



St. James' raises funds for Anglican parish in Zambia

by Joyce L. Carroll

On a bitter cold, late January evening, over 150 people gathered to share dance and song, fellowship and food in support of a church half a continent away. A aptly billed as an African Adventure, the celebration at St. James' Episcopal church in Essex Junction featured the Burlington based West African drum and dance troupe Jeh Kulu and the Sudanese choir, and was an exhilarating example of how one community links with another in praise of God's blessings. A fundraising goal of \$600 had been set for St. Paul's Church in Chipata, Zambia. More than three times that amount was raised.

The event was the first large scale gathering in the new parish hall/community room at St. James' and was St. James's way of giving back to the global community. St. Paul's has been a temporary home to St. James' parishioners John Heermans, his wife Ceece and their daughter Gabriella, who live and work in the small, south African country. When the St. James' outreach committee learned that St. Paul's Church was planning some significant capital improvements, it stepped up to the plate, agreeing to raise one tenth of the cost of the improvements. The gift became even more meaningful when the committee learned that the priest at St.

Paul's was mourning the recent death of his daughter.

Jeh Kulu, which means community in the Bambara language of Mali, agreed to donate its time and energy to the event, as did nearly a dozen of the Sudanese young men. For those who have not had the opportunity to hear the Sudanese sing, their rich, a capella voices are a powerful testament to their intense spirituality. Members change from event to event depending on availability, yet their voices consistently provide inspiration. Jeh Kulu brought an energy and enthusiasm that lived on long after the two-hour event came to a close. Four drummers and four dancers dressed in native garb shared tradition and talent with an audience that found it impossible not to clap along. The evening's high point was when a number of the Sudanese men spontaneously joined Jeh Kulu in celebratory dance.

The evening also featured the cherubic voices of the St. James' Junior Choir, a power-point presentation about St. Paul's and the Chipata community, and amazing food. The success of any good event is measured in the number of empty plates, and the evening did not disappoint. Thanks to the culinary talents of two local Suda-



Chuck Ordway photo

The choir of Sudanese men living in the Burlington area sang at the St. James' "African Adventure" fundraiser for St. Paul's Church in Chipata, Zambia.

nese women, participants were treated to an African meal that included a cabbage and beef dish accompanied by African-style pinto beans and rice.

While much of the audience was made up of St. James' parishioners, a number of people came from the greater Burlington community. The event was free, with donations encouraged. Seventeen hundred dollars were raised—the pot further sweetened by a \$500 match thanks to an anonymous gift. St. Paul's will certainly make good use of the funds. To St. James' and the greater ecumenical community: Congratulations on a job well done!

Joyce Carroll is a member of St. James', Essex Junction.

Zion Church hosts new spiritual life center

Monthly Candlelit Sung Vespers offered

by Anne Clarke Brown

The Vermont-based Hosea Foundation, established four years ago by Brother Gregory Norbet and iconographer Kathryn Carrington, is beginning the Lumen Christi Spiritual Life Center and Spiritual Development Program in southern Vermont. Zion Church, Manchester, is host for the center,

which will offer retreats, sponsor spiritual development groups and serve as home for the Lumen Christi Prayer Community.

In partnership with Zion, the Hosea Foundation is also offering monthly Candlelit Sung Vespers, featuring music by Gregory Norbet and icons by Kathryn Carrington. The service blends music, silence,

prayer and candlelit sacred images to create a holy space. The next Vespers service is scheduled for Sunday evening, March 14, at 6:00 P.M. All are welcome.

Gregory Norbet, a former Benedictine monk of the Weston Priory, is well-known as a retreat leader, composer and musician. His wife Kathryn Carrington is an accomplished artist whose icons, according to Norbet, "invite one to gaze into the mystery of God's incarnate love." She says, "Gregory helps people to experience the peace of God through music."

They couple lives and works in Manchester. Their Hosea Foundation is "a ministry that teaches compassion and spiritual deepening as a way of transformation and healing for individuals, family and community." Presiding Bishop Frank Griswold serves on Hosea's board of directors.

Lumen Christi

In an interview at their home in late January, the couple described their work and their hopes for the new Lumen Christi Spiritual Life Center. It had been, they told me, their hope when they created the Hosea Foundation to find a property where they could host retreats. Norbet said that Zion's rector, the Rev. John Mitchell, offered the Zion campus as a home until the property becomes a reality. Carrington said, "John



ACB photo

Gregory Norbet and Kathryn Carrington with one of Carrington's icons in her Manchester studio.

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Good Friday Offering supports church in Jerusalem and Middle East

by the Right Reverend Thomas Clark Ely, Bishop of Vermont

From May 6-14, 2004, I will be one of thirteen bishops traveling to the Holy Land as part of the American Bishops' Peace Mission to the Holy Land. The mission is being led by Bishop Thomas Shaw of Massachusetts, a frequent traveler to the Holy Land and a tireless voice for peace and justice in the Middle East, especially for Palestinian Christians. This will be my first trip to the Holy Land and I look forward to the journey with all the hope, expectation and anxiety that one might suspect.

Our goals for the pilgrimage are two-fold. We want to be present and hear the stories of our Palestinian Christian brothers and sisters who, like all Palestinians, have suffered terribly during the last three years and who often feel abandoned by their fellow Christians abroad. We also want to talk with many Israelis and Palestinians, both Christian and Muslim, to learn of the impact of the ongoing violence on their daily lives and on the lives of their children.

Our base will be Saint George's College, Jerusalem, an Anglican continuing education center, which shares a walled enclosure and garden in Jerusalem with Saint George's Cathedral. While in Jerusalem, we expect to meet with such groups as the *Bereaved Parent's Circle*, a joint Israeli/Palestinian peace group whose members have all lost children to the violence; the *New Israel Fund*, a funding organization that supports many human rights initiatives; and joint youth groups such as *Kids4Peace*. We want to learn not only about the immediate physical and emotional trauma experienced by children living daily with fear and loss but also about the longer range psychological effects on Palestinian youth who have grown up under occupation and on Israeli youth facing military service in an occupying army.

We will travel to West Bank cities such as Bethlehem, Nablus and Ramallah, where we will meet with Anglican clergy and laity, visit other Christian groups and experience life in Palestinian refugee camps. In Gaza, we expect to visit the Al Ahli Anglican hospital and the Gaza Mental Health Organization and Middle East Council of Churches' youth programs. As we follow the line of the "Security Barrier" from upper Galilee via Jerusalem through Bethlehem, we'll see the Wall's effect on Palestinian villages and share the stories of Israeli kibbutzim and peace activists who believe that genuine security results from sharing rather than dividing the land.

Bishop Shaw has written in his letter to each of the bishops who will be part of this pilgrimage, "Be assured that we will adjust our itinerary on a daily basis if there is any question of safety; our friends at Saint George's have an excellent sense of what's happening each day and will advise us if change is necessary. Most of all, know that whatever we bring to the Palestinian Christians and Israeli peace communities by our prayers and presence will be returned to us many times as we experience their gracious hospitality and passion for peace and justice. We will return uplifted by their witness and strengthened to continue ours."

