



171st
Convention
of the
Episcopal
Diocese of
Vermont
November 7-8, 2003
Cathedral Church
of St. Paul
Burlington

ENGAGE
GOD'S MISSION
20
03

receive

repent

reconcile

restore

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Diocesan Convention will echo General Convention theme: Engage God's Mission

Bishop Barbara Harris to speak and preach

by Anne Clarke Brown

The 171st Convention of the Diocese of Vermont will meet at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Burlington, beginning Friday afternoon, November 7, and concluding Saturday afternoon, November 8. The Rt. Rev. Barbara Harris, retired Bishop Suffragan of Massachusetts and the first woman to be a bishop in the Anglican Communion, will speak at the convention dinner on Friday and preach at the Eucharist Saturday morning. Bishop Thomas Ely will deliver his convention address at Friday's Evensong.

While only the delegates from congregations will be seated for the business sessions of the convention, all are welcome to visit the exhibits of various diocesan organizations, share in the worship, observe the convention and/or attend the Friday dinner. Details will be printed in the November Mountain Echo, or call the Diocesan Center (800-286-3437) to reserve dinner tickets.

Convention planners chose to echo the theme of this summer's General Convention of the Episcopal Church, "Engage God's Mission," with the additional words that suggest various aspects of this engaging

work, "Receive, Repent, Reconcile, Restore."

As described by General Convention organizers, the attitude of being receptive—to God's call, direction, will and knowledge—opens us to the fullness of God's mission in all of its diversity of richness. Repenting of our hardness of heart allows us to see others with eyes of compassion and to reach out in love toward them. To engage God's mission is to proclaim the reconciling gospel of Christ, to point people to the reconciling cross of Christ and to invite people to the reconciling work of the church of Christ. To restore is the act of having our relationships and our lives once again in the place God intends.

Ministry Fairs

Pre-convention hearings for delegates to Diocesan Convention will be part of Ministry Fairs planned for the first three Saturdays in October: October 4, Trinity Church, Rutland; October 11, St. Mark's Church, Springfield; and October 18, Christ Church, Montpelier. Convention delegates are expected to attend one of the hearings, all of which are scheduled for 2-4 P.M.

All in the diocese are welcome to participate in the Ministry Fairs, which will be guided by the convention theme and have

the same program in each location, beginning at 9 A.M. The morning will be devoted to a series of five seminars, each of which will be given twice:

- Christian Formation
- Introduction to "Journey to Adulthood"
- Making Vestry Meetings Work
- Stewardship
- The Greening of Our Faith: Why? What? With Whom?

Bishop Ely will celebrate and preach at an 11:45 Eucharist, to be followed by a brown bag lunch (bring your own). General Convention deputies will report on the Minneapolis convention and answer questions from 1:15 until the pre-convention hearings begin at 2:00.

Pre-convention hearings will include presentations and discussions of the narrative budget for 2004, proposed resolutions and canonical changes and an opportunity to meet nominees for convention offices. The day will conclude no later than 4:00.

Please register for the Ministry Fairs using the form available from your congregation, by calling the Diocesan Center (800-286-3437), or by emailing Val Hennessey at vhennessey@dioceseofvermont.org.



St. James' celebrates dedication of new addition

by Anne Clarke Brown

Members and friends of St. James', Essex Junction, gathered at the church on Saturday afternoon, September 13, to celebrate and dedicate the fruits of the congregation's "Witness, Welcome and Nurture" capital campaign. The construction project that began with a groundbreaking March 16, 2003, includes addition of a large multi-purpose room, kitchen and nursery and the renovation of existing classroom and office spaces.

The festivities began with an open house, outdoor activities for children and music on the lawn by St. Andrew's Pipe Band. The band regularly rehearses at St. James', and in thanking the congregation, the band's leader noted that it is not easy for such a group to find rehearsal space.

The party moved into the church for a concert by the St. James' Bell Choir and a liturgy to dedicate the new and renovated spaces. The Rev. Molly Comeau, priest in charge at St. James', welcomed the full house and said, "I am so thrilled at how well everything has gone today. It symbolizes the life of our congregation."

Bishop Thomas Ely, noting that, "a building is only a tool," said that as the diocese's Executive Committee considered the congregation's application for a loan, "it



Anne Clarke Brown photo

St. Andrew's Pipe Band plays at the dedication of the new addition at St. James', Essex Junction. Priest in Charge Molly Comeau and Bishop Thomas Ely are at the far left.

has been not the money, not the structure, but the mission that has so excited us." He thanked the congregation for their witness and said, "May this building truly be a tool for all God's people finding a place to engage in God's mission."

The liturgy continued with a procession,

special prayers of blessing at all the new spaces, and hymns accompanied by Jeremy Bull on the guitar. Jenny Ogelby, parish administrator, read a prayer dedicating the Smith Room, a classroom named in honor of her father, the Rev. Al Smith, who served

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"I see a positive future..."

by the Right Reverend Thomas Clark Ely, Bishop of Vermont

Ann and I found out earlier this year that we are going to be grandparents. Of course, we think we are not really old enough to be grandparents, but Katherine and Bernd have made it clear that we are. We look forward to our first grandchild (a girl—we know already!) being born around January 26, 2004.

Often times one thing leads to another, and in this case thinking about being a grandparent in the near future led to some more thinking about the future of the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont, and so I want to share some of those thoughts with you. I am mindful that I do so in the context of considerable discussion about the future of the Episcopal Church, as we continue to live with the various reactions to General Convention. I see a positive future for the Episcopal Church and believe that we will find a way to move forward together, even from the many different places where we are, as we respond to our baptismal calling to engage God's mission. I also see a positive future for the Diocese of Vermont and look forward to our engagement in God's mission with one another. Three areas of our common diocesan mission help to illustrate this for me.

Diocesan long-range plan

We have embarked upon a long-range

strategic planning process for our diocese. The level of local participation in that process has been remarkable, and for that I give thanks. The enormous amount of data collected and the spirit that prevailed in the conversations throughout the diocese serve as a testimony to the love, concern and commitment the people of this diocese have to our life and mission together.

Six major ministry areas emerged from those conversations: *Relationships* (parish to parish and parish to diocese), *Parish Life/Support and Spiritual Growth*, *Communication*, *Christian Education/Youth*, *Social Justice/Outreach*, and *Organization/Structure/Finance*. While these are broad areas, they are also important areas that can and will lead to concrete action plans for our future mission and ministry together. The work of developing those concrete action plans is just beginning, and if you have an interest in being part of one of the action teams, please let me know right away.

Rock Point long-range plan

A complimentary long-range planning process is also underway for Rock Point. One thing we heard in the diocesan planning process was an appreciation of the significant role of Rock Point in the life of the diocese and its people. We

also heard a desire to be good stewards of Rock Point and to plan for its future mission with care and vision. There are many "stakeholders" of Rock Point, many ministries that happen at Rock Point and many ministries that "spring forth" from Rock Point. One thing this future thinking and planning will help us do is build upon our past and provide for our future. Please keep this future planning process in your prayers.

Focus on Stewardship

We are taking Stewardship seriously in our diocese. This is manifest in many areas of our common life. In particular, I want to mention here the areas of money, the environment, justice, education and formation, and ministry with young people:

- People are growing in their appreciation of the need to assume responsibility for the financial well-being and future of our diocese and its mission. The Diocesan Council has determined that it will work on a statement of stewardship for itself and for the diocese.

