



Diocesan leaders experience anti-racism training

by Anne Clarke Brown

Ninety-four members of the clergy and various diocesan leadership organizations responded to Bishop Thomas Ely's invitation to attend one of three day-long anti-racism training sessions sponsored by the diocesan Commission on Dismantling Racism April, 1, 2 and 3, in Rutland, Brattleboro and Montpelier.

In his invitation, Bishop Ely noted the strong commitments by the Episcopal Church at the national level and by Vermont's Diocesan Convention to engage in the ongoing work of dismantling racism at personal, social and institutional levels. His letter said, "Because Vermont is so overwhelmingly white, it is easy for us to become complacent about the effects of racism in our lives and our communities. Yet we know that racism is a reality in Vermont. The goal of the training is not to make us

feel guilty but to help us become agents of the reconciling love of God."

The Right Reverend Stewart Wood, retired Bishop of Michigan and now a Vermont resident, Margie Zabriskie of St. James' Church, Essex Junction, and Naima Wade of St. Michael's Church, Brattleboro, served as trainers for all three days, rotating responsibility for various elements. All three have received advanced training at the national level, and Bishop Wood has conducted training events in other dioceses. Barbara Culmer-Illaw of Atlanta and a national church trainer of trainers was present to observe and offer suggestions.

The day began with a "personal inventory" session in which participants sat in two rows opposite one another, and the members of each pair took turns responding to questions such as, "When were you

Continued on Page H



ACB photo

Anti-racism trainer, Margie Zabriskie, explains the "personal inventory" exercise to training participants at St. Michael's, Brattleboro.

Bikes collected by St. Michael's, Brattleboro, arrive in Accra, Ghana

by Carol Beninati

Teens in Christians Village on the outskirts of the sprawling West African city of Accra, Ghana, are picking up their wrenches and diving excitedly into a sea of bicycles. Thanks to the generosity of Vermont residents and the hard work of parishioners at St. Michael's Episcopal Church, Brattleboro, 430 bikes have finally arrived—after traveling over land and sea for two months—at a youth training program in Accra.

Transportation is the key to finding work in Ghana, where it is not uncommon to walk 10 miles to a job, and the average salary is about \$1.10 per day. Youth program director and village elder George Akafo found a way to combine the dire need for bicycles with the need for Ghanaian teens to develop job skills. After reassurance from St. Michael's Outreach Committee that the church could collect and ship a truckload of used bicycles to his village, Akafo created a program to train teens as bicycle mechanics. The train-

ees will each receive a bike and sell the remaining ones, developing entrepreneurial skills and raising money for more youth development programs.

The day the truck pulled into the village, 130 of the community's youth had signed up for the program. "Unfortunately, we can only take twenty for a start," says Akafo, "but we hope as time goes on we can accommodate everyone." Akafo has two trainers right now, who within two weeks had already helped the teens put the first 110 bicycles in working order.

Lawrin Crispe of Brattleboro flew to Ghana to accompany the bikes to their destination on behalf of St. Michael's. Crispe says, "This is a big event for the people of such a poor community. The village has 3500 people, no sewer, and relies on only two communal toilet facilities. Electricity

arrived only two years ago. Many residents do not have power, and there is no refrigeration." Hospitality, however, is abundant. Crispe says that while there is little fresh meat or fish, he was treated to a very tasty cow-hide stew.

"The people and businesses in the Brattleboro area who donated bicycles, and the many St. Michael's parishioners who collected the bikes and saw them safely to Ghana, have forged a relationship over thousands of miles," said the Rev. Thomas Brown, rector of St. Michael's. "The members of the Bikes for Africa subcommittee and the Outreach Committee worked particularly hard to develop this program, publicize it, and collect, store, disassemble and load a tremendous number of bicycles. Now we're looking for more ways to deepen our ties with Christians Village."

Akafo's enthusiasm for the bond is even stronger. "We want to send our profound and immeasurable thanks to St. Michael's Episcopal Church, the people of Brattleboro and the entire State of Vermont," he said in a recent letter. "We assure you that every single bike and bike part will be utilized to serve the purpose for which they have been donated. You have already put a smile on the face of almost every village folk, and God richly bless [you] for that."



Ghanaians help Lawrin Crispe of St. Michael's, Brattleboro, unload 430 bicycles in Accra.



Photos courtesy of Lawrin Crispe

Young people in Accra greet Lawrin Crispe.

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

We need the community of God's Easter people by the Right Reverend Thomas Clark Ely, Bishop of Vermont

I had the great joy of baptizing my granddaughter Elisabeth at the Great Vigil of Easter this year. There simply is no more powerful liturgy in the Church, and this year it was all the more special for our family—and I hope for all those gathered at the Cathedral. It was also a special night because Ann was reaffirming her Baptism as part of the Cathedral group, including Pamela, Toby and Jim, who were being confirmed and received that night. As we sat around the baptismal font and the large Pascal candle, holding our own candles and listening to the great faith stories from the Bible, I was filled with great anticipation for the moment when I would hold Elisabeth in the water.

Elisabeth was a bit fussy during the readings and likewise during the promises and the Baptismal Covenant. However, after the water was blessed and her mom started to remove her clothing, her eyes brightened and a smile came to her face. The warm water that filled the font awaited her arrival. We sat Elisabeth in the water and her delight was evident to all. With her parents and sponsors joining me in splashing water over her, I spoke the words I have spoken over countless infants, young people and adults: "*Elisabeth Arwen Foecking, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of*

the Holy Spirit." She raised her arms and smiled as her eyes flinched from the water pouring over them.

In the remarkable power of that moment, I found myself wondering and marveling at the prospect of all the many other persons likewise being baptized around the world. How many other communities of faith in our diocese and throughout the church were gathered that night for the Great Vigil, for Baptism and the Renewal of Baptismal Promises, for the return of "Alleluia" and the first Eucharist of Easter? How much water got poured? How many hearts were touched? How many lives were changed?

My family says my voice cracked as I prayed the words that followed: "*...Give her an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works.*" I suppose it did, but those words express exactly what I hope and pray will be true for Elisabeth and for every baptized

person. And, I know that in order for that to happen, it will mean that I and other Christians will need to take seriously the promise we make, "to do all in our power to support this person in their new life in Christ."

"Baptismal ministry is all about living into the reconciling reality of what God in Christ has already accomplished."

I made the sign of the cross on her forehead with the Chrism and announced, "Elisabeth Arwen, you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever." Then I brought her up out of the water, wrapped her in a large white towel, and the community of faith welcomed her: "We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood." It was a powerful moment, indeed!