I ask you for your prayers for us during this pilgrimage and draw you attention, especially this year, to the invitation to join other Episcopalians in the *Good Friday Offering* for the Episcopal Church

in Jerusalem and the Middle East. Each year since 1922, the *Good Friday Offering* has been one significant way in which the Episcopal Church has celebrated and witnessed to the Light of Christ, which first appeared in Bethlehem. It has become our tradition to send signs of our love and concern by way of this offering.

The Presiding Bishop has written to all congregations to request our generous response to the *Good Friday Offering*. I add my own invitation to his. If you need more information or resources to help with your participation, please visit the *Good Friday Offering* home page at <http://www.episcopalchurch.org/agr/friday.html>, and click on the appropriate icons. Support received through the *Good Friday*

Offering translates into operating hospitals, schools, orphanages and many other programs, accomplished for the benefit of all people in the Province—Christian, Jewish and Muslim alike. Your support for the *Good Friday Offering* is essential

"This will be my first trip to the Holy Land and I look forward to the journey with all the hope, expectation and anxiety that one might suspect."



to a continued Anglican witness in Jesus' homeland. As you walk with the Christ from Palm Sunday through Holy Week toward his final victory at the Resurrection, may every blessing be yours.

Shalom,

+Thomas

P.S. Ann joins me in thanking you for all the prayers and well wishes on the occasion of the birth of our first granddaughter, Elisabeth Arwen Foecking, on January 25, 2004. Elisabeth came into the world at 21 inches in length and weighing 9 pounds, 3 ounces! All are doing well.

Views from the Frontier

by Gina Logan

My prayer life needs a jolt of light and color at this time of year, when the winter seems to have gone on forever (and no end is yet in sight). Everything seems cold and grey, with a general aura of gloom that the political news does nothing to dispel. I'm getting really annoyed with these folks who loudly proclaim that they should be chosen to lead our country in various new directions. What they all seem to want more than anything else is power, and that makes me sad.

As usual, just when I think I can't take a moment more of this, God sends relief, this time in the shape of a poem that addresses these very same feelings. What's more, the poem comes from a part of the world where color and light are part of the everyday landscape, where people never have to worry about frozen pipes or icy steps or balky furnaces. Instead, they have to worry about finding enough food to eat, about getting enough clean water to drink, about having enough work to support life, about living in a culture that frequently denies them the chance to experience the dignity and freedom that God intends for every one of God's children. It's called "Caribbean Woman Prayer," by Grace Nichols (from *Praying with the English Poets*, London: Triangle Press, 1990):

Wake up Lord
brush de sunflakes from yuh eye
back de sky a while Lord
an hear dis mother-woman
on behalf of her pressure-down people

God de Mudder
God de Fadder
God de Sister
God de Brudder
God de Holy Fire

Ah don't need to tell yuh
How tings stan . . .
You know dat is de politics
an de times
an de tricks
dat has reduced we to dis

An talking bout politics Lord
I hope you give de politicians dem
de courage to do what dey have to do
and to mek dem see dat tings must grow
from within
an not from without
even as you suffer us not
to walk in de rags of doubt
mek dem see dat de people
must be at de root of de heart. . .

God de Mudder
God de Fadder
God de Sister
God de Brudder
God de Holy Fire

I want to see de children
wake up happy to de sunrise
an food in de pot . . .
I want to see de loss of hope
everywhere replace
wid de win of living

I want to see de man an woman
being in they being

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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,

In the debates swirling around the church these days, one word that keeps getting used is the word, "traditionalist." I am confused about what that word actually means. Can you give any insight into this word from a Biblical perspective?

Confused

Dear Confused:

First, let me say, "Join the club." It seems that the words "tradition" and "traditionalist" roll off the tongues of many people who seem to assume they know exactly what those words mean, but in my experience, what they often mean is that they have made a clear choice about certain beliefs and actions and then they invoke the imprimatur of "Tradition" to justify their position.

From a Biblical perspective, I am very hesitant to talk about "Tradition." It seems better to celebrate the facts that: (1) there are many traditions coming out of the Hebrew and Christian communities, (2) they have been collected and preserved in Scripture, and (3) if we immerse ourselves in those traditions we will be in contact with God.

The Northern tribes of ancient Israel had some important experiences in their on-going relationship with God and the Southern tribes of ancient Israel also had some important experiences. Those are two different traditions about two somewhat different relationships with God. The written records of those traditions were combined, sometimes in fairly messy ways, to form Hebrew Scripture. Then, to complicate things more, all the experiences that the Jewish community had after the Exile also got recorded and added to the Bible. The result is not a homogenous single "tradition" but a multifaceted collection of many traditions. The Bible is not a seamless garment made of one material; it is patchwork quilt made from a rich array of many materials.

In a similar way, each of the four Gospels came out of the experiences of a specific community of first century Christians who were faced with unique challenges

and needed to tell the Jesus story within the context of their historical situations. So, in a sense, we have four evangelical "traditions" with both commonality and individuality. The ongoing challenge for us is to sort out what those stories have in common with our own experiences and to let those stories help us understand what the Spirit is saying to us in our situation. To whatever degree we can do that with integrity and humility, to that same degree we are being faithful to our tradition.

That's not a very neat and tidy answer, is it? Well, that's our tradition! Ain't it grand!

To shed some more light on this topic, let's turn to a non-Biblical tradition and see if it can enhance our understanding of what our Christian Tradition is. In a recent interview, a member of the African singing group Ladysmith Black Mambazo said this about the group's musical tradition: "The music itself hasn't changed much. The message changes all the time, according to the things we see and according to the things we experience, and the things that happen around us. The music is the same, but the composition changes."

Is this a good analogy for us to use? I think so. We can see our "music" as the reality of God toward which our traditions point, but we must constantly be aware that a problem arises when we try to turn a specific composition into an unchanging "tradition" that leads us away from the real life-giving music.

I hope this helps you. If nothing else, you can at least consider the wisdom of Kurt Herbert Adler (1905-1988), who said, "Tradition is what you resort to when you don't have the time or the money to do it right."

Let's hope we don't rush into some of this so-called "Tradition" stuff, get it wrong, and miss out on the really good divine music.

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



Views from the Frontier

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Yes Lord
Hallelujah Lord!

All green tings an hibiscus praises Lord

I think of how the winter here becomes so much a part of our life, we forget that the ice will, one day, thaw and break. I think of how we've become so accustomed to the language and uses (abuses?) of power in our politics and in the way we run our institutions—even our families—that we don't even see that any other way is possible. And yet, with every year's return to Spring, we are being shown that the pattern can be broken, is being broken and re-formed with every hour that passes, with every breath we take.

In these times of chill and doubt, it's

good to remember that "all green tings and hibiscus praises Lord"—even here in these mountains that are at this moment very far from green. (And no hibiscus either, at least not outdoors!) Still, we know that the spring will come, and we know that God is with us as we wake from winter's cold sleep to the promise of resurrected life.

