



Diocesan Council explores theology of stewardship

by Genie Rayner

"Acting my way into believing" because of other peoples' witness about stewardship, Bruce Rockwell said, converted his life to a deeper relationship with God—and an ongoing transformation into the abundance of stewardship and prayer—when he served as chairperson of the stewardship commission of the Diocese of Rochester.

Rockwell's own witness was an integral part of the work he did with Diocesan Council when they gathered on Saturday, April 24 to start developing a theological statement for stewardship. As prayer was woven throughout the day, and as Rockwell noted that "we can change the church and the world by the gift of our story," Council members began to share their stories: their earliest memories of money, of money used as gift or reward, and the first time they became aware of money as an offering.

Noting that stewardship is "all that we do with all that we have after we say, 'We believe,'" Rockwell, a former banker and now stewardship and finance and administration officer for the Diocese of Western Massachusetts and president of The Episcopal Network for Stewardship (TENS), said that the stewardship of money is "the toughest part for conversion." He related his own practice of keeping a small cross in his money clip. "This helps me," he said, "become more aware of making a stewardship decision" every time he makes a purchase.

With scripture passages as the context, Council members participated in exercises to identify God's invitations and promises. Council members "owned" their own barriers, too, identifying what gets in the way of accepting God's invitations and promises.

Part of the stewardship journey, Rockwell explained, is claiming and understanding that, "I'll fall short of the relationship of faith, but I know God will give a new gift tomorrow." Through the grace of baptism, he continued, we are given "the precious gift of God's Son so that we may experience God's forgiveness."

From this place of grace we are invited to a sense of gratitude. "Matthew Fox says the two most reverent words we can offer are 'thank you,'" Rockwell stated. From gratitude we move then to acts of generosity, where we "discover more about who God is and the potential of who I am." The cycle is made complete, as Rockwell's diagram illustrated, "when we experience the grace of God in a new way."

Remembering the words of Tom Carson, retired stewardship officer of the Episcopal Church, that "money is the chief spiritual value of our lives," Bruce Rockwell led Council members into individual and then corporate understandings of stewardship belief. Using the familiar model of "We believe/We commit/We invite," some Council representatives got so excited that

there was an impromptu race to reach the piece of newsprint containing the initial theological statements! Each of the above elements was then condensed to incorporate the consensus of the individual offerings.

An editorial group of three is compiling Council members' responses, and they will submit an initial draft theological statement that reflects these stewardship understanding, beliefs, and commitments. When the finished statement is published formally, all members of the diocese will be invited to consider ways to incorporate its components in their own and congregational stewardship journeys and practices.

Stewardship is not a collection of ways to do fundraising, Rockwell declared. "God gives us a unique array of gifts to do what God asks of us," he said, and the lifelong conversion and transformation of stewardship is a process that encourages us to "become generous as God is generous," a process that enables us to "grow into a deeper relationship with God."

Rockwell's final story of the day was one called "Two Seas," by Bruce Barton. The story explains how the Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea both receive fresh water from the Jordan River on a daily basis. Whereas the Sea of Galilee returns every drop of water it receives, thereby making it possible for people to live there, to fish and work, and for marine life to flourish, the Dead Sea keeps every drop it takes in, and no life is possible. "Become Sea of Galilee people," Bruce Rockwell said to Diocesan Council, and experience the freedom of a converted life of stewardship.

Genie Rayner attends Christ Church, Bethel, and is a member of Diocesan Council.



David Shuffelburg photos



Top: Diocesan Council retreat leader Bruce Rockwell shares a light moment with Gina Logan, Lynn Bates, Genie Rayner, Tanya Wallace and Diane Root.

Above: Dennis Hayward, Robert Brower and Tom Ely ponder the correct "placement" of remarks.

Left: Craig Smith comments on "We commit..."

Right: Retreat leader Bruce Rockwell.



“Living Stones is a natural partnership for us...”

by the Right Reverend Thomas Clark Ely, Bishop of Vermont

The Diocese of Vermont is a member of the *Living Stones Diocesan Partnership*, twenty dioceses from the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Church of Canada dedicated to providing mutual support for dioceses engaged in developing baptismal ministry. Our diocesan coordinators are Peggy Crane and Bill Rayner. Living Stones is a natural partnership for us as we seek to live more deeply and more fully into baptismal ministry as a diocese.

At the heart of baptismal ministry is the understanding of the local church becoming and being a *ministering community*, with its roots in baptism and its focus on the world. A theology of baptismal ministry understands that all Christians are gifted and authorized for ministry by virtue of baptism. 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.

Here in the Diocese of Vermont, we are working hard and working together to help congregations live more fully into this concept of ministering communities. Many of the case studies we have presented at the annual gathering of the Living Stones Partnership have been about lively expressions of baptismal ministry in Vermont. Over the years we have shared the

stories of the Border Ministry (Canaan, Vermont, Colebrook, New Hampshire and Hereford, Quebec), Immanuel Church, Bellows Falls, Christ Church, Bethel and the consultation on cooperative ministry in the Northeast Kingdom, to name a few.

Each story, each case study, is a way of sharing with other partners the vitality of baptismal ministry present in our diocese.

New baptismal ministry conversations are springing up in many congregations throughout the diocese as well as among groups of congregations like those in the Northwest Deanery and several congregations in Vermont and New Hampshire bordering the Connecticut River.

Through our partnership in Living Stones, we also bring back to Vermont the stories and experiences of those who are engaged in the development of baptismal ministry in other parts of the United States and Canada. Partners hold one another in prayer and are available

for ongoing consultation and support. Central to the Living Stones Partnership is the conviction that dioceses working together can be more effective in helping the church take seriously a central theme of the Apostle Paul that believers would

take their place in the ministry and the church would identify, nurture and utilize all gifts for ministry.

The Living Stones Covenant affirms five principles that we believe help to move the church forward in the development of ministering communities:

- All Christian ministry is rooted in Baptism.
- As we reshape ministry, we seek to be congruent with Scripture, informed and guided by tradition, reason, and experience.
- The Christian church is a ministering community whose effectiveness is measured not by mere numbers, but by the quality of the life we share.
- We recognize a variety of ministries, including locally trained and ordained deacons, priests and licensed ministers.
- The diocese exists primarily to encourage and support the ministries of its congregations.

I wanted to share the ministry of *Living Stones* with you in this way because

“The focus on baptismal ministry and becoming ministering communities is an engaging and exciting way of thinking about and being the church.”



I think both the focus and the operating model of this partnership are of value to us in our common life and ministry as a diocese. The focus on baptismal ministry and becoming ministering communities is an engaging and exciting way of thinking about and being the church. The partnership model is an important reminder to us that we are part of a body, a community, a people who are engaged in the work of Christ’s reconciling ministry as partners—partners with Christ and partners one with another.

We read in the Bible, “Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 2:4-5). I pray that this is what we are building and who we are becoming as ministering communities and as a diocese.