What is now true for Elisabeth is true for each of us who have been baptized. In the words of Paul to the Church in Rome, read at the Eucharist that night, we are "buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:4). Dead to sin we are alive to God in Christ Jesus. This is the pattern of Baptism and Christian living: We die with Christ, so we may live with Christ and for Christ. This is the meaning of the Pascal Mystery taking shape in our daily lives and living.



This holy pattern of dying and rising is the great gift we bring to the world of our everyday lives. Baptismal ministry is all about living into the reconciling reality of what God in Christ has already accomplished. It is about making it a living reality in all the difficult and challenging circumstances of life and the world in which we live and move and have our being. Just as God's Easter answer to death was a resounding "NO," so too can our Easter answer to the violence, pollution, hate, hurt, hunger, poverty and warfare of the world be a resounding "NO."

Elisabeth can't do it herself. None of us can. We need the community of one another, the community of God's Easter people, the community of people of faith everywhere, in order to live and make real to the world the Good News we embrace and proclaim in Baptism. I rejoice that I am part of such a community in this diocese.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!
+Thomas

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MOUNTAIN ECHO

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Views from the Frontier

by Gina Logan

When I was a little girl, visiting my grandparents each summer here in Vermont, I spent much of my time outdoors. I especially enjoyed poking about on the banks of the river that ran past the house, a fascinating small but lively stream (to my uncritical eyes more than a match for the river in one of my favorite books, *The Wind in the Willows*). I found plenty of life to observe: tadpoles and the frogs they grew into, waterskaters, small fish and larger ones, dragonflies, and my favorites: the newts.

I don't know why I found these tiny amphibians so appealing. Perhaps it was partly their size and demeanor: they were small enough for me to hold in my hand, and docile enough to lie across my palm and submit to my fascinated scrutiny. It may have been the beautiful colors with which they were decorated: dark green on the back, with eight evenly-spaced red spots, four on each side of the backbone; pale yellow on the belly, with dozens of tiny orange dots. Perhaps I also responded to their facial expressions: newts, to me, always seemed to be smiling a wise and tolerant smile. And I loved their tiny feet, so precise and neatly drawn, and their long, elegant, curving tails, and the way

they swam, a smooth swooping motion, like a bird underwater. I would gladly have become a newt for a day, or even a week. (I remember being disappointed that my grandmother did not find my newts as beautiful or as interesting as I did. But then, sadly, she felt the same way about frogs.)

It was on those summer days, with the sun's heat on the back of my neck and all around me the dark, exciting smells of mud and water, all around me the whippers of the grasses as the wind played push-and-pull with them, all around me the slow-moving shadows of the clouds in the hot blue sky, all around me the lives of countless creatures all engaged in the tasks of being and becoming, that I first felt convinced of the existence of God—not the GodtheFather of my bedtime prayers, a remote white-bearded Deity always keeping count of my various misbehaviors—but God-the-Designer, the Creator who brought the earth into being and whose labor resulted in sun and sky and earth and water—and the life, generation after generation, of various small but essential beings, among them newts.

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: Thank you for your reply to my letter about the Mel Gibson movie. I decided not to see the movie. I put the money I would have spent into the offering plate at church on Good Friday. Seemed like a good thing to do. But now I wonder if you can suggest any religious movies that might be helpful in my spiritual journey.

Decided

Dear Decided: I applaud your decision. I have not given much more thought to the Gibson movie since I replied to your original letter, but now that you have called it my attention again, I realize that one reason I am not very enthusiastic about that movie—or most other religious movies—is that they all take themselves SO SERIOUSLY.

It has always seemed to me that we should take God seriously, but sit pretty loose in the saddle to everything else, especially our efforts to tell the story of God's great actions. The actions are great, which is why "Hallelujah" (literally, "praise God") is the fundamental response of faithful people. But our efforts to tell about those events need to be seen as inherently destined to miss the mark.

I am sure that Mel Gibson thinks his portrayal of Jesus' Passion is an act of faith, but I get a bit uneasy when acts of faith earn the story teller more than \$300 million. Let's just hope that Mel tosses that chunk of change into various church offering plates (and not into the collection basket, if there is one, in his own private chapel where, according to what I have heard, his own private chaplain regularly says the Mass for him in Latin).

At the other end of the spectrum from Hollywood's biblical epics that are so full of self-importance is the Monty Python film, "The Life of Brian." It is hard to imagine people who like Gibson's movie (and some folks have seen it multiple times) ever watching "The Life of Brian"—and vice versa. I happen to enjoy its irreverence and tongue-in-cheek humor and find that it actually has an amazing amount of spiritual insight, even as it pokes fun at the type of movies that Cecil B. DeMille and Mel Gibson have made. How can a person not chuckle at the scene where some would-be followers of the alleged Messiah pick up one of his sandals and turn it into a holy relic? Isn't that typical of how humans take things that are relatively unimportant and invest them with huge importance? Isn't that why the third commandment is, "Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image" (Exodus 20:4a, KJV)? What is more bound up with images than cinema? Talk about your "graven"!

Knowing our tendency to ultimize things that are non-ultimate. (Hmm, is "ultimize" a word? If not, it should be....) "Thou shalt ultimize God and nothing else." God tried to make clear through the prophet Charlton Hest. . .oops, I mean Moses. . .that as soon as we make an image of something, especially something divine, then the image becomes the reality it is supposed to symbolize. And that means the symbol becomes what

is worshipped. (I'll bet you the price of a movie ticket that there are objects in your church—chalices, vestments, candle sticks, creche figures, etc.—which, in terms of energy devoted to them, rank right up there with that ancient Golden Calif.)

To put all of this in perspective, as a friend of mine suggested recently, imagine a remake of "The Ten Commandments" with either Danny DeVito or Joe Pesci playing the role of Moses. Wouldn't it be more interesting and thought-provoking to see one of those actors stumbling onto a burning bush, scratching his head as he sizes it up, and then making some kind of unique but oh-so-human response to the experience? And just think how enjoyable it would be to see how Pesci/Devito would look at the head of a rag-tag bunch of ex-slaves who are hot-footing (literally!) across the desert to get to the Promised Land. Moses meets My Cousin Vinny. Nice concept, right?

A bit irreverent? Sure. But if it would help us take ourselves and our stories less seriously and take God and God's actions more seriously, it seems worth it to me. After all, the point of the Exodus was to liberate some slaves, not to overwhelm us with special effects. Just as the point of following Jesus is to be faithful to God, not to advertise our religiosity.

