



## Diocese prays for peace

by Anne Clarke Brown

News that the United States had begun on March 19 its long-threatened war to topple the regime of Saddam Hussein in Iraq activated plans in many Vermont congregations for services of prayer for peace and for opening church doors to those wishing to find a quiet space for prayer.

The US attack came just a day after the House of Bishops, meeting in Kanuga, NC, issued a pastoral letter, "In the Shadow of War," that asked for prayers for "all who will be caught up in this conflict, our military personnel including our chaplains, their families, people who suffer for conscience sake, Arab Americans of all faiths, followers of Islam around the world—the great majority of whom share a longing for peace—and the people of Iraq, among whom are more than one million Christians."

In a letter asking clergy to read the letter in their congregations on Sunday, March 23, Bishop Thomas Ely said, "In this most difficult hour I find myself deeply conflicted. On the one hand, I do not think all the options for a peaceful resolve to the current crisis have been exhausted. On the other hand, the men and women of our Armed Forces have now been directed to carry out a mission of great proportion."

The Cathedral Church of St. Paul offered "An Evening Liturgy in a Time of War," on March 20, and other congregations throughout the state held similar gatherings for members of their communities. In his sermon at the cathedral, Bishop Ely said, "The essential quality of peace we are invited to contemplate tonight is the capacity of people to get along with each other, to live into the prophet Micah's vision of a time when one nation does not lift up sword against another nation, a time when

neither learns war any more, a time when all might sit 'under their own vines and fig trees, unafraid.' To reach that prophetic future requires human beings to do the hard work of truth telling, repentance and reconciliation with those with whom we have severe disagreement. It also requires us to change our ways, our habits, and our behaviors in the pursuit of peace, 'to beat swords into plowshares, spears into pruning hooks.' People of faith live into this mission—into God's mission—with trust and confidence in God's love, mercy and pursuit of justice."

### St. Paul's hosts ecumenical service

On the evening of March 23, representatives of nine denominations participated in a "Service of Word and Prayer for Peace" hosted by the cathedral and sponsored by the Vermont Ecumenical Council and Bible Society. In his homily for that occasion, Bishop Ely said, "The question for us is not whether praying and working for peace is patriotic or not, but whether praying and working for peace is Christian or not. And the answer, I believe, is an unequivocal yes."

### Prayer list on Web site

The diocesan Web site home page ([www.dioceseofvermont.org](http://www.dioceseofvermont.org)) has a link to a prayer list of members and friends of the diocesan community who are serving in the armed forces. To add names to the list, send them to Anne Brown ([abrown@vermontel.net](mailto:abrown@vermontel.net)) or Valerie Hennessey ([vhennessey@dioceseofvermont.org](mailto:vhennessey@dioceseofvermont.org)).

The home page also has links to Bishop Ely's sermons at the two cathedral services, the House of Bishops' pastoral letter, a statement by the VECBS, and resources for working with children and youth in a time of war. ❖



Anne Clarke Brown photos

Above: Bishop Thomas Ely preached at the ecumenical "Service of Word and Prayer for Peace" at St. Paul's Cathedral on March 23. Among the other religious leaders participating were (l. to r.) UCC Conference Minister, the Rev. Arnold Thomas, Roman Catholic Bishop Kenneth Angel, and United Methodist pastor, the Rev. Dr. Leonard Rowell.

Below: Members of the congregation at the ecumenical service.



## St. Paul's Cathedral sponsors first annual VermontWatch



Connie Saeger-Proctor photo

Some of the participants in the first annual VermontWatch at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in late March.

by Tanya Wallace

Almost 30 youth and adults from around the Diocese of Vermont gathered at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Burlington for the first annual VermontWatch on March 28 and 29.

The event was part of the new Cathedral Without Walls initiative of St. Paul's Cathedral, which strives to welcome members of the diocese into the cathedral for special events and to bring cathedral programs on the road to other parts of the diocese. It was planned and led by the Rev. Tanya Wallace, Canon Educator at St. Paul's Cathedral, and by a team of lay youth leaders of St. Paul's, with the help of the diocesan Canon for Youth, Connie Saeger-Proctor.

VermontWatch, modeled after the famous NightWatch program at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City, offered workshops, worship, fun events, and a service project for youth in grades six through twelve. The theme of the week-

end was "Seeking and Serving Christ in All People," and was introduced by Bishop Ely at the beginning of the event.

The service project involved hauling, sorting, and packing boxes of food for participants in the Serve project at the cathedral. Serve—a program with branches throughout New England—provides low-cost food to anyone in need of it, in exchange for the cost of the food and two hours per month of community service.

Participants explored the theme of seeking and serving Christ in several other ways throughout the weekend: in a workshop on poverty in the United States; in a session of "The Gospel According to the Simpsons," which discussed the role of prayer in seeking and serving Christ; and in the closing Eucharist, at which Bishop Ely presided. VermontWatch youth dramatized the Gospel reading at the Eucharist, and prayers written by each participant during the

Continued on Page E

## “Easter People are people of hope...”

by the Right Reverend Thomas Clarke Ely, Bishop of Vermont

*Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.  
His cross stands empty to the sky.  
Let streets and homes with praises ring.  
His love in death shall never die.*

The words of joy and hope from this great Easter hymn of praise (#182) proclaim the Good News of Easter: Christ is alive! Having walked with Jesus through his suffering and death during Holy Week, we are brought once again into the light of resurrection and invited to share its joy as Easter people. Christ is alive! Let Christians sing!

Easter is, because God loves. We can't control it, we can't change it, and we can't stop it. We can only rejoice in it—or not. We can only live into it—or not. When we rejoice in it, and when we participate in the joy of Christ's resurrected life, we become a brilliant source of God's light and love for each another and for the whole world. God welcomes our sharing in the joy of Easter, not only in our life as the Church gathered, but even more so in our life as the Church scattered, disbursed, sent into the world. It is in our daily living—not just in church on Sunday—that we are invited to be disciples (followers) and apostles (witnesses) of Jesus Christ. At home, at work, at school, at play—wherever we find ourselves—that is where we are called to be God's Easter people.

Easter people are people of hope, people of expectation, people of joy. It is not that

we are always happy in some artificial, contrived way, oblivious to the pain, hurt and need that is all around us and within us. It is, instead, that we have the capacity to hear and speak God's word of love and hope in the midst of that pain, hurt and need. As Easter people, we acknowledge and proclaim the truth of God's great love for the whole world. We acknowledge and proclaim the promise of resurrection faith: that in death, life is not ended; it is changed. We acknowledge and proclaim the triumph of Easter: that there is no grave, no tomb, no place of darkness, despair, or disbelief where God's love cannot reach and bring forth life.

God knows the world needs Easter people now as much as ever. Throughout the Lenten season just past, we have lived with war as an all too present reminder of our human condition, our human inability to fully embrace God's love in our relationships with one another on this planet. I don't believe that God is on anyone's "side" in war. I am relieved that the corrupt and murderous regime of Saddam Hussein is no longer exercising its cruel and inhumane dominion over the people of Iraq. At the same time, I am sad and deeply distressed by the extreme violence used to end that regime and by the innocent victims, known all too euphemistically as "collateral damage."

I don't want violence and war to be

the way human beings settle their differences—not in families and not in relations between countries. And so, as an Easter person, I continue to hope and believe in a better way. That way was not the way this time, and maybe it will not be the way next time, but I believe it is the only way that offers the lasting possibility that there will be no next time.

Archbishop Rowan Williams wrote these words as part of his Easter message to the Church: "At Easter we recognize what God has done; and if God has done it, it stays done, as we say! There is a new world. At every moment it stands at the edges of our failure and violence, and nothing can take it away, nothing can build a wall so high that it cannot impact on the everyday world. But it comes always as a surprise, just as the resurrection came as a surprise (not as the solution to a problem). What makes it clear that the resurrection is God's action, is precisely the fact that it reshapes everything, that it doesn't fit into our small world but demands that we grow into a bigger world, God's world."