- Our Environmental Ministry Team is working with many partners to help all of us take more seriously our responsibility with regard to God's creation.

- Our Dismantling Racism Commission is planning educational and training opportunities for diocesan leaders to deepen our awareness of and commitment to a church and society in which the dignity of every human being is respected. People involved in other justice ministries are working hard toward a future in which God's will is "done on earth as it is in



heaven."

- Many people in our diocese, including those on the Commission on Ministry and Christian Formation Task Force, are working hard to encourage our understanding and commitment to life long learning, discernment and formation for baptismal ministry in daily life.

- We continue to grow in our appreciation of and commitment to young people, not just as the future of the church, but also as a very central dimension of our life and mission here and now.

In these three areas and so many other ways, I think we are blessed with a promising future as a diocese. I look forward to that future with you as together we engage in God's mission and *Pray the Prayer of Christ, Learn the Mind of Christ and Do the Deeds of Christ*. With love, joy and gladness for our present and future life together as a diocese, I remain,

Soon to be Grandpa,

+Thomas

The Episcopal Diocese of Vermont

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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Views from the Frontier

by Martha Holden

"Joy"

My wrist hurts. It hurts often enough to get my attention. I see the sensation in several ways: I see it as old injury; I see it as an extension of the fears and self-will I hold locked in my neck and jaw; and I see it as a gift from God, a reminder of the power of joy.

The hurt of my wrist reminds me of joy because of what happened when I was giving a terminally ill friend a footrub. During the footrub my recently injured forearms and wrists tensed and began to think about hurting. I realized that from a physical therapist's perspective, I was doing something unwise. Then I recalled my faith that when I am being of willing service I will suffer no harm. In that faith I felt a surge of love for my life. Then, like a tidal wave, joy flooded over me. It was as if a subterranean river erupted sweeping the tension away. Thinking about it later, this made logical sense to me: joy is where God is, and therefore joy is where I become most available to the flow of God's healing nature. So I am trying out the hypothesis that the answer to pain, and the tension that causes much of it, is to live in joy. Tension, I see, is a distrust, a withholding from God.

My purpose is not to avoid pain or the

instinct to withhold, but to let it do what it needs to do within the flow of joy, within the life of my relationship with God. Joy does not abolish the pain, but it can sweep it away; and what it does not sweep away, it sweeps into the perspective of God's love and presence. In joy tension becomes available to God's action.

I have been trying out this theory on the tension of anxiety. Anxiety has lived with me maybe forever. I have noticed this since I was admitted to the novitiate for becoming a Diocesan Religious. Almost from the moment the Bishop pronounced the final blessing there have been earthquakes in my life. Things I had assumed have melted and broken up and shifted and continue to shift. The drama of this instability has led to anxiety. I have found that my best response is to locate that river of joy. I know that that river, that surging, billowing river, is an expression of God's love and offers the one true stability. I know logically that it is always available to me: I can find it when I am willing to get beneath the drama. Beneath the drama I see that the anxiety is my own creation. It comes from my being distracted by the drama of the landscape under which the river flows and becom-

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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!

Note: Last month, a reader of this column asked a question based on the observation that there is no “apple” mentioned in the text of the story in Genesis about the Garden of Eden. In exploring that question—and in the process proposing that the “forbidden fruit” might actually have been a pomegranate—I alerted readers to the fact that this month’s column would be devoted to a different apple that does seem to have a biblical connection, namely, the “apple of Sodom.” So here goes.

“The apple of Sodom is a spiny plant found near Jericho. It is related to a tomato and bears small yellow fruits that look like small apples” (from *The World Book Encyclopedia*). According to tradition, writers in biblical times were familiar with this plant that grew near the Dead Sea. It was tempting in appearance but tasted bitter, like ashes, when it was eaten. But instead of using the story of Eden as a basis for naming this tempting fruit, they turned instead to the story of Sodom.

Sodom has been prominent in the news lately, so this seems like a propitious time to open up a discussion about that much-misunderstood story. It is worth taking a few minutes actually to read the story. And what a concept that is—actually to read a biblical story carefully before using that story as a basis for one’s opinions! How many people who have opined loudly in recent weeks and months about the “sin of Sodom” have not read the story carefully?

As you will see in Genesis 19:1, the story begins with “two angels” coming to Sodom. These are the same angels, disguised as men, who visited Abraham and Sarah, then journeyed on to Sodom.

Views from the Frontier

Continued from Page B

ing wrapped up in it. The drama becomes more real to me than God, and anxiety rises off the landscape like mist on a Fall morning. It chokes me and constricts my responses.

Sometimes I have tried to wrestle my attention from the drama and its anxiety straight back to joy. The result has been barren. I have found that in order to connect with the living river of joy, I have to go through a sort of prayer. Living joy, fertile joy, is found within my recognition that God Is; it is within my acceptance of the expanding nature of my relationship with God. When I remember that God Is (O Joy!), and let myself be alive to the expansion of my relationship with God (O Fearsome Joy!) I can come to rest within the river of joy.

So I bless the sensation in my wrist and the earthquakes. They remind me that I can let God’s joy flow through my body and my life, sweeping away everything that gets in its way. They remind me that I can let go of my tension. They remind me that I can find my buoyancy in the fertile, flowing joy of God’s love. May I do so. Amen.

Martha Holden is a diocesan religious (see article on Page G) who attends Christ Church, Montpelier.

When they chatted with Abraham and Sarah, there were three angels. By the time they head for Sodom, there are only two. Maybe the bread Sarah so hospitably served them was so delicious that one of the guests decided to stay and have some more and some more and some more... and then just ended up staying there instead of going to Sodom?

When the remaining two angels arrived in Sodom, the plot, as they say, thickened. A crowd of men from the town pounded on the door of Lot’s house, where the angels were staying, and apparently wanted to rape them. Not a pretty picture. Lot refuses and nothing happens between the men and the angels. So, what is the “sin of Sodom” according to this story? Obviously, the sin here is the attempt to gang rape two angels. So, I will take this opportunity to state boldly and without reservation that I find this sin totally abominable and I would condemn any group of people who attempt to gang rape an angel. And I must say, it feels really good to condemn something that I find abominable and to be able to use the Bible to support my opinion!

But the “apple of Sodom” reminds us that we need to be very careful about what tempts us. How sad it is to hear people being tempted to use the biblical story of Sodom to condemn something that they find abominable—namely, a committed and loving relationship between two people of the same gender—when actually they are totally misusing the story. In my humble opinion, they are barking up the wrong tree. Or, as William Sloan Coffin says, “Too many Christians use the Bible as a drunk does a lamppost—for support rather than illumination” (*A Passion for the Possible*, p.63).

Send your questions about the Bible to Ask Sr. Bible Person, care of the editor (address on Page B).

A Clear Voice from the South

by Richard Bower

Since the Lambeth Conference of Anglican Bishops in 1998, it has been increasingly clear that many Bishops from the Two-Thirds World are theological and social conservatives. This is especially true in parts of Africa where the Anglican Church is numerically the largest.

There are a number of reasons for this conservatism, cultural and ethnic, but one of the historic causes was the nature of the missionary expansion of the church from England to Africa in the 19th and 20th centuries. Many of the English missionary societies that evangelized Africa were of the evangelical wing of the church, which tended toward literalism in biblical teaching. That conservative tradition has continued in many parts of African, Latin American and Caribbean Anglicanism.

