



The Reverend Virginia Nagel's Retirement

By The Reverend Barbara Allen



Rev. Virginia Nagel formally retired on Dec. 31, 2008 after serving twenty years as a “circuit riding” priest in the Dioceses of Central New York, Albany, Rochester and beyond. I was honored to be invited by the Diocese of Central New York to the Rev. Nagel's Retirement Celebration which was coupled with the opening of the Diocese of Central New York's 140th Diocesan Convention on November 14, 2008. I was invited as the ECD president and asked to bring words of greeting

from the ECD to our long time colleague and friend.

Although I do not have an official count, I would estimate the attendance at two hundred persons plus. The Rev. Dr. Roger A. Pickering, retired vicar of All Souls' Church for the Deaf in Philadelphia and past president of the ECD served as Master of Ceremonies. He did a wonderful job as did his wife, Sandra Pickering, who was his voice interpreter.

The diocesan bishop, the Right Rev. Gladstone (Skip) Adams was in attendance and was the first speaker. He honored Mother Ginger with words of praise for all she has meant to him in teaching him about the Deaf World. He noted her long and faithful service to the Deaf Community in his diocese and the surrounding dioceses of Albany and Rochester.

Several members of Ephphatha Parish for the Deaf in the Diocese of Central New York attended including her long time parish secretary, Carlton B. Strail. Many of Ginger's friends were present to wish her well in this new phase of life. Some of those to whom Ginger has been friend, teacher and mentor were Ms. Suzanne Johnston, Missioner for Deaf, Diocese of Rochester; the Rev. Marilyle Sweet Page, Retired Rector of St. Mark's & St. John's and Priest-in-Charge of Ephphatha Parish of the Deaf in Rochester, NY; and Ms. Allison deKanel, St. Stephen's Church, Diocese of Albany. All these were on the program to speak of their love and appreciation of Mother Ginger.

All of Mother Ginger's family was present. Ms. Joan DiGravio, Mother Ginger's daughter, spoke for the family in offering their love and admiration for Mother Ginger's service. She noted that even in the busyness of serving God Mother Ginger always made time for her family.

Then Mother Ginger offered tribute to her family and most of all to her husband, Robert Nagel.

She thanked Bob for his patience and support as she went through the process of discernment, education and finally ordination and priesthood. He was her stalwart support all the way through and remains so in this new phase.

We shared a delicious dinner at the Holiday Inn in Liverpool, NY. There were several activities included in the program. Perhaps one of the most important was that at each place there was an index card on which attendees were asked to write their good wishes and place them in a basket at the front of the room.

Prologue on the Reverend Virginia Nagel's retirement in her words: "I am enjoying my retirement. As many retired clergy do, I am doing a bit of supply preaching in (hearing) churches."

Now she has all the time to enjoy her family, her cats and her hobbies, as well as some supply work she chooses!

Photos taken at the Retirement Party For the Reverend Virginia Nagel



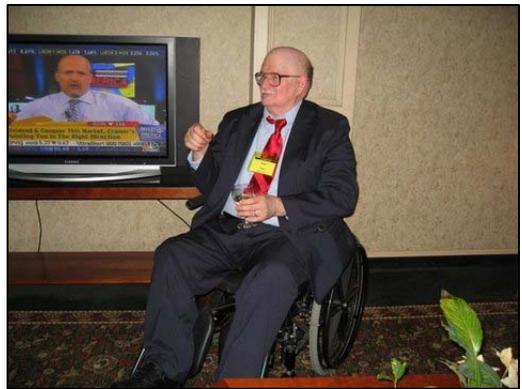
Left to right: The Rev. Marilyle Sweet Page, the Rev. Virginia Nagel, & Ms. Suzanne Johnston



Son Bruce talking with his mother, the Rev. Virginia Nagel



The Rev. Virginia Nagel's lovely family: Robert, Joan DiGravio, Vincent Nagel, Virginia, Bruce Nagel & Theresa DiGravio



The Rev. Virginia Nagel's husband, Robert



The Rev. Roger Pickering



Ms. Suzanne Johnston & Sandra Pickering



The Rev. Roger Pickering
The Rev. Barbara Allen



Mr. Robert & The Rev. Virginia Nagel's
grandchildren, Vincent Nagel & Theresa DiGravio



Well-wishers who came for
the big Celebration!



