

MOUNTAIN ECHO

News of the Episcopal
Diocese of Vermont

and Episcopal Life

Vol. LXXI No. 7

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

July/August 2006

General Convention celebrates, agonizes and embraces

by Anne Clarke Brown

Like many General Conventions of the past, the gathering of bishops and deputies in Columbus, Ohio, found much to celebrate, much to bring to sometimes agonizing debate, and much to embrace as The Episcopal Church (TEC) moves into the mission of the coming years. Not all celebrated the same things, not all were happy with the outcome of any given difficult debate, and not all would be energized by every aspect of the church's mission priorities, but the vast majority worshipped together, sought to build bridges across differences, and left committed to moving forward together.

The 75th General Convention, and the concurrent Episcopal Church Women's Triennial, met in Columbus June 12-21, to set policy and budgets for the 2007-2009 triennium. The Convention also had on its agenda the election of a new presiding bishop and the task of responding to the Windsor Report, which made several requests of The Episcopal Church in the wake of decisions made at the 2003 Convention.

For Vermont's deputation, the days were filled with committee meetings, legislative sessions, daily worship, special programs, and the need to carve a few moments out to eat or visit the large exhibit hall. Bishop Thomas Ely, eight deputies and two alternate deputies comprised the official deputation, along with retired Bishops Mary Adelia McLeod and Daniel Swenson [see Convention photos, pages F and G]. Canon Lynn

Bates headed the Convention Secretariat, Ann Ely and Tami Bardos served as aides to legislative committees, four Vermonters attended E3, a program for youth [see article on Page I], and several others went as visitors and exhibit hall volunteers.

Celebrations

Virtually every news report of the announcement in the House of Deputies the afternoon of June 18 that the House of Bishops had elected the Rt. Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, Bishop of Nevada, to serve as the 26th presiding bishop of TEC comments on the enthusiastic and joyful response, both then and to Bishop Jefferts Schori

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Above: Members of the Vermont deputation, Diane Root, Thomas Brown and Jim Larkin, join the House of Deputies in welcoming the Most Rev. Martin Barahona, primate of the Anglican Church in the Region of Central America. One of the Convention's many international guests, he spent a morning in the House seated with the Vermonters.



Left: Presiding Bishop-elect Katharine Jefferts Schori addresses the House of Deputies. Behind her are Presiding Bishop Frank Griswold, House of Deputies President George Werner and Dick Schori.

ACB photos

World Mission is a major focus of General Convention

by Lee Alison Crawford

The 75th General Convention, in addition to electing a woman as its Presiding Bishop and responding to the Windsor report, committed The Episcopal Church to many aspects of world mission and to working toward achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. This strong endorsement of both mission and the MDGs demonstrates the church's desire to engage in the larger world community, recognizing that an outward-looking church, engaged in its communities and in the world becomes an inviting church.

Millennium Development Goals

Perhaps most significant was passage of the resolution (D031) that established "promoting justice and peace for all God's creation and continuing and accelerating the leadership role and programs of the Episcopal Church, which support the eight (8) Millennium Development Goals in the dioceses of the Episcopal Church and in the world" as the major mission and budget

priority for the next three years. The Diocese of Vermont at its convention last fall passed a resolution supporting these goals and inviting active engagement not only of the diocese, but also of congregations and individuals.

Resolution D022, adopted by Convention, asks that each diocese implement a Global Reconciliation Committee. Vermonters have already begun to address this concern. A small group—Margie and Sandy Zabriskie, Laura Chase, Cathy Cooke and Lee Crawford—met the last week in June to discuss how the work of the existing Outreach and Social Justice Commission might be narrowed down to focus on local concerns and a new committee on Global Reconciliation formed that would focus on global concerns and outreach.

The planning group sees a major part of its mission as helping Vermonters understand the Millennium Development Goals and discover ways that "each one of us can make a difference." It also hopes to

concretize global mission with projects that every congregation can support. For more information on this nascent committee, contact Lee Crawford at 804-485-6011 or lacinv94@aol.com.

ONE Episcopalian Campaign

Episcopalians for Global Reconciliation (<http://e4gr.org>) and the ONE campaign to end global poverty (<http://one.org>) had a strong presence at General Convention, and Resolution D022 endorses a new "ONE Episcopalian" campaign. EGR volunteers hosted a large booth that had daily suggestions for how people can respond to the eradication of world poverty by 2015. One of the House of Deputy chaplains had the entire house, some 845 people, snap their fingers every three seconds, to symbolize how frequently a child dies from poverty. Many people wore white bracelets with the word, 'ONE,' on their wrists, indicating their commitment to helping end poverty. To

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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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General Convention responds to Windsor Report

by the Right Reverend Thomas Clark Ely, Bishop of Vermont

The just completed 75th General Convention of The Episcopal Church spent considerable time responding to the Windsor Report and related documents pertaining to our relationship within the world-wide Anglican Communion. Our deliberations in committee meetings, hearings and legislation, spilled over into conversations in hotels, hallways and restaurants. Clearly this was a noteworthy agenda throughout our time in Columbus. The Vermont Deputation was deeply involved in all aspects of these deliberations, taking very seriously our desire, and that expressed in the Windsor Report, for thoughtful listening and conversation among the faithful from all corners of our church.

A significant gift of the Windsor Report and the Windsor process is that they provide the opportunity for a deeper and more passionate exploration about life in the Anglican Communion. As a result of the Windsor process to date, many Episcopalians know more about the Anglican Communion than ever before, and more Anglicans around the world know more about The Episcopal Church and our polity. This cross-communication education is most welcome, but it is really only just begun. Episcopalians have far more to learn about other Anglicans, and other Anglicans have far more to learn about Episcopalians.

Another gift of the Windsor process is the opportunity to see and hear just how diverse the Anglican Communion is with regard to theology, the authority of the Bible, the authority of bishops, and the decision-making structures that operate within its various provinces. While the subject of human sexuality is the primary lens through which we have most often expressed and explored our divergent theologies of late, it is not the only subject around which there is diversity of thought

and conviction. The richness of our Anglican heritage, expressed through worship, teaching and action is a treasure worth celebrating and living into more fully.

Resolutions respond to Windsor Report

In response to the Windsor Report and the Windsor process, the 75th General Convention of The Episcopal Church adopted several important resolutions. (The full text of the resolutions noted below are available at www.dioceseofvermont.org. Click on "Vermont Site General Convention index" on the home page.) First and foremost, we reaffirmed our "abiding commitment" to the "fellowship of churches that constitute the Anglican Communion," and our intention to "seek to live into the highest degree of communion possible" (Resolution A159). This strong statement of our commitment to the Anglican Communion is meant to reassure the other provinces of the Communion that we are at the table and want to remain at the table.

Secondly, as a "demonstration of our commitment to mutual responsibility and interdependence in the Anglican Communion," we gave our support to "the process of the development of an Anglican Covenant that underscores our unity in faith, order, and common life in the service of God's mission" (Resolution A166). It is unclear just where this commitment will take us, but our willingness to walk together with other Anglicans in this process is an important sign of our love and commitment to the Anglican Communion.

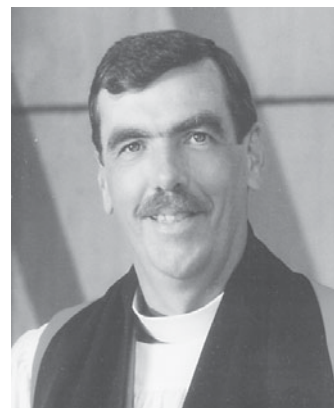
My own hope is that this process will lead to a covenant grounded more in mission than in structures of authority.

Thirdly, the 75th General Convention of The Episcopal Church expressed its "regret for straining the bonds of affection in the events surrounding the General Convention of 2003 and the consequences which followed;" we offered our "sincerest apology to those within our Anglican Communion who are offended by our failure to accord sufficient importance to the impact of our action on our church and other parts of the Communion;" and we sought "forgiveness as we seek to live into deeper levels of communion with one another" (Resolution A160). While "regret," "apology," and asking "forgiveness" may not be enough for some, I believe this response is fully consistent with the request expressed in the Windsor Report.

A fourth response related to the Windsor process was by all accounts the most difficult and challenging. On the final day of Convention, with tensions running high, we passed a resolution in response to the Windsor Report's "invitation to engage in a process of healing and reconciliation" that "call[s] upon Standing Committees and bishops with jurisdiction to exercise restraint by not consenting to the consecration of any candidate to the episcopate whose manner of life presents a challenge to the wider church and will lead to further strains on communion" (Resolution B033).

I voted "no" to this resolution and later joined other bishops in "A Statement of Conscience" registering my dissent to this action. (The Statement of Conscience is available at www.dioceseofvermont.org.) It remains to be seen what effect this resolution will have upon future elections to the episcopate, but I feel quite certain that it will have a chilling effect on any prospect of a gay or lesbian priest willing to stand for election to episcopal office and on the willingness of dioceses to elect a gay or lesbian person to serve as their bishop.

With regard to the matter of "Public



Rites of Blessing for Same-Sex Unions" (proposed Resolution A162, which was not adopted), I think the *Report of the Special Commission on The Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion* (available through the "Publications" link on the General Convention page at www.episcopalchurch.org) sufficiently clarified the actions of General Convention 2003 regarding Resolution C051, thus making any other action unnecessary. The report stated clearly that, "In acting to recognize that 'local faith communities are operating within the bounds of our common life as they explore and experience liturgies celebrating and blessing same-sex unions,' we expressly deny that such rites were authorized" (page 14 of the Commission's report). Clarifying this misunderstanding was very helpful, and I think our Vermont deputation is to be congratulated for helping in that regard by sharing the story of our experience as we seek to provide resources for the ministry of pastoral care to, with, for and by gay and lesbian persons and couples.

