

MOUNTAIN ECHO

News of the Episcopal
Diocese of Vermont

and Episcopal Life

Vol. LXXI No. 6

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

June 2006

Deputies attend Province One Pre-General Convention gathering

by Anne Clarke Brown

Offering prayers for "the flinty tenderness of New Englanders, for the church we love, and for those who serve it," the Rt. Rev. Chilton Knudsen, Bishop of Maine, opened the Province of New England's Pre-General Convention session for bishops, deputies, Episcopal Church Women Triennial delegates and others planning to



Ian Douglas offers an update on the Anglican Communion.

ACB photo

attend the June 2006 General Convention in Columbus, Ohio. The event took place April 21-22 in Westborough, Massachusetts. Some highlights:

On Friday, participants heard an update on the Anglican Communion by the Rev. Dr. Ian Douglas, a Massachusetts deputy and member of the Special Commission on the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion, and had an opportunity to discuss with him the commission's recently issued report.

Douglas said that with the shift to a global and multicultural family of churches, "we are seeing a new Pentecost." The question for today is not about the place of gay and lesbian people in the church, but rather, "How do we move from a monocultural hegemonic church to one that is multicultural and plural?" Radical differences, he said, are at the forefront of the negotiation between the local and the global that has been going on throughout the history of Christianity. So, "How are we to be church in its full sense of the catholic witness and still be faithful to what God is doing in our local church?"



Lee Alison Crawford photo

Vermont deputies Jim Larkin, Diane Root, Anne Brown and Peter Galbraith enjoy a light moment at the Province One Pre-General Convention gathering.

Douglas said, "Anglicanism is at its best when all of our differences can be brought together in witness to God's mission in the world." This is clear in the church's witness against Apartheid, in its advocacy for jubilee debt relief for the world's poorest countries, and in the current witness on behalf of the UN Millennium Development Goals. "Only by being in relationship with those who are radically different than we are," said Douglas, "can we be about doing God's mission in the world."

The special commission's report, Douglas said, is intended to "help those making

decisions at General Convention think through the issues and what is being asked." It is not intended to "solve the issues." He cautioned that, "There is a huge investment in constructing a grand 'we/them,' and that feeds into the power politics and the need to have an up or down vote. We need to be careful about what constructions of the battles we buy into."

Connecticut Bishop Suffragan James Curry told the group of his recent journey to Mozambique. "I want to witness to the fact that I was welcomed with all the gra-

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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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Province of New England Synod meets Crawford elected to Episcopal Church Executive Council

by Anne Clarke Brown

Delegates from the seven New England dioceses gathered April 21, for the annual spring Province One Synod meeting in Westborough, Massachusetts. They elected two representatives to the Episcopal Church's Executive Council, received reports from Synod officers and a message from the newly appointed executive director, Susan Ohlidal, agreed to contribute \$1000 toward the production of a short video that will introduce training for a safer church, and approved a resolution establishing a "Task Force on the Counseling of Same-Gender Couples."

Each of the nine provinces of The Episcopal Church elects one lay and one clergy representative to Executive Council, the body that acts on behalf of the General Convention in the three-year period between conventions. The Rev. Lee Alison Crawford, rector of St. Mary's Parish, Northfield, will serve a six-year term, succeeding the Rev. Ann Coburn whose current term ends at the June General Convention.

Crawford, who is fluent in Spanish and French, is a deputy to General Convention and Canon for Mission of the Anglican Episcopal Church of El Salvador, charged with sharing news of that church's ministry. She says, "My passions are social justice and

outreach, particularly as this is expressed in world mission and how that mission informs and enriches our local mission. I care deeply about making connections among diverse groups of people."

Mr. Dennis Stark of Providence, Rhode Island will fill the unexpired term of Mr. Del Glover, who resigned in 2005 in anticipation of a move out of Province One. Vermont Chancellor Thomas Little, appointed by Province One President, the Rt. Rev. Chilton Knudsen, Bishop of Maine, has served on an interim basis. Stark's term will end in 2009. He is a deputy to General Convention and a member of St. Martin's in Providence, where he serves as treasurer and vestry member.

The Rev. Thad Bennett, consultant to the search committee for the new provincial executive director, described the search process that led to the call of Ms. Susan Ohlidal, who will begin her new ministry on June 15. Bishop Knudsen read a letter of introduction from Ohlidal, who was not able to be present, and said, "Susan is a talented generalist in the tradition of her



ACB photo

Newly elected Executive Council members, the Rev. Lee Alison Crawford and Mr. Dennis Stark.

predecessor, Gene Robinson." She thanked interim Provincial Secretary Ran Chase for his work during the transition.

The province's Safer Church Network requested that \$1,000 of funds designated for the network in the provincial budget be allocated to a safer church video, a project being developed by network member Grace Elson of the Diocese of Massachusetts. In a series of interviews with trainers and participants, the video will describe the training, explain its importance in the context of baptismal ministry and outline who should be trained. It will be made available both in

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General Convention theme calls us forward in mission

by the Right Reverend Thomas Clark Ely, Bishop of Vermont

The theme of the 75th General Convention of the Episcopal Church, meeting in Columbus, Ohio from June 13-21, 2006 is *Come and Grow*. This theme calls us forward in mission, and it is my hope that we are a church eager and willing to follow that call.

