

MOUNTAIN ECHO

News of the Episcopal
Diocese of Vermont

and Episcopal Life

Vol. LXXI No. 2

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

February 2006

Stewardship, Evangelism and Congregational Development Conference will invite participants to "Another Way of Life"



ACB photo

Rick Hunter (right) of St. Mark's, Springfield, spoke at the 2005 conference with Laura Arvin, Marge Burke and the Rev. John McCausland of Holy Cross, Weare, New Hampshire, about plans for expansion at Holy Cross.

by Anne Clarke Brown

The annual Province of New England Conference on Stewardship, Evangelism and Congregational Development is scheduled for March 31-April 2, at the Wyndham Hotel in Westborough, Massachusetts.

Conference planners have titled the event, "Seeing Jesus and Living the New Covenant - Another Way of Life," based on the Sunday scriptures of the conference's concluding day: John 12:20-33, in which Greeks coming to Philip ask, "Sir, we would see Jesus;" and Jeremiah 31:31-34, in which God promises a new covenant written on our hearts. Planners note that, "The familiar hymn, *Day by Day*, prays that we may see Jesus more clearly, love him more dearly, follow him more nearly, day by day. The Gospel experience of the disciples is just the reverse: follow, love, see. In this Conference, we invite you to live that experience."

The conference schedule includes four plenary addresses, three workshop blocks, music, worship and opportunities to meet and learn from others from all over New England. Now in its sixth year, the very popular annual event aims to "provide a first-class transformative experience" and "to offer the finest resources of the church in stewardship, evangelism and congregational development."

The Right Rev. Catherine (Cate) Maples Waynick, Bishop of Indianapolis, will deliver the lead-off plenary on Friday afternoon, lead a workshop on "Stewardship of the Gospel" on Saturday, and preach and preside at the conference Eucharist on Sunday morning. She serves as chair of the Advisory Committee on Pension Fund Abundance, on the Standing Commission on Constitution and Canons, and as a member of the Review Committee, which responds to ecclesiastical charges against bishops.

The Rev. Stephanie Spellers, Cox Fellow and minister for radical welcome at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston, will address the conference on Friday evening and lead a Saturday workshop on "The 'F'- word: Fear of Change, Fear of the Other." A graduate of both Harvard Divinity School and Episcopal Divinity School and a former religion journalist, she has traveled and researched extensively to investigate how Episcopal churches across America are facing their fear of change in order to welcome the presence, gifts and power of people from the margins.

Ms. Terry Parsons will also offer a plenary address as well as two workshops, "Will Our

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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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Consultant to jump-start stewardship action plan

by Anne Clarke Brown

Diocesan Council agreed at its December 2005 meeting to use surplus funds from the 2005 budget to pay for the services of a consultant, Robert Uerz, to develop a financial stewardship strategy for the diocese.

The *Strategic Plan for Growth and Ministry* adopted by the 2004 Diocesan Convention to guide the diocese's policy and financial decision-making over the years 2005-2010, calls for implementation of "a comprehensive financial stewardship strategy." Lack of available funds to create a new full-time position of development minister in the 2006 budget motivated Diocesan Council to take a two-step approach to the Strategic Plan's goal. The first step—the consultant's task—will be creation of a detailed strategy. Step two—the task of a future development minister—will be the implementation of that strategy.

Bob Uerz and his family live in Jericho and are members of Christ Church, Montpelier. I spoke with him to learn about his background and his vision for the year ahead.

Uerz came to Vermont eight years ago to run the American Lung Association. He

has had over 25 years of experience working in the not-for-profit sector and has a masters from Antioch New England Graduate School. A year and a half ago, he left the Lung Association to start his own consulting business. He works specifically with not-for-profit organizations, most of which come to him with fundraising concerns.

Uerz said he discussed with the bishop and the council his concern that, "Organizations many times put together a plan, and a good one, like the Strategic Plan. The next step they take is to hire a fundraiser. The focus immediately rushes to that individual who is going to take care of all the financial woes and financial needs. I think fundamentally that's a mistake." He said, "Really what you need to do is recognize that everyone connected with the Strategic Plan has a role to play in the fundraising and in the financial support of that plan."

The Strategic Plan, Uerz said, "took an extraordinary amount of time and energy to prepare. It included feedback from 46 parishes and over 300 individuals. Now we have to figure out how best to get the financial resources to carry it out. And I think the answer rests in Episcopalians across the state.



ACB photo

The first step in the process is to reach out to them." Uerz hopes clergy and congregations will invite him to speak and meet with them. (He can be reached at 802-373-8379, or info@rcuerzandassociates.com.)

The second component of his task is to use what he has learned to develop a comprehensive fund development plan for Diocesan Council. The final component is

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Strategic Plan stewardship efforts underway

by the Right Reverend Thomas Clark Ely, Bishop of Vermont

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

In September 2004 the Diocesan Council adopted *A Strategic Plan for Growth and Ministry: The Episcopal Diocese of Vermont, 2005-2010*. This comprehensive and visionary plan is our guide to the faithful living of our mission and ministry as a diocese during this period. The strategic plan is a response to our diocesan mission statement to "Pray the Prayer of Christ, Learn the Mind of Christ and Do the Deeds of Christ." More than a "blueprint for success," it is an expression of our common vision, hopes and aspirations for our diocese over the course of the next few years. The guiding principle of this vision and plan is our pledge to live fully into the promises of the Baptismal Covenant and our various baptismal ministries that comprise our commitment to baptismal living as the church gathered and dispersed for mission and ministry.

The *Strategic Plan for Growth and Ministry* is a "living" document, that is to say a document reflecting our life and vitality as a diocese engaged the reconciling mission of God in Christ, under the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit. The expressed vision of our Diocesan Council is that we be a "lively, mission-oriented church that discerns and welcomes God's call to us as a Diocese." Five interwoven themes emerge from this call and run throughout the various components of the Action Plan created to reflect the thinking, hopes, and dreams of Episcopalians throughout Vermont. They are: Formation, Liberation, Communication, Connection and Celebration. In this column, I want to share two recent developments in response to the Action Plan related to the theme of Connection.

The first development is a bold decision by the Diocesan Council to engage the consulting services of Robert "Bob" Uerz to assist us in the development of

the comprehensive financial stewardship strategy called for in the *Strategic Plan for Growth and Ministry*. The Council recognized that the success of the Strategic Plan is dependent upon securing in a timely manner the financial resources necessary to carry out its goals. Initially the Council thought the way to do this was to hire a Development Minister for the Diocese, and they sought funding for that position in the 2006 budget. That funding was not available, and along the way Council became convinced that a better approach would be first to develop the comprehensive stewardship strategy and then seek a person to help us implement that strategy.

The comprehensive stewardship strategy envisioned by the *Strategic Plan for Growth and Ministry* includes stewardship education, general giving, planned giving and a future capital fund campaign. Bob's mission among us is three-fold: first to listen, then to help us construct a comprehensive fund development plan, and finally to assist us in our search for the best person to help us carry out that plan. The interview with Bob in this edition of the Mountain Echo offers you an opportunity to begin to get to know him and to know more about his ministry among us in the coming year. My hope, and that of Diocesan Council, is that you will welcome Bob into the congregations of our diocese so that the plan he helps us settle on is truly reflective of the needs, hopes and aspirations of our diocese.