All smiles for the Rev. Virginia Nagel!
Family, friends and ECD group at the dinner table

The photo credits belong to the three lovely ladies who took the pictures of the memorable event: the Reverend Marilyle Sweet Page; Mrs. Sandra Pickering; and Ms. Suzanne Johnston.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Rev. Barbara Allen

Many things have transpired since our last DE. Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas, a new year has begun and Epiphany is coming to an end. This, of course, leads us to the Season of Lent, that time when we begin a spiritual journey towards confession and reconciliation. Confession to those with whom we travel this "journey of life" and to God who also travels with us. This is not a time of "self flagellation and demoralization" but a time of reflection on the past year. A time to ask ourselves the hard questions: What have I done to assist others? What have my priorities in life been? Who have I served most, God and others or myself? This is meant to be a time of spiritual growth. As I begin this message I wish you a Holy Lent in which you find the blessing and forgiveness of God and your neighbor.

Your Board has been busy! Elsewhere in this issue you will find a summary of what we have accomplished since the last DE. Our main focus for the next few months will be refining plans for our presence at General Convention in Anaheim, CA July 8-17, 2009. All of the Board will attend. We have no deaf deputies or alternates but we must have a presence. Hope that some of you will be able to be there.

We have had one change in the Board membership. Sadly, Nancy Bock has had to resign as Member-at-Large for personal reasons. Thankfully, the Rev. Maria Santiviago who was nominated for Member-at-Large at the 2008 ECD Convention, has accepted our invitation to complete Nancy's term. We are indeed grateful for her willingness. Nancy had begun a project with the Rev. Marianne Stephens to update the National ECD Directory and prepare an ECD Cycle of Prayer. She has volunteered to see that project to completion. We thank Nancy for being willing to do this.

CORRECTION: In the Winter 2008 issue of the DE I made two errors that I must correct. First is the misspelling of the Rev. Ginger Nagel's last name. Please note that it is NAGEL and not NAGLE as I had spelled it. Second is a correction in the price for the ASL Lectionaries and Ginger's book of sermons. Pricing is as follows: ASL Lectionaries \$16.50 and ASL Sermons \$10.00. These prices cover the cost of printing and mailing. The proceeds go to the ECD. Please contact the Rev. Marianne Stephens if you are interested in obtaining these publications. You will find her contact information on the next to last page of this DE.

We are working on finding the persons to form a committee that will study the structure of the ECD as it is today and what we need to do to make our organization viable for the future. This is not a task we take lightly. Those of you who are active in deaf ministry in either leadership positions or as participants will have no doubt noticed the decline in attendance.

For example, I am the Episcopal Chaplain for Gallaudet University. When I came here in 2002 we recruited about five to ten members for the Episcopal group at Gallaudet. These students finished their educational experience, graduated and left. I have not been able to rebuild a group. At the recent Office of Campus Ministries welcoming event for Spring Semester no one signed up as desiring Episcopal ministry. This is not happening only at Gallaudet but at other deaf educational ministries and in our churches. This is also happening in hearing ministries. There is a trend and we need to study that trend to discover what seems to be "turning young people off" and what will it take to reach them.

We will have our next online CHAT on February 19th. Our next face to face Board meeting will be March 17-20, 2009. In July we will all head for Anaheim for General Convention. We welcome any communication from ECD members and friends. We welcome new ideas! Please don't hesitate to contact any member of the Board with suggestions or questions.

I pray God's blessing on us all as we enter this Holy Season of Lent. May we emerge at Easter renewed and forgiven, refreshed and ready to continue our mission.

Barbara

The ECD Goes to General Convention – Again!

When the Episcopal Church gathers for its 76th General Convention in Anaheim, California July 8-17, 2009, the ECD will be there!

