

# MOUNTAIN ECHO

News of the Episcopal  
Diocese of Vermont

and Episcopal Life

Vol. LXXI No. 4

"Glorify the Lord, O mountains and hills..."

April 2006

## Wardens, vestry members and treasurers attend workshops

by Anne Clarke Brown

Simultaneous workshops at Trinity Church, Rutland, and Christ Church, Montpelier, Saturday March 18, gave vestry members, wardens and treasurers an opportunity to explore practical aspects of the mutual ministry roles of clergy and lay leaders in two tracks, one for treasurers and one for wardens and vestry members.

The Rev. Canon Thad Bennett worked with wardens and vestry members in Rutland on topics such as canonical responsibilities, relationships with clergy, and vestries as communities of spiritual leaders. The Rev. Jeanette Tweedy could not get to the session in Montpelier, so attendees shared experiences with each other.

Diocesan Financial Administrator Julie Giguere and Alice Rouleau of the Oversight and Audit Committee led a session for treasurers in Montpelier. At the Rutland session for treasurers, Oversight and Audit Committee Chair James Harder described available resources and responded to ques-

tions about the annual Parochial Report and parish audit, computer software, and operating and non-operating funds.

Diocesan Treasurer Steve Smith reported that the Trustees of the Diocese are working with Chittenden Bank, which manages the investments in the diocesan Unit Stock and Unit Bond Funds, to provide more detailed information to congregations about their investments. They are also looking into improving the performance of both funds.

Smith explained that all congregations and institutions in the diocese are participating in the new insurance program under Church Insurance Company of Vermont, part of the Church Pension Group. Appraisals, paid for by CICVT, are currently underway and will serve as the basis for premiums in the next two years. He noted that various resources are available at the CPG Web site ([www.cpg.org](http://www.cpg.org), click on the property and casualty insurance link). Insurance contact information for the diocesan program may be found at [www.dioceseofvermont.org/Orgs/Insurance.html](http://www.dioceseofvermont.org/Orgs/Insurance.html).

Smith, who is chair of a task force looking at the diocese's current formula for raising



Wardens participate in a small group conversation at the workshop for wardens, vestry members and treasurers at Trinity, Rutland, on March 18.

ACB photo

funds from congregations, described the process the group is using to seek information and suggestions for possible changes. The formula has remained the same since 1986. Task force members are speaking with representatives of each congregation in the diocese.

In a short concluding joint session, the two groups shared with each other what they had each learned that they would like the other to know. ❖

## General Convention preparations begin

by Anne Clarke Brown

The 2006 General Convention of The Episcopal Church will meet in Columbus, Ohio, June 12–21. The members of the House of Bishops and lay and clergy members of the House of Deputies, representing 109 domestic and overseas dioceses, will adopt a budget for 2007–2009 and consider a wide variety of resolutions submitted by the church's standing committees and commissions, as well as by dioceses, bishops and deputies.

This year's convention will choose a new presiding bishop from among seven nominees (for information, click on the link, "Election of the 26<sup>th</sup> Presiding Bishop," at [www.episcopalchurch.org/ens/](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/ens/)), and it will consider how to respond to the Windsor Report of the Lambeth Commission on Communion.

Vermont's deputation (a link to names and contact information is at [www.dioceseofvermont.org](http://www.dioceseofvermont.org)) has set four meeting dates to discuss the issues and proposed resolutions, and they are planning ways to communicate with other interested members of the diocese. The May and June issues of the Mountain Echo and Episcopal Life will have more articles on the Convention.

The Vermont deputation will also attend the Province of New England pre-General Convention gathering in Westborough, Massachusetts, April 21–22. This event, aimed primarily at those attending General Convention and the concurrent Episcopal Church Women's Triennial, is open to all. Included will be a presentation on Anglican Communion issues by the Rev. Ian Douglas, and presentations by Church Center staff and the president and vice president of the House of Deputies. The agenda and registration information may be found at [www.province1.org](http://www.province1.org). ❖

## The Episcopal Diocese of Vermont

Praying the prayer of Christ, learning the mind of Christ and doing the deeds of Christ through ministries of

Formation

Liberation

Communication

Connection

Celebration

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## Vermonters volunteer in Mississippi

by Mark Howe

At the end of February, Mark and Sarah Howe and Sarah's daughters Cecelia (18) and Helen (16) DeKorne, all of St. Paul's Cathedral, Burlington, traveled to Ocean Springs, Mississippi, to volunteer for several days in the continuing post-Hurricane Katrina relief effort. The following is excerpted from some e-mail notes Mark sent to family and friends. To read more, visit [www.dioceseofvermont.org](http://www.dioceseofvermont.org) and click on the link under "Mountain Echo" to "Vermonters volunteer in Mississippi."

**Monday, February 27:** We are settling into a Sunday-school room here at Christ Victor Lutheran Church, where there are about 100 other volunteers besides us. The agency under which Christ Victor is housing and organizing this post-Katrina relief work is called Lutheran-Episcopal Disaster Response. It's clearly very well done, and it comprises a Distribution Center (food, supplies), a free walk-in clinic, and free cleaning-out of houses wrecked in the hurricane last August. The devastation here is jaw-dropping.

**Shrove Tuesday, February 28:** All the work of this place is grounded in the Gospel, and so the day begins with scripture, prayer, and singing. Afterwards there were announcements, during which we learned that we would have the afternoon off to go to the Mardi Gras parade in Biloxi. The work-

group coordinator stressed that although we might prefer working, it was important to recognize the cultural significance of Mardi Gras, and to enter into it fully.

For the morning of our first full day here, we all went to Christ Victor's Distribution Center to unload a large panel truck. In the late morning, we headed to Biloxi. Katrina's devastation was very easy to see there, and far more dramatic than what we'd seen yesterday: large buildings of which only the framing remained; small houses boarded up and uninhabitable; the twisted roots of dead live-oak trees; signposts, streetlights, and flagpoles bent over or lying on the ground; and so on.

The parade—there was only one this year, in contrast to the usual three—was very obviously a big, cathartic party. Many of the 80-odd floats referred to Katrina. One of the striking things about the day was the great abundance in the midst of a place that had been laid waste: there were a lot of beads thrown, and the family barbecues were generous, even though—or perhaps because—people had lost so much.

**Ash Wednesday, March 1:** Sarah, Cecelia, and Helen worked for the Distribution Center as greeters and runners. Greeters often heard people's stories from the hurricane. I think that they are very grateful

Continued on Page G

# "The strife is o'er, the battle done. The victory of life is won."

by the Right Reverend Thomas Clark Ely, Bishop of Vermont

When the call came from my sister on Monday, February 27, that my mom had died, the words of the Easter hymn—"The Strife is O'er"—flowed from my heart and lips and through the tears in my eyes. Our return to Vermont the day before meant that I would not likely be present when my mom died. Even at that, we thought she still had a few more days to go, since we had just placed her in hospice care, but that was not the case. Here's what I wrote to my colleagues in the House of Bishops the day my mom died:

*Shirley Marie Parker Ely (age 80) died this morning around 11:00 A.M. in the hospice unit of Norwalk Hospital (Norwalk, CT). She had been struggling since September with a number of health issues and went back into the hospital last week. Things quickly went down hill. Ann and I spent the weekend in Norwalk visiting with Mom and the rest of the family. We came home to Vermont last night (Sunday), thinking that there were a few more days of waiting. Things changed overnight as she became very congested and her breathing labored. Medication was increased to keep her comfortable, and she died peacefully, with my dad, my sister, one of my brothers and other family from Norwalk at her side. The parish priest had just brought communion and said the prayers at the time of dying, when Mom opened her eyes, looked at my dad, closed her eyes, took a couple of breaths and died. The wake will be Thursday in Norwalk and the liturgy at Grace Episcopal Church on Friday. Easter triumph, Easter Joy!*

Many of you reading this have experienced the sorrow of loss in your life. Some of you were not as fortunate as I in having the gift of time to spend with a loved one before their death. Some of you were. I am grateful that I was given that gift. In reflecting upon the gift that my family and I were given as we walked the journey

from life to death to new life with Mom, I've noticed three ways in which God and God's grace have been particularly present to me. Since my mom died just before Ash Wednesday, I've been thinking and praying about this presence of God quite a bit through the weeks of Lent, including at the recent House of Bishops' meeting when one of the questions for the "reconnection" conversation we do at our table groups the first day was, "In what ways has God been particularly present to you in these past few weeks?"

