



Harold Lewis addresses "Whatever happened to racism?"



Anne Clarke Brown photo

The Rev. Dr. Harold Lewis delivers the Cully Lecture at St. Paul's Cathedral. The painting is "Madonna and Child with Origami Angels," by Janet MacKenzie, whose "Jesus of the People," also on display, won the National Catholic Reporter's "Jesus 2000" contest.

Cully lecturer says American culture is in denial of racism

by Anne Clarke Brown

"I believe that racism is no longer at the forefront of American consciousness," said the Rev. Dr. Harold Lewis in explaining his choice of title, "Whatever Happened to Racism?" for the annual Kendig Brubaker Cully/Christian Century Lecture delivered January 17, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Burlington. Rather, said the rector of Calvary Episcopal Church in Pittsburgh, "America's consciousness—and conscience—about racism lasted for a period between matins and evensong on a Wednesday in the mid-sixties."

"That day," Dr. Lewis went on, "America woke up to the morning news and was treated, as it were, to a mosaic newsreel," a newsreel made up of the many dramatic events of the 1960s Civil Rights Movement. "As the nation paused at noon that day to listen as church bells rang the Angelus, America, shocked, saddened, repulsed, and guilt-ridden, rolled up her sleeves and got

to work... By the time the ruffle-collared choirboys in the Cathedral of St. John the Divine had finished singing the Magnificat that afternoon... Racism had been done away with, once and for all—and, perhaps even more important, America's guilt had been assuaged."

This "widely cherished belief that racism in America is a pre-Civil Rights Movement phenomenon," said Dr. Lewis, is one reason "racism is no longer on the American radar screen." A second reason is discomfort: "Since guilt died on that Wednesday in the sixties, whites in America, in whose hands most power still resides, are loath to admit to any culpability in the matter." A third reason, said Dr. Lewis, is the tendency "to label as racist only extreme, overt and virulent acts... We find it far more difficult to recognize racism in its subtler but no less invidious forms."

Dr. Lewis, who served as director of the Office of Black Ministries for the national Episcopal Church from 1983-1994, and is author of *Yet With a Steady Beat: The African American Struggle for Recognition in the Episcopal Church*, said the Episcopal Church, like American society, has placed racism on the back burner, where it continues to cook and receive attention only when it begins to boil over. The church did state, in a 1955 General Convention resolution: "Discrimination and segregation are contrary to the mind of Christ and the will of God." This was a recognition, said Dr. Lewis, that, "The Christian must be an anti-racist, not because such a position is politically correct or socially expedient, but because racism is sin."

Turning to current events, Dr. Lewis noted that Trent Lott lost his post as Senate Majority Leader because he did not play by

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Fresh Start provides resources and collegial support for clergy in new positions

by Lynn Bates and Brad Clark

Last September, the Diocese of Vermont began *Fresh Start*, a program for clergy in new positions and for those recently ordained. The purpose of *Fresh Start* is "to strengthen the relationships among Episcopal clergy, congregations and dioceses during the periods of transition in clergy leadership of a congregation." The program, supported and encouraged by Bishop Ely, is a collaborative effort with the Episcopal Church (through the Office for Ministry Development and the Church Deployment Office) and Cornerstone, a ministry of the Episcopal Church Foundation.

The time of transition in the clergy leadership of a congregation is "one of the most fertile times of learning," according to a study commissioned in the early 90s by the Episcopal Church Foundation. This is the time when everyone is "paying attention" and wanting both to make a good impression and to get the parish/priest relationship off to a good start. There is hope, and maybe even some anxiety, about how—and how well—the relationship will work.

Fresh Start picks up where the interim process ends. It is a way for the bishop and the diocesan Ministry Support Team to offer collegial guidance and support to the congregation and to the clergy person. The benefits of participation in the program are numerous: for the clergy person, the monthly meetings provide opportunities to become well-connected with clergy colleagues and to be brought into the "culture" of the diocese; congregations benefit from being served by clergy who are enjoying

collegial support and receiving helpful insights and skills through the congregational development component of the program.

Currently, there are eight members of *Fresh Start*, each bringing unique gifts, experience, and perspective, from our newest ordinand, Paul Carling of St. Michael's, Brattleboro, to John Morris of St. Martin's, Fairlee, who has been in this diocese for over 30 years. Other members are: Thad Bennett of St. Mary's, Wilmington, Paul Brannock-Wanter of St. Luke's, Chester, Jean Jersey of Good Shepherd, Barre, Nancy Vogeles of St. Paul's, White River Junction, Tanya Wallace of St. Paul's Cathedral, Burlington, and Bob Macauley of St. Paul's, Vergennes. What brings these individuals together as members of *Fresh Start* is the "newness" of their current ministries. As clergy move into our diocese or begin a new cure within the diocese, they will be encouraged to join the *Fresh Start* group for eighteen months.

The format for the monthly meetings includes worship, "checking-in" time, an educational module, lunch, and time devoted to building a community of colleagues through opportunities to address personal as well as professional issues (for example, the sharing of a critical incident). The educational modules of *Fresh Start* include: Exit and Entrance Issues, Systems Theory as Applied to Congregations, Conflict Management, Goal Setting for the Future, Importance of Family and Friends, Models of Leadership and Authority, Role Clarity, Strategies for Achieving Personal Balance, and many more.

Canon to the Ordinary Lynn Bates and The Rev. Bradford Clark of St. James, Arlington, have been trained and are facilitating the current group. Eventually, the Rev. Canon Jeanette Tweedy and the Rev. Canon Thaddeus Bennett, diocesan canons for ministry development, will also be available as *Fresh Start* facilitators. (As an aside, Thad is actually a *Fresh Start* trainer who co-wrote the curriculum series with the Rev. Canon Gene Robinson, Canon to the Ordinary in the Diocese of New Hampshire. As a clergy person in a new cure, Thad is for now a participant in the group rather than a facilitator.)



Photo engineered by Thad Bennett and Brad Clark

Participants in the *Fresh Start* program include (l. to r.) Brad Clark, Lynn Bates, Paul Carling, Thad Bennett (kneeling with Teina), John Morris, and Jean Jersey.

Making the connection with General Convention

by the Right Reverend Thomas Clarke Ely, Bishop of Vermont

Dear partners in ministry:

The ministry of sharing in the governance of the church is part of the "job description" for every member of the church (see page 855 in the Book of Common Prayer). This ministry can take many forms: local committees, parish annual meetings, vestry, diocesan committees, deanery or Diocesan Convention delegate, national church committees, or General Convention deputy, to name some of the most obvious.

Sometimes it all seems very cumbersome, and sometimes the connections between all these bodies of governance are lost on us, especially when we aren't able to make the connection "back home," as it were. For many Episcopalians, the connection that often seems most difficult to make is the one between the local congregation and our national church General Convention.

The next General Convention will be in Minneapolis from July 29 through August 8, 2003. Mem-

bers of the Vermont deputation, elected by our Diocesan Convention, have begun to meet together in preparation. A list of our deputation and how to contact us is included on Page C and on our diocesan Web page (www.dioceseofvermont.org).

Between General Conventions, which meet every three years, there is a good amount of ministry carried out through the work of

national church committees and commissions, as well as the national church Executive Council. Several people from Vermont serve on some of these bodies. My assignment is as one of three bishops on the national church Standing Commission for Small Congregations.