Faithfully,

+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

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Views from the Frontier

by Martha Holden

The sound hits me as I move into the kitchen: the tenants’ car is idling alone in the driveway, “warming up.” It is a chilly morning, but they are healthy young men. Irritation flares. I remind myself that self-righteous irritation is just as toxic to God’s kingdom as self-indulgent wastage of irreplaceable fuel (fuel bought with human lives, my adrenal addiction screeches) and pollution of the air we breathe. So I move my thoughts along and conclude that the (selfishly) warming motor is an indicator of a cultural addiction to petroleum products. Addictions blind us to our addictions and their consequences, so of course the tenants don’t realize what they are doing.

Not that I can claim to be free of this addiction myself. I too am complicit in the societal “petroholism.” I think ahead to our family reunion. Five of us from this part of the state will travel the one hundred miles to the event in three cars and an airplane, ensnared in the petroholism of our culture. To give my irritation constructive engagement, I try applying to petroholism what I know about recovering from addiction.

Awareness is, I know, the first step in dealing with any addiction, whether to petroleum products or to self-righteousness, whether to adrenalin or to avoid-

ance. I consider my awareness that there is a problem I call petroholism, and my heart lifts. My history is not to recognize that there is a problem until I know that there is a solution, preferably a solution under my control. That I am aware of my petroholism without any idea of how it might be solved shows that I have made progress. Good. I continue my process: awareness gains traction when I let it develop into accepting that Yes, there is a problem and this is it. Would it be possible for this society to do that? I catch myself, bringing myself back on track. I have to start with myself. Can I accept that I am a petroholist? That my addiction is just as lethal as the fault I project onto the blindness tenants? Yes, I can.

The next step in dealing with an addiction, I have learned, is to see whether I believe that God can help me with this. Do I believe that God has more power than my personal addiction? Can God show me a way out? Can God show us a way out? Having experienced God’s power with alcoholism and addiction I do not hesitate. Yes. The universal and infinitely healing, creating, redeeming and reconciling power I call God, can show me, can show us, a way through and out of this addiction.

Continued on Page C

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 am assembling my books for my summer reading. A few friends have urged me to read *God's Secretaries* by Adam Nicolson. Its subtitle is: "The Making of the King James Bible." Do you recommend the book?

Summer Reader

Dear Summer Reader: I heartily recommend the book. It is a fascinating and often surprising account of the scholarly rascals who worked diligently to produce that literary masterpiece. If nothing else, Nicolson's book is wonderful testimony to the grace of God. Once you are introduced to some of the reprobates and weirdos who created the King James Bible, you will realize that God indeed has the power to bring lots of good out of some not very promising material.

There are two items that I would alert you to as you wend your way through the book. First, on page 174, there are two paragraphs that could lead to a whole new interpretation of the Pilgrims who eventually came to America.

In describing England at the beginning of the 17th century, Nicolson wants to show that the King James Bible is a reflection of a time of relative order and contentment, with the monarchy firmly in place. As an example of the contented mood of the era, the author takes one paragraph to explain how the sport of golf was imported from Scotland in 1608 and was played for the first time in England on a five-hole course on Blackheath, south of London. The author writes: "The leather balls, stuffed with feathers, lasted no more than one game each, particularly if it rained. At 5 shillings a time, it was a ruinously expensive but a strangely con-

Views from the Frontier Continued from page B

There remains only, at this first swipe, to decide to let God do it, to let God change me and my life in whatever way God needs to change me in order to begin the process of healing from petroholism. That is easy enough, a simple sincere prayer will do it. So I pray.

It is so easy, so simple, I forget that I have prayed. I arrive at the reunion late on a Thursday afternoon. Everywhere I will need to be is within two miles. I park my car and leave it parked. I like this pedestrian existence. I feel alive, grounded, and well aerated. On Sunday I pack my car and head home. As I drive north I remember the simple prayer of some weeks before. Oh, God has been at work addressing my petroholism. Hmm. I wonder how God will further unfold this process. Hmm. It should be interesting.... All I can do, I know from experience, is to stay tuned, pay attention to God's movement in my life, and be willing to have everything about myself and my life be changed. May I be so willing. Amen.

Martha Holden attends Christ Church, Montpelier and is associated with the Christian Meditation Center of St. Paul's Cathedral, Burlington.

soling pursuit, fitted to a country replete with contentment."

In the very next paragraph, the author mentions that 1608 was also the year that the Separatists, whom we call the "Pilgrim Fathers," got fed up with the oppressive atmosphere of royalist England and took off for Amsterdam. Later, this group would "cross the pond" and set up their new community in Massachusetts.

After these two paragraphs, Nicolson explores briefly the irony of an allegedly "contented" England being the country and culture that infuriated the Separatists. That's an interesting line of inquiry, but I think the author is missing something very important: Is it possible that the Pilgrims were not fleeing religious oppression, but were instead wanting to get away from any involvement with golf? Now that is a theory that bears some further investigation! Did the Pilgrims see that it was a slippery slope from that 5-hole golf course to all kinds of pagan degradation? Were those funny Pilgrim hats invented to protect the Separatists from errant golf balls? Were those muskets with the wide barrels actually recycled golf bags?

As you read the book, keep these important questions in mind and see if there is indeed a deep strain of anti-golfism in the tradition of our "Pilgrim Fathers."

The other thing to be on the watch for is the person named John Smyth, a pastor of the Brethren of the Separation of the Second English Church at Amsterdam. Smyth decided that no ecclesiastical authority was as pure as himself and therefore he baptized himself, since no one else could be trusted with that task. Talk about "holier-than-thou"—Wow! Imagine what he would have said if you asked him to play a round of golf!

Enjoy the book. Let me know what you think.

Send your questions for Sr. Bible Person to the editor (address on Page B).

Letters to the Editor

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

Anne Clarke Brown, Editor, Mountain Echo

Notes on a pilgrimage

As I complete this issue of the Mountain Echo, I realize that just a week ago, my two fellow pilgrims and I walked into the large plaza in front of the Cathedral in Santiago de Compostela, Spain. We had completed the 483 mile medieval pilgrimage route—the Camino de Santiago—across the north of Spain, 215 miles of which we did on foot. For sixteen days, we had risen early to load up our packs and walk the next 12-20 mile stage of the journey, passing through open countryside, forests, mountains, dozens of rural hamlets, many towns, and some larger cities. Some days we walked in warm sunshine, some in steady rain, and one day we crossed over a mountain in blowing snow.

We were part of a stream of pilgrims heading west on the same path, a stream going back hundreds of years, and all going to the cathedral in which lie the relics of St. James (Santiago), brother of Jesus. I found that realization rather awesome as I greeted those we passed, or who passed us, along the way, with "Hola!" or "Buenos días!" The reply, particularly from village residents was often "Buen camino!" One man even blew kisses at us over his garden wall! We encountered people from all over the world, though few others from the United States.

I also realized, as we neared the end, that I had not been thinking at all about the destination. I was engaged in the journey itself, a journey that included both physical and spiritual pleasures and pains. What a privilege it was to have that time to be fully in the present moment, whether it be struggling up a hill, thrilling at the sight of spring wildflowers and snow-covered mountains, tending to a

blister, or even doing laundry. The journey was a prayer, undistracted by email, the phone, or worries about deadlines, a time of gentle nearness to God.