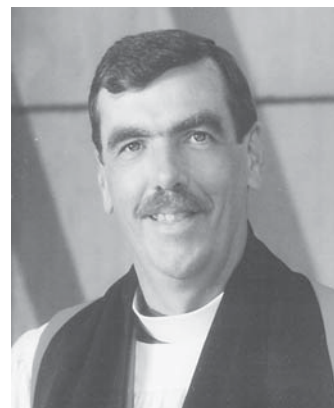
The second development I want you to know about is also in response to one of the Action Plans in the *Strategic Plan for Growth and Ministry*. I announced at Diocesan Convention the creation of a Task Force to review and make recommendations to Diocesan Council and Convention regarding the current system of parish support for our diocesan budget, also known as the parish assessment. It has been a very long time since the formula we use for this has been reviewed,

and much has changed in the life of the church and our diocese during that time. The funding of our diocesan mission and ministry is a matter that concerns us all, and my charge to this Task Force is that they bring their best thinking and ideas to this important work, bearing in mind that our mission and ministry as a diocese is not separate from our various local expressions of ministry, but integral to it.

One of the strongest connections we have in this diocese is our commitment to one another, as evidenced by the consistent willingness of our congregations to pay their full share in support of our diocesan budget. Council and I have tried to be transparent with you about the finances of our diocese and to be good stewards of the financial resources each faith community contributes to our common life and mission. The goal of this Task Force is to make sure the system of shared commitment to our diocesan budget is fair and equitable:

There are many dimensions to the work of this Task Force, and our commitment is to provide an opportunity for many voices to be heard. We are learning from the experience of other dioceses and reaching out to each of our congregations for your thoughts, ideas, and concerns. Of particular concern to the Task Force are the challenges facing congregations trying to grow and congregations struggling with particular realities of economics and other factors that have an impact on their mission and ministry.

I am very appreciative of the commitment being made by the members of this



Task Force to assist the diocese in thinking about this important aspect of our life and ministry together. The members are: Iris Darling (All Saints, South Burlington), Franklin Sanders (Grace, Forestdale), Ken Poppe (Cathedral Church of Saint Paul, Burlington), Jim Harder (Trinity, Rutland) Nancy Vogel (Saint Paul's, White River Junction), Bob Brower (Saint James, Arlington), Reid Farrell (Holy Trinity, Swanton), Bill Bridges (Zion, Manchester), Steve Smith (diocesan treasurer), and Lynn Bates (canon to the ordinary).

Please keep them and their work in your prayers. And please continue to pray about, reflect, and act upon the whole of our diocesan *Strategic Plan for Growth and Ministry*.

Faithfully,

+ Thomas

Consultant

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to create a detailed job description for a development minister that has both short-term and long-term targets. He will also serve as a facilitator in hiring a fundraising professional who can begin work in 2007 with much of the groundwork already laid. "This is an effort," said Uerz, "to bring on a person to hit the ground running."

Uerz said, "I really do believe in the power of joyful giving...and whatever makes that real for people. For some it is the concept of tithing, for others it is seeing the fruits of their work. The Strategic Plan has a very clearly articulated vision. That is helpful in this process. How are we going to get involved in not only the plan but also in how we make it happen?"

It will take money, but Bob Uerz is approaching his task from a perspective not of scarcity but of abundance. Call him, and expect a joyful and creative conversation.



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News of the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont

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Ask Sr. Bible Person

Do you have questions about the Bible?

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

Dear Sr. Bible Person,

As a devoted bird-lover, I have always been intrigued by the image of the Holy Spirit “descending like a dove” on Jesus at his Baptism. What do you make of that image?

Theological Ornithologist

Dear T.O.,

The dove has an important place in Scripture, from the dove loosed by Noah on the ark to the use of doves as sacrifices recommended for use by peasants for Temple worship as a substitute for lambs, which were more expensive (see Luke 2:24 to find out what Mary and Joseph brought to the Temple at the time of Purification).

One of the most beautiful references to doves, besides Psalm 55:6 (“Oh that I had wings like a dove, for then I would fly away, and be at rest” KJV), is found in Song of Solomon 2:12: “The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing is come, and the voice of the turtle dove is heard in our land” (NRSV). (Let’s stop here for just a moment and return to the topic of the problematic nature of the King James Version. In the KJV, the translation of Song of Solomon 2:12 reads, “...the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle heard in our land.” Voice of a **turtle**? Next time you get near a turtle, lean down and see if you hear a voice coming from that little head or from inside that shell. The translators of the KJV were often good ornithologists, like you, but, to put it bluntly, they seem to have blown this verse.)

The dove was a very common bird in biblical times, so it is not surprising to find it used as a metaphor for a variety of things, including its “mournful sound” that Isaiah refers to in Isaiah 38:4, and its gentleness as referenced in Matthew 10:16—“wise as serpents and gentle as doves.” (What if Matthew had said “wise as serpents and gentle as turtles”? Just

doesn’t quite have it, does it?) With all of this in mind, it is not surprising to find Mark and Matthew describing the Holy Spirit’s descent as being dove-like.

Interestingly, some scholars of Hebrew Scripture say that in the opening verses of Genesis we have another, less obvious, reference to God as being like a bird. In their interpretation of the key verb in Genesis 1:2, these scholars claim that the usual translations of the movement of the Spirit of God (“swept” or “moved”) are not nuanced enough. They suggest that “hovered” or “brooded” captures the presence of the Spirit at creation in a more profound and accurate way. I like that suggestion, as did Eugene Peterson in *The Message*. It conveys the notion that God is like a gentle bird, who broods over the birth of the world but also has the power to bring about Creation and then many, many years later, New Creation.

One cautionary note about theological ornithology, though, is contained in the following story: A clergyperson wanted to make the sermon on the Holy Spirit very dramatic. No doves being available, the preacher did locate a pigeon and then instructed the sexton to stand on a ladder in the choir loft and be ready to release the pigeon over the congregation when the preacher called out, “Come, Holy Spirit!” All went well until the preacher came to the cue words. Three times the preacher repeated them, but nothing happened. Then a voice came from the choir loft: “The cat ate the Holy Spirit. Do you want me to throw down the cat?”

So, may the Holy Spirit in whatever form is appropriate for your experience—dove, turtle, pigeon or cat—descend on you gently and give you power to carry out your ministry in Christ’s name!

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

Stewardship Corner

by Roy Morgan

I would speculate that most of your stewardship drives have ended, and there has not been a significant increase in worshipping our Lord in the form of financial giving.

There are two upcoming opportunities available to teach us how to worship our Lord more deeply through tithing.

The first event, “Growing Generous Stewards” which is being planned by the Northeast Ecumenical Stewardship Council, will be held Friday-Saturday, March 17-18, 2006 in Worcester, MA, at The Crowne Plaza Hotel and Wesley United Methodist Church. Registration is \$95.00. Contact Roy Morgan, diocesan stewardship chairman, for registration materials at rojomo911@aol.com, or 802-446-2230.

The second event will take place March 31-April 2, 2006. Province One is holding its 6th annual conference on Stewardship, Evangelism, and Congregational Development. [See Page A for details.]