As part of the preparation for General Convention, standing commissions prepare written re-

ports and resolutions for inclusion in the "Blue Book," which forms the basis for the work and action of General Convention. The Standing Commission for Small Congregations has just finished writing its report, and I thought I would share a portion of that with you. I do so because I think it makes a valuable contribution to the work we are about in small congregations in Vermont and because I



think what is being affirmed is applicable to larger congregations as well. The portion of the report I'm sharing with you here is called, "Characteristics of a Vital Small Church in the Episcopal Tradition." It is part of a larger offering entitled *Expanding Mission and Vitality in Small Congregations: A framework for affirming and strengthening the ministry of Small Churches*. I hope it will generate some discussion at vestry meetings and coffee hours in many of our Vermont congregations.

Faithfully in conversation and governance with you,

+ Thomas

Characteristics of a Vital Small Church in the Episcopal Tradition

(From the 2003 report of the Standing Commission for Small Congregations)

- The Eucharist and other sacraments are available as needed and desired no matter the size, location, or wealth of the congregation.
- Worship is participatory, mediates a sense of God's presence and helps transform people for baptismal living.
- There is full local engagement in determining strategies for mission and ministry in partnership with the Bishop.
- Members understand and support mission direction and priorities.
- Members are open to possibilities and willing to embrace new opportunities for mission.
- Members engage in broad-based, collaborative decision making, in which issues and agenda are discerned by the community, which takes ownership of the decisions.
- There is collegiality and collaboration between local leaders—who provide sustainability, continuity and local wisdom—and leaders from beyond the local community—who provide additional knowledge, experience and expertise in ministry development.
- Members display a clear capacity to do the hard work of reconciliation with one another, keep faith with one another and speak the truth in love.
- The ministry priorities of pastoral care, liturgy and administration are well provided by leaders local to the community.
- The congregation is organized for ministry and mission as is appropriate to its circumstances.
- Members participate in on-going engagement with the Gospel through theological education and reflection; prayer and worship; and the nurturing of each person's gifts as a minister.
- Effective support of the ministry of all members in daily life is ongoing.
- The unique perspective and contribution of every member is valued.
- Were a vital congregation to disappear from its community, it would truly be missed by others in that community, even those who had never been its members.

MOUNTAIN ECHO

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Bishop

The Right Reverend Thomas Clark Ely

Editor

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Contributions of news and photographs are invited and encouraged

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Views from the Frontier

by Gina Logan

February is Black History Month, and on February 13, Episcopalians celebrate the feast of Absalom Jones, the first Black Episcopal priest in the United States.

Sources tell us that Absalom Jones was born a house slave in Delaware in 1746. What they don't tell us is what that means. House slaves did not live in the slave quarters, but in the households of their White owners, whose personal servants they were, and with whom they often developed close, even intimate, relationships. (Sally Hemings, a slave and the mother of at least one of Thomas Jefferson's children, was a house slave, and in fact was also Jefferson's deceased wife's half-sister. It was common to make the children of White owners and their female chattels into house slaves.)

Because of their specialized duties, these Black men and women were given considerable training, though usually they were not formally educated (it was a crime in much of the South to teach

a slave to read). Still, as a house slave, Jones would have had access to his owner's library. Lesser Feasts and Fasts notes that Jones "taught himself to read out of the New Testament, among other books." At age 16, Jones was sold to a store owner in Philadelphia, and he worked for wages, buying his freedom in 1784 with his own earnings (he also purchased his wife's freedom). He attended a Quaker-operated night school for Black students.

Jones became a lay minister at St. George's Methodist Episcopal Church, serving its Black membership (the congregation was an integrated one). However, Jones was so good at his ministry (as was his friend and colleague, Richard Allen) that more and more Black people began coming to St. George's, which alarmed the White vestry so much that they decided to segregate the Black members into the upstairs gallery of the church. When ushers, without any advance notice or warning, tried to force the Black mem-

bers into the gallery during a Sunday service, the Black members walked out. (Good for them.) Richard Allen left the church and founded the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church, still a major historically Black denomination. Absalom Jones conferred with Bishop William White, Episcopal Bishop of Philadelphia, and Jones's group became the first Black Episcopal parish in America, St. Thomas African Episcopal Church, in 1794 (still an active historically Black parish in Philadelphia today.) Jones was ordained to the priesthood in 1802.

In his life and in his ministry, Absalom Jones experienced at first hand the results of the sin of racism. He fought racism in his preaching and teaching, denouncing slavery and reminding everyone that God will always act "on behalf of the oppressed and distressed." The Parish of St. Thomas grew to over 500 members in its first year, a remarkable statistic in any age.

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Thank you for contributions for Mountain Echo!

In the first two weeks after Bishop Ely wrote to all Mountain Echo recipients asking for contributions to help support the Mountain Echo, nearly 300 people responded with contributions. **Thank You!** Your generosity means we will be able to publish the usual eleven issues in 2003. Additional contributions are welcome and will further enhance the communications ministry of the diocese.

To make a tax deductible contribution, use the envelope enclosed with Bishop Ely's December letter, or send your contribution to the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont, 5 Rock Point Road, Burlington, VT 05401. Make checks payable to the diocese, with "Mountain Echo" in the memo line.

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Can you donate a frequent flyer ticket to help send the First Alternate Deputies to General Convention?

Alternate deputies play a vital role at General Convention, but budgeted funds are not quite sufficient to send our first alternates to Minneapolis. If you can donate a frequent flyer ticket (not partial miles) contact Canon Lynn Bates at 800-286-2427 or lbates@dioceseofvermont.org, for information. Thank you!

Views from the Frontier Continued from Page B

What is even more remarkable to me, as I move through my own personal program of unlearning racism, is that none of the above information was ever made known to me as a school child in Philadelphia, where Jones's ministry was located. In all of the history lessons that I received, none mentioned the life or work of this man who, in the words of Lesser Feasts and Fasts, "was an example of persistent faith in God and in the Church as God's instrument." (Nor did we ever learn about Richard Allen and the founding of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, though Mother Bethel AME, the first church of that denomination, was and is a historical landmark in Philadelphia, famous for its stirring gospel choir and vigorous preaching, and visited by thousands every year.) We learned about Betsy Ross, a White woman who may or may not have existed, and who may or may not have had something to do with sewing a flag for the new United States, but we never heard about Absalom Jones, who really lived, whose life was a miracle, and whose ministry bears fruit in America and elsewhere right down to this day.

When I think of these things, I grieve for the White schoolchildren of whom I was one, forty-plus years ago in Philadelphia. Many of my peers and others even younger still may not know of this saint, Absalom Jones, whose life so graciously ornamented the City of Brotherly Love. I grieve because

ignorance is one way in which racism has been allowed to grow and flourish. How many people think of the Episcopal Church as mostly White? Worse, how many think that that is the way it has always been or always should be? How are we different from the vestry at St. George's in the 1780s who saw increased Black membership as a threat to be removed to a safe distance? What have we learned about our relationship in Christ, in whom there is neither slave nor free, Black nor White, nor any other category of division?

These are the thoughts that fill my head when I meditate upon the life and ministry of God's beloved, Absalom Jones, who departed this world on February 13, 1818. The prayer below comes from the biographical sketch of Jones found at <http://justus.anglican.org/resources/bio/98>. This version is in the traditional language that Absalom Jones might himself have employed:

"Set us free, O heavenly Father, from every bond of prejudice and fear; that, honoring the steadfast courage of thy servants Absalom Jones and Richard Allen, we may show forth in our lives the reconciling love and true freedom of the children of God, which thou hast given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever." Amen.

Gina Logan is a member of St. Mary's, Northfield.

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor (300 words or fewer) and Opinion articles are welcome and encouraged on any relevant topic. Did something in an article inspire you, aggravate you, or move you in some way? Share your reactions with other readers. Letters must have a name and phone number or email address so I can check details, if necessary. Anonymous letters will not be printed, but names may be withheld upon request. Submissions may be edited for reasons of space.