The Rev. Roger Pickering remembers the ECD's first presence at a General Convention. He reports, "the first GC of which I am aware we had a delegation sent to represent the ECD was Seattle in September 1967. Kirsten was just one year old when she accompanied Sandra and I to the General Convention to man the ECD booth. The three of us stayed with the niece of a deaf man and her husband, who was a well-know pediatrician, no less, in that area. And we had occasion to use his medical services for Kirsten. Several other lay deaf from the Seattle area assisted in manning the booth along with our hosts. We were there only for the first week, but the booth was up and manned by the local "team" for the rest of the Convention."

Roger continues, "After that, I do believe we have been represented at every GC with a booth and with interpreters on the floor at the worship services and in the "visitors" section." Indeed, since 1991 we've had lay or clergy Deaf Deputies seated in the House of Deputies. That has helped make the ministry with the Deaf very visible.

Although there are no Deaf Deputies at this summer's General Convention, the ECD will still be there! Members of the Board of Directors (Barbara Allen, Roy Brown, Marianne Stephens, Cass Martensen, Steve Holtz, David Early, and Maria Santiviago) will be present in our booth, sitting in on sessions of the House of Deputies and the House of Bishops, exploring the Exhibit Hall, worshipping daily with fellow Episcopalians, and going to open hearings on issues that concern our ministry. We will have three experienced, certified Episcopalian interpreters present as well. They are Kathy Beetham, Rayelenn Casey, and Jan Williamson.

The ECD will have a double-wide booth in the Exhibit Hall. The Rev. Roy Brown will be coordinating the technical aspects of the booth so we will have another awesome presentation. Our booth number is 342 near the food court.



FROM THE DEAF CHURCH MOUSE



January 2009

Hello again my friends,

As I start to play with the priest's computer in our church office I can look out the office window and all I see here is snow. The thermometer outside the window says that the temperature is 9 degrees. Brrrrr!!! In the summer I go outside and find some seeds and other food, but when it is this cold I stay inside because if I go outside my tail will quickly freeze and maybe fall off. EEEK....

I would like to talk with you a little bit about one word. It is a word we use every day. Sometimes we say it several times a day and sometimes only once or twice. That word is "goodbye".

We start signing that word before we can say it because all parents, no matter if mice or men, encourage their children to wave goodbye by the time they are a few months old. It is one of the first words we say when we are young with family and close friends. We start using it daily when we start school and say goodbye to mom and dad and, perhaps, brothers and/or sisters before we leave for school in the morning. When we finish school for the day we say it again to classmates and teachers.

The next stage of using the word comes when we finish school and we say goodbye to classmates, family, friends and neighbors and head away from home to college, trade school, a job or something like that. Goodbye at that time becomes a more serious word with deeper meaning. Then comes the goodbye time when we say goodbye before we leave in the morning for work and we say it to our husband or wife. Still later we add that word for our sons and daughters. Gets serious doesn't it?? And what about the goodbyes to those sons and daughters as they go out into the world themselves? More serious. And then they have children too and we become grandparents and we have more goodbyes to say.

But I am not really interested so much in those goodbyes as I am in the ones that follow them. As we become older our friends and family do too. They retire, move away to other towns, states or even other countries and as they go we say goodbye and know that we probably won't see them again. And again, through our whole life, we sometimes have to say goodbye to someone dear to us, a child, a brother or sister, a grandparent, a parent, an aunt or uncle or cousin: perhaps a good friend, a wife or husband. We have to say a final goodbye and not understand the reason and not understand the full extent of the meaning of that word goodbye. In other words that person dies. And, again, we say goodbye.

And finally come that day when it is our turn to go and we say goodbye to the world as we know it ourselves. And that is the biggest goodbye of all for there are no longer any goodbyes left. From then on we have another word to use. It is, "Hello".