For me, a valuable yet painful part of this pilgrimage was acknowledging my responsibility, as a citizen of the United States, for this country's behavior in the world. Every café and restaurant had a television mounted on the wall, and every day we saw images of the war in Iraq, images of abuse of prisoners that were not shown in the United States, images of complete failure to "respect the dignity of every human person." We had many conversations with people who are angry, or who cannot understand why our government is behaving with such arrogance. Some seemed sad about having lost respect for a country they had once admired. Not one spoke with approval. I will hold their concerned faces before me in the next months as I seek to discern how I as an individual citizen, a pilgrim in the world, can act on behalf of human dignity and peace.

Anne Clarke Brown

St. James' affiliates with Center for Progressive Christianity

St. James', Arlington, has become a registered parish affiliate of The Center for Progressive Christianity (TCPC). The Center is an organization founded by the Rev. James Adams, an Episcopal priest, and based in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Its mission, according to the website (www.tcpc.org) is: "to reach out to those for whom organized religion has proved ineffectual, irrelevant or repressive, as well as to those who have given up on or are unacquainted with it; to uphold evangelism as an agent of justice and peace; to give a strong voice both in the churches and the public arena to the advocates of progressive Christianity; and to support those who embrace the search, not certainty."

Current activities of TCPC include: "developing strategies for evangelism that do not assume the absolute superiority of Christianity so that we do not contribute to the world's tragic divisions; reclaiming the symbols of Christian faith; building an international network of progressive Christians; and being a constructive force for social and environmental justice and peace in the world."

To learn more about TCPC and what it means to be a parish affiliate, visit the website at www.tcpc.org. ❖

Mountain Echo address changes:
Write elife@pubinffcenter.com,
or call 800-374-9510.

New distribution methods announced for Diocesan Handbook and Convention Journal

The 2004 Diocesan Handbook and the 2003 Diocesan Convention Journal are now available for download from the diocesan website: www.dioceseofvermont.org. Click on the "Resources" link on the home page for an index of downloadable files. Most are PDF files that can be read and printed with the free Adobe Reader, available at www.adobe.com. The Handbook and Journal will no longer be distributed automatically in printed form as in past years.

These publications will also be available, upon request, on CD (read-only) and in printed form. In order to receive either a CD or a printed copy, you will need to contact the Diocesan Office (802-863-3431 or 800-286-3437); or email your request to Valerie Hennessey (vhennessey@dioceseofvermont.org) or Jan Lawrence (jlawrence@dioceseofvermont.org).

The cost for copying and mailing the 2004 Diocesan Handbook and/or the 2003 Diocesan Convention Journal will be as follows:

For Clergy serving a congregation, Senior Warden, Diocesan Committee Chair	
2004 Diocesan Handbook (printed copy or CD)	no cost
2003 Diocesan Convention Journal (printed copy or CD)	no cost
For All Others	
2004 Diocesan Handbook (printed copy)	\$5.00
2004 Diocesan Handbook (CD)	\$2.00
2003 Diocesan Convention Journal (printed copy)	\$3.00
2003 Diocesan Convention Journal (CD)	\$2.00

More Coming Events

Arts at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul

2 Cherry Street, Burlington, Vermont

The Choir of Christ's College, Cambridge, England

"USA Tour 2004"

Wednesday, June 30, 7:30 P.M.

The University of Cambridge, England, Christ's College Chapel Choir will perform a varied program including Vaughan Williams, Parry and Tallis as part of their USA Tour 2004. Christ's College boasts such famous alumni as Milton and Darwin, and the choir has a history spanning almost five hundred years. The choir has toured extensively in Australia, Europe and Canada, receiving reviews of "dazzling" and "truly excellent performances" (The Church Times and International Music Review), and has recorded several acclaimed CDs. The choir is made up of 24 undergraduates and graduates of the University of Cambridge under the direction of professional harpsichordist and Director of the Welsh National Youth Choir, Dr. David Rowland. Admission \$16, seniors / students \$12. For information, call 802-864-0471.

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

June 1: "Syrinx Goes for Broke." The ten-member vocal group led by Glenn Sproul will present a varied program of a *cappella* choral works by American composers, featuring the hilarious "Go For Broke" by Peter Schickele, also known as P.D.Q. Bach.

Art Shows in the Church Nave

June: "Mandala—The Sacred Circle," by Grace Cothalis and Sabina Evarts. Two- and three-dimensional interpretations of the timeless, spiritual art of the mandala. **July:** Oils by Jason Bodnar. **September:** "Whimsical Moments" by Katie Carleton. Playful, mischievous and thought-provoking creations in clay, cartoons, drawings and paintings. 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).

"A Sprint Through the Bible"

Saturday, June 5, 8:30 A.M. until 3:00 P.M.

St. John's in the Mountains, Stowe

The Rev. John Morris, priest-in-charge at St. Martin's, Fairlee, will cover thousands of years in one short day—with humor, facts, challenging questions, and insights. The program is for everyone—all ages, all stages—and all are welcome! Please bring lunch. St. John's will provide beverages and dessert.

"Jesus the Human"

Lecture by Walter Wink

June 11, 2004, 7:00 P.M.

The Cathedral Church of St. Paul, 2 Cherry Street, Burlington

Well-known author and retreat leader Walter Wink will give a lecture at the Cathedral on Friday evening, with a reception following. It is free and open to the public. Wink will also preach at the 10 A.M. service at St. Paul's Cathedral on Sunday.

Retreat led by Walter Wink and June Keener Wink

June 11-13, 2004

Bishop Booth Conference Center, Rock Point, Burlington

The Winks will offer a day-long retreat on Saturday focused on the human Jesus, or Jesus before the church. Through an integration of dialogue of biblical texts, body movement and expression in art, participants will ponder what Jesus' journey means for our own journeys today.

Registration for the whole program, which begins with the Friday lecture and includes two nights lodging at BBCC, Saturday meals and Sunday breakfast, is \$225. Registration without lodging but including the Saturday program, materials and meals is \$150. Participation is limited to 50 persons. For information, contact the BBCC, 802-658-6233, or bishopbooth@dioceseofvermont.org.

Candlelit Sung Vespers

June 13, July 11 and August 22, 2004, 6:00 P.M.

Zion Episcopal Church, Manchester Center, Vermont

Led by Brother Gregory Norbet and Katherine Carrington, the service offers an opportunity to experience the peace of God, to uplift one's heart and deepen one's walk in faith. Hymns, chants, prayers, silence and candlelit icons. All are welcome.

80th Annual St. James' Church Fair

Thursday, July 8, 2004, 10 A.M.–3 P.M.

Church Green, Woodstock

St. James' annual fair will take place rain or shine on the Church Green opposite Town Hall. Bargains of all kinds: clothing for all ages (some nearly new), jewelry, books, fabrics and linens, white elephants (a great source for unusual gifts), toys, baked goods, rummage. Also plants and garden vegetables. Lunch is available. For more information, call 802-457-1727 (mornings).

Episcopal Church Executive Council to meet in Burlington, June 11-14

The Executive Council of the Episcopal Church will meet in at the Wyndham Hotel in Burlington, June 11-14. The Council is responsible for overseeing the mission and ministry of the Church and for carrying out the programs and policies adopted by the General Convention. In the course of the three years between conventions, known as the "triennium," the Executive Council will customarily meet once in each of the nine provinces of the Episcopal Church.