Anne Clarke Brown, Editor, Mountain Echo

To the Editor:

I read the January issue of the Mountain Echo expecting to see, after a December issue dominated by convention news, something about the feast day of The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Instead I read about "Jubilee Centers", "Just War?", "Building Peace," "Christian Unity," "Peace Fellowship," "creative visioning," "partnering," "planning," "empowering," "Whatever Happened to Racism?" All noble ideas indeed, but whatever happened to Christmas? Is it no longer a Feast Day in our Diocese?

William McGovern
Bennington, Vermont

orously as I wiped the chalice rim with the purificator and as often as I changed purificators, I knew that I was only smearing, not removing, the scummy residue of the faithful's lips. And Lord knows what was left floating in the wine.

Passing the common cup is an ancient tradition, but the ancients were unaware of germ theory. The hacking coughs that rack the winter congregation should be kept at home, in my opinion, but certainly should not be transmitted in the communion wine or on its vessel. I think a more hygienic system ought to be instituted—individualized portions presumably.

I am a traditionalist appalled at the loss of the 1928 prayer book, the 1940 hymnal, and morning prayer, so I do not advocate change lightly.

Robert R. Anderson
Guilford, Vermont

To the Editor:

I write as a former chalicer about a health concern that has long disturbed me—the passing of the communion chalice. As vig-

Opinion: Greed

by Nancy Bloomer

The dictionary definition of greed, "an excessive desire to acquire or possess more than what one needs or deserves," doesn't capture the pervasive, life denying aspects of this soul sickness. The biblical prophets railed against greed; the Church Fathers included it in a list of the Seven Deadly Sins; social reformers of our own time blast the ostentation and spending of a consuming elite. Greed, though, is more than the excesses of the opulent rich, who like the poor, it seems, have always been with us. Assigning greed to the super rich, whose lifestyles are celebrated on TV and in magazine spreads, masks the ubiquitous presence of this particular human failing. Our entire society participates in greed, since most of

us twenty-first century Americans are consuming more of the world's resources than we need or deserve. Greed, therefore, is not just an individual fault but also a social affliction that affects large numbers of people worldwide.

At the heart of greed is an unwillingness to share. Greed is an excess of self-concern and self-aggrandizement. The entrenched selfishness of greed is not a product of wealth but the result of an attitude towards self and others. People can be greedy for money and material things, but they can also be greedy for intangible rewards such as power, prestige, and success. Greed is taking for oneself and shutting out others. In the Judeo Christian world-view, greed is a sin. It destroys not only the self but also the community.

An image of what greed does to the soul of a person can be seen in Gollum, the character in J.R.R. Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings*, who greedily possesses the one ring of power which he calls his "Precious." In the recent film version, Gollum is a horrifying caricature of a human being, a distorted, slithering, whining creature, repellant in every aspect of his being. He dies trying to repossess the ring, which he craves and which has brought disaster to so many.

Greed can also be a systemic sin, embedded in a society as a consequence of that society's economic structures. This is the case in our own day when a particularly virulent form of industrial capitalism fosters the greed of a privileged class at the expense of the common welfare. One of the causes of systemic greed in its current form is individualism run amok. The dark side of individual freedom and industry is a "me and mine" attitude in which a person's right to pursue "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" becomes an excuse to take more than they need or deserve. In a society which tolerates and even promotes the doctrine of "more"—more spending, more

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Vermont EPF chapter created

by Anne Clarke Brown

Eighteen people gathered at the guest house at Mission Farm, Killington, January 7, to establish a Vermont chapter of the Episcopal Peace Fellowship (EPF), a nationwide organization founded on November 11, 1939, and committed to the discovery and practice of "alternatives to violence in the resolution of conflicts."

The group shared a meal, prayed, spoke about dreams and concerns for peace, and discussed how EPF Vermont might give voice and action to the Episcopal Church in Vermont around issues of peace and justice. Dick Bower, who convened the initial meeting, said, "I see this as more of a movement than an organization in the usual sense," and he encouraged the group to think about new models for working together.

Those gathered decided that EPF Vermont members will be advocates for the 2002 Diocesan Convention resolution on building peace, and the group plans to prepare a document to help congregations keep reflecting on the resolution and finding ways to act on it in local communities.

Suzy Harding and Dick Bower at the inaugural meeting of Vermont EPF.

Anne Clarke Brown photo



EPF Vermont will also encourage congregations to plan ways to respond in the event of war on Iraq—liturgically, pastorally and actively. Members will share models and plans through the internet.

Members will gather locally with others in their geographical area to pray, plan, support existing peace efforts and develop small communities of peace and justice.

The Very Rev. Richard Bower, Laura Chase and Joe Grannis will serve as a steering committee for EPF Vermont. For more information about the Episcopal Peace Fellowship, visit the Web site at www.episcopalpeacefellowship.org. To learn more about EPF Vermont, or to be added to the email list, contact Laura Chase at LauraChase@aol.com, 802-483-2995, or Joe Grannis at josugran@sover.net, 802-874-4013 (Dick Bower will be in El Salvador until mid-April). ☼

Cully Lecture

Continued from Page A

the rule that, "America's official story is that racism is dead.... Quite frankly, America was into denial, and Mr. Lott blew our cover. He had to go!"

President George W. Bush responded by condemning Lott's remarks, because they could "give the impression that the administration is racist," said Dr. Lewis. "But the same president is in hot water if he is seen to endorse a university's policy which would have the effect of eliminating racism." The administration, Dr. Lewis asserted, "is apparently impervious to the criticism from minority groups that its actions are duplicitous." Racism, said Lewis, "seems to have become relegated to the status of something which everyone agrees is evil, an evil to which everyone pays lip service, but which the powers-that-be are unwilling to try to eradicate, especially if such attempts at eradication result in a loss in their power, prestige or preeminence."

These high profile issues should not allow us "to lose sight of the myriad ways that racism rears its head on a daily basis," said Dr. Lewis. "It can be discouraging that 'racism seems to be so inextricably woven into the fabric of America.'" He noted that, "Someone once said that the most insidious 'ism' in our society is neither racism nor sexism—but somnambulism. It is when we sleepwalk through life, failing to speak up and speak out, failing to take a stand, finding our comfortable perch on the fence, that we aid and abet the perpetuation of the other 'isms.'"

Dr. Lewis concluded his lecture by suggesting that the Baptismal Covenant offers suggestions for learning how to dismantle racism, for turning the church from being "a chaplain to the status quo" toward being "an advocate for the oppressed." He said, "My prayer is that each of us, in our witness, may help the church be the church, so that together we might build up Christ's kingdom in which there is 'neither Jew nor Greek, neither slave nor free, neither male nor female, but all one in Christ Jesus' (Galatians 3:28)."

The annual Kendig Brubaker Cully/Christian Century Lecture was designed and endowed by Iris Cully in memory of her husband, the Rev. Kendig Cully, and his association with the Christian Century



Anne Clarke Brown photo

The Rev. Dr. Harold Lewis addresses a workshop at Bethany United Church of Christ, Randolph.

magazine and with the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont, where he was rector of St. Paul's, White River Junction, 1971-1976.

Joint Workshop with UCC

In addition to delivering the Cully Lecture, timed to coincide with weekend celebrations of the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Harold Lewis spent several hours with the clergy of the diocese, met with the diocesan Dismantling Racism Commission, and participated in a Saturday workshop at Bethany United Church of Christ in Randolph, sponsored jointly by St. Paul's Cathedral, the Dismantling Racism Commission, and the Uprooting Racism Task Force of the UCC Vermont Conference.