Finally, the 75th General Convention passed a resolution entitled "Pastoral Care and Delegated Pastoral Oversight" (Resolution A163). This resolution "affirm[s] the centrality of effective and appropriate pastoral care for all members of this church and all who come seeking the aid of this church." The resolution also "urges the members of the House of Bishops to seek the highest degree of communion and reconciliation within their own dioceses, using when requested in good faith the Delegated Episcopal Pastoral Oversight (DEPO) process detailed in the March 2004 statement of the House of Bishops, *Caring for All the Churches*." Lastly, this resolution "urge[s] continued maintenance of historic diocesan boundaries, the authority of the diocesan bishop,

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The Episcopal Diocese of Vermont

The Right Reverend Thomas Clark Ely, Bishop

Diocesan Center

5 Rock Point Road, Burlington, VT 05401-2735

Telephone: 802-863-3431; 800-286-3437 (within Vermont); Fax: 802-860-1562

Web site: <http://www.dioceseofvermont.org>

Ministry Support Team E-mail Addresses

Bishop Thomas Ely: tely
Canon Lynn Bates: lbates
Canon Thad Bennett: tbennett
Exec. Assistant: Patrick Sims

Canon Connie Saeger-Proctor: clsproctor
Financial Administrator Julie Giguere: jgiguere
Admin. Assistant:
Historiographer Elizabeth Allison: eallison

Receptionist Jan Lawrence: jlance

Pastoral Enrichment Coordinator Susan Ohlidal: sohlidal

Add to all of the above: @dioceseofvermont.org

Canon Jeanette Tweedy: jetweedy@surfglobal.net

Communications Minister Anne Brown: abrown@vermontel.net

Bishop Booth Conference and Retreat Center (BBCC)

Debi Paterson, Director

20 Rock Point Circle, Burlington, VT 05401-2735

Telephone: 802-658-6233; Fax: 802-658-8836

E-mail: bishopbooth@dioceseofvermont.org

Christian Formation Resource Center

Jennifer Ogelby, Director

Telephone: 802-878-4014 or 802-899-4852

E-mail: jsogelby@stjamesvt.org

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News of the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont

Anne Clarke Brown, Editor

Contributions of news and photographs are invited and encouraged

Please send such materials to the editor at

P. O. Box 67, Plymouth, VT 05056

Telephone: 802-672-5250; E-mail: abrown@vermontel.net

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Bishop Ely's Column

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and respect for the historical relationships of the separate and autonomous Provinces of the Anglican Communion."

The last section is necessitated by the number of bishops from both The Episcopal Church and other provinces of the Anglican Communion who have crossed diocesan boundaries to engage in pastoral and sacramental ministry without the invitation or approval of the bishop of the diocese. This particular issue has not arisen in Vermont, and I have no reason to believe it will; however, in other parts of The Episcopal Church this is a serious problem, and I hope that other bishops honor the direction and intention of this resolution.

The overall effect of these several resolutions and other related legislation is to send a clear message to our partners in the Anglican Communion of our deep desire for strong and lasting relationships. From my perspective, it is most regrettable that this message comes with a contrary message to the gay and lesbian members of The Episcopal Church and beyond. Significant healing is needed within the Anglican Communion, and my hope is that the Archbishop of Canterbury and the other primates of the Anglican Communion will see our effort as contributing to that healing and respond in kind with strong encouragement to the whole Communion to be about the work of listening and reconciliation. Our new presiding bishop needs the strong support of the Archbishop of Canterbury and the other primates if she is to exercise her ministry within the Communion. She also needs our strong support and encouragement as she enters this most challenging chapter of her ministry and that of the Anglican Communion.

My pledge to the process

My pledge to the ongoing Windsor process is threefold: first, to work for the healing of relationships both within The Episcopal Church and throughout the Anglican Communion; second, to work for and toward a common commitment to mission, and especially the attainment of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, both within The Episcopal Church and throughout the Anglican Communion; and third, to continue to work for the full inclusion and acceptance of gay and lesbian persons in the life, mission and governance of The Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion by holding myself and others accountable to the promised "listening process" with regard to matters of human sexuality; and to honoring the promise to include the voices of gay and lesbian persons in the conversation about the future of the Anglican Communion.

+ Thomas

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

Anne Clarke Brown, Editor, Mountain Echo

Reflections on a Silent Eucharist

by DeWitt Mallary

On Tuesday, June 6, I gardened all afternoon, showered, dressed, and emerged into the kitchen to encourage Vera with dinner preps. She cooks; I clean up. Oh, I cook a bit, but not in her league.

After five minutes I said "Vera, something's happening to my hearing." And in fifteen minutes or less it was gone. All gone. Nada. Zilch. And so it has remained for these weeks, with DHMC working on it but without optimism. *Total sudden hearing loss.* Not as uncommon as you might think, but—not to put too fine a point on it—awkward, limiting, inconvenient.

So I've been to church two Sundays since. It's an interesting experience. Bear with me. Our good rector made a simple announcement about my hearing loss that first Sunday, just to make it easier all around. Folks continue to think they can make me hear, but they can't, so I say "sorry" and smile and point to Vera or a pen and paper. It's gone well enough, though it rater stifles easy communication. More hugs; less yak.

But what about the Eucharist itself? How does it feel to be present, to take (some) part, but to be out in the cold for much of the service?

First, the good part. Thank God for the liturgical movement, the current Prayer Book, and the celebration of Eucharist every Sunday. How hard it would be to be a Baptist or UCC or Presbyterian and have nothing most Sundays to digest but words...which I can not hear. Plenty of time for silent meditation, too much, actually, but no concrete, tangible, physical way to come to the Lord and have him come to me.

I was exposed to the Episcopal Church as a skeptical eighteen year old, having drifted away from my Congregational roots. What got me in this new church community was the intelligent, serious preaching of two different priests, heard on alternate Sundays, and the Holy Eucharist. In those days it was still *The Holy Communion*.

The calisthenics scared me at first, and I insisted on sitting in the rear pew. It took a couple of years before I got hooked and took the plunge, meaning Confirmation (then required) and holy communion. From that day to this (59 years later) it has been the Eucharist, the Lord's Supper, the Mass...call it what you will...that has been the backbone of my Christian life. For forty of those years I was privileged to preside weekly or more often, and whether at the altar or in a pew, this holy action has formed me and sustained me. And so it does now.

It is an action. We do something together. The Holy Eucharist is an action, or rather a series of dramatic and ritualized

actions that the church reenacts Sunday by Sunday in obedience to Jesus' command, "Do this in remembrance of me." In seminary the actions of Eucharist were drilled into us: take, bless, break, eat. The offering of bread and wine, representing our offering of ourselves to God. The great thanksgiving, or consecration, or blessing of those gifts, as Christ blessed them at his last meal. The physical breaking of bread, recalling the Lord's own action, and his identifying himself as the bread which is broken for us. And finally, but not least, we eat that bread and drink that cup and know that the Lord is present with us.

This is old stuff. When a parish does a so-called "instructed Eucharist," these points are made, to young and old. Why? So that we are all conscious of participating not in a form of words, but in a holy action, a blessed meal, one that the church has celebrated in a thousand ways and languages for two thousand years.

So I will, with profound thankfulness, continue to be renewed Sunday by Sunday in this wonderful sacrament, knowing exactly what is happening, though I cannot hear a word nor a note.

Let's end this little lesson on a lighter note. What are the lesser pluses and minuses of a totally silent Eucharist? That first Sunday I whispered to Vera, "Is the organ playing, or is he just getting ready?" Well, he was playing Bach or Buxtehude, and I knew it not. That is a distinct loss.

When we all stood for the opening hymn, I realized that I could read it (and I did) but not sing it because it was impossible to keep in unison, and besides, I now tend to talk (and sing) much too loud because there is this constant waterfall in my head. So I read the hymns, and have already decided, after two Sundays and eight hymns, that we love them mainly for their tunes, but that many are very dated and not so great. How about more new hymns that don't sound like the Wesleys or the Victorians? Also, you can read a hymn a lot faster than you sing it; it gives time for thought.

The service of the Word of God is aided at St. Martin's by the provision

of printed lections and psalms. What a help! To be honest, I previously did not altogether approve of distributing the readings, because the Word is meant to be *heard*, not *read*. Sometimes it appears that folks are following their crib sheet just to see what mistakes the readers make; I hope not. But now, I recant. Those lessons are a Godsend. Our rector thoughtfully provided me that first silent Sunday with a copy of Barbara Brown Taylor's sermons, with one specially chosen for me to read, mark, learn etc. during *his* sermon. I did so. But it is sad to miss your own priest's take on the Gospel and the world.

The inability to hear does give a real opportunity for some focused prayer. Often I have forgotten to come to the altar with some specific intentions, of thanks, or intercession, or personal need. Now there is time and silence. I do come to that table better prepared.

There are things to watch, actions rich with meaning even without the words. The Gospel book with Jesus' life and teaching and death and resurrection. And especially the Eucharist itself. My friends carry up bread and wine and my puny check, all of it our offering of ourselves, our souls and bodies. The rector holds them up, puts his hands on them, blesses them, and I know he is saying the Lord's words. He breaks the bread, and I think of how my Lord was broken on that cross. He bids us come, and we come, and we eat and drink, and we are fed. Our trail mix for a holy week.

Oh, I'd rather have the whole nine yards: hearing Bach and the hymns and the rector and the lectors (good and bad). But a silent Eucharist is still Eucharist, and God is in charge, and Jesus comes to us and we are filled, with him, with his love and joy and peace. Thanks be to God.

[Editor's Note: The Rev. DeWitt Mallary's review of *The Stature of Waiting* that appeared in the April issue spoke of Vera Mallary's cancer diagnosis. He now reports that Vera's lymphoma has responded well to her chemo. After 4 treatments there is no sign of the cancer.]

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

Opinion

No to Federal Marriage Amendment

by Rick and Janet Hunter

We (a happily married couple of a man and woman) are wholeheartedly against the proposed Marriage Amendment to the US Constitution, and here is why.

We two Episcopalians believe that marriage is a sacrament, blessed by God. The ministers of this sacrament are the couple themselves, with the priest and the "wedding party" as official witnesses. The sacrament is an ongoing blessing revealed daily by our continuing commitment to each other and by whatever good we can accomplish through our union, with God's help. "Society" accepts and supports this union as an "institution," and we appreciate this acceptance. The only "protection" this sacrament requires is that we are allowed to express our commitment

to each other in this way, both by custom and by civil law.

The holiness of the sacramental union, and the seriousness of the civil contract that accompanies it, depend on only two things (beyond God's grace, for which we are grateful, but it is out of our control). They are the commitment of the couple and the civil nature of a contract. The commitment of the couple is a private matter, and the nature of the contract is already "settled law," both in the US and throughout the world through centuries.

The commitment of the couple, as a private matter, is not by nature affected by what other people do in the context of marriage. In our view, the civil "institution" is more "threatened" by people who

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More Coming Events

82nd Annual St. James' Church Fair

Thursday, July 13, 2006, 10:00 A.M.–3:00 P.M.

St. James' Episcopal Church, On the Green, Woodstock, Vermont

Bargains of all kinds, including jewelry, books, fabrics and linens, white elephants (a great source for unusual gifts), toys, baked goods, large and small rummage, plants and garden vegetables. Lunch is available. For information, 802-457-1727, mornings.