The first "notice" of God's presence in all of this was in being with Mom and our family, first through the difficult days of health care decisions, then in those last few days with her in which we said our good-byes and our thank-yous, and finally in the days that followed as we made preparations and consoled one another. I have a fairly large family, and as all four generations gathered to weep and laugh, to mourn and remember, to connect and to celebrate, the presence of God and God's grace was there in all its mystery and in all its joy. No one event stands out from another; rather it was in the collective whole of that sacred time and complexity of relationships, responses, emotions and engagements that God and God's grace were present to me.

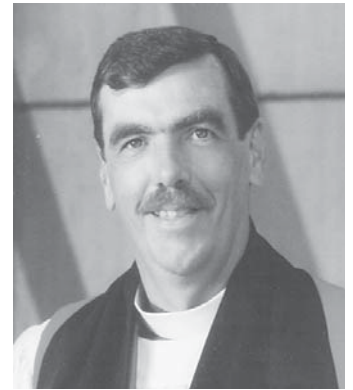
The second "notice" of God's presence to and for me was in the pastoral care and liturgy of the church. It was wonderful just to be able to lean on the church I love and serve and that my mom loved and served so faithfully all her life. The care of

priest and community for Mom and all our family was deep and abundant. The liturgy celebrating her life and ministry and the "giving her over" to the love of God's tender care and mercy was all that it is "supposed" to be. The community gathered from near and far to pray the prayers, sing the hymns, break the bread and share the cup. Those who could not be there in person were there in spirit. As is so often the case, God's grace and presence were profoundly manifest in the ministry of the church.

The third "notice" of God's presence and grace came, and continues to come, in all the cards, letters, e-mails, phone calls, flowers, memorial contributions, as well as in words spoken, hugs given and stories shared. It is quite wonderful to be surrounded by so great a company of loving, caring people who take the time to share a word of consolation, hope, or concern. The people of Vermont and beyond

have been so generous in the offerings of their expressions of love. There is no way to respond to you all, except to say that I

*"It is quite wonderful to be surrounded by so great a company of loving, caring people who take the time to share a word of consolation, hope, or concern."*



have read every word sent to me and will continue to read and read them again and again, because I know they come from your heart to mine and to the heart of my family.

In all of this, I am struck by how deeply incarnational all these expressions of God and Grace really are. Indeed, I know that for Mom, "The strife is o'er, the battle done. The victory of life is won." I anticipate that this Easter season will hold a special place in my life for years to come. I thank God for all the moments of grace that have been and continue to be part of this season of my life. I thank God for my mom and the beautiful, courageous and faithful way she lived and died. And I thank God for the community of faith that surrounds me and shares its love with such grace and abundance.

With deep affection and gratitude,

+ Thomas

## Notes from the Commission on Dismantling Racism

by Blanche Cooper

The diocesan Dismantling Racism Commission is sure that many congregations do special things to foster deeper understanding and celebration of the contributions of the great diversity of races and cultures that constitute our nation.

One small effort happened at St. Barnabas, Norwich, during Black History Month. Beth Hilgartner, rector, and Alice Maleski, organist/choir director, drew hymns from the African American tradition. The rector clarified, through her announcement and notes in the bulletin, the connection between the hymns and the celebration of black history month.

The organist worked enthusiastically with the choir, all of whom called the music a moving experience. One member of the

congregation told how moved she was in the singing of "Precious Lord"; another spoke of "hearing and feeling the Holy Spirit in the singing" of the hymn.

Not only did the congregation benefit, but so too did the seniors at Lebanon Center-Genesis Eldercare later that afternoon. During February, St. Barnabas' was responsible for an afternoon worship service, so the choir director and six members attended and were received with great joy; indeed some of the seniors joined in the singing.

Please let us know how your church celebrated Martin Luther King Day or Black History Month. We can all benefit by sharing these activities. Email me at bcooper@valley.net.

Blanche Cooper is a member of St. Barnabas, Norwich.

### The Episcopal Diocese of Vermont

The Right Reverend Thomas Clark Ely, Bishop

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### MOUNTAIN ECHO

News of the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont

Anne Clarke Brown, Editor

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Episcopal Life/Mountain Echo is published 11 times per year by the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, Inc., 815 Second Avenue, New York, NY 10017 (ISSN 1050-0057, USPS# 177-940). Periodical postage paid in New York, NY and additional mailing offices.

Postmaster: Send changes of address to Episcopal Life Subscription Office, P.O. Box 1337, Bellmawr, NJ 08099-1337. Address changes may also be sent to [elife@aflwebprinting.com](mailto:elife@aflwebprinting.com), or by calling 800-374-9510.

## 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,

A friend of mine is an outspoken fundamentalist. I try to steer clear of topics that will get my friend worked up about "the inerrancy of Scripture" and how we have to accept the text of the Bible as literally true. But inevitably we lock horns on the subject. Do you have any suggestions that will help my friend get a better perspective on this?

Frustrated Friend

Dear F.F.,

I have a good recommendation, but I am not optimistic about the chances of your friend being helped to get a better perspective. My experience with people like your friend is that it is often a case of, "My mind is made up, don't confuse me with the facts."

With someone like your friend, there is probably a huge need to believe that the text of the Bible is inerrant, even though the Bible itself does not make that claim. It's one thing to say that the Bible is authoritative; it is quite another thing to say that the Bible is without error. As a parent, I exerted my authority with my children, but I didn't come close to being without error. (My children will be glad to give you specifics on this topic if you are interested.)

Regarding the New Testament, it is instructive to note that there are no Greek verbs which mean what modern fundamentalists claim, which is that the original text of our Scriptures (known among scholars as "autographs") were written without error. Not only do we have to be suspicious about that claim to inerrancy, but the plot also thickens when we realize that we don't even have those original texts. So even if there were such a thing as an inerrant "autograph," we can't know what it literally said, because it doesn't exist any more. All we can rely on are copies of the original texts, and those copies are very, very unreliable.

With that in mind, here comes my recommendation: encourage your friend to read *Misquoting Jesus: The Story Behind Who Changed the Bible and Why*, by Bart D. Ehrman. Dr. Ehrman, Chair of the Department of Religious Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, was at one time in his life a dedicated fundamentalist. However, when he started researching biblical manuscripts, he was surprised to find that there are no original texts in existence. All we have are copies of early manuscripts, and those copies are clearly full of mistakes. Early copyists were not very proficient in their skills, so their

copies are riddled with errors. Later copyists not only inherited very imperfect texts but they also often had some theological axes to grind and therefore changed the texts to make sure the manuscripts they produced were "spun" in the correct way to support the copyists' doctrinal positions.

Dr. Ehrman gives many persuasive examples of these processes. My guess is that your friend won't like the book very much. The book's careful analysis has the result of showing what a house of cards the belief in biblical inerrancy is.

One of my favorite illustrations in Ehrman's book is where he describes (on page 48) how ancient Greek texts were written in "scriptio continua," which means that there were no spaces used to separate words. So, to help your friend understand how problematic this makes the transmission of the Greek text, ask your friend to make an inerrant "copy" of the following sentence: lastnightatdinner-isawbundanceonthetable.

Does your friend's copy tell the reader about a lavishly set table full of food or does it describe the unique vision of some dancing buns? Which is the "inerrant" meaning of that sentence?

Actually, I kind of like the idea of dancing buns, especially if it is Lent and they are hot cross buns. That's just the kind of whimsy and surprise that are characteristic of the Holy Spirit, the same Spirit that moves in such a way to topple houses of cards.

I hope this suggestion helps your friend, but you'd better be ready to duck when your friend gets mad and throws one of those buns at your head.