So, if you would like to borrow my "Life of Brian" video cassette, let me know.

P.S. If you would like to pursue this topic in more depth, you could read *Savior on the Silver Screen*, by Stern, Jefford, and Debona (Paulist Press, 1999). If you think I've been a tad harsh on Mr. Gibson, wait 'til you see what these authors have to say about "The Greatest Story Ever Told." Although, in its defense, I would have to say that any movie in which Judas is played by David McCallum, who became the sidekick to Robert Vaughn in "The Man From U.N.C.L.E.," would definitely be worth a few chuckles.

Send questions for Sr. Bible Person in care of the editor (address on Page B).

Views from the Frontier

And humans. I knew, even then, that all of us are connected. What affects a newt affects me. As someone once observed, everyone lives downstream from everyone else. I knew, even then, that the newt and I are made from the same living stuff. Of course, some might object, I as a human have a soul, and the newt doesn't. Well, perhaps. But the God who made the newt also made me—and the newt may be more essential to God's plan than I am, soulless or not. (Anyway, how do we know that animals don't have souls? St. Francis certainly argued to the contrary.)

Newts still fascinate me, though my grandparents' house is long gone—lost in a fire—and the riverbanks that were once my playground are no longer a familiar haunt. I have become a grownup (or so I'm alleged to be), busy with work and what is (erroneously) called "real life,"

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

Province 1 conferees explore "sowing and growing seeds of change"

by Linda McCullough Moore

"I feel very hopeful about our future as the Episcopal Church seeing so many preparing for our work as stewards of God." Amy Doyle Welin, of the Diocese of Connecticut, summed up the joyful response to "Sowing and Growing Seeds of Change," the Province 1 Conference on Stewardship and Evangelism and Parish Development. Coming from all across New England, 376 men and women gathered in Westborough, Massachusetts, the week-end of March 26-28, to enrich their understanding and experience of stewardship as "living into a deeper relationship with God, and inviting others to do the same."

From the opening plenary by the Most Rev. Michael Peers, former Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, to the closing Eucharist with the stirring sermon of seminarian Angela Emerson, the conference spoke to one theme—*All we have and are is a gift from God; all we give back is what we have been given—and the wise reminder, We do not give because the church needs money, we give because we need to give.*

Participants could choose seminars in four areas: Stewardship, Evangelism, Congregational Development, and Planned Giving. These seminars, as well as the target groups for small, medium and large parish churches, provided a rich foundation of understanding, as well as practical ideas for mission.

"I've seen this conference transform lives and mission," the Rev. Susan J. Latimer, of the Diocese of Maine, said. "As a result of last year's conference, we began a new ministry to economically stressed families in our community."

As members of like-sized parishes met together to discuss their common challenges and opportunities, a number of those partici-

pating were able to engage in meaningful planning and problem-solving. One small congregation decided on a specific plan for enabling a new rector to begin his work.

Calling evangelism "the stewardship of God's Word," Stewardship Officer Terry Parsons emphasized that "evangelism is not inviting people to church; it is inviting people to spend eternity with us and with our God."

Evangelism and planned giving and congregational development were all clearly explained as relating to what became the motto of the conference: *Stewardship is everything we do after we say "I believe."*

"The Holy Spirit moves powerfully in this place," Boris von York, of St. Mark's, Springfield, said. "I have attended four out of the five years. Our parish has suffered losses, and this conference has broadened our understanding of what those losses mean, of who we are, so that we might move to who God wants us to become."

This conference will be held again next year on April 8-10, at the same location—an opportunity for more and more parishes to be blessed and enriched as faithful stewards.

Linda McCullough Moore is a novelist who attends St. John's Episcopal Church in Northampton, Massachusetts.

CS&R Committee awards grants

The Congregational Support and Resource Committee awarded grants from three funds totaling \$101,472 between February 2003 and February 2004.

Twenty-three grants awarded in the Initiative II Talent and Resource Network program of the McClure Discipleship/Discovery 2000 Fund totaled \$21,166. They included funds for workshops, purchase of hymnals, tuition for the EFM and LPM programs, new computers, conference fees, and emergency repairs.

Nine grants awarded in the Initiative III Congregational and Emergency Assistance program of the McClure Discipleship/Discovery 2000 Fund totaled \$27,316. These grants funded furnace repairs in four congregations, roof and building repairs, painting, and the preparation work for a new church bathroom.

Five grants totaling \$52,990 from the Irish Funds paid for architectural work, furnace and roof repairs, and continued support for two regional ministries.

A listing of the grants is posted on the diocesan website: www.dioceseofvermont.org. Click on the "Diocesan Organizations" button, then on the link to the Congregational Support and Resources Committee. Other links on that page will allow downloading of grant application forms. ❖

More Coming Events

Arts at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul

2 Cherry Street, Burlington, Vermont

Oriana Singers

"Madrigals, Motets, and a Mass for Spring"

Sunday, May 9, 3:00 P.M.

The Oriana singers, directed by William Metcalfe, will present a concert featuring the Frank Martin Mass for Double Choir, English and Italian madrigals, motets by Healey Willan and others, and Newfoundland Outport Songs by Harry Somers. Admission \$15, seniors; students \$10.

Dmitry Rachmanov, pianist

"Rachmanov features Tchaikovsky"

Friday, May 21, 8:00 P.M.

Russian-born pianist Dmitry Rachmanov will present a recital of Beethoven, Chopin and Tchaikovsky. Known for his mastery of the Russian repertoire, Rachmanov is involved in a wide range of activities, including a two-part survey (in International Piano Quarterly) of the complete discography of Chopin's F Minor Ballade, which he will perform. Admission \$15, seniors; students \$10.

Master Class with pianist Dmitry Rachmanov

Saturday, May 22, 9:30 A.M.–12 noon

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

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

May 4: Rachel Feehan, pianist: Festive Works for Piano. **May 18:** Melissa Dickerson, soprano and Annemieke Spoelstra, pianist. **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

May: "Nature Sites—East from Hawaii," by Arizona architect and juried artist Roberta Kuschel. A celebration of color and moisture-laden light, life on a boat in California, and the palette of the desert. **June:** "Mandala—The Sacred Circle," by Grace Cothalis and Sabina Evarts. Two- and three-dimensional interpretations of the timeless, spiritual art of the mandala. 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).