The Executive Council is comprised of twenty members elected by General Convention (four bishops, four priests or deacons and twelve laypersons) and eigh-

teen members elected by provincial synods. The Council is chaired by Presiding Bishop Frank Griswold, and the President of the House of Deputies, the Rev. George Werner, and a number of Church Center staff attend its meetings.

Members of Vermont's General Convention deputation have been invited to sit in on the open meetings, and Council members will worship Sunday at the 10:30 service at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul. A Saturday evening softball game and barbeque at Rock Point will provide an opportunity to relax in the midst of an intense agenda of committee and plenary meetings. ✚

Task Force on Blessing Same-Gender Unions will offer June workshops

The Task Force on the Blessing of Persons Living in Same-Gender Relationships appointed last fall by Bishop Ely will sponsor a workshop on Friday, June 18, at St. James' Church in Arlington, from 10 A.M. until 3 P.M. The workshop will be offered again on Saturday, June 19, at Christ Church, Montpelier, also from 10 A.M. until 3 P.M.

The workshop will focus on:

- Background for the consideration of same-gender blessings in Vermont and the Episcopal Church
- Theological and pastoral considerations
- The diocesan policy on marriage and

same-gender unions

- Resource materials for congregational conversations and how to use them
- Tools and ideas for responding to the needs and concerns of congregations
- Resources for working with same-gender couples

The workshop is intended for clergy, congregation leaders and others interested in learning and sharing resources. Please register so we will be sure to have enough materials available. Call Valerie Hennessey at the Diocesan Center (802-863-3431 or 800-286-3437) or email Anne Brown, abrown@vermontel.net. ✚

Workshop planned for parish accessibility coordinators

by Leland Udell

Members of the Diocesan Accessibility Committee will sponsor a workshop for the new Parish Accessibility Coordinators on Saturday, June 26, at St. John's Episcopal Church in Randolph, from 10 A.M. until 3 P.M. Please bring a brown bag lunch; the Diocese will provide liquid refreshment.

The committee will orient our new coordinators from each parish to our mission to help the approximately 20 percent of the population who have some type of accessibility problem achieve full participation in the life of the parish church. We are con-

cerned about everything from food allergies and wheel chair accessibility to hearing loss and lack of good eye sight. We will have some experts to advise us about available options.

Our committee and coordinator goal is to be a resource for the whole diocese, but we need the assistance of everyone to accomplish our work. Please come and explore new pathways and understandings in Christ.

The Rev. Leland Udell is Chair of the Accessibility Committee.

Join St. Mark's in honoring music director, Harriette Slack Richardson

by David Shuffleburg

On Saturday, June 26, St. Mark's Church, Springfield, will host a celebration and reception to honor Dr. Harriette Slack Richardson. Dr. Richardson recently retired after 72 years as the church's organist and music director. The event will start at 1 P.M. and will be held at the church located at 33 Fairground Road. Everyone is welcome.

Dr. Richardson is a well-known composer and instructor. As of this writing, former student Christian Huebner, now an organist in western New York, and St. Mark's new Music Director Peter Walker, will be playing a few of her original compositions. Edgar Boadway, the current Dean of the Vermont Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, a post once held by Dr. Richardson, will be on hand to offer comments.

Dr. Richardson started playing the organ at St. Mark's at the age of 12. She is a graduate of The Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York. In intervening years she taught at Southeastern Louisiana University, Hammond, Louisiana and was Professor of Music at both Colby Sawyer College in New London, New Hampshire, and Vassar in Poughkeepsie, New York. She and her husband Hubbard reside in Springfield and have two daughters, Eleanor who lives in Oregon and Llanda of Massachusetts.

With questions or for further information contact Janet or Rick Hunter (802-484-1275) or Carla Kangas (802-885-9118).

David Shuffleburg is a member of St. Mark's, Springfield.

Zion, Manchester, hosts Lumen Christi Spiritual Life Center

Fall spiritual deepening program planned

by Gregory Norbet

Thirty individuals from a variety of denominations have joined together to participate in the first Spiritual Deepening group of the Lumen Christi Spiritual Life Center hosted by Zion Church in Manchester.

Led by Gregory Norbet and Kathryn Carrington, these programs draw upon the rich resources of the Christian contemplative tradition and the Rule of St. Benedict. Participants have the opportunity to become postulants in the **Lumen Christi Prayer Community** and to continue their spiritual development with monthly programs.

Brother Gregory Norbet, composer and retreatmaster, spent 21 years as a Benedictine monk at the Weston Priory. Since

1985 he has conducted programs in the US and Canada, giving more than 25 three-day events a year. Kathryn Carrington, spiritual director and iconographer, received her training at the Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation in Washington, DC.

The Lumen Christi Fall Spiritual Deepening Program will be held on September 8, 15, 22 & 29. To register, call Rose Lewis at Zion Church, 802-362-1987.

Additional programs planned include three retreats held at an Inn in Landgrove, Vermont: August 15-17, October 15-17 and October 22-24. Contact Anna Chapman, editorinvt@aol.com (802-375-9323) for further information, or visit www.hosea.foundation.org. ✦

June training session for *via media* offered in Cambridge

by Sara McGinley

A training session for *via media*: *Evangelism for the Episcopal Church* is being held in Cambridge, Massachusetts on June 14. This is a perfect opportunity for your church to become acquainted with *via media*, a new and exciting evangelism tool that offers valuable Christian education training to parishioners and newcomers. Come to a training session and discover why you can't afford not to use *via media* in your church.

What is *via media* and how does it work?

• *via media*, a curriculum with a series of eight videotapes, is a tool for evangelism designed to proclaim the Good News of God in Christ Jesus and to introduce the Episcopal Church in a contemporary context.

• *via media* celebrates who we are as American Anglicans and invites others to "taste and see," offering seekers both the content and the context for conversations about Christian faith from an unabashedly Anglican perspective.

Northern Harmony to perform at St. John the Divine

by Susan Miller-Coulter

Northern Harmony of Marshfield, Vermont, has been invited to present a choral offering in New York's Cathedral of St. John the Divine at the Trinity Sunday Vespers, June 6.

The featured piece will be a contemporary *a cappella* setting of St. Patrick's Breastplate (Hymn #370 in the Hymnal 1982) by Irasburg composer and Episcopalian, Sara Doncaster. Northern Harmony performed this setting, originally commissioned by the Warebrook Contemporary Music Festival, at Bishop Thomas Ely's consecration in April 2001.

The New York program will be rounded out by a selection of contemporary and traditional shape note pieces, as well as several ancient liturgical chants from Caucasus Georgia. Northern Harmony has a wide reputation for its powerful sound, varied voicings, and eclectic repertoire. Susan Miller-Coulter is a member of St. Paul's Cathedral, Burlington.

• *via media* is grounded in the traditional Anglican perspective balancing scripture, tradition and reason. It is rooted in Trinitarian theology and offers a diverse, compelling witness to the unique way of being Christian that is our Anglican heritage.

• *via media* invites those seeking spiritual community to explore Anglican Christianity through a non-threatening eight-week course of study, prayer and conversation surrounded by radical hospitality.

