



## Vermont/New Hampshire group helps build church in Honduras

by Peggy Crane

On Dec. 28<sup>th</sup>, twenty people from Vermont and New Hampshire traveled to Honduras to experience ten days of "sweat and equity ministry," i.e., helping to build a church/community center (Iglesia Emanuel) in the tiny village of Las Moritas.

In talking to two members of the group from Immanuel Church in Bellows Falls, the first question that came to mind was, "Why? What made you say yes to this journey in the first place?" Steve Fuller was quick to answer, "Love is what drove the desire of our group to go to Honduras. All of us had the love of children and people in mind, and the hope of somehow sharing this with the village of Las Moritas. Yes, we could have just sent the money or material things, but would it have the same effect or meaning?" LeAnn Winter echoed his sentiments with, "We went to help in whatever way we could help, but with the understanding that we would do the 'grunt' work of hauling materials, while the local masons actually built the structure."

And haul materials they did! This hardy group hauled cement blocks, boulder-sized rocks, sand, water, loose cement...and more rocks. Before long, local masons and visiting laborers were working side by side, laying cement blocks, placing reinforcements, and digging a hole for the septic tank. To everyone's astonishment, this group completed the first floor of the building, thus accomplishing much more than anyone could possibly have imagined.

Each day began at 7:00 A.M. with a time of prayer and reflection. Following breakfast in the Mission Caribe, everyone piled into three vehicles and headed up to the site. Those in the two pick-ups could ride all the way. Van passengers had to walk

from the river's edge, crossing on stepping stones and walking through the village and up to the site. LeAnn treasured that journey through the village, greeting everyone who made them feel so welcome.

Work stopped at noon for a half hour lunch break and then continued until 4:00, when all returned to clean up and eat supper. The day ended with a time of sharing how each had experienced God that day, followed by the service of Compline.

When asked what they did for excitement at night, both laughed heartily. "We were so tired, most nights, we went to bed pretty early!" But, said Steve, "Our group had the opportunity to spend New Year's Eve worshipping with the Bishop of Honduras, a very powerful moment indeed." The service—complete with guitars and a band—lasted two hours. No one was able to stay up to see in the New Year, despite the constant noise of gunfire and fireworks.

They spent another evening at a mall, similar to those in the US but with one important exception: armed guards patrolled outside and throughout all stores. They also visited an outdoor market, where fresh vegetables and fruits, many of which they had never seen, were in abundance. Outdoor vendors were cooking a variety of foods that reminded LeAnn of "the wonderful odors you smell while walking around our county fairs."

### Sharing talents

This wonderful group shared many of their personal gifts and talents with the people of Las Moritas. Deacon Diana Collins of St. Paul's, White River Junction, and one of the coordinators of the trip, shared the story of Creation with the children.

LeAnn, a licensed beautician, took all the tools of her trade in case they might be useful. A haircut in this village is a "once a year" event that costs much of a person's hard-earned money, so the excitement as all gathered to watch and enjoy this simple pleasure was awesome indeed. As one woman looked at her new haircut in the small mirror, she exclaimed, "This was like a gift from God dropped down from heaven!"

Many of the group also played soccer with the children (one of their favorite pastimes), had a face-painting session, and made balloon animals that were highly prized and carried home with great care.

All gathered within the four walls they had helped to construct for a final worship service to bless their labor and celebrate the Holy Eucharist. Steve remembers it well, "I have never attended a service like it, to say the very least. We used what God provided for us: Kool-Aid in place of wine, and



The delegation from Vermont and New Hampshire who worked in Las Moritas.

rolls found at the last minute spared us having to use the top slices of bologna, cheese and mustard sandwiches for the bread. Not one person from Las Moritas gave a second glance at what was to be used for bread and wine. The love of being gathered in Jesus' name was all they asked for."

### Returning home

Many were looking forward to returning home, but others felt the tug to remain with their newfound friends and finish their building project. LeAnn is very clear about the importance of this trip in her life: "Part of me, my heart, is there. Part of that church belongs to me. I have the greatest respect

and affection for these incredible people who have nothing and are grateful for the very little they do have."

Steve said, "When the children came down to say goodbye, everyone was crying." What a visibly heartwarming reminder that we "don't build relationships with cash." A difficult aspect of coming home for Steve and LeAnn was the realization of the great level of greed in our country. Unfortunately, such greed has an enormous impact throughout the rest of the world, as these twenty people discovered during their journey.

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## Council continues planning process

by Anne Clarke Brown

Diocesan Council devoted two hours of their meeting on March 13, to discussions of the latest report on the diocese's strategic planning process. The report from consultant Craig Collemer represents a compilation of the work of six working groups, each focused on a key ministry area: Christian education and youth ministry; communication ministry; organizational/structural/financial ministry; outreach and social justice ministry; parish life and spiritual growth ministry; parish to parish and parish to diocese ministry.

Visioning conversations in forty-six parishes of the diocese generated a large list of suggestions that became the raw material for the next stage of the process, the discernment by the Strategic Planning Committee of six key areas of ministry and a series of goals for each. The working groups took that work and developed strategies for achieving each goal (twenty-nine overall), timelines and budget implications.

Bishop Thomas Ely told the Council that, "One of the great strengths of the process is that lots and lots of people have

been involved." Noting that the report is "not a final document but the work of six independent groups not in conversation with one another," he said, "Our responsibility is to begin to take full ownership and produce the kind of final document that will allow us to begin to take some concrete steps."

In charging small discussion groups with the task of suggesting next steps, Bishop Ely said he believes it is an exciting time, that the process is "bringing life to the hope and vision that called me here, to the commitment to the ministry of all the baptized." The Strategic Planning Committee will review the comments of the small groups, many of which noted the need to further integrate the goals of the six ministry areas to eliminate duplication and establish priorities.

Bishop Ely noted the need to address how the Diocese of Vermont can continue to "become a ministering community rather than a community gathered around a ministry support team that delivers ministry." He concluded, "I hope we can go into Diocesan Convention with something very clear and very forward looking." ✠



Workers take a rest for a photo.

# Episcopal ministry is about relationships, about community

by the Right Reverend Thomas Clark Ely, Bishop of Vermont

Ann and I have lived in Vermont for three full years now! The time has sped by quickly, in part because Vermont is such a beautiful place to live, but more so because our ministry among you has brought joy to us in ways that we could only dream about three years ago. I know that this is "my column," not Ann's, but on this occasion she joins me in saying thank you for these past three years and for the gracious way in which you have welcomed us into this diocese and invited us to live out our baptismal ministries among you.

As I tried to think of what words from scripture best captured my sense of gratitude as I approach the third anniversary of my ordination and consecration as your bishop, I came quickly to the words of Paul in the opening chapter of the letter to the Church at Philippi: "I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now." The setting, of course is very different. Paul was in prison, and that is far from the reality of my situation. The Christians to whom he was writing were facing opposition for their faith, belief and practice, and while in some sense that

may be true for us today, it is not true in the same way and with the same potential consequences (death) as it was for those to whom Paul was writing. No, the times and circumstances are different, yet the sentiment remains the same: colleagues in ministry being supported by one another as they seek to make their way as disciples of the Risen One in the world.