Jesus said: "In my house there are many rooms, I go to prepare a place for you that where I am you may be also. If it was not true, I wouldn't tell you so." The people to whom we have said goodbye, the biggest goodbye, are waiting to greet us and say "hello". Those who remain on earth will also follow us and our new word to them will be "hello" and there will be no more goodbyes at all, but only everlasting life with our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Think about this and when the time comes to say those last goodbyes and do not be afraid, but look forward to saying "hello" to those who have gone before and those who will follow.

And now my friends, keep warm, pray for me and I will pray for you. It is time for me to say a "little" goodbye, until next time.

God bless.

The Deaf Church Mouse

PS You can reach the Mouse at Deafchurchmouse@aol.com if you want to.

Summary of Chat for Deaf Episcopalian January 15, 2009

The Board covered many topics in our 2 hour session. Some notes are as follows:

- A short review of progress with interpreters for General Convention was covered. We have a full compliment of 3 interpreters committed. They have accepted hotel rooms in the block designated to the ECD by the national church.
- Grant requests have been received from Buffalo and Ephphatha CNY. These will be considered at the Spring Board meeting in March, as well as any others received by next month.
- Suzanne Johnston's Ordination to the Diaconate will be May 2nd in Rochester. Roy will represent the Board at this exciting event.
- It was noted the Cathedral College of the National Cathedral in Washington, DC, will be closing at the end of March due to the financial crisis. This has been the meeting place for the Board for many years. We must begin looking for another place, be it in Washington, DC or another part of the country.
- Barbara had a conversation with Angie, one of the ECD's liaison contacts with the national church, and was told that they have approved funding for the ECD for 2009. The Board will still have to testify before the Program, Budget and Finance Committee at General Convention to ask for funding for 2010 and 2011.
- Work on the ECD Cycle of Prayer and updating our national directory continues.
- Kathy Sheldon has done a wonderful job on her first edition of the Deaf Episcopalian!
- Barbara will be working with our new Assessment Secretary, Beth Hill Holst, as she learns her new job. The yearly assessment letter will be late this year and the deadline for receipts of funds will be extended.
- The new Second Century Fund mailing should go out in the next 30-60 days.
- David is looking forward to Steve's arrival in St. Louis on January 26th to learn the job of new Treasurer.
- It was noted by everyone that there is a deep concern with the economy and how it is impacting their lives and their churches. David also fears for the economic impact on the ECD investments as well as money available for grants as interest income is down.

Submitted by Cass Martensen, Secretary

NEWS FROM AROUND THE ECD

News from St. Ann's Church of the Deaf, New York City, NY



Deaf Motorcyclist at St. Ann's Church for the Deaf!

Remember the next time you are in New York City come join us at St. Ann's Church for the Deaf where all the fun is! This is Rev. Maria taking off with Lider Pinzon, who lives in Flushing, New York. He is one of the congregants who showed up just after he got his New York State motorbike license (1st deaf in NYC to receive this!) Yes, you guessed it: that is the retired, Rev. Henry Buzzard in the background! Many of our congregants come from many different parts of the city as well as the state. Still others visit us from New Jersey. Plan to spend a lot of deaf time as there are many activities to be enjoyed after the service! All are welcome.

The Bishop's Cross



On November 14th 2008, at the 232nd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of New York, The Rev. Maria Isabel Santiviago was awarded the highest honor of our Diocese: The Bishop's Cross, by the Fifteenth Bishop of New York, The Rt. Rev. Mark S. Sisk ". . . in recognition and gratitude for her service to her community, her parish, her diocese and her Bishop . . ."

Rev. María is the Bishop's Vicar at Misión San Juan Bautista in the South Bronx and Vicar at St. Ann's Church for the Deaf on 16th Street on the East Side of Manhattan.

Congratulations Rev. Maria!

Evelyn Schafer

The Pirate Man goes to Church!