So, while we wait for the ice to melt and for life to surge forth again, let us pray, with Grace Nichols, for the world's "pressure-down people": for all of us, together and apart, that we may be renewed and strengthened for new life in God's service. Amen.

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

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

Opinion

In support of weekly Holy Eucharist

by Ann Staffeld

I am concerned about the shrinking communion table in the Northeast Kingdom. My own (sadly, former) parish has, in the course of a very few years, gone from three services of Holy Eucharist a week to three services a month, and some people seem to think this is a good and admirable development, which will encourage lay leadership and save money. Checking around with other parishes in this part of Vermont, I find they also now have one or more Sundays a month without a Eucharist.

I think this is tragic. I'm all for lay leadership and saving money but not at the cost of cutting down on the most important thing our church does. Without the centrality of the Eucharist, as the main service on all Sundays and major feast days (BCP, 13), how are we Episcopalians different from other mainline Protestants? Don't get me wrong; I love them too, for what they are and for what they do well. (As a former longtime organist, I've participated enthusiastically in many types of worship service.) In fact, they do it so very well—the cozy fellowship, the warm, friendly, lovable environment—that we will never catch up; they have a several-hundred-year head start.

But "in spite of all temptations to succumb to other denominations" (as W.S. Gilbert almost said), I've stayed Episcopalian because Jesus asked us to remember him through Holy Communion; because we are the bridge church to the Roman Catholics, whom I also love but whose doctrines I cannot swallow whole (I know that calling us a bridge church is a cliché but right now the idea seems to bear repeating); and because our church has, through the Eucharist, maintained a link with Christianity's long history. There are personal reasons, too, as usual. Because I am a survivor of clergy sexual abuse, I do not base my church affiliation on the personality or talents of the clergy person in charge of any parish I belong to; some clergy I like and admire enormously, luckily, but that's not why I go to church. I go to receive Communion. It never lets me down.

Another factor worth considering is this: in reading various articles about the recent consecration of Bishop Gene Robinson, I've noted how many individuals, both supporters and dissenters, have referred to "meeting around the table" as an important factor in carrying our church forward. So, is this a great time for the table to be shrinking?

Finally, lest any respondents think I am an old fogey who bucks at any change, I need to add that I have wholeheartedly supported the ordination of women, the revisions to the Prayer Book (including the inclusive, or expanded, liturgy), and complete equality in our church in all ways for gays and lesbians. I am proud that my chosen branch of Christianity has been courageous and flexible about change. For some of us, the strength to continue on such sometimes difficult paths comes directly from the weekly Eucharist. Please don't take that away.

Ann Staffeld lives in St. Johnsbury, Vermont

Safer Church Training

Safer Church Training sessions will be offered at Zion Church, Manchester, on April 24, and at St. Andrew's, Colchester, on May 1, both 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. In order to finish by 3:30, we will take just 30 minutes for 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. It is highly recommended for wardens, treasurers, vestry members and church school teachers.

MOUNTAIN ECHO

News of the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont

Anne Clarke Brown, Editor

Contributions of news and photographs are invited and encouraged

Please send such materials to the editor at

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More Coming Events

Arts at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul
2 Cherry Street, Burlington, Vermont

Art Show in the Church Nave

February 25–April 9: Richard Clark's Stations of the Cross.

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).

"The Passion of the Christ"

Panel Discussion on the Mel Gibson film

March 24, 2004, 6:00-8:30 P.M.

Episcopal Divinity School

99 Brattle Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts

In response to interest in Mel Gibson's new film, "The Passion of the Christ," Episcopal Divinity School will offer a panel discussion in Sherrill 3A. EDS faculty members Carter Heyward, Kwok Pui Lan, and Larry Wills will respond to the film in the context of both the historical view and what it means for Jewish and Christian relations in the 21st century.

For more information, or to register, contact Elisa Lucozzi at elucozzi@episdivscho.edu or visit the EDS website at www.episdivschool.edu. Participants are encouraged to take public transportation as parking is limited. This event is handicap accessible.

Province 1 stewardship and evangelism conference examines "seeds of change"

by Anne Clarke Brown

The popular Province One annual stewardship and evangelism event, scheduled this year for March 26-28, at the Wyndham Hotel in Westborough, Massachusetts, will explore the theme, "Sowing and Growing: Seeds of Change in Stewardship, Evangelism and Parish Development." Keynote speakers are the Most Rev. Michael Peers, retired primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, the Rt. Rev. Roy F. Cederholm, Jr., Bishop Suffragan of Massachusetts, and the Rev. Ben Helmer, Missioner for Rural and Small Communities Ministries at the Episcopal Church Center. Workshop sessions will focus on stewardship, evangelism, congregational development and planned giving.

The reservation deadline is March 4. Conference planners note that in just four years, attendance has grown from 160 to more than 300 participants, and last year's conference sold out. The conference fee of \$175 includes registration materials and meals Saturday morning through Sunday morning. The conference rate at the Wyndham Westborough Hotel is \$70 per night for a single and \$80 per night for a double. Congregations are encouraged to send teams to the conference.

For questions on conference registration contact Judith Barnes, 603-224-1914, or jbinnh@juno.com. The conference brochure may be downloaded as a PDF file (readable with Acrobat Reader) from www.diomaine.org/province1.htm. ❖

Lent retreat will explore "The Mystery of Freedom"

Participants in the annual diocesan Lenten retreat, March 5-7, 2004, will join retreat leader the Rev. Peter MacLean in an exploration of "The Mystery of Freedom." The retreat will be held at the Bishop Booth Conference and Retreat Center, Rock Point, Burlington.

MacLean plans to focus on the freedom to change direction without the necessity of undergoing a radical conversion or total reconstruction. He believes that even small shifts in direction and knowledge can have enormous consequences for the spiritual life over time and that one of the barriers to change and transformation in our culture is that we are frustrated because we expect instant results. He will use story-telling, music and silence to create an atmosphere for participants to reflect on those persons and events that inspire freedom in their hearts and minds.

Peter MacLean retired in September 1993, and continued his ministry in Vermont, most recently as vicar at St. Luke's, Alburg. He has served as an elected member of the Oversight and Audit Committee and, with his wife, Margaret, was for several years co-coordinator of the United Thank Offering.

The Lay Chaplain for the Lenten Retreat is Mr. Michael Hechmer, a member of the Pastoral Care Department at Fletcher Allen Hospital. Michael attends Saint James' Episcopal Church in Essex Junction.

The cost of the retreat has increased to \$130 for a shared room, or \$150 for a private room (if available). With questions or to reserve a place for the retreat, contact John King at 802-862-6834. Also send a \$50.00 non-refundable deposit, made out to the Diocese of Vermont, to John King, 433 Bean Road, Colchester, VT 05446. ❖

Workshop on reconciliation planned Leader is Bishop Steven Charleston

by Susan Ohlidal

The Rt. Rev. Steven Charleston, author of "Good News: A Congregational Resource for Reconciliation," will offer a workshop on reconciliation within congregations on Saturday, March 6, 10 A.M.–3 P.M., at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, White River Junction.