Finally, the Cathedral Church of St. Paul has been chosen as the 2005 nominee from our diocese for “The Apostles in Stewardship” award in the field of stewardship. This prestigious award is given by The Episcopal Network for Stewardship (TENS). The Diocesan Stewardship Committee is soliciting nominations for 2006 from the Diocese of Vermont for the Apostles in Stewardship award. We are looking for a person, program, or project in our diocese that exhibits excellence, innovation, creativity, and faithfulness in stewardship education training, recruitment, and communication.

Roy Morgan is a member of Trinity, Rutland.

Save these dates!

Wardens, Vestries and Treasurers Workshops

March 18, 2006

Anti-Racism Training

April 29, 2006, 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.
Christ Church, Montpelier

Enosburg priest arrested in “Call to Renewal” federal budget protest

by Linda Maloney

At Christmastime many people read, reread, or see a movie or play of Charles Dickens’ *A Christmas Carol*. (My personal favorite is the Muppets version.) That 19th-century Victorian story of redemption and rescue warms our hearts every year. So it feels rather strange, not to say downright creepy, to see its plot being enacted in reverse in our own country in the twenty-first century. The House of Representatives has (by two votes) passed a budget resolution that would take away Tiny Tim’s crutches, along with his Christmas goose, and give the money to Ebenezer Scrooge. This is the real “Christmas scandal” of 2005, and it was to raise my voice and lay down my body in protest of it that I traveled to Washington, D.C., in mid-December.

The December 14 protest on Capitol Hill, supported by more than seventy other prayer vigils around the country, was called by Sojourners and Call to Renewal, a coalition of churches and faith-based organizations that serve the poor. Jim Wallis, founder of Sojourners, spoke of it as an “altar call,” and indeed, it felt very much like a revival as—after an evening of prayer and a morning of training—those of us who had volunteered to risk arrest went forward at the Lutheran Church of the Reformation to receive our red stoles.

During the previous evening’s prayer we had learned more details of the House bill, which proposed to cut some 235,000 people off food stamps and to cut Medicaid by defunding coverage for such things as eyeglasses, hearing aids, and—yes—crutches.

As I walked from Union Station to the church on Wednesday morning I was greeted and blessed by a homeless man sitting in the park with his belongings in a shopping cart. He asked for nothing. The same was true of the homeless woman who wished me well as I returned to the station that evening. During the protest itself I was surrounded by other clergy and lay people from all over the United States whose hearts were broken, as mine was, by the assault on the poor represented in this budget. The logic of paying for aid to Katrina victims by cutting programs that serve those same people escapes us. Moreover, while cutting 35 to 50 billion dollars from aid to poor people, student loans,

Head Start, and other valuable programs, the Congress proposes more than \$60 billion in tax cuts targeted almost exclusively at the rich.

Shortly after 10 A.M. Wednesday we processed from the church to the Cannon House Office Building. The temperature was below freezing, but the skies were clear. Our hearts were both heavy with the burden of our sorrow and light with our hope in the power of the Gospel. At the Cannon building we held a media presentation, with songs and prayers and addresses from such leaders as Congresswoman Barbara Lee of California, the Rev. Robert Edgar of the National Council of Churches, and Ron Sider of Evangelicals for Social Action. I met other Episcopalians in the group, as well as Lutherans, U.C.C. pastors, Unitarian Universalists, Presbyterians, United Methodists, Catholic sisters, and members of a variety of Free Church traditions, including many African Americans and Latino-Americans.

At around 11 A.M. we moved to the front steps of the Cannon building, where we knelt to sing and pray. By prearrangement, the Capitol police surrounded us and warned us, three times, to disperse or be arrested. After the third

warning, the arrests began. In total, 115 of us were arrested, handcuffed, put on buses, and taken to a detention center that had been set up in a police warehouse in Southwest Washington. Our demonstration was being used as a training event for police cadets, who were present by the dozen to cuff us, escort us to the buses, and process us at the center. We were, of course, a far more polite and compliant group than they are otherwise likely to handle—but if our country continues to make war abroad and pay for it by cutting services at home, the Capitol police may have a lot more demonstrations to deal with in the future.

A high point of the day for me happened soon after I boarded the bus. My hands were cuffed behind my back with some very uncomfortable hard plastic bands and, after more than an hour in the freezing weather, my nose was running. I asked one of my fellow detainees to turn his back and see if he could reach into my pocket for a tissue, but about that time one of the young officers-to-be, seeing us standing up, came to find out what was happening; he took the tissue from my pocket and wiped my nose for me.

It was a more difficult day for those who had to wait in the cold for the third or fourth bus, and then had to stand for hours in line, still handcuffed, waiting to be processed. But they got to enjoy a deli-

“...if our country continues to make war abroad and pay for it by cutting services at home, the Capitol police may have a lot more demonstrations to deal with in the future.”

Letters to the Editor (300 words or fewer) and *Opinion* articles are welcome and encouraged on any relevant topic. **Letters must have a name and phone number or email address. They may be edited for reasons of space.**

Anne Clarke Brown, Editor

Continued on Page E

More Coming Events

Trinity Institute Webcast

"The Anatomy of Reconciliation—from violence to healing"

January 30–February 1, 2006

Trinity Church, Wall Street, New York City

The 2006 conference promises to look with new eyes on the source of our theology of reconciliation in order that we may live it out with new energy and focus, according to a description on the Web site. The keynote speakers and preachers include James Alison; Bishop Michael Bruce Curry of the Diocese of North Carolina; Sister Helen Prejean, CSJ; Gwendolyn Zoharah Simmons; and Miroslav Volf. The conference, which begins Monday, January 30, with a 7 P.M. Eucharist, will be streamed on the Internet. For more information go to www.trinitywallstreet.org/institute/?2006.

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, write sca@sover.net, or call 802-463-3100.

Irish Love Songs for St. Valentine Aine Minogue and Eugene Friesen

Saturday, February 11, 7:30 P.M.

An encore performance by this stellar harpist, accompanied by internationally-claimed cellist Eugene Friesen. They will be playing love songs for the occasion as well as selections from Aine's latest album, *Celtic Lamentations: Healing for a Year and a Day*. Aine's style reflects the lyricism and richness found in Irish music, mythology and poetry with a voice undeniably her own. This concert has been generously underwritten by HB Plumbing and Heating in Springfield, Vermont.

If It's Not One Thing It's Your Mother

by the All Saints' Players

February 18, 7:00 P.M. and February 19, 5:00 P.M.

All Saints' Church, 1250 Spear Street, South Burlington

The words and music for this musical comedy were written by Mary Lou Sutherland, and the play is directed by Pat Halverson. Joyce Datillio on the piano and the Kazoo Orchestra provide the musical accompaniment. It is the story of four "liberated" biblical women: Queen Herodias, Deborah the Prophetess, Leah the wife of Jacob, and Rebekah, Jacob's mother-in-law, who go through life in the olden patriarchal society. Refreshments after the play. Donations: adults, \$5; seniors and students (12-18), \$4; and children (under 12), \$3. Reservations not required. For information, call 802-862-9750.

Dartmouth College Gospel Choir

Sunday, February 19, 2006, 2:00 P.M.

Hopkins Center for the Arts Spaulding Auditorium
Hanover, New Hampshire

The Gospel Choir, under the leadership of Walter Cunningham, thinks outside the box, showcasing songs that explode the boundaries of Gospel music. Performing non-traditional works that are now popular additions to the Gospel circuit, the Choir integrates salsa, African music, rock and other influences. The concert also features the traditional Jewish song Adon Olam, a big hit in the Gospel Choir's winter concert a year ago. Tickets are \$12, \$6 for students and are available through the HOP box office at hop.dartmouth.edu or 603-646-2422.