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

## Are you hosting a "pharming" party?

by Penny and Joe Hauser

A July 2005 report from CASA (the Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University) discussed an alarming new type of teenage drug party. At these "pharming" parties, teens bring drugs from home to trade or share for purposes of getting high. Where do the drugs come from? Their home medicine cabinets. Look in your medicine cabinet! Is there a vial of pain pills (Vicodin or Oxycontin) from your last dental root canal? Is there some Ativan or Valium or Xanax from the time you were depressed or anxious a couple of years ago? What about Ritalin, Adderall or Dexedrine from Billy's hyperactivity? Many times parents' lack of knowledge of the dangers of these drugs leads to devastating consequences for their children. Throw the pills away, or at least lock the cabinet!

The report "Under the Counter: The Diversion and Abuse of Controlled Prescription Drugs in the US," gives other staggering statistics. "Between 1992 and 2003, while the U.S. population increased 14 percent, the number of people abusing controlled

## Book Review: *The Stature of Waiting*

by DeWitt Mallary

I bought *The Stature of Waiting*, by W.H. Vanstone (Morehouse Publishing), in January, because I had read, still owned, and admired Vanstone's *The Risk of Love*, written twenty-five years ago. Vanstone was a parish priest and Canon of Chester Cathedral. As a parish priest and not an academic theologian, he reflected deeply on the human condition and produced a few small and penetrating books.

When I bought and read *The Stature of Waiting*, I did not know that on Valentine's Day my wife Vera would be hit with a cancer diagnosis of a serious sort. The month after that jolt (and I write this on March 14, exactly one month later) has been filled with waiting. We wait with anxiety for the next unpleasant test. We wait with concern over a final diagnosis and the outline of treatment options. Our lives have changed dramatically.

Basic to the change is that before February 14, we initiated, we acted, we planned, we traveled, we shopped, we went to meetings, we went to shows—all the myriad actions of two happy, healthy, active retirees. The key word here is "active." Suddenly that changed. Our life has moved into the passive mode. We wait for what is to happen next. We are not the actors, the doers. We are not the subjects; we are the objects of others' decisions and actions. We are exposed. We have been "handed over" if you will to the decisions of others, i.e., the wonderful, expert, and compassionate doctors at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center. For them and that institution, thanks be to God.

*The Stature of Waiting* bears directly on all this. It is a meditation on the contrast between Jesus' active life, active in so many ways, until the night in the Garden of Gethsemane, when he is "handed over" to the Jewish authorities and then to Herod. This moment marks a complete break in the gospel narratives. Up to that point Jesus heals, teaches, feeds, forgives,

walks, prays, casts out demons and all the rest. After Judas's act he becomes, not the actor, but the one acted upon. From being active, he becomes passive. The outcome is not his choice but will be determined by others.

Vanstone notes that our capitalist, enterprise society puts a high, perhaps too high, valuation on our "doing," on what we do and make and create. His book is an attempt to search out the value and meaning of the human situation when we are acted upon, when we are not the subjects of our lives as much as the objects of others. His essay helps us find, especially through the "passion" of Jesus, the meaning and value of our "passions," whether imposed on or chosen by us.

For those who care for words and their real meanings, Vanstone has a lot to teach us. He studies the verb "betray," as in Judas's betrayal of Jesus. A more accurate reading is "handed over." Vanstone thinks too much opprobrium has been heaped on Judas, for the fact is that Jesus deliberately chose to take his message to Jerusalem, hoping that the powers might hear his gospel and accept it. Not likely, but possible. But Jesus would almost certainly be "handed over" in one way or another.

Another word Vanstone parses is the verb, "suffer." In our common parlance it connotes pain, torture, injury, distress and similar images. But the word had, and sometimes still has, the older and more basic meaning of "undergo" or "endure." Our mental image of Jesus' suffering focuses on flagellation, insults, and crucifixion. But looking at the Greek and at older translations, we see that his "suffering" was more fundamentally his exposure, his willingness to put his fate in other hands, to "suffer" or undergo whatever came.

Waiting is part of passion, in its biblical sense of passivity, of being acted upon. A patient is one who is being acted upon, and who risks a result not of his own choosing. A lover, a true lover, whose self is bound up with the well-being (and even with the impulses) of the beloved is a person vulnerable. He or she "suffers" because the outcome is left in other hands; the result may be bliss or rejection. This is "the risk of love," which is the title of Vanstone's earlier book.

In his chapters, "The Road to Gethsemane" and "The God Who Waits," Vanstone gives us moving and believable meditations on the Passion of Jesus. When Jesus moves from action to passion, essentially by his own choice, he shows us a God who exposes himself to the world he has created, with all the risk that entails. Jesus waits in the garden, with a fully human anxiety, but still committed to waiting in love for the world's response.

Whatever else the resurrection may mean, it means to me (the reviewer) that Jesus' model of love, seen both in his life of action and in his short life of passion, is God's model of a full human life. For he is, writes St. Paul, "the image of the invisible God." I recommend *The Stature of Waiting* for some serious Holy Week reading.

The Rev. R. DeWitt Mallary, Jr. is a retired priest who attends St. Martin's, Fairlee.

### Women Helping Battered Women (WHBW) of Chittenden County seeks used, unwanted cell phones

Working phones go to women who need a cell phone for safety. Others are recycled in exchange for cash. For information call 802-658-3131, or visit [www.whbw.org/for\\_donors.htm](http://www.whbw.org/for_donors.htm).

## More Coming Events

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

#### Four Hands and Two Pianos: Dance into Spring Friday, April 21, 2006, 8 P.M.

Duo pianists Elaine Greenfield and Janice Meyer Thompson present a concert featuring Ravel's monumental work for two pianos, *La Valse*, written before the orchestral version. Also included are lyrical works by Bach and Schubert, and four hands dances by Dvorak, Barber, and Stravinsky. This program is designed to put spring in your step and a song in your heart! Admission \$18; Students/Seniors \$13; 15 and under, free.

#### Master class with Janice Meyer Thompson Saturday, April 22, 2006, 9:30 A.M. to Noon

A special free piano master class with Janice Meyer Thompson. This event is open to the public. Hear wonderful piano playing and world-class instruction. Co-sponsored by Greenfield Piano Associates.

#### Sounds of Genius: Music for Chorus and Orchestra by Handel, Delalande and Monteverdi

Saturday, April 29, 2006, 3 P.M.

The Oriana Singers and orchestra, conducted by William Metcalfe, perform a brilliant setting of a dramatic Psalm, composed in Rome by the young Handel; an exquisite motet played at Louis XIV's funeral, and choruses, including *Dixit Dominus*, from Monteverdi's great sacred masterpiece. Admission \$16; Students/Seniors \$10; 12 and under, free.

#### Tuesdays Noon to One

Tuesday 12 to 1 is a free, informal noontime concert series presented by Cathedral Arts. Bring a bag lunch. Coffee and tea are provided. For information, call 864-0471. **May 2: Jessica Voyer, soprano and Susan Summerfield, piano, "Music to Dream By."** Classic, beloved bedtime melodies to lull little dreamers and the young at heart.

### Stone Church Arts Concerts

Immanuel Church, 20 Church St., Bellows Falls, Vermont

Stone Church Arts is a collaboration between Immanuel, Bellows Falls, and the Rockingham Arts & Museum Project. Concert tickets are \$12 (\$8 for seniors and children under 12). For more information, visit [www.ramp-vt.org/events](http://www.ramp-vt.org/events), write [sca@sover.net](mailto:sca@sover.net), or call 802-463-3100.

#### Judith Serkin, Cello, and Robert Merfeld, Piano

Saturday, April 1, 7:30 P.M.

A marvelous combination of technical brilliance and heartfelt playing, these two world-class artists will play a wide-range of classical compositions, including Chopin's Cello Sonata and selections from Bach.

### Episcopal Divinity School Events

99 Brattle Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts

Venues are handicap accessible. For additional information, visit [www.eds.edu](http://www.eds.edu).