Al Raja Folkloric Dance Troupe

July 24, 2006 at 7:00 P.M.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 1 Hillside Road, Rutland, Vermont

The Christian and Muslim teens from the Evangelical Lutheran School of Hope in Ramallah (Al Raja means Hope), Palestine, will perform in Rutland as part of a US tour that will include the Global Mission Event in Amherst, MA.

Tickets are \$10.00 for teens and adults and \$5.00 for children 12 & under (proceeds to support the dancers' school). Coffee, punch and desserts will be served following the performance, giving everyone an opportunity to meet the young dancers.

Summer Music at Grace

Grace Church, 215 Pleasant St., Sheldon, Vermont

Friday, July 28, 7:30 P.M.: Celestial Sirens

Friday, August 11, 7:30 P.M.: Rebecca Hall & Ken Anderson

Wednesday, August 23, 7:30 P.M.: Village Harmony (preceded by a potluck supper).

Check the website at www.gracechurchsheldon.org for updates and additions, or call 326-4603 for more information.

Music for a Sunday Afternoon: The D'Amore Duo

Sunday, August 27, 2006, 4 P.M.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 44 Second Street, Newport

The D'Amore Duo brings together the outstanding virtuosi, American guitarist William Feasley and Russian oboist Vladimir Lande. Recognized as a popular component of many chamber music series, the D'Amore Duo has performed throughout the United States, Europe, Australia, and New Zealand.

Suggested Donation: \$10.00. Free Reception following. For more information, call the church at 802-334-7365 or visit www.musicforasundayafternoon.com.

"Wade in the water" of baptismal ministry

Episcopalians in the Diocese of Vermont are invited to attend "Wade in the Water," a day with Dr. Fredrica Harris Thompsett, September 23, 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. at Christ Church, Montpelier.

The day will cover *Baptismal History: Ancient Rite, New Life; Baptismal Theology: Continuity and Change; and Baptismal Leadership: Recent Practices and Future Prospects*. These three baptismal perspectives broaden understanding of the history of patterns and models of baptismal ministry, deepen theological grounding, and invite learning from each other's experiences.

The introduction to the history, theology, and practice of baptismal ministry today is designed to explore, inspire, and release the refreshing waters of baptism for the sake of the church's ministries today and in the future. Dr. Thompsett says, "I wish to encourage us to see baptism not only as a sacrament moment in our past history, but also as an abiding sacramental grace offered us in our daily living."

Registration fees and lunch are provided by the Pastoral Enrichment Program, with no cost for members of the Diocese of Vermont. To register for this fun and exciting day with Dr. Fredrica Thompsett, please contact the Diocesan office by September 19th in order to get a proper count for lunch (800-286-3437 or 802-863-3431). ❖

WANTED!

Sharp-eyed Episcopalians who are avid readers of local newspapers. Your Dismantling Racism Commission is looking for articles discussing racial issues or showing examples of how agencies or people are working to overcome racism in their own communities. Articles submitted will become part of our display board at the Convention. Please clip and mail to: Blanche Cooper 1490 Camp Munn Road Bradford, VT 05033.

Safer Church Training

September 16, 2006, 8:45 A.M.–3:30 P.M.

St. Paul's, White River Junction

Please register in advance with Anne Brown (802-672-5250, or abrown@vermont.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.

Celebrate global mission at July event

Join Bishop Thomas Ely, missionaries, international church leaders and Lutheran and Episcopal members from across the country to celebrate God's mission in the world at the 2006 Global Mission Event sponsored by the Evangelical Church in America and The Episcopal Church.

The theme for this GME is "Sent! By God's Grace for the Sake of the World." Planned for July 27-30 at the campus of the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, MA, the GME is designed to appeal to parish groups, families and people of all ages.

Plenary speakers include Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson of the ELCA, Presiding Bishop Frank Griswold of The Episcopal Church, contemporary Chinese Christian

artist He Qi, and the Al-Raja (Hope) Folkloric Dance Troupe from Ramallah in Palestine.

International workshop presenters will focus on specific missionary projects in every continent. Relief agencies will tell the stories of their work in the midst of complex and dangerous situations world-wide. All participants will gain new insights into the complexity and beauty of God's people and the universal dimensions of the Gospel.

For more information including fee structure, visit www.nesynod.org, and click on the "2006 Global Mission Event" link. Or contact Sandy and Margy Zabriske, amzab2@verizon.net.



Ecumenical Youth Festival set for August

"Strengthening a Relationship with God, Building Relationships with Each Other" is the theme of the Vermont Christian Youth Festival, an ecumenical youth event to be held at the Old Lantern in Charlotte, Vermont, August 18-19, 2006. Sponsored by the Vermont Ecumenical Council (VEC), it will feature music, worship, and workshops. Musical guests include Fusion.

The mission statement for the event says the aim is "networking youth together to further their commitment to God while making new friends and hearing great music." It will be open to congregations' high school youth groups (students entering 9th

grade through just-graduated seniors) with their adult chaperones.

The event will begin Friday afternoon and end Saturday afternoon. Participants are invited to stay in sleeping bags Friday night, but groups that do not wish to stay overnight are welcome to participate in all activities.

A youth committee is working out the details with guidance from VEC's Prayer & Worship Committee. The cost will be \$50/person. The schedule of events and registration forms are available on VEC's website: www.vecbs.org, or call the VEC office at 802-434-7307. ❖

Fall Convocation to explore Christian formation for all ages

by Sharon Ely Pearson

The Province One Education Network has chosen the theme, "God's Story ~ Our Story: At All Times and in All Places," for the annual fall Province One Convocation, to be held at the Doubletree Hotel in Westborough, Massachusetts, November 17-18, 2006.

The Christian Education Network of the Episcopal dioceses in New England are designing the event to focus on Christian formation for all ages. Children, youth, young adults and adults will be engaged in experiential activities for sharing the Christian story through art, worship, prayer, storytelling at home, in the church and in the community. Concrete ideas will be presented and experienced so that all ages can take new ideas back home to use and practice again with family, friends and neighbors. Families, Christian educators and formation leaders, and all those with a passion for learning in creative ways are encouraged to attend.

The main presenter will be Masankho Kamsisi Banda, a multi-disciplinary performing artist, educator, spiritual healer and peace builder from Oakland, California (www.ucandance.org). He will weave his skill of storytelling, dance and drumming from his Malawian culture to enhance our understanding of sharing our story as part of God's story. The Reverend Mark and Kathy Bozzuti-Jones will also guide us through our time together. Formerly of the Diocese of Massachusetts, they are now

involved in formation ministries with all ages at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church in New York City. Their passions include liturgical renewal, spiritual development and writing for children and adults.

Other workshop presenters and topics will include:

- The Rev. Heath Ciavetta (NH) sharing how to experience faith at home.
- Gretchen Wolff-Pritchard (CT) exploring how images of faith can be explored through storytelling with all ages.
- A panel of Province One bishops exploring their role as teacher.
- A panel of youth sharing how they live their faith at school and in the world.
- How to welcome special needs children in your faith community.
- The Rev. Paige Blair (Maine) regarding U2 Eucharists.
- Preaching for all ages.
- Fiona Vidal-White (MA) and others sharing ideas about music with all ages.
- Being a mission-minded people in telling our story.
- Plus many more!

In addition to experiential workshops and worship, "The Discovery Center" will be available for hands-on learning throughout the event, as will a bookstore. Registration brochures will be available September 2006.

Sharon Ely Pearson is Children's Ministries & Christian Education Coordinator for the Diocese of Connecticut.

St. Peter's to host Interfaith Conference on Religion and Disability

by Judith Krum

"That All May Worship: From Barriers to Bridges," an Interfaith Conference on Religion and Disability will be hosted by St. Peter's, Bennington (200 Pleasant St.), on Wednesday, September 13, 2006. The day-long program will bring together people with many disabilities and people from many faith backgrounds, including Episcopalian, United Church of Christ, Bahai, Quaker, Unitarian Universalist, Jewish, Unity Church, Methodist, and others.

Sponsored by St. Peter's Church, the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont Accessibility Committee, the National Organization on Disability, and the Bennington Interfaith Council, the conference will run from 9 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. at various locations on the St. Peter's Church campus. This is a "fragrance free conference," and participants are requested to refrain from using perfumes, scented shampoos, or other fragranced personal care products. All people, with or without a disability, are welcome.

The Religion and Disability Program of the National Organization on Disability has promoted "That All May Worship" Conferences throughout the United States since 1993. Bennington/St. Peter's joins the more than 240 Conferences held to date. These conferences bring together people with disabilities and religious leadership to plan improved access—both physical and spiritual—in houses of worship in their communities.

The Keynote Speaker will be Julia Daley, minister at the Orange, Massachusetts, Methodist Church. Julia was the recipient of a Lilly Endowment Foundation Grant, "The Church in the Contemporary World," and earned the Master of Divinity degree from the Boston University School of Theology. She is the former executive director of the Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council. As a person with a disability herself, Julia will have much to share concerning the conference theme "From Barriers to Bridges."

Conference participants will be able to choose two afternoon workshops from the following array: "Don't Start with an Elevator"—Architectural Access/Funding; "It's You I Like"—Inclusive Hospitality; "But you don't look disabled"—Hidden Disabilities; "Seeing God in everyone: Changing Anxiety to Acceptance"—stereotypes, bullying, useful language. Two of the workshop facilitators will be David Sagi, vocational rehabilitation regional manager for the Rutland/Bennington region and a member of the Vermont Access Board, and Kathy Gips, staff member and trainer for the New England ADA and Accessible IT Center, Adaptive Environments, Boston, MA.

A morning panel will discuss the needs and experiences that people with various disabilities have encountered in their quest for bridges in their faith communities. Represented will be persons with mental health disability, mobility disability, sensory disability, hidden disability (multiple chemical sensitivity), and the deaf community.

Music will be provided by local guitar duo Nathan and Deena. Interfaith worship will begin and conclude the conference day, with offerings from Rabbi Joshua Boettinger

of Congregation Beth El, Bennington; Pastor Oscar Carabello of the First Hispanic Church of God, Bennington; Judy Krum, from St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Bennington, among others.

The Bennington Steering Committee has included Colleen Gates, St. Peter's; Eric Webster, Second Congregational; Juanita Cook, Unity Church; Nancy and Dick Bower, St. Peter's; Heather White, St. Peter's; Jane McDay, Bahai' Faith; Peter Bulterman, St. Peter's; Sheila Mann, Unitarian Universalist; Sam Liss, Jewish; Mary Gerish, St. Peter's; the Rev. Anita Schell-Lambert, St. Peter's.

