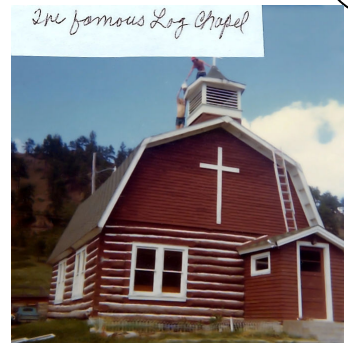




Tee Pee Smoke



OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH - ROCKY BOY
ON THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN INDIAN RESERVATION
BOX R 1 D E R . M T 7 5 9 5 2 1

IT'S PRAYING IN ACTION

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- St. Paul's Evangelical Church of Telford, PA celebration
- Fireside Room nearing completion, but lacking something very important
- Gearing up for summer Servant Group visits
- 2005 Ministries in Review
- Summer Camp Partnership

TELFORD - Terrance Gray said he felt the heaviness of pain and illness as he entered the room to dance at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church on Sunday.

Gray danced along with John Mitchell Sr. as part of 'The Grass Dance Society and its Songs' from Our Saviour's Lutheran Church on the Rocky Boy Reservation in Montana.

St. Paul's has been supporting Our Saviour's Church for about six years, said church member Ellie Landis of Telford.

After dancing, Gray said, 'I see people hurting, sick, maybe in mourning, maybe you have a cold or are feeling angry.

'Whatever it is I feel for you people,' Gray said. 'I smudged up and called on my grandfathers and grandmothers to help me. I asked for a special blessing.'

Smudging is a Native American ritual done to prepare an area as sacred space prior to sacred dances, said David Christensen, pastor of St. Paul's.

Photographs could not be taken until after the area had been smudged.

Gray said that grass dancing used to be done to heal people.

'We bless grounds we walk on to make sure nothing bad is there, and if something bad is there, it goes into us,' he said. 'We take it from you people - just for a split second - and then it goes up to the Creator.'



Arden Barden, pastor of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, made connections between Native American traditions and Christianity throughout the program.

'Jesus went about doing three things: preaching, teaching and healing,' he said.

Gray's brother, Gordon, and Gordon's son, Kiel, drummed and sang as Terrance Gray and Mitchell danced after donning powwow regalia. When the first dance concluded, the audience of several hundred sat stone silent.

Then Christensen asked, 'Can we clap?' After Gordon Gray said 'yes,' the room exploded with applause.

Terrance Gray explained that the vivid colors of his ceremonial dress - pinks, reds, blues

and purples - represented his family colors. The regalia, which was handmade by a Canadian woman, was from his grandfather.

The dress is meant to 'hide our humanness from the spirits,' he said.

Their headdresses were made from porcupine needles, deer tails and eagle feathers.

Kiel Gray, whose Indian name is Eagle with Voice, played two flute solos for the audience.

'I'm not much on talking,' he said before he played. 'I rather talk with my music.'

Barden said Native American dance is 'not just a performance - it's praying in action.'

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CELEBRATION IN PENNSYLVANIA

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Women are not involved in many of the ceremonies because 'women are more powerful than men because they bring life into the world,' Terrance Gray said.

'Men need the ceremonies to be half as strong as the women,' he said.

The last dance, called a round dance, included the Grays and Mitchell using hand drums and singing with the audience encircling them holding hands.

'Whoever is carrying heaviness, it goes into the circle,' Gordon Gray said.

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CHRISTINE CHARNOSKY
Staff Writer
"The Reporter"
Telford, PA



CROSS CULTURAL TEAM GOES TO PENNSYLVANIA



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Telford, PA, under the leadership of Pastor David Christensen, recently celebrated their 100th Anniversary. (Note: We are not saying that Pastor David is 100 years old!) As part of this celebration they wanted to include the ministry of OSLCRB where they have been coming for the past seven years as Summer Servant groups. Their congregation provided the funding and housing for our five-member team which consisted of: Pastor Arden Barden, Gordon Gray, Kiel Gray, Terrance Gray, and John Mitchell.