Easter people are alert and alive to that surprising God at work in our lives and in the world around us. And so we make our song:

*Christ is alive! His Spirit burns  
through this and every future age,  
till all creation lives and learns  
his joy, his justice, love and praise.*

Alive in Christ and singing the song of Easter,

+ Thomas

## Views from the Frontier

by Martha Holden

I have been thinking in terms of exercises. After two and a half months of illness and injury, it felt good to get back to my accustomed routine, back in the groove of familiar discipline. Then, one of my first days of yoga, something plucked at me: what about *lectio divina*? I had been resisting *lectio divina*: I had enough Scripture with the Daily Office. The plucking continued. Beyond overt exercises, another way I exercise is to acknowledge my resistances and to give them over. Okay, I thought, I will try *lectio divina* if I can do it my way.

I sat down with my Bible and prayed. Then, my eyes closed, I opened the Bible and put my finger on the page where it felt right. I opened my eyes and read Hosea 1:6. *Boing*. God will have no pity on the United States, as God had no pity on Israel. And I was to hold this position openly. My mind scurried. Even if God will have no pity, I knew, God will still love us: redemption will still ache to transform us. I sat, my mind flailing, until I recalled another exercise: when I get a Bright Idea, do nothing for two weeks, and pray. Finally I quieted into the sureness of God's guidance if this *Boing* were true, prayed again and put the Bible away.

The next day Judges 6:14. Gideon commissioned. I wept, I prayed. Doubt exploded: how could I be taking this seriously? It is an exercise to speak my reality to others, and to hear their responses. So I told a friend of the passages and my sense of being led. She said I was not insane. The third day, Matthew 21:25. Was the baptism of John of divine or of human origin? For me, I affirmed, it was of divine origin. The plucking toward this form of *lectio* stopped. Then two days later the Daily Office lection of Matthew 16:6 lit up for me. Beware the yeast of the Pharisees. Beware, I thought, excessive asking for confirmation. I called another friend. My call interrupted her

while she was reading about photons and the power of observation. She reminded me that on a subtle level we create "what is" by our choice, the choice of how/what we observe.

Yes, I realized, the Bible verses were affecting me as they were because something within me was drawing forth that effect. What I was seeing was a reflection of what was already within me, and I was creating what I chose to see. So I was faced with the question Jesus asked the Pharisees. Is this of human or of divine origin? I pondered. It must be mixed, like the rest of me, I concluded. Another meaning of the yeast of the Pharisees hit me. I am to beware the yeast of judgment. It is not my exercise to judge what of this interchange between my self and Scripture is of human origin and what is of divine. It is my exercise instead to choose whether I will live into the divine potential in the situation. It is my exercise to trust God to guide me to do so. It is my exercise to let my heart cry out its desire to be true to the Lord.

It is not my exercise to judge. I cannot judge whether God is "hardening the hearts" of our administration in order to lead this country to a needed re-turning anymore than I can judge whether God has "hardened" my perception of those Scriptures in order to lead me to a needed re-turning. I cannot judge. I cannot judge: I can choose. I can choose to let my heart cry out its desire to be true to the Lord, and I can choose to see God active in the world and in my life. I can choose the exercise of seeing global justice and mercy and peace waiting to incarnate. I can choose to live into the divine potential in my self and in the world. I can choose the exercise of co-creating the earthly Kingdom of God from within the chaos, now and forever. Amen.

Martha Holden is a member of Christ Church, Montpelier.

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The Right Reverend Thomas Clark Ely, Bishop

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### 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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## Ask Sr. Bible Person

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

**Question:** Recently, I was reading the scripture passages assigned for a day in the Morning Prayer lectionary and was horrified to read the last part of the second chapter of First Timothy. In this passage, Paul tells women: (1) how to dress, (2) to remain silent in church, (3) to have no authority over men, and (4) that they are “second class people” because of the whole Eve thing. Ye gods! What are we supposed to do with this nonsense?

Angry

**Dear Angry:** I agree that this is an upsetting text. Some people who attended the consecration of our own Bishop McLeod years ago were aghast when a protestor at that event read some of First Timothy during the first part of the service as a way of denigrating what the Diocese of Vermont was doing. Presiding Bishop Browning was a model for what we can do with this kind of text—Listen politely, consult with the gathered community of faith, and then proceed as the Spirit directs.

Besides following Bishop Browning’s lead, we can also take Paul off the hook a bit. Most scholars think that I Timothy (which along with II Timothy and Titus are known as the “pastoral epistles”) was not written by Paul. It seems to have come from a much later time in early church history and was written by someone who gleaned certain things from Paul’s teachings and then used them to exert some authority. But, as with a lot of “gleanings” (defined as “gathering what has been left by the reapers”), we have to remember that we should consider the whole “harvest” and not make

such a big deal of the leftovers.

Let’s counter-balance this mean-spirited text with two items. First, look at the translation of I Timothy 2:9-10, by Eugene Peterson in “The Message:”

“I want women to get in there with the men in humility before God, not primping before a mirror or chasing the latest fashions but doing something beautiful for God and becoming beautiful doing it.”

Has Peterson taken some liberties with the text? Maybe. But did the author of I Timothy take liberties with Paul’s teaching? Probably. So, if we’re going to take liberties with the text, I think we might as well move in the direction of humility and doing beautiful things for God and including both men and women in that journey.

Second, as far as the “Eve thing” goes, let’s turn to page 9 of *The Tabloid Bible* by Nick Page (published in 1998 by Westminster John Knox Press) and see if that brings us to a better place. The headline about the Garden of Eden news story is:

### He and She: God Creates Adam Upgrade

“I’m delighted to be here,” said Eve. “I don’t think of myself as subservient. I think I’m more of an upgrade. Man 2.0 if you like.”

Some people reading that passage will not like it, I’m sure. But as we know, quite a few people don’t like the passage from I Timothy. Let’s be polite about it and move on, o.k.?

Send your questions about the Bible in care of the editor (address on Page B).

## 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

### Bishops’ letter on Iraq

To the editor:

Almost immediately after reading the recent letter from the House of Bishops on the war in Iraq, I recalled some words from an address that Albert Camus gave at a Dominican Monastery in France in 1948. (They can be found in his book *Resistance, Rebellion, and Death*.) With the *Echo*’s kind indulgence I would like to quote the passages that came to mind.

“What the world expects of Christians is that Christians should speak out, loud and clear, and that they should voice their condemnation in such a way that never a doubt, never the slightest doubt, could rise in the heart of the simplest man. That they should get away from abstraction and confront the blood-stained face history has taken on today. The grouping we need is a grouping of men resolved to speak out clearly and to pay up personally.”

He concludes his address in this way:

“But it may be...that Christianity will insist on maintaining a compromise or else on giving its condemnations the obscure form of the encyclical. Possibly it will insist on losing once and for all the virtue of revolt and indignation that belonged to it long ago. In that case Christians will live and Christianity will die. In that case the others will in fact pay for the sacrifice. In any case such a future is not within my province to decide, despite all the hope and anguish it awakens in me. I can speak only of what I know. And

what I know—which sometimes creates a deep longing in me—is that if Christians made up their minds to it, millions of voices—millions, I say—throughout the world would be added to the appeal of a handful of isolated individuals who, without any sort of affiliation, today intercede almost everywhere and ceaselessly for children and for men.”

There’s much I could add, but the word *Amen* will suffice.

Garret Keizer  
Sutton, Vermont

### Streams of mercy

The engineers are sick of it all:  
Again a stream erupting from nowhere  
Destroying the previous work  
Needing another containment dug.

“Repentance shall like rivers flow  
from both my streaming eyes.”

Again crocodiles come to wallow  
in new slime and must be stamped out.

Out of the depths have I called to thee

Still there are mornings  
When the sun dries the watercourses  
When even the weary engineers  
Turn  
gray wet faces to the sky.

