

The Bishop's Road Show

The Second Week of Christmas

Dear Friends:

This New Year begins with joys and prayer concerns for our Rostered leaders and family members.

**Pastor Bill Ridenhour** has now completed a month of his four month sabbatical. This sabbatical began on December 3 with Pastors Eilert, Riegel and Westphal covering for him and the good folks at First English, Wheeling.

**Pastor Sherrie Hofmann** began a medical leave on December 26 with an expected return date of January 24, 2008. This leave is to assist Pastor Sherrie to gain better control of her diabetes and cure a sinus infection that began in September and has not subsided.

**Pastor Louise Knotts** will have total hip replacement surgery on February 13. Following surgery she will begin therapy. Pastor Louise is hopeful that she will have sufficiently healed in order that she can attend the Synod All Committee Day of April 12.

**Robert Kurz**, the adult son of Pastor Bill and Mrs. Joan Kurz, is an ICU patient at Wheeling Hospital. Bob has been battling adult onset of Leukemia for the last five years. Prior to Christmas, he received around the clock chemo at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore. Currently he is receiving units of blood attempting to stabilize his condition. **Pastor Bill Kurz** will receive surgery for a lung concern on January 10.

I invite your prayers for all of these pastors and their family members.

The New Year brings with it a month of travel for me. Today and Friday I will be working in the Synod Office. On Sunday, January 6, **The Epiphany of our Lord**, I will be at Trinity, South Wheeling and St. Matthew, Benwood, WV.

On Tuesday, January 8, the annual Bishops' Academy begins in Chicago. Upon arrival in Chicago I will be meeting with the ELCA World Hunger folks and the Twedts, Soltows and Pastor Ron Schlak. The ELCA World Hunger team is interested in financially supporting the teaching sabbatical of these three pastors. The Bishops' Academy will end on Sunday, January 13. I will return to the Synod Office on the 15<sup>th</sup> and travel that evening to Gettysburg Seminary for the Winter Board meeting. I will have my lap top with me in Chicago in case you wish to e-mail me.

Saturday, January 19<sup>th</sup> I will serve as the preacher for our shared Ecumenical worship service with the Episcopalians and United Methodists at Wesleyan College, Buckhannon, WV. Sunday the 27<sup>th</sup> of January, I will be with our sisters and brothers at Christ Lutheran, Vienna, WV.

Our Rostered Leaders will gather at Will O' the Wisp over the dates of January 28-29 for our winter continuing education event. Details of this retreat will come out later this week.

As of today, all of our Rostered Leaders have been entered into our Yahoo Group for the reception of the Bishop's Road Show. Yahoo allows us to "invite" 50 persons a day to join this group. **PLEASE** encourage your people to sign up for this method of receiving the Road Show. On the Synod's web site home page ([www.wv-wmd.org](http://www.wv-wmd.org)) there is a place near the bottom of the page where you are requested to enter your E-mail address and then click on the Yahoo Group button. This will automatically enter you as a member of

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our Yahoo group. Nothing else needs to be done. Anyone visiting our web site can join this group. You are invited to print these words in your bulletins and newsletters.

The other option folks have is to periodically check our web site and go to the Bishop's page where the 2008 Road Shows will be archived.

My prayers are with you and the congregations you serve as we enter a new year that will lend itself to new opportunities of making Christ known.

Yours in our Lord's service,

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