



Vermont celebrated at National Cathedral in spite of storm



Lisa Nipp photos

Clockwise from above: Members of the choir of St. Paul's Cathedral, the Rev. Arnold Thomas, and the Rev. Catherine Nichols participate in Vermont Day at the National Cathedral.



by Anne Clarke Brown

Vermont Day at Washington's National Cathedral turned out to be quite an adventure for the Vermonters who traveled south the weekend of February 15-18. Though they arrived just in time for one of the strongest snowstorms ever to hit the nation's capitol, many did make their way through the snow for the special Sunday service honoring the State of Vermont.

Many others, however, found themselves to be "so close and yet so far" when the service began at 11:00 A.M. I was stuck on an unplowed road in suburban Virginia, and the bus that had taken a group of acolytes and their chaperones from Vermont to the National 4-H Center in suburban Maryland would not start. They did not arrive at the cathedral until well after the service had ended.

Bishop Thomas Ely celebrated the Eucharist, and the Rev. Arnold Thomas, Vermont Conference Minister of the United Church of Christ preached. The choir from St. Paul's Cathedral in Burlington, under the direction of Mark Howe, not only sang their planned pre-service music, but also pinch-hit for the National Cathedral Choir. Senator James Jeffords, who read the first lesson, made a special effort to get to the service.

Bishop Ely said the service was celebrated at the high altar, with the congregation and the choir seated in the choir stalls. He estimated attendance at about 130, a fraction of those who might ordinarily have attended the cathedral's principal Sunday service in the nave.

The Rev. Arnold Thomas, said Bishop Ely, preached a strong sermon challenging the church to deepen its commitment to justice ministry. He spoke of the cooperative efforts in Vermont between the Episcopal Church and the UCC around issues such as racism. The sermon can be found on the National Cathedral website, www.cathedral.org.

Bishop Ely reported, "The cathedral people bent over backwards" in showing hospitality to the bus group who arrived so late. They gave them a tour of the cathedral, opened the gift shop, and invited the acolytes to process at Evening Prayer and stay for an organ recital. The April issue will report on their adventures.

[Thanks to Bishop Ely, who asked a news photographer at the service to send me photos, and thanks to Lisa Nipp for allowing the Mountain Echo to use them.]

New England bishops issue pastoral letter on the environment

by Anne Clarke Brown

"Environmental issues are not just scientific, political, or economic issues, but ones that are profoundly moral and spiritual, as well. As Christians we cannot remain silent," wrote the eleven bishops of the Province of New England in, "To Serve Christ in all Creation," a pastoral letter on the environment issued on February 2, the Feast of the Presentation. [The full text is printed on page D.]

In a cover letter to clergy of the Diocese of Vermont, Bishop Thomas Ely said the bishops had been working on the joint statement for over a year, with the assistance of the Rev. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas and the Province One Environmental Network. The bishop asked that clergy "find the right time and setting" within the next few months to share the letter and its accompanying resources with congregations. He said, "I hope [this letter] will be an opportunity for our diocese and its people to focus concern and attention on the environment."

The Province One bishops began their letter with a confession of their own past failings with regard to the environment and said, "We regret Christian teachings that claim or imply that human beings have divine sanction to destroy God's creation. We pledge our prayers, our time, our leadership and our energies to the work that needs to be done. We encourage all members of the Episcopal Church in New England to see in the promises of the Baptismal Covenant the call to serve Christ in all creation."

Noting that, "Today, the world is being stripped, beaten, and left half dead," the letter points to the story of the Good Samaritan and suggests that the understanding of "neighbor" needs to be broadened to include all of creation. "Exploitation of the poor," the bishops state, "is closely linked to exploitation of the earth, and our quest for social justice and economic sustainability must rest on a foundation of ecological stability. As baptized Christians, we are clearly called to care for creation, loving our neigh-

bors as ourselves."

The letter urges Episcopalians throughout the Province of New England to repentance, prayer and action on behalf of the planet. It concludes, "By committing ourselves to join with others in protecting the integrity of God's creation, we are living out the promises of our baptism and participating in God's mission to restore all people and all creation to unity with God and each other in Christ."

This year's annual provincial convocation, scheduled for November 21-22, will focus on the environment.

The first appendix to the pastoral letter, "Serving Christ In All Creation—What Can I Do," offers a variety of suggestions for individuals and congregations to take action on behalf of the environment, from taking time to enjoy nature to using resources responsibly. The second appendix, "Selected Resources on Religion and Ecology," lists web sites, journals, handbooks, videos and educational programs.

The bishops' letter and both appendices may be found on the Diocese of Vermont web site, www.dioceseofvermont.org. Click on the home page link to "Bishops on the Environment."

For information on diocesan-wide activities, contact the Rev. Nancy Bloomer, chair of the diocesan Environmental Ministry Team, at nbloomer@worldnet.att.net. ☩

Earth Sunday is April 27

Celebrate God's gift to us of this fragile earth, our island home, by special prayers of the people, an Earth Sunday Fair, sermon stressing environmental issues.

For resources contact members of your Environmental Ministry Team: Nancy Bloomer at nbloomer@WorldNet.att.net, or Catherine Nichols at revcpn@together.net.

Observing a holy Lent

by the Right Reverend Thomas Clarke Ely, Bishop of Vermont

Dear people of God:

The Ash Wednesday liturgy in the Book of Common Prayer invites us "to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word" (BCP, pp. 264-265). This Lenten invitation draws us ever more deeply into the heart of the Church's reconciling mission as we "Pray the Prayer of Christ, Learn the Mind of Christ and Do the Deeds of Christ."

One of the consequences of my recent colon surgery (see note below) was the opportunity to begin this Lenten discipline a bit earlier this year. The weeks leading up to the surgery were good times of inner reflection and self-examination, which for me always leads to repentance as well as to thanksgiving. Waiting those three days for the final word on the pathology, I found myself thinking and praying a whole lot. Sure, I was praying for good news from the laboratory, but mostly I was praying for that continuing sense of God's grace and presence that had accompanied me on this medical journey.

My prayers were also for my roommate and the other patients I met during my hospital stay. I knew that there were prayers being offered all over the diocese and beyond for me, my health and my family and the knowledge of that filled me with an abiding sense of peacefulness and gratitude. Recuperating at home brought additional time for prayer, reflection and self-examination, as well as the opportunity to practice that all-important spiritual discipline of patience.

The fasting and self-denial that I experienced before and after surgery was not really a spiritual discipline, but it was indeed an integral part of the discipline needed to help prepare me for surgery and then begin the recovery process. During Lent, my spiri-

tual discipline of fasting takes place on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, a spiritual exercise that frames the rest of my Lenten practice. It helps me prepare to enter Lent and it helps me prepare to leave Lent. I like the rhythm of that discipline.

Except when I was a child, I've never been one to "give something up" during Lent, but instead to "take something on." Sometimes that has been adding a bit more quiet time for meditation, or adding more physical exercise in my life, or studying an issue that I don't know very much about. Last year, I did extra reading about the environment. I think this year it will be the physical exercise! Taking something on causes me to look more closely at my time, how I use it, and how I need to adjust some of those more self-centered, lazy habits I fall into from time to time.