The longer I share in episcopal ministry the more I realize how much it is all about relationships. I've always known that about ordained ministry in the church and I've tried to practice and live faithfully into a relational model of ministry for the past twenty-plus years. Yet, episcopal ministry has brought into focus the significance of that relational dimension of all ministry in a way that I didn't fully imagine it would three years ago. Episcopal ministry is not about an individual—it is about a community. It is about a community that sets out together to live as faithfully as it

can into the reconciling mission of God in Christ, to "pray the prayer of Christ, to learn the mind of Christ and to do the deeds of Christ."

I happen to think we have done a pretty good job of that over these last three years. Clearly, I have learned a lot! Together we have begun to live more

deeply into that vision of church, that vision of mission and ministry to which you called me—a church that understands itself to be a community of ministers, a church in which the gifts and ministries of all God's people are recognized, supported, celebrated and affirmed, a church in which the baptismal ministry of every person is faithfully lived and joyfully cherished in the day to day marketplace of our lives and our living, a church where

young and old, male and female, straight and gay, and people of all colors, languages and abilities can celebrate our common life and ministry in Christ.

Together we have faced some significant challenges, and no doubt we have more ahead of us. Together we have sought to strengthen the ministries we hold so dear in this diocese and to plan for our future. Together we have fashioned for ourselves a commitment to work in partnership and cooperation and to seek

*Ann "joins me in saying thank you for these past three years and for the gracious way in which you have welcomed us into this diocese..."*



new and exciting models of ministry by which we might more faithfully respond to the opportunities that God is calling us to discover.

As we live into the season of Easter, with all the hope and promise of new life that we celebrate in our liturgies and in our lives, my hope for us as a diocese is that we will remain open to the Holy Spirit moving in and among us, comforting, challenging, and inspiring us to be a church alive with the joy of Easter life and committed to the hard work of reconciliation, justice and peace-making that is the fruit of resurrection and the crying need of the world in which we live.

Thanks for three great years and thanks for your spirit, your commitment, your faith and your ministries that help make this one of the best jobs in the church!

With gratitude,

+Thomas

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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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Episcopal Life/Mountain Echo is published 11 times per year by the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, Inc. (ISSN 1050-0057). Periodical postage paid in New York, NY and additional mailing offices.

Postmaster: Send changes of address to Episcopal Life Subscription Office, P.O. Box 1337, Bellmawr, NJ 08099-1337.

## Views from the Frontier

by Martha Holden

A patch of bright color moves across the center line catching my eye. Is it alive? I slow down. As my car gets closer I see that it is a brightly labeled empty soda bottle, moving with the passage of vehicles. I leave it uninjured and watch it in my rearview mirror. It twirls up into the air with an appearance of joy, then dances along its way. I relate. Just so I also danced, buoyed by the passage of individuals and circumstances, along my outwardly merry way. Passive, an empty plastic shell, I gave an appearance of life and joy.

Now I am becoming incarnate. I am taking on flesh, nerves, bone and blood; I am becoming real, alive. This becoming I see as a response to the person of Jesus. Somehow I seem to have danced into his hands. However it happened, held in his hands, held in his creative gaze, this empty plastic soda bottle has begun to be filled with the christ-life and to become transformed into a human being, into flesh.

It is only recently that I have recognized that the hands that hold me and the gaze that sees me into life are Jesus'. It happened as my altar was cycling from Epiphany to Lent. Its arrangement took form as a field of support for Jesus during

his time in the wilderness, his time of becoming. As I recognized this I felt my self instinctively pour out toward him. This pouring had the feel of return to the source, like water finding its level or an infant connecting with its mother. I realized that, as the christ-life was pouring through me to support Jesus' historical becoming, it was through Jesus that the christ-life has poured into me to feed and to support my becoming.

This pouring between Jesus and me, I saw, ignores time, space and the veil of mortality. It also ignores individuality. Our becoming, Jesus' and mine, is one. All becoming is one it seems. There is only one becoming. There is only one becoming and it includes my community. The christ-life pours into me through them, too. Their hands of prayer, their gaze of attention, feed my becoming. They may not recognize Jesus in this, but I do. It is through him that my becoming is mediated. As I let myself acknowledge Jesus as the mediator of my becoming, of the christ-life in me, I see that, as I am become less of a plastic bottle dancing in the passage of the cars and trucks, the cars and trucks, thanks to the christ-life pouring through them, have become

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## Ask Sr. Bible Person

Do you have questions about the Bible?

If so, ask Sr. Bible Person and get the answers!

**Dear Sr. Bible Person:** I can't decide whether or not I should see Mel Gibson's movie about the passion of Jesus. What do you think?

### Undecided

**Dear Undecided:** First, let me say that I have not seen the movie and I am not planning to see it. Having made that "full disclosure," I think I can still make some comments about the movie, based on reviews I have read and on comments I have heard from people who have seen the film.

Second, I will not put myself in the position of saying, "Don't see this film!" That might be just the thing to tip scales for you or other undecided people. Forbidden fruit is often irresistible, whether it be pomegranates in the Garden of Eden or figs in ancient Canaan (see Leviticus 19: 23) or gory movies directed by Mel Gibson. So, what I will say is the following. You should definitely go to see Gibson's movie if:

(a) you want to see a story that is historically inaccurate in terms of its portrayal of Pontius Pilate; (Pilate was a brutal ruler in the Roman province to which he had been assigned, but the Gospel writers had to soft pedal criticism of him in order to prevent the Roman authorities from coming down too harshly on the fledgling church. Mel Gibson apparently did not want to be distracted by this historical reality so he basically whitewashes Pilate in this film.)

(b) you want to see a lot of first century Jews shown as more or less "cartoon characters" whose portrayal in this movie re-enforces ancient and tragic stereotypes

## Views from the Frontier

Continued from Page B

recognizable as my community. Changed by being seen through human flesh rather than through plastic, they no longer appear as death-spewing vehicles, but like, well, manatees. Large and gentle, soft and friendly, they surround me, grazing, playing, bumping, nuzzling, providing me a place of safety for my becoming.

As I consider this transmogrification from potentially lethal turbulators to soft nuzzlers, I become aware of another miracle. I am become one of them. I too am a manatee, one of the pod. I can feel the christ-life pour through me to my fellow manatees to support their becoming as it has poured through them to support mine. And this I attribute to Jesus. For me, Jesus, the manatee of manatees is become the christ, thus the Christ, the medium of our becoming. It is through him that the christ-life is mediated to sustain me in my manatee-dom. I like being a manatee. It is more lively than being an empty plastic bottle and life is interesting. To resist life is to resist becoming is to revert to plasticity. May Jesus continue to open my heart and my mind to becoming and to his presence. Amen.

Martha Holden is associated with the Christian Meditation Center at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Burlington.

that can easily feed the fires of anti-Semitism;

(c) you want to see a whole lot of blood; and

(d) you prefer to explore the Jesus story in an overly-truncated version that shows almost nothing about the life and teachings of Jesus and barely hints at a Resurrection.

So, those are just a few reasons to go see the film. But my own preference is to do the following:

(a) gather with Christians on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter Day to participate in the re-telling of the holy story of Jesus' final week, and

(b) take the two hours that I could be sitting in a theatre, letting myself be bombarded with bloody images, and spend that time reading two different translations of the Gospel of Mark.

In general, I like the advice I heard from a colleague recently: "Forget the movie; the book is better." If nothing else, following that advice will save me some money.

Let me know what you decide to do.

If you have questions about the Bible, send them to Sr. Bible Person, care of the editor (address on Page C).