It is not surprising, then, that since Lambeth ’98, the criticism of many bishops from the South has increased in its protest against the progressive directions of the Anglican Churches of the North. In the wake of the decisions of General

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*

Responses to General Convention

To the editor:

If we turn to Scripture for answers to our most troubling questions, ought we not to harken first to what God told Jesus to say to us? Jesus tells us that God is a loving parent to all His children, not the harsh and vengeful God many declare Him to be.

We are enjoined not to judge others lest we ourselves be judged. In our prayers we are told to ask for forgiveness of our wrongs only insofar as we are ready to offer forgiveness for wrongs done to us.

And finally, we need to remember that Jesus told us that the two most important laws in the Old Testament are that we shall love God with all our being and that we shall love our neighbor as ourselves. All other law is subservient to these.

Can we call ourselves Christians if we fail to follow these injunctions?

Pat Hejny
Williamstown, Vermont

To the editor:

Discernment in matters of faith, order and discipline in Anglican theology has been guided by the three legs of Scripture, Tradition and Reason. GC2003 has added another leg. The new leg is feelings. Whenever your feelings tell you something is right it must be the Holy Spirit leading you in all truth. The wonderful thing about this new leg is that it can trump the other legs whenever they get in the way of your feelings. And the truly wonderful thing about the new leg is that even if your feelings are diametrically opposed to my feelings, we’re both right because our feelings can’t be wrong. Your

truth is as good as my truth. Is this a great new leg or what? I recommend that Debbie Boone’s 1980s hit “You Light Up My Life” be included in the new Hymnal. It contains that prescient line that summarizes so succinctly this new theology: “It can’t be wrong when it feels so right.”

William McGovern
All Saints, Hoosick, New York

To the editor:

The controversy over the recent General Convention sheds revelatory light on an issue of continuing interest in these pages—racism. The Bishop has consistently expressed his concerns about the presence of racism in our diocese and our church since his enthronement.

That there is the potential for schism in the Communion is real, having been recognized by Archbishop Williams. While the central issues appear to relate to the proper role of our sexuality, these issues have shown clearly the nature and location of at least one aspect of racism.

Should the ECUSA be declared out of communion with the rest of the Communion, many orthodox Anglicans, who believe the Bible says what it means clearly, have indicated that they will turn willingly to the third world for episcopal oversight. Indeed, the Anglican Mission in America has already demonstrated conservative willingness to accept, without reservation, missionary status from those against whom we are charged with being racist. Orthodox Anglicans have sided with the so-called two thirds world in their acceptance and defense of the “deposit of faith once delivered” as well as in rejecting the strange “new revelations” of the Holy Spirit.

This is in stark contrast with those who have supported the actions of the General Convention, some of whom have described the third world Christians as barely post animist. A look at the academic credentials and pastoral experience of the two thirds world bishops shows they are significantly more well educated and suited to the ministry than are many of the bishops in the ECUSA. Yet the ECUSA has, by its actions at the Convention, thumbed its nose at the majority of the Anglican Communion, and it has ignored and exacerbated the very real dangers presented to the rest of the Communion by its radical and narcissistic stance.

My question is, exactly where is the racism?

Allan R. Wylie
Woodstock, Vermont

Correction

The person standing with Presiding Bishop Griswold in the photo on Page A of the September *Mountain Echo* is Donna Musgrave, the UTO President. She was incorrectly identified as the president of Episcopal Church Women.

Continued on Page E

More Coming Events

Arts at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul

2 Cherry Street, Burlington, Vermont

Autumn Concert Series

Jane Brown Celebration Concert

Monday, October 6, 8 P.M.

Jane Brown, founder and director emeritus of Musica Propria, died on June 11, 2003. For many years, Jane worked to take music to all corners of Vermont. She also fostered the love of music through her work in musical therapy as well as through innovative collaborations with colleagues. Come celebrate Jane Brown's life and work with a program that includes the Fauré Requiem, solo piano, and vocal works. Admission: Free.

Schubertiad Sunday

Sunday, October 26, 3 P.M.

Join some of the New England area's finest musicians for an enjoyable afternoon of music by Franz Schubert. Following Schubert's tradition of performing his works with musicians in friendly gatherings, pianist Elaine Greenfield, joined by cellist Dieuwke Davydov, flutist Karen Kevra, soprano Jill Hallett Levis and clarinetist Steven Klimowski will perform the "Arpeggione" sonata for cello and piano, "Trochne Blumen" Variations, Op. 160 for flute and piano, "Shepherd on the Rock" for clarinet, soprano and piano, plus Lieder for soprano and piano, and Impromptu Op.90, #2 for solo piano. This concert presents some of Schubert's most familiar and beloved works, guaranteed to leave you humming your way home. Admission \$15; students and seniors \$10.

Music for Organ and Brass

Friday, November 14, 8 P.M.

"Trumpets and organs set in motion / Such sounds as make the heavens ring" [Psalm 98, trans. by Erik Routley]. Mark Howe, organist at St. Paul's Cathedral, and VSO trumpeter James Duncan join forces for an extraordinary evening of music. The trumpet and organ played in concert can be thrilling and stately, languidly sensuous, jolly, bitterly satirical, or haunting and mournful. Performers and audience alike will have fun exploring this broad range of moods. Admission \$12; Students and seniors \$8.

Free Tuesday Concerts, 12 noon – 1 P.M.

October 7: "Bone Appetit"—Music for trombone and piano. Peter Bouchard, trombone; Camille Brubaker, piano; trombone quartet.

October 21: "Trios for Two Flutes and Cello"—Ann Fingar and John Valance, flute; Anne Brown, cello.

November 4: Nella Chukhman, piano. Music by Bach, Beethoven, Brahms and Ravel.

Bring a bag lunch. Coffee and tea are provided.

Art Shows in the Church Nave

September 29–October 27: Cliff Dow: "Impressions in Stained Glass"

October 27–November 24: "Eighteen Years in Vermont: A Retrospective by Jeneane Lunn" (pastels, oils).

The Cathedral is open 9 A.M.–5 P.M., Monday through Friday, and between services on Sunday. Call for other times (802-864-0471).

Preaching Workshop

Friday, October 24, 2003, 9 A.M. to 3:30 P.M.

Bethany United Church of Christ

Route 12, Randolph, Vermont

All in the diocese who carry out the ministry of preaching are invited to participate in a preaching workshop led by faculty from the Episcopal Divinity School and held jointly with the Vermont UCC. The focus of the day will be on the lectionary readings for Year C in the Revised Common Lectionary (New Testament readings are much the same as those in the BCP lectionary).

Please bring a brown bag lunch; drinks will be provided. This workshop is being sponsored by the new Diocesan Pastoral Excellence Program, funded by a Lilly Foundation grant and coordinated by Susan Ohlidal. Contact her for information: sohlidal@dioceseofvermont.org; 802-748-8755.

"Seeing Things in a New Light"

2003 Advent Retreat

December 5, 5:00 P.M.–Mid afternoon, December 7, 2003

Bishop Booth Conference Center, Rock Point, Burlington

Join the Rt. Rev. Thomas C. Ely as he leads an exploration of some of the ways in which Christ's coming (and coming again) into the world and into our lives offers us a "new lens" through which to look at our lives and the world we live in.

Consider your own "life changing" encounters with Christ, as Bishop Ely reflects on some of those encounters with Jesus from the Bible and invites us to make connections to our own faith journey.