Reading and meditating on God's holy Word was an important part of my recent "pre-Lenten" discipline. I was reading the lessons from the Daily Office one morning in the hospital when my roommate's medi-

cal team came in the room. As one of the doctors pulled the curtain for privacy he looked over at my Bible and me and said, "that's good reading, you know?" He had no idea who I was or of my life-long encounter with that book, but I was pleased that he thought it was good reading. My response to him was a simple, "yes, I know."

If we want to know our story as people of faith, and if we want that story to connect to our lives, then reading and meditating on it must be part of our daily life. Lent is such a good time to deepen our encounter with that story. My own experience is that reading the Bible and meditating on the Word of God I encounter there is like a relationship with a good friend. The more I explore, the deeper I make my commitment, the longer I stay at it, the more I put into it, the more the relationship deepens and grows and the greater my joy and sense of connection. It is, after all, "good reading, you know?"

Finally, I know that peace will be the focus of my prayer and self-examination



this Lent. We may have invaded Iraq by the time you read this, or we may have found a way out of the current crisis. I have no way of knowing as I write. What I do know is that whether or not we are at war when you read this, our prayers, words and actions in the pursuit of peace will still be needed. They will be needed until that day "when we study war no more." I think there is no greater self-examination and repentance that we need to undertake than to explore the hatred and violence that infects our own hearts and the root causes of hatred and violence that infect all hearts and influence our decisions, as individuals, as nations and as citizens of the world. It is difficult work, but it is important work.

Prayer, self-examination, study, reading, meditating, taking something on, or giving something up, whatever your Lenten discipline, my prayer for you is that it will help draw you deeper into the heart of God where you will know how much you are loved by God. Through joyous times and difficult times remember yourself to be part of a community of faith, a community of love and mercy with God at the center, a community of hope and action with a reconciling mission given to us by Christ, a community of justice and peace with the Holy Spirit as our companion along the way.

A blessed Lent,

+Thomas

Bishop Ely undergoes successful surgery

On January 25, 2003, Bishop Thomas Ely underwent laparoscopic surgery for the removal of a small portion of his colon, which contained a mass that the doctors were not able to diagnose fully during an earlier colonoscopy. The surgery went smoothly and the bishop was discharged from the hospital on Wednesday, January 29. The day before his discharge, he received the final pathology report from his doctor indicating that there was no sign of cancer, either in the mass or in the nearby lymph nodes. After a week or so of "home recuperation," the bishop resumed his normal schedule.

Bishop Ely notified clergy and parish wardens by letter prior to the surgery, and many people offered prayers and expressions of concern, support and encouragement. In a follow-up letter to those same people after he returned home, he said, "All the prayers, all the cards, all the messages have meant so much, not only to me but also to Ann and all our family. I thank you for being a diocesan community of prayer, not only for me but also for all those for whom you pray without ceasing. There is something wonderfully grace-filled and calming to know one's self to be in the midst of such a loving and caring people."

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Views from the Frontier

by Martha Holden

Thoughts from two weeks in bed: God can use illness or loss to twitch from my weakened grasp my blighting patterns of resistance to God's flow. God flows: God's activity in my life is a stream flowing through me and around me. I call it the Christ-stream. The nature of the Christ-stream is to cleanse me of impermeability and to carry me with it. I feel its gentle and inexorable nudging, its gentle and inexorable tugging, and its gentle and inexorable cleansing whenever I pay attention to it. Whether or not I pay attention to it there is that within me which resists this being cleansed and carried.

I know that my security and true comfort are in being fully permeable and deep within the center of the Christstream's current. I know that. And there is that within me that believes security and comfort are over there, on the bank, sitting impermeable on that nice patch of moss and watching the stream go by. And that is a lie. I

know that it is a lie because I have tried to get over to that bank and to get up onto that nice patch of moss, and there is no bank, there is no moss. There is only an illusion of a bank. In reality there is only the Christstream.

There is only the Christstream and there is choice. There is choice whether I see myself as solid and struggle for the non-existent bank to spend my life in the shallows getting battered against the rocks and stuck in stagnation; or whether I will cooperate with the stream, let go of my resistance and be moved, permeable, toward the stream's center. I choose to drop the resistance and to be moved, permeable, toward the stream's center.

I choose to be moved toward the stream's center where the current flows deep and strong, but the resistance within me keeps struggling toward the illusory bank. It is as

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Ask Sr. Bible Person

Do you have questions about the Bible?
If so, ask Sr. Bible Person and get the answers!

Dear Sr. Bible Person,

Are you still answering questions about scripture? I have noticed that your column has been absent from this page for quite a while. If you are still available for questions, here's mine: As I listened to the Gospel on February 2, the Feast of the Presentation, I was intrigued by the reference to "two turtledoves." Does that have anything to do with that song about the "Twelve Days of Christmas?"

Curious

Dear Curious: You may recall that the last questions I responded to in this column dealt with the book of Job and the Rapture. Those are such weighty topics (or, as Woody Allen would say, they are filled with such "heaviosity") that I decided I needed to take a break. Interestingly, your question originated on February 2, the day when our culture honors the noble groundhog who allegedly comes out of hibernation on that date and bites Bill Murray's hand because she (or he?) doesn't want to be in a movie—no, wait the...oh, yes...the groundhog looks around and tries to remember what it means if she/he sees a shadow—let's see now, does that mean there is going to be more winter or does it mean that it's time to go see a movie starring Bill Murray and watch it over and over again for six weeks or... Anyway, you might say that I have been hibernating and getting rested up for a springtime of new questions and more wrestling with scriptural conundrums. Here we go.

The basic answer to your question is, "Yes, the story in Luke 2:22-40 is indeed the basis for the second verse of 'The Twelve Days of Christmas.'" And in making that connection, you have uncovered a long kept secret: the fact that "The Twelve Days of Christmas" is actually a subversive Christian hymn which was composed by a small sect of first-century believers who were trying to find a new and subtle way to resist the Roman Empire. By using clever allusions to the basic Christian story, they were reinforcing their own faith at the same

time that they were driving the Romans crazy with the endless repetitions of all those verses.

Next time you are in an elevator or store during the Christmas shopping season (which, by the way, is scheduled to begin on June 14 this year), you can smile a knowing smile as you realize that, for example, the verse about "nine ladies dancing" is actually a reference to the original text of Matthew 25:1-13, about the wise and foolish ladies who were waiting for the bridegroom. The original text, so nicely preserved in the Christmas song, actually read "nine bridesmaids were wise and one was foolish." Therefore, the "nine ladies dancing" were the ones who lit their lamps and went dancing through the streets to the banquet. (Note: banquet halls had very low entrances in those days, so the bridesmaids had to bend over backwards and dance through the doorway without spilling the oil from their lamps—which, of course, is how the Limbo was invented—but let's not get off the subject here...)

In the original text, only one lady was without oil and couldn't join the dance, but as the story got passed along, folks thought it might be more dramatic to increase the number of foolish ladies, so they ended up splitting the group right down the middle—five and five. And since each person who successfully did the Limbo into the banquet hall got a special party favor—a gold ring—I think it is obvious where the fifth verse came from as the song went through several redactions before appearing on your local supermarket's sound system.

Thanks for the question. It's nice to be back. Hope you are having a good winter. Spring is just around the corner and I hope that at least two turtledoves will soon be cooing in your backyard—or did that groundhog **not** see its shadow and therefore is going to limbo back into the burrow...oh, never mind.

If you have a question for Sr. Bible Person, send it to the editor (addresses in box below right).