## Opinion

### Committee urges greater consciousness of accessibility concerns

by Ernie Hathaway

"Render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's." "And they'll know we are Christians by our love." These very familiar phrases come to my mind often. Though as yet unchallenged by some handicap myself—an aging 40-something "boomer"—serving on our diocesan Accessibility Committee has increased my awareness of what our members *who are challenged* have to live with everyday. I wish to raise your consciousness by briefly assuming the John the Baptist role.

Until all our diocesan facilities are truly accessible, and not just for wheelchairs, but also for people needing large print, enhanced audio, sign language, posture-supportive seating, to name just a few items, we cannot honestly advertise our church as welcoming—at least not to all persons.

Several of our "accessible buildings" are practicably un-accessible; try maneuvering a wheelchair in your restrooms, or through your doors, alone, and by yourself. Try juggling the BCP and the 1982 Hymnal along with a magnifying glass; it is difficult. Now, put yourself in the shoes of a newcomer. Even large print hymnals don't work for everyone. One member at my church requires a minimum font size of 40 (letters measuring one inch in height!) before he can read the BCP and/or sing the hymns. It's unavailable. Ushers shake their heads sympathetically, but he's still left out in the cold. He has

## 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*

### Affordable Housing

To the editor:

I was pleased to see the emphasis on the need for affordable housing in Vermont in Bishop Ely's February message. Here is some information about our experience in addressing this need in southeastern Vermont.

In 1988 Immanuel Church, Bellows Falls, received an unexpected windfall from the endowment funds invested with the Trustees of the Diocese. The Rev. Robert Deacon was rector and the Rev. Joel Atkinson was assistant. The Vestry voted to set aside \$22,000 of that windfall for community needs. A committee was appointed by the Vestry to decide what to do with the funds. Hearings were held in Bellows Falls, and the committee reported that affordable housing was the greatest need. A non-profit corporation known as Rockingham Area Community Land Trust (RACTL) was organized in 1989 to address affordable housing needs for low and moderate income residents of southern Windsor and northern Windham Counties. The Southeastern Vermont Community Action agency agreed to help

design the first project of four rental properties in Bellows Falls. A director was hired and the organization grew beyond all expectations.

The \$22,000 donated by Immanuel Church has been leveraged into 6.5 million dollars in assets with 337 rental units owned or managed by RACTL so far. A Homeownership Program has been developed and 93 families have been helped to buy a home. There is a housing rehab program that enables homeowners to borrow the money needed to fix up their homes. RACTL works with towns, Housing Vermont, Neighborworks, and other non-profit community organizations to accomplish its mission.

Louise Park  
Grafton, Vermont

### Monthly or weekly Eucharist?

To the editor:

In response to Ann Staffeld's "In support of weekly Holy Eucharist" (March 2004), my opinion is that Eucharist once a month has a noble tradition.

I have sung in choirs at Episcopal churches in Evanston, Illinois, Lincoln, Nebraska, and also at Church of the Ascension on lower Fifth Avenue in New York City, where Eucharist was celebrated once a month. I guess this question should be answered by the national church historian.

William Anderson  
Rutland, Vermont

[Ed. note: Prior to revision of the Prayer Book in 1979, it was fairly common for congregations to observe Morning Prayer on Sundays, sometimes followed by Holy Communion. So Mr. Anderson is correct in recognizing the tradition of monthly Eucharist. The current Prayer Book, however, identifies Holy Eucharist as "the principal act of Christian worship on the Lord's Day and other major Feasts" (BCP, 13).]

do better. Yes, it is a huge task, yet we have a huge Lord working alongside us. We have found that the resources are available. It is our task to put inquiring parishes in touch with these resources. We have also discovered this is an unpopular subject. Our survey and letters of request to our parishes have met with lackluster response. So, we have discerned that another of our tasks is to keep this subject front and center. We need your willingness to cooperate, to care, to become exposed, to observe, to ask questions and listen to the responses, to participate in our committee's efforts. We would hope that on the threshold of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century we can triumph in this arena also.

For contact information on the Accessibility Committee, go to [www.dioceseofvermont.org/Orgs/Accessibility.html](http://www.dioceseofvermont.org/Orgs/Accessibility.html).

Ernie Hathaway is a member of the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Burlington.

## More Coming Events

### Musical Offering for Holy Week

Palm Sunday, April 4, 2004, 4:00 P.M.

Trinity Episcopal Church

85 West Street, Rutland, Vermont

Under the direction of James Cassarino, the Trinity Church Choir and guest musicians will sing seasonal anthems and Mozart's *Missa Brevis* in d minor, composed for Lent. The program is free and open to the public.

### "The Historical Jesus"

Lectures by John Dominic Crossan

April 29-30

Episcopal Divinity School, Cambridge, Massachusetts

In this year's Kellogg Lectures, author, professor, and historical Jesus scholar, John Dominic Crossan, examines topics raised by "The Passion of the Christ" from a historical perspective. The first lecture, "Life," is April 29, 10:15 A.M. to noon, followed by "Death" at 2:00 P.M. The final lecture, "Resurrection," is April 30, 10:15-11:15 A.M. Continuing education credits are available to Episcopal clergy and lay leaders; please contact the EDS registrar at [ggourley@episcopalschool.edu](mailto:ggourley@episcopalschool.edu) for more information.

Lectures are free and open to the public. Sherrill Hall is fully accessible. Advance tickets required; contact Alcurtis Clark, 617-868-3450 x 373; [aclark@episcopalschool.edu](mailto:aclark@episcopalschool.edu).

### Doing the Work of Reconciliation

A Retreat for Clergy and Laity

May 6-7, 2004

Episcopal Divinity School, Cambridge, Massachusetts

Sponsored by EDS and "No Ordinary Time," the retreat is designed to provide participants with the opportunity to reflect on their engagement with reconciliation and interact with others for renewal, to exchange resources, and to deepen their leadership. Facilitators are Bishop Steven Charleston, president and dean of Episcopal Divinity School, and the Rev. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas, associate at All Saints Parish, Brookline.

The retreat runs from Thursday evening through Friday evening. Registration is \$65.00 for the first participant from a parish, \$55.00 for the second, and \$45.00 for the third. Meals are provided. For information, registration, or housing options, contact Stefanie at No Ordinary Time: [stefanie@noordinarytime.org](mailto:stefanie@noordinarytime.org).

### "Anglican Spirituality and Congregational Leadership"

June 7-11, 2004

Episcopal Divinity School, Cambridge, Massachusetts

The Pastoral Enrichment Project of the Diocese of Vermont and EDS invite lay and clergy participation in this one-week summer study course facilitated by Fredrica Harris Thompsett, Professor of Historical Theology at EDS, with presenters, the Rt. Rev. Chilton Knudsen, Bishop of Maine, and the Honorable Byron Rushing, Massachusetts State Representative and long-time deputy to General Convention.

The course will discuss ways (plural) of supporting baptismal ministry and sharing leadership at the local congregational level, while deepening spiritual practices.

The fee, including tuition, five nights lodging, and two meals per day, is \$500. Tuition only—without room and meals—is \$250. Continuing Education Units are available. For information, contact Susan Ohlidal, 802-748-8755. The Registration deadline is Friday, April 23.