Dr. Lewis spoke to the group in Randolph about his experiences of racism and joined in small group discussions. The afternoon was devoted to the Vermont context, with a presentation by Eric Sakai, chair of the Vermont Advisory Committee of the U.S. Commission on Human Rights. The committee was responsible for a 1999 report on Racial Harassment in Vermont Public Schools. To conclude the day, the 50 participants met in geographical clusters to consider how members of the two denominations might work together to address racism in their own communities. ☼

Environmental ministry team formed

by Nancy Bloomer

The Rt. Rev. Thomas Ely has called for a new diocesan commission on the environment. He has appointed the Rev. Dr. Nancy Bloomer of Essex Junction chair of the group. The first meeting was held at the diocesan office in November. In attendance were Bishop Ely, the Rev. Dr. Nancy Bloomer, Glenn Harter, Libby Hillhouse, Lindsey Huddle, Debi Paterson, Genie Rayner, the Rev. Canon Jeanette Tweedy, and Dan Woodbury. Also on the commis-

sion are the Rev. Betty Berlenbach and the Rev. Catherine Nichols.

The group is calling itself the Environmental Ministry Team and sees its mission "to understand and live out our baptismal covenant by being faithful to our sacred relationship with God's creation."

Any who are interested in joining this group, please contact Nancy Bloomer by email at nbloomer@worldnet.att.net or by phone at 802-872-8871. ☼

Greed

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profits, more producing, more consuming of the world's resources—an ever growing gap between those who have and those who don't have has developed, to the detriment of all.

Among the large corporate scandals of our day, in which overpaid executives skim off huge portions of a company's assets while the employees lose their pensions and their jobs, there are smaller but no less sinful instances of institutionalized greed. An example from my own community serves to illustrate this point. Our local hospital, the largest in the state, is undergoing an extensive renovation and expansion program, paid for in part by the taxpayers. It came to light that the CEO and the board of the hospital were mismanaging the funds for this project and were also ignoring the laws regulating public building programs. The CEO was fired and, despite his malfeasance, was awarded a \$750,000 severance package. That same week in the same hospital a nurse assistant was recognized for her exceptional patient care and outstanding service to the hospital and awarded a \$20 gift certificate for her efforts.

The scriptures make clear that a just society in which everyone shares fairly is crucial to the spiritual and moral health of that society. Economic justice was one of the principle issues for the prophet Amos. Likewise, John the Baptist taught, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise" (Luke 3:11). One of the foundations of the kingdom of God as set forth by Jesus is economic justice. The consequences of ignoring this requirement are serious. In his parable of the rich man and Lazarus (Luke 16: 19-31), the rich man who ignores the poor man at his gates pays for his misdeeds in hell, while Lazarus is "carried away by angels to be with Abraham." In the kingdom of God, Jesus taught, "many who are first will be last and the last will be first" (Matthew 19:30).

It is not easy to preach about the perils of "more" in a society that is mostly in denial about the limitations and consequences of such an agenda; but the Gospel compels us to do so.

The Rev. Dr. Nancy Bloomer is an Episcopal priest and writer who lives in Vermont.

Leadership Program for Musicians begins new cycle of classes

by Catherine Nichols

The Leadership Program for Musicians Serving Small Congregations (LPM) has room for new students in the cycle beginning March 21-22, at Mission Farm in Killington. LPM is a two-year course designed to develop and support the art and skills of church musicians and people who would like to become church music leaders. Students may enter in either year.

Those who successfully complete all the two-year curriculum requirements will be awarded the Presiding Bishop's Certificate in Church Music (Episcopal) or its Lutheran equivalent.

Class sessions meet from 5 P.M. on Friday afternoon until 3 P.M. on Saturday in March, May, June, September, October, and November. The \$600 fee includes materials, meals, and overnight at the guest house

at Mission Farm. Diocesan scholarship help is available.

The 2003 classes are, "Teaching Music New to the Congregation," "Principles of Music Leadership," "Resources for an Effective Music Ministry," and "Philosophy of Church Music." Faculty are Catherine Nichols, Jim Cassarino, Carolyn Reynolds, Holly Teppe, Peter Faass, Carol Twomey, Ray Glover, and Phyllis White. Current participants are from Vermont, Maine, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire.

For further information and an application form, contact the Rev. Catherine Nichols, St. Stephen's, Middlebury (802-388-7200; revcpn@together.net), Phyllis White, Trinity, Shelburne (802-863-0182; phylliscwhite@yahoo.com) or Carolyn Reynolds, St. Andrew's, New London, NH (603-526-2754; summer@tds.net). ☼

More Coming Events

The Essence of Tibetan Buddhism

Sponsored by the Randolph Interfaith Council

Sunday, February 2, 2003, 12 NOON–3 P.M.

Bethany United Church of Christ

Main Street (Route 12), Randolph, Vermont

Part of a free series designed to foster greater understanding among the world's great religions, Dr. John Makransky will offer an in-depth presentation on Tibetan Buddhism. Makransky is Associate Professor of Buddhism and Comparative Theology at Boston College. While training in Tibetan Buddhist practice the past 25 years, he has studied under Lamas of several Tibetan lineages.

A soup and bread meal will be provided. The meal and program are free, but enrollment is limited. Call the Rev. Kathy Eddy at 802-728-5849 to register.

Arts at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul

2 Cherry St., Burlington, Vermont

Art Shows: February 3–March 3, Lynn Rupe's large scale abstracts, "Pandora's Warehouse and Furnace Company" (78"x13"), and "Night at the Lackawana Opera and Spa" (80"x15"), may be viewed Monday to Friday, 9 to 5 p.m.

During **Lent**, the Richard Clark "Stations of the cross" will be hung.

Congregational Studies Days

Episcopal Divinity School

99 Brattle Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts

Preaching and Teaching Lectionary Year B – Session II

Friday, February 7, 2003, 10 A.M. to 3 P.M.

A "refresher course" on some of the major themes of Lectionary Year B for preachers and teachers, laity and clergy led by EDS Professors Angela Bauer and Andrew MacGowan and the Rev. Frederick Boyd Williams of Church of the Intersession in New York City.

Invoking and Provoking the Spirit

Saturday, March 8, 2003, 10 A.M. to 3 P.M.

Pat Michaels, Minister of Music at St. James' Episcopal Church in Cambridge, will lead a workshop designed to let hymns and Psalms be the teacher, invoking and provoking the Spirit-Among-Us. Many of the hymns are his own compositions, and Psalm settings are by parishioners.

Cost for each program: \$40 per person, \$80 for groups of 2-4 with advance registration; \$50 per person, \$90 for groups of 2-4 at the door. Includes lunch and materials. Cathedral Crossing Bookstore available. For registration information contact Adrien Doherty in the Congregational Studies Office, adoherty@episdivschool.edu; 617-868-3450, ext. 380.

"You Are What You Eat: Healthy Farms and Healthy Communities"

Saturday, February 15, 2003, 9:00 A.M.–5:30 P.M.

Vermont Technical College, Randolph, Vermont

The 21st annual winter conference of the Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont (NOFA-VT) will feature as keynote speaker Sister Miriam Therese MacGillis, co-founder of Genesis Farm in Blairstown, NJ, a learning center and the oldest Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Farm in the United States. She will address the growing concern over the fast-food nature of our modern diet and the role local farms play in enhancing the health of our environment, our bodies and our communities.

There will be over 30 workshops taught by experienced farmers and agriculture specialists for farmers, home gardeners, educators and concerned consumers, and a special children's conference is available for young farmers ages 6-13.