Doing the Work of Reconciliation

A Retreat for Clergy and Laity

May 6-7, 2004

Episcopal Divinity School, Cambridge, Massachusetts

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

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

Benefit for Sudanese Education Fund

"Lost Boys of Sudan"

Friday, May 7, and Saturday, May 8, 7 P.M.

Roxy Theater, Burlington

Tickets for the acclaimed film are \$10, and thanks to Roxy owner, Merrill Jarvis, a portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Sudanese Education Fund. Thirteen of the young men from Sudan living in the Burlington area are now enrolled full time in college, while others attend CCV part time or are earning their high school degrees. The Fund helps with expenses such as books, deposits, tuition and computers.

The film event on Friday will also feature a panel discussion with some of the Sudanese, followed by a reception at the First Congregational Church on South Winooski Ave. Donations to the fund are always welcome. Checks should be made payable to the Sudanese Education Fund and sent to Sarah Gallagher at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, 2 Cherry St., Burlington, VT 05401.

Third Annual St. Luke's Art Show

Sale and Silent Auction

Saturday, May 8, 1–5 P.M.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church, St. Albans

For more information about this popular annual event, call 802-524-6212, or email nilsdon@together.net.

Walter Wink to speak in Burlington

Will lead BBCC retreat with June Keener Wink

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

On Saturday, June 12, Wink and his wife, June Keener Wink will offer a day-long retreat at the Bishop Booth Conference Center at Rock Point, 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 full program, including materials, two nights lodging (double occupancy) at BBCC, Saturday meals and Sunday breakfast, is \$225 after April 30. Registration without lodging but including the Saturday program and materials, and



Saturday meals is \$150 after April 30. Participation in the Saturday program is limited to 50 persons. For information, contact the BBCC, 802-658-6233, or bishopbooth@dioceseofvermont.org.

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

Anti-racism training

Continued from Page A

first aware that there was such a thing as racial and ethnic differences?" "What was the cruelest thing someone from a different race ever did to you?" and "Name a time when you stood up for your rights or the rights of others." At the end of each question, one line shifted, so participants shared their experiences with different partners.

The training also included discussion of "Free Indeed," a video about white privilege, consideration of various definitions and a concluding exercise designed to envision the Diocese of Vermont as an inclusive, anti-racist diocese. ✚

Though the days were long and intense, participants expressed gratitude for the opportunity to begin the work of dismantling racism. Many found the personal inventory exercise and the discussion of white privilege to be particularly helpful, and others asked for further training to "go deeper."

The Commission on Dismantling Racism will offer future training events, and they encourage congregations to use their workshop on white privilege that is available through the diocesan Resource Center [contact information on Page B]. ✚



ACB photo

Anti-racism trainers Naima K. Wade, Margy Zabriskie and Stew Wood listen to a comment from a participant at the training session in Rutland.

Calling All Who Offer Spiritual Direction

If you offer spiritual direction in the Diocese of Vermont, we would like to offer you some continuing education opportunities and support.

Coordinated by the Episcopal Divinity School and funded through a grant from Trinity Wall Street, the new Spiritual Formation Project will make resources available to practitioners in the dioceses of Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine.

Please contact Susan Ohlidal, Pastoral Enrichment Coordinator, sohlidal@dioceseofvermont.org; 802-748-8755, for more information.

“I was in prison and you visited me.”

Cristosal supports new ministries in El Salvador

by Lee Alison Crawford

Since February 2003, Elizabeth Evans of South Carolina has been living and working as an Episcopal missionary in El Salvador's second-largest city, San Miguel. Sponsored by the Vermont-based Fundación Cristosal, Evans has started a powerful ministry of reaching out to the marginalized of San Miguel. She works under the auspices of the Anglican Church of El Salvador and the direction of the Most Rev. Martín Barahona, Bishop of the Anglican Church of El Salvador and Primate of the Anglican Church of the Region of Central America.

Living at the year-old Centro San Lucas, Evans teaches English as a second language to enthusiastic adult learners. The classroom is spartan, but above the brand-new chalkboard hangs a simple cross, a reminder that it is to God's glory that she offers these classes. During the past academic year, she also taught at a local elementary school in one of the most impoverished neighborhoods of the city, regularly visited an orphanage, gave dental care classes to poor children and visited a nursing home.

New ministry to women's prison

Most exciting and moving is the new prison ministry that Evans began in December 2003. Evans explained in a December 2003 letter how she first encountered the prison: “I only went to the prison to accompany my art aficionado friend, Helen. We stayed out in the lobby where the prisoners brought their wares for sale and showed them to her through the bars. I sat patiently on a bench while she shopped and tarried. It was while waiting that I met a woman named Aricely, who had also come to show her goods.... We began an intense conversation. Before we parted I asked her, ‘Do you live near here?’ ‘Oh yes, quite near, in fact,’ she said with a smile. She was incarcerated in the women's section of the prison.” Within three weeks of this first visit to the prison, which Evans had not known even existed, she started regular visits. She never expected God would lead her to such a ministry, yet she believes firmly this new ministry comes from God.

Evans describes the conditions in the jail as harsh and unlike anything found in a US prison; nothing is given for free there. The prisoners themselves provide everything

except a metal bunk on which to sleep, and for some even that is not available. There are 78 women imprisoned, but the jail has beds for only 65; the others sleep in hammocks, which they themselves have brought in.

The women spend their daytime hours in a large patio area and each has her own particular domain staked out. Some live “alone” and some share their space with one or two others. They have their hammocks strung up; most have 2 or 3 chairs on which to sit and a small table or two. Most of their personal belongings are out in the patio area. They have kerosene stoves and their food supplies (the prison food is generally inedible). The patio areas are roofed with black plastic to keep out the sun and the rain. The Centro San Lucas' vision is to cover the patio with a metal roof.

The women's family members and visitors are routinely mistreated in subtle and demeaning ways—and yet few complain. Abuse is common.

In this harsh environment, the Anglican Church has started offering a message of hope and redemption to the women prisoners. Twice Bishop Barahona has visited the women's part of the prison, once in December to celebrate the Holy Eucharist, replete in rochet and chimere, and again in March to lead a Stations of the Cross procession around the prison courtyard. The Rev. Lee Alison Crawford, board member of Fundación Cristosal, also visited the prison in March and presided at a service of Holy Eucharist with anointing and laying-on-of-hands. In December 2004, Evans will be ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Barahona; currently she brings the Reserve Sacrament and leads a service that roughly 20 women prisoners attend.