To register, send a \$50.00 non-refundable check to John King, 433 Bean Road, Colchester, VT 05446. Questions or special needs, call John at 802-862-5834.

Continuing education and study leave offered for congregational leaders

by Susan Ohlidal

The Pastoral Excellence Project, in collaboration with Episcopal Divinity School (EDS), Cambridge, Massachusetts, invites and encourages congregational leaders and other ministry support members to participate in self-directed projects of theological study and reflection, spiritual renewal, and pastoral enrichment.

Based on the EDS campus, this opportunity offers lodging for five week days (Mon.–Fri.); breakfast and lunch each day; dinner for two nights; attendance at worship services; use of the EDS Library's services, resources, and Computer Lab; time for spiritual refreshment; and, with prior notice, attendance in classes and faculty consultation on special areas of interest. Participants will provide their own transportation and are responsible for other meals and amenities.

All congregational leaders are welcome to apply for this opportunity. Congregations are encouraged to assist their local leaders who participate by providing necessary support and time.

Space at EDS and in this program is limited. Priority will be given to applicants from congregations with part-time clergy leadership and members of ministry support teams.

A letter of application should be sent to Susan Ohlidal, Pastoral Excellence Coordinator, Diocese of Vermont, 5 Rock Point Road, Burlington, VT 05401-2735, or e-mail to sohlidal@dioceseofvermont.org. Please include a brief description of the purpose and reasons for participation, research/study/reflection topic(s), dates requested, congregation affiliation and status, and contact information.

General inquiries are always welcome. Contact Susan Ohlidal at sohlidal@dioceseofvermont.org or by phone, 802-748-8755. More information about the Pastoral Excellence Project and resources at EDS may be found at the EDS website www.episdivschool.edu.

Pastoral Excellence Coordinator Susan Ohlidal is a member of St. Andrew's, St. Johnsbury.

Environmental Ministry Team sponsors "Christ in Creation" retreat

"Christ in Creation: Discovering the 'Keys' that Unlock God's Wisdom in Creation," scheduled for Saturday, November 1, 2003 at the Bishop Booth Conference Center, will be a day of spiritual exploration co-sponsored by the diocesan Environmental Ministry Team and Project Noah. The retreat leader will be Steve Young, Director of Project Noah, a project of The Wilderness Society that encourages people of faith to support protection of wilderness

in Vermont.

The retreat will run from 9:30 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. The fee of \$20 includes snacks, lunch and use of all facilities. Registration is limited to 30 participants, so reserve your place soon. Send a check payable to the Diocese of Vermont, with your name, address, phone and email to Debi Paterson, BBCC, 20 Rock Point Circle, Burlington, VT 05401. Overnight accommodations are available; call Debi at 802-658-6233. ❖

Convocation theme is sacredness of creation

The 2003 Provincial Convocation, scheduled for November 21-22 at the Mont Marie, Conference Center, Holyoke, Massachusetts, will focus on the environment in response to, and support of, the recent Pastoral Letter from the bishops of Province of New England, "To Serve Christ in All Creation." The letter calls on Episcopalians to protect, restore and repair creation.

Speakers will be environmentalists Bill McKibben and John Carroll. The meditations and reflections will be by the Rev. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas, the principal author of the Bishops' Pastoral Letter. Eighteen workshops will be offered, as well as environmentally-focused liturgies.

Planners are aiming for a holistic perspective on the environmental crisis, one that takes scientific, economic, and theological insights into account. They hope that people will leave feeling inspired, refreshed, energized, and equipped to help heal God's creation.

Participating in the religious environmental movement not only helps to heal the Earth—it also helps to heal the soul. It is a way of saying **yes** to the God who pronounced creation "good," a way of bearing witness to one's faith and becoming Christ's hands and heart in the world.

Registration materials are being mailed this month. ❖

Congregations and groups invited to make "Christ in Creation Squares" for convocation

The Environmental Ministry Team will hang a series of decorative fabric squares in the meeting space at the Province One Convocation in November. Congregations and groups such as environmental committees, prayer groups, and youth groups are invited to create squares showing nature scenes or creative environmental symbols.

Squares can be made using a muslin patch (approximately twelve and a half inches square) as a backing for a fabric or painted design. Words and phrases may be included. The congregation's name should

be on the back, and the name of the group who made the square should be somewhere on the front.

Muslin squares and more information are available from the Rev. Catherine Nichols (revcpn@together.net, or before October 24 at St. Stephen's, Middlebury, 802-388-7200). Completed squares should be mailed to her at PO Box 253, East Middlebury, VT 05740, by November 10. The Environmental Ministry Team will sew borders on all the squares. ❖

Northfield library to host author discussion of Ku Klux Klan in Vermont

by Lee Alison Crawford

The Brown Public Library of Northfield, Vermont, received one of two state-wide grants from the Vermont Council of the Humanities to present "Vermont Reads *Witness*." Newbury award-winning Karen Hesse, author of *Witness*, and Maudeen Neill, author of *Fiery Crosses in the Green Mountains*, will be at Brown Public Library, South Main Street, Northfield, on Sunday, October 19, at 3:00 P.M., for an open discussion of their works. Brown Public Library will also sponsor a dramatic reading of *Witness*, Thursday, October 9, at 7 P.M.

Hesse's *Witness*, written in verse for young readers aged 9-12, takes place in 1924, in Vermont, as the Ku Klux Klan begins to move into a quiet town. Leanora Sutter, twelve years old and the only black girl in the small town, befriends a Jewish girl named Esther, even though Esther is half her age. Together they face the prejudice fostered by the Klan.

Maudeen Neill's book chillingly describes the rise and support of the KKK in Vermont. Though written in the mid 1980s, readers today will recognize familiar names and places, underlying the fact that while Vermont may have been the first state to ban slavery, it was not immune to the KKK.

The event will be open to the public. For more information on the discussion and the dramatic reading, contact Sharon Bartram (member of Saint Mary's Parish, Northfield and diocesan UTO co-chair) at 802-485-4621.

The Rev. Lee Alison Crawford is rector of St. Mary's, Northfield.

A clear voice from the South

Continued from Page C

op Frank Griswold to attend convention, spoke with a clear voice about his support of our church's welcome and support of gay and lesbian members. He was the only Latin American Bishop publicly to express support for consenting to the ordination and consecration of the Rev. Canon Gene Robinson, bishop coadjutor-elect of the Diocese of New Hampshire, and of the need for the church to provide ministry to those gay and lesbian persons who have been rejected and marginalized by church and society. In El Salvador, Bishop Barahona carries on a pastoral ministry with a couple of gay and lesbian groups who have been abandoned both by their society and their faith communities.

Bishop Barahona has been invited by Canon Robinson to be one of the co-consecrators at his November ordination and consecration. Bishop Barahona is aware of the difficulties of bearing this witness in the Central American context, but he is clear about the importance of leading the churches into more inclusive and just directions. In mid September he met with the bishops of his Province to

What? Racism in the Episcopal Church?

by Margy Zabriskie

Since 1991, dismantling racism has been a high priority of the Episcopal Church, and it is a top priority in the Diocese of Vermont. Rooting out racism in the church and in church structures is the initial goal, so that the church can speak more effectively about racism in community and world institutions. Since 9/11, it has taken on even more urgency, as many ethnic groups are finding themselves victims of racism.