On the day after Valentine's Day, St. Ann's Church for the Deaf had a special visitor: The Pirate Man! Abet a good one with a heart of Gold! In reality, the Captain of that show is actor/producer, Mr. Jamie Davis who specializes in developing original family programs and performances for the deaf. As a kid, Mr. Davis attended All Angel's Church where in the basement of that Church was Saint Ann's Church for the Deaf, here in New York City. He attended college at Rochester Institute of Technology, where he was also able to learn and use his signing. You can visit his website at: <http://www.maritimepirates.com/SignLanguage.html>. We enjoyed his show and it was wonderful to be able to communicate in the same language.



Many congregants who attended St. Ann's Church for the deaf had a chance to participate in his live show. They received his 'Certificate of Pirates Maritime Proclamation'. There were even mockups of mop and sword battles! A happy event for all to enjoy who came away with the 'Greatest Treasure of all: "Love is a heart of Gold!" Giving and sharing, is truly in the heart of everyone! All working together from the perfect morning's theme sermon from The Rev. María Santiviago!

Evelyn Schafer

News from St. Barnabas' Mission of the Deaf, Chevy Chase, Maryland

Ecumenical Deaf Children's Group at St. Barnabas'

There was a report with photos on this group in the Fall 2008 Issue of the DE. On December 14, 2008 this group presented a play of the Christmas Story. All of the children participated in one way or another. You can view a streaming video and photos at our website: stbarnabasdeaf@edow.org.

Two of the mothers collaborated in writing and directing the play. St. John's Norwood, the hearing church where St. Barnabas' meets, provided beautiful costumes. It was interesting to watch the children's behavior as they rehearsed and then at the dress rehearsal. The minute they donned the costumes they seemed to become the persons they were acting.

Deaf ministries here in Washington were invited to attend the play and to share in a Potluck Supper following. We counted thirty-seven people attending. It was a good time to present this as many children had grandparents and other extended family visiting for the Holidays. It was a very enjoyable afternoon!

St. Barnabas' Studying Possible International Deaf Ministry

Ministry in Jerusalem and Jordan

The Bishop of Washington has initiated a relationship with the Diocese of Jerusalem and the Diocese of Washington. In that diocese there are three schools for deaf children and youth. Bishop Chane has invited the Vicar of St. Barnabas' to pursue a relationship between St. Barnabas' and our Gallaudet University Episcopal ministry with one of those schools, the Salt School in Jordan. The Rev. Barbara Allen, Vicar of St. Barnabas' and ECD president met the headmaster of this school several years ago when he visited the United States and Gallaudet's ministry. All of this is in the planning stage at present. We ask the prayers of the ECD as we study and make decisions.

Ministry in the Congo

Many of you may remember back to ECD Convention in 2002 when the Rev. Mitzi Noble was Vicar of St. Barnabas'. She brought to Convention a young man from the Congo, Kiombo Nsumbu, who was a student at Gallaudet and attended St. Barnabas'. Many exciting things have happened for Kiombo since then. He graduated with a B.A. degree in Deaf Studies and will graduate this May with a Master's Degree in International Studies. He plans to stay here in the US another one to two years working to raise enough money to go back to the Congo and start his own school for the deaf there.

Kiombo has written a fifteen page proposal on his plans to teach children ages three to five or younger Congolese sign language. In his proposal he reports that the literacy rate of deaf students is very low but they have no exact number because it has never been assessed. He also states that ninety percent of deaf children are born to hearing parents who never expose them to sign language. The children are dependent on sign language to communicate. Kiombo has written a Congolese Sign Language book which is accepted in the Congo. The Vicar of St. Barnabas' has taken Kiombo's proposal to the Bishop of Washington for his study and recommendation on how the diocese might be involved.

St. Barnabas' is looking at the possibility of assisting Kiombo with this project through the Millennium Development Goals project that is very active in the Diocese of Washington. The members of St. Barnabas' and the Vicar believe very strongly in moving Deaf Ministry beyond the walls of our churches and the borders of our country. We ask your prayers in this endeavor.