### Small Church Consultation II

June 7-9, 2004

Westminster College, Salt Lake City, Utah

The Congregational Development Unit of the Episcopal Church Center is sponsoring a consultation on implementing the Vitality Principles for Small Congregations and Strategy for Development adopted by the 2003 General Convention (go to [www.episcopalchurch.org/smallchurch.htm](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/smallchurch.htm) and click on "2003 General Convention Blue Book Report"). The facilitator is the Rev. Phina Borgeson, a skilled trainer and facilitator with small churches. The cost is your travel plus meals (cafeteria) at the College. The Congregational Development Unit is underwriting other event costs.

For registration information, write [lmayntz@episcopalchurch.org](mailto:lmayntz@episcopalchurch.org) or call the Church Center (800-334-7626) and ask for extension 6283. Space is limited.

### Hispanic Ministries Course

June 21-25, 2004

Episcopal Seminary of the Southwest  
Austin, Texas

Province VII's Center for Hispanic Ministries will offer an intensive course, taught by the Rev. Jaime Case, for lay and ordained persons preparing for mission to Latinos living in the United States. Instruction will be in English.

Cost of the week, including housing and food on campus, is \$600. A \$100 non-refundable deposit is due by May 1. The class is a two credit hour equivalent course. For more information, contact Jaime Case at [jaime\\_case@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jaime_case@sbcglobal.net), or 512-477-2644.

## Wink to speak on Jesus the Human Will lead retreat at BBCC with June Wink

Walter and June Wink will be in Burlington the weekend of June 11-13 to speak, preach and lead a workshop on "Jesus the Human." Walter Wink will give a public lecture at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul on Friday, June 11 at 7:00 P.M., with a reception following. On Sunday, he will preach at the Cathedral's 10:30 A.M. service.

On Saturday, June 12, Wink and his wife, June Keener Wink, will offer a day-long retreat at the Bishop Booth Conference Center focused on the human Jesus—Jesus before the church. Through an integration of dialogue on biblical texts, body movement and expression in art, participants will ponder what Jesus' journey means for our own journeys today.

Wink asks, "Before he was worshiped as God incarnate, how did Jesus struggle to incarnate God, and to teach us how to do so? Before he became identified as the source of all healing, how did he relate to, and how did he teach his followers to relate to, the healing Source? Before forgiveness became a function solely of His cross, how did Jesus understand people to have been forgiven? Before the Kingdom of God became a compensatory after life or a future utopia, what did Jesus mean by the Kingdom?"

June Keener Wink will lead the group in transformative movement in order to over-

come the split between body and spirit, Bible and life. This will be accessible to persons of all ages and conditions.

Walter Wink is an internationally known scholar whose most recent books are *The Human Being: Jesus and the Enigma of the Son of the Man*, and *Jesus and Nonviolence*. He may be best known for his trilogy, *The Powers*. He is Professor of Biblical Interpretation at Auburn Theological Seminary in New York City.

June Keener Wink is an adjunct faculty member of Auburn Theological Seminary. From her background in body movement and art, she offers a unique approach to the integration of body, mind and spirit.

Registration for the full program, including materials, two nights lodging (double occupancy) at BBCC, Saturday meals and Sunday breakfast, is \$175 if paid by April 30, and \$225 after April 30. Registration without lodging but including the Saturday program and materials and Saturday meals is \$110 before April 30, and \$150 after April 30. Participation in the Saturday program is limited to 50 persons. For information, contact the BBCC, 802-658-6233, or bishop booth@dioceseofvermont.org.

The Friday lecture is free and open to the public, and all are welcome to attend Sunday worship at the Cathedral. ❖

## Trio to facilitate dismantling racism training for diocesan leaders



Naima K. Wade, Stewart Wood and Marge Zabriskie will lead three day-long training sessions for diocesan leadership April 1, 2, and 3 in Rutland, Brattleboro and Montpelier. All have had advanced training at the national level, and Bishop Wood has facilitated trainings in other dioceses. The training is sponsored by the diocesan Commission on Dismantling Racism.

## BBCC to host New Directions small church ministry conference

This year's New Directions NorthEast (NDNE) conference, May 3-5, 2004, at the Bishop Booth Conference Center, Rock Point, Burlington, will offer a study in small church resiliency, with its focus on "The Resurrection of Cariboo," along with a series of workshops on small church ministry. This is a good opportunity for Vermonters not only to learn about the work of NDNE, but also to benefit from some valuable workshops and experience in small church ministry.

The Diocese of Cariboo in British Columbia has emerged from bankruptcy (because of the Canadian residential schools law suits) as the new Anglican Parishes

of the Central Interior (APCI). Telling the story of this new life will be Mary Dove, an active member of the diocese, and Gordon Light, who will be consecrated bishop suffragan of APCI on May 16. Their story is powerful, moving and inspiring.

The conference will begin at 5 P.M. Monday, May 3, and conclude the afternoon of May 5. The cost, including two nights lodging (double occupancy) and five meals is \$180 for registrations mailed through April 10, and \$200 after April 10. The registration form is in the Spring 2004 issue of the NDNE newsletter, which can be downloaded at [www.ndne.org](http://www.ndne.org). ❖

## Cathedral group marks thirty-three years of intercessory prayer

by Marion Thorpe

If I were not a “pack rat” (I prefer to call myself a “keeper”), I would not be able to write this article about the Prayer Cycle at St. Paul’s Cathedral. But, because I am a “keeper” and shared my four-inch binder of “keepings” with the Prayer Cycle group, they suggested I tell our story.

In 1971, after fire had consumed much of “Old St. Paul’s,” Dean Robert Kerr requested the establishment of a new prayer group. Some of us were already coming together weekly to pray for others, and calls were made to find more interested folks.

Our first meeting was August 9, 1971. Dean Kerr stated its purposes: “It [prayer group] could become a very significant one; it provides us with an opportunity to develop a program of prayer, thought, and concern and charity for the people of St. Paul’s.” Of the sixteen members at this first meeting, five are still members today!

In those early years, we not only prayed, but also discussed events at the church, plans for the new building, the functioning of various ministries at St. Paul’s, community activities and needs of parishioners.

What are we like today? Thirty-three years have passed and about 400 meetings held! We meet the first Tuesday of the month all year long from noon until 1:00 or 1:30 P.M. Some bring their lunch. We average about eight attendees, ordinary folks, who each bring different and unique contributions. “Who would be willing to lead next month?” Someone volunteers—we take turns. While we have guidelines as to what we do at each meeting, each leader can feel free to structure his or her own meeting. It seems to be a good arrangement, and we are comfortable with it.

This time I volunteered, so what’s next? I plan the meeting: open with prayer—could be from Prayer Book, but sometimes it is a short, thoughtful reading from some other source. Next, we update the Prayer List. We all have copies of last month’s minutes, and each person takes a turn, adding names, deleting names and/or issues. The list is in categories such as, sick, shut-ins and chronically ill, thanksgiving for the lives of people who have died, general thanksgivings, staff and programs of St. Paul’s and the diocese, the community and the world.

Part of our meeting is devoted to discussion of our readings and meditations during the month. Currently, we are using



ACB photo

Marion Thorpe and her “keepings.”

“Forward Day by Day.” Over the years we have used the propers, the Gospels, other Bible selections. Whatever we are using, we share thoughts at this time. Time is taken for prayers. These are words from our hearts brought to God. They may be thanksgivings, petitions, but whatever they are, the words are our own.

We then take time to “share.” Everything and anything gives a picture of our lives. It may be a happy event, a difficult situation, pictures of events, or spiritual experiences in our lives. We close with a prayer and “Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.” Now we have come full circle and say, “Who is willing to lead next month?”