Who sponsors *via media*?

via media is offered to Episcopal parishes by Every Voice Network (EVN), a web-based ministry dedicated to growing the progressive church. Moving beyond the Episcopal Church's preoccupation with internal matters that seems focused on an increasingly outdated conservative/liberal divide, EVN seeks to reinvigorate the Church's commitment to serve the world beyond its walls. EVN believes that congregations which embrace the gospel ethic of radical hospitality, healing, and justice for all people are on the frontier of the church's mission, capable of reaching out to the growing number of "un-churched" and "under-churched" people. EVN's mission is to provide timely, easily accessible on-line news, information, and curricula to such congregations, creating a network of individuals, congregations, dioceses, and partnering organizations committed to proclaiming the Gospel to a world desperately in need of good news.

How to sign up

If you are interested in learning more about *via media* or signing up for training, please log on to our web site at www.everyvoice.net/viamedia. The cost of the *via media* curriculum is \$495, and it includes a one-day training for one person. The training, without purchasing the program, is \$150 per person (the fourth person from a congregation can attend for free).

[Ed. note: At least three Vermont congregations are sending representatives to the Cambridge training in June: St. John's in the Mountains, Stowe, Church of Our Saviour, Killington, and St. Michael's, Brattleboro. Grant funds are available for purchase of the program through Initiative II of the McClure Discipleship/Discovery 2000 Fund.]

Sara McGinley represents Every Voice Network.



ERD addresses wide variety of global needs

Episcopal Relief and Development provides emergency assistance in times of disaster, rebuilds devastated communities after the immediate crisis is over, and offers long-term solutions to help people sustain safer, healthier, and more productive lives. Recent ERD assistance includes:

Iraq: ERD is providing food and health care services to vulnerable children and families in northern Iraq. Over 10,000 people are internally displaced or have recently returned to the country and live in squatter villages bordered by the towns of Kanaqin and Al-Moqdadiyah.

"We are continuing our long-term commitment to reach people left vulnerable by the conflict in Iraq," said Sandra Swan, President of ERD. "We restocked distribution centers with critical supplies when the crisis began. Our rehabilitation work has already provided emergency food aid for families throughout the country and critical health care for children in Baghdad."

Sudan: ERD is providing emergency assistance to assess the critical needs in western Sudan following increasing violence and unrest. Thousands of people have died and more than half a million have fled their homes since fighting began in 2003 in western and northern Darfur.

"So many have been slaughtered, hundreds of villages in Darfur have been burned and water sources destroyed," said the Most Rev. Dr. Joseph B. H. Marona, Archbishop of Sudan. "The Episcopal Church of Sudan has a duty to respond to this humanitarian catastrophe," he said.

Mexico: Through the Diocese of Northern Mexico, ERD is providing emergency supplies to families left homeless after devastating floods in early April. The town of Piedras Negras on the Escondido River, about 150 miles southwest of San Antonio, Texas, was declared a disaster area after torrential rain caused the river to

overflow, triggering flash floods and killing 33 people, damaging or destroying 600 homes, and leaving at least two thousand people homeless.

Belize: Belizean families received keys to their new homes on March 13, 2004 in a ceremony on Caye Caulker Island. A total of 21 new, solid, and sturdy homes with indoor plumbing and water were built for families made homeless by Hurricane Keith, which hit Belize in October 2000 totally destroying over 65% of the structures on the island.

With help from the Church of Belize, ERD is also restoring schools and churches in two communities where high winds and torrential rains caused by Hurricane Iris in 2001 damaged structures.

Brazil: ERD is providing assistance to families after Cyclone Catherine hit Brazil, battering the northern part of Rio Grande do Sul and the southern region of Santa Catarina with high winds and heavy rains. The cyclone killed 13 people, damaged and destroyed homes, and left thousands of families homeless.

"This phenomenon occurred for the first time in the history of our country," said Christina Winnischofer, General Secretary of the Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil. On behalf of the Episcopal Church, ERD is assisting the Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil with emergency funds for building materials. The materials will be used for temporary shelters and to repair damaged houses.

How to help

To help people and respond immediately after disasters around the world, donate to the Disaster Relief Fund or the Africa Relief Fund. Donations may be made online at <http://www.er-d.org>, or call (800) 334-7626, ext. 5129. Gifts can also be mailed to: Episcopal Relief and Development, PO Box 12043, Newark, NJ 07101.



Rock Point students visit El Salvador

Continued from Page H

We learned something about El Salvadoran history and the martyr Archbishop Oscar Romero and true heroism and pain. People spoke of the war. All our senses told us that history is not dead, that the Salvador we experience now is the product of a brutally violent past. We learned that the United States had, and continues to have, major influence in this small and proud nation. We strove to find our place in this relationship and to make peace and connection in the present. We tried to stay out of the way and be very involved at the same time. We listened. A student, Gohei Seino, quotes Yogi Berra: "You can observe a lot by watching." In jest and in truth we learned by this wisdom.

Although we were welcomed very openly by our hosts, we were conscious of our privileged American tourist status as we toured the country. We had the valuable experience of being stared at. We felt for an instant what it's like to be in the minority. Without exception, however, people treated us lovingly, and with a genuine interest in our lives and our cultures. We felt honored

to be in such a place. I often found myself wondering how such extremes could coexist.

After completing our work week, we wrapped up our stay in El Salvador by visiting some historical sites and participating in an intentional cultural exchange with some of the local youth at the church. In this final experience, a Vermont man, the Rev. Dick Bower, facilitated a satisfying and provocative exchange of information between the two student groups. We quickly found out that we had more in common than apart and that, thankfully, despite what our governments do, kids are kids anywhere we go.

We returned home with gifts and tans, some great stories and pictures and more open minds. In many ways these service trips are much less about our traveling somewhere and rendering help, than about opening our minds and hearts and connecting with people willing to do the same.

[This article first appeared in the *Rock Point School May/June 2004* Viewpoints. It is reprinted here with permission.]

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ST. STEPHEN'S, Middlebury, has decided to continue a practice that was observed during Lent: a service of Compilene will be held every Thursday evening at 5:15 using the Book of Common Prayer or the New Zealand Prayer Book. In the coming months, other resources, such as the Iona Prayer Book, will be used. Peasant Market is just two months away—mark your calendar for July 10. Something new has been added: over a dozen one-of-a-kind angels, crafted in a variety of media by members of the congregation, will be auctioned off at Peasant Market. All funds raised go support the congregation's outreach efforts in the community.

The choir of TRINITY, Rutland, sang an Ascension Day Evensong that included festive anthems of G. F. Handel, Marchello and M. A. Ingegneri. The Easteride Film Festival showed *Bruce Almighty* and *Northfork*—movies and popcorn were free. Those attending joined **Nanci Gordon** for discussion following the films.

The Rev. **Hugh Tudor-Foley**, interim rector at Trinity since November, 2002, will be honored at a farewell luncheon following a single 9 o'clock service on June 6. As the chair of the Ministry Discernment Committee stated, "Let us all continue to give thanks for the ministry of our own much-loved Fr. Hugh, who has been truly a gift from God. The Lord is so faithful! God sent Fr. Hugh to be with us at the right time in our pilgrimage. He has been a blessing to us and this community." (See Page G for an article on Trinity's newly called rector, the Rev. Alan Gibson.)