In preparation for Convention, there is much reading to do, and I try to do that work in the context of prayerful discernment. I do believe that we reach our decisions at General Convention under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and that the church is at its best in this kind of decision making when it is centered in prayer. Prayer and worship are integral to the life of General Convention. We have daily Eucharist with Bible study, and both the House of Deputies and the House of Bishops punctuate their sessions with prayer. I invite the people of the Diocese of Vermont to join in prayer for the work of General Convention and for the ministry of our diocesan deputation as we join those from other dioceses in giving direction and leadership for our church.

The work of Convention is focused around a significant amount of legislation that is brought before the House of Deputies and House of Bishops after consideration by legislative committees. I am the bishop co-chair of the Committee on the Church in Small Communities. Other members of our deputation are assigned to various other committees. A piece of legislation (resolution) must pass in both the House of Deputies and the House of Bishops in order to be an action of General Convention.

We also adopt the triennial budget of the Episcopal Church that will support the mission direction of our church for the next three years. At this General Convention, the House of Bishops will elect a new Presiding Bishop for the Episcopal

Church and ask the House of Deputies to confirm that election. We will also seek to address concerns about our relationship with the other churches of the Anglican Communion, as well as disagreements within the Episcopal Church with regard to issues of human sexuality, the authority and interpretation of scripture, as well as the authority of bishops and our organizational structures.

Along with other members of our deputation, I have been making my way through the "Blue Book"—actually the cover is green this year to reflect the Convention theme of *Come and Grow*. The "Blue Book" is the pre-Convention report from the various committees, commissions and boards that carry out the mission and ministry of the Episcopal Church between Conventions. This 459 page document also contains many of the resolutions we will consider during the course of our time in Columbus. It is by no means light reading, but it is a worthwhile exercise to help get a sense of the breadth and vitality that is the mission of the Episcopal Church.

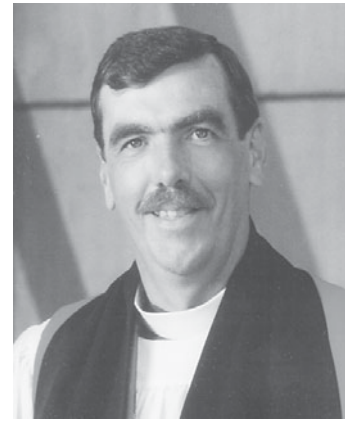
I am not one who thinks of the Church's mission solely, or even principally, in terms of statistics, but the report from the Committee on the State of the Church offered some encouraging news about our life in Vermont that I thought might interest you. Over the last five years for which data is available (2000-2004), the Episcopal Church in Vermont has remained stable in terms of membership

and average Sunday attendance and has grown in terms of our Communicants in Good Standing and in our financial giving.

When we compare ourselves to the other domestic dioceses of the Episcopal Church and to the New England region the overall picture is positive. For example, plate and pledge income in Vermont is up 15.1% for the period, as compared to 11.8% for the domestic dioceses of the Episcopal Church and 14.5% for New England. Our Communicants in Good Standing increased 4.3% during the period compared with an average decrease of 2.3% for all the domestic dioceses and a decrease of 2.9% for the New England region. Our average Sunday attendance and active membership numbers decreased only slightly by .03% and .05% respectively, in contrast with the overall trend among

the domestic dioceses which experienced an average decrease of 7.1% and 3.5% respectively in those same categories. During this five year period, average Sunday attendance in New England decreased by 8.9%, and active membership decreased by 5.9%. Granted, none of these numbers is a cause for excessive celebration—and there is much work for us to do in the areas of church growth, evangelism and stewardship—but I was heartened to see that we were at least bucking some of the trends being experienced throughout the Episcopal Church.

General Convention also considers many resolutions that will help inform the work of our Office of Government Relations in Washington, DC, as they seek to influence public policy decisions and legislation on our behalf. If you are not already a member of the Episcopal Public Policy Network, I would encourage you to join. You can register by calling 1-800-228-0515 or visiting www.episcopalchurch.org/eppn. They send out regular alerts about upcoming legislation, and responding in action or with an email



or call to a member of our congressional delegation is a good way to exercise the promise of the Baptismal Covenant to "work for justice and peace among all people."

Your Vermont deputation has been preparing for General Convention by meeting together, by holding forums around the diocese, and by reading the "Blue Book" and the volumes of other material and correspondence that is directed to us. They go as "deputies," not delegates. We all go not with instructions from the diocese to vote one way or another, but with open hearts and minds so that we can prayerfully listen to others and to the Holy Spirit as we cast our votes. You might also be interested to know that deputies cannot abstain but must vote on every issue.