An important part of our meetings over the years has been quiet hours, meditation and Eucharist. We also engage guest speakers to help us become better pray-ers. Peg Viele faithfully mailed prayer cards to the Anglican Prayer List; replies came from all over the world. We planned vigils at various occasions. We developed a pamphlet, “Favorite Prayers,” made available to the parishioners (paid for reprinting several times) and printed book mark prayer cards.

Oh, I nearly forgot our “bucket” (an oatmeal container covered with pretty flowers and a slit in the top of its plastic cover). In the early years, members were asked to contribute to a community outreach organization. Then we came to putting a dollar in the bucket at each meeting. In going through the minutes of the meetings of 33 years, there were some 30-40 donations made to whatever group we selected.

I could not close without mentioning the camaraderie and strong friendships emanating from being a member of Prayer Cycle and recalling the words of the Rev. Addison Hall, “The ministry of prayer is essential to the whole life of the Church.”

Marion Thorpe is a member of the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Burlington.

## Easter to be season of ecumenical celebration

To begin a “Season of Ecumenical Celebration,” the Vermont Ecumenical Council is pleased to announce two sessions with the Rev. Bryan Hehir on April 21, in South Burlington and Rutland. An internationally renowned theologian in studies on Roman Catholic social teaching, Hehir is, at present, President of the Catholic Charitable Bureau of the Archdiocese of Boston.

The theme for the day is, “What Does It Mean that We Pray, Learn and Work Together?” In addition to Hehir’s presentation there will be opportunity for questions and exchange, followed by a time of refreshments and informal conversation. The after-

noon session will start at 1:00 P.M. at Faith United Methodist Church, 899 Dorset St., South Burlington. The evening program will be held at Christ the King Catholic Church, Route 7, Rutland.

Prior to his present assignment, Fr. Hehir was President of Catholic Charities, USA; professor of practice of religion and society at Harvard Divinity School, and chair of the Executive Committee for Harvard Divinity School. He was the Joseph P. Kennedy Professor of Christian Ethics at Georgetown University’s Kennedy Institute of Ethics.

For information contact the VEC office at 802-864-7723 or info@vecbs.org. ❖

## Charleston presents workshop on reconciliation

by Anne Clarke Brown

Bishop Steven Charleston, president and dean of Episcopal Divinity School, and author of *Good News: A Congregational Resource for Reconciliation*, led a workshop on the ministry of reconciliation on March 6 at St. Paul’s, White River Junction. Sponsored by the diocese’s Pastoral Enrichment Program, the event drew participants from several Vermont congregations.

Charleston wrote *Good News* to address the question, “What do Christians do when they don’t agree?” He said, “I wanted to try to answer the question in such a way that no matter what position on has, you’ve got ground to stand on.” *Good News* is based in scripture, but, he said, “I don’t quote scripture because I expect people to be biblically literate.” He added, “We use the Bible passages as little hand grenades to toss at each other.”

Charleston invited participants “to play with me today on the theology and pragmatic ideas behind *Good News*.” First and foremost, he said, is that “reconciliation is not resolution. If you think you are going to get everybody in your parish to agree, you’re not an Episcopalian.” The main goals of the *Good News* process are:

- to promote fair and respectful dialogue among those who hold different opinions;
- to offer a context of reflection on the shared values of the Gospel; and
- to encourage a process of reconciliation within the life of the community.

Small group exercises brought out factors that might inhibit or enable dialogue; Gospel values that might serve as the ground of conflict and those that might be the ground of healing; and factors that might inhibit reconciliation before the process begins and factors that might allow it to begin despite all odds.



ACB photo

Among the many insights Bishop Charleston shared in the course of the day:

- Arguments are not always based on the presenting question but on competing underlying value systems. “In a society where common understanding about values no longer exists, an attempt to legislate is often the result of conflict.”
- “Why do we have the gift of the Holy Spirit if we were always going to agree? To deny the truth that there might be truth on both sides is to deny the Holy Spirit.”
- “Take time to listen to each other’s story. Why do you think Jesus spent more time going to people’s houses to eat with them than standing in a pulpit and preaching?”
- “The prize is not that you win. The prize is community. I think God weeps whenever we run and hide from one another.”

Concluding that reconciliation ministry is a ministry of intimacy that requires humility and a high degree of sensitivity and awareness, Charleston said, “Ultimately the hope is to learn to grow together, not just to tolerate one another.” ❖

## ERD ambassador helps St. James’ observe Global Mission Sunday



by Margy Zabriskie

Voices rang out on Global Mission Sunday, February 22, at St. James’ Essex Junction: worshipers sang the hymn, “In Christ there is no East or West,” they heard a clear call to ministry and mission from Abigail Nelson, Latin American Program Director for Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD), and they offered the Peace in many national and indigenous languages.

With the gospel story of Jesus transfiguration as the setting for her sermon, Ms.

Nelson, who had just returned from Central America, spoke about how parishioners participate in the transforming ministry and mission of Christ through ERD. The many Vermonters who have worked in building and mission projects in Honduras and El Salvador, including several from St. James’, have experienced first-hand the transforming possibilities of shared work for their own lives and those with whom they have gone to work.

Abigail Nelson’s own experiences and stories brought the lives of others in need into our conscious concern. She delighted those who attended the service for families with young children as she sat on the chancel steps and talked to children crowded around her. With a globe in her hands, the congregation sang, “He’s got the whole world in his hands,” and she spoke about God’s love for all people. She told how ordinary church-goers bring hope to those suffering from disasters by contributing to ERD, using ERD Hope Chests.

A graduate of Harvard University, with a Masters degree in Development from the London School of Economics, Nelson provided the congregation with a youthful and

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## Northwest Deanery 1

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At the February 29 deanery meeting, **Michael Burfoot** was elected Northwest Deanery Representative to Diocesan Council for a term of two years.

The Rev. **David Walters** proposed an idea for total common ministry for the region. He has developed a worksheet to take people through a process of imagining a person who might be described in a variety of ways—"Missionary/Canon Missioner/Archdeacon to the Northwest Deanery"—and whose job description might be to "teach, be a community builder, be a mentor, represent Christ and his Church, tell people about Christ, carry on Christ's work of reconciliation, be an organizer." The purpose of the exercise is to think in a positive way about some possibilities for shared ministry, but with a minister (lay or ordained) who is living among the people, "north of St. Albans and West of Eden. He/she would develop house churches and do a lot more besides, but the person would not have administrative duties or any Sunday responsibility. The next deanery meeting, April 18 at 2 P.M. at St. Luke's, Alburg, will discuss the proposal.

ST. LUKE'S, St. Albans, is having an art show May 8. Those interested in participating should call **Don Fournier** at 868-2738, or email nilsdon@together.net. St. Luke's Alpha program will start March 10 at 7:30 P.M. in the Parish House.

**Laura Scott** of ST. MATTHEW'S, Enosburg, celebrated a sensational 100th surprise birthday celebration at the Franklin Homestead March 3. It was a beautiful event with daffodils everywhere and a big crowd of well-wishers. The Rev. **Virginia Thomas** gave the blessing. The Rev. **Thora Chadwick** will extend her interim status for another six months at St. Matthew's.

HOLY TRINITY, Swanton, has invited three candidates for final interviews for the position of rector.