Views from the Frontier

Continued from Page B

if I were a ship with rowers below-decks who were determined to head for the shore regardless of those above-decks. There is not much I can do about those rowers, I have discovered. I pray, of course, and it seems that over time a few have left. Maybe they jumped ship in disgust. Something must have happened because I feel myself more permeable and find myself closer to the center of the Christstream. But there are still plenty of rowers down there rowing for all they are worth toward the bank. I know that because although I occasionally experience the living, flowing center of the Christstream, I am not consistently there.

So enter illness and loss. When I am weakened by illness or loss my resistance is also weakened. My rowers are weakened. When I pray as best I can in my weakened state, it seems that some of those rowers leave or maybe some of them are converted.

Maybe they jump overboard in disgust or maybe angels carry them off to their healing. It does not matter to me how it happens. I am just glad that it does happen. I know that something has happened because, having prayed as well as I can, as I get stronger I find myself closer to the center of the Christstream.

I like being closer to the center of the Christstream. I like being closer to the center of the Christstream not only because that is where my security and comfort are; I like it because the closer I am to the center of the Christstream the closer I am to who I am in God's love. The closer I am to who I am in God's love the more I like me. And the more I like me the more of me there is available to thank God for the potential for good in illness and loss. And so I do. Amen.

Martha Holden is a member of Christ Church, Montpelier.

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

The common cup

To the editor:

Mr. Robert R. Anderson's letter in the February Mountain Echo expressed concern about germs and the common cup. The ancients were indeed aware of germs—hence the use of linen, which actually has an "organic" component that helps "kill" germs—and the use of silver, which also has an "organic" component that helps with germs. And then, there is the alcohol in the wine itself.

I wager one's grocery cart or home bathroom door knob—not to mention the "hacking coughs that wrack the winter congregation"—would show more harmful germs than the cup.

Marion Prendergast
Chatham, Massachusetts

To the editor:

The fallacy that intincting (dipping) the wafer at communion carries less health risk than drinking from the chalice is refuted periodically by Anglican, Roman Catholic, and Lutheran churches. A recent medical study distributed by the Anglican Church of Canada points out that there is no recorded instance of illness sweeping through a congregation because of the common cup. As a matter of fact, hands are more likely transmitters of bacteria than mouths and the bread more of a hazard than the shared cup because of the hands that have touched it. Moreover, intinction carries added danger from fingers touching the wine. A computer search using "common cup" as a search term will turn up similar reports.

There is a further practical argument against intinction in a parish that uses bread rather than wafers. I remember hearing a priest sigh, "I wish people wouldn't intinct when we use bread!" The reason? Crumbs in the bottom of the chalice.

Pat Ballou
Hanover, New Hampshire

Racism and abortion

To the editor:

In its self-flagellation over racism the church has overlooked perhaps the most damning manifestation of racial insensitivity, i.e., over 59% of abortions are performed on minority women (2001, Alan Guttmacher Institute). This is the ultimate in racism—diminishing the numbers of the minority while simultaneously purifying the majority. While it may be deemed crude to observe, the obvious solution to this problem, in light of current church pronouncements, is to institute an affirmative action program for abortions, i.e., mandated abortions for women in the majority.

This situation illuminates how lost the church and our nation are in their understanding of the law of unintended consequences and the perfection of God's law. Racism is a defect of the heart and a manifestation of sin. It can thus be cured only by the love of Christ. Further, it will always be with us owing to our fallen state. To believe otherwise is, as St. Paul tells us, "to deceive ourselves." The church must be about teaching the love of Christ if it really wants to overcome racism. Indeed, how can we love Christ and, at the same time, hate what He loves?

On the other hand, abortion and affirmative action are defects of our law and can be eliminated from the law and consequent church and government sanction by the stroke of a pen. That they are not is a reflection of the church's failure to accept and teach that these practices further the cause of racism and deny our mandate to love Christ as He loves us. Finally, the church's support of these programs denies that it is God Who heals sin, not our programs—we are ultimately very frail and dependent upon Him and we cannot please Him apart from Him.

Allan R. Wylie
South Strafford, Vermont

Leadership Program for Musicians

begins Year II program March 21-22 in Killington

An opportunity to learn how better to lead music and plan Liturgy in your congregation! Students may begin either Year I or II, so are welcome to join the class. For further information: Catherine Nichols, revcpn@together.net, 802-388-7200; or Phyllis White wcwhite@adelphia.net, 802-863-0182.

MOUNTAIN ECHO

News of the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont

Anne Clarke Brown, Editor

Contributions of news and photographs are invited and encouraged

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To Serve Christ in All Creation

A Pastoral Letter from the Episcopal Bishops of New England

In thanksgiving for the gift of God's creation and with an urgent concern for the health and stewardship of the world, we your bishops issue this Pastoral Letter on the Environment. We know that the environmental crisis is a matter of great concern to many Episcopalians and we know that many of you have acted more fully and more faithfully than we ourselves have. We confess our past complacency, ignorance and neglect. We regret Christian teachings that claim or imply that human beings have divine sanction to destroy God's creation. We pledge our prayers, our time, our leadership and our energies to the work that needs to be done. We encourage all members of the Episcopal Church in New England to see in the promises of the Baptismal Covenant the call to serve Christ in all creation.

Scripture and tradition remind us that the whole earth is filled with the glory of God. Here in our beloved New England we perceive that glory in wild forests and open fields, in clear lakes and rocky seashores, in mountains, dunes, and rolling hills. With Martin Luther, we know that "God writes the Gospel, not in the Bible alone, but also on trees, and the flowers and the clouds and stars." With Thomas Aquinas, we affirm that "Revelation comes in two volumes—the Bible and nature." The world is God's creation, and God delights in it ("God saw everything that [God] had made, and indeed, it was very good," Genesis 1:31; "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament shows [God's] handiwork," Psalm 19:1). The land and the rivers, the air and the sea belong to God, not to human beings ("The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it," Psalm 24:1). We are part of the created order, not separate from it, and our first calling by God is to be the caretakers of creation (Genesis 2:4b-8, 15). Reckless destruction of nature is a sign of estrangement from God. ("There is...no knowledge of God in the land...Therefore the land mourns, and all who live in it languish; together with the wild animals and the birds of the air, even the fish of the sea are perishing," Hosea 4:1b, 3; "Hurt not the earth, neither the sea nor the trees," Revelation 7:3).

God's earth and all God's creatures now face perilous and potentially cataclysmic changes as a direct result of human activities. New Englanders are acutely aware of the environmental challenges we face in our own small corner of the world, from the collapse of fisheries to the loss of farmlands and wetlands, from smog to acid rain. Airborne mercury poisoning, suburban sprawl, the loss of wilderness, overuse of pesticides and other toxins, extinction of species—these are just a few of the environmental hazards with which we must contend.

One of the most daunting challenges we face is global climate change. Many scientists agree that if we burn fossil fuels at expected rates, global warming caused by human activities could raise worldwide average temperatures between 3 and 11 degrees Fahrenheit in this century. In New England, climate change may cause flooding in coastal areas, reduce the quality of our region's fresh water, imperil agriculture, and increase the outbreaks of infectious disease. Within this century, New England may lose its maple, birch, and beech trees. We face the loss of our spectacular fall colors and the end of fall-foliage tourism, as well as the destruction of our region's maple sugar industry. (1)

Global warming is but one stark example of the troubled relationship between humanity and the natural world. Environmental issues are not just scientific, political, or economic issues, but ones that are profoundly moral and spiritual, as well. As Christians we cannot remain silent.