All in all, General Convention is a remarkable, albeit tiring experience. In addition to the legislative work, there are hundreds of displays calling attention to the myriad of ministries going on within the Episcopal Church. There are special programs throughout the time of General Convention, as well as relationships to renew and new ones to discover. You can follow the work of General Convention through the General Convention Web site, http://episcopalchurch.org/53785_ENG_HTML.htm. A link is also available though our diocesan Web site, www.dioceseofvermont.org. The Episcopal News Service is another good source for information: www.episcopalchurch.org/ens.

When your deputation returns, we will do our best to share our experience with you. Please do keep us and the work of Convention in your prayers, both during Convention and in these days leading up to our time in Columbus.

Faithfully,
+ Thomas

"I do believe that we reach our decisions at General Convention under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and the church is at its best in this kind of decision making when it is centered in prayer."

The Episcopal Diocese of Vermont

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News of the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont

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Ask Sr. Bible Person

Do you have questions about the Bible?

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

Dear Sr. Bible Person,

I appreciated your response to my dilemma over how I might be able to help my fundamentalist friend get over his insistence on the inerrancy of Scripture. I gently asked him if he was aware that scribes probably made some mistakes in copying the ancient manuscripts and that, therefore, we don't really know what original texts said. As you might guess, my friend was not pleased. Is there another question that I could ask that would get at this issue from a slightly different angle?

Still Frustrated Friend

Dear S.F.F.,

I can understand the difficulty you are having trying to open up this topic for discussion. I also can imagine that your friend is not going to spend any time with the book I recommended: *Misquoting Jesus: The Story Behind Who Changed the Bible and Why*, by Bart D. Ehrman.

But here's a suggestion that might open up some conversation with your friend: ask your friend to look at Romans 16:7 and see what names are listed as being friends of St. Paul. Here are what some translations say:

(1) "Greet Andronicus and Junias, who were in jail with me" (Contemporary English Version).

(2) "A handshake too for Andronicus and Junias my kinsmen and fellow prisoners" (Letters to Young Churches by J.B. Phillips).

(3) "Greetings to... Andronicus and Junias, my companions and fellow prisoners" (The Jerusalem Bible).

(4) "Salute Andronicus and Junia, my kinsmen and my fellow prisoners" (King James Version).

Those first three translations all assume that "Junias" is male. The King James Version seems ambivalent: the second name is listed as "Junia" (which connotes a female) but then is catalogued as being Paul's "kinsman." Hmm... talk about having your cake and eating it too....

The New English Bible and the New Revised Standard Version are much more honest. They each include a footnote that indicates that some texts say "Junia," some say "Junias," some say "Julia," and others

say "Julias." So, which is it? Male or female? (See Note from the Mountain Echo editor below for an appropriately similar question.)

Your friend, if he chooses to do so (which sounds like the opening line of the old TV series, *Mission Impossible*: "Your mission, should you choose to accept it..."), will have to admit that the text one relies on for this verse makes a huge difference. Why? Because these two people are acclaimed by Paul as being "prominent among the apostles." Egad (which my dictionary notes is a "mild oath" and is a euphemism for "Oh God")! That means that if it is a woman who is being greeted, then she is called an "apostle" and that shows how very important women were in leadership positions in the early church and that means that they really weren't supposed to be silent in church and that means that maybe they also should not be submissive to their husbands and that means...

Will your friend want to take this little textual journey with you? Probably not. But, if nothing else, you can at least be reasonably sure that some copyists, many centuries ago, might have had some—how can we say it?... how about: "issues with women"?... and therefore made sure that the text got copied in such a way that the listed apostles were clearly designated as male. Of course, this question may be a double whammy for your friend: the text as errant and women as leaders in the church! Oh God, what are things coming to! Good luck on your mission.

[Editor's Note: I recently received an inquiry regarding the meaning of "Sr." in the pseudonym used for this column. The very first "Sr. Bible Person" column published many years ago in the Mountain Echo noted that "Sr." is the abbreviation for "Sister" and also the abbreviation for the Spanish word "Senor" (in English, "Mister"). It may also stand for "senior." So, is the author of the column female ("Sister") or male ("Mister")? The answer is, "Yes." I hope that clarifies things.]

Send questions for Sr. Bible Person in care of the editor via email or to the address on Page B).

Opinion

What witness will we make?

by Steven Charleston

As the Episcopal Church, the most important question before us is not about schism or sexuality. It is about witness. What witness will we make? Christian witness is the public affirmation of faith. It is how we let the world see that we practice what we preach. Today those of us in the Episcopal Church are being called on to make our witness. We have the opportunity to be what we say we are. The world is watching. What will we do?

The answer is a matter of faith. We witness to what we believe. In the Episcopal Church, we believe in Jesus Christ. We believe in the Bible. We believe in the Good News. In fact, we believe so strongly in all of these essential parts of our shared faith that we are not afraid to disagree with one another about what they mean to us.

We welcome difference as the active presence of God's Holy Spirit moving amongst us. Our witness is not to conformity but to community. As the Episcopal Church we are not concerned that everyone in the pews believes exactly the same thing, in the same way, at the same time. Instead, we are concerned that no one is left out of those pews because of what they believe, who they are, or where they come from.