## Otter Creek Deanery 2

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ST. THOMAS' & GRACE, Brandon/Forest Dale, celebrated Shrove Tuesday with a Pub Night—a magnificent, very, very British menu, plus recitations of Chaucer, original poems, and assorted testimonials. The young people's Souper Bowl Sunday raised \$48 for the Soup Kitchen at the Rutland City Rescue Mission.

At ST. STEPHEN'S, Middlebury, the outreach committee is planning to continue the Back to School Shop, expand service to include grades 1-9 and run programs in Vergennes and Bristol. Bridport Meal Delivery continues with the help of five individuals and couples.

The Worship and Spiritual Life Committee invited participation in a 5-week introductory course, "Christian Meditation and Other Ways to Pray," taught by members of the Cathedral's Christian

# ❖ deanery doings ❖

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

Meditation Center. The Church School and Second Sunday programs are inviting the whole St. Stephen's family to a potluck Passover meal on Palm Sunday. The Youth Group, joined by new friends from Ossining, NY, had a fantastic weekend with skiing at Sugarbush, potluck dinners and Compline led by the Rev. **Larry Yarbrough**.

The Rev. **Hugh Tudor-Foley**, interim at TRINITY, Rutland, led a four-week Lenten series based on "Good News: A Congregational Resource for Reconciliation," by the Rt. Rev. **Steven Charleston**. It ended with a Holy Eucharist and prayers for reconciliation. Trinity continues the Lenten tradition of Stations of the Cross in the Chapel every Friday at noon. The Stations were made by **Richard A. Clark**.

## Southwest Deanery 3

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ST. JAMES', Arlington, discussed Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ" Wednesday evenings during Lent, and they watched and discussed the Kazantzakis film, "The Last Temptation of Christ." The Junior High youth group, under the direction of **Berkeley Johnson**, went to "Vermont Watch" at the Cathedral, and plan to attend a Night Watch at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York.

The Outreach Committee hosted an elegant Valentine's Day dinner to raise money for local organizations. The Missions Committee will assemble school supply kits for Church World Service to distribute, and there will be another World Relief benefit concert in May.

**Steve Kloser** is the new Minister of Music at ST. PETER'S, Bennington. His goal is to enhance the liturgy by including music of various styles, both instrumental and vocal, and encouraging all musical members of the congregation to participate. On the Saturday before Palm Sunday, the children of the Sunday School are invited to help make an Easter Garden, a model of Gethsemane and the burial tomb that starts with a barren hill and has three crosses added on Good Friday. A stone closes the tomb on Friday night and is rolled away at the Easter Vigil, when the entrance will be decorated with flowers.

Candle-lit sung Vespers at ZION, Manchester, are scheduled for Sundays at 6 P.M., May 2, June 13, and July 11. Prayers, readings, chants, **Gregory Norbet's** music and **Kathryn Carrington's** icons will provide an ideal setting for experiencing God's peace.

**Everton Lloyd Brownie** of Jamaica led a Jamaican Praise night on March 20. Zion's Lenten study, in response to the Mel Gibson film, focused on the events up to and through Holy Week. Readings included Holy Scripture and *The Case for Easter*, by Lee Strobel.

## Southeast Deanery 4

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IMMANUEL, Bellows Falls has opened their Christian Meditation Program to other area churches. It is aimed at those who are too busy, stressed out, wanting inner peace, quiet, and growth in the Spirit. Their rector, **Peggy Crane**, attended a "Living Stones" Conference in California [see article on Page G].

The Christian Formation Ministry Team at ST. MICHAEL'S, Brattleboro, is offering a single Lenten program: "Something Old, Something New: Welcome to a Grand Experiment in Deja Vu?" The idea is for as many of the congregation as possible to eat, learn, and worship together. "Getting Life Again: Resurrection Stories of the Four Gospels," is being taught by the Rev. **Thomas Brown**, **Hilary Cooke**, and **Jeff Woodward**.

**Susanna Grannis** of ST. LUKE'S, Chester, reported on two outreach projects: CHABHA, help for African Children affected by HIV/AIDS, and "Little Roses," a ministry for women and children in Honduras. A large group of acolytes (and friends) went to Rutland to see the Harlem Globe Trotters. In March, the Canterbury Choral Society culminated their annual Vermont winter weekend with a visit to St. Luke's, where they joined with the choir for a rousing Sunday morning of song at a combined service.

The folks at GETHSEMANE, Proctorsville, their rector, the Rev. **Betty Berlenbach**, and her husband **John**, are celebrating their ninth and last Lent together. Betty's last Sunday is Easter. The parish is planning a "Can't Miss" celebration of the Berlenbachs' ministry on Palm Sunday. Our prayers to them all as they enter into a new yet exciting era in their corporate and individual lives.

Hopefully, by the time you read this, ST. MARK'S, Springfield, will have an interim rector in place and they will be taking another step in their spiritual journey. The Lenten program, coordinated by **Boris von York**, has been a great help in understanding the possible paths available. We understand that our **Bishop Ely** and New Hampshire's **Bishop Robinson** will be inviting congregations on both sides of the Connecticut River to a "conversation" regarding baptismal and/or regional ministry. Sounds exciting!

May reflections on more rambunctious days lighten the heart of the Rev. **Thad Bennett** of ST. MARY'S IN-THE-MOUNTAINS, Wilmington. His friend and canine companion, **Teina the Wonder Husky**, recently departed this earth for a much better place. Our "understanding" is with Thad and we trust that there may be a puppy in his future.

As a Lenten discipline, the folks at ST. PAUL'S, Windsor, are conducting the Stations of the Cross on every Thursday. They are also awaiting a quotation on the

restoration of their 1824 Tracker Organ. Should it be considered old, antique, or ancient?

A recent communication from the Rev. **Vic Horvath** (Immanuel, Bellows Falls), Dean of the Southeast Deanery, announced his "abdication," due to other increased and growing responsibilities, and the "elevation" of the current sub-dean to fill the post. If ever this deanery has needed your prayers it is now—the person stepping into the slot is yours truly. So please—Pray!

## Three Rivers Deanery 5

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"Confession Stones" have made a second appearance at CHRIST CHURCH'S Lenten services in Bethel. Handmade ceramic dishes ("generously made and donated by parishioner **Jeffrey Wilson**") in the pews hold simple river stones. Parishioners take stone(s) in hand during the confession for the metaphorical intention that the stones receive their sins. The stones are then collected by the children and placed in the baptismal font, where, during the Absolution, the stones are washed in a shower of water.

A modified Easter Vigil is in the works for ST. MARTIN'S, Fairlee. Teaming up with the Newbury Congregational Church, this will be an ecumenical service for parishioners and area church members.

Like its sister church in Bethel, OUR SAVIOUR, Killington, is using a visual and tactile worship aid in their Lenten observations. One word chosen for focused meditation each week of Lent is printed on a small card and put on a magnetized clip (suitable for putting on refrigerators), along with suggestions for meditation. Each week parishioners are encouraged to take a new word-card home for personal devotional use.

ST. BARNABAS, Norwich, continues good progress in their transition and discernment process. In the midst of this concentrated work, parishioners nevertheless find time for a book group studying Elaine Pagels' *Beyond Belief* (about the Secret Gospel of Thomas) and a Lenten study on the sacredness of God's creation.

**Laura Stephenson Carter** was invited to audition for, and subsequently act in, Thornton Wilder's classic play, *Our Town*.