Guided by a covenant that honors a variety of opinions, "Good News" seeks to fulfill three goals: promoting a fair and respectful dialogue, providing a context of reflection on the shared values of the Gospel, and encouraging a process of reconciliation within the life of the community.

Bishop Charleston, President and Dean of the Episcopal Divinity School (EDS), will address the "how tos" of using the resource and look also at how the theology

behind the resource applies to the vocation of individuals as disciples of Christ.

Copies of "Good News" will be available at the workshop. The resource can also be obtained through EDS (contact Nancy Davidge at 617-868-3450, x302 or ndavidge@episdivschool.edu).

Sponsored by the Pastoral Enrichment Project, the workshop is free and open to all in the Diocese of Vermont. Bring your own lunch. Coffee and tea will be available in the morning. For more information, please contact Susan Ohlidal, Pastoral Enrichment Coordinator, sohlidal@dioceseofvermont.org; 802-748-8755.

Susan Ohlidal, a member of St. Andrew's, St. Johnsbury, is Diocesan Coordinator of the Pastoral Enrichment Program.

Vermonters evaluate General Ordination Exams



Anne Brown, the Rev. Gordon Bardos, George Lewis, and the Rev. Lee Alison Crawford joined "GOE readers" from throughout the country at Camp Allen in Navasota, Texas, in mid February to evaluate the four-day written exams taken by over 300 senior seminarians and others hoping to be ordained later this year. Each team of two readers, under the supervision of a chaplain, writes evaluations for five to seven exams over a three-day period. The work is intense, but all of the Vermont readers find it rewarding and enjoy the daily worship and lively discussions with reading partners and at mealtimes.

"What is Sin?" EDS to sponsor March symposium

Sin is a subject beneath the surface of many debates within the global church today. How do we understand sin and how is that understanding lived out in the contemporary context? These are the issues four panelists representing the Protestant, Roman Catholic, Anglican, and Orthodox traditions will engage at the inaugural President's Symposium at Episcopal Divinity School, March 13, 2004, from 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

Each panelist will offer a 15 minute reflection, with four students from different faith traditions invited to respond. After a brown bag lunch, the panel will speak again, commenting on what they heard from one another and from the responders. The symposium will end with an hour for questions from the floor, as well as dialogue among the audience.

Panelists include Dr. Angela Bauer, professor of Hebrew Bible, Episcopal Divinity School (Protestant), the Very Rev. Dr. Gary Kriss, former dean, Nashotah House, (Anglican), Fr. Theodore Stylianopoulos, professor of New Testament, Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology (Orthodox),

and Dr. Thomas Massaro, SJ, professor of moral theology, Weston Jesuit School of Theology (Catholic).

"The idea for this event arose from within the student community," explains Bishop Steven Charleston, president and dean of Episcopal Divinity School. "Students were looking for a forum that would allow a variety of voices to speak to a single topic. More importantly, they wanted that topic to be of core value to the Christian faith. We hope that this will be an opportunity for our community to hear a wide range of perspectives and to do so in a climate of deep listening and genuine respect."

To register for this free symposium, please call 617-868-3450 x 320 or send an email to mphillips@episdivschool.edu. Participants are invited to bring a brown bag lunch and are encouraged to take public transportation as parking is limited. Additional information is available on the EDS website, www.episdivschool.edu. The Episcopal Divinity School is located at 99 Brattle Street, Cambridge, MA 02138. This event is handicap accessible. ❖

Cathedral inaugurates Christian Meditation Center

Meditation course offered March 5-6

As part of its commitment to being a "cathedral without walls," the Chapter of the Cathedral Church of St. Paul has initiated the Christian Meditation Center, a ministry of spiritual development. Designed in response to the spiritual hunger among members of Vermont congregations and the wider society, the new ministry will address the needs of people, both inside and outside the church, at different stages of spiritual growth.

The center teaches the practice of meditative and contemplative prayer as it is set forth in the essential teaching of the World Community for Christian Meditation (WCCM). The WCCM had its origins in the work of Dom John Main, an English Benedictine monk who taught a form of meditation based on the practice of the desert fathers. In 1991, the WCCM was formed under the leadership of his successor, Laurence Freeman, OSB. Individuals, groups and centers, spread through 100 countries, share the vision of peace and unity arising from meditation. Groups meet in homes, parishes, offices, hospitals, prisons and colleges. A network of Christian Meditation Centers helps to serve this community and its teaching work. For more information on the WCCM visit www.wccm.org.

The cathedral's Center for Christian Meditation will offer programs both at the

cathedral and for parishes and deaneries. "Christian Meditation and Other Ways to Pray" is an introductory course that can be held in five weekly sessions or on a Friday and Saturday. A weekly Meditation Group meets at the cathedral, and groups can be facilitated wherever the meditation course is offered.

The Very Rev. Ken Poppe, Dean of the Cathedral will teach the introductory course at the Cathedral on Friday evening and all day Saturday, March 5-6. [Note: The date was incorrectly printed in the February Echo.] The course will focus on the practice of meditative and contemplative prayer, ancient and modern, from the Christian tradition. The Friday evening portion will include a video from the World Community for Christian Meditation, "Coming Home—An Introduction to Christian Meditation and the Community It Creates." Saturday's program will include discussions of the Jesus prayer, Benedictine *lectio divina*, Ignatian imaginative contemplation, and other forms of Christian meditation. A resource guide is provided with background materials.

Please contact Ken Poppe for more information on scheduling the course for a parish or deanery, or to register for the March session at the cathedral: 802-864-0471; kpope@stpaulscathedralvt.org.



Could Vermont support a Deaf Episcopal congregation?

Could there be an Episcopal Deaf church in Vermont? Today, in the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont, there are no regularly scheduled interpreted or signed services. Could and should that change? These are questions that the Rev. Diane Root will be asking during her sabbatical this spring and summer, while she continues her American Sign Language (ASL) studies and visits Deaf ministries. She is hoping that the Deaf community in Vermont will share some answers and wisdom with her.

"Vermont has a small but important Deaf population," says Root, "particularly in the larger communities like Burlington, Rutland, Montpelier, and in Brattleboro where the Austine School is located. Some 'free churches' have ministries with the Deaf, but we do not. Maybe there just isn't a large enough population, or enough of a concentration, or maybe we aren't attractive to the Deaf community," she said. "Still, if there are interested people, it would be enormously exciting to see a new congregation formed."

"This diocese has a vision of ministry happening in community," Root continued, "with local congregations identifying and preparing their own leaders, baptized and ordained. This seems like a natural: a Deaf church led by Deaf leaders from within the congregation. At the most," she said, "I'm hoping to be a supportive ally, and I hope people who can help me learn about the Deaf community in Vermont will contact me." She can be reached by e-mail at: DRootTRRM@aol.com; fax: 802-422-9064; or mail at: 316 Mission Farm Road, Killington, VT 05751.