Our witness is to the unconditional love of God through the grace of Christ Jesus. Therefore, we accept the risk of grace by not setting limits to love with our own judgment of others. There are no border guards at the doors of the Episcopal Church. We respect the dignity of every human being and are never ashamed of who sits next to us in worship. We are all the children of God just as we are all sinners in need of mercy.

There are no walls around the Episcopal Church. We believe that God is at work in the world. We are not concerned that this world sees us as perfect, pure, or powerful. Instead, we are concerned that people see us practicing justice, doing "mercy, and walking humbly with the God we believe loves us all equally.

Our witness is to hope, not fear. We believe that men and women, no matter how separated they may think they are by religious conviction, cultural value, or social location are never truly apart unless they choose to be. We have nothing to fear from one another unless we allow fear to be our witness. While the distance between us may seem great and the path to reconciliation impossibly long, we have the guidance and comfort of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, we never despair of one another or deny one another for to do so would be to despair and deny the power of that Spirit.

Our witness is to mission. While the Spirit leads us to truth, we carry on with the task God has given us. We do not place pride before discipleship. While we may have many disagreements between us, we have only one mission before us. We never question the faith of the person who seeks to do the work of God. We believe that it is not important to know if that person is "right" or politically correct. It is only important to know if she or he feels welcomed into the servant ministry of Christ. There are no loyalty oaths in the Episcopal Church, but there are many jobs for those who want to help heal a broken world.

Our witness is to the reconciliation of God in a time of fear. In the Episcopal Church, we stand together not even if we disagree, but precisely because we disagree. We practice the radical hope of God. We embody a faith that says there are many rooms in the house of God, but one home for us all if we choose to live together.

It is time to make our witness. In a century already marked by the terror of war, with zealots of all traditions inciting us into the patriotism of fear, what witness will we make? What alternative will we offer? What fresh vision will we share? Will we retreat into yet smaller factions of "true believers," whether from the Right or the Left, smug in our self righteous assurance that we have the truth? Will we struggle over property and power as though these things had lasting importance for us? Will we vilify one another and become agents of suspicion among the very people we love? Will we worry more about what people think of us than what God expects of us?

It is time to make our witness. It is time to take off our halos, our mitres, and our martyr's crown to stand up and be counted. What witness will each of us choose to make?

I can not answer for anyone in this Church but myself. I do not ask that you agree with my theology. I do not demand that you read your Bible exactly as I read mine. I know that you and I may disagree on many subjects and find it hard to live together. But I also know that you are as much in need of God's forgiveness as I am.

You and I need one another now more than ever because there are so many others who need us both in this hurting world. That world, the poor and the hungry, the captives and the prisoners, are depending on us to do more than argue with one another. For them, our witness is not a matter of church politics. It is a matter of life and death. I am counting on the fact that you know that.

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Meet with General Convention Deputies

The Vermont General Convention Deputation is hosting gatherings in each deanery to discuss the 2006 General Convention that will meet in Columbus, Ohio, June 12-21. Meetings have been held with the Three Rivers Deanery, the Northwest Deanery, the Southeast Deanery, and the Champlain Deanery.

It is not too late to share your hopes and concerns with members of the deputation. Additional meetings are planned at:

Otter Creek Deanery (2): Sunday, June 4, 2:00 P.M.
St. Thomas', 19 Conant Square, Brandon

Southwest Deanery (3): Wednesday, June 7, 5:30-7:00 P.M.,
Zion Church, 5176 Main St, Manchester Center

Central Vermont Deanery (6): Wednesday, June 7, 7:00 P.M.
Good Shepherd, 39 Washington Street, Barre

Northeast Deanery (7): Sunday, June 4 or Sunday, June 11, time and place to be announced.

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

More Coming Events

Arts at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul

2 Cherry Street, Burlington, Vermont

The Playing of the Merry Organ

Friday, May 26, 8 P.M.

Mark Howe, organist at St. Paul's Cathedral, plays some of his favorite works on the Cathedral's Karl Wilhelm tracker-action organ. The program of works from Buxtehude to Duruflé will include J.S. Bach's monumental "Passacaglia in C Minor." Adults, \$12; students/seniors, \$9; 12 and under, free.

Poetic Piano

Sunday, June 4, 3 P.M.

This concert features lyrical piano works of Bach, Beethoven, Chopin and Debussy, all performed by members of Greenfield Piano Associates. A reception follows this annual recital. Admission by donation.

Tuesdays Noon to One

Tuesday 12 to 1 is a free, informal noontime concert series presented by Cathedral Arts. Bring a bag lunch. Coffee and tea are provided. For information, call 864-0471.

May 30: Vocal students of Beth Thompson Kaiser, "Voices of Spring." A bouquet of Arias and art songs.

Lobster Supper

Saturday, June 3

All Saints' Episcopal Church

1250 Spear Street, South Burlington, Vermont

Sittings for the popular annual Lobster Supper are at 5:00 P.M. and 6:30 P.M. Choices are Lobster for \$17.00 and Teriyaki Chicken for \$8.00(children under 12, \$5). The meal includes homemade salads, rolls, pies and a beverage. Please make reservations by June 1; 862-9750.

"A Feast of Singing"

Saturday, June 3, 2006, 1:30 to 4:00 P.M.

