



The Episcopal Diocese of Idaho

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January 2017

Dear Friends in Christ,

When I ponder the future of the Episcopal Church in Idaho, two recurring themes come quickly to mind – faith formation and leadership development. The call to every disciple of Jesus Christ is to become formed in His likeness and to provide the same opportunity to others. We must train and empower leaders to maintain viable parishes and strong mission. Young adults and children must be formed in their faith so that they can be the spiritual builders who follow us.

It is for these two priorities that I become so excited about the ministry at Paradise Point Camp. Those of you who know me and our Camp are aware of how much value I place in this ministry. It is a gorgeous portion of God's creation, but more importantly, the mission at Paradise Point provides one of the best opportunities we have as a Diocese to build faith and develop leaders among youth and adults. It is a powerful piece of discipleship that we can do together.

It is well documented that outdoor ministry settings are among the most important places and opportunities to encounter God, building awareness and faith. The combination of extended time away, the inspiration of nature's wonders, and the faith witness of college-age counselors and adult leaders has a transforming effect on young people. They hear and ascertain how God is active in this world; they see the love of God expressed before their eyes in the community life they share at camp. Parents routinely tell us about the spiritual and maturity changes they observe in their Paradise Point campers.

Paradise Point develops leaders for our Church and our communities. The young adults who serve as our counselors are equipped to be leaders civically and religiously. Some will lead within the Church, some will lead in community mission, and some others will go on to be ordained. (It is well documented among outdoor ministry leaders and those who study its effects that a clear camper-to-ordination path exists – I was one of them).

I believe our Episcopal Church can do much to advance the Kingdom of God in Idaho. I further believe that by supporting Tomorrow's Paradise Point, we are helping to usher in that future. There is nothing more important for us to be about than passing on our faith in Christ and raising up leaders for ministry and mission.

I invite you to please discern how God is calling you to participate in this opportunity. Please review this booklet prayerfully and then join Ardele and me in supporting *Tomorrow's Paradise Point* with a significant gift.

I cannot wait to see what God has in store for Paradise Point's vibrant ministry!

In Christ,

Bishop Brian Thom

XIII Idaho

We are one in baptism- our call to discipleship- to be the hands and heart of Jesus in the world.