Tattoo removal project

Evans hopes to raise money for a prison-related project that will enable former gang members to reinsert themselves into mainstream life upon release from prison. A recent anti-gang law, enacted in October 2003, prohibits anyone with gang-related tattoos to receive national identity papers. The churches all spoke out against the law as being too severe; to date it has not been repealed. Evans has found a dermatologist in San Miguel who spends his days removing the offending tattoos.



Lee Alison Crawford photos

Above: Missioner Elizabeth Evans visits with Claudia, a former gang member, her children and her parents. Because of her gang tattoos, Claudia cannot get identity papers.

Below: A dermatologist removes tattoos from Claudia's fingers.



In March Evans and Crawford accompanied a young mother, Claudia, to the clinic. Unable to register her two-week old baby because of the large tattoos on her face and arms, Claudia was willing to undergo the painful process of having the tattoos burned away. After three long sessions for which Evans paid \$240, Claudia's forehead is free of the word “mara” [Spanish for “gang”], her chin liberated from a drawing of the gang's hand signal, and her arms are also clean. In April, she got her national identity card.

Evans hopes to coordinate with the doctor so that he can go to the prison and start removing prisoners' tattoos before they are released. A good third of the women prisoners will have to undergo laser treatment if they wish to be tattoo-free. External funding is needed to support this initiative.

Evans, a former member of the Army and an air traffic controller before becoming a missionary, reflects, “I am not sure how God does it, but I am convinced that through you and me He is furthering His Kingdom in El Salvador.”

For further information about Elizabeth Evans' prison ministry and work in San Miguel, visit the Fundación Cristosal web site, www.Cristosal.org 'Projects and Events' page. It includes recent letters from San Lucas as well as more photographs of the prison. Donations for the Centro San Lucas may be made through Fundación Cristosal.

The Rev. Lee Alison Crawford, rector of Saint Mary's, Northfield, recently spent five weeks in El Salvador as part of her sabbatical leave.



Elizabeth Evans photo

Lee Crawford leads a service of Holy Eucharist in the courtyard of the women's prison in San Miguel, El Salvador.

“Gather at the River”

Bishop Robinson told the gathering, “This resurrection thing we celebrated on Sunday ought to make a difference in our lives.” Yes, it means we are going to heaven, but, asking people to look around, he said, “It doesn't get any better than this—you will be in heaven with the same people!” Further, he said, “If we are going to heaven, we ought to be able to take some risks. The real gift of the resurrection is not so much that it brings us life after death but that it brings us life before death.” He then invited the small groups to spend some time imagining what God might be calling us to.

Robinson said of the gathering, “We came here to be excited by one another and

Continued from Page H

by God's call to us.” We can discuss the sort of things that don't get talked about in vestry meetings, he said, where the concerns are about such things as the broken toilet. He said the group has begun a journey that takes time. “It's all about relationships. If we are going to take some risks and do some bold things for Jesus Christ, we have to take time to build relationships. And then,” he said, “we can go home and fix the toilet with more purpose and joy.”

The group agreed that more such gatherings would be fruitful. A volunteer steering committee will plan for a second session at Trinity Church in Claremont, NH.



Northwest Deanery 1

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ST. THOMAS & GRACE, Brandon/Forest Dale, wished the Rev. **Gordon and Tammy Bardos** well as they began their sabbatical April 13. Gordon Bardos said, "For nearly four months, the parish will exercise its ministry with primary leadership coming from fellow parishioners."

ST. STEPHEN'S, Middlebury, enjoyed a wonderful Parish Family Weekend at Rock Point. There were many memories, including great food, beautiful crystal clear blue skies for outdoor sports, fantastic nature-made ice sculptures around the lake and fun and games. Thanks go to those who assisted with the Habitat for Humanity painting project on March 13. In addition to **Mary Kay Dempewolff** and **Candy Benoit**, Middlebury College student **Carter Denny** brought a host of friends to assist. The many hands made the work move quickly.

As you do your spring cleaning in the next few months, remember to save your treasures for Peasant Market, which will be July 10 this year. Changes are afoot (afloat?) in the Ark! St. Stephen's recently hired a new professional child-care provider named **Nikki Bearor**, who will be in the Ark every Sunday during the Forum and the 10 o'clock service.

TRINITY, Rutland, presented a "Musical Offering for Holy Week" April 4, featuring Mozart's "Missa Brevis in D Minor," along with anthems and congregational singing of Holy Week hymns. The Women of Trinity held a very successful Spring Rummage Sale on April 24. Rummage sales are so much work, but the community really looks forward to all the bargains and, of course, the fabulous baked goods.

ST. PAUL'S, Vergennes, will receive eleven hundred bags of cocoa shells on May 1. The annual sale of cocoa mulch is St. Paul's major fund-raiser. On April 17, the ECW hosted a talk by **Greg Hamilton**, the owner of Stone Block Antiques in Vergennes, on antiques and antiquing. Greg looked at two items per person, to give some history and estimate a value. The ECW also provided new curtains—ordered and hung by **Pat Barrows**—for the parish hall. **Pat Barrows**, **Penny Goodkind** and **Carol Knauss** are ECW officers for the coming year.

Southwest Deanery 3

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The Missions for World Relief Committee at ST. JAMES', Arlington, is collecting items for Church World Service School Kits for distribution around the world. The Community Outreach Committee sponsored two fundraisers in April:

❖ deanery doings ❖

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

a first annual St. James' Talent Show, and the annual Easter Pie Sale. The parish's major fundraising event, the Service and Silent Auction, is planned for May 22, 7 P.M., at the American Legion Hall.

Gregory Norbet and Kathryn Carrington will offer Candlelit Sung Vespers at ZION, Manchester, Sunday evenings, May 2, June 13, July 11 and August 22. Contact Rose Lewis at Zion, 802-362-1987, or zion7a@sover.net for times. The service includes music and prayers by Norbet, candlelit icons by Carrington, and time for quiet contemplation.

Southeast Deanery 4

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Alleluia, ALLELUIA, A-L-L-E-L-U-I-A! This is being written on Monday of Easter Week, and I have now released my pent-up Lenten emotions/frustrations! May the Joy of the Risen Lord be with you all.

After a short unanticipated wait, the Rev. **Peggy Crane** of IMMANUEL, Bellows Falls finally had surgery on one hip. Reports are that she is in rehab and in good spirits (I've never seen her otherwise). Surgery on her other hip will follow soon. Continue to keep her in your prayers. As a trial during Lent these folks moved their St. Mary's side altar to the center of the nave. Brave people these!