St. John's Episcopal Church

15 Summer Street, Randolph, Vermont

Peter Amidon, choir director at the Guilford, Vermont, Community Church, will lead a choral singing workshop using new and old American shape note songs from the Sacred Harp and the Northern Harmony collections as well as some of Amidon's arrangements. The cost is \$5.00 at the door. For more information or to pre-register, call Jane Eubanks, 802-234-9671.

Music for a Sunday Afternoon

June 4, 2006, 4:00 P.M.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

44 Second Street, Newport, Vermont

Cody Michaels, composer and pianist, will perform. His diverse influences include classical, contemporary, jazz, blues, popular and ragtime. Suggested donation: \$5.00. For information, call 802-334-7365 or visit www.musicforasundayafternoon.com.

Spiritual Fitness "Tune Ups" !

June 7, 2006, 7:00 P.M.

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church,

38 Grand Avenue, Swanton, Vermont

Join Jane Wolfe for quarterly spiritual fitness "tune ups" as a continuation of the Spiritual Fitness Series offered in March, 2006. Additional "Tune Up" Sessions will be held at 7:00 P.M. on September 20, 2006, December 6, 2006, and February 7, 2007. For more information, call Rose Bacon at 868-7185.

From War-Zone to Home-Front

June 8, 2006

Norwich University, Northfield, Vermont

This conference is for health care providers and community service members (including clergy). It is to enhance understanding of the consequences of war, so that care providers can effectively assist survivors and their families. More about the conference, including a brochure and registration information, is available at: www.ncptsd.va.gov/facts/veterans/fs_VTresources_for_vets.html

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. Also plants and garden vegetables. Lunch is available. For information call 802-457-1727, mornings.

Friends of Rock Point invited to share fun, fellowship and service

The Bishop Booth Conference Center (BBCC) invites alumni friends from Rock Point Summer Conferences, Bishop Booth Retreats and Rock Point School, for fun, fellowship and service the weekend of June 12-14, 2006.

Chuck Courcy, Rock Point Property Manager, and others will keep you busy with trail maintenance, buckthorn removal,

sumac trimming, beach raking and cleanup, opening cabins, painting, and more. Enjoy a beach BBQ, and share stories of summers past around the campfire.

The weekend is for Adults 19 to 90. The cost is \$60/person plus helping hands. For information, contact Debi Paterson at BBCC, 802-658-6233 or bishopbooth@dioceseofvermont.org. ❖

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. 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.

For 20 years the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) has presented Global Mission Events to sell-out attendance. This year, they are joined in sponsorship by The Episcopal Church—a vibrant example of the "Called to Common Mission" agreement between the two churches. The theme for this GME is "Sent! By God's Grace for the Sake of the World."

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

Canon Bob Miner, of Connecticut, former interim rector at St. Peter's, Bennington, heads the Episcopal team serving on the Steering Committee to plan for the Event. The Rev. Sandy Zabriskie and Margy Zabriskie represent the Diocese of Vermont on the Episcopal team.

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

Join study journey to Aran Islands

Hal and Stephanie Woods of South Hero, Vermont, are hosting an informal study journey to Inis Mór, the largest of Ireland's Aran Islands, September 16-25, for a small group of 10-12 people. A few places remain open, and they welcome expressions of interest from Echo readers. Hal Woods is the retired former rector of All Saint's, South Burlington.

Woods says, "What is proposed is a pilgrimage, not a tourist event. We will look back, not in nostalgia for a romantic past, but for sources of identity and guidance, to move forward in our time with a deepened sense of the whole and our roles as co-creators of health, well-being, justice, spiritual wisdom and integrity on the planet. Symbols from the past will lead us to empowering symbols for our own time."

Guides for the journey will be Elizabeth Zollinger, a long-time resident of Inis Mór, and Dara Molloy, a Celtic monk who is taking up the ministry of the ancient saints of

Aran. In Molloy's recently published guide, he says, "Inis Mór has 27 nationally protected monuments—more than anywhere else its size in Ireland or even in Europe. Most of these monuments are spiritual sites, dating back to the early Celtic monastic period or even further back to the pre-Christian and even pre-Celtic times."

Pilgrims will begin in Galway and then stay in a self-catering house and nearby cottage on Inis Mór. They will tour the island with Zollinger and Molloy, participate in programs with local artisans and teachers during the week, a celebration of the autumnal equinox, and Molloy's Celtic liturgy, with a return Sunday afternoon to Galway.

For information about the trip, contact Hal Woods at halwoods@earthlink.net, or 802-372-4784. He has brochures with the full itinerary as well as a helpful reading list for those wishing to know more about Celtic traditions and the Aran Islands. ❖

Safer Church Training

June 6 & 7, 6:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.

Christ Church, Montpelier

To receive a certificate for completing the training, one must attend **both** evening sessions. **Please register in advance** with Connie Saeger-Proctor (802-672-5250, or clsproctor@dioceseofvermont.org) so we will be sure to have enough materials available.

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.