Some might question whether many of us have a problem with racism. Individually, most people try to remain free of prejudice and, in keeping with the Baptismal Covenant, "to respect the dignity of every human being." Those who are products of a dominant white culture are often not aware of how others are victims of that same culture in the schools, courts, financial institutions, social clubs and, alas, in the church.

Racism is prejudice with power. Power resides in the white dominant culture and institutions. Racism is a personal, individual matter and a corporate, institutional problem. Many were surprised to read in the Burlington Free Press of a 2002 study by the Burlington-based Fair Housing Project that found that in dealing with real estate agents, African-Americans are discriminated against 48% of the time. This is almost three times the national average of 17% as reported by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the National Fair Housing Association. What is even more shocking is that few are outraged by this, and the dominant power structure has complacently, if unconsciously, maintained "white privilege."

Although individuals may think of themselves as anti-racist, until we can rid the churches, local institutions, and dominant



Photo courtesy of Margy Zabriskie

The Rev. Jayne Oasin, Episcopal Church Staff Officer for Social Justice (L), and the Rev. Canon Ed Rodman, head of the National Institute on Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism (R), are joined at the Cincinnati anti-racism conference by Vermonters Margy Zabriskie, Naima Wade and Stewart Wood.

culture of racism, we will continue to enjoy the unfair advantages of being white, simply on the basis of our color, not by virtue of anything we have earned.

How do we effect change? Resolution A010, passed at the 2003 General Convention, continues the anti-racism mandate of previous General Conventions, commends an emerging nationwide network of anti-racism trainers, and requires training of all seeking election or appointment to Episcopal Church commissions, committees, boards and agencies.

Bishop Stewart Wood, Naima Wade and Margy Zabriskie, members of the Diocese of Vermont's Commission on Dismantling Racism, attended a national Episcopal Church Anti-Racism Conference in Cincinnati Sept. 11-13. This advanced training was held for those seeking national certification as trainers.

The Dismantling Racism Commission, like the national church, has determined to address these issues by beginning a process of dialogue and training, starting in the highest seats of power in the institutional

church—the bishop, diocesan leadership, and the clergy. A subcommittee of the commission has met with the Bishop and laid plans.

On April 1, 2, and 3, of 2004, a one day training will be offered in three different parts of the diocese under the leadership of Bishop Wood. As part of the national network of trainers, he has had previous experience in other dioceses and will bring together a team of trainers for this Vermont event. This will be the first session. About twenty hours is recommended to complete the full training.

The training, which will be open to all, will be required of diocesan leadership. More information will be available early in 2004. In the meantime, as we try to live out our Baptismal Covenant "to seek justice," we can try to detect the elements of racism that infect the various institutions in which we participate. Then strive for change. It will not be easy or comfortable, but to do otherwise is to deny God's call to us.

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



Photo by Lee Alison Crawford

The Most Rev. Martín Barahona, Archbishop of the Anglican Church in Central America, meets with the Rev. Canon Gene Robinson at General Convention.

discuss their concerns, and to learn how to grow together and respect the positions that each bishop holds, while continuing to offer a prophetic voice in the Central American church's ministry of compassion, justice and peace.

Bishop Barahona is concerned about the unity of the church, but he believes that unity is a gift of God to the church and is not the product of agreement or of the silencing of diverse voices.

The Very Rev. Richard A. Bower is Executive Director of Fundación Cristosal, a Vermont-based foundation that supports the work of the Anglican Church in El Salvador.

Recycle Your Bike—Send it to Africa!

by Carol Beninati

In Accra, Ghana, a sprawling city of two million people, there is a dire need for bicycles. Women with goods piled high on their heads walk miles through the hot, dusty, congested streets. Men hang off the outside of overstuffed vans and buses to travel the long route to work.

In response to this need, as well as the need for Ghanaian youth to learn career skills, St. Michael's, Brattleboro, is collecting bicycles to ship to Africa, where they will be repaired by teens training to be bike mechanics. On October 11, a truck container will arrive on the church's lawn, ready to receive 350 bicycles destined for Accra.

"This is a new chapter in our existing relationship with the Homeland Youth Empowerment Organization (HOYEO) at Christian Village," says Hilary Cooke, chair of the Bikes for Africa Committee at St. Michael's. "While the youth program was initially set up to address AIDS prevention, HOYEO now has a job training component. They have a mechanic who will be teaching bicycle repair and entrepreneurship to teens. Bicycles that don't get directly used will be

sold by the youth to help fund HOYEO's programs." Cooke says that St. Michael's is blessed to have the guidance and support of Former Ambassador to Ghana, Edward P. Brynn.

Parishes throughout southern Vermont, as well as businesses and individuals, are encouraged to donate bicycles in need of repair. Members of St. Michael's will pick the bikes up from those unable to make the trip to Brattleboro. For those able to deliver them, drop-off dates are on five successive Saturdays (October 11, 18 and 25, and November 1 and 8), from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M.

"Because of the road conditions in Accra," says Cooke, "we are encouraging people to donate adult-sized mountain bikes. They needn't be in perfect condition." All bicycles, however, as well as bike repair tools, innertubes and bike parts, will be accepted. Cash donations to defer the cost of shipping are also welcome.

To donate or schedule a collection, contact George Lewis at 802-254-4839, or the parish office at 802-254-6048.

Carol Beninati is a member of St. Michael's, Brattleboro.

Northwest Deanery 1

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Members of deanery churches met with Bishop **Thomas Ely** and the Rev. **Jeanette Tweedy** of the Ministry Support Team on Sept. 23, at ST. MATTHEW'S, Enosburg Falls, to discuss shared ministry in the Northwest Deanery.

All are invited to join in the fifth "Stations of the Railway" walk from GRACE CHURCH, Sheldon, to ST. ANN'S, Richford, with a stop at ST. MATTHEW'S, Enosburg, Saturday, Oct. 25. The walk begins with Morning Prayer at Grace Church, 7:45, and ends at approximately 4:15 in Richford, closing with Evening Prayer. Pilgrims stop for a brown-bag lunch and mid-day prayer in Enosburg. The walk is a time for reflection and fellowship, and for remembering all that binds us together in Christ, as the railroads once bound the towns of Franklin County together. Those who don't relish the thought of an all day walk are encouraged to join the group at the "stations" for prayer and refreshment or anywhere along the way for a shorter hike.

Otter Creek Deanery 2

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ST. THOMAS' & GRACE, Brandon/Forest Dale, prepared 1287 lunches for three summer school lunch programs. Large cards and thank you posters are displayed at the churches. All parishioners who helped were treated to lunch at the Neshobe Golf Course Clubhouse. Job well done! The annual fair Sept. 27, included the auction of a lap quilt.

The Rev. **Catherine Nichols** of ST. STEPHEN'S, Middlebury, will say goodbye to the congregation on October 26. She has served as rector for 12 years and has decided it is time "to move on towards a new challenge." The Sunday Forum started again on Sept. 7, with a report by **Catherine Nichols** and **Annie Hopkinson** on their visit to the Dominican Republic. September forums also included a discussion of expansive language by the Worship Committee, a presentation on Habitat for Humanity by **Bill Mazeine**, and an overview of Hospice Services by **Patty Dunn**. **Jacob Auyen** will speak about the progress and activities of the Sudanese in the Burlington area on Oct. 4. The back-to-school shop opened on Aug. 11. Led by **Martha Hill**, the shop reached its fund raising goal of \$8,000 and continues to receive gifts. In addition to serving more than 120 Addison County students, the shop made new materials available to area schools to assist students identified by teachers and school personnel.