The team made five presentations over the week of March 12-16. Their presentations to three churches and two schools combined authentic Native Spirituality through song and dance with connections to Biblical scriptures and teachings through Pastor Barden's interpretive comments. The trip was thus also an opportunity to explore

the idea that the mission of Our Saviour's might be developed to share First Nation faith and life with people of Christian tradition. The spiritual experiences of those audiences showed promise that indeed Christians can grow in their faith by learning of Native traditional ways.

Our Saviour's is grateful to St. Paul's for their support and invitation, particularly the hospitality of Wendy and David Christenson and Betty and Lee Shoemaker. St. Paul's is representative of a number of congregations around the Eastern Pennsylvania area who support our ministry at Rocky Boy. A number of people from the respective communities also attended the presentations. More trips may be planned to connect with other congregations and individuals in that region.

The group was hosted with a tour of old Philadelphia and a visit to the new National Indian Museum at the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C. The museum provides a good exposure to basic Native art, foods, religion and history, and represents differences between tribes. In the view of our team, however, it was quite institutional and lacked the warmth, personality and presence true to Indian people and Indian ways. This, too, became a learning about how "white culture" views and presents our Native American heritage.

We will continue to develop mutual cross-cultural experiences through the summer Servant Groups and fall immersion groups that come to Rocky Boy.

PASTOR'S PRAYERS & POINTS

The River Runs Both Ways

A different time and place of my pastoring was in a town on a sizeable lake. That lake connected by a small water way—river!—to one the Great Lakes. The relative lake levels were such that depending on a number of variables, the “current” might flow one way one time and the other way another time. A fish might actually have to swim against the current to get down stream, or maybe could go with the current to get up stream!

As all ministries should be mutually supporting, I believe—both giving and receiving—so should this on be. This is a spiritual resource center, a place where Gospel happens, a place where the Love and Life of God in Christ is given and received.

As is common historically with missions, much of what the work that has been done here over the years has been an expression of a one-way flow: faith to non-faith, resources to needs, and gospel in ‘outreach’. To the degree that this has been good and blessed, received and appreciated, this *has been* God’s Work in God’s World.

What I’m experiencing as a pastor coming here is how much I am receiving from my new friends at Rocky Boy. My faith is growing by leaps and bounds as I find new meanings and nuances in Bible, doctrine and practice. This stimulation is coming from the ancient stories, ways and meanings that are coming to me in First Nation faith and life in the Creator. If it is doing this for me, my wondering is how much it can do for other traditional Christians. Could this be a part of our mission for the future: to help the rest of the world, especially those of us in the main-stream culture and churches, experience something of the power,

depth and breadth of Native American spirituality and culture.

When we view other cultures, we tend to do so as historians, sociologists or anthropologists. We make other peoples objects of our interest. When approaching others with a ‘one-way mission’ view, we see only what they can or should get from us. My wondering is this: what if we regard people in what we call “cross-cultural settings for ministry” not as objects of our interest or intent, but as subjects with whom we can interact and from whom we can learn?

We explored this notion on our Pennsylvania trip. Our goal was to provide genuine experiences of First Nation spiritual ways of prayer, ceremony and community. We sought to do this in a way that avoided as much as possible the notions of curiosity or paternalism, and to give to other people in authentic relationship and genuine spirituality. We observed numerous blessings of spiritual enrichment and heart-to-heart mutuality that come with opened minds and freed spirits.

One of the truths given by the Creator to First Nation people is that they have been entrusted with a kind of relationship with both the Creator and the Creation that will one day be called upon to participate in the renewal of the world. If we can consider that we have much to learn as well as much to give, we may well discover a powerful resource in understanding, experiencing and practicing our own Christian faith. We have to be open to the notion that with spirituality, the river runs both ways. Depending on various factors, the flow can go either way. As one who believes in a God who is over all and in all and through all, I believe it is part of why God has placed this mission here. For those of us who hold dear the Cross of Christ and are called to see the Christ in others, there is a richness of faith in this brotherhood and sisterhood through their Native traditions.