Pre General Convention session Continued from Page A

ciousness and hospitality that Christ himself could offer to anyone," he said. On Maundy Thursday, he received the renewal of vows of the clergy and the Bishop of Lebombo, the Rt. Rev. Dinis Sengulane. It was, Curry said, "a moment for me and for our church of tremendous grace." Cautioning against a monolithic view of African churches, he said, "We have great things both to learn from one another and to give to one another."

Douglas concluded, "That we are wrestling with the issues in the context of our profound differences testifies to what we have to offer the world. If Anglicans who share common stories come apart then what hope is there for the world today?"



Documentary film-maker Katrina Brown

Saturday morning began with a presentation by Katrina Browne that included a preview of her documentary film, *Traces of the Trade*, which examines the little-known history of New England's participation in the institution of slavery. When Browne learned that her Rhode Island ancestors, the DeWolfs, had made their fortune as owners of ships that transported thousands of enslaved Africans to the Americas, she sought out family members to embark on a literal and spiritual journey to "trace the trade" from Rhode Island to the slave forts in Ghana and the family plantations in Cuba. The film tells the story of that journey and the history it revealed.

With Browne was the Rev. Ledlie Laughlin, former interim at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Burlington, who is a DeWolf descendant and who joined on Browne's journey. The film will be shown at General Convention, and Laughlin said it offers the Episcopal Church—and the Province of New England—an opportunity to acknowledge the complicity of both the clergy, many of whom owned slaves, and the north in the institution of slavery. General Convention will consider resolutions on the issues of slavery and reparations. ✦

What witness will we make? Continued from Page C

Now is the time for us to extend our hands to one another. We will not walk away from the Body of Christ.

Now is the time for us to use our hands. We will not place pride over mission. Now is the time for us to raise our hands. We will not forget that to God alone goes the glory.

Are you a witness? Will you join me in this affirmation of faith? In my life I have known many seasons in the Episcopal Church. This is the season for our witness. This is the time for us to do something totally unexpected and wonderful, to confound those who say we have lost our vision. This is our moment to show the world that we can practice what we preach and be who we say we are. Our finest hour will not be when we think we have won something from one another, but when we know we have nothing to lose by loving one another.

I am a witness. I believe in Jesus Christ. I believe in God's gospel of justice, compassion, and reconciliation. I believe in the community of God and I will work faithfully with every person to bring peace and healing to the world. I open my hands. I open my heart. I want the world to see that I am not afraid. I step gratefully into the unconditional love of God. I stand up to be counted not for what I think is right, but for what I believe to be possible.

How about you? Will you stand with me? Are you a witness?

©Episcopal Divinity School, May 2006

The Rt. Rev. Steven Charleston is president and dean of Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Bishop Charleston is a member of the Choctaw Nation, has served as the Episcopal Bishop of Alaska, and as the executive director of the National Committee on Indian Work at the Episcopal Church Center.

Never underestimate the power of a regional ministry

by Catherine McCauley

The Episcopal churches of St. Mark's in Castleton, St. Luke's in Fair Haven, Trinity in Poultney, and St. Paul's in Wells have not forgotten the victims of Hurricane Katrina. Nor have they forgotten that the 2006 hurricane season begins in a matter of weeks.

The churches, which together are known as the Slate Valley Regional Ministry, or SRVM, originally planned to hold a concert by Elisabeth von Trapp in early March at Green Mountain College in Poultney to raise funds for hurricane relief. For a number of reasons, the concert did not come to pass, but the SVRM churches remained determined to help. So the church members raised money anyway by selling the tickets as "Silent Songs" no-concert tickets—that

is, the tickets were sold, but there was no concert.

The tickets were an easy sell. Everyone wanted to help, but not everyone had time to go to a concert. And not putting on the concert meant saving a lot of time, energy, and money on overhead. It was a win-win situation all around.

The Slate Valley churches actually surpassed their \$1,000 goal, raising a total of \$1,200. They sent the funds to Episcopal Relief and Development to help hurricane victims in Louisiana and Mississippi, along with a letter explaining their effort, a copy of the concert ticket, and the photo at right with representatives of each congregation.

Catherine McCauley is a member of the Slate Valley Regional Ministry.

St. Peter's celebrates with new rector



The Rev. Anita Schell-Lambert, Bishop Thomas Ely, and Jordan Schell-Lambert, who sings in the St. Peter's choir, after the Evensong Celebration of a New Season of Ministry.

by Anne Clarke Brown

Members of St. Peter's, Bennington, people and clergy from the Bennington community, and guests from around the Diocese of Vermont gathered Sunday afternoon, May 7, to celebrate a new season

of ministry with the Rev. Anita Schell-Lambert, the congregation's 26th rector. The Rt. Rev. Thomas Ely presided at the service of Choral Evensong, and the people of St. Peter's served a post-service feast.

In addition to the usual gifts given a new rector—church keys, bread and wine, and oil for healing—Schell-Lambert gave parishioners symbolic gifts such as a kite for soaring together into the future, and a cookbook and food "as signs of our pledge to share in meeting the needs of others who are poor in body, mind or spirit."