#### WHAT IS, Exactly, THE BIBLE?

##### President's Symposium

April 8, 2006, 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

The free President's Symposium provides a forum for people of faith to explore core theological issues of the Christian faith with a panel of biblical scholars. Sherrill Hall, Room 3A. To register, call 617-868-3450 x 520 or email [mphillips@eds.edu](mailto:mphillips@eds.edu). Bring a brown bag lunch and try to take public transportation, as parking is limited.

#### The DaVinci Code

Wednesday, April 19, 2006 from 7:00 – 9:00 P.M.

Dr. Harold Attridge, Dean of Yale University Divinity School and Lillian Claus Professor of New Testament, will present his views on the questions that arise from the book, the movie, and the phenomena around the book, while Dr. Karen L King, Winn Professor of Ecclesiastical History at the Harvard Divinity School, will provide a response before the floor is opened for questions. Sherrill Hall, Room 3A. Pre-registration by April 7 is required; send name, telephone, and email to [cmaynard@eds.edu](mailto:cmaynard@eds.edu).

### "Sent by God's Grace for the Sake of the World"

#### 2006 Global Mission Event

July 27-30, 2006

The University of Massachusetts, Amherst

The Episcopal Church will join with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in sponsoring this ELCA event that annually draws about 1000 participants. Plenary speakers include ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson and Presiding Bishop Frank Griswold of The Episcopal Church. Vermonters Sandy and Margy Zabriskie are on the planning team. With childcare and special programs for children, junior and senior high youth, the GME is great for congregational groups of all ages. For information, visit [www.nesynod.org](http://www.nesynod.org), and click on the 2006 Global Mission Event link.

## Karen Armstrong is 2006 Kellogg Lecturer

[EDS] Karen Armstrong, author of *The Spiral Staircase: My Climb Out of Darkness*, will offer her insightful and hopeful approach to what Islam, Judaism, and Christianity have in common in a series of three lectures at Episcopal Divinity School, Cambridge, Massachusetts. The lectures will be Thursday, May 4, from 10:00–11:45 A.M. and 2:00–3:30 P.M., and Friday, May 5, from 10:00 A.M.–12:00 noon.

Armstrong's best selling books, *The History of God, The Battle for God, Jerusalem: One City, Three Faiths*, and *Buddha*, as well as her television documentaries, were among the first contemporary works to explore the rise of fundamentalism and complexities of religious movements today.

Armstrong recently published *A Short History of Myth*, and she appears regularly on NPR and PBS. She balances spiritual concerns with academic rigor and intellectual integrity, and she emphasizes the common threads of our faiths: compassionate action, justice, and human dignity.

## St. Peter's series to examine power of language

St. Peter's, Bennington, will repeat a popular adult education series on "The Power of Language" on four Wednesday evenings (April 26, May 3, May 19, May 17) from 7–9 P.M. Participants will look at the way language can promote grace and healing and also can promote discord and strife. Words as Events, Words as Self-Disclosure, Words as Happenings... we will look at language and disability, language and gender equity, language in the church, and coded language.

## EDS adds second June term to summer course offerings

To meet the growing demand for intensive courses during the June term, Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, Massachusetts, announces the expansion of its June term to two sessions, each with one and two week courses. The first is May 30 to June 9, and the second is June 12 to 23. Short term housing and meal plans are available.

New courses planned for the second term include: **Sacred Leadership: Facilitating Reconciliation**, led by Dr. Judith Oleson, June 12-16; **Queer Explorations of Pastoral, Theological, and Ethical Issues**, taught collaboratively by a team of Queer theologians, scholars, ministers, and activists, June 12 to 23; and **Contemporary Issues in Christian Social Ethics: Ethics in Vocation and Work in Church and Society**, taught by the Rev. Dr. Joan Martin, June 12-23.

The first June term includes two courses available to members of the Diocese of Vermont through funding from the Pastoral Enrichment Program. Contact Susan Ohlidal ([sohlidal@dioceseofvermont.org](mailto:sohlidal@dioceseofvermont.org), or 802-748-8755) for information about registration for the following two courses:

**Developing Spiritual Communities**, Tuesday, May 30 to Friday, June 2, 9 A.M. to Noon and 2-5 P.M. Faculty are Arrington Chambliss, Sheryl Kujawa-Holbrook, and Tulaine Marshall.

**Understanding and Encouraging Local Ministry Development**, Monday, June 5 to Friday, June 9, 2006; 9 A.M. to Noon and 2-5 P.M. (morning only on Friday). Faculty are

The fee for the lectures is \$100. (The series is complimentary for EDS alumni/ae and one guest.) Advance tickets are required; contact Kate Ramsay at 617-682-1571 or [kramsay@eds.edu](mailto:kramsay@eds.edu). ❖

## St. Mary's hosts series on "The Meaning of the Cross"

The Rev. Gunnar Urang will present a three-session series titled, "The Meaning of the Cross" at St. Mary's, Northfield, on Friday evenings, March 31, April 7 and April 21. Each session will begin with a simple supper at 6:00 P.M. All are welcome.

Urang, the retired former rector at St. Mark's, Springfield, is the author of the recently published *An Inquirer's Guide to Christian Believing* (Wipf & Stock, 2005). He will explore the various theologies that attempt to explain how Jesus' death on the cross was a saving event for humankind. ❖

Lively discussion and current language contexts are sure to be part of this energizing series. References will be made to two books: *When God is Silent* by Barbara Brown Taylor, Cowley Publications, Cambridge, MA, 1998, and *A New Zealand Prayer Book*, Harper Collins, San Francisco, 1997. Participants are asked to give their names to Judy Krum ([emailjvkrum@adelphia.net](mailto:emailjvkrum@adelphia.net) or phone 442-5269) by Friday, April 21, so that sufficient materials can be prepared. ❖

Sheryl Kujawa-Holbrook, Byron Rushing, and Fredrica Harris Thompsonsett.

Other first term courses are: **Comparative Methods for Combating Racism**, with The Rev. Canon Ed Rodman, May 30-June 9; and **General Convention**, with the Rev. Dr. Ian Douglas and the Rev. Canon Ed Rodman, May 13 (Saturday) and May 30-June 2.

For information, visit [www.eds.edu](http://www.eds.edu), or request a catalogue at 617-868-3450 ext. 507 or [admissions@eds.edu](mailto:admissions@eds.edu). For registration information, contact Gena Gourley, 617-868-3450 ext. 516 or [registrar@eds.edu](mailto:registrar@eds.edu). ❖

## General Seminary offers summer courses

The Center for Christian Spirituality (CCS) at The General Theological Seminary in New York will offer four courses for lay persons and clergy as part of its Summers at General program, June 5-16. The Center's courses embrace both academic and experiential elements, with reading assigned in advance and papers due in the months following. Students interested in going deeper and pursuing a degree in Christian Spirituality may take these courses for credit and apply for the Master of Arts, Master of Sacred Theology, or Certificate of Study.

For information, visit [www.gts.edu/summersatgeneral.asp](http://www.gts.edu/summersatgeneral.asp), or contact James W. N. Murphy at 212-243-5150 x269, or [murphy@gts.edu](mailto:murphy@gts.edu). Deadline for registration is May 5, 2006. ❖

## Seminarians create LGBT ally training

The Rev. Keri Aubert, a seminarian from the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Burlington, is among four seminarians at Church Divinity School of the Pacific, the Episcopal seminary in Berkeley, California, who are piloting "Beyond Good Intentions: Equipping the Ministries of LGBT Allies" on Saturday, April 8, 2006, at CDSP.

The program will train allies for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) persons in the faith community context. "The idea is to transform communities of faith into truly welcoming environments for all of God's children," says Aubert, a former chemical engineer who was ordained deacon by Bishop Ely at St. Paul's on December 18, 2005. "We hope that by gathering to reflect on Scripture, share experiences and learn ally skills, people will be better equipped for the work of being a committed ally."

The idea came to Aubert at a preaching conference last summer, and she shared it with three fellow seminary students during the fall of 2005. The four began developing the training program, with advice from a



Cathedral Dean Ken Poppe with Deacon Keri Aubert after her recent ordination.