ST. JOHN'S, Randolph, has a new Sunday School team dubbed SOFTS, or Sunday School Official Facilitators and Teachers, **Mary-Kay Strand**, **Heather Tallman** and **Florence Tolbert** will schedule Sunday topics and plans for the year through Easter. Parishioners were encouraged to participate in a Living Wage Group gathering to address wage and benefits initiatives for the area school system employees, who, notes Tim Eberhardt, are more poorly compensated than those in other area districts.

ST. PAUL'S, White River Junction, welcomed Canon for Youth Ministry **Connie Saeger-Proctor** twice in March. As part of the parish's "Keeping the Faith" Lenten study for the youth, Connie taught participants about Christian meditation and led a time of meditation. A

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## Blessings Task Force preparing report Bishop to meet with wardens; resource sessions planned

by Anne Clarke Brown

In the July/August 2003 Mountain Echo, Bishop Ely announced his intention to appoint a Task Force on the Blessing of Persons Living in Same-Gender Relationships in the Diocese of Vermont. Its charge would be to consider how this diocese might, in the light of actions of the coming July General Convention, move forward in its affirmation of the full inclusion of gay and lesbian persons, including "finding a way to offer the Church's blessing upon persons living in committed same-gender relationships."

The Blessings Task Force has been meeting since October, 2003, and is preparing to issue a report to the bishop and people of the diocese that will provide a focus for conver-

sation between now and the next General Convention. Preliminary conversations have been held with the Diocesan Council, the Standing Committee, and members of the clergy. Bishop Ely has scheduled a meeting to share aspects of the report with wardens and parish leaders on the afternoon of Sunday, April 18, from 3:00-5:30 P.M., at Christ Church, Montpelier.

The Task Force is planning an all-day session to share resources with clergy and parish leaders on topics such as holding conversations in congregations and working with couples who might seek the blessing of the church. The session will be offered on both June 18 at St. James', Arlington, and June 19, at Christ Church, Montpelier. ✚

## Ecumenical Council issues study on faith and health care

The Vermont Ecumenical Council has released the results of a comprehensive study examining the role of faith in health care from a scriptural, historical, and current day perspective. It concludes that health care for all is a moral imperative rooted in scripture and in history. Solutions to Vermont's current health care crisis should be affordable, accessible, and equitable.

Len Rowell, Executive Officer for the Council, said, "This report is offered for study and reflection within local churches and in ecumenical and community settings. Each section provides basic information and opens the door for expanding conversation on the role of the faith community in impacting public policy on health care."

The text of the report may be found and down loaded from the web site for the Vermont Ecumenical Council and Bible Society ([www.vecbs.org](http://www.vecbs.org)). Questions and

responses may be sent to the Council's email address, [info@vecbs.org](mailto:info@vecbs.org). Additional information may be obtained by calling 802-864-7723. ✚

## Calvary welcomes MacLean as curate

The Reverend George Moysler, Rector, and the congregation of Calvary Episcopal Church, Underhill are pleased to welcome a new part-time curate, the Reverend Peter MacLean (retired) of Colchester. MacLean will celebrate the Eucharist at Calvary on the last Sunday of each month at 9:30 A.M. He will also develop an adult learning and spiritual nourishment program that will most likely take place in the undercroft at 8:30 A.M. on each of these Sundays. For further information, please phone the church office at 899-2326. ✚

## Living Stones partnership supports baptismal ministry

by Peggy Crane

"Listen. Christ has promised to be with us in the world as in our worship."  
"Amen. We go to serve Christ."

With these words of dismissal, the final worship service at the 2004 Living Stones Conference ended. For four days in Burlingame, California, more than 90 participants shared worship, meals, support, new ideas and stimulating conversation.

Living Stones is a partnership of dioceses engaged in Christian mission through the ministry of all the baptized. This partnership believes that dioceses working together can be more effective in addressing this cause than each working alone. The Diocese of Vermont has been a partner since 1998, and Bishop Ely, Peggy Crane and Bill Rayner attended this year's conference.

Others came from as far east as the Diocese of Nova Scotia/PEI to the western boundaries of the Diocese of Northern California and from as far north as the Diocese of Kootenay in Canada to the southern diocese of Northwest Texas. A guiding principle of Living Stones is that all Christian ministry is rooted in baptism, and using the lens of baptismal ministry, all convened to share their stories about the joys and challenges, as well as the excitement and frustrations, of attempting to live as disciples of Christ.

For almost half of those there, this was the first experience of being part of this remarkable organization. Lay people, deacons, priests and bishops attended, yet there were no collars or clerical garb to identify who was who. It was clear we were all there, not only to better understand that the ministry entrusted to us by Jesus Christ is carried out by all baptized people, but also to learn how we might better support one another in carrying out that mandate.

In the early sixties, I believed and agreed with the notion that the clergy made the important decisions concerning the life of the church. The change affirmed by Living Stones is not so much about how we do ministry, but how we think about the ministry we do. It is a change of mindset from one of allowing/expecting the priest to carry out ministry to one where every baptized person expects to accept the responsibility of being Christ in the world because of promises made at baptism.

In the words of the Living Stones brochure, "For some this means ordained leadership, but for most it means identifying and carrying out our ministries as the people of God in our daily lives." For the past eight years we at Immanuel, Bellows Falls, have worked hard at living out our community life as brothers and sisters in Christ in just this manner. The Commissioning/Ordination celebration we experienced together on the eve of Pentecost last year was a beginning, not an end, to this exciting journey. The Covenant Group, called forth six years earlier by the congregation, moved into its new identity as a Ministry Support Team to support others in their ministry of sharing the Gospel in their daily lives.

I am grateful that Living Stones exists and is doing its part in helping to foster a greater understanding that baptismal ministry is part of renewal of the entire Anglican Communion. Because Genie Rayner recently resigned as diocesan co-coordinator for Living Stones after seven years of faithful and dedicated service, I am now serving as co-coordinator. Bill Rayner will attend the coordinators meeting in May to offer his invaluable services before retiring as co-coordinator at that time. Many thanks for their years of ministry.

Peggy Crane is rector at Immanuel, Bellows Falls.

## deanery doings

Continued from Page F

week later, she preached at both services, in part about the diocesan youth program, but also about ways St. Paul's can strengthen their own youth ministries.

### Central Vermont Deanery 6

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The deanery met March 1, to continue discussion of sharing resources. The group will read the first two chapters of *Living on the Border of the Holy: Renewing the Priesthood of All*, by L. William Countryman, and discuss them at the next meeting on April 19.

The Rev. **Ben Chase** is the supply priest at GOOD SHEPHERD, Barre, in March and April. On March 7, the congregation met after the service to begin the process of developing a parish profile. They hope to interview potential new clergy leadership (part-time) in June.

On Sunday, Feb 29, the CHRIST CHURCH, Montpelier organ was silent. In tracing the blown circuit through many spliced ancient connections, their electri-

cian had to remove a piece of a wall in the sacristy. Behind the wall, she found a stained glass window they never knew existed. It had been covered over at the time the parish hall was built. The content of the window has not yet been revealed.

The Lenten program is an evening series on "Christian Meditation and Other Ways to Pray," sponsored by the Cathedral's Christian Meditation Center, and led by the Rev. **Sarah Horton** and **Martha Holden**. The Social Concerns Committee is discussing a series of books, beginning with Barbara Ehrenreich's *Nickled and Dimed in America*.

ST. JOHN'S, Stowe, will have a Taizé service on Maundy Thursday, with Eucharist and foot-washing. St. John's is responsible this year for the Stowe Good Friday ecumenical service.