Christianity offers an imperiled world the conviction that God's creation is good, and that God in Christ has redeemed not only the individual human soul, but also the whole of creation. In Christ, "all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross" (Colossians 1:19-20). Creation is thus made new (Revelation 21:5).

Just as God's salvation encompasses all creation, so too does Jesus call us to love our neighbors as ourselves. Who is our neighbor? When Jesus was asked that question, he responded with the story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:29-37). Today, the natural world is under assault, forests are being stripped and oceans plundered, natural resources are being exhausted and entire species killed. Today, the world is being stripped, beaten, and left half dead. Is it not possible to recognize all creation as our "neighbor"?

The poor, the marginalized, and the least powerful of our human neighbors are those who suffer most from

In order to support these commitments, we call for a Provincial Convocation on the Environment in 2003.

illness and pollution caused by environmental degradation. Generators, incinerators, and waste disposal facilities are concentrated in impoverished neighborhoods; children in our inner cities suffer alarming rates of asthma; overemphasis on the use of private vehicles deprives the poor of transportation. Exploitation of the poor is closely linked to exploitation of the earth, and our quest for social justice and economic sustainability must rest on a foundation of ecological stability. As baptized Christians, we are clearly called to care for creation, loving our neighbors as ourselves. Through prayer and action to protect the earth, we acknowledge the ongoing redemption of all creation in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:19a), and we minister to Christ himself, who particularly identifies with the outcast and suffering (Matthew 25:35-36).

Lest we experience despair, lest we feel the hopeless conviction that it is too late to change anything, too late to turn this around, we must root ourselves in the deepest convictions of our faith. We put our trust in a God who loves every inch of creation and whose covenant with Creation can never be broken ("I will...remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth," Genesis 9:16). We share in Christ's crucifixion, letting ourselves feel and mourn the wounds of Creation. We share in Christ's resurrection, bearing witness to the Christ who bursts out of the tomb, who proclaims that life, not death, has the last word, and who gives us power to roll away the stone. We receive the Holy Spirit, source of all truth, who sends forth faithful stewards of God's creation. We nourish ourselves at the Eucharistic table, where Christ gives himself to us in the natural elements of bread and wine, and restores our connections not only with God and one another, but also with the whole web of creation.

As brothers and sisters in Christ, we commit ourselves and we urge every Episcopalian in every parish

and diocese throughout the Province of New England:

- To act together to honor the goodness and sacredness of God's creation;
- To acknowledge the urgency of the planetary crisis in which we now find ourselves;
- To pray and take action to restore a right relationship between humankind and creation;
- To lift up prayers in personal and public worship for environmental justice, human rights, and sustainable development;
- To repent of greed and waste, and to seek simplicity of life;
- To commit ourselves to energy conservation and the use of clean, renewable sources of energy;
- To reduce, reuse, and recycle, and as far as possible to buy products from recycled materials;
- To realize that, through participation in community, public policy, and business decision-making, we have corporate as well as individual opportunities to practice environmental stewardship and justice;
- To seek to understand and uproot the political, social, and economic causes of environmental abuse.

In order to support these commitments, we call for a Provincial Convocation on the Environment in 2003.

Who will believe the church's declaration that "God so loved the world" (John 3:16) if we ourselves do not? By committing ourselves to join with others in protecting the integrity of God's creation, we are living out the promises of our baptism and participating in God's mission to restore all people and all creation to unity with God and each other in Christ.

Faithfully in the name of Christ and all creation,

The Episcopal Bishops of New England:

The Right Reverend Andrew D. Smith
Bishop of Connecticut

The Right Reverend James E. Curry
Bishop Suffragan of Connecticut

The Right Reverend Wilfrido Ramos-Orench
Bishop Suffragan of Connecticut

The Right Reverend Chilton R. Knudsen
Bishop of Maine

The Right Reverend M. Thomas Shaw, III, SSJE
Bishop of Massachusetts

The Right Reverend Roy F. Cederholm, Jr.
Bishop Suffragan of Massachusetts

The Right Reverend Gayle E. Harris
Bishop Suffragan of Massachusetts

The Right Reverend Douglas E. Theuner
Bishop of New Hampshire

The Right Reverend GERALYN WOLF
Bishop of Rhode Island

The Right Reverend Thomas C. Ely
Bishop of Vermont

The Right Reverend Gordon P. Scruton
Bishop of Western Massachusetts

Sent to the Episcopal Churches of Province One on the Feast of the Presentation of Christ, 2003.

(1) For an examination of the effects of global warming in New England, see New England Regional Assessment Group. 2001. *Preparing for Climate Change: The Potential Consequences of Climate Variability and Change*. New England Regional Overview, U.S. Global Change Research Program, 96 pp., University of New Hampshire (<http://www.necci.sr.unh.edu/2001-NERA-report.html>)

More Coming Events

Congregational Studies Days

Episcopal Divinity School

99 Brattle Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts

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.

Developing Public Leaders for the 21st Century

Saturday, April 5, 2003, 10 A.M. to 3 P.M.

This workshop will introduce participants to the basics of congregation-based organizing: developing relationships within the congregation and beyond, discovering people's passions, understanding and building power, and taking public action. Leaders are the Rev. Geoff Curtiss, rector of All Saints', Hoboken, NJ, Fran Early of Trinity Church, Boston, and Stephanie Spellers, an EDS student.

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.

Lenten Journey in Song

Sunday, March, 23, 4:00 P.M.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 2nd Street, Newport, Vermont

The program, directed by organist Jim McKimm, will consist of meditations, lessons, hymns of the Lenten season to be sung by the congregation, and several selections by the choir. The newly formed wind ensemble, under the direction of Lynn Perry, will play the Brother James' Air, arranged by Jim McKimm, and assist in other portions of the program. A free-will offering for the Organ Fund will be received and light refreshments will follow the program in the Parish House. All are invited.

Women and the Word 2003

Loose Ends: The Ragged Wisdom of Women's Lives

March 26-27, 2003

Boston University Photonics Center

8 St. Mary's Street, Boston, Massachusetts

The question, "How do we understand the presence of God in our lives as women and how is that different from the God who is projected in the liturgies and sermons handed down to us?" will serve to focus the conference workshops and worship.

Registration is \$130, including meals, and forms are available at the Diocesan Center (call Val Hennessey, 800-286-3437) or from the Anna Howard Shaw Center at Boston University (617-353-3075; shawctr@bu.edu).

Friday Noon Organ Concerts

March 22 and 28; April 4 and 11, 12:05 P.M.

Trinity Church, West Street, Rutland

Bring lunch to Trinity and enjoy performances by Alan Walker (March 21), George Matthew, Jr. (March 28), Betty Clark (April 4), and John Riddle (April 11). Coffee and tea are provided.

Popular Province I Stewardship and Evangelism Conference set for March

March 6 is the registration deadline for the annual Stewardship and Evangelism Conference sponsored by the Province of New England and scheduled for March 28-30 at the Wyndham Hotel in Westborough, Massachusetts.

Keynote speakers will be the Rev. Canon Kevin Martin, former congregational development officer for the Diocese of Texas, and the Rev. Bonnie A. Perry, rector of All Saints' Church, Chicago, Illinois. This year, participants will be able to select one of three "schools" to attend: evangelism, stewardship, or congregational development. Each school will have its own faculty.