AMBASSADORS 1000 HOLDS PROMISE

In November, Pastor Barden initiated a campaign to increase the base of support for the ministry here at Rocky Boy. *Ambassador 1000* set forth the goal of 1000 new giving units at a modest but regular commitment of \$25.00 per calendar quarter. The campaign also invites “verbal support” by seeking out one or more other “ambassadors” from acquaintances or congregations. And it invites prayer support for the ministry, the staff, and the future.

As of the end of April, we have 28 new “ambassadors” at \$3,750.00 increased commitment, an average of \$134 per year. Of that total, \$1,545.00 has been received. There may actually be more in each of these categories because it appears

that not all new contributors are making use of the Commitment Form; some may have intended to be a part of the *Ambassadors 1000* campaign. However so, we count this as a good beginning in building our confidence for the future.

Our income figures overall have shown some stability. However, the expenses are greater. We did not have a full time pastor for a year and a half, and now we do. Staff have had to work part time, especially during the winter and early spring. And there have been “few to none” programs. We now have greater costs in all of these areas. We need to maintain staff full time if we are to repair our old facilities, complete current projects, and develop new programs.

An explanation of the campaign can be found and downloaded from the website: www.oslcrb.org. As you invite others to support this ministry, encourage them to look at the website and to pull the Information Form and the Commitment Form from the *Ambassadors 1000* link. Here’s how it was envisioned to work:

If 20 Supporters	each recruited	5 Ambassadors	that would be	100
If 50 Supporters	each recruited	4 Ambassadors	that would be	200
If 100 Supporters	each recruited	3 Ambassadors	that would be	300
If 150 Supporters	each recruited	2 Ambassadors	that would be	300
If 100 Supporters	each recruited	1 Ambassador	that would be	100

and the total would easily reach the goal of **1000 new Ambassadors** committed to this ministry!

And then, if **an additional 1,000 Supporters** each recruited **1 Ambassador** it would quickly double the goal! And then, if **an additional 100 Supporters** each were able to establish an annual budgeted contribution of **\$100 to \$1,000** from their or another congregation or congregations, that would nearly triple the goal! We have a mailing list of some 4,000 people and congregations from all over the country. We believe this is workable. We believe this goal can be accomplished, and even doubled or tripled!

R A E ' S C O R N E R

The Give-Away Store



The Give-Away Store continues to do a brisk business thanks to each and everyone of you for taking the time to send clothing and whatever else that you send, it is very much appreciated. There continues to be a specific need for boy's clothing, especially in the 10 to 14 range (size). We have an abundance of girl clothing, but not enough of boys clothing. We also continue to give away school supplies to our youth at the beginning of the school year. This consists of pencils, pens, lined paper, etc.

Layette Ministry

The Layette Program continues to be a big success! For the year 2005, there were 51 babies and 2 sets of twins! Since January we have given out layettes for 3 sets of twins and 9 babies! And I think there will more very soon. Again, Thank You! For sending items for layettes, however, we are in need of things like baby shampoo, lotion, powder, baby oil, etc...

Summer 2006 Servant Groups

We are gearing up for Servant Groups for the summer of 2006! I look forward to seeing many old friends and making new ones. For the year of 2006, there will be 5 returning group's, and my hope is to have some new and different groups in the future while continuing our partnership with the groups that have been here before. Some of the groups come and do VBS, work around the facility, work in the community, and just about anything that we can find for them to do. To date, the Servant Group schedule for this summer is:

- June 6-11 Messiah LC of Omaha, NE
- July 8-12 Zumbro LC of Rochester, MN
- July 29-Aug 6 St. Paul's Evangelical LC of Telford, PA
- July 29-Aug 7 Gloria Dei LC of Downers Grove, IL
- August 15-23 Zion LC of Marietta, PA

Sewing Club

Our Sewing Club continues to meet every Thursday. This is a great way for the ladies to get together, get out the house and have lunch, sew and visit one another. They sew quilts and other things for the church. This group could use some more material, thread and yarn, whatever can be used to make quilts etc...