The Registration fee of \$20 (scholarships available) covers lunch, break refreshments, printed agenda, one copy of NOD's booklet, *That All May Worship*, speakers' fees and other materials. Registration forms, with opportunity to request disability accommodations such as ASL interpreters and food restrictions, are available on-line at St. Peter's Church Website: www.stpetersbenningtonvt.org. Go to the first drop down menu, to Calendar and Building Utilization, to Sept. 13; click on the link for Registration Form. Forms may then be printed out, completed, and mailed with checks payable to St. Peter's Church (or scholarship requests) to Judy Krum, Conference Coordinator, 212 Dewey St., Bennington, VT 05201, by August 20.

Further information is available from St. Peter's Church (802-442-2911) or from Judy Krum (802-442-5269) or email jvkrum@adelphia.net.

Judith Krum is a member of St. Peter's, Bennington.

Marriage Amendment

take both the sacrament and the civil commitment lightly, than by committed gay or lesbian couples wishing to enter it. For example consider celebrities who stay "married" for less than two days... Such examples as that may well encourage others to take marriage lightly and harm the "institution," but we cannot legislate against them.

Today we (collectively) are involved in a period of discovery regarding the nature and social importance of homosexual preferences, lifestyles, and even biology. We are learning that there have long been deep, committed relationships between people of the same gender. We are learning that homosexuality may well be involved in our human biology, and that gay and lesbian people themselves rarely view their orientation as a "choice" that could as easily go the other way. Both the churches and the whole society are really just beginning the journey of discovery. Many do not yet understand what is being gradually revealed about human sexuality. Theologically, "sin" of an individual must involve choice: if homosexual orientation is not a choice, can homosexual behavior be truly "sinful" in itself? Yet theologians are approaching the issues cautiously, and many churches are resisting changing long held ideas.

For these and other reasons, we personally **do not** support an Amendment to the US Constitution defining marriage

Diocesan Altar Guild observes 50 years

by Betty Maynard

Members of the Diocesan Altar Guild gathered at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Burlington, June 6, 2006, for their 50th annual meeting. In addition to the usual business meeting, they welcomed a special guest speaker, enjoyed lunch together and shared Eucharist, with the Rt. Rev. Thomas Ely presiding.

The group recognized emeritus members from St. Paul's Cathedral, Carolyn Kerr and Marion Thorpe (a charter member of the Diocesan Altar Guild), and members Elsie Bailey of St. Thomas and Grace Churches of Brandon and Forest Dale, and Ruth Scruton of Trinity Church, Rutland, both for 50 years of altar guild service. Also recognized were Eleanor Young of St. Thomas and Grace Churches of Brandon and Forest Dale, 30 years, and Joyce Manning of St. John's in the Mountains, Stowe, 25 years.

Dr. John Schullinger, a pediatric surgeon at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital in New York, and a member, along with his wife, of the Altar Guild at St. James' Church in



Dr. John Schullinger speaks about the Children of China Pediatrics Foundation.

Woodstock, was the day's guest speaker. The recently retired first medical director of the Children of China Pediatrics Foundation had just returned from China. He spoke about the Foundation's work with orphans in China, showing a video of the work done on these brave little children with many birth defects. To learn about the Foundation, visit www.chinapediatrics.org.

Betty Maynard is secretary of the Altar Guild and a member of St. Andrew's, St. Johnsbury.

Holden makes "pilgrimage of hope"

by Anne Clarke Brown

In anticipation of this summer's General Convention, Martha Holden of Christ Church, Montpelier, embarked during the season of Lent on a unique sort of pilgrimage. She said, "When my Methodist clergy prayer partner exclaimed, as the tensions within our communion became evident, 'If you guys can't hold it together, there is no hope for any of us,' it got my attention."

Holden decided she could offer her presence as God's instrument to address

Continued from Page C

as being possible for only a man and a woman. The "institution" is **not** "under attack," as President Bush has said, because the commitment of any couple, and their civil contract, is **not** attacked or impaired in any way by what others do, even if we do happen to disagree with some people's actions. In our case, we disagree not with the actions of gays and lesbians, but rather with those who take marriage lightly, and with those who make marriage a political football. A very worthy Episcopal priest that we know asked in a private discussion, whether the expressed and promised commitment of a gay or lesbian couple was not, in fact, marriage. The substance of the commitment may well be identical to that stated in the church ceremony, even if (not) sanctioned by a church ceremony (though in Vermont, it may be sanctioned civilly).

Further, because the society and the country are in this period of discovery, we believe that such an amendment would hurt or impair the integrity and (dare we say) sacredness of the US Constitution, by using it to project particular religious and political views, in conflict with the rights and freedoms it already asserts and protects.

A. Richard Hunter, Ph. D (Philosophy) and Janet E. Hunter, RN, BA (English) are members of St. Mark's, Springfield. This article was originally written as a letter to Senators Patrick Leahy and Jim Jeffords.

the tensions within The Episcopal Church by visiting churches to sit with the reserve sacrament—and with others who may chose to sit with her—and to join in the Eucharist when possible. She said, "There is an increasing power of the sacrament in my life. It has drawn me to sit with it more regularly as I offer myself to be reformed as a more effective instrument of God's purpose. It seems that, indeed, I am being changed through these encounters." She added, "When someone is present to the Christ within me, it affirms and strengthens that catalytic presence within me. And I have found that my being present to the Christ in another similarly affirms and strengthens the 'Christ-catalyst' within me. So might not our presence to the Christ within the church, as concretized in the reserve sacrament, affirm and strengthen that catalyst within the Church?"

Holden visited a number of religious houses and institutions, but her focus was on seven churches embodying a variety of theological perspectives: St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Napa, California; St. Stephen's Anglican Church, Oakville, California; Trinity Episcopal Church, Bend, Oregon; St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Racine, Wisconsin; Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Calvary Episcopal Church, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; and St. Thomas' African Episcopal Church, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

She went, she said, "as a prayer of offering myself to be used however God wills, regardless of consequences. After my visit to the seventh church, it occurred to me that the presence of the sacrament in churches and chapels around the world creates a sort of 'Christ-grid.' I wondered," Holden continued, "whether the power of the Christ within the church and within the world might be strengthened by people meditating 'into' the grid." She concluded, "It seems to me that there are people concerned about the shape the world is in who may find this an appealing way to use their contemplative energies." ❖

General Conv



Above: The Convention worship space included two screens with changing displays of artwork organized by The Episcopal Church and the Visual Arts.



Members of the Vermont deputation. Front row: TF Back row: Gordon Bardos, Tom Ely, Lee Crawford, Jim Larkin. Not in photo: Peter Galbraith.



Above: Presiding Bishop-elect Katharine Jefferts Schori preaching at the closing Eucharist.



Right: Dr. Jenny Te Paa of the Anglican Church of Aotearoa New Zealand preaching at the main Eucharist.

Left: Bishop Gene Robinson at the Integrity Eucharist tells how he learned to "love them anyway."
Below: Bishop Michael Curry tells U2charist participants that the MDGs offer "a way for us to discover life again as a church."



Below right: Elisabeth von Trapp and Erich Kory provide music for the June 19 morning Eucharist.

Below: Donna Abramov presents Vermont's UTO donation to Presiding Bishop Frank Griswold.



Above: 8th Bishop of Vermont Daniel Swenson, 9th Bishop of Vermont Thomas Ely in the House of Deputies.



Below: The women of the House of Bishops of Deputies. From Left, Geryl Wolf, Rhode Island; Gayle Harris, Massachusetts; Chilton Utah; Barbara Harris, Washington. Not shown: New York; Cate Waynick, Indianapolis.



vention 2006



Thomas Brown, Anne Brown, Stan Baker (alternate), Tom Little, Diane Root, John Morris (alternate), and



Top right: Peter Galbraith and Tom Little confer on a resolution in the House of Deputies.

Top left: Lee Alison Crawford addresses the House of Deputies. She was one of six deputies invited by House of Deputies President George Werner to open the morning legislative sessions with a meditation on their ministries. She spoke of her work in El Salvador on the day Bishop Martín Barahona was seated with the Vermont delegation.



Left: Bonnie Anderson of Michigan, newly elected president of the House of Deputies, testifies in favor of consent to the election of Katharine Jefferts Schori as presiding bishop.

Bottom left: Brad Hull of Barre, who accompanied the participants in the E3 program for young people, receives communion.

Bottom center: Canon for Youth Ministry Connie Saeger-Proctor receives communion from Steve MacAusland of Massachusetts.

Bottom right: Marta McBean of St. Michael's, Brattleboro, and Nick Phillips of St. Peter's, Bennington, explore the exhibit hall. They participated in the E3 program for young people. They were among the few young people whose school terms ended in time for them to attend the unusually early Convention.



Bishop of Vermont Mary Adelia McLeod, and 10th District representatives for the presentation on the budget.



Participants celebrate the election of the new presiding bishop with the House of Deputies: Bavi Rivera, Olympia; Mary Adelia McLeod, Vermont; Knudsen, Maine; Carol Gallagher, Newark; Carolyn Tanner Irish, Washington; Jane Holmes Dixon, Washington (ret.); Catherine Roskam,



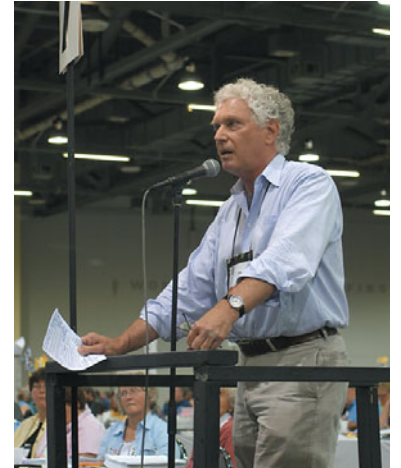
Left: Canon to the Ordinary Lynn Bates (left) was in charge of the Convention Secretariat, which coordinated the information and paper flow for both houses.



Right: Stan Baker testifies on the floor of the House of Deputies.



All photographs on this page by Anne Clarke Brown.



Reflections of a Convention first-timer

by Stan Baker

As a first-timer at General Convention, I was amazed on the first day by the size and complexity of it all. Given time to look around, I found myself impressed with the international composition of The Episcopal Church, with dioceses and congregations in 15 countries.

We were assigned to tables for the daily Eucharist, and following the sermon the people at each table were asked to reflect on the sermon, the day's readings, or the Convention theme, "Come and Grow." There was also a reflection question for each day. I was assigned to Table 151 and volunteered to be the table discussion leader. We developed such a wonderful sense of connection and prayerful support that we created a distribution list for Table 151 and have been communicating about our reactions to Convention since we all got home.