The Episcopal Church has a long history of ministry by, with and for the Deaf. The Rev. Dr. Thomas Gallaudet, who has been called "the Apostle to the Deaf," initiated the Episcopal Church's ministry with the deaf. The first Deaf person ordained in the US, Henry Winter Syle, was ordained an Episcopal priest in 1876, and the first Deaf congregation was St. Anne's in New York.

The Episcopal Church was also the first to foster congregations organized and run by deaf persons. Thomas Gallaudet and Henry Winter Syle are both commemorated in the church's calendar on the date of Gallaudet's death, August 27. Their work has continued through the Conference of Church Workers Among the Deaf, established in 1881 for clergy, and reorganized in 1961 to include persons not ordained. The name of the organization was officially changed to the Episcopal Conference of the Deaf (ECD) in 1970. They will hold their annual conference this August in Maryland.

[Some information is taken from the web site of the Episcopal Conference of the Deaf, www.ecdeaf.org.]



Dismantling Racism Training for clergy and diocesan leaders

Bishop Thomas Ely and the Commission on Dismantling Racism will sponsor an all-day training that clergy and members of Diocesan Council, the Standing Committee, the Commission on Ministry and other key diocesan organizations will be asked to attend. It is part of the diocese's commitment to respond to General Convention resolutions requiring anti-racism training for church leaders.

The one-day training will be offered three times: **April 1** at Trinity, Rutland; **April 2** at St. Michael's, Brattleboro, and **April 3** at Christ Church, Montpelier. The sessions will be facilitated by the Rt. Rev. Stewart Wood, Margie Zabriskie and Naima K. Wade, who have received advanced training at the national level.

Study leave offered through Pastoral Enrichment Program

by Susan Ohlidal

What would you do if you found yourself at the Episcopal Divinity School (EDS) in Cambridge, MA for 5 days? Make good that promise of taking a spiritual retreat for a few days? Use the EDS Library facilities for research or developing a project? Take advantage of the beautiful campus and urban surroundings? How about visiting the monastery of the Society of St. John the Evangelist or the convent of the Sisters of St. Anne of Bethany?

These opportunities can all be had through the Study Leave Program, a collaborative effort with EDS and the Pastoral Enrichment Program of the Diocese of Vermont. Designed for congregational leaders, the Study Leave Program provides for self-directed projects of theological study and reflection, spiritual renewal, and pastoral enrichment. The program is designed for use by worship leaders, choir directors,

wardens, priests, preachers—any congregational leader.

The package for the Study Leave consists of lodging for five week days (Monday–Friday); breakfast and lunch each day; dinner for two nights; attendance at worship services; use of the EDS Library's services, resources, and computer lab; time for spiritual refreshment; and, with prior notice, attendance in classes and faculty consultation on special areas of interest. Participants will provide their own transportation and are responsible for other meals, amenities, or expenses for an accompanying spouse/partner.

For more information, contact Susan Ohlidal, Pastoral Enrichment Coordinator, at sohlidal@dioceseofvermont.org, or by phone, 802-748-8755.

Susan Ohlidal, a member of St. Andrew's, St. Johnsbury, is Diocesan Coordinator of the Pastoral Enrichment Program.

EDS to host summer course on spirituality and leadership

The Pastoral Enrichment Project of the Diocese of Vermont and the Episcopal Divinity School (EDS) invite lay and clergy participation in a one-week summer study course, "Anglican Spirituality and Congregational Leadership," June 7-11, 2004, at EDS. Fredrica Harris Thompsett, Professor of Historical Theology at EDS will serve as facilitator.

Christian spirituality has been defined as "theology walking," or how we actually "experience" God. Classically, Anglicans have been credited with a rich and engaging spirituality. Various Episcopal leaders in New England, including the Rt. Rev. Chilton Knudsen, Bishop of Maine, and the Honorable Byron Rushing, Massachusetts State Representative and long-time deputy to General Convention, will join with class participants to explore changing roles of clergy and other congregational leaders.

The course will discuss ways (plural) of supporting baptismal ministry, sharing leadership at the local congregational level,

while deepening spiritual practices. Overall, the course aims to refresh and renew understandings of leadership and spirituality.

The fee for the Pastoral Enrichment Project Course Package, 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 Christina Carr, EDS Pastoral Excellence Project Coordinator, at 617-868-3450 ext. 329, or e-mail: ccarr@episdivschool.edu.

The Registration deadline is Friday, April 23. To register, contact Gena Gourley, Registrar; ext. 316; or email: ggourley@episdivschool.edu. For Housing Reservations Contact: ext. 555; or email: GuestroomBooking@episdivschool.edu; Please make housing reservations by the registration deadline. When making housing reservations, please identify yourself as a "PEP course package participant."



New course for seekers available

Every Voice Network, a national ministry dedicated to growing the Episcopal Church, has created "via media," a new tool for evangelism designed to proclaim the Good News of God in Christ Jesus and to present the Episcopal Church in a contemporary context. Grounded in the traditional Anglican perspective balancing Scripture, Traditions and Reason, *via media* celebrates who we are as American Anglicans and invites those seeking spiritual

community to explore the rich diversity of Anglican Christianity through a non-threatening eight-week course of study, prayer and conversation surrounded by radical hospitality.

Each *via media* session begins with a video in which Episcopalians from across the country come together to share with one another their varying understandings of each of the topics explored. Among the topics are "An Anglican Way of Being Christian," "God and Creation," "God in Jesus," "God the Holy Spirit," "The Bible," "Sin," and "Thy Kingdom Come."

A training session for *via media* facilitators will be offered in Boston on June 14. Training is included in the cost of the program, which is \$495, or \$395 for members of sponsoring dioceses (Vermont is not yet listed). To learn more about the *via media* course, visit www.everyvoice.net.

Information in this article is taken from www.everyvoice.net.

Northwest Deanery 1

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Members of ST. THOMAS', & GRACE, Brandon/Forest Dale, received coin collection boxes from the children in the Sunday Morning Program for those coins found around the house, under a seat cushion, in the car, or in the dryer. All coins will be contributed to the church budget. The young people have offered to make a frontal to be used for services at the Porter Nursing Home in Middlebury.

ST. STEPHEN'S Middlebury, received thank you notes for their outreach ministry from the Dr. Pete Society, Senior Elderly Services, Vermont Adult Learning and Head Start. Sunday Morning Forums for the month of February included a welcome to interim pastor, the Rev. **Geoff Robbins**, and programs titled, "Will the True Mary Magdalene Please Stand Up?" and "Poetry as an Expression of Faith in Conflict."

TRINITY, Rutland, will offer a four-week Lenten series, "In Search of Reconciliation," on Tuesday evenings beginning Mar. 9, at 7:00 P.M., led by the Rev. **Hugh Tudor-Foley**. Prayer beads, long used in nearly every spiritual tradition, assist contemplative, meditative, and reflective prayer. An Episcopal priest created Anglican prayer beads about twenty years ago. As a means of helping parishioners enrich their prayer lives and as a benefit to support the church, **Joanne and Tom Williamson** are crafting Anglican prayer beads from a variety of materials. For information, call 802-775-0433.