Hat and Glove Ministry

This winter our hat and love distribution went over very well, in fact we ran out hats and gloves! Winter came early and full blast with sub-zero temperatures and a couple feet of snow! Your donations are right on track and are appreciated still as we begin to stock up for next fall.

Christmas 2005

A total of 327 gifts were distributed to children and the elderly this Christmas. This year we were joined by First Presbyterian Church of Havre, under the pastoral care of Pastor Zoe Coutts, in our pick-



ing and packing time. They expressed a desire to partner with us and contributed not only high energy, enthusiasm and food for the packing time, but also donated \$200 to be used as gas certificates. These certificates are being distributed during the year to those with special circumstances. Thank you, all you supporters, for your contributions of gifts and monetary donations which made this all possible. There were many little smiling faces and grateful elderly people!! As the year 2006 begins we are already planning for next Christmas! We are so thankful for the support of so many people for their help and as always we are in need of toy's and whatever else that would make a nice little gift for a child or an elder.

At the present time in we are transition with our new pastor, Rev. Arden Barden, and our new administrative assistant, Tom Tucker. It has been a good experience for me so far, I am learning so much from the both of them!

We are grateful for the support of all who give to this ministry, both in financial support and in sending goods for the Give-Away Store and for the Layette Ministry. We are grateful for all who have already given verbal or financial support for the *Ambassadors 1000* campaign. We are grateful for the prayers that help keep us connected with the wonders of our God, rooted in the grace of Christ, and inspired in the power of the Spirit. We know that there are other people out there who care about the history, culture and well-being of First Nation people. We are grateful for each effort that seeks to help us in this campaign. If you have found a way to participate in this campaign with us, please let us know by e-mail, or by letter, or by phone—we welcome the support in all ways.

FACILITY OVERVIEW by Tom Tucker

One of the main focuses of my first few months here at OSLCRB has been to work on a facility-wide inspection of all buildings in the structural, electrical, and environmental control efficiency areas. Over the next couple of months our new web page will have a detailed listing of specific project needs, along with an estimate of costs; but in the meantime this is a partial listing of some of the projects that need to be completed on a more expedited timeline.

New Church:

This winter's snow, along with repetitive freezing and thawing temperatures, has highlighted a serious problem in the skylight area of the new church building. This environmental activity has resulted in large scale leakage of water into the Sanctuary area which has also caused some damage to the flooring. The building now has a lovely blue "cap" over the skylight area and



part of the roof (*better picture on our web page*). We have obtained a quote of \$1200 for a mechanical seal of the skylight and a cap over part of the roof; but we do not yet have a cost to repair and replace part of the flooring that was water damaged. The building remains in use during this time, but this is a project that will need to be funded and repaired as soon as possible.

Metal Workshop:

The existing workshop needs to be insulated, heated, garage door replaced, and a man door installed. This will make it possible for Gordon to work out of it during the winter months and



preserve the material that is stored there from any environmental damage. This project is being partially covered, financially and labor wise, this summer by one of our partners, Messiah Lutheran Church of Ralston, NE. We still need financial help in the purchase and professional installation of the heater

unit, propane tank, and the two new doors. This is approximately \$3,093.00. Gordon is looking forward to this being done this summer in preparation for the upcoming winter months.

Walkways:

This summer there is a needed push on the construction of concrete walkways around the Mission House that connect to the Chapel and New Church buildings. With the addition of the Fire-



side Room, we want to make all areas of the facility and buildings accessible to those that require the use of wheelchairs, walkers, or just don't want to walk in our sticky mud. This will also reduce our maintenance costs for the interior of all buildings.

Cabins:

We are sorry to advise that the cabins are on a temporary hold on further work in the bathrooms due to a delay in getting the septic holding tank hooked up to the reservation infrastructure. The



cabins will be used strictly as bunk houses this summer and we hope to be able to obtain the funding needed to hook up the septic systems and then complete the bathrooms. During this time we are reviewing the overall plan for these cabins and how we can complete them for year-round usage. Some of the work that will need to be done is the construction of roofed porches at each of the entry doors, installation of interior heating units, efficient domestic hot water heating units, and pathways between all cabins and the other facility buildings.

