

NIAGARA FALLS IN 2006

The keynote speaker at next summer's NAAC Gathering will be the noted scholar, author, and teacher, Maxwell E. Johnson, professor of liturgical studies at the University of Notre Dame. He also serves as an editorial consultant for Worship and is a member of the North American Academy of Liturgy (NAAL) and Societas Liturgica. An ordained Lutheran pastor, Johnson holds a doctorate in litur-

gical studies from Notre Dame; he also has masters of arts degrees in theology from St. John's University and Notre Dame. His masters of divinity is from Wartburg Theological Seminary, and his BA from Augustana College.

The liturgist will be Rev. Barbara Berry-Bailey. She serves as Associate Director for Worship at the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. She spent 20 years work-

ing in public broadcasting before entering the Lutheran Theological Seminary. She is currently pursuing a Doctor of Ministry degree in American Church History at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago.



BECOMING A CATECHUMENATE JUNKIE

It was with great joy and commitment that NAAC was able to join



together at the Cenacle Center in Chicago to support each other and get new life in catechumenal

ministry. Chicago is a lovely city — the waterfront, many fine restaurants, cultural events, baseball, and jazz music on every corner. Throughout the entire event, we were able to renew old friendships and develop new ones with people who had never before attended a NAAC event.

Dr. Lester Ruth, Assistant Professor at Ashbury Seminary in Lexington, Kentucky, and member of the United Methodist

Church, spoke to us on how we celebrate baptism with integrity and helped us to think of ways to lead a catechumenal process. These methods were pertinent to our various situations and congregations. Even Lester was shocked when just before his third presentation, a group of people stood up one at a time, and stated their name and said: "Yes, I, too, am a catechumenate junkie!"

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A BRIEF HISTORY OF NAAC

The North American Association for the Catechumenate grew out of the meetings that were jointly sponsored by the Episcopal, ELCA, and Anglican denominations for catechumenal process called "The Working Group." The original primary funding for this project was from the Episcopal Church under the leadership of Wayne Schwab. The Working Group was very gracious and offered a wide embrace to other denominations.

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NAAC NEWS ON THE WEB

Issues of NAAC News in color will be available on the website and ready for downloading by way of .pdf. The issues will be available on the Resources page of the site. Items or articles for future issues should be forwarded to the editor.

North American Association
for the Catechumenate
www.catechumenate.org

BECOMING A CATECHUMENATE JUNKIE

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Worship was led by the Rev. Dr. Sid Fowler, with Jim Riggs as our very talented musician. Both Sid and Jim are from the United Church of Christ, USA.

Whenever we joined together for worship, the room and actions hit all of our senses very profoundly with water, seeds running through our hands, candles lighted, silken and visual images projected on a screen. It was an amazing time of reflection and celebration.

The workshops we offered were excellent examples of how the theory and practice are intertwined in catechumenal ministry and left us with so much to take

home.

During the annual general meeting two new board members were announced: Dawn Tillema and Bryon Hansen. This was the result of a Nomination Committee process headed by Edie Boettcher. A huge welcome to Dawn and Bryon and many thanks to the committee that worked so hard to make this possible! Concern was raised at the meeting about those attending the NAAC conference for the first time feeling a bit "out of the loop." Next year we will be establishing a "companion situation" to address this need. A new participant will receive welcome and introduction from someone who has already has attended

gatherings in the past. The companions will accompany their new persons at the gathering as well.

NAAC truly wants to thank everyone who attended the Chicago event and hopes that you will consider brining yourself and others to the gathering in Niagara Falls at the Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre. This event will take place from July 20th through July 23rd. We will be very privileged to have the Rev. Maxwell Johnson, Professor of Liturgical Studies at Notre Dame, as our keynote speaker and the Rev. Barbara Berry-Bailey as our liturgist.

Hope to see you all again soon!

Peace always,
Shirley Griffin

BRIEF HISTORY

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Both the Working Group and NAAC were conceived and grew up from the common root of developing catechumenal process for all churches. The Working Group was envisioned as doing the more theoretical work of historical study and theoretical resourcing for the "movement" while NAAC was a envisioned as the practical, fellowship support and vehicle transmission of process for church leaders seeking to understand and implement the catechumenal process.

In 1995, a meeting was held at Flower Mound, Texas with both lay people and clergy who had an interest in the catechumenate. It was at this meeting that the original NAAC Board was voted in.

The Working Group seemed to struggle to get together on a regular basis and finally ended its meetings. The NAAC Board has benefited from changing, talented, and dedicated leadership over the decade. The Association continues to grow and respond to the needs of the membership. Join us in 2006 as NAAC celebrates its tenth annual gathering.

The 10 NAAC Annual Events with sites and keynote speakers:

- 1996 — Seattle, Washington (no speaker)
- 1997 — Denver, Colorado, with Tom Morris
- 1998 — Boston, Massachusetts, with Rob Hofstad and John Hill
- 1999 — This event was cancelled.
- 2000 — Mississauga, Ontario, with Ruth Meyers
- 2001 — Santa Fe, New Mexico, with Dan Benedict and Karen Ward
- 2002 — Montreal, Quebec, with Mark McDonald
- 2003 — Rochester, Minnesota, with Jim Schellman
- 2004 — Niagara Falls, Ontario, with John Hill
- 2005 — Chicago, Illinois, with Lester Ruth
- 2006 — Niagara Falls, Ontario, with Maxwell Johnson



THE NAAC BOARD

Shirley Griffin

About fifteen years ago, Shirley made the decision to let faith take hold of her life. She went through the Catechumenate process and was baptized as an adult at the Anglican Church of St. Augustine in Toronto. Shirley knew this was a life changing process and decided to make it her true church vocation. She was catechumenal coordinator at St. Augustine's for a number of years, and moved to a larger Anglican parish in Toronto where she spent five years developing the process. Shirley is now part of the Presbyterian Church in Canada and hopes to assist in bring catechumenate to that church body. Shirley is chair of the NAAC Board of Directors. Her main portfolio is to be the annual gathering site coordinator and contact person. She wants to help congregations find new richness and vitality in their common life as they explore and accept the responsibility to welcome and support all whose baptism makes them full and equal members of their faith communities.