Gospelfest

Sunday, February 19, 2006, 5:00 P.M.

Flynn MainStage

153 Main Street, Burlington, Vermont

A joyous time in song, Gospelfest is a cultural, spiritual and educational music extravaganza in honor of Black History Month, featuring the New Alpha Missionary Baptist Church Gospel Choir, the Interdenominational Burlington Ecumenical Gospel Choir, Jenni Johnson, and the New Alpha Missionary Baptist Church Children Gospel Choir. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$8 for children 12 and under. Visit www.flynnntx.com, or call 802-86 FLYNN.

One Nation Under God:

Faith and Reason in an Age of Extremism

Sunday evening, March 12, to Wednesday morning, March 15, 2006

Kanuga Conference Center, Hendersonville, NC

John Meacham, who has written four major Newsweek cover stories on religion in recent years, will give three major addresses on religion in American life for the 2006 Bowen Conference. Chaplain will be the Rev. Chloe Breyer of New York City. Small groups will reflect on the plenary talks.

For information and to register, visit www.kanuga.org, or call 828-692-9136 for a conference brochure.

Retreat to examine "Stories of Struggle"

by Mary Lou Ashton

The 2006 Lenten Retreat, March 10-12, 2006, at the Bishop Booth Conference Center, Burlington, will be led by Bishop Thomas C. Ely. The theme, drawing on his pilgrimage experiences in Israel/Palestine, will be "Stories of Struggle, Faith and Hope for the Journey." He will reflect on human stories of struggle, faithfulness and hope, inviting participants to do the same with respect to their own lives and journeys. Meditations will include pictures from the Holy Land connecting us to the stories

of others as they journey for peace in that troubled part of the world.

The retreat begins with registration at 5 P.M. on Friday, March 10, and ends around 2 P.M. on Sunday, March 12. The fee is \$150 for a double or triple room, or \$175 for a single, when available. To register, send a \$50 non-refundable check, made out to the Diocese of Vermont, to John King, 433 Bean Road, Colchester, VT 05446. Questions, call John at 802-862-6834.

Mary Lou Ashton is a member of St. Andrew's, Colchester.

Running through the Bible...!...?

by Susan Ohlidal

John Morris will offer his popular program, "A Sprint through the Bible," on Saturday, February 25, 9:30 A.M. until 3:00 P.M., at the winter home of St. Andrew's, St. Johnsbury, South Congregational Church. The program is open to all, and members of LifeCycles groups or other formation groups are especially invited.

"The Sprint" gives participants an overview of Hebrew and Christian Scriptures. Moving quickly through the experiences of the people of God as recorded in the Bible, participants are given a time line and outline of the Scriptures and the opportunity to reflect on the major events in the history of the Jewish and Christian communities. The program is not meant to be overly scholarly, but it does draw on contemporary research and analysis of Holy Scripture. It is meant to be somewhat light-hearted as participants consider how the Bible reflects the basic experiences of people of faith.

John Morris, rector at St. Martin's, Fairlee, has given similar presentations at St. John the Baptist, Hardwick, St. John's in the Mountains, Stowe, and St. Thomas', Brandon.

"The Sprint" is being sponsored by the LifeCycles group at St. Andrew's, St. Johnsbury. South Congregational Church is two blocks down South Main Street from St. Andrew's Church building. Participants

will need to bring their own lunch. For more information, contact Susan Ohlidal, pastoral enrichment coordinator, sohlidal@dioceseofvermont.org, or 802-748-8755.

Susan Ohlidal is a member of St. Andrew's, St. Johnsbury.

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

The cost for campers in the diocese is \$315; \$365 for all others.

We are looking forward to another exciting summer at Rock Point with you. Check out the web site for more information: www.dioceseofvermont.org

Hunger awareness event set for Montpelier

by Joanne Heidkamp

Hunger Awareness Day will be held at the Vermont State House on Thursday, February 23, 2006. The annual event is hosted by the Vermont Campaign to End Childhood Hunger, the Vermont FoodBank, and the Vermont School Nutrition Association.

We will have exhibits in the State House cafeteria from 7:30 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. This is an opportunity to talk with legislators about the importance of taking a comprehensive approach to addressing hunger, including promoting the use of federal nutrition

programs and community resources such as food shelves and community meals.

We invite our partners and friends to join us at the State House, or to email their senators and representatives a few days in advance of the event to encourage them to stop by and talk with us. For more information, contact Joanne Heidkamp at the Vermont Campaign to End Childhood Hunger at 802-865-0255 or by email at jheidkamp@vtnohunger.org.

Joanne Heidkamp is program manager, Vermont Campaign to End Childhood Hunger.

Safer Church Training

March 11, 8:45 A.M. to 3:30 P.M., at St. Paul's, White River

March 25, 8:45 A.M. to 3:30 P.M., at Trinity, Shelburne

Register in advance with Anne Brown (802-672-5250, or abrown@vermontel.net) so we will be sure to have enough materials available. Plan to 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.

Coming up at EDS

Absalom Jones Lecture

The Rev. Dr. Gloria White Hammond

February 15, 2006, 7:00 P.M.

Eucharist, February 16, 8:30 A.M.

St. John's Memorial Chapel

An Absalom Jones celebration is held every year at EDS to help support the Absalom Jones Scholarship Fund for African American students attending EDS and preparing for ordination in the Episcopal Church. The Episcopal Church recognizes Absalom Jones as its first black priest.

The Rev. Dr. Gloria E. White Hammond is a co-Pastor of Bethel AME Church in Boston and a practicing pediatrician who has worked at the South End Community Health Center since 1981. In 1997, she graduated from Harvard Divinity School and was ordained an itinerant elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Both the lecture and Eucharist are free and open to the public. Each will be followed by a reception in Washburn Lounge. Reservations are encouraged, as seating is limited. For more information or to reserve a space, contact Alcurtis Clark at 617-868-3450, Ext. 506.

The Sacred Art of Chant

Workshop by Ana Hernandez

March 18, 2006, 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

St. John's Memorial Chapel

A "not-so-quiet" day of spiritual exercises and shared silence will be featured in this music workshop with Ana Hernandez, who says, "Our voices reveal things about us before we realize them ourselves—like emotions or mood—and can clue us in to our physical and emotional realities."

The workshop concentrates on the art of chant in order to re-discover God with and in our voices; listen deeply and bask in the presence that unites us all; explore sacred chant to heal ourselves and the world; experience the ways sound touches spirit; learn how sound enhances mental and physical well-being; and reflect on sounds that open (and close) our hearts.

Hernandez is a composer and arranger, singer, instrumentalist, and writer whose chants and hymns have been published in the *Voices Found Hymnal* and *Enriching Our Music*, Vols. 1 & 2. She recently published a book entitled, *The Sacred Art of Chant: Preparing to Practice*. For more than a decade, she has led workshops on the uses of sacred sound and rhythm in prayer.

To register for this free workshop, please email Pat Michaels at pmichaels@eds.edu. The workshop is open to the public. Participants are invited to bring a brown bag lunch and encouraged to take public transportation as parking is limited.

WHAT IS, Exactly, THE BIBLE?