Members of ST. PAUL'S, Vergennes, observed Rogation Sunday by bringing seeds for blessing and by praying for a fruitful harvest, both for their own plants and for the crops of the farmers of the area.

Southwest Deanery 3

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The Alpha program began April 21 at ST. PETER'S, Bennington, and will run for ten weeks on Wednesday evenings. The annual Parish Fair will be June 5 from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M. on the church grounds and in the Parish Hall. The Gathering Group met in May to prepare projects for the Fair, and **Donna Maroney** is soliciting booth items and assistance in all areas. **Wynn Metcalf** headed up the preparations and presentation of a Mother's Day Breakfast between the services May 9. The Ministry Discernment Committee has been meeting regularly and is ready to elect a chairman and start collecting infor-

❖ deanery doings ❖

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

mation for creation of a church profile to be used in the search for a new rector.

ST JAMES', Arlington, will be combining forces with the Federated Church in East Arlington for this year's Vacation Bible School. There will be half-day sessions from June 28–July 2, under the direction of **Donna Menneto** and **Linda Bischoff**. The Outreach Committee sponsored a Parish Talent show and donated the proceeds to the Habitat for Humanity house that will be built in East Arlington. The Pie Sale netted funds for the summer lunch program at the Arlington Rec Center. May 22 was the date for the Service/Silent Auction, featuring cuisine, unusual trips, and handmade items. The Church Picnic is on May 30, immediately following the 10 A.M. Pentecost service, with hotdogs, hamburgers, salads and the amazingly disorganized intergenerational softball game.

Southeast Deanery 4

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Yours truly and his "child bride" ventured to Windsor a few weeks ago to, among other things, visit the Rev. **Peggy Crane**, Rector of IMMANUEL CHURCH, Bellows Falls, whom we expected to find in the Rehab Unit of the Mt. Ascutney Hospital following her first total hip replacement surgery. Guess what—she had been released just 1 1/2 hours before our arrival. We were sorry that we missed her, but we rejoiced that she was home. She is in recuperation, albeit a little slower than anticipated. She now expects her second hip surgery to happen sometime early in July. Continue to keep her and the kind folks at Immanuel in your prayers.

On May 14, the people of ST. MICHAEL'S, Brattleboro, spent an evening of worship, fellowship, and conversation with their counterparts of the Brattleboro Area Jewish Community. The two congregations got to know each other and discovered new insights about faith while maintaining the integrity of their respective traditions. Coming up in June is their Second Annual Parish Weekend, which will again take place at Rock Point. This year's theme, "Water Washed—Spirit Born," revolves around the Baptismal Covenant.

The Vermont Chapter of the American Guild of Organists selected ST. LUKE'S, Chester, as the venue for a recital on May 16 by **Paul Opel**, a distinguished organist from Rutland. The Vermont Chapter generously sponsored the recital to benefit a fund to restore St. Luke's organ, built in 1870 by Samuel S. Hamill of Cambridge, MA. With the help of the Rev. **Con Quinby** of Burlington, these folks now have their Stewardship Ministry Team up and running. More good things are on the horizon.

The vestry at GETHSEMANE, Proctorsville, is devoting vast amounts of time and energy to work creatively through their transition period. They have added the Rev. **Molly Bidwell** and the Rev. **Sandy Zabriskie** to their supply clergy list and are extremely grateful for the gifts each of these supply pastors is bringing to them at this time. Meetings with the Diocesan Deployment Officer **Thad Bennett** are on the horizon.

God is smiling on ST. MARK'S, Springfield, with the widest grin imaginable. An interim rector, the Rev. **William Davidson**, is on board, and a fantastic new Music Director, **Peter Walker** of Brattleboro, has been hired. Bill Davidson has retired to farming in Whitehall, NY, after 40 years of ministry in the New York City area and is making the great commute across Vermont to serve the parish. Peter Walker has filled the position created by the recent retirement of the renowned Dr. **Harriette S. Richardson**, who started her music ministry at St. Mark's 72 years ago. Guess who was Peter's mentor in college—Harriette! It can't get any better than this!



Peter Walker and Bill Davidson of St. Mark's, Springfield.

Over two dozen folks from ST. MARY'S-IN-THE-MOUNTAINS, Wilmington, recently spent a Parish Retreat at Rock Point. They went without benefit of their PNIC (an affectionate term for their priest **Thad Bennett**, which translates to Priest-Not-In-Charge). **Debi Pater-son**, BBCC Director was their leader for what one of them described as a fantastic weekend in a beautiful place. Baptismal ministry and individual gifts were among the topics discussed.

The Vestry of ST. PAUL'S, Windsor recently met with the Canon for Ministry Development and Deployment (the same **Thad Bennett** mentioned above) on an update of their Mutual Ministry Review. They also explored the possibility of having a priest-in-charge. In their quest to become a "green church" they are in the process of converting the lights in the church to compact fluorescents, which will result in saved energy and lower utility bills.

Three Rivers Deanery 5

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CHRIST CHURCH, Bethel, has made the annual move to Old Christ Church on Route 12 north of town for summer worship. Senior Warden **Todd McKee** has suggested using the term "steward"

for those who have taken on oversight responsibility for particular aspects of congregational life.

ST. MARTIN'S, Fairlee, has a new website: Go to <http://home.earthlink.net/~smartins/> or click the "Find a Church" button on www.dioceseofvermont.org, and then the link to St. Martin's.

CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR, Killington, is focusing on land stewardship during the canon missionary's sabbatical. Master Garden Intern **Katie Rader** will assist with work on the perennial garden and offer workshops during the summer. Thanks to grants from Initiative III of the McClure Discipleship/Discovery 2000 Fund, work is well underway on the construction of an accessible bathroom adjacent to the parish hall. For the first time since its dedication in 1895, the church building will have running water!

ST. JOHN'S, Randolph, has designated a portion of the parish hall bulletin board to advertise events and resources addressing such concerns as the environment, the global economy, and the survival of the small farm.

Central Vermont Deanery 6

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The deanery met May 24, at Christ Church, Montpelier, to continue discussion of the Countryman book, *Living on the Border of the Holy*. The Rev. **Mary Mansfield** of St. John's, Stowe, facilitated discussion of chapters 3 and 4. The discussion about our priesthood, the priesthood

of humanity and of the ordained priesthood in our deanery, is an aid in trying to discern how we can share our priesthood with our parishes.

CHRIST CHURCH, Montpelier, set May 23 as Youth and Recognition Sunday. Youth served as ushers, readers, and lay Eucharistic ministers at both services. For the homily, young people of the parish had a conversation with the parish about church and why people stay in the church after the age of 15. The junior choir sang, and Sunday School teachers were honored. The annual Christ Church Rummage Sale, Silent Auction and Barbecue will be held in the church courtyard on Saturday, June 12. Volunteers are welcome.

The Rev. **John Morris** will lead A Sprint through the Bible on Saturday, June 5 at ST. JOHNS IN THE MOUNTAINS, Stowe. [see More Coming Events, Page D.]