Registration is available in advance or at the door the day of the conference. \$35.00 for members and \$45.00 for nonmembers. \$5.00 discount for farmers. For more information or a conference brochure, call NOFA-VT at 802-434-4122, or visit www.nofavt.org and click on the "winter conference" link.

Trip to Vermont Day at Washington National Cathedral

Saturday, February 15–Tuesday, February 18, 2003

The Episcopal Cathedral of St. Peter and St. Paul—also known as the National Cathedral—in Washington, DC, will celebrate the State of Vermont on Sunday, February 16, in a special 11 A.M. liturgy. Bishop Thomas Ely will preside, and the Rev. Arnold Thomas, Vermont Conference Minister of the United Church of Christ will preach. The choir of the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, directed by Mark Howe, will perform a prelude to the liturgy beginning at 10:30 A.M. Acolytes of all ages are invited to vest, process and carry their congregation's banner, and all Vermonters are invited to attend and participate.

The diocese has organized a weekend adventure that will include tours of Washington attractions. Lodging and breakfast will be provided by the National 4-H Conference Center. Contact Connie Saeger-Proctor at 802-479-1246 or clsproctor@dioceseofvermont.org, to see if room is still available.

Bp. Walmsley to lead Lenten retreat

by Mary Lou Ashton

The annual diocesan Lenten retreat, "Following Jesus into the Wilderness: A Lenten Retreat to Greater Depth in Our Lives," is scheduled for March 14-16, 2003, at the Bishop Booth Conference and Retreat Center (BBCC) in Burlington. The Rt. Rev. Arthur Walmsley, who is widely called on as a retreat leader and spiritual director, will lead the retreat.

Jesus' life of faith was quickened by the Holy Spirit at his baptism in the Jordan River. A grown man in his 30s, he was driven by the Spirit into a desert place and besieged by the three primal temptations common to all people: possessions, power and prestige. He emerged, again empowered by an overwhelming sense of God's love, to begin his life work, a ministry of healing and teaching. He knew who he was!

The season of Lent and this annual retreat at the BBCC offer us a similar pattern, an opportunity to walk with Jesus into our own desert places, where God's love hovers, ready to empower us in a fresh way for our life work, our particular calling. God wills for us to know more fully who we are.

The Greek word traditionally translated "wilderness" or "desert" is *eremos*. It doesn't mean hot, dry and sandy, but isolated, uninhabited, and lonely. John the Baptist preached, we are told, "in the wilderness," *eremos*, yet that wilderness contains the Jordan River, more than enough water to baptize Jesus by total immersion. In Latin, desert comes from the root *de*,

separate from, and *serere*, to knit. *Deserere*, desert: to be unraveled, torn apart from the weaving of our identity. The desert can be a place of terror and threat or one of peace, of being put back together.

Participants will look at the tools through which the Spirit leads us through temptation to confidence in God's love: practices of prayer tried and true over the centuries.

Bishop Arthur Walmsley has been meeting persons for spiritual counsel in Vermont for the past seven years. He serves as the Episcopal Visitor, or guardian, of the Society of St. John the Evangelist, an Episcopal monastic community in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He has served inner city parishes in St. Louis, Missouri, New Haven, Connecticut and New York City, and for ten years was the Episcopal Church's public affairs officer in New York and Washington. He served as Bishop of Connecticut from 1979 to 1993, when he retired and with his wife, Roberta, settled in their long-time house in New Hampshire.

The fee for the weekend is \$120.00, which includes two overnights, six meals, and the holy rhythm of presentations, Morning and Evening Prayer, Holy Eucharist, Compline, silence and time for reflection. Send a \$50.00 non-refundable deposit (made out to the Diocese of Vermont) to John King, 433 Bean Road, Colchester, VT 05446. Space is limited so do not hesitate! Questions? Call John at 802-862-6834.

Mary Lou Ashton is a member of St. Andrew's, Colchester.

Workshops for lay leaders offered in Montpelier and Manchester

The Diocese of Vermont will offer identical workshops for wardens, vestry members and treasurers on February 8 at Christ Church, Montpelier, and on February 22 at Zion Church, Manchester. Both will begin at 9:00 A.M. and run until 12:30 P.M.

The workshop for wardens and vestry members—The Care and Feeding of Congregations and Clergy 101—will look at the mutual ministry roles of lay leaders and clergy, including canonical roles, healthy relationships, job descriptions, professional development and wellness.

The workshop for treasurers will look at the basics of the Manual of Business Meth-

ods in Church Affairs and offer opportunities for treasurers to ask questions, learn from each other and find ways to support each other locally.

Please register with Val Hennessey at the diocesan office: 800-286-3437; vhennessey@dioceseofvermont.org. ☩

Public invited to meeting on racism and harassment in public schools

The Vermont Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights will hold a town hall meeting on February 14, 2003, from 3–6 P.M. at Vermont Interactive Television sites in Colchester, Brattleboro, Newport, Randolph Center, Rutland and St. Albans. Public agency officials, educators and community leaders will discuss efforts to address racism and harassment of minorities in Vermont public schools and communities as follow-up to the committee's 1999 Racial Harassment in Vermont Public Schools report and October 2002 statement of concern.

The town hall meeting is open to the public, and everyone is invited to attend. For more information contact Marc Pentino of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, 202-376-7533, mpentino@usccr.gov; or Eric Sakai of the Vermont Advisory Committee, 802-828-0133; sakaie@mail.ccv.vsc.edu.

Northwest Deanery 1

Beth Crane, Bureau Chief

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Montgomery, VT 05470

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beth@gracechurchsheldon.org

A Deanery Meeting is planned for Sunday, Feb. 23, at 2:00 P.M. at GRACE CHURCH, Sheldon. Parishes should contact deanery secretary **Dinny Hawksworth** at 802-933-8942 to respond with names of new delegates.

The Rev. **Peter MacLean** presented a deanery workshop for lectors at HOLY TRINITY, Swanton, on Jan. 11. The workshop addressed preparation for reading lessons and intercessions, simple exercises to improve breathing, vocal quality, and enunciation, and matters of cadence, pacing, expression, announcing the text, addressing the congregation, location of the reader. Twelve participants representing St. Luke's, Alburt, St. Luke's, St. Albans, Holy Trinity, Swanton, and Grace, Sheldon, practiced reading and discussing texts taken from the Epiphany lectionary. Thanks to Peter and to Holy Trinity for hosting the workshop.

The Rev. **Dennis Hayward** is on the first part of a two-part sabbatical from ST. LUKE'S, St. Albans.

The Rev. **Thora Chadwick** has served as supply priest at ST. MATTHEW'S, Enosburg Falls. The Rev. **Peter MacLean** and the Rev. **Alex Cameron** will supply during the month of February.

Otter Creek Deanery 2

Donna Abramov, Bureau Chief

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dabramov@excite.com

The White Elephant Christmas evening at TRINITY, Rutland, on Dec. 17, was great fun for all. Santa and Mrs. Claus were in attendance, as well as some great desserts, punch, some amazing fun and tons of laughter. Thanks to organizers **Graham and Natalie Stevens**. Women of Trinity allocated \$1,850 to outreach: the Women's Shelter, Open Door Mission, Rock Point School, Rock Point Summer Conferences, Brookhaven Home, Sunset Home, Community Cupboard and Trinity's discretionary fund.

The Daughters of the King Alpha Chapter at Trinity is growing, and there will be an instillation of four or more daughters in the spring, when they have completed the National Study Guide. To learn more about Daughters of the King, please call Trinity Church (802-775-4368).