President's Symposium

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

Sherrill Hall, Room 3A

Christians of all traditions read and revere the Bible. But in what ways do their understandings of its nature and meaning differ? In what ways are the Scriptures understood to be God's "Word," and in what is its "authority" in the realms of theological reflection, ethical living, and spiritual progress? The President's Symposium provides a forum for people of faith to explore core theological issues of the Christian faith from a variety of perspectives.

The year's symposium builds on the dialogue that began with the first two symposia, "What is Sin?" and, "What is Salvation?" Each panelist will offer a 15 minute reflection on their view on the Bible. Four student members of the audience will respond to what they have heard from the panel, highlighting where they feel the salient issues are as the dialogue continues. After a brown bag lunch, the panel will speak again, commenting on what they heard from one another and from the responders. The symposium will end with questions from the floor, as well as dialogue among the audience.

Panelists include Dr. Lawrence M. Wills, Ethelbert Talbot Professor of Biblical Studies at Episcopal Divinity School; Dr. Daniel J. Harrington, SJ, Chair of the Biblical Studies Department and Professor of New Testament at Weston Jesuit School of Theology.

To register for this free symposium, please call 617-868-3450 x 520 or send an email to mphillips@eds.edu. Participants are invited to bring a brown bag lunch and encouraged to take public transportation as parking is limited.

The Episcopal Divinity School is located at
99 Brattle Street, Cambridge, MA 02138.

All venues are handicap accessible.

Additional information is available on the EDS website, www.eds.edu.

Summer courses offered at EDS

As a partner in the Pastoral Enrichment Program, funded by the Lilly Endowment, Inc., the Diocese of Vermont works collaboratively with the Episcopal Divinity School (EDS) in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Each summer, EDS offers courses open to members of our diocese. The courses, housing on campus, and most meals are fully funded by the Pastoral Enrichment Program.

Two courses will be offered this summer, and congregations and organizations are encouraged to send teams of at least two persons. Contact Pastoral Enrichment Coordinator Susan Ohlidal for information about registration: sohlidal@dioceseofvermont.org, or 802-748-8755.

Developing Spiritual Communities will run from 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

The course will focus on the development of spiritual community, within the church, within spirituality and discernment groups, and within justice-based organiza-

tions. Participants will be introduced to a range of spiritual practices and will have an opportunity to gain concrete skills in group facilitation, deep listening, group discernment, theological reflection, appreciative inquiry, and other techniques.

Understanding and Encouraging Local Ministry Development will run from Monday, June 5 to Friday, June 9, 2006; 9 A.M. to Noon and 2-5 P.M. (morning only on Friday). Faculty are Sheryl Kujawa-Holbrook, Byron Rushing, and Fredrica Harris Thompson.

The course provides the opportunity to explore and engage the work of regional missionaries/vicars and other leaders in local congregational ministry development where leadership is broadly based and mutually developed. The theological vision, practical values, and daily skills involved in baptismal ministry will be explored, as well as the tensions and opportunities these current and emerging forms of ministry raise for the changing future of church leadership. ❖

Linda Maloney arrested

Continued from Page C



Ryan Beiler/Sojourners photo

The Rev. Jim Wallis of Sojourners speaks to protestors at the Cannon Office Building.

cious moment that the first busload didn't see: someone came out of the Cannon building carrying a copy of Jim Wallis's bestselling book, *God's Politics*, and asked him to autograph it—which he did.

We were all charged with "incommoding" for blocking the entrance to a federal building. The charge carries a maximum penalty of \$250 fine and/or ninety days in jail, but by prearrangement we agreed to "post and forfeit." We each paid \$50 and that was that.

For the first of us (I was number 3), the whole affair lasted about five hours. The first five of us were released about 4:30 in the afternoon and people from Sojourners shuttled us back to the church, where we retrieved our belongings and were debriefed. I was back at the home of friends a few hours later, and returned to Vermont on Thursday.

I know that my experience was not even close to what it is like to be arrested for crime, or suspected crime. It was in some ways almost like being in a play. And yet it was real, and deadly earnest: we were prepared to have the agreement fall apart and find ourselves detained all night or sent to D.C. jail. (One of the sergeants told us that the police crew had to remain with us as long as we were at the processing center, which was some incentive to move us through quickly!)

This is the first time I have been arrested. I managed to avoid it during the Civil Rights struggle and the Vietnam era (I had small children at home). This time

I could find no way around it. With all the cuts to services in Franklin and Grand Isle counties, including the loss of the food shelf at St. Matthew's in Enosburg Falls, I cannot do less. I knew that I could not, a week from then, look on the face of the one who was born poor and laid in a manger, who later announced his mission by saying: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because God has anointed me to bring good news to the poor," if I did not go forward when called.

Some try to make this an issue of left versus right. It is not. It is an issue of humanity and community versus inhumanity and individualism. Some say it is not the government's job to care for the poor. But "the government" is us, our instrument for carrying out our agenda and purpose as a nation. We pay taxes for the good of our nation, our community, so that we may live in peace, enjoying "the blessings of liberty." How can we even imagine a peaceful community in which millions of our own citizens, most of them children, are desperate—hungry, cold, and sick? Are these children less entitled to the blessings of liberty because they were born to parents who are poor? Jesus was one of those. What could we say to him at Christmas about how we have cared for "the least of these," his sisters and brothers?

During Advent and at Christmas, the Christian churches read nearly every week from the prophet Isaiah. I hope we will not see fulfilled these words of the prophet: "Woe to you legislators of infamous laws... who refuse justice to the unfortunate, who cheat the poor among my people of their rights, who make widows their prey and rob the orphan." Instead, I hope, and I pray, that we will prove ourselves a nation of compassion, of justice, and of faith, ready to pray confidently with Tiny Tim: "God bless us, every one!"

The Rev. Dr. Linda M. Maloney is priest-in-partnership at St. Matthew's, Enosburg Falls.

Northwest Deanery 1

Beth Crane, Bureau Chief
P.O. Box 58
Montgomery, VT 05470
802-326-4603
beth@gracechurchsheldon.org

The Northwest Deanery will meet Wednesday, February 1, 6 P.M. at St. Matthew's, Enosburg Falls, for Evensong supper and deanery business.



Twenty-nine people from Holy Trinity, Swanton, St. Luke's, St. Albans, and other area churches visited St. Joseph's Oratory in Montreal to view the Creche collection, hear the carillon concert, and participate in a general tour of the oratory. A good time was had by all.

ST. MATTHEW'S, Enosburg Falls, is now offering church school on Wednesday days at 4:30 P.M.

Monthly office hours at HOLY TRINITY, Swanton, for Franklin Grand Isle Community Action (funded by Holy Trinity) will be held on Friday, February 24 from 1-4 P.M. in the Parish Hall. The monthly Community Open Door Dinner will be held the same day from 5:30-7:00 P.M. at the Memorial United Methodist Church in Swanton.

Jane Wolfe will be doing her Spiritual Fitness Program at Holy Trinity on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:30 P.M. from March 1 to April 5, inclusive. Pre-registration is necessary (so Jane can have the appropriate quantity of materials) but there is no fee. Call **Rose Bacon** at 868-7185 to register.