CDSP faculty member, and it is being honed in a course during the spring semester. Aubert will graduate from CDSP in May. ❖

## Cathedral sponsors meditation teaching school

A Vermont "School for Teachers," sponsored by the Christian Meditation Center at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, will be held at Rock Point School, June 23-25, 2006. The Essential Teaching Workshop is designed for people who have been meditating according to the teaching of John Main OSB and wish to deepen their understanding and commitment to this path.

The "School" flyer describes it this way: "I have been meditating for a year or more. I am trying to strengthen my daily practice. Meditation is a great gift in my life and I would like to accept and integrate it more deeply. I would also love the opportunity to understand John Main's teaching bet-

## Morris "sprints through the Bible"

John Morris, rector at St. Martin's, Fairlee, engaged participants in the LifeCycles program of St. Andrew's, St. Johnsbury, in a lively four-hour "sprint through the Bible" on February 25. Morris used a flip chart and cartoons projected on a screen to illustrate his points as he created a fifteen-foot long timeline of the major events in the history of the Jewish and Christian communities.

Diocesan Communication Minister Anne Brown videotaped Morris's presentation for use both by Leader Resources, the developer of the LifeCycles program, and by the Diocese of Vermont. DVDs will eventually be available for use by congregations. Contact Susan Ohlidal, sohlidal@dioceseofvermont.org, or 802-748-8755. ❖



John Morris explains a point to Marge Kennedy and Andrew Wellmon.

ACB photo

## Litany

Lord, have mercy on us:  
Bring them home.

Christ, have mercy on us:  
Bring them home.

Lord, have mercy on us:  
Bring them home.

From shrapnel fragments set  
In the midst of children, women  
and men:  
Bring them home.

Though in protective jackets bloodied,  
And paid for twice over:  
Bring them home.

Eyes closed, bodies broken,  
Flag draped:  
Bring them home.

O Lord, strengthen those they leave  
behind:  
Bring them home.

May they weary no more, thirst  
no more, hurt no more:  
Bring them home.

Rest grant them, to everlasting:  
Bring them home.

To pens, rules and hoes,  
Of peace-time labor interrupted:  
Bring them home.

To green trees, green cities, green  
mountains:  
Bring them home.

To outstretched arms  
Of husband and daughter, mother  
and brother:  
Bring them home.

O Lord, Who gives life,  
Who makes life to be good,  
Who redeems life:  
Bring them home.

Amen.

Boris G. von York  
St. Mark's, Springfield

[The author thanks the Rev. Gordon Bardos, "whose teaching about liturgy enabled me to work in this way. Also thanks to Genie Rayner for her creative listening and encouragement." He hopes congregations might pray his words "in our common worship, particularly during the Prayers of the People."]

**Diocesan Altar Guild  
50th Annual Meeting  
is scheduled for Tuesday,  
June 6, 2006, 9:30 A.M.  
at the Cathedral Church  
of St. Paul, Burlington.**

## "TABs" can experience disability at May workshop

by Andrew Crane

If TAB means a fizzy soft drink to you, you probably aren't one of the 54 million Americans living with a disability. If you were, then you'd know TABs are the Temporarily Able Bodied: the walking/seeing/hearing, take-it-for-granted "normal" folks whose equipment functions pretty much within original design specifications.

This is the population the Diocesan Accessibility Committee cordially invites to join with Bishop Thomas Ely in a special workshop Sunday, May 21, at St Mark's, Springfield. The afternoon of "Experiencing Disability" will be a preview of coming attractions for many who may one day trade their Keds for a shiny wheelchair, or their designer eyewear for a white-tipped cane.

## Help plan "That All May Worship" conference at St. Peter's, Bennington

St. Peter's, Bennington, will host "That All May Worship," a program of the National Organization on Disability (NOD) which seeks to promote the acceptance and full participation in all aspects of life of America's 54 million men, women, and children with physical, sensory, and/or mental disabilities. The NOD Religion and Disability Program is an interfaith effort urging local congregations, national faith groups, and seminaries to be more welcoming and hospitable to children and adults with disabilities. The Accessibility Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont will

One in 6 Vermonters self-identifies as living with a disability; one in 12 characterizes that disability as "severe."

Conducted by a team from the Crotched Mountain Rehabilitation Center in Greenfield, NH, the free 1 1/2 hour workshop will be a chance to walk in the moccasins of people for whom "normal" means something very different than we may understand it. Through this brief exposure to the experience of disability, participants can better understand the obstacles and barriers to full inclusion in the shared life of our community. If those living with disabilities can't find that understanding and acceptance in their church family, then where?

The 1985 General Convention pledged "to make the Church aware of the physical,

co-sponsor the conference, planned for the fall of 2006.

St. Peter's invites persons with disabilities to be part of the planning process. An initial meeting will be Tuesday, April 25, at 7 P.M. at St. Peter's, 200 Pleasant St., Bennington. Judy Krum from St. Peter's is acting as the organizational liaison. Please RSVP to her so that sufficient arrangements can be made: 212 Dewey St., Bennington, VT 05201, phone: 802-442-5269, email: jvkrum@adelphia.net. St. Peter's is accessible to people who use wheelchairs, and there is an accessible rest room. ❖

cultural, emotional, attitudinal, educational, communication and programmatic barriers which prevent all persons with disabilities from enjoying full and complete participation in Church and society. It encourages the development of inclusive and wholesome attitudes towards all persons and proclaims inclusion in the family of God." The 1999 Convention of our diocese passed overwhelmingly a resolution to "reaffirm, recommend and broaden the Diocesan commitment to peoples with disabilities."

Hosted in cooperation with St Mark's, the Southeast Deanery, and the Vermont Center for Independent Living, this workshop has very limited space. To participate please contact Pat Saul, dean of the Southeast Deanery (802-875-6651, or pat1215@vermontel.net), or the liaison to the Diocesan Accessibility Committee in your parish.

Andrew Crane is a member of  
Grace Church, Sheldon.

## Celtic Mass for Peace offered in Charlotte

Celtic author J. Philip Newell will be in Vermont for Holy Week. His *Celtic Mass For Peace*, with music by Charlotte, Vermont's own Sam Guarnaccia will be presented at Charlotte Congregational Church Wednesday, April 12, 7:00 P.M.

A freewill donation is invited. For directions call: Charlotte Church, 802-425-3176, or Hopkins Bookshop in Burlington, 658-6223 (local); or toll free, 800-639-3611. ❖

## Northwest Deanery 1

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ST. LUKE'S, Alburgh (the town has adopted the older spelling of its name), is offering a Sunday morning Lenten program based on videos from a series called "Jesus and His Times," and focusing on "The Final Days." St. Luke's continues discussions with Canadian Anglican congregations around a proposed Borders Regional Ministry.

ST. MATTHEW'S, Enosburg Falls, will host the second lecture in the series "Faith and Conflict," March 29, at 7 P.M. It will feature the Rev. **John Keenan**, rector of St. Mark's, Newport, reflecting on the intersection of Buddhism, intimacy with Jesus, and the politics of national interest. Free and open to the public.

The Reverend **Dennis Hayward**, rector at ST. LUKE'S, St. Albans, has been awarded a Postgraduate Diploma in Celtic Christianity from the University of Wales. Congratulations, Dennis! Each year, St. Luke's participates in an ecumenical Wednesday Lenten luncheon series at the six downtown churches in St. Albans.

The Holy Week worship schedule at GRACE CHURCH, Sheldon, will be posted at [www.gracechurchsheldon.org](http://www.gracechurchsheldon.org).

## Otter Creek Deanery 2

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At ST. STEPHEN'S, Middlebury, **Maria Hatjigeorgiou**, Visiting Lecturer in the Department of Religion at Middlebury College, offered a Lenten program on Holy Icons. Rector **Terence Gleeson** presented three Lenten sessions on the 6th century Rule of Saint Benedict.