Because nametags did not specify whether one was clergy or not, and because most clergy were not wearing their clericals at first, it was a surprise to find who at our table was ordained and who was lay. We had the newly elected Bishop of Ecuador Central (the Rt. Rev. Wilfrido Ramos-Orench, former bishop suffragan of Connecticut), four priests (two male and two female) and three lay people. Our reflection was deep, supportive, and loving. We decided that the significance of "Table 151" is that, since the Psalms end at 150, we were the embodiment of the next psalm. Perhaps we'll write a collective psalm by email.

I was also impressed with what a southern church we are. Until Convention most of my Episcopal interactions have been in the Diocese of Vermont or Province I. I was excited to meet all the people from south-

ern churches, to hear and interact with the hundreds of Spanish speakers, and to be surrounded by people of color.

Besides Table 151, some memorable moments were:

- All the Eucharists, with their variety of music and liturgies. Worshiping with more than a thousand other people is amazing.

- The festive Eucharist at which I was Lay Eucharistic Minister. Jenny Te Paa of New Zealand gave an amazing sermon and both Bishop Curry of Connecticut and Bishop Robinson of New Hampshire came to my station. The interaction was meaningful and both commented on it to me after the fact.

- The Vermont deputation's testimony before Committee 26, the Special Committee on the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion.

- Having lunch with our youth, Marta and Nick, their leaders, Connie and Brad, Bishop Ely, and members of the deputation. Bishop Ely introduced the youth to Katharine Jefferts Schori and her husband the day before she was elected.

- Sitting with fellow alternate John Morris in the alternate area—sometimes feeling like an island unto ourselves and sometimes feeling connected to those around us.

- Spending as much time on the floor as deputy as I did.

- The emotional highs and lows of being on the floor and acting on many important resolutions but also having the election of GLBT bishops put on hold.

- The emotional, spirit-filled, and overflowing Integrity Eucharist at Trinity Church, experienced while standing with Tom Ely throughout the service and being so moved by Gene Robinson's sermon.



Stan Baker (fourth from right) with the members of "Table 151."

- Being so very proud of our deputation and Bishop Ely and taking strength from the many unsolicited positive comments about the Diocese of Vermont from convention participants.

- The amazing experience of being present when the news of Katherine Jefferts Schori's election was announced.

First Alternate Deputy Stan Baker is a member of the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Burlington.

General Convention celebrates... Continued from Page A

herself when she was introduced to the House later in the afternoon. The deputies consented to her election by an overwhelming margin: of 109 dioceses voting in the lay order, 94 voted yes; of 111 voting in the clergy order, 98 voted yes.

Bishop Ely said in a statement about the election, "I am very pleased about her election and look forward to working closely with her during her term as Presiding Bishop... I believe she will bring her passion for supporting and empowering the ministry of all God's people to her ministry as Presiding Bishop, as well as her deep commitment to justice issues and global mission. Her strong support of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as a leading priority for our church will help lead all of us forward in mission." [His complete statement is at www.dioceseofvermont.org. See also the Rev. Thomas Brown's article on Page I and this issue of Episcopal Life.]

One evening of Convention was given to a celebration of the ministry of Presiding Bishop Frank Griswold and that of his wife, Phoebe Griswold. The House of Deputies celebrated the tenure of the Very Rev. George Werner as president and welcomed the election of Ms. Bonnie Anderson of the Diocese of Michigan as president and the Rev. Brian Prior of Spokane as vice president for the coming triennium.

Members and friends of Integrity celebrated the ministry of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered Episcopalians in a crowded and joy-filled Eucharist at Trinity Church June 16. The Rt. Rev. Gene Robinson preached and had many in tears with his description of how he came to his response to those who oppose his ministry—"Love them anyway!"

The main Convention Eucharist the next day celebrated the Episcopal Church Women's United Thank Offering with the traditional UTO ingathering. Bishops processed in a long line of red and white, Dr. Jenny Te Paa of New Zealand preached, and a large combined choir sang and premiered a new setting for the Eucharist by Dr. Clendon Craig Phillips, commissioned to celebrate the ministry of Presiding Bishop Frank Griswold.

Difficult Decisions

Overshadowing much of the normal Convention business was the need to respond to the Windsor Report of the Lambeth Commission on Communion. A Special Commission on The Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion

worked through the fall and spring and presented 11 resolutions to Convention for consideration. Legislative Committee 26 had responsibility for holding hearings on these and other similar resolutions and recommending action to the two houses.

Bishop Ely and Anne Brown testified before the committee at a large public hearing on June 14, and the bishop, Thomas Brown, Diane Root, Anne Brown, Stan Baker and John Morris testified about Vermont's experience in living with the recommendations of the Task Force on the Blessing of Persons Living in Same-Gender Relationships at a hearing June 19 [see www.dioceseofvermont.org for much of that testimony]. Bishop Ely's column in this issue addresses the outcome of this process in detail. Also see this issue of Episcopal Life, pages 6-7.

Convention's other twenty-five legislative committees, each composed of both bishops and deputies, had over 300 resolutions to review before making recommendations to the houses. Each must be posted for a public hearing, and most of the debate and work to refine resolutions is done in this context. Often resolutions are combined, and others are recommended for discharge because they are repetitive. In the end, 163 resolutions were adopted by both houses and became official actions of the Convention.

Only a few resolutions besides those addressing the Windsor Report had significant debate in the House of Deputies. One was the proposal to adopt the Revised Common Lectionary as the official lectionary of TEC beginning with Advent, 2007. In the end, Resolution A077 was easily adopted in a vote by orders.

Mission embraced

While the Convention grappled with significant internal issues, many rejoiced in the attention given to a shift toward a strong focus on mission, particularly mission directed toward alleviation of global poverty and achieving the eight Millennium Development Goals adopted by the United Nations in 2000. Presiding Bishop-elect Jefferts Schori speaks in a compelling way of the church's call to build the reign of God through efforts that address the issues raised by the MDGs. As Lee Crawford writes in the article on Page A, Convention embraced the MDGs as the primary mission and budget priority for the next triennium.

In other actions, Convention embraced a call to examine in a profound way the history of slavery and the slave trade in

Continued on Page I

Abramov attends ECW Triennial

by Donna Abramov

The Episcopal Church Women's (ECW) Triennial met in the Columbus, Ohio, convention center, concurrent with the General Convention, and I once again had the privilege of being part of an awesome experience. The chaplain was the Very Reverend Marilyn Engstrom from Wyoming. Triennial Musician Dr. Horace Boyer composed a special gospel hymn for this year's gathering. Highlights of the Triennial for me included:

- The post-sermon conversations at the daily morning Eucharist allowed us to meet and share stories with Episcopalians from all over the country and the world (we were assigned to table groups with bishops, deputies, youth and visitors).

- President Harriet Neer reported on the health of ECW, saying, "ECW is not dead: it doesn't even have the sniffles."

- The Welcoming Dinner, which featured the Rev. Barbara Crafton, was a joyous evening with good food, fun and fellowship with those one has not seen in three years.

- A visit from the President of the House of Deputies, the Very Rev. George Werner, who stated that he deeply appreciated ECW: "It makes us whole."

- Two young women with the official Youth Presence spoke very eloquently about their experiences, different but united in Jesus Christ.

- Phoebe Griswold, wife of Presiding

Bishop Frank Griswold, came with a very strong message about women's roles in the church. She observed that in her travels with her husband, she did not want to just sit on the sidelines, so she asked to speak with women in the countries they visited. She noted that only a few women's voices are present in the Anglican Communion's "instruments of unity," and she said, "What difference would it make if we—if we—set the agenda for the church?" She called for strong women's voices and asked that we put on our "gender glasses" to see how women are treated by decision makers or depicted by news media. Women are often portrayed, she said, as victims and mourners. Her message was clear: women can make a difference.

- Every diocese brought slips of paper with the name of each woman in the diocese ordained to the priesthood or diaconate to celebrate the anniversary of 30 years of women's ordination. They made a chain that went completely around the room.

- The Saturday special Convention Eucharist included the UTO in-gathering. It is truly an honor to represent Vermont and give our offering to the Presiding Bishop.

If you would like more information on Triennial or ECW in general please do not hesitate to get in touch (802-483-6150 or dabramov@excite.com).

Donna Abramov is a member of Trinity, Rutland.

Youth attend E3

by Connie Saeger-Proctor

Two young people from the Diocese of Vermont, Nick Phillips and Marta McBean, attended E3, a June 15–21 program at General Convention designed to “educate” and “empower” young people through an “experience” of the Convention. They were accompanied by Brad Hull, from Church of the Good Shepherd, Barre, and Connie Saeger-Proctor, Canon for Youth Ministry.

E3 participants attended educational workshops and sat in on legislative committee hearings and sessions of the House of Deputies and the House of Bishops. They tracked resolutions of interest and witnessed history being made as the first woman was elected to serve as presiding bishop of The Episcopal Church.

Nick took a special interest in Resolution B013, calling for an end to human rights abuses against the Acholi and other people of Northern Uganda. (The resolution did not make it to the floor in time for final approval in the House of Deputies.) Young people attended the tribute to current Presiding Bishop Frank Griswold and closely watched the discussion of resolutions responding to the Windsor Report.

One way the young people will bring their General Convention experience back to the diocese will be to write a resolution for Diocesan Convention and to have a youth presence at the Convention.

Connie Saeger-Proctor is a member of St. Mary's, Northfield.

World Mission is GC focus

learn more about ONE Episcopalian, visit www.episcopalchurch.org/eppn/.

World Mission Committee

For the past four General Conventions, I have been a member of the World Mission Legislative Committee. Members of this committee hail from all points of the theological spectrum and from around the US and the world. Despite differences on the election of a woman presiding bishop and the role of gays and lesbians in the church, members of this committee pulled together to focus on the world-wide mission of the church. Remarkably, meetings were marked by a spirit of charity and common purpose: members of the committee worked hard together to ensure that world mission will continue in The Episcopal Church.

The committee heard moving testimonies from participants in the Young Adult Service Corps (YASC), a body of missionaries, ages 18–30, that was created by General Convention six years ago (2000-A007). These students serve for a year in far-off places such as Taiwan, Brazil, Honduras, South Africa, Panama, Kenya, Belize, and Jerusalem. They spoke powerfully about how their year abroad has changed their lives forever and how they will bring their enthusiasm and growth back to The Episcopal Church and apply it to local evangelism. They also spoke about their need to have pastoral support for those times when they feel isolated. General Convention voted to continue to program and fund the YASC (A117).