Congregations are encouraged to send teams, and the fees reflect discounts for

larger groups. The fee for one person from a congregation is \$195. It is \$175 per person for two from a congregation and \$135 per person for three or more. The fee includes all materials and meals. Accommodations at the Wyndham are an additional \$69 per night for a single room, and \$79 per night for double occupancy.

For brochures and questions about registration, contact Judith Barnes at the Diocese of New Hampshire, 603-224-1914, or jbinnh@juno.com. Stewardship and evangelism coordinators for the Diocese of Vermont are Con Quinby (802-862-4174) and Genie Rayner (802-773-1422). They can answer questions about the conference and about possible scholarship assistance. ❧

Lenten retreat participants will explore desert places

by Mary Lou Ashton

The Rt. Rev. Arthur Walmsley, will lead the annual diocesan Lenten retreat, "Following Jesus into the Wilderness: A Lenten Retreat to Greater Depth in Our Lives," scheduled for March 14-16, 2003, at the Bishop Booth Conference and Retreat Center (BBCC) in Burlington. Conference chaplain will be the Rev. Ben Chase, and Nanci Gordon will serve as guest mistress.

Bishop Walmsley says, "The season of Lent and this retreat at the BBCC offer us 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. In our time together, we will look at the tools through which the spirit leads us through temptation to confidence in the love of God, practices of prayer tried and true over the centuries."

Bishop Walmsley, who served as Bishop of Connecticut from 1979 to 1993, is widely called on as a retreat leader and spiritual director and has been meeting persons for spiritual counsel in Vermont for the past seven years. He has served inner city parishes, was public affairs officer for the Episcopal Church in New York and Washington, and is the episcopal visitor, or guardian, of the Society of St. John the Evangelist, an Episcopal monastic community in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

The fee is \$120 for the weekend. If available, private rooms are \$145. Send a \$50 non-refundable deposit (made out to the Diocese of Vermont) to John King, 433 Bean Road, Colchester, VT 05446. Space is limited, so sign up soon. Questions? Call John at 802-862-6834.

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

Archbishop Rowan Williams to speak at annual Trinity Institute Conference will be webcast live

"Shaping Holy Lives: Benedictine Spirituality in the Contemporary World" is the theme of Trinity Institute's 34th National Conference, to be held April 28-29, 2003, at Trinity Church, Broadway at Wall Street, New York City. Featured speakers are the 104th Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Rev. Rowan Douglas Williams, Joan D. Chittister, OSB, Kathleen Norris, and Laurence Freeman, OSB.

Archbishop Williams was at Trinity Church on September 11, 2001, and he will reflect on the meaning of that tragedy in his sermon at the opening Eucharist, Monday April 28, at noon.

To attend the conference in New York, call 1-800-457-0224 for registration information. The cost is \$200, with discounts available for couples, retired clergy and seminarians.

The conference will also be webcast live at www.ecn.org. It can be accessed by a dial-up modem, but the best viewing will be via high-speed access such as a cable modem, DSL or a T-1 line. With high-speed access, the image may be projected for group viewing by using an LCD projector. For step-by-step details on accessing the webcast visit www.ecn.org.

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Conference addresses work with refugees and marginalized groups

The Cathedral Church of St. Paul and St. James', Essex Junction, are among the sponsors of "Embracing a World of Diversity: Strategies for Supporting Identity and Building Community," the second annual Northern New England Conference on Refugee Health scheduled for April 9-10, at the Radisson Hotel in Burlington.

The conference is designed for a broad array of human service providers who work with refugees or others who are often seen as outside the dominant culture: people of color, immigrants, gay and lesbian people, and people with disabilities. Its goals are to raise awareness of the many ways in which such groups enrich local communities and to provide human service professionals and community leaders with enhanced knowledge and specific skills to understand and support them.

Dr. Mary Pipher, nationally renowned speaker, psychologist and author of *Reviving Ophelia*, will open the conference. Her most recent book, *The Middle of Everywhere*, calls attention to the struggles and resilience of resettled refugees in the United States and the lessons she has learned from

them over the past ten years in her home city of Lincoln, Nebraska, a refugee resettlement city.

Other keynote speakers are Ms. Loung Ung, nationally acclaimed speaker and author of the award winning book, *First They Killed My Father: A Cambodian Daughter Remembers*, Ms. Lavinia Limón, Executive Director, Immigration and Refugee Services of America/U.S. Committee for Refugees. During the Clinton administration, Dr. Richard Mollica, director and cofounder of the Harvard Program on Refugee Trauma (HPRT) at Massachusetts General Hospital and Associate Professor of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School.

A variety of workshops will be offered, and the conference will conclude with a panel presentation by four Burlington area residents—including Rebeccan Flewelling and Peter Galbraith of St. Paul's Cathedral—who will discuss how embracing diversity and being open to humanity have enriched their lives.

For more information, contact the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, 802-864-0471.

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Northwest Deanery 1

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The Northwest Deanery held its first meeting of the year Feb. 23, at GRACE CHURCH, Sheldon. Many ideas are on the drawing board for 2003. A full report will appear in the next issue.

ST. LUKE'S, St. Albans, participated in the fifth progressive dinner, an annual event in February that includes the Episcopal, Baptist, Congregational, and Methodist Churches in St. Albans. For those who haven't visited St. Albans, three of the four churches line Church Street, which runs along the top of the city's Tyler Park. The Baptist church is off Church Street, but within an easy walk of the others.

St Luke's will offer a Lenten program, "The Bible and Handel's Messiah," a continuation of a program begun in Advent to examine the texts used for the Easter music. A sing-a-long is planned for the evening when the Hallelujah Chorus is on the menu. Sessions will take place Thursday evenings, beginning March 6, at 6:30 P.M. until about 7:45. Contact **Barb Barnard**, 802-524-5579; barbara.barnard@verizon.net, for information.

HOLY TRINITY, Swanton, held a parish dinner with **Bishop Ely** Feb. 8. The congregation is exploring the possibility of a six-week, experimental program of Saturday Eucharist at 4:30 P.M.

Otter Creek Deanery 2

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The "Undercroft Kids" of ST. THOMAS' & GRACE, Brandon/Forest Dale, as part of the parish stewardship program, decorated milk cartons for use as coin boxes to collect money to help the church.

ST. STEPHEN'S, Middlebury, will hold their annual Rock Point Parish Weekend Feb. 28-March 2, a time for fun/worship/learning. In the words of **Jessica Hoagland**, "Everyone should experience Rock Point at least once! 'Tis indeed a magical place." **Bill Eichner** and **Julia Alvarez** own an organic coffee farm at Los Marranitos, in the Dominican Republic. They have invited the youth group to come in June to work on the farm or to assist in the literacy center. Adult members are also invited.

St. Stephen's distributed over \$21,000 to the community through the Sheldon Graves Grants. Recipients included Addison County Community Trust, Vermont Campaign to End Childhood Hunger, Community Friends Program and many more. **John McCardell**, parishioner and President of Middlebury College, led the adult forum on Feb. 16 and 23, on "Causes and Consequences of the Civil War and the Role of the Churches." Plans are underway to compile a Peasant Market Cookbook, complete with Peasant Market history. The youth group will offer their culinary skills for the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper.