These are high priority projects which we need to complete this summer in order to prevent further damage to some of the buildings, aid in access to all who use the facility and reduce maintenance costs. After careful prayer, if you feel called to partner with us in any of these projects in addition to your present support levels, please indicate such on your donation.

FIRESIDE ROOM



It has been a joint vision of the team at OSLCRB to have a room that can be used as a small group meeting area, a library, and a place for quiet meditation and reflection. This vision as given birth to what we are calling the “Fireside Room.”

The progress of the transformation of the room at the back of the Mission House from a garage and then an office and then a bedroom can be seen in this photo. Also from this photo you can see what is missing...BOOKS!! We want to fill these empty shelves with a good mix of First Nation

spirituality material, one or two complete Bible commentary series, i.e. the Interpretation series and one other. We would also like to have some Bible resources and devotional material, along with First Nation culture, history and some general devotional reading. We will be adding some of the various photographs and other artwork that has been in storage here at OSLCRB.

The room had its first use this month with a meeting of a group from the Montana Synod. This group is called “Troubling The Waters” which is an anti-racism training program available through the ELCA. The attendees appreciated the privacy and intimacy that the setting provided. The space is also being used for a local family support group as a part of the “Healing-to-Wellness Court” program that Pastor Barden is involved in.

If you have any ideas or suggestions, or are considering contributing some works, please E-mail me at tom@oslcrb.org and we can discuss building our library together. We will keep a running list of what has already been donated so as not to duplicate and to allow any who wish to contribute to know specifically what our needs are; and we will endeavor to keep a current list on our web page. Of course, we will also be adding comfortable chairs, a free standing propane stove (for winter heat), and tables, as funds become available. If you would like to partner in this vision and donate for this particular project just indicate “Fireside Room” on your donation. This is a room for all who come here, and those that work here, to enjoy in both the summer and the winter

NEW WEB PAGE ADDRESS AND CHANGES TO COME

As you will note from the banner above our return address, our web address has changed. It is now www.oslcrb.org. We have changed to another provider which allowed us a much larger web page at a financial savings.

Some of the goals for the web page re-design are:

- to provide much more up-to-date information on the ministry and needs of OSLCRB, the interaction with our partner churches and individuals who visit us
- To provide a listing of needed projects and an up-to-date status report on “work-in-progress” of specific projects around the facility
- to provide an avenue for our summer groups to post photographs each day of their activities so their home churches can experience along with them
- to provide links to other web pages for information on Rocky Boy’s Reservation history and activities
- to post the TeePee Smoke newsletter in color

- to provide printable Ambassador 1000 Program forms
- Staff bio’s
- Current news items
- and much more.

I want to make this web page **YOUR** web page of choice, and one that you will want to visit often. In order to accomplish this I also need your input. Please tell me what you would like to see on the page, what you do and don’t like about the content or layout. This page will be our voice window into the Internet world, and we want to use it responsibly and for the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

This web page is a work in progress, and you probably have noticed only minor changes so far...but stay tuned. Due to a busy schedule the last few months I have not been able to work with our web designer volunteer in Minnesota to make these changes, but we will soon get them going.

Tom Tucker
Administrative Assistant

FINANCIAL REVIEW AND COMPARISON

	<u>2005</u>	<u>Year-to-Date Comparison as of May 1st</u>	
		<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>
Total Income:	\$131,050.74	\$54,036.68	\$35,950.28
Major Areas:			
General Donation	\$ 73,982.23	\$37,238.35	\$27,708.74
Servant Groups	\$ 14,283.25	\$ 4,979.54	\$ 0.00
Sunday Offering	\$ 10,984.31	\$ 7,668.64	\$ 1,870.38
Ambassador 1000	\$ 475.00	\$ 1,070.00	\$ 0.00
Expenses:	\$164,003.76	\$64,044.00	\$38,504.77
Major Areas:			
Benevolence	\$ 5,809.00	\$ 700.00	\$ 1,969.00
Scholarships	\$ 6,581.10	\$ 3,226.80	\$ 3,636.10
Capitol Improvement	\$ 15,703.70	\$ 2,082.53	\$ 1,962.61
Servant Groups	\$ 10,742.23	\$ 0.00	\$ 105.30
Building Maintenance	\$ 1,777.95	\$ 1,011.90	\$ 835.19
Payroll	\$ 54,929.76	\$16,401.25	\$16,395.56
Pastoral Expenses	\$ 33,714.93	\$24,341.22	\$ 201.01
Net Income:	-\$32,563.98	-\$8,759.86	-\$ 2,335.17