Susan Miller-Coulter  
December 31, 2002  
Burlington, Vermont

## Life of the Rev. Thomas Lee Hayes celebrated in Windsor

The Rev. Thomas Lee Hayes, Priest-in-Charge at St. Paul’s, Windsor, died of cardiac arrest at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Hospital April 9, 2003. He had been in and out of the hospital since suffering a heart attack on February 24, and had undergone surgery two days before his death. Bishop Thomas Ely, who visited Hayes after the surgery, said in a note to diocesan clergy, “His family, friends and the people of St. Paul’s have been faithfully present to and with him throughout all this. I am grateful that I had the chance to visit and pray with Tom yesterday.”

On April 14, Bishop Ely presided at a liturgy at St. Paul’s celebrating Tom Hayes’s life and ministry. Hayes’s long-time colleague, the Rev. Stewart Pierson preached, and his brother, the Rev. Richard Hayes of Maryland, also participated in the service.

In the words of a clergy colleague, Tom Hayes “was one of the great activists of our generation, always full of hope as he preached and lived peace, justice and reconciliation.” Appointed executive director of the Episcopal Pacifist Fellowship in 1966, he was the organization’s first full-time staff member and later became its chairman. As the Vietnam War intensified, Hayes guided the Episcopal Pacifist Fellowship in changing its name to the Episcopal Peace Fellowship and altering its commitment statement to accommodate peace-makers who

were not necessarily pacifists. In 1991, he received the Peace Fellowship’s John Nevin Sayre Peacemaker Award. Hayes also served on the National Council of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, an international interfaith group that seeks a just and peaceable world.

Tom Hayes was born in Dayton, Ohio, on September 12, 1932. In 1953, he received a BA from Oberlin College, and he graduated with a M. Div. from the Episcopal Theological School in 1957. Ordained deacon in 1957, and priest in 1958, he served congregations in Ohio, and Pennsylvania before being appointed to the EPF post. He subsequently served congregations in New York and Maine before coming to St. Paul’s, Windsor, in 1997.

Vermont colleagues will remember Tom Hayes for his love of singing, his laughter, his passion for prophetic preaching and his commitment to parish ministry. The Rev. John Morris, of Fairlee, recollected how on the Last Sunday of Epiphany of this year, when visiting Hayes after his first heart attack, Morris proposed that they sing “Seek ye first” in two parts—“taking advantage of the fact that ‘Alleluias’ were still liturgically o.k. on that Sunday. We belted it out together—although Tom was much better than I at the ‘belting’ part. The nurses’ station was reduced to total silence and then appreciative comments afterwards.”

The family has asked that memorial donations may be made in the name of the Rev. Thomas Hayes to the Fellowship of Reconciliation, P.O. Box 271, Nyack, New York 10960. ❖

### The Common Cup

In response to letters in the March and April issues about the common cup, here are some resources on the Web:

An *Anglican Journal* of Canada (October 2000) article, “New report asserts common cup is safe: Dipping can increase bacteria count in cup,” can be found at [www.anglicanjournal.com/126/08/canada04.html](http://www.anglicanjournal.com/126/08/canada04.html).

The National Episcopal AIDS Coalition has an article, “HIV/AIDS and the Common Cup,” at [www.neac.org/commoncup/](http://www.neac.org/commoncup/)

On the Anglican Church of Canada site, [www.anglican.ca/ministry/inchurch/](http://www.anglican.ca/ministry/inchurch/), scroll down to “Eucharistic practice and the risk of infection,” to view or download a brochure.

Or, do a search using the key words “common cup” (include the quotation marks).

### Abortion

To the editor:

The subject of abortion has once more been brought to the Letters page. Predictably and sadly, writers are rushing to choose sides. Either one must be pro-abortion or anti-abortion, and those who disagree are the enemy.

Perhaps both extremist positions are partly right and partly wrong. How about this as an alternative to the “my way or the highway” attitude: The abortion procedure is a medical option. It may be a good option when used to save a life. It is the last, and least preferred option for birth control, because it is the result of the failure of thoughtfulness, planning and responsibility. But because it is a medical procedure, it should be allowed by law. It is the woman’s responsibility to make the decision based on her moral beliefs. These beliefs must recognize that the conceived being is a live creature with the potential for a rewarding life. As Christians, we should lovingly strive to correct the conditions that lead to the casual use of abortion as birth control.

Let’s keep it legal, but let’s accept the fact that it does end human life, and responsibly weigh that fact against the potential benefits.

Dykes Lynn Pruitt  
Shelburne, Vermont

[Ed. note: This is consistent with the position taken in Resolution A054 of the 1994 General Convention.]

## More Coming Events

### Arts at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul

2 Cherry Street, Burlington, Vermont

#### Oriana Singers: "A Spring Fling With a Unicorn"

Sunday, May 11, 2003, 3:00 P.M.

The Oriana Singers, under the direction of William Metcalfe, will give what they believe to be the first performance in Burlington of Giancarlo Menotti's madrigal fable, "The Unicorn, the Gorgon and the Manticore." Semi-staged, the performance features masks by Judith McManis, movement and dance directed by Shyla Nelson, and a small orchestra. Also on the program are John Rutter's wonderful setting of nursery rhymes, "Five Children's Lyrics," and South Burlington composer Glenn Sproul's, "The Month of May." Music of whimsy, satire, great humor and some sadness! Admission \$12 / students and seniors \$7.

#### Lynn Rice-See: "Masterpieces of Melody"

Friday, May 30, 2003, 8:00 P.M.

Pianist Lynn Rice-See of East Tennessee State University will present a program of melodious piano works including works by Schubert, Ravel, William Purcell, and two transcriptions by Bach and Liszt. Admission \$12 / students and seniors \$7

#### Master Class with pianist Lynn Rice-See

Saturday, May 31, 9:30 A.M. - noon

Free and open to the public. Co-sponsored by Greenfield Piano Associates. For additional information, call 864-9209.

#### Free Tuesday Concerts, 12 noon - 1 P.M.

**May 6:** Kyle de Tarnowsky, pianist, clarinetist, composer.

**May 20:** "A Spring Bouquet of American Song"—American art songs performed by students of Jill Hallett Levis and the vocal group "Syrinx."

**June 3:** Green Mountain Chamber Players (Jean Anderson, piano; Dale Camara, horn; Melissa Brown, cello) playing music of Kodaly, Rachmaninoff, Glière, Ravel, and Schumann.

#### Art Shows

**May:** Mandalas by Sabina Evarts

**June:** Japanese brush painting & calligraphy by Aya Itagaki

For more information on Cathedral Arts programs, call 802-864-0471, or email info@CathedralArts.org.

#### Ladies Afternoon Tea

Saturday, May 17, 2003, Sittings at 2:00 P.M. and 3:30 P.M.

St. Mark's Church Parish House, Second Street, Newport, Vermont

All are cordially invited for sandwiches, scones, finger desserts and cakes. A donation of \$5.00 will aid the outreach programs of St. Mark's. Reservations are requested. Please call 802-334-7365 or 802 334-6046; or e-mail: stmarks@pshift.net. Tickets may be purchased in advance or on the day of the tea.

#### Making a Difference: Living Courageously in Anxious Times

National Network of Episcopal Clergy Associations Annual Conference

Monday, June 16 - Friday, June 20, 2003

St. Paul of the Cross Monastery & Retreat Center, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Topics and presenters include: the Very Rev. George Werner, President, House of Deputies, on "What Matters to Clergy at General Convention;" Matthew Price, the Church Pension Group, on "Research on the Future of the Episcopal Church;" Alan Blanchard, President, Church Pension Group, on "Recent Plan Changes;" Diocesan Executives on "Distress in Pastoral Relationships."

The cost per person of \$390 (spouse/companion rate: \$290) includes: 4 nights lodging, conference fee and hospitality; 10 meals; special Pittsburgh dinner and river tour. For registration information, please contact the Rev. Bruce Robison at 412-661-1245, or visit <<http://www.NNECA.org>> for registration forms and information about NNECA and its ministry.