The House of Deputies voted to approve a covenant (A119) between the Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil (Anglican Church of Brazil) and The Episcopal Church, two provinces of the Anglican Communion.

Vermont reflects on presiding bishop nomination process

by Thomas Brown

Twenty-nine people who serve in leadership positions throughout the Episcopal Church is a lot of “type A” energy for one room! Yet this was my experience, at least initially, of the Joint Nominating Committee for the Election of the Presiding Bishop (JNCPB). We began our work in Newark, New Jersey, in the fall of 2003 and concluded it in Delray Beach, Florida, in January 2006.

At that first meeting, I was nominated to be the secretary. I guess this happened because I was the one with the laptop. By the time nominations were received (in the spring of 2005) the office at St. Michael's Church in Brattleboro had a volunteer and paid office staff of four people (thank you to diocesan convention delegate Betty Elwell, and to the parish administrator, Cynthia Terzariol, and the financial administrator, Winifred Mixon) just to manage the paperwork for the JNCPB.

It took several meetings for the committee to create enough trust for us to accomplish our work, but before the end we had in fact become what every church committee or team longs to form: a group of disciples of Jesus Christ calling one another to deeper discipleship.



ACB photo

Thomas Brown prepares to key in the Vermont deputation's vote by orders in favor of consenting to the election of the Rt. Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori as the 26th presiding bishop.

The four people we nominated, J. Neil Alexander, Bishop of Atlanta; Edwin F. Gulick, Bishop of Kentucky; Katharine Jefferts Schori, Bishop of Nevada, and Henry N. Parsley, Bishop of Alabama, became sojourners with us in this three-year process. Each of them exemplified the utmost in patience and respect.

Along with three other people on the committee, I was assigned to interview the Bishop of Nevada, in the middle part of November 2005. Bishop Jefferts Schori and I have known one another since 1994 (we attended the same seminary), but I was unprepared for what I would see and hear about her episcopacy in that far-flung, diverse, and financially precarious diocese: growth, commitment to mission, and vitality. We asked each person we interviewed (and we spoke with 33 individuals in the course of three days) what Bishop Jefferts Schori's legacy would be if she were to leave Nevada, and one of them said, “healthy

systems. Period.” His comment was so direct, yet he spoke a truth about the overarching theme we had already heard.

When our small group reported to the rest of the JNCPB about our visit to Nevada we underscored the fact that everybody we spoke with had the same things to say about Bishop Jefferts Schori; there was incredible consistency in what people said about her strengths as well as her weaknesses.

The same snapshot appeared after each conversation. Bear in mind that not everybody liked their bishop, nor was everybody always supportive of every decision she has made, but every single person said things such as,

“She listens,” or “She pitches in and helps us focus on our mission,” or “Bishop Jefferts Schori upholds the ministry of the baptized without diminishing the ministry of those of us called to be deacons and priests,” and my favorite: “She has unified our diocese.” And yet of the 29 people on the Committee only two of us believed she could get elected. The rest of us, myself included, believed she was the best person to serve the Episcopal Church as chief pastor and primate, but we never thought it would actually come to fruition. It's nice to be so wrong!

It was a blessing and privilege to serve the Episcopal Church on the JNCPB, and a special blessing to be part of the team who visited Nevada. For me, the day of her election, June 18, will always be among the most memorable days of my ministry, indeed, among the most powerful moments of our church's history and mission.

The Rev. Thomas J. Brown is rector of St. Michael's, Brattleboro.

Continued from Page A

While the Brazilian Anglican Church has been autonomous for 80 years, there never has been a formal agreement between these two bodies. This covenant committing to mutual support and encouragement for ministry and mission development within both provinces could serve as a model of both interdependence and autonomy for other provinces in the Anglican Communion. Unfortunately, this resolution remained “pending in the House of Bishops” and thus was not adopted by General Convention.

The World Mission Committee enthusiastically supported, and the House of Deputies adopted, a resolution inviting exploration of the Inter-Anglican Standing Commission on Mission and Evangelism's Covenant on World Mission (A126). The covenant provides an excellent means by which Anglicans throughout the world can interact and find common ground “in our participation in God's mission,” can “meet to share common purpose and explore differences and disagreements,” can “live into the promise of God's reconciliation for ourselves and for the world,” and can commit to “our mutual responsibility and interdependence in the Body of Christ.” Sadly, the House of Bishops never got to concur on this resolution and, again, it died.

Despite set-backs caused by the slowdown in the legislative process, the Episcopal Church is moving forward in mission, dedicating significant energy to initiatives aimed at achieving the MDGs and finding new ways to connect with our Anglican sisters and brothers across the globe.

The Rev. Lee Alison Crawford is rector of St. Mary's, Northfield.

Canons Committee tackles large issues

by Tom Little

The Legislative Committee on Canons grappled with the completion of the re-write of the Ministry Canons (Title III) begun in 2001, and with a proposal to completely restructure and rewrite the Canons for disciplining ordained persons (Title IV).

The Title III work was completed through great collaboration with the Ministry Committee, and the resulting draft was adopted by both Houses. The changes create standard but flexible timeframes for those seeking ordination to the diaconate or priesthood, amend how The Episcopal Church receives clergy from other churches, and require mentoring and continuing education for bishops.

General Convention celebrates... Continued from Page H

our various dioceses and how the church benefited from it (A123); it created a new Standing Commission on Lifelong Christian Education and Formation (A105); it endorsed principles of restorative justice and embraced a call that the church “hold before itself the vision of a church without racism” (A127); it approved a variety of new liturgical materials, including rites of passage; it regularized the size and composition of standing committees and commissions (A104); it embraced support of efforts to

reduce global warming (B002 and C018); and much more.

Some work was left undone (resolutions addressing the peace process in the Middle East, for example) by the time Convention adjourned, but there is much in what it did do to engage congregations and individual Episcopalians. Visit the Diocese of Vermont Web site for more on General Convention, including key resolutions and a summary of resolutions adopted that ask for action by dioceses, congregations and individuals. ✦

Northwest Deanery 1

Beth Crane, Bureau Chief

P.O. Box 58

Montgomery, VT 05470

802-326-4603

beth@gracechurchsheldon.org

ST. MATTHEW'S, Enosburg, will go to the Carriage House in Franklin on Sunday afternoon, July 9, to celebrate the Eucharist with **Laura Scott**, age 102, a resident there and a member of St. Matthew's.

On Sunday, July 23, St. Matthew's will celebrate with an outdoor Eucharist (rain or shine) at the home of **Dinny and Peter Haworth**. A barbecue, games, swimming, and fishing for goldfish follow the service. Visitors are cordially welcome.

Linda Maloney attended a class on Contemplative Ministry at Holy Cross Monastery from July 1-7. She will also attend the Global Ministries conference in Amherst at the end of July.

GRACE CHURCH, Sheldon, participated in Sheldon's quinquennial parade and festivities at Sheldon Creek on July 8. An Evensong service is being planned for August to commemorate the parish's 190 years. Details will be available in July at www.gracechurchsheldon.org. See Page D for Summer Music at Grace programs.

Otter Creek Deanery 2

Donna Abramov, Bureau Chief

P.O. Box 76, Chittenden, VT 05737

802-483-6150

dabramov@excite.com

ST. THOMAS' & GRACE, Brandon/Forest Dale, will, for the seventh year, offer a lunch program for children attending summer programs at four schools and who would normally not have a nutritious meal during the summer. Grace Church will host a Mid-Summer Supper August 12, 5:30-6:30 P.M. A good will offering will be accepted at the door.

Southwest Deanery 3

Sarah Smith, Bureau Chief

5849 Vermont Route 7A

Arlington, VT 05250

802-375-6974

ST. JAMES', Arlington, welcomed the Rev. **Pamela Porter**, who began her ministry as interim pastor at a parish retreat at Rock Point June 16-18. Her first Sunday at St. James' was June 25.

ST. PETER'S, Bennington, will launch four new initiatives in the fall: a children's choir, a ten-week course on "ways to live simply and responsibly as stewards of God's creation," a year-long youth confirmation class, and a 5 P.M. Sunday worship service that will explore new kinds of music and involve the youth class.

In June, ZION CHURCH, Manchester, welcomed **Andy Piercy**, a staff member at Holy Trinity Brompton in London, home of the Alpha Program. A song writer, he worked with the praise band and helped lead the Family Sunday worship June 4.

Southeast Deanery 4

Bette Harrison, Bureau Chief

12 Webb Terrace, Bellows Falls, VT 05101

802-463-3563

relpj@verizon.net

❖ deanery doings ❖

News of Parishes and People in the Diocese of Vermont

compiled and reported by the Mountain Echo "Deanery Bureau Chiefs"

ST. MICHAEL'S, Brattleboro, will sponsor a bus trip on Aug. 6, to Glimmerglass Opera in Cooperstown, NY, to see Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Pirates of Penzance*. This fundraiser will benefit Hurricane Katrina's victims. A few seats are still available. Call 802-254-4839.

ST. LUKE'S, Chester, once again held a bake sale on Chester "Alumni Day." According to **Chris Langston**, "The Bake Sale is about food for community goodwill as well as the stomach. St. Luke's has become known as a church that feeds body and soul together, through its Saturday Night and Monday Night suppers, the August Supper and the Bake Sale."

Thomas Guerra, a junior at Green Mountain High School and youth vestry member at St. Luke's, received the Rensselaer Medal, awarded to promising juniors who have distinguished themselves in math and science.

Three Rivers Deanery 5

Genie Rayner, Bureau Chief

218 Birch Knoll, Rutland, VT 05701

802-773-1422

woordswoman@yahoo.com

CHRIST CHURCH, Bethel, acclaimed **Karen Speerstra's** ministry and accomplishments as music and choir director when she passed the keyboard(s) over to others so she might shepherd her energies for ongoing medical needs. Typical of Karen, she insisted the ovation she received rightfully belonged to the choir. She assured everyone that she will still be singing from the pews.

ST. PAUL'S, White River Junction, will lift up those who minister at home and abroad. Their Ember Sunday blessing in July celebrated those who work on, for and with the land: home gardeners, farmers, environmental activists are just a few. Before that, they arranged a collection for soldiers stationed overseas. Personal supplies and desert-appropriate goods and financial support all benefited the Adopt-A-Platoon drive.

Congratulations to the folks at ST. MARTIN'S, Fairlee! Their hard work and dedication brought in about \$1,000 from the Time, Talent and Treasure auction that will benefit the parish's outreach ministries. Auctioneer **Frank Orłowski** and his assistant, **Bob Jones**, made the event quite enjoyable as well as profitable.