TRINITY, Rutland, will have a Lent program—"Episcopalians: Who are we and why do we do the things we do?"—beginning Tuesday, March 11, and continuing for five Tuesdays, followed by food, fellowship

❖ deanery doings ❖

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

and fun at the traditional pancake supper on Shrove Tuesday.

ST. PAUL'S, Vergennes, is once again beginning preparation for "Cocoa Mulch," their annual fundraiser. The trucks will be rolling in on April 26 and May 3; let the work begin!

Southwest Deanery 3

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The outreach committee at ST. PETER'S, Bennington, will disburse funds raised through the Chicken Pie Supper and the various Christmas season projects. Recipients include the Emergency Food and Fuel Fund, the Bennington Coalition for the Homeless Shelter, emergency funds for Bennington elementary school classroom teachers and additional funds for the Angel Tree projects. The second annual Father/Daughter Valentine's Day Dance was held on Feb. 15. The Youth Group participated in the Souper Bowl project to raise funds and receive goods for the food shelf at Bennington Rutland Opportunity Council.

ST. JAMES', Arlington, celebrated Twelfth Night with the annual Epiphany Bonfire at the Rec Center. Piled Christmas trees lighted up the frosty night, and revelers were warmed by hot chocolate as they greeted the light of the Epiphany season. The outreach committee announced a gift to the Bennington Coalition for the Homeless Shelter. Funds also went to the Heifer Project and the Church World Service blanket drive.

At his December visitation to ZION, Manchester, Bishop **Thomas Ely** offered a prayer of thanksgiving for the many years of service **Jean Noble** gave as head of the Altar Guild. Zion is holding a daytime Alpha Course through February and March, with a weekend retreat March 1-2 at the Trailside Lodge in Killington.

Southeast Deanery 4

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With Shrove Tuesday Pancake Suppers, Mardi Gras Celebrations, and Lent about to descend upon us, here's what's happening in "Vermont's Banana Belt" (as we are referred to by some members of our congregations).

In an attempt to know God by deepening their relationship with all of God's creation, an intergenerational group from IMMANUEL, Bellows Falls, is visiting Magic Wings (Butterfly Conservatory and Gardens) in Deerfield, Massachusetts. At least three—possibly more—from their Parish will be attending the Province I Stewardship and Evangelism Conference.

The folks from ST. MICHAEL'S, Brattleboro, under the leadership of **John Carnahan** and **Bernie McKee**, are hard at

work on an archival project for their sesquicentennial celebration later this year. Many, including the Episcopal Church Women, are helping gather and identify old photos, materials and other memorabilia, as well as "recollections."

The relatively new Welcoming Committee at ST. LUKE'S, Chester, has now assigned to each Sunday church service a member who makes a special effort to greet and assist newcomers. They have created a "welcoming package" containing, among other things, a church coffee mug, a loaf of bread, an informational flyer, and a current newsletter.

GETHSEMANE, Proctorsville, has reinstated their weekly Bible study starting (and perhaps continuing) at a local cafe and coffee shop (saves on heating the parish house). Parish Lenten soup suppers are also in the offing.

With their first course a success, in mid-February, ST. MARK'S, Springfield, started a second Alpha Course with several newcomers signed up and **Boris von York** at the helm. Their First Sunday breakfast crew is hosting a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper resplendent with a lot more than just pancakes.

Four parishioners from ST. MARY'S IN-THE-MOUNTAINS, Wilmington attended the recent quiet day at the Cathedral and stayed overnight at Rock Point. One of the attendees related, "It was an absolutely fantastic time." These folks will also be hosting their community's ecumenical Ash Wednesday service.

Having just completed 180 years in their building, the folks at ST. PAUL'S, Windsor, have taken an inventory of their various "art" pieces acquired over the years as gifts and memorials. In the best interest of good stewardship they decided to have their very beautiful mid-16th Century rendering of the Madonna and Child restored. What was thought to be a copy was in fact an original from the Northern Italian Bellini School. It was given to the parish in the 1960's by Mr. and Mrs. **Edward Holmes, Jr.** Mr. Holmes was a Director and President of The Boston Museum of Fine Arts and nephew of **Oliver Wendell Holmes**. The Rev. **Tom Hayes** urges those interested in seeing this and other pieces of art to worship with the congregation some Sunday.

During these difficult times of uncertainty and worldwide instability, not to go into the "bleak", reflective, and penitent season of Lent without a feeling of apprehension would be unnatural. May our prayers, trust in God, and the anticipation of that Glorious Easter which continues to come, sustain us during this time. I will close with what, for a short period of time, will be "unmentionable"—Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! PEACE !

Three Rivers Deanery 5

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Following our respective annual meet-

ings, many thanks and congratulations to all our parishes' newly-elected and continuing officers, delegates and representatives, and sincere thanks to all who have served in these and other capacities in the past year!

The congregation at CHRIST CHURCH, Bethel, mourns the loss of their beloved sister, **Lucy Ruffin Sprague**, who died in January. A longtime summer member of the parish, Lucy was also a member of St. Paul's, Englewood, NJ, and served as administrative assistant to Bishop **John Spong** for many years.

ST. MARTIN'S, Fairlee, is brainstorming again. Parishioners are invited to suggest new or additional ideas for ways Lent might be experienced. A display board in the gathering room will hold the sure-to-grow list, which the vestry will then discuss.

Killington's CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR sent the Very Rev. **Dick Bower** off with blessings to El Salvador and Honduras for a couple of months. Dick is working on a project to help provide a plan and direction for the Salvadoran Anglican Church for the next ten years, and then both **Stephanie Bower** and Dick will spend time with the L'Arche community in Choluteca, Honduras in March.

Another good idea: along with the regular list of monthly birthdays, the newsletter of ST. JOHN'S, Randolph, notes peoples' baptismal anniversaries every month. They really know what's important in our ministries of all the baptized!

Reviving a time-honored concept and practice, parishioners and confirmands-to-be at ST. PAUL'S, White River Junction, are exploring what it means to be a sponsor or have a sponsor for Confirmation. Apparently the young people "are always asking for people to ask," and sponsorship is a supportive way to ease the transition into adulthood in the church.

Central Vermont Deanery 6

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Allison Neal, life-long member of ST. MARY'S, Northfield, acolyte and church school teacher, competed in the Vermont State Forensics Tournament Feb. 1, at the State House. Over 100 high school students participated in seven categories of public speaking. Allison, a tenth-grade student, won first place in Oratory. Required to memorize and present without notes a 6-8 minute-long speech on a controversial issue, Allison spoke about why she felt war with Iraq was unwise at this moment.

Carol Murphy and **Sharon Bartram**, co-coordinators of the United Thank Offering in Vermont, were commissioned on Feb. 9, by the St. Mary's congregation before traveling to a national gathering of UTO coordinators in Delray Beach, FL.

St. Mary's will continue having Evensong the second Friday of the month, followed by a potluck supper. **Scott Neal** will officiate.

The congregation has been worshipping Sunday mornings in the parish house since mid-January, when the church furnace gave up the ghost. **Carol and Brett Murphy, Beth and Scott Neal, Cindy and Jim Willis** and many others have been the faith-

Continued on Page G

Diocesan Council meets via Interactive Television

Members of Diocesan Council traveled to several Vermont Interactive Television (VIT) locations for the council's January 25 meeting. The council first used VIT in February 2002, as a way to reduce travel time and gasoline consumption. Canon to the Ordinary Lynn Bates chaired the session in the absence of Bishop Thomas Ely, who that morning had undergone surgery [Page B].