A recent letter reports that the Rev. **Paul Carling**'s ministry as assistant at ST. MICHAEL'S, Brattleboro will soon be drawing to a close as he ventures "slightly south" (reportedly to the BIG city) with his wife, **Cherise**. He will have spent two wonderful, valuable years at St. Michael's. In order to continue enhancing the quality of life at St. Mike's, and to continue the broadening of its access to pastoral care, a "transition team" will search for a replacement.

The first Sunday in May is "Bring a Friend and Ministry Sunday" at ST. LUKE'S, Chester. There will be an extended social time (with munchies of course) following the service to provide an opportunity of acquainting friends with the exciting things happening in the parish. With the help of some adults, the Youth Group is creating some fantastic and beautiful murals to grace the walls of the undercroft, Willard Hall.

GETHSEMANE, Proctorsville, had an "overflow" crowd Palm Sunday, and they celebrated the ministries of their rector, the Rev. **Betty Berlenbach** and her husband **John**, with a farewell dinner. Their last Sunday prior to retirement was Easter. Gethsemane's teeny (the word was used advisedly in their recent newsletter) and dedicated workforce has banded together and without a doubt will lead their small but vibrant congregation through the exciting time ahead. The Rev'ds. **Marnie Keator** and **Jere Berger** will be serving as "supply" these first few weeks.

Janet and Rick Hunter, Richard Griffith (banjo) and "yours truly" of ST. MARK'S, Springfield, were aided by the Rev. **Steve Fuller** (now known as Father Steve by the inmates) and Deacon **Charlie Mansfield**, both of Immanuel, as well as **Jan Lambert** (guitar) and **Jan MacDonald** of St. Luke's, Charlestown, NH, along with **Pat Melesco** of St. Mary's Catholic Church, Springfield, in conducting a glorious Easter Sunday Service at the Southern State Correctional Facility in Springfield. The music and singing were fantastic! Two possible interim rectors have been interviewed for St. Marks, and the difficult job of deciding the "best fit" for leading the parish for the next year or so will happen this evening. We are praying hard for a right decision.

According to **Judith Louderback**, senior warden at ST. MARY'S-IN-THE-MOUNTAINS, Wilmington, some of their folks have put on a little weight as a result of the subliminal message delivered by their Lenten discussion series based on the movie "Chocolat." They viewed the film and held discussions on the church's position in the community and where the true community is.

Still in the state of transition, ST. PAUL'S, Windsor, continues to be led by the Rev. **Al Cramer**, with his wife **Janet** and **Suzette Cyr** nurturing the music ministry, which they share with the community at large. Al Cramer reports the exciting task ahead of them is to shift the focus from *who* is the church to *how* to be together as a worshipping community and their evolution from a family church into a "pastoral" church.

Three Rivers Deanery 5

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Using their successful café discussion format, the congregation of CHRIST CHURCH, Bethel, has been contributing to the creation of a Covenant Agreement. A "working, written document that defines more clearly mission, roles, expectations, and responsibilities within the parish," the Covenant Agreement is an important part of the process leading up to the Rev. **Diane Root**'s sabbatical through August.

As individual congregations and as members of THREE RIVERS REGIONAL MINISTRY, both Christ Church and CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR, Killington, have been planning for Diane's sabbatical for several months. Our Saviour is focusing on a spiritual understanding of, and commitment to, stewardship of the land. In that regard, they will celebrate Earth Day Sunday with a special Eucharist and hymn sing-a-long. There is also news that preliminary repair work and construction has started that will enable the installation of a bathroom in the church!

The Outreach Committee of ST. JOHN'S in Randolph has made a goal

to increase awareness of the impact we make on our environment. Because of the detrimental results of its manufacturing and disposal, they suggest a real effort to use real or paper cups at coffee hour, rather than the usual Styrofoam. As part of their appeal, they included an environmental habits inventory and exercise from *The Peace Book* by Louise Diamond. Our special prayers of sympathy and condolences are offered to the Rev. **Tim Eberhardt** on the death of his brother, **Jonathan**.

The young people of ST. PAUL'S, White River Junction, led the service of the Great Vigil of Easter, after participating in their "Keeping the Faith" sessions of education and meditation. Like the parishes of Three Rivers, the vestry of St. Paul's is focusing on ministry, too. As they look at ways to support and help their various ministry groups, each group in turn will speak with the vestry about their mission and their needs.

Central Vermont Deanery 6

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The Central Vermont Deanery met April 19, at Christ Church, Montpelier, to share a potluck supper and discuss the first two chapters of *Living on the Borders of the Holy*, by L. William Countryman. This is a step in an ongoing exploration of how deanery congregations might build a closer connection to each other, sharing common ministry, resources, worship, education, and outreach efforts.

At CHRIST CHURCH, Montpelier, the usual services through Holy Week were augmented by chanted services of Tenebrae, and a watch over the Altar of Repose. The overnight watch offered a rich opportunity to apply the skills attained in the course on meditation that continued through Lent. The course, led by the Rev. **Sarah Horton** and **Martha Holden** through the Cathedral's Center on Christian Meditation, was well attended, and plans were made to continue a weekly meditation group.

The newly formed youth group took time in their first overnight lock-in to consider their own Lenten journeys and look forward to future activities. The Junior Choir sings on the first Sunday of each month, and has been practicing chanting with beautiful results.

The Vestry of ST. JOHN'S IN THE MOUNTAINS, Stowe, has chosen a local architectural firm, **Ruskey Knauf**, to design any new construction and expansion on their present parcel of land as well as the parcel next door on which the church has a purchase and sale agreement. The Design Committee has sent out to every parish household a survey and a copy of the 2001 architectural plan, to stimulate feedback and suggestions.

The Simple Soup Suppers, chaired by **Peggy Pearson**, were a big hit on Wednesday nights during Lent. Loyal soup eaters also enjoyed the wonderful bread provided by both **Ingrid Nuse**, a parishioner, and The Harvest Market, a local deli. The suppers raised over \$500 for the Lamoille Food Share in Morrisville.

Continued on Page G

St. Paul's Adams House is treasure chest for Wells community

by Christine Sears

"A wonderful treasure hunt where you always find a treasure." That comment by a satisfied customer of the Adams House, a ministry of St. Paul's in Wells, is only one of the many we hear during the clothing, book and rummage sale that takes place on the second Saturday of each month. What started in 1964 as a twice a year clothing sale to raise money for the Episcopal Church Women's Outreach Fund has become a monthly ministry that gives true meaning to the concept of acting on our faith. The needs of the greater Wells community have encouraged us to open our doors with ever increasing frequency.