Otter Creek Deanery 2

Donna Abramov, Bureau Chief
P.O. Box 76, Chittenden, VT 05737
802-483-6150
dabramov@excite.com

Southwest Deanery 3

Sarah Smith, Bureau Chief
5849 Vermont Route 7A
Arlington, VT 05250
802-375-6974

ST. JAMES', Arlington, hosted **George Rishmawi** of the Holy Land Trust for a discussion after the 10 A.M. service on Dec. 18. He spoke of his experiences growing up in occupied Palestine. The annual Epiphany Bonfire offered a fun evening and an opportunity to dispose of Christmas trees.

ST. PETER'S, Bennington, will sponsor a bus for those wishing to attend the 50th anniversary of the United Nations Committee on the Status of Women. See page G for information.

❖ deanery doings ❖

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



Bonnie Fournier photos

Participants in the Northwest Deanery January 8 trip to St. Joseph's Oratory in Montreal.

Southeast Deanery 4

Bureau chief needed to compile monthly news from the Southeast Deanery. Contact Anne Brown, abrown@vermontel.net.

The monthly Saturday Night Supper at ST. LUKE'S, Chester, featured the popular "Board Game Night" in January. On Feb. 18, **Pat Saul** will share her expertise and answer tax-related questions. On March 18, **Peter and Mary Pill** will offer their "Pill's Antique Road Show." All are welcome for these 6:00 P.M. events. Cost is only \$5 for adults and \$2 for children over six. The congregation's annual Christmas Tea and Sale raised just over \$2,000.

ST. MARY'S IN THE MOUNTAINS, Wilmington, were joined by Bishop **Tom Ely** on January 22 as they celebrated the 25th anniversary of ordination of their rector, **Thad Bennett**, with a hymn sing, brief worship in thanksgiving for Thad's and all their ministries, food and beverage.

Three Rivers Deanery 5

Genie Rayner, Bureau Chief
218 Birch Knoll, Rutland, VT 05701
802-773-1422
woodswoman@yahoo.com

As part of his study leave at Episcopal Divinity School, the Rev. **John Morris**, rector at ST. MARTIN'S, Fairlee, examined the life of the parish's patron saint, St. Martin of Tours. A tangible result of this study is now available. *The Life and Legacy of St. Martin of Tours*, the booklet John authored, will be used as a resource for one of the Lenten discussions, and is available for parishioners.

Two members of ST. JAMES', Woodstock, are making news in the media world. Music by **Michael Zsoldos** is featured in *Birdsong and Coffee: a Wake-up Call*, a film about environmental and economic justice concerns. And **Lisa Rogak**, author of the book, *The Man Behind The da Vinci Code: An Unauthorized Biography of Dan Brown* (among others), was a speaker at one of the January adult forums.

The monthly stewardship calendar that appears in the newsletter of CHRIST CHURCH, Bethel, included this suggestion for week thirty-eight: "When writing your pledge check, consider adding words like 'Thanks be to God,' or 'To the glory of God' on the memo line. This is one way

to remember we're not paying dues to the church!"

On behalf of ST. PAUL'S, White River Junction, Rector **Nancy Voge** accepted a Community Catalyst Award from Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA). The award was in appreciation for Nancy's and the parish's "ongoing commitment to alleviating the causes and hardships of poverty and efforts to improve the quality of life in our communities."

SEVCA was also the beneficiary of proceeds from a free-will offering at a January concert at ST. BARNABAS', Norwich. The trio of Rector **Beth Hilgartner**, with voice and recorder, **Ernie Drown** on harpsichord, and **David Abbott** on viola da gamba, entertained in the Baroque style for the fuel assistance program in a "back by popular demand" performance.

Central Vermont Deanery 6

Marty Roberts, Bureau Chief
P.O. Box 1165
Montpelier, VT 05601
802-223-5506
robertsm@sover.net

Northeast Deanery 7

Janet Smith, Bureau Chief
P.O. Box 103, Sheffield, VT 05866
802-626-5649
janets@kingcon.com

ST. MARK'S, Newport, has linked up with St. Mark's, Gulfport, Mississippi, in support of Katrina disaster relief. Their church was completely destroyed, along with many homes of parish members. A total of \$2,100 has so far been sent to their parish—certainly a generous sharing from the Vermont border to the Gulf Coast!

Champlain Deanery 8

Linda Morrell, Bureau Chief
192 Third Street, Colchester, VT 05446
802-878-9137
lkmorr@myexcel.com
Betsy Yung, Bureau Chief
102 Allen Rd., So. Burlington, VT 05403
802-658-1433

A reminder that the Lenten season begins with Ash Wednesday on March 1.

CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. PAUL, Burlington, will have their annual Episcopal Relief and Development in-gathering on Sunday, Feb 5. Thanks to **Carol Walters** for her leadership and hard work on the Wreath Project. **Patty Cuyler** of Village harmony led a quiet day (not-so) on Jan.28.

St. Paul's Local Organizing Committee of Vermont Interfaith Action will sponsor a Legislative Forum on January 30 to urge the legislators to fully fund the Vermont Housing and Conservation Fund. The fund is a source of dollars for building more rental and affordable housing as well as for preserving and conserving Vermont farm and recreation lands. They are joined by the housing committees of St. Anthony's Church and the Unitarian Universalists in an effort to mobilize their congregations. Delegates from the House and Senate from Chittenden County have been invited to attend.

Mark your calendars to join in the fun and fellowship of Family Game Night at **St. Andrew's**, Colchester, on Saturday, Feb. 11.

The ALL SAINTS' Church Players (South Burlington) will present their annual biblical musical comedy on Feb 18 & 19 (see Page D for details). **Don Scott**, evangelism consultant, will lead two forums: Feb. 5, "Churches and Restaurants you would stand in line for;" and Feb. 12, "Today's Generation: life styles and church going patterns." **Ellie Bushweller** was lay preacher on Jan. 15. The Book Club recommends reading *Pope Joan*, by Donna Woolfolk Cross. ❖

Space available on July El Salvador trip

The Rev. Lee Alison Crawford, rector of Saint Mary's Parish, Northfield, and canon missionary of the Anglican Episcopal Church of El Salvador (IAES), will be leading a pilgrimage to El Salvador this summer. Dates for the week-long trip are July 22-29, 2006. There is space for 4-5 people in addition to those who have already expressed interest.

During this trip, participants will visit several congregations of the IAES, meet with the Most Rev. Martín Barahona, Bishop of El Salvador and Archbishop of the Anglican Church of the Region of Central America, and key leaders of the local churches. Participants 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 the trip will be \$1,100, including airfare. For more information, contact Lee Crawford at 802-485-6011 or email her at lacinv94@aol.com. For information about the IAES, go to the web site of Fundación Cristosal, www.cristosal.org.

Becky Strader moves from JUMP to PINS

by Lucy Samara

Over her decade plus tenure as co-director at the Joint Urban Ministry Project (JUMP) in Burlington, the Rev. Rebecca Strader was passionate about the central role of pastoral care as she listened to, encouraged, and provided information and resources to thousands of people in need. In addition to staffing the pastoral care and direct service



Now Strader, a former co-pastor at Christ Church Presbyterian in Burlington, has begun a new challenge as coordinator of Vermont PINS—Partners In Service—which develops and supports partnerships between Vermont congregations and social workers with responsibility for children in foster care and state custody. Operating as part of the

Agency of Human Services, Vermont Department for Children and Families, Family Services Division, PINS has a long-term affiliation with many congregations in Vermont.