News from **Ephphatha Church for the Deaf, Syracuse, New York**

Happy 106th Birthday to Cliff Leach! Ephphatha of Rochester, NY honored parishioner Cliff Leach on January 24th, 2009 on his 106th birthday. The event was also sponsored by Advocacy for Housing for Deaf Seniors, Inc. Cliff has been a faithful member of Ephphatha for many years. His personal history includes having grown up in West Virginia, where he attended West Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind. He played baseball in the Minor Leagues in his youth (batting average of

.408). He spent many years working for IBM in Binghamton, NY. He continues to be active in the deaf community, and enjoys playing Euchre at the local Deaf club. Cliff's birthday of January 24 has even been formally proclaimed in his name by the Town of Greece, a suburb of Rochester where Cliff was resident for many years. Cliff now lives at a senior living center, where he continues to enjoy visits from friends, neighbors and Ephphatha parish members. Happy Birthday, Cliff!

PLEASE WELCOME FATHER PETER WILLIAMS...who is already filling in real big shoes left behind by the Reverend "Mother" Virginia Nagel upon her retirement from her ministry at Ephphatha Parish for the Deaf in Syracuse, New York.

News from St Hilda's Ministry, Monmouth Oregon



The Rev. Deacon William Mosier is very pleased to report that the Deaf Ministry in Oregon...continues to grow and prosper. Our Christmas activities drew a crowd of thirty two people.

Our new priest Anne Moore is learning sign language and making plans to provide a signed Eucharist Service soon. She now signs parts of the liturgy in our regular Sunday morning service. What a thrill to see the deaf and hearing people working together in this way.

There are many aspects that come out of the ministry with Deaf People at St. Hilda's. We have interpreted services every Sunday. Noonday prayer worship once a month and a Fellowship Social once a month. So we have both a mainstreamed ministry and a ministry with only deaf people present.

The people of St. Hilda's welcome the deaf people as a vital part of the congregation. Deaf people serve on the Bishop's Advisory Committee and have been delegates to the diocesan convention.

This year we have a goal to bring this special ministry to other churches. It is something that has come about because of the high cost of transportation. The Alleluiah Fellowship involves people from Salem, McMinnville, Corvallis and the community of Newport on the coast. In February we will have our fellowship at St. Paul's in Salem.

We will continue Sunday worship at St. Hilda's. Later we hope to have another place in Corvallis. All of these communities are surrounding communities of Monmouth.

Since many of our people are very, very poor, we have a special community outreach program that works with social service agencies in surrounding communities. Because Western Oregon University is in Monmouth, we are able to involve the deafness training programs in this ministry as well.

Many people have asked me how I am doing since my wife died in 2006. You will be happy to know that while I miss her greatly, the good work of this ministry continues. I have a very close relationship with the deaf ministry team and the good people at St. Hilda's Church. For this I thank God daily.

May the new year bring us all together in our praise and work for our Lord.

The Rev. dcn. William Mosier



(Photo: Hilary White chose a gift during the Christmas gift exchange. See how her face glows with much joy!)

News from **St. Thomas Episcopal Church for the Deaf, Kirkwood, Missouri**

Congratulations to William Bixby Sheldon



who along with other new members, men and women were installed into the American Chapter of the Order of the Hospital of Saint John of Jerusalem, the ancient Order that traces its heritage back more than 900 years to the Crusades.

The solemn, colorful ceremony took place at the lovely, old Washington National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. on Saturday, November 8, 2008. The Rev. Barbara Allen was on hand to interpret for William and his wife, Kathy.

(Photo: The Rev. Barbara Allen & William B. Sheldon)

(According to the members of the Order, Bill was probably the first American who is Deaf to become a member. One of those days William will realize his goal in helping the Deaf who have eye and other health problems at the Eye Hospital in the Holy City of Jerusalem.)

Congratulations and Best Wishes to...

The Reverend Arthur Steidemann as he celebrated his **56 years** of Ministry to the Deaf. Wow, what a remarkable milestone! The Lord has been very good to the Reverend Arthur because He gave him a blessing to achieve a lifetime goal of caring and ministering to the Deaf Community!

As the years went by, the Reverend Arthur was and still is here and there both at St. Thomas Episcopal Church for the Deaf and also in the activities of the Deaf Community. He gave his time as an interpreter.