Since Florence Adams gave her home to the Episcopal Church Women of St. Paul's in 1964, the house has had varied uses: for fund raising, for senior citizens' meals and card parties, for church child care, for volunteer tax preparation and even as a counseling center. A few years ago, we decided to have two clothing and rummage sales annually to raise outreach monies. As the need for quality clothing and household items sold at truly reasonable prices increased, we went from being open twice a year to once a month for six months of the year. When Ames of Granville closed their doors in 2002, the need became commensurately greater, and we decided to open our doors once each month.

"You always have something different and new!"

As we saw and responded to increased need, donations to meet that need skyrocketed! Beautiful, stylish clothing for men, women, and children poured in from our friends and neighbors, and from faraway supporters in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, New York, and Connecticut.

And because the church women go through everything before each month's sale day, even our most regular shoppers always can find something new and different

"It's a pleasure to shop in such well organized and cheerful surroundings!"

Much of our effort each month goes toward culling our merchandise, taking out what hasn't sold after a period of time, making sure items are in the right places for their size and style, and being sure that our "store" is clean. Our shoppers will find all our specialty items, from wedding dresses to designer labels, in one room, and women's, men's, and children's items each in their own areas. Many times our volunteers can not only help find the sweater or scarf to pull a customer's existing wardrobe together, but also put together a complete outfit from our stock, including shoes, belts, and purses!

Ministry goals of Adams House

The goals of the Adams House ministry are two-fold. Our most important goal is to meet the needs of our community. Not only do we provide clean, contemporary, and serviceable items at a very reasonable cost, we also give listening ears, understanding, and empathy whenever needed. We'll even take care of the children so Mom can shop. Most of our clothing is sold for \$.50 or \$1.00, with our more "exclusive" items costing no more than \$3.50. Books and puzzles are also reasonably priced, and many customers come each month to choose their evening relaxation for the month to come.

When catastrophe strikes an area family, often their first stop on the road to recovery is the Adams House, where we try to meet their most outstanding needs at little or no cost to them. Or, when a

local group is working to raise money for a worthy cause, we may support their efforts with a special sale or a donation to their treasury. Just recently, for example, we and the people of our sister churches in the Slate Valley Ministry held a bake sale at the same time as our regular clothing sale. Its proceeds were targeted for the Alternative Spring Break project of 16 students from Castleton State College who are headed for Managua, Nicaragua.

Our second goal is to support local, state, and national organizations on an annual basis. At the local level, we support the Wells Fire Department and/or the Cemetery Association, the Granville Rescue Squad, and the United Way and Red Cross of Rutland County. In the State of Vermont, we support the Vermont Food Bank, the Brook Haven School for Boys, and the Rock Point School. Nationally, we support Episcopal Relief and Development, which reaches out to people and communities in crisis all over the world.

Little did we know, when we started this simple outreach fundraiser, the number of people whose lives we would touch, and who would touch ours, in truly meaningful ways. Jesus' saying, "It is in giving that ye will receive," is demonstrated in every



Paul Gratz photos



Adams House has monthly clothing and rummage sales.

encounter we have, whether it is a find for fun, joy in just the right thing, or relief in time of trouble. Knowing that we do help in meeting the many needs of people in the greater Wells area is what the Episcopal Church Women's Adams House ministry is all about.

Christine Sears is a member of St. Paul's, Wells.

deanery doings

Continued from Page F

The Annual Plant Sale will be at the church, rain or shine, on May 22, from 9-11 A.M. The Parish Outreach Committee, which sponsors this event as a fund raiser for the many agencies it supports, is adding a bake sale and a rummage sale as well.

On June 8, St. John's will host "A Sprint Through the Bible," led by the Rev. **John Morris**. The whole community is invited, as well as anyone in the diocese. Details will be in the June Echo.

Northeast Deanery 7

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On Palm Sunday, following the morning service and refreshment hour, the last of five discussion sessions brought together members of ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, Hardwick, to talk about suffering in the light of the Lenten journey. Over homemade bread and soup, they shared thoughts on Christ's suffering and his response to those needing help, the suffering they themselves experience, and the importance of giving and receiving special understanding and support at these times of pain. They shared a Seder supper on Maundy Thursday, followed by footwashing and stripping of the altar.

Champlain Deanery 8

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Several parishes will be collecting "blue boxes" for the United Thank Offering in May. Mark your calendars for April 2005 when Rev. **Craig Smith** and **Maxie Ewins** will lead a group on a trip to Wales. A thrift shop, "Schips" will open in the Noonan House in Shelburne. This is an interfaith project to benefit area residents in need of assistance. Contact **David Murphy** to volunteer in the store (985-3981, or d.murphy47@verizon.net).

Chittenden County churches will participate in the Annual COTS Walk on May 2. Contact your parish coordinator to make a donation. It is time to sign up for Rock Point Summer Conferences. Scholarship help is available. To volunteer to help support the Somali Bantu who have relocated in the area contact **Judy Scott** at Vermont Refugee Resettlement, 802-338-4627.

The Christian Meditation Center of the CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. PAUL, Burlington, is offering a curriculum to

help establish Christian meditation groups in various parishes. Contact **Tanya Wallace** at 864-0471 x16. Celebrate Mother's Day May 9 by attending a concert by the Oriana Singers [see Page D]. On Easter Sunday the youth group shared hand-painted Easter eggs with visiting children.

Mary Lou Ashton has resigned as parish administrator ST. ANDREW'S, Colchester, to spend more time with her grandchildren. **Grace Noble** will offer her time doing the bulletin and the parish newsletter. Adult Education classes continue on Wednesday evenings until May 26, around the theme "Our Christian Faith." The Rev. **Gary Eley** is offering a workshop on the Stewardship of Time and Talent on April 26 and May 3, from 7-8:30 P.M.. The Healing Team is studying the book, *Stretch Out Your Hand: Exploring Healing Prayer*, by Tilda Norberg and Robert Webber.

ST. JAMES', Essex Junction, joined others in the Ecumenical Lunch Bunch in conducting a food drive to aid in feeding children this summer. The Sunday Adult Forum in May will focus on Dismantling Racism. The Pastoral Ministry Team is reorganizing under the guidance of **Michael Hechner**. He is a pastoral associate at Flechter Allen and a member of St. James'.