Strader is excited about this new opportunity and will bring much from her background at JUMP and as a church pastor to her work at PINS. "I hope to focus on the 'care and feeding' of the social workers as congregations support them in their best practices with young people in crisis. I look forward to meeting PINS liaisons from congregations throughout Vermont and working with them to be creative in fulfilling the mission of PINS."

Each PINS partnership is unique says Strader. "Encouraging strong PINS partnerships will benefit Vermont families, as children who have had traumatic experiences often find resiliency when they have at least one strong, healthy adult relationship."

To learn more about PINS, contact the Rev. Becky Strader, 802-241-2123; rstrader@srs.vt.us, or visit www.projectfamilyvt.org/faihcCongregations.html.

Lucy Samara is outreach coordinator at First Congregational Church, Burlington

ministry of JUMP two mornings a week, Strader played an important role managing financial details and working with the active JUMP Board of Directors as they worked to incorporate, raise funds and strengthen this vital community ministry. Preaching and speaking about JUMP in many settings was a hallmark of her ministry of advocacy for Vermonters living in poverty.

Representing a vital part of the outreach ministry of more than a dozen diverse Chittenden County congregations (including founding congregation St. Paul's Cathedral and St. James', Essex Junction, All Saints', South Burlington, Trinity, Shelburne, and St. Andrew's, Colchester) and housed at First Congregational Church of Burlington, JUMP is an interfaith outreach ministry that responds to the pastoral care, referral, information, and immediate needs of approximately 300 families and individuals a month. JUMP staff and volunteers offer hospitality and pastoral care along with vouchers for food, gasoline, laundromat tokens, clothing and household goods from thrift shops, prescriptions, bus passes, food bags, toiletries, diapers, baby food and formula, and cleaning supplies.

ERD continues Katrina relief

Episcopal Relief and Development's Board of Directors endorsed plans for Phases II and III of the four phase, long-term Hurricane Katrina Response Plan. The board approved \$4.7 million in proposals from the Dioceses of Mississippi and Louisiana to meet the unmet needs of people most impacted by the hurricane. Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast region in late August, killing 1,300 people, displacing 1.5 million families, and destroying over 275,000 homes.

Over the next year, ERD's partnership with the Diocese of Mississippi, along with

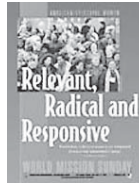
the Lutheran Episcopal Disaster Response (LEDR), part of Lutheran Episcopal Services in Mississippi, and the Diocese of Louisiana's Office of Disaster Response (ODR) will increase local efforts to collect and distribute relief assistance in areas directly affected by the disaster. The work will focus on the following areas: psychosocial care; livelihood, health, and housing recovery; case management, and other interventions. For more information, visit the Hurricane Center at www.er-d.org.

All Gulf Coast dioceses continue to need funds for rebuilding of churches and diocesan properties, work which cannot appropriately be funded by ERD. To learn how to contribute, or how to volunteer, visit the diocesan Web sites: Central Gulf Coast, www.diocgc.org; Louisiana, www.diola.org; Western Louisiana, www.diocesewla.org; and Mississippi, www.dioms.org.

CPE student needs room for summer in Burlington

Margo Fletcher, a postulant for Holy Orders from St. Peter's, Bennington, will be participating in the Clinical Pastoral Education program at Fletcher Allen Hospital this summer. She is looking for a room to rent for ten weeks, preferably within walking distance of the hospital. She does not need kitchen privileges, because she can eat at the hospital. She says, "A bed, access to a shower, somewhere to write and parking for my car are what I seek!" Contact her at margflet@aol.com.

Celebrate World Mission Sunday February 26



[ENS] World Mission Interpretation and Networks, an office within the Anglican and Global Relations cluster at the Episcopal Church Center, invites all Episcopalians on February 26 to celebrate the mission and ministry of Anglican/Episcopal Women: Relevant, Radical and Responsive.

World Mission Sunday, celebrated every year on the last Sunday after Epiphany, is a commemoration established by General Convention in 1997 to help Episcopalians increase awareness of and participation in global mission.

The 2006 theme was inspired by the work of Episcopal and Anglican women from around the world who gathered at last year's meeting of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women.

Materials for congregational use (available at www.episcopalchurch.org/agr.htm) include a specially designed poster, a downloadable bulletin shell, bulletin insert, a sermon, a homiletical note and other web site links. For additional information on World Mission Sunday, contact Tracy Andres at 212-716-6226 or email tandres@episcopalchurch.org.

50th anniversary of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women to be celebrated at St. John the Divine in NYC

by Nancy Davidge

On Saturday, March 4, 2006, the Cathedral of St. John the Divine will host a celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW). Sponsored by Anglican Women's Empowerment (AWE), this program and panel discussion, scheduled from 3:00 to 5:00 P.M., features women from across the Anglican Communion sharing hopes and concerns for a world in which Christian faith calls them to action. This event is free and open to the public.

The 2006 UNCSW meeting is focused on how well—or how poorly—member countries are doing with regard to gender equality, the advancement of women in the fields of education, health, and work, as well as the increased participation of women and men in decision-making processes at all levels. Panel moderator Abigail Nelson, vice president, Episcopal Relief and Development, will lead panelists in a discussion of what is happening in their countries, what they feel is important, what actions are making a difference, and what still needs to be done. Following the panel discussion, the audience will be asked to consider what we, as people of faith, can do to transform vision into action.

Working together, Anglican women delegates to the UNCSW are raising their voices in support for women's education and development, to combat hunger, poverty, and the spread of AIDS, and to work for equal opportunity, said Margaret Rose, Director for Women's Ministries, The Episcopal

Church. This event provides an opportunity for Episcopal women and men to listen to and learn from the experiences of our Anglican sisters and to strategize together for women's empowerment throughout the Communion.

Featured guests include Angela King, former UN Assistant Secretary General and Special Advisor on Gender Issues; Jenny Te Paa, UNCSW delegate from the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand, and Polynesia; and musician Ana Hernandez.

Organized by AWE, this main event is part of a larger program for the Anglican and Episcopal delegates to the UNCSW meeting. This annual meeting, held at UN headquarters in New York City and nearby locations, begins on February 24 and continues through March 8. Under the auspices of the Office of Women's Ministries of the Episcopal Church and the Office on the Anglican Observer to the UN, Anglican and Episcopal delegates have attended this annual event for the past three years. The 2006 event will be the largest gathering of women from around the Communion to date with 96 women representing 37 provinces of the Anglican Communion.

Anglican Women's Empowerment (AWE) was formed in 2003 under the leadership of Phoebe Griswold to provide direct assistance to the Anglican Consultative Council Office at the United Nations (ACCUNO) for Anglican women's participation in United Nations activities, especially the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. AWE recently produced the film and study guide, *Shall We Gather: Anglican Women Together*, which will be distributed to congregations by the Office of Anglican and Global Relations for use on World Mission Sunday.

For more information, contact Kim Robey at krobey@episcopalchurch.org or visit <http://www.episcopalchurch.org/unsw.htm> (after February 1, 2006).

Nancy Davidge is director of communications at Episcopal Divinity School, Cambridge, MA.

St. Peter's sponsoring bus to UNCSW event

St. Peter's, Bennington, is planning to sponsor a bus to take folks to the 50th anniversary celebration of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women on Saturday, March 4. The bus will leave Bennington at 9 A.M. It will be a motor coach with on-board rest room/lavatory. The expected cost per person for the bus will be approximately \$35. A definite cost will be confirmed once the number of participants is determined.