Writing in *The Epistle* of ST. PAUL'S, Vergennes, the Rev. **Bob Macauley** said of the past year, "Stong feelings were held on both sides, and frank discussions took place, and we weathered the storm. I'm proud of our honesty, and our courage, and our willingness to stand by one another, even if we don't agree all the time on everything. The faithfulness of the people shone forth not only in the ministries that journeyed on, but also in the spirit of generosity. Even as many churches struggle, we now have our second consecutive balanced budget, with projected income up nearly 10% from last year. Lest we be tempted to forget, God is good."

Southwest Deanery 3

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ST. JAMES', Arlington, held a benefit concert for the victims of the Iran earthquake on Feb. 1. A huge thank-you to performers **Melanie Dexter-Durfee**, **Lindsay Dyett**, **Rebecca Sampson**, **Leslie Upchurch** and **Hal Watters** for making the event musically and financially successful. Parishioners will see "Chocolat" and eat chocolate on Shrove Tuesday at

❖ deanery doings ❖

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

6:00 P.M. for an evening of indulgence to mark the beginning of Lent. **Mel Bride**, a vestry member from Trinity Episcopal Church in Hampton, N.H., spoke at the Jan. 18, service of the relationship the people of Trinity established with a community of villagers in Honduras. His visit was an invitation to join them in their coming return to the village and to offer a picture of what such a visit might mean to St. James'.

The Outreach Committee of ST. PETER'S, Bennington, unanimously approved donations to support the Ecumenical Food and Fuel Fund, the Cans for Kids Fund of Bennington Home Health, the Bennington/Rutland Opportunity Council, the Kurn Hattin Home for Children, the South American Missionary Society, the Angel Tree and the PINS Christmas Party. With the help of a matching grant from the Diocese, St. Peter's will be able to support a bed at the Bennington Coalition for the Homeless Shelter in North Bennington.

Deacon **Penny Hawkins** will lead the Stations of the Cross at St. Peter's every Friday during Lent at 5:30 P.M. This devotion is an adaptation of a custom widely observed by pilgrims to Jerusalem: the offering of prayer at a series of places in the city which were traditionally associated with Jesus' passion and death. Members of the vestry have met and chosen members of the Ministry Discernment Committee. Parishioners will be regularly updated on the progress of the search.

ZION, Manchester's "Ashes to Easter" events include adult education on Sundays and Wednesdays and two special musical services: Candlelit Sung Vespers on Sunday, Mar. 14, at 6 P.M. and a Jamaican praise and worship service on Saturday, Mar. 20, at 6 P.M.

Southeast Deanery 4

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By the time you read this most of us will have had our fill at Shrove Tuesday Pancake Suppers and will have started our contemplative Lenten journeys.

The folks at IMMANUEL CHURCH, Bellows Falls are starting the Cathedral's Christian Meditation Program as well as the National Church's lengthy Life Cycles Course. They will be the first parish in the diocese to participate in this program. Their rector, the Rev. **Peggy Crane**, will soon be undergoing hip surgery. Please keep her and her flock in your prayers.

Two unique things in *The Guardian* newsletter from ST. MICHAEL'S, Brattleboro, hit my eye. One was that these good people have, not one, but two annual meetings. The first is their "financial" meeting, and it is followed in less than two weeks by their "regular" meeting. What a great way to stay focused! The other was the subject of their rector's column, "radical hospitality," and the

multiple ways it is practiced in the parish. Their methods are many and leave no stone unturned.

Speaking of hospitality, the Welcoming Committee of ST. LUKE'S, Chester, kicked off 2004 with a dinner meeting to discuss the varied ways they could accomplish the task. Their enthusiasm resulted in a number of ideas that hopefully soon will bloom. These folks are also having a series of "Cabin Fever Workshops" that range from doll making by the youth to quilting and other forms of needlework and crafts.

The Wednesday evening Lenten programs at GETHSEMANE, Proctorsville, include not only the Stations of the Cross and a soup supper, but also stimulating discussion on a variety of subjects. Among them: mindfulness and contemplation; self-delusion of the modern spirit; and the Trinity reflected in modern life. Clever people these! Why heat the parish hall for vestry meetings when you can meet at the town's Community Library? Did we mention clever people? Their **Micki Smith**, an accomplished knitter, recently conducted an advanced workshop on creating sweater designs. Yes, we did mention clever!

Being a parish in transition, the people of ST. MARK'S, Springfield, have launched a Lenten pot-luck series, "Searching for the Future," to explore the various type "journeys" available. Each session is preceded by a brief evening worship service that varies from week to week. Neighboring parishes on both sides of the Connecticut River have been invited to participate. As she wishes to be considered as a possible future rector, the Rev. **Marnie Keator** has stepped down as "supply." Hopefully, after another short term of "supply," an interim rector will be in place.

As of this writing, ST. MARY'S IN-THE-MOUNTAINS, Wilmington, has only 13 days and 17 chairs to go on their "tush" compatible, comfy, folding chair drive. Good job! They were also the grateful recipient of an incredible example of Christian hospitality and the Body of Christ working together. The sudden death of parishioner **Eyre Davison** brought an instant offer from St. Mike's, Brattleboro, not only to host the standing-room only funeral, but also to perform a myriad of other related tasks as well. Their "radical hospitality" spilled over.

Chief bottle-washer at ST. PAUL'S, Windsor, **Rebekah Low**, reports that their monthly First Sunday Brunch is still going strong with fantastic community-wide participation.

Three Rivers Deanery 5

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Central Vermont Deanery 6

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At its last meeting on Jan. 26, at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Barre, the Central Vermont Deanery had a wide-ranging discussion on the possibility and feasibility of shared ministry in the deanery. The next meeting is 5:30 P.M. Mar. 1, at Christ Church, Montpelier. The discussion will continue, with each church sharing a list of ministry needs and resources that could be shared. There was also interest in exploring L. William Countryman's book, *Living on the Border of the Holy: Renewing the Priesthood of All*, in a deanery-wide discussion.

CHRIST CHURCH, Montpelier's Social Concerns Committee is forming a book group based on social justice issues. They have been discussing the value of small-scope, local, direct support, such as their Full Ladle Soup Kitchen and the Discretionary Fund, versus more systems-changing action and support. There clearly seems to be a call to both modes of action if ministry is to be modeled on that of Jesus. The first book they are discussing is *Nickel and Dime*, by Barbara Ehrenreich, which chronicles the writer's attempt to live on wages at the bottom of the pay scale. For information about meeting place and time call **Beth Ann Maier** at 244-7472.