When needed, the Reverend Arthur is always available to give grace, a prayer, advice, and a listening ear to the Deaf. Truly, he is a very familiar figure to everyone who knows and loves him.

St. Thomas Episcopal Church for the Deaf is very happy, fortunate and honored to have the Reverend Arthur with us for such a long time.



Blessings and congratulations to **Charles “Loy” Johnston** on his 90th birthday; and also to **Charles and Mildred** on their 62nd Wedding Anniversary!

The family photo with the title, “A Birthday and Anniversary Celebration” appeared in the Belleville, Illinois hometown newspaper!

Surrounded by the members of their big family, Loy (dark jacket and white shirt) and Mildred (dark blouse

and white sweater) are seated in the center on a big sofa.

Under the photo, Mary Schmitt penned her words: “The picture was taken at my Grandpa’s 90th birthday/62nd wedding anniversary. It includes all his 4 children, 14 grandchildren, and eight great grandchildren. Both my grandparents are deaf, but that has never slowed them down. They are an inspiration to us all!”

DAILY REPORT ON 2008 ECD CONVENTION ACTIVITIES *

Written by Kathy Sheldon

(In the Fall issue of *The Deaf Episcopalian*, Kathy Sheldon installed the first part of the **Daily Report** from July 14th, Monday to July 17th, Thursday.

For this Winter 2009 issue, Kathy’s report covers the all day activities of July 18th, Friday.

The rest of the activities from Saturday, July 19 to Sunday, July 20 will be in the Spring issue.) *

July 18, Friday

Wow, the Hospitality Committee really lined up several neat activities for us to enjoy!

The Wine Tour was the first activity of the day when we visited the New York Wine and Culinary Center in Canandaigua, NY. After we boarded the bus at NTID, the bus driver took us for a scenic ride to that town. Our interpreters, Rachel Rose and Marcene Lloyd accompanied us on the adventure.

Upon our arrival we were given a tour through the beautiful Center: the Eber Brothers Wine Tasting Room; Viking Range Hands-On Kitchen; the Wine Spectator Educational Center, the Exhibition Hall; the Southern Wine & Spirits Dining Room; and the Taste of New York Lounge.

Looking through the glass doors and windows of the Kitchen, we could see the young girls busy preparing something delicious for their summer class.

We settled into the Wine Tasting Room for a lesson of tasting the New York wines with cheese followed by a lecture on the history of wine, the growing conditions, and the geography of the New York state. For those of us who did not drink wine were given an opportunity to sample with cheese the New York Harvest juices that came from Red Jacket Orchards, Joe's Summer Blend at Finger Lakes, NY. A delicious buffet lunch followed.

After lunch, we crowded into the Food Arts Culinary Boutique to browse around and/or buy souvenirs, postcards, wine or juice bottles, etc., to take home.

A Workshop on Church Website

We let the time run off a bit. So upon our arrival back at the NTID, we had to hurry to join the other participants not on the tour in the meeting room for a workshop on how to create a Church website.

Mr. Ed Knight, member of St. Barnabas Episcopal Church of the Deaf, provided us the papers with step-by-step instructions and pictures of the computer programs on how he used the camcorder to record the live scenes of the activities in the church before converting from his camcorder the pictures onto the website on the computer.

Ed passed around to us the copies of his church newsletter, *St. Barnabas' Episcopal Church of the Deaf* which showed the photos that he already published on the website.

After giving us a demonstration on the website, Ed encouraged us to try it and at the same time invited us to ask him anytime the questions on the topic by e-mailing him at knightedd@comcast.com

Ed presented a list of reasons on why we should have a website for our church:

- We "bring church" to show deaf people what we have to offer for worship services in their language (ASL and/or total communication, etc.).
- We share the website with the home-bound members, or the former members who moved far away.
- People who are learning sign language could benefit from watching the website.
- The website is a wonderful example of evangelism for us to use to reach people through church and ECD.