#### "Visions of the Divine"

A Festival of Liturgy and the Arts

July 17-20, 2003

St. James' Episcopal Church, On the Green, Woodstock, Vermont

"Visions of the Divine" will focus on the contrasting liturgical approaches of the Eastern and Western Christian churches. The festival features seven worship services, art shows, lectures, workshops, a hymn sing, concert, and drama. Participants will include the Downing College Choir from Cambridge University, England, and the "Alternatives," a Boston-based sacred music ensemble.

Watch for details in future issues of the Mountain Echo, or contact St. James' Episcopal Church, On the Green, Woodstock VT 05091; 802/457-1727; sjeparish@aol.com.

## "Inner Peace, Inner Joy" will explore Buddhist mindfulness practice

by Gina Logan

The Spiritual Life Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont will sponsor a gathering to explore some aspects of Buddhist mindfulness practice on Saturday, June 7, from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M., at St Paul's Church in White River Junction, (Route 5 North). We will come together to pray, to talk, to share a mindful meal, and to focus on restoring inner peace in our active lives.

As a part of this time together, participants will learn some meditation techniques from Barbara DiPietro, a member of the Or-

der of Interbeing, the lay Buddhist order connected with Thich Nhat Hanh. Thich Nhat Hanh is a Buddhist monk, a Zen Master originally from Vietnam, an author of many spiritually-centered works, and a noted peace activist. Barbara DiPietro, a member of St. Barnabas' Episcopal Church, Norwich, teaches both Christian and Buddhist meditation.

Please bring a bag lunch and/or a vegetarian dish to share. Beverages will be provided.

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

## Safer Church Training dates set

Safer Church Training sessions are planned for Holy Trinity Church, Swanton, on Saturday, **May 31**, and the Bishop Booth Conference Center, Burlington, on Thursday, **June 26**. A third session is planned for St. Paul's Church, White River Junction on Saturday, **October 18**. All sessions begin at 8:45 A.M. and end at 3:30 P.M.

The training, aimed at creating safer environments for all church ministries, addresses issues of sexual exploitation and harassment as well as abuse of children and other vulnerable populations such as the elderly and the disabled.

The training is required for clergy, church employees, lay eucharistic ministers, all who work with children and youth (except unpaid church school teachers who

teach in a public place on Sunday morning), spiritual directors, and those who make pastoral visits in homes, hospitals and nursing homes. It is highly recommended for wardens, treasurers, vestry members and church school teachers.

There is no cost to participate, but please register in advance so we will have enough materials available. Plan to bring lunch. To register, or for information, contact Anne Brown, 802-672-5250, or abrown@vermontel.net.

Congregations or deaneries wishing to schedule trainings other than those listed above may do so, but they will be responsible for the cost of the training. For information on scheduling a training, contact Anne Brown. ❖

## ERD seeks funds for Iraq relief

Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) has issued an urgent appeal for funds for relief efforts in Iraq. ERD is working with Anglican Church partners in the region and with the Middle East Council of Churches (MECC). ERD is giving critical assistance to people seeking shelter, food, and other essentials in Iraq and its neighboring countries of Jordan, Syria, Turkey, and Iran. MECC is making preparations for the large numbers of Iraqi people staying within the country and has been stocking its relief distribution centers in Baghdad, Mousel, Kerkuk, and Basra.

ERD is in conversation with the President-Bishop of the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East and Anglican Bishop in Cyprus and the Gulf, George Clive Handford. The Most Reverend Handford reports that many Iraqis have been internally displaced—forced to

leave their homes for the relatively few safe places within the country. They escaped with only meager supplies, and they are putting increased pressure on the few food programs that are still operating.

ERD efforts will be directed at staving off a food shortage. ERD President Sandra Swan says, "When hostilities cease, we need to be there to help people. And we'll stay with those who have suffered, for months or years, if need be, as they rebuild their lives. We'll celebrate with them when they harvest their first crops."

Checks payable to Episcopal Relief and Development may be sent to PO Box 12043, Newark, NJ 07101. Please include the name and location of your congregation, either in a note or on the memo line of your check. Contributions may also be made by credit card at [www.ER-D.org](http://www.ER-D.org). ❖

### Robert Patterson, April 3, 2003

Robert Patterson, who was known to many in Vermont and the Episcopal Church, died on April 3, 2003. He had served the Diocese of Vermont faithfully for many years as Registrar, as teacher in the Diocesan Study Program and as a staff member for the Rock Point Summer Conferences. He was living in Connecticut at the time of his death.

According to Bishop Thomas Ely, Patterson's health had deteriorated during the later part of 2002, and he had been in and out of the hospital since January 2, 2003. He was in the ICU for the last three weeks before his death. Carole and David Brown, friends of Bob's, visited him a couple of times a week and Carole was with Bob (reading and singing) when he died early in the afternoon.

Bob Patterson's life was celebrated at Christ Church, New Haven, Connecticut, on April 23. His ashes will be brought to Vermont sometime later this Spring for interment at St. Mark's, Castleton.

# Conversion and transformation are themes of Province One conference

## Participants explore stewardship, evangelism and congregational development

by Andrew Wetmore

In the long line of registrants for the fourth annual Province One Stewardship and Evangelism Conference at the end of March, one participant said to his neighbor, "I've been in parish leadership for over fifteen years. Now I guess I have the chance to find out what I should have been doing all this time."

A few steps ahead, two women were in conversation. One said, "I come to this conference every year. It really charges me up for ministry." The other replied, "I don't know anything about this stuff. My rector said I should come to this, and here I am."

The comments illustrate the range of experience participants brought to the conference, a three-day event at Westborough, Massachusetts. Over 340 people, mainly from the New England dioceses and Eastern Canada, gathered to study, share, sing, and celebrate under the banner "Converted

Lives—Transformed Congregations."

The conference has grown in size and complexity with each succeeding year. This time, organizers divided presentations and activities into three "schools" to allow people to concentrate, according to their interests, on issues of stewardship, evangelism, or congregational development. Parish and diocesan delegations generally split into three groups in order to get the greatest coverage possible, although there was a certain amount of "class cutting" as people migrated to hear certain speakers no matter where they were presenting.

Province One provided most of the organizational and teaching leadership for the conference, but participants also had the pleasure of hearing keynote speakers from further afield. Particularly notable were the Rev. Bonnie Perry of the Diocese of Chicago, and the Rev. Kevin Martin of the Diocese of Texas.

Perry told of the adventure All Saints' Church, Chicago has gone through in the last ten years, as its active membership quadrupled and its pledge income increased nine-fold. She spoke of the congregation learning that, in order to be able to receive, they had to be ready to give away all that they had. Perry spoke of All Saints' mix of worship, learning, service, and fun and how it attracted and was empowered by a diverse and welcoming congregation with an average age of 38. "Our big sin in the Episcopal Church," she said, "is that we have bored people to death."

Martin, formerly Congregational Development Officer in the Diocese of Texas and now head of Vital Church Ministries, told stories of struggling churches that had to come to terms with their own deaths. In some cases, congregations struggled to the end to "maintain a church just for us," and the buildings are now closed. In other cases, congregations passed through death or near-death experiences to become reborn as faith communities reflecting and serving their neighborhoods.

From Friday afternoon through Sunday noon, conference participants followed a tightly-packed schedule of plenary sessions, classes in the various schools, and small-group work. Conference organizers have posted on the Internet the documents that were distributed for each school, at [www.episcopalchurch.org/congdev/Stewardship/training\\_events.htm](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/congdev/Stewardship/training_events.htm).

Merry Cole of the Diocese of Western Massachusetts said the most exciting thing she heard at the conference was, "That we need to refocus our thinking to see that the church doesn't primarily exist for the parishioners to come for 'warm fuzzies' on Sunday, but to be fed and equipped to take the gospel to our neighborhoods—even if that means deep change and risk."