The Rev. **Bob Macauley** of ST. PAUL'S, Vergennes, does not want the congregation to get bored with him, so he invited the Rev. **Catherine Nichols**, Rector of ST. STEPHEN'S, Middlebury, to celebrate and preach at St. Paul's in the near future, and he will preach in Middlebury. Alpha restarted at St. Paul's on Jan. 20.

Southwest Deanery 3

Sarah Smith, Bureau Chief

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ZION, Manchester, held a Spanish language Eucharist for Epiphany on Jan. 6, which was preceded by a potluck supper. About 53 people attended the service, spoken in Spanish by parishioner **Lu French**, with rector **John Mitchell** celebrating. The

✦ deanery doings ✦

News of Parishes and People in the Diocese of Vermont compiled and reported by the Mountain Echo "Deanery Bureau Chiefs"

Rev. **Lee Alison Crawford** was helpful in suggesting liturgical resources, and all who came were appreciative of the service. Countries represented were Spain, Colombia, Peru, and the Ukraine, joined by Zion parishioners and students from Spanish classes at the local high schools. Zion has several new Spanish-speaking parishioners who are in Manchester working in the inns and restaurants and is exploring offering regularly scheduled services in Spanish.

Southeast Deanery 4

David Shuffleburg, Bureau Chief

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As I write this there are snowflakes falling outside, and it is my secret desire (not so secret anymore) that God put some stiff sanctions on "Mother Nature" for being so nasty in such a pretty way! Here's my *brief* review for the month:

IMMANUEL, Bellows Falls, ended the old year by replacing the Sunday sermon with a comedy of errors mystery play. The comedic skit was based on a play performed in the Middle Ages and featured two disgruntled people brought to the light by a baby whose light doesn't go out.

Naima Wade of ST. MICHAEL'S, Brattleboro, has written and performs a musical and story telling piece about Grafton, Vermont native Daisy Turner—a centenarian and daughter of Virginia slaves who traveled the Underground Railroad to make a home in Vermont. Entitled "A Visitation of the Spirit," the show is sponsored by the Vermont Council on the Humanities and has appeared many times on local public access TV—it is mesmerizing;

ST. LUKE'S, Chester, realized over \$2,800.00—and still counting—at their annual Christmas Tea and Sale—WOW!

GETHEMSENE, Proctorsville, congratulates **Allan Bamforth**, who has received the prestigious Lions' International Melvin Jones Award for over two decades of selfless service to the community and organization. It is the Lions' highest award and represents such humanitarian qualities as generosity, compassion, and concern for the less fortunate;

ST. MARK'S, Springfield, celebrated the Epiphany with dinner and party. Complete with a "Yankee Gift Swap," it was a "howling" success. Thanks to **Shirley and Bill Flanders** and their spirited group of "magi" who conjured up and executed the lively evening.

ST. MARY'S IN-THE-MOUNTAINS, Wilmington, have recently completed their highly successful "Pepsi-Cola—or what it means to be an Episcopalian" educational series and are in the planning stages for another exciting new series—we'll keep you posted.

The Rev. **Tom Hayes** of ST. PAUL'S, Windsor, who is still awaiting knee replacement, is suffering from inflammation of the blood vessels in his legs—entirely unrelated to his 2001 health problems. Please pray for healing and the return of general stability

and mobility. During his recent absence, **Maggie Giffin** and **Rich Knight** designed and conducted an educational Sunday morning liturgy centered around Jubilee Ministry, which featured readings that alternated with the Jubilee video. Anyone wishing a copy of this service may call the parish office (802-674-6576) or e-mail spchrist@yahoo.com to request a copy.

Three Rivers Deanery 5

Genie Rayner, Bureau Chief

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On Epiphany Sunday, the church school at CHRIST CHURCH, Bethel premiered a pageant: the Rev. **Diane Root** wrote, and senior warden **Jan Babcock** directed, a lively rendering of the familiar story, all the way through to the Holy Family's sojourn to Egypt. That same day, parishioner **Dick Steele's** beautiful poem, "Christ Is Come," saw its choral debut during communion. Various members of the congregation and the church school have started learning about sign language. Bethel resident **Colleen Day**, mother of two children who are deaf, is instructing interested members, and the Rev. **Shelie Richardson** is coordinating this exciting endeavor.

The Outreach Committee at ST. MARTIN'S, Fairlee, is inviting agency representatives who receive funds from the church to give short presentations about their programs during the worship services, and to be available for questions and answers at the following coffee hours. **DeWitt Mallary** coordinates these once-a-month presentations.

CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR, Killington, continues to be active with their ministry of hospitality. Not only did the newly-revamped Diocesan Study Program begin meeting at Our Saviour's Heminway House, but January saw visitors from the youth group of St. Mark's, Westhampton Beach, Long Island, and the board members from New Directions NorthEast (one of the sponsoring organizations for the most recent Provincial Convocation).

ST. JOHN'S, Randolph, will host an Interfaith Council presentation on Buddhism [See *More Coming Events*, Page E]. The Book Group at St. John's meets every Thursday, and is now discussing Jim Wallace's *Faith Works*.

Upon the retirement of Directress **Claire O'Connor**, ST. PAUL'S, White River Junction's Altar Guild is sharing leadership among several members, including **Lynda Boehm**. The Altar Guild's ministry extends to the younger folks, as well: the Sunday school classes are enthusiastic about upcoming visits from **Sara Jones**, **Martha Vaughan**, and **Sara Garran**, who will speak with the children about the ministry of the Altar Guild, altar hangings, vessels, and more—great idea! St. Paul's Christmas Pageant was featured in the *Rutland Herald* in December. Playwright-in-residence **Paula Stevens's** "re-telling of the Nativity" proved appropriately challenging and delightful, with "quality" performances from actor-parishioners of all ages (includ-

ing Daisy the rabbit).

Following up on the success of three previous festivals, ST. JAMES', Woodstock, is starting to plan for its summer Arts and Liturgy Festival. **Oliver Goodenough** writes, "The festival will explore 'Visions of the Divine' in our worship and our arts, with a further focus on the contrasting approaches of the Eastern and Western Christian churches. Participants will include the Downing College Choir from Cambridge, England, and the 'Alternatives,' a Boston-based sacred music ensemble..." The community of Woodstock will be involved, as at least one concert will be held at Town Hall. Look for more in the coming months!

Central Vermont Deanery 6

Marty Roberts, Bureau Chief

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On Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, CHRIST CHURCH, Montpelier, staged "The Names Project," a reading of the 5000 names of victims of mob lynching following the Civil War. The six-hour reading that was part of a national project was concluded by a 7 P.M. Eucharist celebrated by Bishop **Tom Ely**. A reception to view paintings by **Cheryl Day-Dick** honoring lynching victims followed the service.

Members of ST. JOHN'S IN THE MOUNTAINS, Stowe, participated in several events during the holiday season aimed at offering assistance and joy to those in need. They raised funds for the ecumenical food shelf, baked pies and delivered Thanksgiving meals, donated Christmas gifts for needy teens, and the youth sang Christmas carols to shut-ins at various locations in Stowe.

Northeast Deanery 7

Janet Smith, Bureau Chief

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ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, Hardwick, congratulates Deacon **Zarina O'Hagin** for her recent admission to the Vermont Bar (she formerly practiced law in Chicago); **Jeremiah Church** for his acceptance in the Vermont Youth Orchestra (violin); **Maggie Miller** for her receipt of the Lamoille Home Health and Hospice Exceptional Service to Hospice Award (she is a founding member and active volunteer); and **Mae Chapin** for the dedication of an apple tree in her honor at the Vermont Foodbank in South Barre, for her work with the Hardwick Foodshelf.