The women of TRINITY, Rutland, will host a very special dinner catered by chef **Ernie Wright** and a spectacular silent auction and raffle. All monies raised will benefit outreach programs supported by Women of Trinity. Once again, Trinity Church will participate in the Rutland Area Crop Walk on Sunday, Oct. 19, at 1 P.M. Crop Walk raises funds for world hunger, with 25% to benefit the Rutland

❖ deanery doings ❖

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

Community Cupboard.

ST. PAUL'S, Vergennes, will host its annual Octoberfest dinner at the Red Mill. This is a strictly social event—no agenda, no program, just dinner with friends; non-parish friends are always welcome.

Southwest Deanery 3

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ST. PETER'S, Bennington, is gearing up for their annual Chicken Pie Supper on Oct. 4. **Barbara Hoar** is coordinating the event, which will have sittings at 5:15 and 6:30. An army of cooks, bakers and decorators has been impressed to work on this important fundraiser. The third session of Alpha began Sept. 9, and will last ten weeks. Each week's session begins with a light supper. The annual Blessing of the Animals will take place on Oct. 5.

The Outreach Committee at ST. JAMES', Arlington, has posted a note from the children at Camp Adventure thanking them for the delicious and nutritious lunches prepared and served during August. The Fall 2003 Elvis Open Golf Tournament was held Sept. 28, at the Arlington Rec. Park. The Harvest Fest will take place on Oct. 4, and the Harvest Turkey Dinner on Oct. 11.

ZION, Manchester, welcomed the Rev. **David Wenham**, Dean of Wycliffe Hall, Oxford, who taught a course on the Apostle Paul during the week of Sept. 7-14. "Just Inspired," the Southern Gospel Group presented a concert on Sept. 12.

Southeast Deanery 4

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The Outreach Committee of ST. MICHAEL'S, Brattleboro, has established a relationship with a parish in Accra, Ghana that will train Ghanaian youth as bicycle mechanics and help them sell the "vehicles" in support of various existing parish programs, including AIDS prevention [see article on Page E].

In October, IMMANUEL, Bellows Falls, will start a "Life Cycles Education Program," which consists of prayer, study, reflection, and sharing. The concept started in Northern Michigan, and Immanuel will be giving the program a thorough trial run in our diocese.

The start of the school year has put a new focus on Christian education at ST. LUKE'S, Chester. **Jan Brochu** is the teacher for the children, and soon the "Journey to Adulthood" Program, under the guidance of **Martha Stratton**, will be testing its wings.

Yours truly read in a recent issue of "in the Garden," the top-notch little newsletter from GETHSEMANE, Proctorsville, that the publication has celebrated its first

anniversary. Our congratulations go out to its editor, **Micki Smith**, for keeping her parish updated not once but twice a month. (That's right—24 issues a year!) And...the big news in this neat little publication: their Rector, the Rev. **Betty Berlenbach**, will be retiring at Easter time in 2004. They become the third Southeast Deanery parish entering a "transition mode." Pray for them all.

The Rev. **Anne Webb**, Rector of ST. MARK'S, Springfield, recently received a coveted invitation to attend a CREDO Conference (Clergy Reflection, Education, Discernment Opportunity) in Florida. She accepted the "by invitation only, once in a lifetime opportunity" and attended the affair in early September, all the time praying that potential hurricanes be kept at bay.

ST. MARY'S, Wilmington, will have a service and blessing of the animals on the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi (Oct. 4). Also in October, their "brave" Rector **Thad Bennett** will have sermon feedback forms available in the pews.

Congratulations to **Rebekah Low** of ST. PAUL'S, Windsor. I have seen her several times in the past few weeks singing the praises of the MR. G's area chain of discount stores on some of the cable networks of the small screen. She was convincing as usual. Autograph please!

Three Rivers Deanery 5

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THREE RIVERS REGIONAL MINISTRY (Christ Church, Bethel and Our Saviour, Killington) sponsored an "Earth and Spirit Arts Celebration" on Sept. 27, at Mission Farm. Participants practiced spinning and dyeing wool, clay work, mandalas, and more, under the tutelage and theology of nature of the Rev. **Betty Berlenbach** of Gethsemane, Proctorsville. Some of Betty's sheep even came along to help!

CHRIST CHURCH parishioners of all stripes and sizes moved from Old Christ Church back to the village church in Bethel after worship on Sept. 7. The Summer Series of speakers was outstandingly successful, and there have been many calls for encores. In the meantime, **Lori Borden** is spearheading a group to ascertain space and decoration needs in the Christ Church parish house; more such community events and the groups that use the parish house, not to mention the church school and vestry, will be much more comfortable after work is finished.

Organist at OUR SAVIOUR, Killington, **Tim Owings**, is also an outstanding baker. Now everyone can have access to his baked goods by going to the online catalogue at <www.monasterygreetings.com>. Proceeds raise funds for ministry. The late **Elnora Fadden**, beloved longtime member and Altar Guild director, was remembered by the commissioning of a set of vestments in her memory on July

13. Like Elnora, the vestments, featuring "a slender cross and an outline of the mountains seen from Mission Farm," are simple and understated and yet very lovely. She would be so pleased.

The future is much on the minds of the folks at ST. MARTIN'S, Fairlee. Every Sunday morning before church, parishioners are invited to join in a short time of practicing hymns and service music for the fall worship services. And the congregation is already looking forward to Pentecost 2004: in an effort to reclaim the ancient power of the Great 50 Days from Easter, parishioners are thinking and praying now about how to design an appropriately "grand climax" on May 30, 2004. The Vestry is looking to the future as well, as they start to organize so that each member is responsible for one area of parish life.

At ST. BARNABAS', Norwich, parishioners are moving right along as they enter a stage of transition. Senior Warden **Jim Matthews** writes that, "as familiar patterns are unsettled and new demands emerge," he is humbled by the ministry that continues so effectively. The Thursday Bible study, the Men's Group suppers, youth group and choir start-ups, and the Six Churches' fundraiser are only part of what's going on locally and in the world; they actually held off on some things for the arrival of interim rector, the Rev. **Timothy Raasch**, so they can all meet each other.

The Adult Sunday School that meets between services at ST. JOHN'S in Randolph is reading Elaine Pagels' *Beyond Belief* in September. **Harriet Chase** wrote of a "beyond belief" experience she had when she was young and on the farm. "The Day the Jersey Cow Paved Out My Brains" was a seminal point in her faith life, teaching her to pray and instilling a faith that still carries her "through the trials and tribulations of life."

The vestry at ST. PAUL'S, White River Junction, met with the Rev. Canon **Jeanette Tweedy** to start looking at the leadership needs of the parish, as well as how best to organize their common life. The Rev. **Diana Collins**, deacon at St. Paul's, is doing some organizing of her own. Trusting firmly that "God is in control of all things!" Diana is coordinating a group of twenty-two people—including nine from St. Paul's and nine from Immanuel Church, Bellows Falls—for a short-term mission to Honduras after Christmas.