A new choir debuted at TRINITY, Shelburne's 8 A.M. service and will

sing once a month. The next rehearsal is May 18, and anyone who likes to sing is welcome. **Phyllis White** is Minister of Music for both services. Volunteers are sought to carry on the work of **Barbara Richart** (985-2669) and **Ann Hogan** (985-4940) who have coordinated the senior community lunches. The next luncheon is May 24; interested volunteers are invited to call or come. The youth group have been very active making pizza, playing games, hiking, discussing racial and ethnic harassment, and volunteering at the Marathon. **Joyce Bourdeaux** has left monies for youth camperships; she fondly remembered her experience in summer camp and wanted to do the same for today's youth.

ALL SAINTS', South Burlington, held an Easter Egg Hunt following the service and a very well attended coffee hour on April 11. All had a wonderful time, and prizes were given to the children. The Vestry has approved plans for new carpeting in the church and for replacing the entry doors with glass.

CALVARY, Underhill will hold its Annual Spring Rummage Sale on Friday, May 7, from 9 A.M.-3:00 P.M. and Saturday, May 8, 9 A.M.-Noon. The sale will feature housewares, toys, clothing, books and miscellaneous items. For further information, please call the church office, 802-899-2326. ❖

Diocesan Calendar

May 2004

- 1 Safe Church Training, St. Andrew's, Colchester, 8:45-3:30
- 2 Bishop at All Saints', South Burlington
- 4 Trustees, Diocesan Center, 12 noon
- 4 Strategic Plan meeting, Diocesan Center, 4 PM
- 8 Deadline, June Mountain Echo**
- 11 Interims meeting, Diocesan Center, 11 AM
- 12 Fresh Start, St. Paul's, White River, 9:30 AM-2:30 PM
- 13 Rock Point Board, Rock Point School, 11:30 AM
- 14-15 Commission on Ministry, BBCC
- 15 Diocesan Study Prog., St. Paul's, White River, 9:30 AM
- 16 Bishop at St. Peter's, Bennington
- 16 Dismantling Racism Commission, Christ Church, Montpelier, 2 PM
- 18 Clergy Day, St. John's, Randolph, 10 AM-2 PM
- 18 Standing Committee, St. John's, Randolph, 2 PM
- 19 Executive Committee, Christ Church, Montpelier, 9 AM
- 19 Retired Clergy Luncheon, Randolph, 11:30 AM
- 20 Diocesan Altar Guild Annual Meeting, St. James', Woodstock, 10 AM
- 21-22 Diocesan Deacons' Retreat, Mission Farm, Killington
- 21 Rock Point School Board, Rock Point School, 12 noon
- 22 Vermont Ecumenical Council, Closing Event for Season of Ecumenical Celebration, Rutland
- 22 Commission on Ministry Christian Formation Committee, Christ Church, Montpelier, 9 AM
- 22 Diocesan Study Program, Mission Farm, Killington
- 23 Bishop at St. Paul's, Burlington
- 26 Oversight and Audit Committee, St. Stephen's, Middlebury, 10 AM
- 26 Dispatch of Business Committee, Diocesan Center, 1 PM
- 27 Ministry Support Team, Diocesan Center, 10 AM
- 31 Diocesan Center closed for Memorial Day Holiday

Safer Church Training

Safer Church Training sessions will be offered at St. Andrew's, Colchester, May 1, and at the Bishop Booth Conference Center June 22. Both sessions run from 8:45 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. Please register in advance with Connie Saeger-Proctor (clsproctor@dioceseofvermont.org) for May, or with Anne Brown (802-672-5250, or abrown@vermontel.net) for June, 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.

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

Funds Available for Parish Use
As of April 1, 2004

Total Pledged	\$1,600,000
Pledges Received (92%)	\$1,464,545
Funds available:	
Initiative I	
The Bishop Butterfield Revolving Loan Fund	\$ 253,363
Initiative II	
The Talent and Resource Network	\$ 16,165
Initiative III	
The Congregation Renewal and Emergency Assistance Fund	\$ 4,574
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.

Vermont and New Hampshire congregations "gather at the river"

by Anne Clarke Brown

"We had better get out more chairs," said Dave Shuffleburg as he watched people coming through the doors into the parish hall at St. Mark's, Springfield, the evening of April 14. Indeed, over 60 people from the Dioceses of Vermont and New Hampshire responded to the invitation of the two diocesan bishops, Tom Ely and Gene Robinson, to "Gather at the River" for a discussion of baptismal ministry and regional ministry. They represented thirteen congregations, eight in Vermont and five in New Hampshire, one of which is a Lutheran congregation.

Bishops Ely and Robinson originally conceived the gathering as a way to bring together the several congregations in the Connecticut River Valley that are in transition with regard to clergy leadership or ministry development. They decided also to invite congregations that have moved into regional ministry or explored new avenues of ministry. Both bishops expressed delight at the large turnout.

Canons Jeanette Tweedy of Vermont and Bobbie Fairman of New Hampshire opened the program by inviting people to choose a picture from a large selection on a table in the center of the room. After some time in small groups sharing how the pictures expressed their ministries, several explained their choices to the group as a whole.

Rick Hunter of St. Mark's noted that many chose pictures of nature and said, "We need to minister to nature in order to have a church at all." The Rev. Sally Hague of New Hampshire chose a photo from a catalogue for clergy that showed two male priests in cassocks. She said, "This is *not* what I want ministry to look like!" Another chose a picture of a broom

because, "In order to be open to new ways of doing ministry, we have to sweep away some old ones."

Baptismal ministry

Saying he hopes someday we will not have to use qualifiers such as "baptismal" or "common" or "mutual" to talk about ministry, Bishop Ely explained that for now we need them for the journey. It is, he said, a journey back into a place of deep memory when all the members of the young Christian communities—not just the ordained—did ministry. Baptism is not only full initiation into the community, he said, but "it is also our commissioning, our ordination for ministry." He added that the apostolic ministry is stated in the words used to welcome the newly baptized: "We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood." Baptism, said Ely, "is about God acting and the community of faith responding."

Bishop Ely stressed the connection between the church's mission and the reconciling mission of God and said that it provides the theological context for baptismal ministry. Referring to the church as a ministering community rather than a community gathered around a minister, he said, "This is the great paradigm shift taking place in the church right now." It is, he said, "the best theological orientation for thinking about any cooperative ministry.... It does not require any one way of organizing ourselves as a church." Understanding the church as a ministering community is a reminder that baptismal ministry "is not just about us when we are gathered, but about us when we are dispersed in our daily lives."

Continued on Page E



Tom Ely speaks about baptismal ministry.



Gene Robinson explains his choice of picture.

"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.