Champlain Deanery 8

Linda Morrell, Bureau Chief

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802-878-9137

Betsy Yung, Bureau Chief

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802-658-1433

Green Mountain Chapter for Habitat for Humanity is seeking volunteers for the following committees: site selection, development, church relations and family selection. For information or to volunteer call 802-872-8726.

At the CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. PAUL, Burlington, a new group was formed to discuss the language of the liturgy. It

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Lutheran bishop leads liturgy at Gethsemane, Proctorsville

by Micki Smith

The Rev. Margaret G. Payne, bishop since June 2000, of the 250 churches in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, New England Synod, visited Gethsemane Church in Proctorsville, where she preached and presided over a Lutheran liturgy at the 10 A.M. service December 15. Bishop Payne had returned December 6, from leading an eight-member delegation to the Holy Land, an adventure begun on Thanksgiving Day.

Looking around Gethsemane's small congregation, Bishop Payne told of her recent visit to Palestine and of co-celebrating the Eucharist with the Lutheran Bishop of the Middle East, Joseph Younan. "We were in this little town very near Bethlehem and we had been allowed to travel on special papers. There was a strict curfew, and no one was on the streets. There were perhaps about the same number in that church as there are here today. The difference was, those people had come under threat of ar-

rest. They had broken the law to come celebrate God's presence in their midst. Celebrate God's presence even in the horror and turmoil of their daily lives."

Speaking on the Third Sunday in Advent, Bishop Payne addressed the transformation we look for as we await the coming of Christ's entrance into the world. She compared those expectations to the transformations the church affects in Palestine. She told of the National Conservatory of Music in Palestine that started years ago as a small group of young children in the local Lutheran church. These youngsters had never experienced music in their lives.

Today those few children have transformed into a whole conservatory where children come from across Palestine. Their recruitment poster superimposes two pictures of the same person: one the photograph of an angry eight year old boy throwing rocks at an Israeli tank; the second shows the same young man ten years later

with a violin tucked under his chin, a calm smile dominating his face. "That is God's transformation in the world," explains Bishop Payne.

Following a strong Lutheran and Episcopalian tradition, the Gethsemane congregation shared a hearty meal after the service. Bishop Payne noted the two denominations also share a liturgical tradition. "We both are grace-oriented and we are 'called to common mission' together. This partnership can only strengthen us all." She encouraged us "to seek one another out and to search for things we can do together. It is those in the communities who know what is most needed, and together we can find solutions."

Her focus as a synod bishop is on justice issues, including the Middle East. "My personal goals are to address hunger wherever it exists and to promote environmental stewardship." While her position calls her to leadership ecumenically and denominationally, she describes herself as primarily "a pastor, mother, and grandmother. The joys of human life are reflected in all its smallnesses," she said.

Bishop Payne was born in Philadelphia, and lived 30 years in New Jersey where she went to seminary, was ordained a pastor, and served a congregation near that of Gethsemane's priest, the Rev. Betty



John Berlenbach photo

Bishop Margaret Payne and the Rev. Betty Berlenbach at Gethsemane, Proctorsville.

Berlenbach. They have remained friends, and this date to visit Proctorsville, set over a year and a half ago, was the first available on the bishop's calendar. "It is in the spirit of ecumenism and to celebrate the accord recently reached between Lutherans and Episcopalians that the bishop is welcomed," explained Berlenbach. "The rich Lutheran heritage can only enhance our own traditions and give us some balance."

Micki Smith is a member of Gethsemane Church, Proctorsville.

Northwest Deanery makes Epiphany pilgrimage to Montreal cathedral

by Beth Crane

Sixty-nine people representing four congregations (St. Luke's St. Albans, Holy Trinity, Swanton, St. Matthew's, Enosburg, and Grace, Sheldon) and all ages ventured north to attend a Festival of Lessons and Carols for Epiphany at Christ Church Cathedral, Montreal, on January 5. This is the third year the deanery has held a field trip to Montreal, and the turnout was spectacular. After a tour of Mont Royal, we went to the Cathedral for the four o'clock service.

Christ Church Cathedral's Evensong is carried on a Montreal radio station and picked up for broadcast in other countries, including Australia, via the worldwide web, so Dean Michael Pitts issued a few tips for on-air worship attendance prior to the start of the service.

Through the Word and music, Christmastide drew to a close and the Light of the world was revealed. Under music director Patrick Wedd, the carols sung by the choir included works by a wide variety of

composers. The congregation joined the choir for several hymns.

Our group did a respectable job of singing on key during the hymns and not dropping hymnals during the readings, for which we were rewarded with an eggnog and fruitcake reception. On the journey back to Vermont, we stopped in Quebec for dinner at a buffet restaurant.

The Northwest Deanery pilgrims are most grateful to the Very Reverend Michael Pitts for his warm welcome, to Sandi Kenyon, the deanery's hospitality coordinator, for a splendid job communicating with Christ Church Cathedral, organizing the tour, and arranging lunch at Holy Trinity, Swanton, and to Dean Dennis Hayward for his assistance in organizing the trip and arranging lunch at St. Luke's.

For more information about services and programs at Christ Church Cathedral, visit www.montreal.anglican.org/cathedral.

Beth Crane is a member of Grace Church, Sheldon.

ERD family Lenten calendars available

by Margy Zabriskie

Families can teach values while broadening their understanding of the world during Lent. Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) has designed a new Lenten calendar for use in this season of sacrifice: "When we give of ourselves, we grow closer to God."

Each day a need is briefly described. How that need is being addressed by ERD is outlined and then a related prayer is suggested, followed by a daily offering for adults and children. This simple pattern is repeated each day, giving families an opportunity to talk about the suffering of others, the joy of bringing hope to them by meeting some need, and to express appreciation for the many blessing we have. Children can find the country or state on the map to strengthen their sense of geography

Many Americans believe we give large amounts of tax money for foreign aid to countries in need. Guesses range from 5-15% of our national budget. In fact, the US gives less than 1% in aid, a smaller percentage than most industrialized countries. Giving through non-governmental organizations (NGOs), like ERD, means that money is not diverted by corrupt government officials, but it actually reaches those in need through churches or other reliable organizations.

Sample calendars have been sent out to all parishes and orders can be placed for calendars and Hope Chests at Episcopal Parish Services, 800-903-5544. This is a wonderful way to help families grow in their understanding of Lent and to reach out in the name of Christ to the world.

Margy Zabriskie is a member of St. James', Essex Junction.

deanery doings

Continued from Page F

meets every other Sunday at 12:45 P.M. Contact the Rev. **Tanya Wallace** for more information. Check out the Youth Calendar put together by Tanya for the Plainsong each month. A potluck supper followed by the Eucharist was held Jan. 6 to celebrate The Epiphany.

At TRINITY, Shelburne, the Flower Guild, led by **Anne Koch** and **Karen Whitby**, provides arrangements for homebound parishioners and members with

special needs in addition to the flowers each Sunday. The 5th & 6th grade Sunday School recently baked cookies in the new kitchen for the Sunday coffee hour. The senior community luncheon recently served 85 happy guests with the help of 25 parish volunteers.

ALL SAINTS', South Burlington, will hold a breakfast and liturgy for newcomers on Feb 2. The Children's Center is using a new curriculum, "Celebrate the Good News—Children's Chapel." ☩

St. Stephen's seeks part-time church musician

Musician-rector (former SCCM) committed to fine liturgy and collegiality. Organ is a 16-stop 1875 Johnson tracker. Small faithful volunteer choir; potential for children's choir. You can't live on the salary, but you'll find living in this ideal retirement location fulfilling. Apply to the Rev. Catherine Nichols St. Stephen's Church, PO Box 223, Middlebury, VT 05753; 802-388-7200; revcpn@together.net.