The third quarterly Dove Project outreach effort of ST. JAMES', Woodstock, was just as successful (see article, Page L).

The newsletter from Killington's CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR has a good reminder: check out the "Faces of Christ" online gallery of portraits of Jesus. The Episcopal Church and the Visual Arts project shows how other Christians have pictured Christ. Go to the link at www.episcopalchurch.org.

ST. BARNABAS', Norwich, offers questions for reflection when walking their labyrinth in this season of growth: What has wintered over in me? What is begin-

ning to unfold? What in me needs tending to? What do I need to gather around me as budding begins? When I am quiet, what do I hear? Who is waiting for my prayer today? What needs resurrection and healing inside of me...? St. Barnabas' will be featured in the 2007 National Episcopal Historians and Archivists' calendar.

The volunteer chaplaincy program at Gifford Medical Center in Randolph is beginning its sixth year, thanks to the Rev. **Tim Eberhardt**. Continuing in that tradition, Menig and Bethel Day Care are the beneficiaries of parishioner **Ginny Cantlin's** service as volunteer chaplain.

Central Vermont Deanery 6

Marty Roberts, Bureau Chief

P.O. Box 1165

Montpelier, VT 05601

802-223-5506

mrobertsvt@verizon.com

Beth Ann Maier of CHRIST CHURCH, Montpelier, was the subject of a June 26 feature article in the Times-Argus. Maier retired from her 28-year practice in pediatric medicine and hopes to explore new models that focus on prevention.

ST. MARY'S, Northfield, congratulates **Libby Hambleton**, who was recognized in a special resolution by the Vermont General Assembly "for her generosity of spirit and dedication to serving the citizens of Northfield." In addition to her active membership in the parish, she serves as a village trustee, volunteers at the public library, teaches an older adult exercise class five days a week, and more.

Northeast Deanery 7

Dolly Corkins, Bureau Chief

174 Clyde Street, Newport, VT 05855

802-334-2555

corkins4@sover.net

ST. MARK'S, Newport, continued the "Music for a Sunday Afternoon" concert

series on July 9, with "Christmas in July," a benefit for Episcopal Relief and Development featuring **Elisabeth von Trapp** and **Erich Kory**. The concert was followed by a traditional ham dinner as the fundraiser for the series.

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

The CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. PAUL, Burlington, has a new dossal that fills the entire back wall of the Chancel. About 30 volunteers worked with designer Judith McManis, selecting the fabrics and cutting over 1200 pieces to create it.

Members of ALL SAINTS', South Burlington, will provide snacks for a Habitat for Humanity jobsite in the summer months. Work has been completed on the church's new roof.

The singles group of ST. JAMES', Essex Junction, Sole Mates, will attend St. Michael's playhouse this summer, cheer on the Lake Monsters, and enjoy the VSO on July 9 in Stowe. Contact **Pat Sequin** 878-3698 or **Mary Carlson** 899-2197 for information. The parish sponsored a blood drive June 30.

The confirmation class of ST. ANDREW'S, Colchester, volunteered for the Special Olympics at UVM. The parish is seeking a part time caregiver for the nursery for September. Contact the Rev. **Lisette Baxter** 658-0533 to apply. The 5:30 P.M. Wednesday Eucharist will continue for the summer. **Betsy Gardner** concluded a three-part series with a presentation on Wills, Living Wills, Advanced Directives, and Durable Power of Attorney.

The youth group of TRINITY, Shelburne, held a car wash to benefit Heifer International. They raised \$525—enough money to purchase 2 water buffalo! Parishioners are invited to attend a night at the ball park Aug. 2; \$10 guarantees each person admission and the barbecue. Sign up in the Webb Lounge by July 20. ❖

Newcomer Ministry Tip

New Books in Diocesan Resource Center (Part I)

The Evangelism Committee recently placed eight new books in the Diocesan Resource Center. Four are below. The other four will be featured in the next tip.

Millennials Rising, by Neil Howe and William Strauss. This book provides a comprehensive description of the collective personality of the Millennial generation, born between 1982 and 2003. This generation is also known as Generation Y. Your church can enhance and fine-tune its newcomer ministry to Millennials by learning about the lifestyle, attitudes and values of this smart, affluent, community-minded generation.

The In-Between Church, by Alice Mann, helps congregations that are attempting to navigate a size transition, whether growth or down-sizing is the objective.

The Spectacle of Worship in a Wired World, by Tex Sample, provides insight and suggestions about making worship meaningful to the post World War II generations.

More Than Numbers: The Way Churches Grow, by Loren Mead, explores what evangelism and church growth mean in a time when it is impossible for every parish to achieve numerical growth. He argues that spiritual, organizational and missional growth are equally important.

To borrow any of these publications, please contact Jenny Ogelby at the Diocesan Resource Center: 802-878-4014 or jsogelby@stjamesvt.org.

Don Scott, Chair, Evangelism Committee

Nominations open for diocesan elected and appointed positions

Elections will be held at Diocesan Convention, October 27-28, 2006, for a variety of positions on diocesan committees and boards (see list below).

Please prayerfully consider nominating candidates for these positions if you are a canonically resident clergy person or a communicant in good standing—those “who for the previous year have been faithful in corporate worship...and...in working, praying and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God” (Title I, Canon 17.4). Also consider

nominating yourself for a position that you may be qualified to fill.

Nomination forms are available at the Diocesan Office and on the Web site (www.dioceseofvermont.org), and they have been sent to all delegates to convention, all parishes, and diocesan committee chairs. **Mail completed forms by August 25** to Nominating Committee Chair, Polly Larkin, 38 Pleasant St., Essex Junction, VT 05452. Questions: call Polly at 802-878-8047, or email her at Larkinej@hotmail.com.

2006 Diocesan Committee/Board Members to be Elected at Convention

The positions below are those for which the Nominating Committee is seeking nominees for election. Contact persons who can answer questions are listed below. For descriptions of responsibilities and meeting times, visit www.dioceseofvermont.org and click on the link under Diocesan Convention 2006.

Brookhaven Home Trustees: Four Members to be elected for three-year terms. Contact Person: The Rev. Diana Collins, President (dianacollins@valley.net).

Diocesan Council: Four At-Large Members to be elected for two-year terms and Two Youth Representatives to be elected for one-year terms. Contact person: Lynn Bates, Canon to the Ordinary (802-863-3431 or lbates@dioceseofvermont.org).

Note: Each deanery should elect a lay or clergy representative to council by August 1, and send the name to the Secretary of Convention.

Oversight and Audit Committee: Two members (1 cleric, 1 lay person) to be elected to three-year terms.

Contact person: Jim Harder, Chair (802-775-4368 or jharder@sover.net).

Rock Point Board: Four Members to be elected to three-year terms; one member to be appointed by the Bishop to a three-year term.

Contact person: Lee Bronson, President (Bronson@sover.net).

Rock Point School Trustees: Four Members to be elected to three-year terms.

Contact person: John Rouleau, Headmaster, (802-863-1104 or jrouleau@rockpoint.org).

Standing Committee: Two members (1 cleric and 1 lay person) to be elected to terms of four years.

Contact person: Laura Chase, President (802-483-2995 or LauraChase@aol.com).

Trustees of the Diocese: One member to be elected to a term of seven years.

Contact person: Carolyn Fouts (802-542-4842 or Carolyn.fouts@verizon.net).

Appointments to be made by the Bishop in 2006

If you are interested in one of these ministries, or know someone who is, please contact Patrick Sims in the Bishop's office (800-286-3437 or 802-863-3431).

Canons Committee: The Chancellor of the Diocese (ex officio) and at least five other persons.

Commission on Ministry Discernment Committee: Four members (1 cleric, 3 lay persons) for three-year terms, and one vacancy to 2007 to be filled.

Commission on Ministry Formation Committee: Four members to be appointed.

Credentials Committee: The Secretary of Convention and at least two other persons for one-year terms.

Dispatch of Business: The Secretary and Assistant Secretary of Convention, a member of the Credentials Committee and at least three other persons for one-year terms.

Nominating Committee: Eight members for one-year terms.

Resolutions Committee: Six members to be appointed by the Bishop to one-year terms.

Rock Point Summer Conferences Committee: Four members for three-year terms.

CS&R Committee announces grants

by Dorothy Wooton

The Congregational Support and Resources Committee (CS&R) of Diocesan Council is responsible for evaluating grant applications for funds from Initiates II and III of the McClure Discipleship/Discovery 2000 Fund, and from the Walter P. Irish Trust for assistance to congregations in small communities. The group met in mid-May and approved the following grants:

Initiative II: St. Stephen's, Middlebury, Ministry Discernment, \$4,000; Church of Our Savior, Killington, Lenten Study Program, \$200; St. Peter's, Bennington, That All May Worship Conference, \$500; St. Paul's, White

River Junction, Rock Point Retreat, \$800.

Initiative III: All Saint's, South Burlington, Re-shingle Roof, \$5000.

Irish Fund: Gethsemane, Proctorsville, Repair Slate Roof, \$7,400; St. Mary's, Northfield, Rebuild Playground, \$750; St. Andrew's, St. Johnsbury, Architectural Assessment, \$2,500.

For information on the CS&R Committee, and to download grant information and applications, go to www.dioceseofvermont.org, and click on the “Diocesan Organizations” button.

Dorothy Wooton is a member of St. Luke's, Alburg.

Diocesan Convention to celebrate ministries of St. Paul's Cathedral

by Anne Clarke Brown

The 174th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Vermont will be held October 27-28, 2006, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Burlington. The theme is “Celebrate the Ministries of the Cathedral,” with the dean of Christ Church Cathedral in New Orleans as dinner speaker and preacher, and a series of workshops focusing on the social justice/outreach programs of St. Paul's Cathedral.

As in previous years, the Convention will be preceded by all-day ministry fairs (10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.) offering opportunities for learning in the morning and pre-convention information sessions in the afternoon. The theme will be the same as that for Diocesan Convention, and Bishop Thomas Ely will preside at a noon Eucharist. **This year's ministry fairs will be:**

October 7, St. Mark's Church, Springfield
October 21, Trinity Church, Shelburne

The Convention itself will begin Friday, October 27, with registration from 11:30 A.M.—2:30 P.M.. New delegates are encouraged to attend Convention 101 at Noon. Hearings on the budget, proposed canons and resolutions are at 1:20, followed by workshops at 2:45. Evensong and Bishop Ely's address are at 5:00, followed by a social hour and dinner at the Wyndham Hotel.