Canon Bates announced that the Rt. Rev. Barbara Harris, recently retired bishop suffragan of the Diocese of Massachusetts, has accepted Bishop Ely's invitation to participate in the 2003 Diocesan Convention. She will speak at the dinner on Friday and again on Saturday.

The council received reports from Bishop Ely and from committees in the three clusters focused on the areas of the diocesan mission statement, pray the prayer of Christ, learn the mind of Christ, and do the deeds of Christ.

Genie Rayner presented a report from the new Environmental Ministry Team (EMT). The group thanked the council for using VIT for its meeting. The EMT has approved a resolution recommending that "Council, and other Diocesan bodies and representatives, model and exemplify energy and resource conservation by such means as electronic mail *without* print follow-up mailings of the same documents, except when needed." The EMT also encourages the use of Fair Trade, organic shade-grown coffees and the reduction or elimination of the use of paper and/or styrofoam products for beverage and food consumption.

Peter Galbraith described the progress of the strategic planning process. Facilitators, who will visit every congregation in pairs before Easter, are being trained in the "planning" process. They will meet on April 26, and begin to analyze data and cre-

ate a first draft of a diocesan strategic plan.

Council voted to support a campaign in support of a livable wage for employed Vermonters and accepted reports on the new Diocesan Study Program and from the Rock Point Summer Conference Committee. The council will next meet on March 8, from 10 A.M. until 2 P.M., at St. John's, Randolph. Council meetings are open to all interested members of the diocese.

[From Diocesan Council minutes and written committee reports] ❧

June retreat will "Open the Book of Nature"

by Steve Young

"Open the Book of Nature," a unique Christian conference and retreat, is planned for the weekend of June 13-15, at the Rolling Ridge Conference Center near North Andover, Mass.

Through observation, reflection, small group discussions and sound teachings from scripture and tradition, participants will re-discover the "keys" to reading the book of nature through which God's presence is so wonderfully expressed.

Cosponsored by Project Noah, this faith strengthening conference will be directed by Fred Krueger, Open the Book of Nature's founder and Executive Director of the Religious Campaign for Forest Conservation, headquartered in Santa Rosa, CA.

For more information please contact the Rev. Stephen Young, Director of Project Noah at 43 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05602; 802-223-5256 ext. 14; pnoah@sover.net. ❧

Trustees announce Unit Fund distributions

The Chittenden Bank reported to the Investment Committee of the Trustees at their meeting on January 21, 2003, the performance record for the Diocesan Unit Funds for the fourth quarter of 2002. Both the Unit Stock Fund and the Unit Bond Fund performed slightly better over 2002 than the benchmark funds used by Chittenden to gauge performance.

The March 31, 2003, distributions from the funds have been set by the Trustees at \$0.11925 per unit for the Unit Stock Fund and \$0.10623 per unit for the Unit Bond Fund.

The investment performance had been generally bringing up the unit values of the

Unit Stock Fund and the Unit Bond Fund. As it did so, it increased the distributions, which are set at 5% per year of a moving average of unit values. High unit valuations in the Unit Stock Fund during 1999 and 2000, however, are being replaced by lower current valuations. The effect of this has been a gradual reduction in distributions from this Fund since the high of \$0.13707 in March 2001. The reduction will continue over the next year or two. Unit Stock Fund distributions, in spite of this trend, remain higher per unit than Unit Bond Fund distributions, which have maintained a gradual increase. ❧

Support needed for Vermont wilderness legislation

by Steve Young

At a packed public hearing held at Middlebury College in November 2001, a diverse representation of faith communities gathered along with several hundred other Vermonters to express their opinions about the need for new wilderness designations within the Green Mountain National Forest.

A letter written by the Rt. Rev. Thomas Ely was read in which he stated, "I am strongly in favor of preserving wilderness in the State of Vermont as part of a comprehensive and balanced approach to the use and conservation of the state's natural resources. I support this effort in order that we continue as good stewards of God's Earth, provide future generations land still unspoiled and preserve natural habitats for all of God's creatures. I encourage our Senators and Congressman to sponsor and help pass legislation that will work toward these goals."

These words reflected the heartfelt comments of the vast majority of those in attendance that night and, in fact, the vast majority of Vermonters statewide. The congressional delegation has heard the call for more wilderness and they are presently drafting legislation.

This effort is being challenged by a small but vocal minority, and those like Bishop Ely and others from the faith communities must respond. Please write to the congressional delegation and encourage them to write and introduce a bold wilderness bill and to work for its passage in this Congress. Write a letter to your local newspaper expressing your support for wilderness as an act of wise stewardship for future generations.

For more information, please contact: the Rev. Stephen Young, Director of Project Noah at 43 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05601; 802-223-5256 ext. 14; pnoah@sover.net. ❧

deanery doings

Continued from Page F

ful setters-up and takers-down of "church in the parish house."

Rector **Lee Alison Crawford** read the General Ordination Examinations (along with Vermonters **Anne Clarke Brown** of Church of Our Saviour, Killington, **George Lewis**, St. Michael's, Brattleboro and the Rev. **Gordon Bardos** of St. Thomas, and Grace, Brandon/Forestdale) at Camp Allen, Navasota, TX. From there she went to El Salvador to spend two weeks working with two Anglican congregations.

ST. JOHN'S IN THE MOUNTAINS, Stowe, will again be offering Simple Soup Suppers along with a Lenten series, "Understanding the Roots of our Faith." Supper will be at 5:30 P.M. (alternating between Stowe Community Church and St. John's). Programs begin at 7 P.M.: March 12, SCC, Judaism; March 19, St. John's, Jesus of History; March 26, SCC, Christ of Faith, Part One, The Early Church; April 2, St. John's: April 9, Christ of Faith, Part Two, The Reformation. The Lenten Book Sale is on March 9, after the 10 A.M. service.

ST. DUNSTAN'S, Waitsfield, had a carry-in dinner on St. John's Day to honor the Rev. **Peter Floyd**, who retired Jan. 19.

On Dec. 22, choir director **Elizabeth Juzaitis** gave a recital at the Round Barn in Waitsfield for the benefit of the food shelf.

Northeast Deanery 7

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The deanery met at CHRIST CHURCH, Island Pond on Feb. 2, with **Connie Saeger-Proctor**, canon for youth ministry, as the guest speaker. She described "Journey to Adulthood," a program, available through the diocese, and initiated much discussion about ministry with youth.

ST. MARK'S, Newport, hosted a Valentine's Tea for the "seniors" in the parish and community of Newport on Feb. 14. A number of these seniors attend the souper lunch each month and St. Mark's was delighted to include them in this festive afternoon tea!

The Choir and Wind Ensemble of St. Mark's, will present a "Lenten Journey through Song" on March 23, at 4 P.M. **Jim McKimm** is organist and choir director.

Champlain Deanery 8

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We have been your reporters for three years and have tried to publish events of interest that are happening in parishes and with your missions and outreach to your communities. If you do not find your parish or an event featured in this column, it may be due to our not receiving your newsletter in a timely manner. Feel free to contact us by email if you cannot meet our deadline of the 7th of the month. Thank you for all the hard work your reporters do.

Our middle and high school youth will have the opportunity to participate in Vermont Watch at the cathedral on March 28-29. Contact **Tanya Wallace**, 802-864-0471, ext. 16, to register or for information.

The CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. PAUL, Burlington, had a meeting Feb. 4,

to discuss a response to the possible war in Iraq [see article on this page]. The Youth Group will host the annual Shrove Tuesday pancake supper. There will also be an auction to raise funds for youth activities. A mid-winter Eucharist and luncheon for seniors was held Feb. 11, with **Maureen Rees** as hostess. A Christian Meditation Group meets Tuesday evenings at 7 P.M. in the parish hall. Contact Dean **Ken Poppe** (802-864-0471) for more information.

ALL SAINTS', South Burlington, held a newcomer breakfast on Feb. 2, with a liturgy of welcome celebrated at the 10 A.M. service. Faith experiences have been the topic for the 9 A.M. adult forum throughout February and concluding March 2.

At TRINITY, Shelburne, **Ross Anderson** gave a presentation on the Kairos Prison Ministry, and the congregation has committed funds for this ministry for three years. The Shelburne Community School thanked the congregation for contributions to the Angel Fund, which offers financial help so children can participate in extracurricular activities. ❧

Diocesan Calendar

March 2003

- 1 Diocesan Study Program, Mission Farm, Killington
- 1 "Plannaging" Facilitator Training, Trinity, Rutland, 9:30 AM
- 5 Ash Wednesday
- 7 **Deadline, April Mountain Echo**
- 8 Diocesan Council 10 AM
- 9 Bishop at St. Paul's Cathedral, Burlington
- 12 Executive Committee, Montpelier 1 PM
- 15 Journey to Adulthood Workshop, Location TBA, 10 AM
- 18 Clergy Day, St. John's, Randolph, 10 AM
- 18 Standing Committee 2 PM
- 21 Bishop's Advisory Commission on Ministry, Diocesan Center, Burlington
- 22 Cathedral Chapter 10 AM
- 23 Bishop at St. Paul's, Canaan
- 26 Fresh Start, Barre 9:30 AM-2:30 PM
- 26 Dispatch of Business, Burlington 1 PM
- 28-30 Deacon's Retreat
- 30 Bishop at St. James', Essex Junction

April 2003

- 2 Executive Committee, Diocesan Center, 1 PM
- 5 Diocesan Study Program, Mission Farm, Killington
- 6 Bishop at Jerusalem Gathering
- 7 **Deadline, May Mountain Echo**
- 12 Safe Church Training, Zion, Manchester 8:45 AM
- 13 Palm Sunday, Bishop at St. John's, Randolph
- 18 Good Friday (Diocesan Office closed)
- 20 Easter, Bishop at St. Paul's Cathedral, Burlington

Cathedral members sponsor peace ad

Nearly 200 members and friends of the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Burlington, sponsored an ad in the Burlington Free Press on February 16, titled, "Episcopalians for Peace."

The ad states, "As members and friends of St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral in Burlington, we are compelled to work for peace and to pray for the leaders of the nations, for those who serve in the Armed Forces and their families, and for the people of Iraq." It expresses support for the "Resolution to Build Peace" adopted at diocesan convention, and it quotes Presiding Bishop Frank Griswold's "call on President Bush to exhaust all diplomatic and multilateral initiatives as the alternative to waging war..."

The ad invites Burlington area readers to take action for peace by:

- attending the Vigil for Peace in front of St. Paul's every Saturday from 2:00-2:30, at the corner of Pearl and Battery Streets in Burlington;
- using the cathedral chapel (open weekdays from 8:45 A.M. until 5:00 P.M.) as a place to pray for peace;
- attending Morning Prayer with prayers for peace every weekday at 8:45, and the weekly Wednesday 12:15 P.M. healing service.

nessday 12:15 P.M. healing service.

The initiative is the work of the Cathedral's Social Justice Committee in its mission to "strengthen our voice and action for social justice" and the baptismal commitment "to strive for justice and peace among all people." A note to the diocesan email list invited

others throughout the diocese to add their names to the ad (to join the list, click the link on the web site, www.dioceseofvermont.org).

For more information, or to add your name to future ads, contact Sarah Gallagher at St. Paul's Cathedral, 802-864-0471, sarahg@stpaulscathedralvt.org. ☩

EPF Vermont offers resources for building peace

by Anne Clarke Brown

The Vermont chapter of the Episcopal Peace Fellowship (EPFVT) has issued the first in a series of letters intended to help congregations and individuals in the diocese respond to the "Resolution to Build Peace" passed at the 169th convention of the diocese in November. The resolution urged "the congregations individually and collaboratively to pray for peace and to pursue ways of building peace in the world, through forums that examine the conditions that foster war and oppression; and through local, national, and international efforts to ameliorate these conditions."

The EPFVT letter has sections on prayer, forums, local, national and international peace actions, and "Facing Our Fears of War and Peace." It includes as appendices a bulletin insert, "A Thanksgiving for the Nation and Prayers for

Peace," with concluding collects, and "Excerpts from Interfaith Prayers and Readings for Peace," collected by the Fellowship of Reconciliation and the national Episcopal Peace Fellowship.

The section on "forums" notes that, "The political and moral questions around war and peace are bound to evoke diverse thoughts and feelings in any congregation, but in some there may be real polarization. A forum should attempt to include spokespersons for contrasting points of view, and needs to be moderated in a way that encourages respect for all opinions."

For a copy of the EPFVT letter, send an email to Laura Chase at laurachase@aol.com. For information on the Vermont Chapter of EPF, contact Laura Chase, 802-483-2995, or Joe Grannis, 802-874-4013; josgugran@sover.net.

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Youth invited to "Vermont Watch"

The Cathedral Church of St. Paul will sponsor a special "Vermont Watch" program for junior and senior high youth Friday, March 28 to Saturday, March 29. Youth from around the diocese are invited to participate in the fellowship and fun, workshops, a midnight candlelight Eucharist, a cathedral scavenger hunt and more.

For more information, and to get on the VermontWatch e-mail update list, contact the Rev. Tanya Wallace at 802-864-0471, ext. 16; twallace@stpaulscathedralvt.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 April Mountain Echo, which will include the annual Rock Point Summer Conferences Supplement with application form and enrollment information. For information, contact Connie Saeger-Proctor, Canon for Youth Ministry, at 802-479-1246, or clsproctor@dioceseofvermont.org.

Workshops explore "Journey to Adulthood"

by Connie Saeger-Proctor

Two workshops will be offered this spring on Journey to Adulthood, a six-year spiritual formation program for young people that is now available to every congregation in the diocese at a reduced cost through a diocesan license. The first will be March 15 at a location not yet determined at press time, and the second will be May 10, at St. Stephen's, Middlebury. Both will run from 10 A.M. until 3 P.M.

The Journey Adulthood program has three two year phases, Rite-13 for junior high school youth, and J2A for senior high

school youth. 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 role in their congregation as they discuss challenging questions about self, society, sexuality, and spirituality. 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. It is

only in community that hard and difficult questions can be discussed and answers found. Along the way congregations are transformed and youth are invited and participate as full members of the body—not a group unto themselves but a group that has full membership responsibilities and rights.

For more information on the workshops, please contact Connie Saeger-Proctor, Canon for Youth Ministry, at 802-479-1246 or clsproctor@dioceseofvermont.org.

Connie Saeger-Proctor is diocesan canon for youth ministry.



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.