Northeast Deanery 7

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On May 1, the Northeast Deanery had its "First Annual Youth Green-Up Day Gathering"! Each church participated in their own town's Green-Up Day, with adults and youth working together. Then

Continued on Page G

New Jersey priest called to serve at Trinity, Rutland

by Dwight MacPherson

It is with joy and gladness that the Vestry, Ministry Discernment Committee and the parish family of Trinity Church Rutland calls a new priest. The Reverend Alan Gibson has been chosen as the new Rector of Trinity Episcopal Church, Rutland, and he will celebrate his first service at Trinity on Sunday, June 27, 2004.

Alan Gibson, 43, comes to Rutland from Navesink, NJ where he served as rector of All Saints Memorial Church for nine years. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1991, following the completion of his seminary studies at Yale University, Berkeley Divinity School, where he earned his Master of Divinity Degree. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Music/Musicology from Northwestern University. His love of music adds a powerful dimension to his ministry.

The Ministry Discernment Committee and the Trinity Vestry were attracted to Alan Gibson for his many fine qualities. His gifts and skills in preaching, pastoral care, counseling, prayer and spiritual guidance as well as his experience with church growth and development, Christian education, music ministry, bible studies, youth and adult programs are among his talents which fit Trinity's needs.

Alan Gibson brings with him a nurturing and pastoral spirit seeking to minister to the needs of his new parish and to be involved in



community outreach and Christian education. In addition to performing musically, he enjoys outdoor activities including skiing, gardening and hiking and will be accompanied to his new home by his black lab, Ricky.

Trinity Church has been through a long year and a half of discernment and much prayer! But, thanks be to God, we feel we have found the rector who was meant to lead us into the future. We welcome Alan Gibson into the Trinity Parish family. We look forward to the exciting days ahead as we begin our work together and strive to do God's will in our church and our community.

Dwight MacPherson served as chair of Trinity's Ministry Discernment Committee.

Holy Trinity, Swanton, calls rector

by Anne Clarke Brown

The Reverend Reid D. Farrell has accepted a call to serve as rector at Holy Trinity, Swanton, and he will celebrate his first Eucharist with the congregation on Trinity Sunday, June 6. Commenting on the starting date, Reid Farrell said it is a fitting culmination to "a whole process that has been wonderful, like puzzle pieces dropping into place."

Reid Farrell grew up in Sarasota, Florida, and he graduated from the University of Florida in Gainesville. He worked as an actor before attending The General Theological Seminary in New York, from which he received a Master of Divinity in 1982. He served at parishes in Gainesville, Punta Gorda and Sarasota, Florida, and in Cincinnati, Ohio, before being called as rector to his current parish, Grace Church in Southgate, Michigan. He has been at Grace Church nearly five years.

Accompanying Reid Farrell in his move to Vermont will be his partner, Dale Willard, who is retired, and their three Cavalier King Charles spaniels. They have vacationed often in Vermont, and both, said Farrell, have long wanted to live here. "I love being a parish priest," he said, "and I am excited about coming and being part of the Diocese of Vermont."

Reid Farrell enjoys gardening and all of the performing arts. As a former actor, he said he now enjoys watching other people work at that craft. Dale Willard has worked in the non-profit sector, and Farrell said he will likely become involved in the Swanton community.

Farrell succeeds the Rev. Donald Morris, who had been interim pastor since March of 2002. Holy Trinity thanked Don and May Morris at a special celebration during Bishop Ely's visitation to the congregation on April 25. ❖

Safer Church Training

Safer Church Training sessions will be offered at the Bishop Booth Conference Center Tuesday, **June 22**. An additional session is being planned at Holy Trinity Church, Swanton, possibly for Saturday, **June 12**. Both sessions will 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 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.

deanery doings

Continued from Page F

everyone went to St Peter's, Lyndonville, for a noon "Pizza Party," followed by a discussion on "What do the youth want to do together as a group?" Many suggestions were offered for future events. The next will be June 5, beginning with breakfast at St. Peter's, continuing with a hike up the Lyndon Outing Club Mountain, a Eucharist celebrated by the Rev. **Jeanette Tweedy** at the summit, lunch, and ending with a hike down the other side. Those unable to hike will meet the hikers by car near the summit and join them for the Eucharist and lunch.

The Rev. **Jeanette Tweedy**, Canon for Ministry Development, led a workshop on Baptismal Ministry/Covenant Groups April 24 for ST. MARK'S, Newport, ST. PETER'S, Lyndonville, ST. ANDREW'S, St. Johnsbury, and CHRIST CHURCH, Island Pond. Participants engaged in a lively discussion.

ST. PAUL'S, Canaan, participated with other Border Parish congregations in an Earth Day service. The church school helped with a mural painted at the Herford, Quebec Church.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, Hardwick, has undertaken some special events and projects to help raise money for its building program. One, a dance featuring a live Latin Band, Down Boi, and held at the Hardwick Town House May 22, was called Mae Ball (the Mae referring to **Mae Chapin**, director of the Hardwick Food Pantry. Its goal was to secure funds to benefit the Food Pantry, which has been housed at St. John's and will be relocated in its own building, adjacent to

the church, when the building program is completed. A second project to benefit the building fund is a cookbook of soup recipes called "Soup's On." Members of St. John's have been dropping their favorite soup recipes under the lid of a soup pot placed in the parish house.

ST. PETER'S, Lyndonville, is using "God and Country" programs for the youth of the church, with parents/grandparents acting as mentors. A committee is working with consultant, **Susan Ohlidal**, to discern future clergy leadership. St. Peter's participated in the National Day of Prayer on May 6 at the Bandstand Park in Lyndonville, along with many other area churches, with the theme of "Let Freedom Ring: the freedom to gather, the freedom to worship and the freedom to pray!"

ST. MARK'S, Newport, welcomed **Jim McKimm** back to his music ministry at the organ on May 2. Jim is still recuperating from heart surgery, and we keep him in our prayers. The Second Annual Great Pentecost Celebration will be a combined service May 30, with special music, balloons, and the lessons read in eight different languages; a festive international brunch will follow.

ST. ANDREW'S, St. Johnsbury, had a group of thirteen people recently finish a study of *The Heart of Christianity*, by Marcus Borg. A new study group will be looking at *The Purpose Driven Church*, by Rick Warren. There was a beautiful offering of liturgical dance at the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday services, and there is talk of more dance at Pentecost.

Champlain Deanery 8

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Some parishes begin summer schedules in June; check your parish newsletter for dates and times. The Fresh Air Fund is looking for families to host a boy or girl. Contact **Mary Sherman** at 868-2771. There is a need for volunteers at Ronald McDonald Family Room at the pediatric ward at FAHC and the Ronald McDonald House in Burlington during the summer months from 9-5 P.M. Training is provided. Contact **Pam Fenimore** or **Amy LaFromboise** 863-4943.

THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. PAUL, Burlington, will host the Chapel choir of Christ's College of Cambridge, England on June 30 [see More Coming Events, page D]. Rooms may be needed. Contact **Carol Walters**, 802-658-3390 if you can help. Dean **Ken Poppe** is currently on sabbatical. The congregation celebrated Pentecost with a service of Holy Eucharist with baptisms at the Rock Point Outdoor Chapel at 4 P.M., followed by a picnic and an intergenerational softball game. **Andy Brown** has been welcomed as Verger for the 9:15 service.