Central Vermont Deanery 6

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Early fall brought Sundays of blessing and God-speed for ST. MARY'S, Northfield. On Labor Day weekend the Rector blessed congregants' cell phones, PDAs, calendars, notebooks, book bags and even a stethoscope and floor mop as outward signs of people's daily lives and vocations. The following Sunday, parishioner **Cindy Wonsowicz**, member of the Diocesan Environmental Team, who is moving to Nevada, received a jar of Holy Soil from St. Mary's grounds as a token of appreciation (and remembrance!) for her participation in the choir and life of

Continued on Page G

Martha Holden takes vows as diocesan religious

by Anne Clarke Brown

On a recent Saturday, with the cacophony of a Shriners' parade in the background, I sat with Martha Holden on a bench outside the Cathedral Church of St. Paul to learn about her new role as a "diocesan religious." She took formal vows as a novice before Bishop Ely at Christ Church, Montpelier on May 24 of this year.

Martha told me she had an experience 22 years ago that "made me aware that there is something that I wanted to be connected to—I began to call that God—and that that's the only place I would find a life worth living. Then" she said, "it was a matter of finding how do I hook in. Now I am finding that, in the Episcopal Church, there's room. That's the thing I love about it. I think one important part of being a diocesan religious is being an icon that 'there is room.' Feel free to grow. Don't stunt yourself because of what 'they will say.' Insist on growing!"

Bishop Ely, Martha said, prefers the term "diocesan religious" to "solitary under vows." In either case, the national church canons merely say that a bishop who receives vows is to register it with the Standing Committee on Religious Communities. The Book of Occasional Services offers some guidance. Its last service, she said, "talks about a novitiate for a period of time and then temporary vows for a period of time and then life vows. I can't say it's loose," she added, "but there's a lot of space within that process. I am working it out with Bishop Ely and Bishop Arthur Walmsley, who is my spiritual director." She added, "Bishop Ely's openness to this process has been very nourishing to me."

Ben Chase is overseer of Martha's rule of life, an idea she said Bishop Walmsley tried when he was in Connecticut, so that he as bishop would not be micromanaging somebody in their rule. "Ben was rector of

Christ Church when I first darkened the doors twenty years ago," she said.

Martha said she had initially "floundered around" in forming her rule of life, "My first rule did everything and the kitchen sink, and then the second one was, 'Remember God.' My current rule is based on poverty, chastity and obedience." She meditates on one aspect each week as a way of becoming "really clear about what I mean," because the rule includes provisions for amendment.

At Bishop Ely's suggestion, Martha gets together monthly with a "gang of five" people within Christ Church. "Bishop Ely knows that ministry comes out of a community, it doesn't come out of the individual. I am recognizing—and am very grateful for—the wisdom of that. I see myself as a loner, and I am solitary by inclination, so it's been wonderful to have a group within the church that through their prayers and their presence is supporting me and discovering what God is calling me to do."

Martha has four manuscripts she is working on, and she plans to write to the deaneries saying she is available to do retreats, quiet days and workshops. She hopes to support individuals in their spiritual journeys. She said, "It is important for people to know that asking questions and wrestling with things—rather than stamped uniformity—is supported by the institution and by the diocese. I am very excited about where this might go," (She can be reached at mholden@together.net.)

The manuscripts include a group of essays she calls "A Christian Book of the Dead." They tell of experiences that helped her "to learn about accepting love and learn



about forgiveness and learn about trusting and things that I have needed to know in my spiritual process." A second, titled "The Groundwater Apocrypha," began with her master's thesis, written after the first Gulf war, which is a "retelling of the Christian story from the Garden of Eden to the current day in a way that supports peace and the possibility of peace." It includes essays written after 9/11, that address the question, "If there is a God, what possible reason could there be for what's going on here, and what can be the human response that helps God's purpose being worked out? They're all sort of very light and whimsical."

Martha is also working on "Living the Christ," which she describes as "a primer for living in tune with God," and she has a collection of her "Views from the Frontier" columns for the Mountain Echo.

In contrast to what she described as the surprising visibility of her initial vows, Martha's next step will be "first temporary vows" in context of the bishop's regular visitation to Christ Church. She will repeat temporary vows on an annual basis until the time is right for "life vows."

A more complete text may be found at www.dioceseofvermont.org/Mountain%20Echo/Mearticles&resources.html.

Safer Church Training

Saturday, October 18

8:45 A.M.–3:30 P.M.

St. Paul's, White River Junction

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.

Episcopal Drama Club

Andrew Wetmore, author of *Acting in Faith*, a series of short Lenten plays, and editor of the Rhode Island diocesan paper, has formed a web-based Episcopal Drama Club (www.episcopal-drama.org). He plans to provide lists of resources, announcements of productions, and a meeting and sharing place for Episcopalians involved in theater arts. Interested groups should email him at info@concentricspheres.net.

deanery doings

Continued from Page F

the parish. And on Sept. 14, chalice bearer and lector **Brendan Willis** received the parish's blessings for his first year at Dartmouth College.

Choir Director (as well as editor of the newsletter, chair of the Parish Life Committee, and Lay Eucharistic Minister) **Scott Neal** was made a Postulant for Holy Orders this September. Scott is seeking ordination to the priesthood.

St. Mary's welcomes back **Steve, Melissa, James and Elise Maglione**, who have rejoined the congregation after a two-year spell in North Carolina (just in time to get out of harm's way from hurricanes!). Melissa now coordinates the Church School, a task she did before leaving Northfield two years ago. Rector **Lee Alison Crawford** will participate in the October CREDO (Clergy Reflection, Education, Discernment Opportunity) conference, sponsored by the Church Pension Fund and the Episcopal Church Foundation.

Northeast Deanery 7

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CHRIST CHURCH, Island Pond,

welcomes as vicar the Rev. **Jean MacDonald**, formerly assistant to the rector at St. Andrew's, St. Johnsbury. She succeeds the Rev. **Garret Keizer**, who has retired.

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, Hardwick, welcomed Bishop **Thomas Ely** for his regular visitation on Sept. 7, and used the occasion for a congregational meeting to hear updates by members of the vestry on proposed improvement and expansion plans.

Members of ST. MARK'S, Newport, joined with representatives of other deanery congregations in a meeting Sept. 24, at Christ Church, Island Pond, to discuss with Bishop **Thomas Ely** options for shared ministry in the Northeast Kingdom.

The Stewardship Ministry Team has great plans for Oct. 12—a "Festive Meal" at the Gateway Center to set the stage for making members' annual commitment to God's ministry. Special thanks go to **Con Quinby** for all his help in this stewardship event.

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Sign up to walk to end hunger; the Champlain Valley CROPWALK is October 19, with registration at 1:30 at the First Congregational Church of Burlington. **Rick Robinson** of St. Paul's Cathedral (802-863-5687) can provide CROPWALK envelopes, or check with your own parish coordinator. Last year's walk raised just under \$40,000. Plan to attend the Pie and Ice Cream Social at Trinity, Shelburne on Oct 11, 1-4 P.M. There will be tours of the church, music and games for children.

The CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. PAUL, Burlington, is establishing a Memorial Garden fund to accept contributions for the granite panel that will have the names engraved of those who are interred in the garden. *The Episcopal Church 101*, offered at 10:15 Sunday mornings Oct. 5–Nov. 9, will introduce Episcopal understandings of Scripture, church history, spirituality, liturgy, Christian ethics and social justice. All are welcome. For information on the Foyer Dinner Program, call **Chrysanne O'Neil** at 802-658-3852.

At ST. ANDREW'S, Colchester, the Wednesday Adult Education group will be

studying the book, *Good Goats: Healing our Image of God*, by Dennis, Sheila and Matthew Linn.