Contact Judith Krum if interested: 802-442-5269; jvkrum@adelphia.net.

Diocesan Calendar

February 2006

- 1 Spiritual Fitness Training, Location TBA, 7-8:30 PM
(Contact Jane Wolfe, janewolfe@aol.com)
- 2 Ministry Support Team, Diocesan Center, 10 AM-4 PM
- 4 Diocesan Council, 10-2
- 4 Diocesan Study Program, Christ Church, Montpelier
- 5 Bishop's Visitation, St. John's, Randolph
- 6 **Deadline, March Mountain Echo**
- 7 Clergy Fresh Start, Good Shepherd, Barre, 9:30-2:30 PM
- 8 Spiritual Fitness Training, Location TBA, 7-8:30 PM
- 13 Congregational Support and Resources, St. Stephen's, Middlebury
- 15 Spiritual Fitness Training, Location TBA, 7-8:30 PM
- 16 Ministry Developers, Christ Church, Montpelier, 10-4
- 21 Clergy Day, St. John's, Randolph

March 2006

- 3-4 Bishop's Advisory Commission on Ministry, Burlington
- 4 Diocesan Study Program, Christ Church, Montpelier
- 5 Bishop's Visitation, Jerusalem Gathering, Bristol
- 7 Clergy Fresh Start, Good Shepherd, Barre, 9:30-2:30 PM
- 8 Ministry Developers, Christ Church, Montpelier, 10-4
- 10 **Deadline, April Mountain Echo**
- 10-12 Lenten Silent Retreat, BBCC
- 11 Committee on Christian Formation, St. John's, Randolph, 12-3 PM
- 11 Safer Church Training, St. Paul's, White River Junction, 8:45 AM-3:30 PM
- 14 Clergy Day, St. John's, Randolph
- 18 Treasurers/Wardens/Vestries Workshops
- 23 Ministry Support Team, Diocesan Office, 10 AM-4 PM
- 25 Safer Church Training, Trinity, Shelburne, 8:45 AM-3:30 PM
- 29 Dispatch of Business, Diocesan Office, 1-3 PM
- 31-April 2 Province One Stewardship, Evangelism & Cong. Development Conference, Westborough, MA

Diocesan Youth Calendar

D
Y
C

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

2006

- Feb. 17-18 Plan Middle School Event, St. Paul's, White River
Mar. 31- Apr. 2 Middle School Event, BBCC

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

Funds Available for Parish Use As of October 1, 2005

Initiative I	
The Bishop Butterfield Revolving Loan Fund	\$ 282,500
Initiative II	
The Talent and Resource Network	\$ 13,551
Initiative III	
The Congregation Renewal and Emergency Assistance Fund	\$ 5,880
Initiative IV	
The Diocesan Outreach Fund	\$ 12,790

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

Enjoy "Sunday Afternoon High Tea" at BBCC

by Debi Paterson

Join us at Bishop Booth Conference Center this winter for High Tea and unusual program presentations by local performing artists and educators. Enjoy a variety of teas with delectable treats prepared by Chris Mack, the talented new chef at BBCC. High Tea, with delicious treats, is \$12/adult, \$5.00/ child under 12. Or, donate a teapot to Bishop Booth Center in exchange for one admission.



Bishop Booth
Conference Center

Snowflakes and Sweets

Sunday March 19, 2006, 3-5 P.M.

You might say snowflakes in Vermont are not unusual. Do you know that each snowflake is uniquely designed? Join us to learn more about the intricate delights of snowflakes, with special program presentations featuring a Vermonter, Snowflake Bentley, and the art of snowflakes. Snow is most enjoyed as a base for Vermont maple sugar. Tea and seasonal maple treats are featured for this fun afternoon.

Debi Paterson is director of Bishop Booth Conference Center.

The Eye of the Beholder

Sunday, February 12, 2006, 3-5 P.M.

Your eyes may not catch the subtle movements of Christopher McBride. Be surprised by his talents as he brings laughter with his card tricks and opens your eyes to the wonder of God's creation through his photography. Christopher is a gifted naturalist, photographer and magician known for his ability to delight all ages.

Winter Wonder Week set for Old North End youth

The Mission and Program Committee, of Rock Point Board, in collaboration with the Burlington Parks and Recreation Department, will host a week of winter snow activities February 20-24, 2006, for middle school youth from Burlington's Old North End. During the school winter vacation, they will enjoy snowshoeing, sledding, cross-country skiing and nature activities based at Bishop Booth Conference Center (BBCC), Rock Point.

The program offers supervision for children who believe they are too old for day care yet who shouldn't be home alone for an entire week while parents are working. Burlington Parks and Recreation Department will provide staff, equipment, programs, advertising and registration. BBCC will provide the place to enjoy God's great outdoors, breakfast and lunch.

BBCC is currently working out the details necessary for providing breakfast and lunch to these children, who usually receive free and reduced lunches. If you would like to help underwrite meals for these children, or to provide a scholarship for attendance, please contact Debi Paterson, BBCC, 802-658-6233.

Province One Stewardship & Evangelism Conference

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Children be Stewards," and "Developing a Financial Counseling Ministry in Your Congregation." She was appointed to The Episcopal Church staff as a Stewardship Officer in 1996. Her work includes providing training for dioceses and congregations and developing resources for their use.

The Rev. Canon Tom Furrer will deliver the closing plenary on Sunday as well as a Saturday workshop titled, "Without Vision the People Perish." Since his graduation from Yale Divinity School in 1986, he has served congregations in the Diocese of Connecticut, most recently as rector at Trinity, Tariffville.

Other special conference guests are Mr. Bill Wrenn, missionary for stewardship and evangelism for the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina since 1997, who will give workshops on "Spiritual Gifts" and "Addressing [Honoring] Generational Differences in the Annual Commitment Effort," and C. Kirk Hadaway, PhD, who is director of research for The Episcopal Church. He will present a workshop on church statistics and community demographics titled, "People Count." He has published many articles on congregations, church trends and the sociology of religion, as well as eight books.

Music will be provided by "The Three Cantors," three Anglican Church of Canada priests whose music

Save dates for BBCC 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. Contact Bishop Booth Center, (658-6233) for program brochure and registration details.

- 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.

More details on all these programs will appear in future issues of the Mountain Echo, or visit, www.dioceseofvermont.org/Orgs/BishopBooth.html.

includes traditional music of the church, contemporary anthems, spirituals and original compositions, as well as folk songs and the best of Broadway. The Province One Conference will be their first singing engagement "south of the border." A portion of the proceeds of their concerts in Canada and every penny of the proceeds from their three CDs go to alleviate world hunger through the work of the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund, similar to our Episcopal Relief and Development.

This event, sponsored by the Dioceses of Province One (New England) and the Office of Congregational Development at the Episcopal Church Center, is designed for clergy, vestry members and stewardship and evangelism committee members. It begins at Noon, Friday, March 31, and ends at Noon, Sunday, April 26. The fee, which includes registration and meals, is \$175 if registration is received by February 10, and \$200 thereafter. Participants are responsible for making their own hotel reservations at the Wyndham Hotel, Westborough. The conference brochure with registration form may be downloaded in pdf format from www.province1.org. For information, contact Lois Murphey (617) 482-4826 x349 or loism@diomass.org.