This is a summary report showing major areas of donation income and ministry outreach costs. One of the major changes this year has been the acceptance of call by Pastor Barden. As you all know we have been without a permanent pastor for some time, and we have truly been blessed by Pastor's acceptance to Our Saviour's call request. We also have been doing some much needed capitol improvements to the facility and upgrades to the office equipment. This does not show up in the "Capitol Improvement" column as much of the money has been supplied via the "Sunday Offering" with a designation to specific projects. These include the new Fire-side Room, telephone system, computer upgrades and a wireless network. This summer we will have a wireless DSL connection available for members of the summer Servant Groups to use with their notebook computers if they wish. Also this year, we will see much more expenditure on Capitol Improvements as some of the areas have not been attended to for some time due to a lack of funding, and are now in need of attention. Soon our web page (www.oslcrb.org) will be listing these projects with photographs, project descriptions, and estimated financial requirements to complete them; and we invite our partners to visit this section of the web page and see if God lays on their hearts a desire to assist in anyway (prayer, labor, or financial). In 2006, the ministry outreach to the local community is being reviewed and adjusted to better serve the First Nation people of the Rocky Boy's Reservation, both spiritually and socially. We look forward to an exciting year ahead, and we hope to see many new faces visit us out here in beautiful Big Sky country. To borrow a phrase from Tom Bodett, an Alaskan from Homer, AK ("the end of the road") who was also a spokesman for one of the national hotel chains: "We will leave the light on for you."

Tom Tucker
Bookkeeper/Administrative Assistant

OSLCRB CONNECTS WITH NEW SUMMER CAMP

John Mitchell, member of Our Saviour's, has initiated a significant effort to develop an intercultural youth camp. An organizational team was formed that consisted of people from secular and religious aspects from both Havre and Rocky Boy. Others persons have been included to augment resources in funding, training, and staffing the camp. John has also served in the past on the staff of Our Saviour's as well as on the advisory board of the Montana Council of Churches and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America Multicultural Ministries Task Force. Pastor Barden has contributed to the efforts of the planning team.

Called *Climbing Toward*, the camp will bring together youth from around North Central Montana. The goal is to have 10 each from Rocky Boy, Havre and the Highline. (The Highline is the rural area extending both west and east from the Havre area.) The camp is set for June 12-16 and will be hosted at Rocky Boy, and it is being developed so that there will be no registration fees required of participants.

Rock Climbing will be the activity of focus since those experiences help to build trust and develop relationships. In addition, there will be evening activities and discussions, and toward the end of the week, a chance to develop individual video stories of the experience. It is hoped that the relationships developed can be nurtured over a three-year period through additional gatherings and through ongoing conversation in a designated computer network chat room.

If the project is a success, it is hoped that it will become a repeated camping effort in the years to come.

OUR NEW WEB SITE:
WWW.OSLCRB.ORG

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church-Rocky Boy

A Congregation of the ELCA
On the Rocky Boy's Indian Reservation

RR1 Box 1070
Box Elder, MT 59521

—Return Service Requested—

Pictured on the right are the team who went to Pennsylvania: Terrance Gray, John Mitchell, Kiel Gray, Gordon Gray, Pastor David Christensen and his wife Wendy (St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Telford, PA) and Pastor Barden of OSLCRB. The group are wearing the sweatshirts that were gifts honoring the 100th Anniversary of St. Paul's.