SCRAPS (Saints Creating Art Projects) is meeting Friday evenings at ST. JAMES', Essex Junction, beginning at 5 P.M.; tables are provided to work on your craft, express your talent or learn a new one from others. Call the church office or Heather at 802-878-2569. A new Singles Group is forming; if interested contact **Mary Carlson** at 899-2197.

Members of TRINITY, Shelburne, will host meetings in their homes during October for discussion of the fall stewardship theme, "God's Call, Our Community." A breakfast Sept. 28, for nursery volunteers and their families provided an opportunity for members with young children to meet or get re-acquainted. The Sunday School Steering Committee has designed a five-unit calendar based on the liturgical year; each unit will have a teaching team that will work with the Rev. **Carole Wage-man**. For information about participating in music, teaching, and administration, contact Carole at 802-985-2269.

A Family Service at ALL SAINTS', South Burlington, Oct. 12, will include participation by all children in the Christian education program. Plans are underway for the Nov. 15, Holiday Bazaar. ❖

Diocesan Calendar

October 2003

- 4 Ministry Fair, Trinity, Rutland
- 4 Diocesan Study Program, Mission Farm, Killington
- 5 Bishop at St. Mark's, Springfield
- 7 **Deadline, November Mountain Echo**
- 8 Dispatch of Business, Diocesan Center, 1 PM
- 11 Ministry Fair, St. Mark's, Springfield
- 12 Bishop at Gethsemane, Proctorsville
- 18 Ministry Fair, Christ Church, Montpelier
- 18 Safe Church Training, St. Paul's, White River Junction
- 18 Diocesan Study Program
- 19 Bishop at St. Mary's in the Mountains, Wilmington
- 21 Standing Committee, St. John's, Randolph, 2 PM
- 22 Oversight & Audit, Diocesan Center, 11 AM
- 22 Executive Committee, Christ Church, Montpelier, 1 PM
- 24 Preaching Workshop, Bethany UCC, Randolph, 9 AM
- 26 Bishop at St. Thomas', Brandon
- 28 Rock Point Board, Diocesan Center, 1 PM

November 2003

- 1 Christ in Creation Retreat, BBCC, 9:30 AM
- 1 Diocesan Study Program, Mission Farm, Killington
- 6 **Deadline, December Mountain Echo**
- 7-8 Diocesan Convention, St. Paul's, Burlington
- 14-15 Leadership Program for Musicians, Mission Farm
- 14-16 DYC Junior High Event, BBCC
- 15 Diocesan Study Program
- 16 Bishop at St. Paul's, White River Junction
- 18 Clergy Day, St. John's, Randolph, 10 AM
- 18 Standing Committee, St. John's, Randolph, 2 PM

St. James' addition

Continued from Page A

as rector of St. James' between 1964 and 1990. The procession ended in the multi-purpose room with presentations to project participants and more lively singing.

St. James' is one of the newer and larger congregations in the Diocese of Vermont. First services were held in 1951, and the first building was built in 1959. The congregation has continued to grow and add and enlarge facilities. The "Witness, Welcome and Nurture" capital campaign included a commitment to grow from a pastoral size to a program size church, with plans for a third Sunday service.

St. James' has opened its doors to many community groups. Besides St. Andrew's Pipe Band, St. James' hosts a preschool, Fair Kids School, twelve-step programs, Hospice training and many more. Meals on Wheels uses St. James' kitchen to prepare meals for the homebound. ❖



Anne Clarke Brown photos

The children of St. James' take turns at breaking a piñata. Below right: A "young saint" reads a prayer to dedicate the "Young Saints' Room."

Below: Jeremy Bull leads the group in song.



Coming events for youth and youth ministers

Journey to Adulthood Workshops Ministry Fair Days, October 4, 11, & 18, 2003

Journey to Adulthood workshops will be offered at each of the Ministry Fair Days: October 4 at Trinity, Rutland, October 11 at St. Mark's, Springfield, and October 18 at Christ Church, Montpelier. Contact Connie Saeger-Proctor (see below).

Acolyte Festival National Cathedral, Washington, DC October 11, 2003

Acolytes from all over the nation are invited to attend the annual Acolyte Festival at the National Cathedral in Washington, DC. There will be workshops and tours. Acolytes, clergy, and vergers will participate in a grand procession for the main worship service. For more information visit www.nationalcathedral.org or www.edow.org; look for "news and events," then "events calendar," then "Acolyte Festival." Or call the information line at 202-537-3122. If you plan on taking a group and want to know who else from Vermont is attending, please contact Connie Saeger-Proctor (see below).

Diocesan Youth Attending General Convention Presentation at Diocesan Convention November 7, 2003.

Four young people attended Count Me Faithful at General Convention. They will give a presentation of their experiences and what they learned during at the convention seminar times. If you would like these awesome young people to give your youth group or congregation a presentation, please contact Connie Saeger-Proctor (see below).

Junior High Diocesan Youth Retreat November 14-16, 2003

The Junior High Diocesan Youth Retreat at the Bishop Booth Conference Center is for all young people in grades 6-9 and congregational youth leaders. The theme and activities were planned by the young people, who will lead the retreat. Contact Keri or Alden Franzoni at 802-644-8989.

Youth Leader Retreat January 23-24, 2004

This retreat at BBCC is planned to help refresh adult youth leaders with spiritual nurture and replenishment. To help plan the retreat or give input about what you need, contact Connie Saeger-Proctor.

Diocesan Youth Committee Planning Meeting Jan 31-Feb 1, 2004

Planning for the upcoming Senior High Youth Event to be held March 12-14, 2004. All young people in grades 10-12 and adult youth leaders are welcome! Location to be announced. Contact Keri or Alden Franzoni at 802-644-8989.

Connie Saeger-Proctor, Canon for Youth Ministry, may be reached at clsproctor@dioceseofvermont.org, or 802-479-1246. ❖

BBCC maintenance position available

The Bishop Booth Conference Center is seeking a person for a part-time maintenance position. Chuck Ordway, who has served as maintenance staff member for the past 15 years, has resigned, and the BBCC staff will celebrate his ministry with a special party. The staff and guests of the Bishop Booth Center will miss Chuck's warm hospitality, especially his welcoming smile. Chuck is a member of St. James' Episcopal Church in Essex Junction, where he also works as their sexton.

Responsibilities of the maintenance position include performing general maintenance work required to keep the Bishop Booth Conference Center, cabins and recreation building prepared for guest use.

Applicants may contact Debi Paterson at the Bishop Booth Conference Center for a complete job description and further information: 20 Rock Point Circle, Burlington, VT 05401; 802-658-6233; bishopbooth@dioceseofvermont.org. ❖

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Diocesan Youth Committee Calendar

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

- Oct. 11 National Acolyte Festival, National Cathedral, Washington, DC
- Nov. 14-16 Junior High Retreat, BBCC

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

Funds Available for Parish Use As of June 1, 2003

Total Pledged	\$1,600,000
Pledges Received (92%)	\$1,464,545
Funds available:	
Initiative I	
The Bishop Butterfield Revolving Loan Fund	\$ 254,917
Initiative II	
The Talent and Resource Network	\$ 5,596
Initiative III	
The Congregation Renewal and Emergency Assistance Fund	\$ 5,134
Initiative IV	
The Diocesan Outreach Fund	\$ 13,164

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