St. Stephen's honored **Jessica Hoagland** at a special coffee hour March 5, in appreciation of her 12 1/2 years of faithful service as parish administrator and secretary and to wish her well in her retirement. The Mystery Group met March 6, for a rollicking potluck and discussion of Ann Granger's *Say It With Poison*.

The Outreach Committee visited Brookhaven School for Boys with a delivery of blankets, sheets, towels and school supplies. They learned that Brookhaven is looking for support (financial, lumber and/or labor) in building an enclosed basketball court for the students. They would also be grateful for age-appropriate books, videos/DVDs and games.

The "Soup and Lenten Book Study" group at TRINITY, Rutland, is reading *Getting Involved with God: Rediscovering the Old Testament*, by Ellen Davis. **Ernie** and **Linda Wright** prepared a spaghetti dinner for Trinity's second annual dinner and silent auction March 18. **Elise Cassarino** and Rector **Alan Gibson** have begun Kids Night Out, monthly gatherings for children and their parents to learn fun songs, do a little dancing, and hear stories.

Women of Trinity will host a Pampered Chef party April 3, at 6:30 P.M. **Marianne**

# ❖ deanery doings ❖

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

**Stephan** will be the presenter. She donates her profits to charities who help women and children. For information, call Trinity at 775-4368. The women will hold their Spring Rummage Sale April 22, 9 A.M.–2 P.M. All profits go to outreach projects.

ST. PAUL'S, Vergennes, is offering Evensong each Sunday during Lent at 4 P.M. The annual Cocoa Mulch Sale will be held in late April or early May.

## Southwest Deanery 3

Sarah Smith, Bureau Chief

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ST. PETER'S, Bennington will celebrate a new season of ministry between its 26th rector, the Rev. **Anita Schell-Lambert**, and the congregation on Good Shepherd Sunday, May 7, at 4:30 P.M. The Rt. Rev. **Thomas Ely** will preside at the festive Evensong. All are then invited to join in a potluck supper in the Parish Hall. Clergy are encouraged to be in procession in tip-pet and hood.

**Randall Krum**, organist-choirmaster at St. Peter's, attended "The Sacred Art of Chant" workshop at the Episcopal Divinity School (EDS) led by composer, arranger, and performer **Ana Hernandez**. In his study at the International Conference of the Royal School of Church Music in York, England, this past summer, Krum took part in workshops on Anglican (harmonized) Chant, but Hernandez's workshop presented an opportunity to experience chant from a more international and multi-cultural perspective.

## Southeast Deanery 4

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ST. MARK'S, Springfield, and the Southeast Deanery will host an "Experiencing Disability" workshop May 21 (see Page E for details).

The Journey to Adulthood (J2A) Youth Group at ST. LUKE'S, Chester, had an overnight retreat in January with a focus on pilgrimage. At the end of their two-year program, the youth will make a Christian Pilgrimage to a location of their choice. The Rite-13 Youth Group attended a concert given by the Dartmouth College Gospel Choir. A March "Cabin Fever Workshop" led by **Randy Walton** introduced young children to printmaking.

## Three Rivers Deanery 5

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The congregation of ST. JAMES' in Woodstock actively supports the local AIDS and Hepatitis C Service Organi-

zation (ACORN) as part of the Dove Program. Every third month, food and other items are collected and delivered to individuals and families. About 20 St. James' families participated in February, providing specific items requested on paper doves.

ST. MARTIN'S, Fairlee, has increased its connections to Gulf Coast communities affected by the hurricanes of last fall. Not only have two of their members gone to volunteer near New Iberia, LA, but now the parish is communicating with—and has sent outreach funds to—St. Martin's Episcopal Church in Metairie, LA, which is providing shelter and hospitality for work crews. Visit the southern St. Martin's Web site at [www.stmteepiscopal.com](http://www.stmteepiscopal.com).

From Norwich, a ST. BARNABAS' parishioner is also participating in the hurricane relief efforts. **Greer Krembs** is in New Orleans, working with Common Ground to clean up houses for repair or rebuilding. She will also offer her services for an after-school program at one of the public schools that has reopened. The parish is helping to support her mission, in part by directing anyone interested in helping her obtain local supplies and products—which benefits the local economy—to visit the Common Ground Website: [www.commongroundrelief.org](http://www.commongroundrelief.org).

Each parishioner of ST. PAUL'S, White River Junction, will be covered by prayer by the end of the Lenten season. St. Paul's established its own prayer cycle that includes four to five households each weekday. E-mails are sent every day, naming those to be prayed for and including a suggested prayer. As the newsletter points out, this is a process in which members of the parish draw "closer to one another by lifting each other up to God."

This writer cannot resist a bit of nepotism in recording a piece of information from the newsletter of ST. JOHN'S, Randolph. When **Bishop Ely** made his annual visitation recently, apparently he quoted the late **Phyllis Rayner** (my mother) in his sermon and acknowledged her as a spiritual mentor. The quote: "The will of God will never lead you where the grace of God cannot keep you." Thank you, Bishop, and the St. John's newsletter editor. She would be pleased and honored.

The parishes of the Three Rivers Regional Ministry, CHRIST CHURCH, Bethel, and OUR SAVIOUR, Killington, are participating in an ecumenical Lenten series called "Let Justice Roll: Food for a Holy Fast" that is being hosted by Our Saviour. The sessions, which include music of justice movements (performed by **Dick McCormack**, a member in Bethel and a former state senator), an evening on economic justice led by the Vermont Peace and Justice Center, restorative justice, environmental justice (with a panel of local stakeholders, including Killington parishioner **Bud Jenne**), and racial justice and white privilege, encourage participants to consider the justice with which God asks us to live in the context of Micah 6:8.

## Central Vermont Deanery 6

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ST. MARY'S, Northfield, will host a three part series on "The Meaning of the Cross," led by the Rev. **Gunnar Urang** (see Page D). The parish completed the 8-part *Via Media* program, led by **Connie Saeger-Proctor**, with an all-day retreat. After the Sunday Eucharist March 12, **Carol Murphy** and **Millie Trepanier** led a discussion about advanced directives as part of the "End of Life" series.

ST. JOHN'S-IN-THE-MOUNTAINS, Stowe, raised funds for the Lamaille Food Share at their Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, put on by **George Spear** and crew. The Wednesday Evening Prayer and Lenten Simple Soup Suppers draw people from Stowe and beyond, including skiers and tourists from many different states and Canada. The proceeds go to the Lamaille Food Share.

Many parishioners enjoyed a tour of the center of the Jewish Community of Greater Stowe (JCOGS) in March. The people of JCOGS have invited St. John's to use their worship space and classrooms during the time St. John's building expansion is underway, possibly by this spring. (For a picture, see [www.stjohnsinthemountains.org](http://www.stjohnsinthemountains.org)). The parish office will be in rented space in the Village of Stowe.

At a parish potluck, **Tom Younkman** showed photos from his mission trip to the Dominican Republic, where he and other Episcopalians used their carpentry, teaching and medical skills.

## Northeast Deanery 7

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*The Echo welcomes Dolly Corkins as the new Northeast Kingdom Deanery Bureau Chief. Please be sure she receives news from deanery congregations.*

The Lenten program at ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, Hardwick, has focused on broadening the understanding of Islam. The presenter is **Ben Chase**, priest in residence during the sabbatical absence of St. John's rector, **Susan Tobias**. With the enrichment of maps and his long experience as a Christian pastor in the Middle East, Chase is covering the nature, chronology and spreading influence of Islam.

## Champlain Deanery 8

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**Betsy Yung**, Bureau Chief

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The Bishop Booth Conference Center is hosting a series on exploring grief through loss and an interfaith program on Holocaust Remembrance Day (see "More Coming Events" on Page D).

Continued on Page G

## Vermonters volunteer

to receive whatever help they can get, but I think that the greeters and runners receive a great gift in hearing people's stories and offering them what material help they can. Apparently, other agencies are not as good at getting people what they need immediately. 219 people were served today. I joined several others in building a shower unit in the back section of the Distribution Center in anticipation of a large number (200 or so) of volunteers.