After seven years, **Deb Bouchard** has stepped down as newsletter editor for ST. ANDREW'S, Colchester, but will

continue as church historian. The annual picnic and celebration is June 13 at Bay-side Park in Colchester. The Senior High Youth Group held a 30-hour famine event in May to promote awareness of world hunger.

ST. JAMES', Essex Junction, is collecting food to feed 25 Essex Junction children during the summer. This is a cooperative effort among St. James' and the Congregational, Methodist and Catholic churches in the community. There are still St. James' cookbooks available for \$10 each, or 2 for \$15; they make great gifts! "Sole Mates" is an informal singles group organized for the purpose of socializing and having fun. Contact **Pat Sequin** 878-3698 or **Mary Carlson** 899-2197.

TRINITY, Shelburne, has a new website thanks to **Dan Erickson** and his support team at Silicon Dairy. The address is www.trinityshelburne.org. The Youth Group helped as water carriers for the marathon on May 30. Kids from grade 5 and up participated in "Stump the Priest" April 25, under **Carole Wageman's** leadership. The Children's Ministry Steering Team chose Prayer as the theme for next year's Sunday School.

ALL SAINTS, South Burlington, will hold its annual Lobster Supper Saturday June 5, with seatings at 5 and 6:30; call 802-862-9750 for reservations. The Sunday School children did the readings and prayers of the people at the May 16 service. They also sang two songs under the direction of **Joyce Dattilio**. The Kildeer bird's babies were born in their nest in the center of the Labyrinth. ❖

Diocesan Calendar

June 2004

- 2 Executive Committee, Diocesan Center, 1 PM
- 5 Rock Point School Graduation
- 6 Bishop at St. Barnabas', Norwich
- 8 Deadline, July/August Mountain Echo**
- 9 Fresh Start, 9:30 AM-2:30 PM
- 11-14 Episcopal Church Executive Committee, Wyndham Hotel, Burlington
- 11 Walter Wink, "Jesus the Human," St. Paul's Cathedral, Burlington, 7 PM
- 12 "Jesus the Human" retreat with Walter Wink and June Keener Wink, BBCC, Burlington
- 15 Clergy Day, St. John's, Randolph, 10 AM-2 PM
- 15 Standing Committee, St. John's, Randolph, 2 PM
- 16 Dispatch of Business Committee, Diocesan Center, 1 PM
- 18 Blessing Same-Gender Unions Task Force Workshop, St. James', Arlington, 10 AM-4 PM
- 19 Blessing Same-Gender Unions Task Force Workshop, Christ Church, Montpelier, 10 AM-4 PM
- 19 Diocesan Study Program, St. Paul's, White River Junction, 9:30 AM
- 20 Bishop at St. Andrew's, St. Johnsbury
- 22 Safer Church Training, BBCC, Burlington, 8:45 AM
- 26 Diocesan Study Program, Mission Farm, Killington, 9AM
- 27 Bishop at St. Paul's, Vergennes

July 2004

- 1 Rock Point Board, BBCC, 3:30 PM
- 5 Diocesan Center closed for July 4 Holiday
- 7 Executive Committee, Christ Church, Montpelier, 1 PM

Rock Point School students venture to El Salvador for service and learning



Rock Point students and staff pause with Salvadoran friends during their February trip to El Salvador.

by Ryan Stanton

This February, Rock Point School sent eight students and three staff members to El Salvador as part of an ongoing effort to participate in community service both locally and globally. In years past, community service trip members have traveled to Honduras, El Salvador and to various locations in the States.

Our project began this fall with a brief study of El Salvadoran culture/history, an introduction to traditional food and a taste of the beautiful Spanish language. Our students took on leadership roles in preparation for, and during, our stay in El Salvador. We divided responsibility among staff and students to cover the essentials of preparing documents, meeting medical necessities, making personal contacts/arrangements and pre-immersion preparation. When the day to leave came, we felt excited, nervous and open to possibility.

We arrived in San Salvador in the evening and were met by our very personable and helpful driver/guide, Claudio. He took us to the Episcopal Church, San Juan, where we were to sleep, eat and base our travels for the next eleven days. That night we ate the first of many *muy rico* meals made of beans, rice, homemade tortillas and fresh fruit. We drank coffee grown and processed by the church that student Mary

Wegler calls "heaven on earth." The rich food, bright smiles on our hosts Señora Blanca and Mercedes, and a long day of travel were just the right recipe for a wonderful first night's sleep in our new home away from home.

It would be impossible to relay in detail all of the amazing people we met, experiences we had and connections we made. Our eleven days in the country were packed with stimulation, challenge, novelty, emotion, fun and connection. Every day we met someone new who caught our attention with his or her humility, caring and gentle smile. We worked our tails off preparing a site to build a forty-home community in a mountain town in a beautiful region called the Congo.

We exchanged a barrage of mangled Spanglish with Salvadoran kids and adults and laughed with contentment and frustration equally. With each new Spanish word or phrase we learned, it became clear how much more there was to learn—and how much we could communicate without spoken language. We learned about what draws people together and what keeps them apart. We learned how to listen, and to let words and emotion wash over us without needing to formulate a response. We couldn't comprehend what was being said yet everything made sense.

Continued on Page E

D Y C

Diocesan Youth Calendar

For information about the activities of the Diocesan Youth Committee, contact Keri & Alden Franzoni, 802-644-8989

For information about other diocesan youth activities, contact Connie Saeger-Proctor, Canon for Youth Ministry 802-479-1246

clsproctor@dioceseofvermont.org

- Oct. 23 Acolyte Festival, Cathedral, Burlington
- Nov. 12-14 NYC High School Retreat
- Feb. 11-12 Night Watch, St. John the Divine, NYC
- Apr. 1-3 NYC Junior High/Middle School Retreat
- Apr. 15-16 Province I Youth Event
- July 26-31 Episcopal Youth Event, Berea, KY

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

Funds Available for Parish Use As of May 6, 2004

Total Pledged	\$1,600,000
Pledges Received (92%)	\$1,464,545
Funds available:	
Initiative I	
The Bishop Butterfield Revolving Loan Fund	\$ 279,280
Initiative II	
The Talent and Resource Network	\$ 13,035
Initiative III	
The Congregation Renewal and Emergency Assistance Fund	\$ -
Initiative IV	
The Diocesan Outreach Fund	\$ 16,295

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

"Celebrate God's Creation" at the 2004 Rock Point Summer Conferences



9-12 th grades	June 27-July 3
7 th /8 th grades	July 4-10
5 th /6 th grades	July 11-17
3 rd /4 th grades	July 18-24
Arts Camp	July 25-31
All Ages	August 1-7
Bike Trip (Around Lake Champlain)	August 7-14

Check the Diocesan Web site for a registration form and additional information: www.dioceseofvermont.org (the link to the RPSC page is near the bottom of the home page), or contact Connie Saeger-Proctor, Canon for Youth Ministry: 802-479-1246, or clsproctor@dioceseofvermont.org.