess that I have a five plus hour drive tomorrow, and I will get to the remaining E-mails when I can.

This "Road Show" will return me to Wheeling late Friday night so I can join the already in progress Professional Candidacy Committee. I will join them on Saturday morning. We have three potential seminarians joining us on Saturday in Rebecca Grate, Trinity, Charleston; Jason Felici, St. Mark's, Wheeling and Dennis Probst, St. Peter's, Shepherdstown.

On Sunday, Terry and I will travel to the Church of the Covenant in Grafton, WV for the rite of Godspeed for Pastor Sarah Lee-Faulkner. Pastor Sarah will conclude her call on April 27 and begin as the Assistant to Bishop Kusserow in the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod on May 1.

Later on Sunday, I will join others from this synod heading to Chautauqua, NY for the Evangelical Lutheran Coalition for Mission in Appalachia (ELCMA) annual assembly. This Assembly runs until noon on Wednesday. I will return to the Synod Office on Thursday to make final preparations for Synod Council's last meeting prior to the Assembly. We will meet on Saturday, April 26 in the new conference room at the NEW SYNOD OFFICE.

In the midst of all that this week, at 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 16, I had the privilege to officiate at the wedding of Ms. Judy Hagedorn and Pastor James Caton, II. This private wedding was held at St. Mark Lutheran Church, Clarksburg. Congratulations to Judy and Jim!

Now, where was I, oh yeah, more travel. On Sunday, April 27, I will join Pastor Jackie Ryan-Bussey and Trinity Lutheran, Weirton in worship.

Some of you claim that you get tired just reading this Road Show. In many ways I find myself invigorated by this activity. I will confess that all of the driving can leave me tired. I love to be with the people of God, and until we can find a way to "beam me up" I guess this Road Show will continue with my trusty Subaru and your prayers.

God's blessings,

+ Ralph