"I came hoping to find inspiration for our church," said Pat Mulhall of the Diocese



Andrew Wetmore photo

**The Rev. Con Quinby, co-chair of the Diocese of Vermont Stewardship Committee served as conference chaplain.**

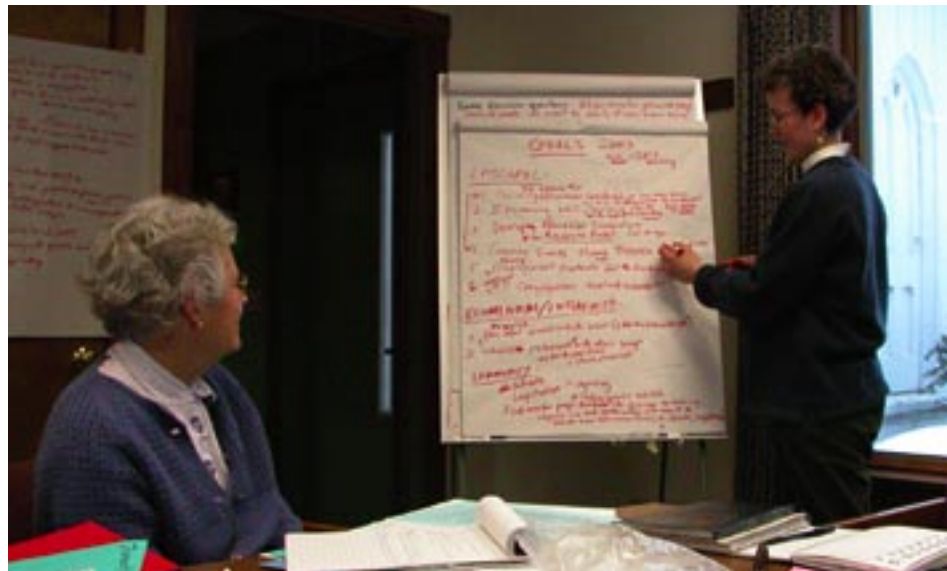
of Connecticut. "I came away excited and hopeful. The tales of churches rescued from their own blindness and laziness will be told again and again to our congregation, along with the ways this was achieved."

On the other hand, many participants reflected on the difficulty of bringing back what they had heard and learned, and implementing it in their own churches. Some spoke of inertia and lack of energy, and of working with parishes that are "hard of listening."

Terry Parsons, Stewardship Officer of the Episcopal Church, said that this series "is, without a doubt, the best stewardship conference in the Episcopal Church. It uses local leaders and indigenous talent, and helps people really understand that mission and stewardship are not matters for somebody else to take care of, but for them."

Andrew Wetmore is editor of *RISEN*, the newspaper of the Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island.

## Congregations and commission work toward dismantling racism



Anne Clarke Brown photo

**Dismantling Racism Commission members Margy Zabriskie and the Rev. Nancy Vogele discuss proposed commission goals.**

by Anne Clarke Brown

A number of congregations in the Diocese of Vermont began responding to last fall's Diocesan Convention "Resolution to Dismantle Racism" by focusing on the topic in Lenten study programs. The resolution called on each congregation to "commit to some period of study in the twelve months beginning on the first Sunday of Advent, 2002 using resources recommended by the Commission on Dismantling Racism."

The new commission, appointed by Bishop Thomas Ely at convention, encourages all congregations to schedule an opportunity to begin the serious and challenging work of addressing personal, social and institutional racism. Commission member Naima Wade of St. Michael's, Brattleboro, describes this work as a process of "facing racism, tracing racism, and erasing racism."

Some video and print resources are already available, and a commission subcommittee is working on educational curricula and resource packets for a variety of age groups and time frames. (Contact the Rev. Thora Chadwick, 802-863-8036; [tchadwick@adelphia.net](mailto:tchadwick@adelphia.net)). Early in the summer, the commission's page on the diocesan web site will have a resource list, and some ma-

terials will be available for download.

Several members of the commission have received advanced anti-racism training, and they will be available to lead training sessions for diocesan leadership, congregations and youth groups. A schedule of diocesan-wide trainings will be published by the end of the summer.

Efforts within the Vermont Episcopal Church represent just one of three broad areas addressed by the commission's goals. The others are ecumenical and interfaith efforts, and work in the larger community. Members are working to build coalitions and share resources with other faith groups like the Uprooting Racism Task Force of the United Church of Christ. Others are supporting legislation and meeting with school and community groups. Bishop Ely and Burlington area commission members are participating in a series of "study circle" conversations to address racism.

For more information on the work of the commission, go to the home page link on the diocesan web site <<http://www.dioceseofvermont.org>> or contact the Rev. Nancy Vogele at St. Paul's, White River Junction: 802-295-5415; [stpauls@valley.net](mailto:stpauls@valley.net).



## VermontWatch

discussion of the Simpsons made up the Prayers of the People.

The overnight also included plenty of great food, games and a movie, a walk to the waterfront, a peace prayer bracelet craft project, and a time of silent meditation followed by a candlelight Compline service. It was a wonderful time to learn more about

Continued from Page A

the cathedral, to make new friends from other parts of the diocese, and to experience first-hand the fun and excitement of being part of a youth event. St. Paul's Cathedral plans to offer VermontWatch as an annual event, each year focusing on a different theme having to do with our common life and call as Christians. ❖



Connie Saeger-Proctor photo

**VermontWatch participants prepare food boxes for the Serve program.**

## Northwest Deanery 1

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ST. LUKE'S, Alburg, will host the next *deanery meeting* May 25, at 2 P.M.

ST. MATTHEW'S, Enosburg Falls, is planning a celebration of the anniversary of the Rev. **Virginia Thomas's** ordination as a deacon on June 22. The service will be followed by a pot luck luncheon, which is open to all.

GRACE CHURCH, Sheldon, starts off its sixth year of "Summer Music at Grace" with a return performance by **Mark Sustic** and friends on May 29. Mark is an accomplished instrumentalist who plays a wide range of folk and traditional music.

ST. LUKE'S, St. Albans, is hosting a second annual art show May 10, 3-6 P.M., featuring St. Luke's artists and others. Some items will be raffled and others sold, with a percentage of the proceeds to be donated to the parish. **Barbara Hamm** (527-7015), **Doug Underwood** (524-6489) and **Dolly MacNeil** (dmacneil@nmcinc.org), are signing up exhibitors. The youth group, grades 7-12, meets monthly and is planning and fundraising for a trip to the National Cathedral in the fall. To reserve a seat for the 27th annual Salad Luncheon, May 28, 11:30 A.M.-1 P.M., call 802-524-6212.

HOLY TRINITY, Swanton, has formed a discernment committee to seek the parish's next rector. Holy Trinity is hiring counselors and a cook for a vacation Bible Camp, June 30-Aug. 8. Volunteers are also needed. Contact **Carol McCurdy** at 868-7892 for more information. **Sandi Kenyon** is a new member of the Board of Trustees at Brookhaven Home and School, which will celebrate its 50th anniversary on Aug. 10.

## Otter Creek Deanery 2

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At ST. STEPHEN'S, Middlebury, preparations are underway for Peasant Market. **Bill Brooks** is writing an anecdotal history of Peasant Market that will be part of a cookbook with all those delicious recipes from foyers, pot lucks and Fall Festival Weekends. This year, besides donations from the parish, local merchants will be asked to donate for the silent auction.

Sunday Adult Forums (9 A.M.): May 4, **Lucy Pellegrini** on what it's like being a chaplain for those in the second half of life; May 11, workshop with **John Moses** on bequests; May 18, **Joanna Gillespie**. Thanks to the Rev. **Larry Whittemore**, who is retiring as chair of the Adult Education (Forum) Committee, for his leadership, creativity, and patience in this vital ministry.

TRINITY, Rutland, formally launched its Organ Renovation Campaign on March 23. As part of the campaign, **Betty Clark** performed selections composed with this organ in mind at a Friday noontime concert. Trinity celebrated **Betty Clark's** 25th anniversary as Organist/Choirmaster on April 27. Following the celebration, as the first step in Trinity's calling of a new rector, "Telling Our Story" provided an opportunity for members to share history, memories and reflections of Trinity Church.