**Thursday, March 2:** Sarah worked in the kitchen all day, together with a battalion of Iowans. Cecelia and I went back to the Distribution Center, where she did more greeting, as well as sorting and organizing goods inside the building. I went back to the construction of the large shower deck. I, who have always shied away from power tools for the sake of my fingers, had my first experience using a power screwdriver, a table saw, and a nail gun. Helen was on a "muckout," ripping out floorboards and studs in a couple of houses, as a part of a larger work crew.

After supper, we drove down to the site of the bridge that used to connect Ocean Springs and Biloxi on US 90. When Katrina hit, the force of the water was so great that 30-foot long sections of concrete road were tossed up in the air and landed like dominoes overlapping each other. This is a bridge that had survived Hurricane Camille in 1969—the storm that people said was the worst the Gulf coast had endured, and by which they measured hurricanes: "Well, I figured I survived Camille, so there was no

Continued from Page A

reason to leave my house for this one..."

This has been a great thing to do. There is deep blessing in offering concrete, physical help to people in grave need, and in receiving the gift of their stories. If we had more time and more money, we'd come again, or stay for longer. Some people have been working here since last fall, including my supervisor ("Big Bob"), who arrived in November and will return to Michigan in April—or even later. The work of Lutheran-Episcopal Disaster Response is very impressive, and has clearly inspired a great deal of commitment in many, many volunteers. In the words of a homemade poster hung in Christ the Victor's narthex, "Hurricane Katrina was an act of nature. What we do here is an act of God."

Christ the Victor Lutheran Church welcomes volunteers aged 16 and over. More information is available on their Web site ([www.ChristusVictorDisasterResponse.org](http://www.ChristusVictorDisasterResponse.org)). If you are interested in volunteering, the contact number is (228) 282-3754, or by e-mail, [cvcvolunteer@cableone.net](mailto:cvcvolunteer@cableone.net).

Mark A. DeW. Howe is Canon Precentor at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Burlington.

### What the Waters Revealed: Christians and Hurricane Katrina

A new 34-page discussion guide from the editors of *Sojourners* that can be purchased (\$4.95) and downloaded at [www.sojournal.net/index.cfm?action=resources.discussion\\_guides](http://www.sojournal.net/index.cfm?action=resources.discussion_guides).

## CHABHA seeks to visit congregations

The Diocesan Council's Outreach Committee has awarded a grant to Children Affected by HIV/AIDS (CHABHA) to allow members of the Vermont-based not-for-profit to present the organization's work to congregations in the diocese. CHABHA founder, Susanna Grannis, is a member of St. Luke's, Chester, as are three other members of the CHABHA board.

CHABHA's mission is two-fold: to raise awareness about what is happening in Africa due to the AIDS pandemic, with particular emphasis on the effects AIDS has on chil-

dren; and to raise funds for eight community-based projects in southern Africa.

Grannis and fellow board members are eager to visit congregations at convenient times to share their work. She says, "Usually we talk about the pandemic's damage, but in highlighting the positive consequences of the work of the community-based groups on the children, we are able to share our feelings of hope."

To arrange for a presentation, call Susanna Grannis at 802-874-4013, or email her at [info@chabha.org](mailto:info@chabha.org). ❖

## deanery doings Continued from Page F

The CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. PAUL, Burlington, will hold an Agape meal April 13, 6:30 P.M., in the nave. A Eucharist and footwashing service will follow the simple meal of soups and food of the Middle East. **Judith McManis** offered a piece of liturgical art for Lent, the Great Dossal (see photo on Page H).

At ST. ANDREW'S, Colchester, a grief support group will meet for an hour on Tuesdays beginning March 7. The Confirmation class participated in a group community service project, serving dinner at the Salvation Army. On April 22, the class will volunteer at the Spring Special Olympics Sports Day.

Soul Mates, a singles group at ST. JAMES', Essex Junction, offered several activities during March. For more information about the group, contact **Pat Sequin**, 878-3698 or **Mary Carlson**, 899-2197 or

[mary.carlson@uvm.edu](mailto:mary.carlson@uvm.edu). **Al Frugoli** has developed a promotional brochure to aid in the search for a new rector.

TRINITY, Shelburne, continues the Senior Luncheons on Monday, April 10. **Barbara Hibbitts'** entertainment is a highlight at these events. Trinity is exploring the addition of a third Sunday service.

ALL SAINTS', South Burlington, held a Family Fun night that included a pot luck supper and a showing of the film, *Madagascar*. People were encouraged to bring a guest family. The Book Club met on the second Sunday in March and discussed *The Autobiography of God*, by Julius Lester.

CALVARY, Underhill, will hold its annual Spring Rummage Sale May 12 from 9-3 and May 13 from 9-noon. Great bargains to be found include books, toys, housewares and miscellaneous items. For information, call 899-2326. ❖

## Zion's Youth Group is "starving" to fight world hunger

by **Patty Midura**

When a typical American teen comes home from school, quite often the first words you'll hear are, "I'm starving!"

But some of our kids have a different take on hunger. On March 3-4, young people from Zion Episcopal Church participated in World Vision's annual 30 Hour Famine because of their concern about what hunger means for children living in poverty.

According to World Vision, "More than 29,000 children die every day from hunger and other preventable causes. But it takes only \$30 to feed and care for a hungry child for a month—and \$360 to feed a child for a whole year."

Students asked for sponsor donations as they went 30 hours without food. They experienced real hunger and participated in activities that helped them better understand life in developing countries. The teens also took part in games and community service projects to help others.

The kids raised \$5,000 through hope child sponsorships, donations, and fundraising at Shaw's grocery store. The US Government has matching grants that will double every dollar Zion raised. So, instead of helping 14 children, Zion is helping 28 kids in Niger, Kenya, the US, Peru, Indonesia, and Zambia. In addition, the kids bought over \$100 of baby food for the local food cupboard. Now that the famine is over, the participants can apply for two summer mission trips; the World Vision Kenya mission trip or the Faith in Action Mexico City mission trip.

Zion Church would like to thank Tyler Warren, Spencer Murdock, Schuyler Han-

num, Elise Penge, Andrew Kim, and Devin and Dana Midura for participating in the Famine. The famine participants are very thankful for the Zion congregation, because they are so supportive of the youth and their mission work.

In 2005, more than one million teens in 21 countries collectively raised more than \$11,000,000 to fight world hunger through the 30 Hour Famine.

Anyone interested in participating in World Vision's 30 Hour Famine or in making a donation to the Famine should contact World Vision at 800-7-Famine (800-732-6463) or through [www.30hourfamine.org](http://www.30hourfamine.org).

World Vision is a Christian relief and development organization dedicated to helping children and their communities worldwide reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty. They work in nearly 100 countries, serving more than 100 million of the world's poor—regardless of a person's religion, race, ethnicity or gender.

Patty Midura is a member of Zion Church, Manchester Center.

## Join July pilgrimage to El Salvador

The Rev. Lee Alison Crawford, rector of Saint Mary's Parish, Northfield, and Canon Missioner of the Anglican Episcopal Church of El Salvador (IAES), invites Vermonters to join a pilgrimage to El Salvador, July 22-29, 2006.

Participants will visit several congregations of the IAES, meet with the Most Rev. Martin Barahona, Bishop of El Salvador and Archbishop of the Anglican Church of the Region of Central America, and key leaders of the local churches, and will visit pilgrimage sites from the Salvadoran civil war. There will be time to relax in the northern mountains of the country as well. The estimated cost of this trip will be \$1,300, including airfare. Some scholarship aid is available.

For information about joining the group, contact Lee Crawford at 802-485-6011 or email her at [lacinvt94@aol.com](mailto:lacinvt94@aol.com). To learn about the IAES, go to the web site of Fundación Cristosal, [www.cristosal.org](http://www.cristosal.org). ❖

### St. Andrew's seeks organist/music director for 10 A.M. Holy Eucharist on Sundays and weekly choir practice.

Music is traditional and contemporary. Resumé, interview and audition required. Send resumé to: St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 1063 Prim Road, P.O. Box 78, Colchester VT 05446, attention of the Rev. Lisette Baxter. For more information, call 802 658-0533.