BBCC a place of comfort and peace for long-time staff member

Sherri Darrah has been a dedicated team member of the Bishop Booth Conference Center Staff for the past 12 years. BBCC director Debi Paterson says, "Her position as housekeeper does not fully describe all that she does to fulfill our mission. Sherri anticipates the needs of our guests and is a wonderful steward of our resources. We give thanks for her ministry with us." Debi asked the staff to share a story about the conference center and its "magic." Sherri offered the following:

"Well, I have a story to share—it's my story. The Conference Center has been a place of comfort and peace for me. There are times I swear I feel embraced by arms I cannot see. During my time here I have had many trying personal times and many happy moments. I was married here and my son

Kolby was baptized here. I reflect on many occasions how much my life has changed and how very thankful I have been to be here through those changes.

"I am going through a difficult time right now, but the sense of security and love from the presence of God here helps me. I will triumph through this time as I have before and I know God is here to listen and somehow guide me. His presence here is so strong to me. I hope that other people have been able to experience this closeness and gained strength and faith, as I have. The Conference Center and the beautiful land it is on are so very special. If you have not yet been able to come here, please do! What you walk away with will always stay with you and you will have the longing to come back." ☩

Diocesan Calendar

February 2003

- 1 Continuing DSP group, St. Mary's, Northfield
- 1 Journey to Adulthood Workshop, St. Stephen's, Middlebury
- 1 Clergy Visioning Session, St. John's, Randolph, 10 AM
- 3 **Deadline, March Mountain Echo**
- 3 Strategic Planning Committee, Christ Church, Montpelier, 4 PM (Snow date, Feb. 10)
- 5 Executive Committee, Diocesan Center, 1 PM
- 8 Wardens' and Treasurers' Workshop, Christ Church, Montpelier, 9 AM
- 9 Bishop's Visitation, Holy Trinity, Swanton
- 11 CS&R meeting, St. Stephen's, Middlebury, 10 AM
- 11-13 Province I SAFE Conference, Lake Morey Inn, Fairlee
- 15 "Plannaging" Facilitator Training, Christ Church, Montpelier, 9:30 AM
- 15-18 Trip to Vermont Day (Feb. 16) at National Cathedral
- 17 Diocesan Center closed, President's Day
- 18 Clergy Day, St. John's, Randolph, 10 AM
- 18 Standing Committee, St. John's, Randolph, 2 PM
- 22 Wardens' and Treasurers' Workshop, Zion Church, Manchester, 9 AM
- 26 Fresh Start, St. John's, Randolph, 9:30 AM

March 2003

- 1 Diocesan Study Program, Mission Farm, Killington
- 1 "Plannaging" Facilitator Training, Trinity, Rutland, 9:30 AM
- 7 **Deadline, April Mountain Echo**

Formation program for young people available

by **Connie Saeger-Proctor**

Journey to Adulthood, a spiritual formation program for young people, is now available to every congregation in the diocese. A diocesan license allows congregations to obtain the six year program at a greatly reduced cost. While Journey to Adulthood has an abundance of lessons and materials, its real strength is in the discernment process and the new ways congregations embrace the presence of young people and help them become vibrant, involved members of the faith community.

There are three two-year phases in Journey to Adulthood. The first is "Rite-13," leading to the celebration and special liturgy when a young person turns 13. As each young person makes this passage, parents, the young person and the youth group are held in prayer, and vows are made by the young people's group to support each other through their journey to adulthood. The charge to the congregation is similar to the Baptismal Covenant: "As the living Body of Christ, we have been empowered by the Holy Spirit to do God's work in the world. Will you as a community of God which spans the generations, share your knowledge and experience with these young people as they become men and women?"

The adults in the congregation can also be involved by sharing experiences with the young people. They may simply talk about their careers or share something enjoyable, like a day of sailing for the group.

The second phase, "J2A," is marked at the end of the fourth year when young people travel to-

gether on pilgrimage. The purpose of the pilgrimage is to be in community with God's people, together seeking and finding God. There are "Journey" sites all over the world and can be far away or not so far away. As a community, the young people decide where they are going and are responsible for raising funds and making their arrangements.

After the fourth year, and after completing their pilgrimage, there is a liturgy for re-introducing the young people back into the congregation as "New Young Adults." This is typically the time when Confirmation is offered. Also at that time, their program changes from being adult led to young adult led. Although an adult is still present, the new young adults in the church (YAC) are charged with preparing the lessons and leading their group activities.

Along the way, over the 5-6 years, young people discover what they believe about faith traditions. They become aware of their gifts and begin to see their roles in their congregations. Challenging questions about self, society, sexuality,

and spirituality are discussed. They learn about the Book of Common Prayer, the Bible, the creeds, prayer. They discover and experience God and how God is present in their lives. They view current movies and discuss ideas. Groups build community and trust each other, creating real ministry and leadership within the group. Only in community can hard and difficult questions be discussed and answers found. Along the way congregations are transformed and youth are invited to participate as full members of the body—not a group unto themselves but a group that has full membership responsibilities and rights.

For those who could not attend the Journey to Adulthood Workshop in Middlebury on February 1, and wish to learn more about the program, additional information, materials, lesson plans, overviews, and a mini presentation are available. Please contact Connie Saeger-Proctor, Canon for Youth Ministry, at 802-479-1246 or by e-mail at clsproctor@dioceseofvermont.org.



Dates set for Rock Point Summer Conferences

Senior High Conference	June 29-July 5
Junior High Conference	July 6-12
Grades 5 and 6 Conference	July 13-19
Grades 3 and 4 Conference	July 20-26
Arts Camp	July 27-August 2
All Ages Camp	August 3-9

Bike and Hike Trip dates will be announced in the March Mountain Echo, which will include the annual Rock Point Summer Conferences Supplement with application form and enrollment information.

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Diocesan Youth Committee Calendar

For more information about the activities of the Diocesan Youth Committee, contact Keri & Alden Franzoni
1491 Vermont Route 108
Jeffersonville, VT 05464
802-644-8989

- March 7-9 Senior High Event, BBCC
- March 28-29 Vermont Watch at St. Paul's Cathedral

The J. Warren and Lois McClure Discipleship-Discovery 2000 Fund

Funds Available for Parish Use As of January 1, 2003

Total Pledged	\$1,600,000
Pledges Received (92%)	\$1,464,545
Funds available:	
Initiative I	
The Bishop Butterfield Revolving Loan Fund	\$ 178,326
Initiative II	
The Talent and Resource Network	\$ 9,843
Initiative III	
The Congregation Renewal and Emergency Assistance Fund	\$ 7,929
Initiative IV	
The Diocesan Outreach Fund	\$ 11,878

Appropriate uses for each initiative, application forms and requirements may be found in the Diocesan Handbook. For further information, please call the Diocesan Office.

Sudanese celebrate New Year's birthdays at Rock Point



Bill Hogan photo

For the second year since Burlington became home to a group of young men from the Sudan, volunteers arranged for a New Year's Day group birthday celebration at the Bishop Booth Conference Center at Rock Point. Since records were unavailable when their refugee papers were being processed in Kenya, the INS assigned "January 1" as the birth date for each of the Sudanese young men. Organizers and participants in the joyous event included Bishop Tom Ely; Linda Morrell of All Saints, South Burlington; Debby Galbraith of St. Paul's Cathedral, Burlington; the Rev. Craig Smith and Ann and Bill Hogan of Trinity, Shelburne; Dottie Cross of St. Andrew's, Colchester; Margy and Sandy Zabriskie of St. James, Essex Junction, and others.