The Rev. Mary Lee-Clark, pastor of Bennington's Second Congregational Church preached. She spoke about taking her new daughter, born in May some years ago, to receive a Mohawk name, which meant, "she is bringing flowers." Maybe that's what we should call Mother Anita, she said. The real flowers she brings, flowers of compassion, justice and love, "must be planted here and tended so they may flourish and grow." And those flowers, she added, "must be shared through and by you for a hungry world."

The offering taken at the service went to the Bennington Food and Fuel Fund and to the Heifer Project, the chosen charity of St. Peter's Church School. ✦



ACB photos

The Rev. Mary Lee-Clark of Bennington's Second Congregational Church preached.



Representatives of the Slate Valley Regional Ministry with proceeds from the sale of their Silent Songs No-Concert tickets: Chris Sears of St. Paul's, Wells; Melanie Combs of St. Mark's/St. Luke's, Castleton and Fair Haven; and Sylvia Rupe of Trinity—St. John's Parish, Poultney. The aprons they are modeling are for a monthly community breakfast SVRM initiated in May.

Northwest Deanery 1

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Northwest deanery representatives met May 3, at Holy Trinity, Swanton. Thanks to Holy Trinity and **Bonnie Fournier** for feeding the flock! The Rev. **Linda Maloney**, the Northwest dean, presented a proposal for the September series, "Moral Values and Public Policy," which will bring a series of expert presenters together with Vermont candidates for public office during the four Friday evenings of September. The final schedule and list of presenters will appear in the September Echo.

On May 21, **Stan Baker, Jim Larkin** and **Tom Little**, members of Vermont's General Convention deputation, hosted a gathering at St. Matthew's, Enosburg Falls, to discuss the Episcopal Church's General Convention and the various issues it will address.

At ST. LUKE'S, Alburgh, talks are on again to explore regional ministry with churches in Quebec.

ST. JOHN'S, Highgate, is undergoing improvements (unless you happen to be a bat). The bats have been vanquished (baptized and confirmed, noted one deanery member), heaters have been installed, and the walls are being scraped, repaired, and repainted.

The ST. LUKE'S, St. Albans, annual salad luncheon is May 24. Three high school youth and two adults participated in the Diocese of Maine's "Teens Encounter Christ" in Portland. All returned spiritually invigorated and enthusiastic.

The summer music program at GRACE CHURCH, Sheldon, begins with Mark Sustic's 4th annual farewell reunion Friday, June 2. This is a program of traditional music featuring an eclectic group of musicians from around Vermont, including Michele Choiniere, Deb Flanders, Jon Gailmor, Tim Jennings and Leanne Ponder, Tom MacKenzie, Jim McGinniss, Will Patton and Dono Schaber, Doug Perkins, Pete Sutherland, among others. A potluck supper at 6 P.M. (also with live music) precedes the 7:30 P.M. concert. Also in the series: July 8, 7 P.M., Patrick Fitzsimmons; July 28, 7:30 P.M., Celestial Sirens; August 11, 7:30 P.M., Rebecca Hall & Ken Anderson; August 23, 7:00 P.M., Village Harmony (preceded by a potluck supper). Check the website at www.gracechurchsheldon.org for updates and additions.

The Zoom Zone Trilogy at HOLY TRINITY, Swanton, ended May 4, and summer Zoom Zone runs July 10-21. **Norm Lavallee** and **Katy Marshall** of Holy Trinity, along with **Alicia Jenkins** of St. Paul's Methodist Church in St. Albans and **Lydia Rountree** of Zion Episcopal, Manchester, took part in a mission trip to Honduras during February break. The Holy Trinity missionaries gave a May presentation to the parish on their experience. Open Door suppers continue as a shared ministry involving other Swanton churches.

Jane Wolfe conducted a Lenten Spiritual Fitness series at Holy Trinity. It was very well received, and Jane is planning a series of tune-ups with the participants.

❖ deanery doings ❖

News of Parishes and People in the Diocese of Vermont

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

Holy Trinity participated in a visit from combined church youth groups from St. Johnsbury, who were doing research on the Abenaki. The Methodists and HT helped host and feed the 15 visitors from St. Andrew's (Episcopal), the United Methodist, and UCC churches.

Otter Creek Deanery 2

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ST. STEPHEN'S, Middlebury, celebrated the life of **Ray Pellegrini**, husband of Deacon **Lucy Pellegrini** and a member of St. Stephen's, on May 12. He died suddenly on May 7.

The popular Peasant Market is scheduled for Saturday, July 8. The congregation gathered May 21 after the 10 A.M. service to discuss outreach ministry. Rector **Terry Gleeson** wrote in the newsletter, "If we do what is right and just and honorable and loving, we will not only be fine, we will flourish. And if we consistently do the *most* loving thing, we will share abundantly. The only losing proposition here is if we close in on ourselves and make this some sort of investment in our own security—with that sort of approach, we are bound to fail in every way, but most of all spiritually."

TRINITY, Rutland, thanks Women of Trinity for a successful spring rummage sale, which supports outreach programs, **Linda and Ernie Wright** for their culinary contributions to a successful second annual dinner and silent auction, and **Ruth Seward** and Women of Trinity for a new red altar frontal.

