

**A Week on the Rosebud Indian Reservation**  
**By Leslie and Ann Kennedy**

“Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound . . .” While attending a Sunday church service officiated by Father Webster Two Hawk, we sang this hymn in Lakota. Strong, beautiful voices, a cappella. The Episcopal hymnal and prayer book were translated into the Lakota language at the turn of the century thereby allowing the Sioux to maintain and worship in their language. We worshiped at this traditional service held in the Horse Creek Community Center, which also serves as the senior nutrition center, town hall, and home of vacation bible school. One of the goals for Saint Michael has been to help establish and build an Episcopal chapel in this remote area of the reservation.

A mission trip to the Rosebud reservation in South Dakota last July yielded a new fence at the community center, picnic tables decorated with Lakota symbols and the children’s hand prints, vacation bible school (with a trip to the nearby river when the temperature reached 113 degrees!) and other repair jobs on the homes of the residents.

Three generations of Saint Michael parishioners were represented on our trip and this fellowship was the most meaningful to Ann, age 17. “ I feel a great sense of connection and commitment to my church as I realize how important these bonds and friendships have become to me. We have extended our family after living together for a week, preparing our meals together and sharing these experiences with ten new friends.

We entered into the reservation world, were introduced to many new customs, and experienced their patience, kindness and strong sense of community. I was proud of our church for tackling this project where there is extreme poverty, huge obstacles to overcome and people so willing to share their stories with strangers from Dallas! This was a very spiritual experience for me as I witnessed their faith and deep Lakota traditions that help them remain connected to their families and ancestors,” reflects Ann.

Mission/Outreach programs serve as an important link between people of a parish and others in the world, and their outcomes aren’t always the expected ones, but rather the special moments between people who have been in fellowship. We are grateful to be involved in this church where wonderful works are being done daily for the glory of God.

“Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.”