Saturday will begin with Eucharist at 8:30 A.M., followed by convention business. Adjournment is expected about 3:30 P.M. All are welcome to attend parts or all of the

convention. Information is on the diocesan Web site, www.dioceseofvermont.org (click on “2006 Diocesan Convention”) or call the office at 800-286-3437 or 802-863-3431.

Dinner speaker and preacher, the Very Rev. David Allard duPlantier, has served as Dean of Christ Church Cathedral in New Orleans since February, 2002. A native of Louisville, Kentucky—he was born there in 1961—duPlantier earned a degree in economics from Miami University of Ohio and worked in health care marketing prior to attending The General Theological Seminary and graduating in 1993 with a Master of Divinity. He served congregations in the Diocese of Southern Ohio before being called to Christ Church Cathedral.

DuPlantier has been involved in Anglican ministry in the Middle East, most recently working with a center for healthcare for Palestinian children in and around Jerusalem and the West Bank. After Hurricane Katrina, he mobilized the cathedral community in a variety of relief efforts. One led to the Jericho Road Episcopal Housing Initiative, a low income housing LLC sponsored by Episcopal Relief and Development and the Diocese of Louisiana. The cathedral's bicentennial fell just two months after the 2005 hurricanes, and duPlantier formed a partnership with the New Orleans Jazz Orchestra. That led to the commissioning of a major work for the bicentennial, “All the Saints,” by Irvin Mayfield. ✚

St. Peter's focuses on MDGs

by Margo Fletcher

St Peter's Bennington ventured into a new arena for them this past Lent. Following on the last Diocesan Convention's theme of global reconciliation, the congregation shifted its focus beyond things entirely parochial to learn about the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

A weekly Lenten study session used the study guide on the MDGs written by Convention keynote speaker, Lallie Lloyd, for the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA. Each of the five sessions looked at a particular goal, or two goals, and referenced them to scriptural verses and a theological perspective. A few participants were invited to research the status of a particular country in Africa with respect to their current conditions and their hope of fulfilling the MDGs. They then contributed their work to the group. The leader summarized each session and then the group followed through with questions set up by the author.

As a group we were engaged but also rather overwhelmed by what we learnt, despite reassurances from the author that the goals were attainable. Certainly it broadened all our perspectives on who our neighbors are and what love might involve.

We also listened to African music, looked at African artifacts and worshipped around Stations of the Cross done by an African iconographer. Our final supper was an ethnic feast that divided the gathered community into groups according to global demographics for available food resources. It was quite illuminating to see one person eating steak, chips, salad, fruit and desert surrounded by

many small comforts like candy, toilet paper, tissues, shampoo and detergent while eight others sat on the floor to eat a small bowl of rice and beans and drink tap water.

Running parallel to this program, the children were involved with a Heifer project that was very successful in introducing them to a focus beyond themselves and their immediate world. This culminated in a visit by a group of adults and children to the Heifer Overlook Farm, Massachusetts, which is run to educate people about international need and possible responses.

We plan to continue in September by focusing our educational offerings on sustainability, not only for ourselves but also globally. And we hope to explore how we might learn to advocate successfully and constructively for the world's poor. Overall it was a real breath of fresh air for St. Peter's, which is much indebted in all these ventures to the support of its new rector, Anita Schell Lambert.

Margo Fletcher is a member of St. Peter's, Bennington.

Christianson earns M.Div. at EDS

Regina Christianson of St. John's in the Mountains, Stowe, was presented as Master of Divinity degree at Episcopal Divinity School's 2006 Commencement ceremony on May 18, 2006, in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Christianson's was one of 36 degrees conferred, including 19 Master of Divinity degrees. She is a postulant for holy orders in the Diocese of Vermont. ✚

Diocesan Calendar

July 2006

- 8 Fresh Start for Congregations in Transition, St. John's, Randolph, 10 AM-3 PM
 9 Bishop's Visitation, St. Barnabas', Norwich
 11 Clergy Fresh Start, Good Shepherd, Barre, 9:30-2:30 PM
 12 Rock Point Board, Diocesan Office, 1 PM
 14 Diocesan Council, Christ Church, Montpelier, 1-4 PM
 15 Committee on Christian Formation, St. John's, Randolph, 12-3 PM
 16 Bishop's Visitation, Christ Church, Island Pond
 23 Bishop's Visitation, St. Paul's, Windsor
 26 Three Rivers Deanery Post-General Convention meeting with deputies, St. Barnabas', Norwich, 6 PM
 27 Ministry Developers, TBA, 10 AM-4 PM
 30 Bishop's Visitation, St. Paul's, Canaan

August 2006

- 1 Clergy Fresh Start, Good Shepherd, Barre, 9:30-2:30 PM
 2 Executive Committee, Diocesan Office, 1-3 PM
 5 Ordination of the Rev. Elizabeth Stedman to the sacred order of priests, Cathedral Church of St. Paul, 10 AM
 6 Bishop's Visitation, Gethsemane, Proctorsville
 9 Dispatch of Business, Diocesan Office, 1-3 PM
10 Deadline, September Mountain Echo
 10 Ministry Developers, TBA, 10 AM-4 PM
 15 Congregational Support and Resources, St. Stephen's, Middlebury, 10 AM-2 PM

September 2006

- 2 Diocesan Study Program, Christ Church, Montpelier
 5 Clergy Fresh Start, Good Shepherd, Barre, 9:30-2:30 PM
6 Deadline, October Mountain Echo

Diocesan Youth Calendar

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

2006

- Sept. 15-17 HS Event Planning Meeting, place TBA
 Sept. 30 Diocesan Acolyte Festival, Cathedral Church of St. Paul
 Oct. 20-22 High School Event, BBCC, Burlington
 Nov. 10-11 Hip Hop Eucharist, White River Junction

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

Funds Available for Parish Use As of June 1, 2006

Initiative I		
The Bishop Butterfield Revolving Loan Fund	\$	451,000
Initiative II		
The Talent and Resource Network	\$	4,507
Initiative III		
The Congregation Renewal and Emergency Assistance Fund	\$	571
Initiative IV		
The Diocesan Outreach Fund	\$	8,013
Walter P. Irish Fund		
Assistance for churches in small communities	\$	21,429

Appropriate uses for each fund, application forms and requirements may be found in the Diocesan Handbook. For further information, call the Diocesan Office, or go to www.dioceseofvermont.org/Orgs/Congsupport.html.

St. James' collects a ton of food for Dove Program

by Bev Kinne

St. James' Episcopal Church in Woodstock just had their third collection for the Dove Project, which provides client-chosen non-perishable food items quarterly.

Every three months, a billboard full of doves is put on display in the back of the church, with a request for donations to be returned in two weeks. Each dove represents the needs of a family in the Woodstock area with a member suffering with AIDS or Hepatitis C.

All the donated food for the doves is brought up to the altar at the 10:00 A.M. service. There it is blessed and then loaded in a cargo trailer and sent on its way to the ACORN office in Lebanon, NH, to be distributed to clients in the Upper Valley. The load weighed in at over a ton.



The outreach committee members, along with many others were extremely pleased. The overwhelming participation in this project has been phenomenal.

ACORN provides a full range of support services to people living with HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C in Orange and Windsor Counties of Vermont and Grafton and Sullivan Counties of New Hampshire.

For more information about St. James' Dove Program, please contact Bev Kinne at 457-1078. ❖

Rose-Crossley ordained

The Rt. Rev. Thomas Ely traveled to Tennessee to ordain the Rev. Dr. Remington Rose-Crossley to the sacred order of priests on March 30, 2006. He is a 2005 graduate of the School of Theology of the University of the South at Sewanee, Tennessee, where he and the Rev. Ramona Rose-Crossley moved upon her retirement as canon missionary of the Slate Valley Regional Ministry of the Diocese of Vermont.

Since his ordination, he and Ramona have shared the altar and pulpit of the Episcopal Church in Sherwood, Tennessee, during the rector's sabbatical. Both do supply work in the Sewanee area. Remington visits the local hospital regularly and has recently begun a monthly Eucharist there. ❖



The Reverends Ramona and Remington Rose-Crossley with Bishop Thomas Ely.

Diocesan Ministry Support Team changes

In mid-May, Bishop Thomas Ely announced the retirement, effective May 31, of Canon for Ministry Development Zeke Hanzl. He became canon for ministry in June, 2000, and continued as a member of the Ministry Support Team following Bishop Ely's consecration.

In a letter to Bishop Ely, Hanzl spoke of how much he had learned "about living the baptismal life." He wrote, "I have learned that, although scarcity may be the 'bug on the windshield,' that the road ahead is marked fully by abundance.... We are so blessed. Thank you, and every soul in the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont, for this most abundant period of my life."

In other changes, Dana Smith has left her position as Administrative Assistant to pursue graduate education at the University of Vermont and to spend more time in her work with young people with autism. Filling in until August 11, is Kate Barush of Essex, Vermont. A 2003 graduate of Sarah Lawrence College, she will begin study at Oxford University in art history this fall. ❖

Keizer wins Guggenheim Fellowship

Garret Keizer, a priest in the Diocese of Vermont, has been awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship for 2006. He was given the award in the category of General Nonfiction.

The John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation has offered annual fellowships to artists, scholars, and scientists since 1925. This year the Committee of Selection chose 187 Fellows from 2,887 applicants for awards totaling \$7,500,000. According to the Foundation, "Guggenheim Fellows are appointed on the basis of unusually impressive achievement in the past and exceptional promise for future accomplishment."

Keizer is the author of five books and a contributing editor for *Harper's Magazine*. His work also appears in such publications as *The Chicago Tribune*, *Christian Century*, and *Mother Jones* and has been anthologized in *The Best American Science and Nature Writing 2002*, *The Best Christian Writing 2002*, and *The Best American Poetry 2005*.

Keizer served as the vicar of Christ Church, Island Pond, from 1983 to 2003. He resides in Sutton, Vermont. ❖

The Episcopal Diocese of Vermont's Katrina Respite Initiative

Seeks housing for lay and ordained leaders from the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi who have been carrying the burden of responding to Hurricane Katrina.

The Diocesan Katrina Response Committee and Bishop Thomas Ely, have offered members of the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi the opportunity to use Vermont—a vacation wonderland of beauty and peace—as a respite (re-freshment and re-creation) location for their lay and ordained leaders who have been working 24/7 in response to Katrina's devastation.

Do you know of a Vacation Home/Condo/Hotel/Resort that would be willing to make their accommodation available for one week at no cost?

A first request is for 2 people who love mountains and hope to come in mid-August.

Please email Ann Ely at gohuskies53@yahoo.com or Thad Bennett at tbenett@dioceseofvermont.org