# ❖ deanery doings ❖

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

ST. PAUL'S, Vergennes, held its annual Mulch Sale on April 26. The Book and Bargain Sale, June 21, will feature books, white elephants, glassware, china, jigsaw puzzles, games and jewelry. Volunteers are needed.

## Southwest Deanery 3

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On Maundy Thursday, parishioners at ST. JAMES', Arlington, gathered to Bless Bread, Break Bread and Share Bread. After the stripping of the altar, they shared a simple supper of bread and soup. The fifth annual All Faith Memorial Service for animals was April 27 at 2 P.M. A bake sale April 19, included an opportunity to order spring and summer bulbs and perennials.

The youth group at ST. PETER'S, Bennington, sponsored a pancake breakfast on Palm Sunday. St. Peter's observed Girl Scout Sunday on March 9, and recognized the community service and accomplishments of four members of the parish.

A small group of parishioners has been gathering at ZION, Manchester, on Saturday evenings to offer prayers for peace. Pastor **Percy Jephtha** of Capetown, South Africa, spoke about his mission of feeding the hungry on March 18 and preached at the service of praise and prayer on the 15th. The Sunday school has purchased a Jesus doll for the children to take home for a week at a time. Along with his travel bag, the Jesus doll has his own notebook. The children are encouraged to write and/or draw about their time with Jesus.

## Southeast Deanery 4

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As I write this, Mother Nature continues to arise from the wrong side of the bed. When you read it, Lent will be past, the realization of a Glorious Easter Morn will be with us, and hopefully Mother Nature is in a better mood!

IMMANUEL, Bellows Falls has issued an "all points bulletin" for the whereabouts of **Bishop Booth**—he, or rather his picture, disappeared several weeks ago from the hall to their library. If anyone sees him "roaming" around, please help him find his way home. After more than a year of agonizing and looking for alternate solutions, the Vestry has had to ask the Falls Playschool to vacate the church space they have occupied for the past 30 years. The room is needed for expanding church programs.

The second round of orientation by the Welcoming Team of ST. MICHAEL'S, Brattleboro had 19 new attendees. *Wow!* The new Baptismal Ministry Team will meet with the people preparing for baptism and seek to incorporate them into the community of Christ and uphold and support them in their new spiritual journeys.

ST. LUKE'S, Chester, has a new Easter Garden. It is set in a wooden box (constructed by **John DesLauriers**) and highlights the three crosses, pathway, and a tomb of rocks, which was opened on Easter Eve. The result of a gift from the St. John the Evangelist, Yalesville, CT, it remains on display during the 40 days of Easter. Under the leadership of **Bonnie and Lew Waters**, St. Luke's is working on a simple one-page flyer as well as a more detailed 3-page brochure about the parish.

GETHSEMANE, Proctorsville, has opened an Interfaith Prayer Corner for prayers during this time of turmoil (see story on Page G). The church is placing periodic ads in a regional weekly, and information cards will soon be available at area lodging establishments and the Chamber of Commerce.

**Janet Hunter** of ST. MARK'S, Springfield, planned the Maundy Thursday Agape Supper—some of the finest food anywhere. Reactivated since its use immediately following 9-11 is a sign on the lawn of the church that reads, "Church Open for Meditation and Prayer." St. Mark's hosted the regional (Springfield and Windsor, along with Claremont, West Claremont, and Charlestown NH) Great Vigil of Easter.

ST. MARY'S IN-THE-MOUNTAINS, Wilmington, has designated the West River Habitat for Humanity as an Outreach Project. The church is open from 4 to 6 P.M. daily for meditation during the war in Iraq, and they have instituted a war prevention offering by placing a large jar in the church to accept donations.

The Rev. **Thomas Hayes** of ST. PAUL'S, Windsor, who died April 9 (see Page C), is going to be missed more than he ever thought. The Choirs of Angels now have a new, wonderful voice. During his sickness, the Rev. **Alfred Cramer** served many Sundays as supply, and **Maggie Giffin** and **Rich Knight** occasionally conducted Morning Prayer. The whole congregation has rallied around during this difficult time. Please keep them and the soul of the faithful departed in your prayers.

## Three Rivers Deanery 5

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The congregations of Three Rivers Regional Ministry—CHRIST CHURCH, Bethel, and CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR, Killington—elected **Todd McKee**, **Paige Kempner** (Christ Church), **Tim Owings** and **Bill Rayner** (Our Saviour) as officers of the InterParish Council. The IPC voted unanimously to recommend that parishioners take a minute at 9:00 P.M. each night for prayer, joining "people all over the world praying for peace."

ST. MARTIN'S, Fairlee, presented just-retired administrative assistant **Suzy Wiencke** with a Book of Common Prayer/Hymnal "in gratitude for all you have done for the parish." Recovering from surgery, Suzy extended her thanks and said she will continue to serve St. Martin's in other ways.

In a break from their Lenten journey, parish volunteers and audience still kept the season ever-present in their *Lent-il* supper and *ta-Lent* show on April 9. Clever!

Mothers of young children at ST. BARNABAS', Norwich, have started Saturday "Mornings of Mindfulness." Guided meditation, silence, "mindful" snacks, listening and support provide an atmosphere for exploration and finding "inner peace in our active lives." **Barbara DiPietro** also reports that another monthly meditation group meets for silence, guided and walking meditations, *lectio divina*, and Compline on the first Tuesday night of each month.

ST. JOHN'S, Randolph, rector **Timothy Eberhardt's** response to *Jesus Didn't Go to Church*, by **Charlton Smith**, was so enthusiastic that he initiated a study group. He says the book "provides a wonderful tool for launching a thorough and fresh look at what our Christian faith and our life in the Church is all about." The reports from this group could be interesting!

Several of the young people at ST. PAUL'S, White River Junction, are full-fledged thespians! **Emily Smith**, **Ethan Lawrence**, **Noah Detzer** and **Irina Skowronski** all participate in a variety of school and community performances. Music director **Dan Weiser** and *Classicopia* are "tuning up" for their third annual summer camp sessions for instrumentalists and singers. Visit the Website for more details ([www.classicopia.com](http://www.classicopia.com)) and look for participatory opportunities for all ages.

**Alison Clarkson** reports the Women of ST. JAMES', Woodstock, had fascinating programs for April. Music director **Jim Cassarino** (who is also a professor of music at Green Mountain College in Poultney) spoke on "Sacred Music through the Ages." **Steve Habif**, executive director of Vermont Children's Aid Society, spoke on the state of children in Vermont and particularly in the Woodstock area. **Fred Eydt**, informed parishioners their total pledge amount increased by almost 19% over 2002. Well done, good and faithful stewards!

Virtually all the congregations in the Three Rivers Deanery have members or loved ones serving somehow in the fighting with Iraq. In this Easter season in the midst of war, may joy and resurrection nevertheless be with us as our ever-present hope, and may the reality and blessings of God's steadfast love and peace enfold us all.

## Central Vermont Deanery 6

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The next deanery meeting is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, June 7. **Alban Richey** reported that at the March 29 meeting with **Paul Costello**, Executive Director of the Vermont Council on Rural Development, each parish represented shared stories of mission efforts, as well as the challenges that each faced. All reflected the joy of being a part of a worshipping community and sharing the responsibilities of baptismal ministry. After almost two hours of stimulating dialogue, the question arose as to what mission the deanery might tackle.

CHRIST CHURCH, Montpelier, dedicated a bench donated by the Walker family in memory of **Thomas L. Walker** for the

Continued on Page G

## St. James', Essex, builds addition

by Joyce L. Carroll

A long-awaited groundbreaking ceremony took place on Sunday, March 23, at St. James', Essex Junction, as Priest-in-Charge Molly Comeau put shovel to earth. The church is embarking on a \$649,000 expansion project that, upon completion, is expected to meet the needs of the church as well as the surrounding community.

The 3,000 square-foot addition includes a 2,000-square-foot parish hall, new nursery space, and a commercial kitchen. Existing hallways, bathrooms and Sunday school space are also being upgraded. The project is a response to what the Rev. Comeau called a space crunch that had to be addressed. "The expansion," she said, "is a part of an integrated approach to congregational development that has been purposeful and includes leadership, (use of) building, services, and programmatic changes."