Before dinner, we gathered for the last tour of the day at the Lyndon Baines Johnson Building. A young woman student studying to be an interpreter showed us the study rooms, cafeteria, the theatre, and the art gallery inside the big, beautiful building. The guide explained that this place was where deaf students could come in to study and relax.

For your information, this building was named in honor of Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson, our 35th President of the United States from 1963 to 1969, because he was instrumental in signing the Bill paving the way for the National Technical Institute for the Deaf to be built on the campus of RIT in Rochester, New York thus expanding further educational possibilities for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing students to seek there.

"Fools for Christ!"

A group by this name presented a very powerful but spiritual and uplifting show during our Worship Service in Allen Chapel. A few actors dressed up in clown costumes acted while our interpreters Rachel and

Marcene swayed us to the flow of words and music.

In front of the altar, the clowns guided us through the story of Jesus' life from His Birth, His Ministry, to His Death on the Cross and His Resurrection.

A loaf of bread used in the play represented a symbol in different ways:

- For example, one of the clowns in the role of Virgin Mary carried on her arms a loaf of bread representing the Christ Child.
- In the Crucifixion scene, the clowns as the Roman soldiers put Jesus on the floor to nail His Hands and Feet with the loaf of bread, a substitute for a hammer or mallet. Before lifting the Cross up, the soldiers put the loaf of bread, a symbol of Jesus' body, on the Cross. Afterwards the rest of the clowns handed each of us a nail, a symbol to remind us of the terrible moment of Jesus' suffering.

A lollipop used in the act was another example of symbolism:

- As a young Jesus starting His Ministry, the clown held in his hand a great big lollipop which he passed around to allow the other clowns lick the candy, a symbol of His sharing the teachings with them. Then all of sudden another clown in the role of a Sinner stole the lollipop from Jesus and ran away. Later the sad and sorrowful Sinner covered with heavy chains crawled on his knees and hands to the altar while everyone looked on. The clowns forgave the Sinner by releasing him from the chains.

When it came to Jesus' Resurrection, the clowns gave each of us a balloon and invited us to get up and rejoice in the happy occasion. Then the clowns ended the show with the celebration of Holy Eucharist.

Afterwards, we trooped to the basement for the Wine and Cheese Party hosted by the Rochester Host Committee who reminded us that there would be no ECD Convention in 2009, because the General Convention of the Episcopal Church would be held that year.

In the middle of the party, the Rev. Marianne Stephens-Kroll came up on the stage platform to announce that her parish at All Soul's Church of Birmingham, Alabama would like to host the 2010 ECD Convention.

To be continued...

Summary of Chat for Deaf Episcopalian December 18, 2008

This was a short, but highly productive Chat for the Board. Two subjects were dealt with as follows:

- **INTERPRETERS FOR GENERAL CONVENTION** - After discussion about the Board's needs and other availability issues concerning interpreters for General Convention in 2009, we decided that a total of 3 interpreters would be sufficient. Kathy Beetham, our General Convention Interpreter Coordinator, would be one. Kathy would then contact 2 other interpreters that have contracted with the ECD, or ECD member churches, in the past and are highly skilled, to see if they are interested and/or available for General Convention. Kathy will let the Board's General Convention Coordinator know when these positions have been filled.
- **ECD CYCLE OF PRAYER** – The development of an ECD Cycle of Prayer (based on the format of the Anglican Cycle of Prayer) is a work in progress. Nancy and Marianne have taken on this project. It's become clear that our ECD National Directory of Churches must also be updated at this time, so the two projects have been combined. Churches listed in our directory will be contacted to see if their ministry with deaf people has continued since the list was last updated. We hope to have the list cycle printed in the Deaf Episcopalian as well as posted on our website. Roy has agreed to be our liaison with the Webmaster for this particular project.

Submitted by Cass Martensen, Secretary



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News from local congregations is encouraged, particularly high resolution: sharp & clear photographs, please

We hope to include something in every issue, but that will be up to you.

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DEADLINE FOR THE SPRING ISSUE IS April 30, 2009

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