Steve Harnadek

Steve was introduced to the Catechumenate at the Centre for Pastoral Liturgy at the University of Notre Dame in conferences and workshops in the late 1980's and early 1990's. Realizing the potential for transforming lives and parishes, Steve began to implement the catechumenate in the parish where he was at that time and subsequently in the parish of St. Matthew's (Anglican) in Windsor since 1993. Steve is a member of his diocese's Catechumenate Network and another Catechumenate Network that includes people from the Toronto area through to Windsor.

Clement Mehlman

Clem has been working with the catechumenate in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada since 1991 in parish projects and on synodical and national church task forces. He has been the web curator for the NAAC website since 1998. He holds three masters degrees, one of which is a Master of Arts and ministry and Spirituality from Regis College of the University of Toronto. Currently he is a member of the Lutheran Church of Resurrection in Halifax, a member of the Synod Council of the Eastern Synod, and the Lutheran university chaplain at Dalhousie University. He has contributed to the Fortress Press collection of essays on the catechumenate and reaffirmation of baptism, *What Do You Seek?* He was the editor of *Pneuma* for the ELCIC which had quarterly column on the catechumenate. These are available on line at www.worship.ca.

Bev Piro

Bev is Pastor and Administrator at Phinney Ridge Lutheran Church (ELCA) in Seattle, Washington. She has been involved in the catechumenate since 1995 and was a "cata-what" skeptic until the scales fell from here eyes as she witnessed the transformation of lives and faith through the process. She has served as Adjunct to the Bishop of the Northwest Washington Synod, ELCA, for catechumenate development (1997-2000) and continues to chair the synodical catechumenate team. She also chairs the ELCA's Catechumenate Task Force and has led many training sessions and workshops. Bev joined the NAAC Board in 2002 and currently serves as treasurer.

Dawn Tillema

Dawn first learned about the catechumenate in 1999. A new minister introduced the process to the congregation and assembled a team to learn more about the catechumenate, especially in a reformed setting. In 2000 Central Reformed Church became a pilot church within the Reformed Church in America using catechumenate process. While Central Reformed used the process, Dawn served on the task force both as sponsor and catechist. She designed curriculum and led large group times. Dawn spoke to representatives of the RCA General Synod in 2003, briefly describing the catechumenate and how this differed from church growth programs. Dawn is a firm believer in catechumenate and how it opens the whole church, seeker and believer, to the direction of the Holy Spirit. Her passion is to introduce the catechumenate to other churches.

Bryon Hansen

Bryon first learned about catechumenate in seminary while he was wrestling with his theology of baptism. He read about the early centuries of the church and there discovered that Christians are "made, not born." He began to understand baptism as a process and as a way of life. He began a catechumenate ministry at St. Mark's Lutheran in Portland, where he is now Pastor. Bryon also serves on the ELCA Catechumenate Task Force and the Oregon Synod ELCA/Episcopal Diocese of Oregon joint Catechumenate Team. Bryon is committed to an ecumenical vision of the church. His board responsibilities include development of a newsletter and publicity.

RECOMMENDED

Making Disciples: Serving Those Who Are Entering the Christian Life by John Hill The Hoskins Group, Toronto. 1991

A very practical guide for ministry to the inquirer and the catechu-



men. This resource includes suggestions for developing the process including selecting sponsors, models for catechesis, and rites. An excellent resource

for those beginning or already involved in catechumenal ministry.

The Rites of Christian Initiation: Their Evolution and Interpretation by Maxwell E. Johnson. A Pueblo Book by The Liturgical Press, 1999. Written by Maxwell Johnson, the keynote speaker for the 2006 NAAC gathering, this book traces the development of initiation practices and subsequent rites from the time of Jesus until the present day. One discovers a great deal of variety among the various Christian traditions in any

given period, be it the pre-Nicene period, the Middle Ages or the time of the Reformation. In other words, ritual practice was not as uniform as one might imagine. At the conclusion of this excellent work of liturgical history, Johnson writes passionately of "going back home to the font." He speaks of a baptismal spirituality much needed in the cotemporary church, including a renewed sense of the baptismal focus at the center of the liturgical year, the ministry of all the baptized and renewed zeal for ecumenism.

FAITH AND FONT EVENT

Sponsored by the Episcopal Diocese of Texas and North American Association on the Catechumenate, a training event for congregational teams will be held in October at Camp Allen in Texas. The event's theme is "The Catechumenate for a Mission-

ary Church," and this Faith and Font event will feature the main presenter, Rev. Michael Merriman with other presentations by Rev. Bev Piro, Ms. Shirley Griffin, and Rev. Andrew Parker. Details related to this series of events may be found on the NAAC website.



DR. LESTER RUTH'S BIBLIOGRAPHY

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■ "In Baptism every Christian has enough to study and to practice all his life. He always has enough to do to believe firmly what Baptism promises and brings — victory over death and the devil, forgiveness of sin, God's grace, the entire Christ, and the Holy Spirit with his gifts. No greater jewel can adorn our body and soul than Baptism, for through it we obtain perfect holiness and salvation, which no other kind of life and no work on earth can acquire." Luther, *The Large Catechism*

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