Regular Sunday attendance for the church's two services had averaged a steady 167 for the past decade. Though not always at full capacity, the two services were populated enough that they created a perception for newcomers that there wasn't physical or spiritual space for them, Comeau explained. The church responded by adding a third family-centered service in September. In addition to some new faces, Comeau said the service has drawn families who, though members, previously weren't committed to regular Sunday attendance. The service is interactive, inviting to children, and offers an alternative to the more traditional worship services.

The 1,300-square-foot parish hall beneath the church was too small, Comeau said, for the full parish to gather for social functions, let alone community events. "Imagine how a 2,000-square-foot parish hall that would hold 250 people would change that dynamic," she stated. The church last underwent major reconstruction in 1964 with the building of the Smith room, used for Sunday school and Sunday morning hospitality. It was originally built

in 1958, and Comeau noted with pride that Sunday's groundbreaking included both founding matriarchs and patriarchs of the church as well as younger families.

Among the many community groups who use St. James's facilities, Meals-on-Wheels will be a primary beneficiary of the new construction. The local branch serves elderly and homebound individuals in Essex, Essex Junction, Colchester, Williston, Jericho, and Underhill and prepares food on a weekday basis in a small kitchen in the undercroft of the church. Meals-on-Wheels staff say they have seen a huge increase in demand—meal requests have doubled in the past two years alone, and many potential clients remain on a waiting list. The commercial kitchen abutting the new parish hall will enable Meals-on-Wheels to serve more people.

For the church, the road to construction has been a long one. Local architects Scott & Partners first drew up a feasibility study in 2,000. A change in church leadership created a temporary delay, but in early 2002, the church's building committee launched a capital campaign. The original plans included a chapel, additional Sunday school space and a courtyard, but the cost was too high. Reevaluation of the plans did test the strength of the congregation, Comeau admitted. "In terms of outcome, we are where we're meant to be," she said. "In terms of process, we just kept listening to each other." In the end, parishioner pledges, coupled with a financial contribution from Meals-on-Wheels, and a short-term loan from the diocese resulted in full funding of the project without the need for a commercial loan.

John Alden, the architect working with the church during the feasibility and conceptual phases, said, "The church did a tremendous job fundraising for this. It should be extremely proud. The end result really addresses the issues," he maintained. Excavation began March 24, with project completion slated for mid-August.

Joyce Carroll is a member of St. James'.

## Gethsemane opens interfaith prayer corner



Wendy Regier photo

**Dr. Willem Bijlefeld speaks at inauguration of Gethsemane Church's interfaith prayer corner April 13.**

by Micki Smith

Gethsemane Episcopal Church, on the Green in Proctorsville, inaugurated an Interfaith Prayer Corner on Sunday, April 13, with a discussion led by Dr. Willem Bijlefeld, former Academic Dean and Director of the Center for the Study of Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations at Hartford Seminary. People of all faiths, and those who find their spirituality beyond the church, are invited to visit the space in the rear of the church on Mondays from 6:30 to 8:30 P.M. and Fridays, 9 A.M. to Noon.

"Times of crises raise all kinds of questions and needs," says the Rev. Betty Berlenbach, Gethsemane's priest. "Uncertainty and fear create a subtle disorientation that requires some kind of release or we can become lost. Gethsemane wants to provide a quiet, neutral place to pray or meditate or just sit quietly."

About 20 people attended Dr. Bijlefeld's presentation on "Discovering Common Ground with Muslims." He began and

ended with the point that the most basic commonality among Christians, Muslims, Jews, Buddhists, and people of all faiths is our humanity. It is at the level of basic humanity where engagement must begin. Religion, politics, professions, etc. can come later, but people first must meet in "our pains, sorrows, joys—in our humanness."

Born in Indonesia of Dutch parents, Willem Bijlefeld grew up a Christian in a Muslim world. Returning to the Netherlands to finish school, he was conscripted into the German military work force during WWII and immediately went underground to avoid serving. He hid for over two years. "Such an experience stays with you forever," reflects Bijlefeld. He finished his studies, completing his doctorate in 1959 with a dissertation on Christian perspectives on Islam. Bijlefeld was ordained in the Reformed Church in the Netherlands in 1950. He and his wife, Ineke, have had a vacation home in Vermont since 1970 and retired to their home in South Reading in 1990.

The Gethsemane prayer corner is simple, with a single low bench dressed only with a hand-woven tapestry and a candle. A hand-hewn pottery bowl is provided to receive written prayers, wishes, or thoughts. The idea for this quiet space comes from Ripon Cathedral in England, which created a small chapel for peace and justice and invited people of all faiths and persuasions to visit. Their effort has been successful in drawing people together.

Micki Smith is a member of Gethsemane, Proctorsville.

### Rock Point Summer Conferences Volunteer Staff Retreat

for training and orientation

May 16-17

Bishop Booth Conference Center  
Contact your Volunteer Staff Leader  
or Connie Saeger-Proctor

## deanery doings

Continued from Page F

Geer Memorial Garden. He was a longtime devoted member of Christ Church—a vestry member, Senior Warden, and for six years the parish administrative assistant.

The April art exhibit in Christ Church's Sacred Spaces community art gallery was titled "A Painting, A Prayer, A Poem: Artists Against War." Artists in the local community were invited to submit works that showed expression of concern for people and the ramifications of war. Sponsored by the Arts Resource Association, the work was previously exhibited in the public library. The gallery is open weekdays from 9:00 to 5:00.

ST. MARY'S, Northfield, triumphantly returned to the church building on Palm Sunday after a three-month hiatus of worshipping in the parish hall. Thanks to a generous grant from Congregational Support and Resources, St. Mary's was able to replace a failed furnace and redo all the duct work in the church. Holy Week and Easter services were all the richer (and warmer!) for being back home in the church.

**Patsy and Fred White's** daughter-in-law, the Rev. **Laura White**, participated in the Easter Vigil, continuing a family

tradition of service to St. Mary's: the Rev. **Robert South**, Patsy White's father, served as interim rector twice in the 1980s.

### Northeast Deanery 7

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ST. MARK'S, Newport, is holding a "Ladies Afternoon Tea" on May 17 to support the congregation's outreach ministries. See Page D for details.

### Champlain Deanery 8

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Sunday, May 4 is the Annual COTS Walk. Sign up to walk or pledge with your parish coordinator. Burlington Meals on

Wheels is in need of volunteers. Contact **Peter Carmolli**, 862-6253, if you can help one day a month. The Chittenden Emergency Food Shelf needs donations of food and cash to support their mission and to replace a vehicle used for food pickups. The Vermont Interfaith Action Committee will hold a session on May 6 at the Unitarian Church to learn more about grassroots organizing for change. Each parish has a representative. There will be a soup and bread supper at 6 P.M. Rock Point will hold a spring green up work day on Saturday, May 3 from 9-3. Contact Chuck, 355-8737 or Debi, 658-6233 for more information.

The CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. PAUL, Burlington, raised \$900 for the Food Shelf at its Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper/Silent Auction. The Youth Group served. A service of the Stations of the Cross was offered on Fridays during Lent. The stations were created by Rutland artist, **Richard Clark**. The next program night for the shared committees—Social Justice, Outreach, Newcomers, Adult Education, children and Youth, and stewardship—is May 7 at 6:45 P.M. All are welcome.

At ST ANDREW'S, Colchester, the

Youth Group for grades 5-8 made and decorated 200 cookies for Meals on Wheels in March and in April decorated Easter Eggs for the Easter celebration.

At TRINITY, Shelburne, the Green Mountain Doll Club will exhibit its collection in the McClure Room on May 3, from 10 A.M.-3 P.M. There will be crafts, food, entertainment and doll appraisals. Admission is \$3. Contact **Mary VanBuren-Swasey**, 863-1930. The Outreach Committee is supporting the Covered Bridge Ministry, led by the Rev. **Steve Clark**. It will provide a place of community and accountability for men during their first year of release from prison. There will be a spring rummage sale in May. Contact **Norma Rigby**, 802-482-3649, or **Gail Currier**, 802-985-3286.