### Northeast Deanery 7

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Members of ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, Hardwick, participated in a challenging parish retreat in February. The

morning worship and study/discussion portion of the day began at 9 and ended with a delicious pot luck lunch. There followed the free sharing of ideas and suggestions related to future programs, which continued until the 3 P.M. adjournment.

CHRIST CHURCH, Island Pond, offered a Lenten study series on world religions (history, beliefs and practice) led by **Auburn L. WaterSong**, a seminarian at Montreal Diocesan Theological College

The Rev. **John Keenan** of ST. MARK'S, Newport, is offering both Inquirers (adults) and Confirmation classes. He says his approach is to use the Book of Common Prayer, but the classes are not "a dull, memorized set of canned responses to concocted questions."

### Champlain Deanery 8

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Spend time in worship with your community of faith during Holy Week, which

begins Sunday, April 4. **Sally Walker** reported an increase of 285 households per month at the Food Shelf in 2003 with an 18% increase of working poor needing assistance.

The Sunday School at ALL SAINTS', South Burlington, worked on the unit "Seven Days of Creation," culminating in creation of a mobile of the craft projects done each Sunday. A copy of the booklet, "Breadlines" was recently rediscovered and offered to the parish. Originally edited by **Garry Campbell** of the Shelburne Methodist Church and revised by All Saints', it contains meditations, prayers and bread recipes for Lent.

At ST. ANDREW'S, Colchester, the Social Concerns Committee is forming a partnership with the Youth Group. **Marilyn van Duffelen-Jackson** has joined **Jim Carper** as co-leader of the Building Expansion Committee.

ST. JAMES', Essex Junction, will hold its spring rummage sale April 23-24. **Joyce Ordway** and **Kathy Carter** are co-chairs. **Anne Kennison** organized providing meals to the Burlington Emergency Shelter during the week of Mar 14-20. St. James' participated in a series of ecumenical brown-bag luncheons during Lent.

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## Diocesan Calendar

### April 2004

- 1 Dismantling Racism Training, Trinity, Rutland, 8:30-4:30
- 2 Dismantling Racism Training, St. Michael's, Brattleboro
- 3 Dismantling Racism Training, Christ Church, Montpelier, 8:30-4:30
- 3 Diocesan Study Program, Mission Farm, Killington
- 4 Bishop at St. Matthew's, Enosburg Falls (Palm Sunday)
- 6 Clergy Day, St. John's, Randolph, 10 AM-2 PM
- 7 **Deadline, May Mountain Echo**
- 7 Dispatch of Business, Diocesan Center, 10 AM-Noon
- 7 Vermont Interfaith Power and Light, Christ Church, Montpelier, 11:30 AM-1:30 PM
- 7 Executive Committee, Diocesan Center, 1-3 PM
- 16-17 Leadership Program for Musicians, Mission Farm, Killington
- 17 Diocesan Study Program, St. Paul's, White River
- 18 Dismantling Racism Committee, St. John's, Randolph
- 18 Wardens meeting with Bishop Ely on Blessings Task Force Report, Christ Church, Montpelier, 3-5:30 PM
- 20 Standing Committee, St. John's, Randolph, 2-4 PM
- 20 Province 1 Bishops, Concord, NH
- 21 Vermont Ecumenical Council
- 23 Environmental Ministry Team, St. John's, Randolph, 10-2
- 23-4 Diocesan Council, Lake Morey Inn, Fairlee
- 24 Safe Church Training, Zion, Manchester, 8:45-3:30
- 25 Bishop at Holy Trinity, Swanton
- 29-May 1, Clergy, spouses and partners conference, Lake Morey Inn, Fairlee

### May 2004

- 1 Safe Church Training, St. Andrew's, Colchester, 8:45-3:30
- 2 Interim's Network, Burlington, 11 AM-3 PM
- 6 Diocesan Study Program, Mission Farm, Killington
- 8 **Deadline, June Mountain Echo**

## Safer Church Training

Safer Church Training sessions will be offered at Zion Church, Manchester, April 24, at St. Andrew's, Colchester, May 1, and at the Bishop Booth Conference Center June 22. All sessions run from 8:45 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. Please register in advance with Anne Brown (802-672-5250, or abrown@vermontel.net) so we will be sure to have enough materials available. Please bring your own lunch.

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.

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

### Funds Available for Parish Use As of March 1, 2004

<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	\$ 253,363
Initiative II	
The Talent and Resource Network	\$ 16,965
Initiative III	
The Congregation Renewal and Emergency Assistance Fund	\$ 130
Initiative IV	
The Diocesan Outreach Fund	\$ 14,237

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

## Laura Hunter is Summer Conferences director Positions open for camp staff

The Rock Point Summer Conference Committee is pleased to announce that Laura Hunter will be the camp director in 2004. Laura lives in Marlboro, Vermont, is an active member at St. Mary's in the Mountains, Wilmington, serves on the Rock Point Board and has led the All Ages Camp. She is currently employed by the Marlboro Elementary School as a school bus driver and is also a freelance photographer. Her love of children extends into her community involvement as a baseball coach and basketball league administrator. Please welcome Laura to camp.

### Camp staff positions open

Applications will be accepted for Camp Counselors, Head Counselor, and Camp Health Care Provider. Counselors and Head Counselor should be available from June 20-August 7. They will have direct responsibility for the supervision and activities of the campers. The Camp Health Care Provider, who should be available June 27-July 31, is responsible for the

set-up and maintenance of the camp health center and for responding to the health care needs of the campers and staff. He or she will also need to participate in a two-day orientation and training during the week prior to the commencement of camp. The application deadline is April 15, 2004. For a complete job descriptions and application contact Connie Saeger-Proctor, Canon for Youth Ministry at 802-479-1246 or clsproctor@dioceseofvermont.org. ✨

## ERD ambassador

### Continued from Page E

energetic role model for lay ministry. Her enthusiastic smile and obvious commitment to her life's work captivated all who heard her speak.

As the congregation participated in the Communion, vividly aware of people around the world sharing in that same Communion, a member of the choir, Simon Ateny from Sudan, sang a Dinka Hymn, "Come, Holy Spirit."

Several years ago, General Convention designated the last Sunday after the Epiphany as Global Mission Sunday, an occasion for the whole church to realize and proclaim that Jesus Christ came for the world. "God so loved the world..." How this global faith is being expressed is one focus for parish worship and educational programs. Having Abigail Nelson at St. James helped this parish to observe Global Mission Sunday in a vivid, memorable fashion.

In recent weeks, ERD has sent funds to aid those responding to the political unrest in Haiti, the cyclone in Madagascar, the earthquake in Madagascar, and the bombings in Madrid. To make a contribution ERD, donate online at [www.er-d.org](http://www.er-d.org), or call 800-334-7626, ext. 5129, or mail gifts to: Episcopal Relief and Development, PO Box 12043, Newark, NJ, 07101-5043.

Peggy Crane is Rector of Immanuel, Bellows Falls.

Margy Zabriskie is diocesan co-coordinator for ERD and a member of St. James'.

## Mardi Gras in Vermont



St. Andrew's, St. Johnsbury celebrated with dancing, masks, costumes and great food. Who are the revelers!?



At St. Martin's, Fairlee, Bob Jones, Suzanne Houston, and Dick Salmon took on the task of preparing this year's Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. The event was a great success.

Hank Buermeyer photo