ST. MARY'S, Northfield, welcomed into Christ's body **David Breckenridge** (age 4) and his newborn sister, **Malia** (4 days) through the sacrament of baptism on Feb. 1. Their father **Scott** left for Iraq on Feb. 5. On Sunday, Feb. 8, the parish commissioned five new acolytes: **James Maglione**, **James Donahue**, **Jeremy and Robert Breckenridge**, and **Rebecca Tomaszewski**, all trained under **Scott Neal's** direction.

ST. JOHN'S IN THE MOUNTAINS, Stowe, will host Wednesday Lenten Simple Soup Suppers beginning Mar. 3, and continuing through Holy Week. Stowe area folks look forward to the Soup Suppers and the wonderful variety of homemade soups that parishioners provide, as well as the great local bakery bread. All contributions go to the Lamoille Area Food Share.

Northeast Deanery 7

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ST. PETER'S, Lyndonville, welcomed the Rev. **John Morrell** of Montreal, former supply priest, who celebrated the Eucharist on Jan. 18. The parish held a social evening on Saturday for John and his wife, **Kathy Morrell**.

ST. MARK'S, Newport has begun the process of replacing the "aging" Hammond organ with the formation of an organ committee. **Jim McKimm**, organist, played a 12 hour marathon on Feb. 7, to kick-off fund raising. Pledges per hour were accepted as well as "special" pledges.

Continued on Page G

Calvary parishioner celebrates 90th birthday

On Sunday, January 18, Margaret Connelly, a member of Calvary Church, Underhill, invited 80 of her closest friends to celebrate her 90th birthday by attending church with her and then staying for a luncheon birthday celebration. "I'm going to fill the church for you," she told the Rev. George Moysler.

Over the years Margaret's ministries at Calvary have varied: Altar Guild Directress, Executive Committee Secretary, Bible Study Coordinator, Outreach Committee, Prayer Group and stained glass window donor.

Margaret still attends church regularly and is Calvary's oldest parishioner. She remains active today in several phone ministries.



Trustees announce Unit Fund distributions for first quarter

The Investment Committee of the Trustees of the Diocese of Vermont received from the Chittenden Bank the report of the fourth quarter of 2003 performance of the diocesan Unit Stock and Bond Funds on January 23, 2004. According to the trustees, high unit valuations in the Unit Stock Fund during 1999 and 2000 are being replaced by lower current valuations. The effect will be a gradual reduction in distributions from the funds over the next year or two. Distributions are set at 5% per year of a moving average of unit values.

The total return for 2003 for the Unit

Stock Fund was up 28.09%, and up 4.33% for the Unit Bond Fund.

The December 31, 2003 distribution from the Unit Stock Fund was \$ 0.10156 per unit, compared to the \$ 0.12514 distribution for the same period in 2002. The December 31, 2003 distribution from the Unit Bond Fund was \$ 0.10936 per unit, compared to the \$ 0.10518 distribution for the same period in 2002. The trustees announced that first quarter 2004 distributions will be \$ 0.09849 from the Unit Stock Fund and \$ 0.10995 from the Unit Bond Fund.



deanery doings

Continued from Page 4

Champlain Deanery 8

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The **Community Labyrinth at All Saints'** in South Burlington will be the site of a celebration of the Spring Equinox on Mar. 20, with readings, music and a walk. A documentary on the life of **Dietrich Bonhoeffer** will be shown Mar. 22, 6 P.M., at the Savoy in Montpelier as part of a film festival.

Dean **Ken Poppe** of the CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. PAUL, Burlington, will offer an introduction to Christian Meditation March 5-6 (see Page D for information). A five-week Wednesdays in Lent program begins Mar. 3. It combines a meal, program and a sung service of Compline. The art show in the Nave during Lent is **Richard Clark's** Stations of the Cross.

Phyllis Bristow-Johnson of ST. ANDREW'S, Colchester, was recently granted a lay preacher's license. She also led a poetry reading and group discussion on Feb. 13. The parish participated in the Colchester Winter Carnival with a bake sale fundraiser. The Rev. **Lisette Baxter** hosted a vestry retreat at her home Feb. 1.

The Rev. **Craig Smith** of TRINITY, Shelburne, will lead a weekly discussion of short stories and prose called "Listening for God" for 5 weeks beginning Mar. 2. The Children's Sunday School program for Lent will follow a theme of "Sharing Ourselves and Our Gifts," which will include the Heifer Project. The choir is seeking new members. If you love to sing, contact director **Phyllis White**.

Trinity member **Bob Walsh** will lead a discussion Mar. 10, 7-8:30 P.M., in the McClure Community Center titled, "Treating People with Respect: Combating Prejudice, Discrimination and Stereotypes in Our Daily Lives," after a viewing of the film, "True Colors."

The next Trinity Senior Community Luncheon will be Mar. 22. Thanks to coordinators and founders **Ann Hogan** and **Barbara Richart**, who will retire after the May Luncheon. Youth held a sledding party Feb. 8, and a movie night Feb. 15.

ALL SAINTS', South Burlington, celebrates 40 years as a parish with Bishop **Thomas Ely** on March 14. Dean **Ken Poppe** presented information on Christian Meditation at the Feb. 8 Forum. Deacon **Jackie Arbuckle** led forums in February on "Faithful Living, Faithful Dying." Refreshments for the intermission at the play, "Daniel," were prepared and served by the youth from Allenbrook Homes. Youth from the junior and senior high Christian education group led the service Feb. 15.



St. John's hosts "Souper Sunday"

by Harriet Chase

The Outreach Committee of St. John's, Randolph sponsored a "Souper Sunday" on Super Bowl Day, February 1. The goal was to earn money and food donations for the Randolph Area Food Shelf. The committee asked parishioners to bring food articles to church suitable for donation to the Food Shelf or to place monetary donations in a soup bowl. The committee also sold chili and sandwiches. Shaws and Price Chopper, two area grocery stores, donated as well.

The Randolph Area Food Shelf covers the greater areas of Randolph, Braintree and Brookfield. According to Linda Minsinger, President of the Food Shelf, the average numbers served a month in the last quarter have been 140. This is an increase in the numbers served, almost reaching the all time highs of 1999, during another financial slump.

The energy of the Outreach Committee is an inspiration to other members of St. John's to share effectively their talents and possessions with their neighbors.

Harriet Chase is a member of St. John's, Randolph and the board of the Randolph Area Food Shelf.



Harriet Chase photo

Steve Eubanks presents the basket of food donated at St. John's, Randolph, on "Souper Sunday" for blessing and in thanksgiving for sharing the congregation's bounty with their neighbors.

ERD provides emergency assistance to Episcopal Diocese in Haiti

[ERD] Episcopal Relief and Development is providing assistance to Haitians in the aftermath of political protests and demonstrations that as of mid-February had killed 51 people, injured dozens, and disrupted life for thousands. In the past five months, protests have taken place in Port-au-Prince, as well as other cities including Gonaives, Cap-Haitien, Petit Goave, Gorman, and Hinche.