### Newcomer Ministry Tip Christian Education: Key to Growth, Part II

In terms of growth in numbers, the most active church shoppers today are parents with children, and children often select which church their families will attend. I have often heard from newcomers, "We visited several churches that would have suited us, but our children wanted to come here." In my experience, many children like the majesty and mystery of our liturgy. They want to be active participants and they seem to have an intimate relationship with the Holy Other. Similarly, they want to participate in Church School and to have adult mentors who can walk with them as they explore their faith.

Parents may not be as open as their children are about their spiritual needs. I find, however, that once they get a taste of education, it is like finding living water. They want more and more. At St. James', we have a plan of easy-entry non-threatening education. Adult Forum has a round-table discussion format rather than didactic teaching. Every committee is encouraged to begin its meetings with a simple Bible study. Participants are then encouraged to move from 101 courses to more in-depth study.

The Rev. Susan Williams deGavre, interim rector St. James', Essex Junction

## Diocesan Calendar

### April 2006

- 1 Diocesan Council, St. Luke's, St. Albans, 10 AM-2 PM
- 2 Bishop's Visitation, Jerusalem Gathering, Bristol
- 4 Clergy Fresh Start, Good Shepherd, Barre, 9:30-2:30 PM
- 4-5 Ministry Support Team retreat with NH and Maine teams, Waterville Valley, NH
- 6 Ministry Developers, Location TBA, 10 AM-4 PM
- 7 **Deadline, May Mountain Echo**
- 8 Diocesan Study Program, Christ Church, Montpelier
- 8 Fresh Start for Congregations in Transition (2.0), TBA
- 11 Clergy Day, St. John's, Randolph, 10 AM-2 PM
- 19 Executive Committee, Diocesan Office, 1-3 PM
- 20 Ministry Developers, St. Paul's, White River, 10 AM-4 PM
- 21 Province I Synod, Westborough, MA, 10 AM-2 PM
- 21-22 Province I Pre-General Convention Meeting, Westborough, MA, Friday, 1 PM to Saturday, 1 PM
- 30 Bishop's Visitation, Our Saviour, Killington

### May 2006

- 2 Clergy Fresh Start, Good Shepherd, Barre, 9:30-2:30 PM
- 3 Ministry Developers, St. Martin's, Fairlee
- 4-6 Clergy & Spouse/Partner Conference, Lake Morey Inn, Fairlee
- 5 **Deadline, June Mountain Echo**
- 7 Bishop's Visitation, St. Andrew's, Colchester
- 10 Dispatch of Business, Diocesan Office, 1-3 PM
- 19-20 Commission on Ministry Retreat
- 21 Bishop's Visitation at St. Martin's, Fairlee
- 24 Executive Committee, Diocesan Office, 1-3 PM
- 25 Ministry Support Team, Diocesan Office, 10 AM-4 PM
- 28 Bishop's Visitation, St. Luke's, Chester

## Diocesan Youth Calendar

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For information about diocesan youth activities, contact Connie Saeger-Proctor, Canon for Youth Ministry  
802-479-1246  
clsproctor@dioceseofvermont.org

### 2006

- Mar. 31- Apr. 2 Middle School Event, BBCC
- June 15-19 E3: Educate, Experience, Empower (Youth program at General Convention in Columbus, Ohio)
- September 30 Diocesan Acolyte Festival, Cathedral Church of St. Paul

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

### Funds Available for Parish Use As of March 1, 2006

Initiative I		
The Bishop Butterfield Revolving Loan Fund	\$	409,000
Initiative II		
The Talent and Resource Network	\$	3,720
Initiative III		
The Congregation Renewal and Emergency Assistance Fund	\$	1,049
Initiative IV		
The Diocesan Outreach Fund	\$	13,815

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

## McManis creates "Great Dossal" for Cathedral



Lee Crawford photo

The Cathedral Church of St. Paul has a new "Great Dossal," created by parishioner Judith McManis, that will hang at the back of the chancel during the season of Lent. McManis says the dossal is intended "to direct the viewer's attention to the Cross of Nails and to the companion candle-holders used on the altar during Lent which repeat the nail theme—all reminders of the Crucifixion."

McManis chose the fabrics for the panels because they are very neutral in tone, allowing the cross to stand out. The images are a series of 12 bare trees, which, she says, depict "the Desert of Lent as it is experienced in Vermont. Deserts are barren and seemingly lifeless," she adds, "but one has only to wait—and waiting is such an important part of the journey of Lent—and what is 'dead' comes to life again."

## Rock Point Summer Conference leaders announced

The Rock Point Summer Conferences (RPSC) and the Diocese of Vermont are pleased to announce the appointments of Scott Neal as camp director and Nancy Daigle as program coordinator for the 2006 camp season.

Scott Neal is a member of St. Mary's, Northfield, and is currently in his second year at The General Theological Seminary in New York City. He and his wife Beth and their two daughters currently reside in Northfield.

Nancy Daigle, who was the assistant camp director in 2005, will share the program coordinator position

with one other person, to be announced in the near future. She is a member of St. Dunstan's, Waitsfield, and she and her husband Ray reside in Moretown with their three children.

This year, volunteers have the opportunity to assist at camp in many aspects, including camp program and activities. It is possible to volunteer for one day, one week, multiple weeks or multiple days for different weeks. The theme this year is "Peace," and individuals are being recruited to provide peace-related activities that focus on a daily mini theme. To learn more about the program, visit [www.dioceseofvermont.org](http://www.dioceseofvermont.org) and click on the RPSC link.

Neal is accepting applications for camp counselors, and Daigle is recruiting volunteers. The counselor job description and application form are available at [www.dioceseofvermont.org](http://www.dioceseofvermont.org) (links on the home page). To explore ways to volunteer at camp, please contact Nancy Daigle at 802-496-7201, or [daigles@accessvt.com](mailto:daigles@accessvt.com).

### Rock Point Summer Conference Dates

High School	June 25-July 1
Grades 7-8	July 2-8
Grades 5-6	July 9-15
Grades 3-4	July 16-22
Performing Arts Camp	
Grades 5-8	July 23-29
All Ages	July 30-Aug 5

Visit [www.dioceseofvermont.org](http://www.dioceseofvermont.org)  
for more information.

## Camp planned for children with a parent in prison

The Rev. Jackie Means, director of prison ministry for The Episcopal Church met at Rock Point with an interdenominational committee planning a summer camp for children who have a parent in prison. The May issue of the Echo will have a story about this new ministry in Vermont. For a story on similar projects in other parts of the country see the enclosed issue of Episcopal Life, Page 12.

Committee members from the Diocese of Vermont include Connie Saeger-Proctor, canon for youth ministry; Debi Paterson, director of the Bishop Booth Conference Center, Ross Anderson of Trinity, Shelburne, the Rev. Con Quinby, and Michael Lawrence of St. James', Essex Junction. ❖

## Bishop Booth Center offers spring programs

"What Now?" is a series of evening seminars (6:30-8:30 P.M.) led by the Rev. Dr. David Hamilton for those experiencing grief through loss. The fee is \$10.00/session or \$35.00 for all four.

The sessions are: April 19, Going through Loss and Grief; April 26, Every Loss Has a Unique Story; May 3, Reassessing Our Beliefs in the Face of Loss and Grief; May 10, How Do We Go On From Here?

"What to Do When Intolerance Reigns: Holocaust Remembrance Day" is scheduled for Tuesday, April 25, 2006, 9:30 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. Led by area interfaith leaders, the program includes "Paper Clips," a film telling the story of a unique project undertaken by students in a Tennessee middle school, quiet time, discussion, a meal together and an opportunity to reflect upon how we can be persons of love and grace. Program: \$20/program, lunch, snacks.

Weekend programs will include "Resurrection in the Woods—Rock Point Rocks, Robins, and Rhubarb," May 15-17, 2006, and "Alumni Friends of Rock Point," June 12-14, 2006. ❖