ALL SAINTS', South Burlington, welcomed **Linda Wright** as Clerk for the Vestry, replacing **Rhonda Paquet**. The first Teen Youth Group gathering under the leadership of **Wachen Anderson**, who replaces **Marta Koonz**, took place April 6.

Shop for bargains at the CALVARY CHURCH, Underhill, annual rummage sale, Friday May 2, from 9-3, and May 3, from 9-12. ❖

## Diocesan Calendar

### May 2003

- 1-3 Clergy Conference, Fairlee
- 3 Diocesan Study Program, Mission Farm, Killington
- 4 Bishop at Good Shepherd, Barre
- 6 Congregational Support and Resources, St. Stephen's, Middlebury
- 6 Trustees, Diocesan Center, 12:30 PM
- 7 Executive Committee, Christ Church, Montpelier, 1 PM
- 8 Altar Guild Annual Meeting, All Saints', South Burlington, 12:30 PM
- 9 Deadline, June Mountain Echo**
- 9 Fresh Start, St. Barnabas', Norwich, 9:30 AM
- 9-10 Bishop's Advisory Commission on Ministry, BCC
- 10 Journey to Adulthood Workshop, St. Stephen's, Middlebury, 10 AM-3 PM
- 11 Bishop at St. Luke's, St. Albans
- 14 Dispatch of Business, Diocesan Center, 1 PM
- 17 Cathedral Chapter, St. John's, Randolph, 10 AM
- 17 Diocesan Council Teleconference, 12:30 PM
- 18 Bishop at St. Dunstan's, Waitsfield
- 20 Clergy Day, St. John's, Randolph, 10 AM
- 20 Standing Committee, St. John's, Randolph, 2 PM
- 25 Bishop at St. John's in the Mountains, Stowe
- 26 Memorial Day Holiday, Diocesan Center closed

### June 2003

- 1 Bishop at St. Barnabas', Norwich
- 4 Executive Committee, Diocesan Center, 1 PM
- 7 Diocesan Study Program, Killington
- 8 Bishop at St. Stephen's, Middlebury
- 12 Deadline, July/August Mountain Echo**

## Diocesan Youth Committee Calendar

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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

May 10-11 Senior High Senior Farewell, Killington  
9:30 AM Sunday liturgy at Church of Our Saviour; reception following.

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

#### Funds Available for Parish Use As of April 1, 2003

<b>Total Pledged</b>	<b>\$1,600,000</b>
<b>Pledges Received (92%)</b>	<b>\$1,464,545</b>
<b>Funds available:</b>	
Initiative I	
The Bishop Butterfield Revolving Loan Fund	\$ 242,358
Initiative II	
The Talent and Resource Network	\$ 12,994
Initiative III	
The Congregation Renewal and Emergency Assistance Fund	\$ 4,922
Initiative IV	
The Diocesan Outreach Fund	\$ 13,915
Appropriate uses for each initiative, application forms and requirements may be found in the Diocesan Handbook. For further information, please call the Diocesan Office.	

## Revitalized St. Luke's, Alburg, worships on Saturdays

by Peter MacLean

In the little village of Alburg, tucked up in the northwest corner of Vermont, one of the smaller congregations of the Diocese of Vermont continues a ministry that stretches back as far as 1789, when the Rev. Dr. Reuben Garlik, a tireless missionary, worked in the community. Dr. Garlik, who was also a physician, conducted services from the Book of Common Prayer and taught school for a small band of Episcopalians. There is a persistent rumor that some of his early members were loyalists who thought they were living in Canada.

Little else is known about the Episcopal Church in Alburg until the early 1900s, when several local families formed an Episcopal Society and were served by missionaries from Burlington. The present St. Luke's building was constructed in 1905 and formally consecrated in the Advent season of 1907. It is a well-built structure, but it was never winterized, a fact that continues to haunt the present congregation.

To the best of our knowledge, the St. Luke's congregation has never boasted of a resident ordained minister of their own. As late as the 1930s, clergy would come up from Burlington twice a month by train on Saturday and return on Sunday evening. The Rev. Stanley Ripper, a teacher at the Rock Point School made this trip many times.

During the really cold weather, services, Sunday school classes and choir rehearsals were held in the homes of members. When the causeway bridge between East Alburg and Swanton was completed, the clergy of Holy Trinity Church in Swanton provided the ministry at St. Luke's. To this day, there are local people who can remember the ministries of Edward Williams, Raymond Fineout and Alan Bragg. Not



Jill Brown photo

wanting to cross over the causeway in the winter on Sundays, Alan Bragg decided to hold services at St. Luke's on Saturdays, a practice that continues to this day.

In the early 1980s, St. Luke's became a partner in a regional coalition, centered at Holy Trinity, Swanton, and including St. John's, Highgate Falls, and Grace Church, Sheldon. It was led by the Reverends James Kelsey, Benjamin Chase and Molly Comeau. If there was ever a golden age for St. Luke's, these were the years, but in the mid 1990s, the long relationship with Holy Trinity ended. From 1995 until 2000, Molly Comeau, Canon to the Ordinary for Bishop Mary Adelia McLeod, directed the ministry at St. Luke's. In September of 2000, Peter MacLean, a retired priest who had made his home in Colchester in 1997, began to take the services at St. Luke's for a congregation that had shrunk to one canonical member, plus other non-members.

In the summer of 2001, under the direction of Bishop Thomas C. Ely, the congregation reorganized. People who attended regularly transferred their memberships to St. Luke's. The congregation elected an executive committee,

and work began to renovate and make the church available on a year-round basis.

By the winter of 2001, regular church services were being held every week in the church for the first time in over 20 years. The immediate impact was an impressive spurt of growth, and what was probably the smallest congregation in the Diocese of Vermont has been growing ever since. St. Luke's now has twelve active families and an average attendance of 15 every Saturday.

The Saturday liturgy begins with a joyful sound of caring as people greet and catch up with each other, and we close with some agape food after the dismissal; in between we hear the Word and receive the Sacraments, anoint the sick and pray for the peace of the world. The unofficial motto of St. Luke's is that no one comes to this place and goes away hungry.

Starting in April, the liturgy begins about 5:30 P.M. Join us if you are ever up in our neck of the woods...just park in the American Legion lot and come on in. We have one warning—there is no water in the church, but you are free to use the facilities in the Exxon station almost across the street. ❖

## Church Publishing seeks publisher

The Rt. Rev. Hays Rockwell, Chair of the Board of Church Publishing Incorporated (CPI), has announced a significant expansion and a search for a new publisher. A strategic planning committee "came to the conviction that our church both needs and deserves a sound and imaginative publishing house," he said. "We are now embarked on a search for a publisher who can bring vision and energy to this new expansion of CPI."

Originally known as the Church Hymnal Corporation, CPI has produced the official worship materials of the Episcopal Church since 1918. Those interested in the new position may contact Nancy Fisher, CPG Director of Communications, 800-223-6602 ext 816; nfisher@cpg.org. ❖

### Rock Point Spring Green-Up Volunteer Work Day

Saturday, May 3, 9 AM to 5 PM

Gather round, Friends of Rock Point, families, church, and volunteer groups for a day of camaraderie, accomplishment, and working together. Make a difference in the ministries that will touch many lives by helping to prepare Rock Point for another year of ministry. Projects for all ages are planned. There is a job for everyone, including raking, clearing brush, gardening, trail work, washing windows, painting, cleaning, and more. Dress for work; bring gloves, a picnic lunch, and a smile. **Please contact Chuck Courcy (802-355-8737) or Debi Paterson (802-658-6233) if you will be joining us.**

**If You Can't Volunteer May 3<sup>rd</sup>...**

Call and tell us when you would like to volunteer. We are planning more workdays soon. Volunteers who are skilled in carpentry are also needed for a few special projects. Let us know what special skills you would like to use for the benefit of