"The recent political unrest in Haiti is almost bringing the country to a halt," said the Rt. Rev. Jean Zache Duracin, Bishop of Haiti. "The latest events create an even more precarious economic situation in many regions where the population had already been affected not too long ago by floods and other natural disasters," stated Bishop Duracin.

On behalf of the Episcopal Church, Episcopal Relief and Development has advanced emergency funds to the Diocese of Haiti so local parishes can provide food, temporary shelter, and medicines to children, women, elderly and other displaced people. "The

aid will allow us to respond to the most urgent needs of the worst affected areas," said Bishop Duracin.

ERD remains in contact with Burton Joseph, the diocesan Program Officer for Haiti. ERD prays for people in Haiti and will continue monitoring the situation.

To make a contribution to the Haiti Relief Fund or respond immediately after natural disasters and civil unrest around the world, donate online using a credit card at www.erd.org or call (800) 334-7626, ext. 5129. Gifts can be mailed to: Episcopal Relief and Development, c/o Haiti Relief Fund, PO Box 12043, Newark, NJ 07101.

Episcopal Relief and Development is an effective, reliable, and vital ministry of the Episcopal Church in communities around the world. 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.

VECBS encourages participation in "Season of Ecumenical Celebration"

The Vermont Ecumenical Council and Bible Society (VECBS) invites individuals, congregations and communities to become engaged in conversations and study during the Easter season to learn about one another's faith traditions. The VECBS web site, www.vecbs.org, has a page of suggested activities, and more are being added (click on "Season of Ecumenical Celebration" on the home page). A reproducible single sheet devotional calendar for the season will be posted on the site in early March. The society also will sponsor opening and con-

cluding gatherings. Dates will be published in the April Mountain Echo, or check the VECBS web site for details.

Mountain Echo Address Changes

Send address changes to:
Episcopal Life Subscription Office
P.O. Box 1337
Bellmawr, NJ 08031-1337
Telephone: 800-374-9510
Email: elife@pubinfocenter.com

Diocesan Calendar

March 2004

- 2 Interim's Network, Burlington, 11 AM-3 PM
- 6 Diocesan Study Program, Mission Farm, Killington
- 10 Deadline, April Mountain Echo**
- 10 Fresh Start, 9:30 AM-2:30 PM
- 12 Executive Committee, Christ Church, Montpelier, 1-3
- 13 Diocesan Council, St. Paul's, Burlington, 10 AM-4 PM
- 14 Bishop at All Saints', South Burlington
- 16 Clergy Day, St. John's, Randolph, 10 AM-2 PM
- 16 Standing Committee, St. John's, Randolph, 2-4 PM
- 16 Blessings Task Force, St. John's, Randolph, 4-6 PM
- 17 Dispatch of Business, Diocesan Center, 1-3 PM
- 20 Diocesan Study Program, St. Paul's, White River
- 28 Bishop at Good Shepherd, Barre

April 2004

- 1 Dismantling Racism Training, Trinity, Rutland, 9-4
- 2 Dismantling Racism Training, St. Michael's, Brattleboro
- 3 Dismantling Racism Training, Christ Church, Montpelier, 9-4
- 3 Diocesan Study Program, Mission Farm, Killington
- 4 Bishop at St. Matthew's, Enosburg Falls

Carole Wageman ordained to priesthood

The Rt. Rev. Thomas Ely ordained the Rev. Carole Wageman to the sacred order of priests on December 20, 2003, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Burlington. She currently serves as assistant rector at Trinity Church, Shelburne, working primarily with youth, families and children's ministries.

Members of Trinity and Christ Church, Montpelier, Wageman's original sponsoring congregation, attended the festive service, and a number of youth from both congregations participated as crucifers, torch bearers and banner bearers. The Rt. Rev. Arthur Walmsley, retired bishop of Connecticut preached, the Venerable Catherine Cooke served as deacon, and the Rev. Canon Tanya Wallace was master of ceremonies.

The Rev. Carole Wageman celebrates after her ordination to the priesthood. The chasuble was a surprise gift from the people of Trinity, Shelburne.



D Y C Diocesan Youth Committee Calendar

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

- Mar. 12-13 Senior High Event, BBCC
- Mar. 26-27 Vermont Watch, St. Paul's Cathedral

Rock Point Summer Conference theme is Celebrate God's Creation

The Rock Point Summer Conferences Committee has chosen "Celebrate God's Creation" as the theme for the 2004 summer. Dates will be posted on the diocesan web site as soon as they have been confirmed: www.dioceseofvermont.org. Scroll down the home page to the Rock Point Summer Conferences link. Volunteer training will be May 8. Check the web for location.

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

Funds Available for Parish Use As of January 1, 2004

Total Pledged	\$1,600,000
Pledges Received (92%)	\$1,464,545
Funds available:	
Initiative I	
The Bishop Butterfield Revolving Loan Fund	\$ 204,674
Initiative II	
The Talent and Resource Network	\$ 15,084
Initiative III	
The Congregation Renewal and Emergency Assistance Fund	\$ 7,905
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.	

Zion hosts spiritual development center

Continued from Page A

Mitchell has had a dream of Zion being a spiritual life center." She added, "When we started the foundation four years ago, I never dreamt it would come to fruition at Zion the way it has."

"The purpose of Lumen Christi," says Norbet, "is to foster the experience of God's love, compassion and forgiveness in individuals and communities through programs that teach and inspire spiritual deepening." The first offering of Lumen Christi will be a weekly spiritual development program, open to all, that will meet once a week after Easter at Zion.

"At Pentecost," said Carrington, "any program participants who want to be part of the Lumen Christi Prayer Community will begin a year of discernment." The group will meet once a month for support and to write a rule of life. The prayer community will not live together, Norbet explained, but will communicate by email and gather periodically. Carrington added, "Our dream has always been to be a humble witness, to do something in Vermont with a community of people who want to support each other by living a common, simple rule of life."

Similar spiritual development programs will be offered at regular intervals, spawning new local groups and giving the opportunity for new members to be welcomed into the Lumen Christi Prayer Community. "We want the program to be open to any denomination," said Norbet. "Perhaps it might also be a resource for parish communities or deaneries."

Gregory Norbet noted, "We are doing this amid hard circumstances in the world community. People are very good at being out there on the firing line, but



Icon by Kathryn Carrington.

in our culture, many people have a spiritual poverty in their own lives. That makes it hard to serve. We hope to help people address the hungers of the heart."

For information about the Hosea Foundation and its programs, visit www.hoseafoundation.org. To view some of Kathryn Carrington's icons, visit www.carringtonsacredart.com. Gregory Norbet may be reached at gnavt@adelphia.net. ❖

Rock Point Dollar Day is March 21



For many years, Mothering Sunday has been designated as a "dollar day" for the Rock Point Summer Conferences. Each parishioner in the diocese is asked to give one dollar. In this way, fees are kept low for all campers, and scholarships can be offered. Mothering Sunday was chosen as an appropriate day because to many people, young and old, to return to Good Old Rock Point is to return home.

Natalie Good, Chair
Rock Point Summer Conference Committee