Spring Bible study will focus on 1 Timothy on May 30, 2 Timothy on June 6, and Titus and Philemon on June 13. Sessions meet at 7 P.M. in the rectory. Trinity's Vacation Bible School will be July 10-14, for children entering kindergarten this fall through those who are just completing third grade.

ST. PAUL'S, Vergennes, will welcome the Rev. **William Davidson** as interim rector on May 28. He is completing a term as interim at St. Mark's, Springfield.

Southwest Deanery 3

Sarah Smith, Bureau Chief

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ST. JAMES', Arlington, held a Farewell Reception for the Rev. **Brad Clark** and his family on May 21, at the West Mountain Inn. It gave an opportunity for people from the parish and the community to say goodbye and thank you for his involvement with both communities. On June 16-18, the Parish Retreat will assemble at Rock Point's Bishop Booth Center in Burlington. The St. James' Marketplace will begin again on the parish lawn starting on May 27th and reopening every Satur-

day until fall. It will feature home baked goods, crafts and seasonal produce.

ST. PETER'S Bennington, celebrated a New Season of Ministry with the Rev. **Anita Schell-Lambert**, the congregation's 26th rector, on May 7 [see Page H]. On May 27, the parish will be part of the Better Bennington Corporation's Mayfest. They will sponsor a game of Cow Bingo to aid the Heifer Project. The 2006 Faire will be held on June 10, 10 A.M.—2 P.M. The wooden cross, discovered in the basement and thought to be from the first St. Peter's is now in the narthex.

ZION CHURCH, Manchester, is offering The Marriage Course. It began on May 3 and runs for 7 consecutive Wednesdays at 6:30 P.M. On May 14, the Rev. **Uzziah Kiriaage** from the Kagando Foundation in Uganda preached at the 8 and 10 A.M. services. A special Mother's Day collection is earmarked for the support of the Kagando Mission Hospital. **Andy Piercy**, an accomplished musician, songwriter and worship leader is coming from London to train Zion's musicians and lead the family service on June 4. Fiesta, the summer program for children, is set for June 26-30, from 9 A.M. to noon. It will focus on Bible learning, music, games, and much more.

Southeast Deanery 4

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The Southeast Deanery will have its annual meeting and picnic June 22, 6:30 P.M., at Immanuel Church, Bellows Falls. New officers will be elected for the coming year.

ST. LUKE'S, Chester, held their first annual Passover Seder April 9, hosted by the Journey to Adulthood and Rite-13 youth groups. Funds raised will go toward the J2A group's pilgrimage scheduled for 2008. **Sharon Poitras** donated and prepared all the meat from her organically grown lambs, goats and chickens, and many other adults and young people helped make the event a success.

Nine members of the congregation continued the tradition of "doing" as well as "offering" outreach by volunteering a morning to sort food at the Vermont Foodbank in Barre.

Three Rivers Deanery 5

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Join members of the Three Rivers Deanery for a special Labyrinth Service at St. Barnabas', Norwich, June 28, 6:30 P.M.

Joanna Gillespie of CHRIST CHURCH, Bethel, was able to volunteer at a hurricane disaster relief center in the Diocese of Mississippi in January. Though in some respects it sounds like an extended tent revival experience, the opportunity

to make a difference in a way that wasn't "just sending money" was "building hope, right in the midst of despair." Joanna writes in a recent newsletter that relief needs will continue for years, and she suggests a concrete way to help: buy gift cards from major stores such as Home Depot and send to Camp Coast Care, PO Box 23107, Jackson MS 39225-3107. This will enable "folks starting over from scratch to feel like real American consumers once again—something we who want to be helpful must not overlook or under-rate."

Along the same lines, a section in the newsletter of ST. JOHN'S, Randolph lists several world non-profit relief, advocacy and humanitarian Web sites for computer-savvy folks to bookmark. One such site, www.whatcanonepersondo.org from St. Paul's Institute, includes information about the book of the same name (*What Can One Person Do?*) and related resources and events on the issue of poverty.

Parishioners of ST. MARTIN'S, Fairlee, participated in an auction event in May to benefit their outreach funds, but this could be described as a ministry auction. Time, Talent and Treasure were donated through such things as stacking wood, weeding, teaching something, writing a poem, catering a meal, offering a valuable bottle of wine or antiques, etc. What an impressive idea—and one that can grow, too. Maybe share among deanery congregations, start or end with a ministry fair, send the idea off to the stewardship office of The Episcopal Church...?

The people of ST. PAUL'S, White River Junction, had a chance really to live out the good news of Eastertide when four different speakers came in May to talk about finding life in the midst of death. The series began with "Finding Life after 85," continued with finding life in the midst of literal death, and finding life and hope in the midst of environmental crisis, and concluded with talk of finding life in the midst of collective suffering.

ST. JAMES', Woodstock, has been busy the past couple of months. They were host to area faith communities, individuals and non-profit service groups to start a visioning process for an ecumenical and service-oriented community center in town. Even with such a diverse attendance, the ideas that were generated were all very similar. (Sounds like a sure sign of the Holy Spirit!) A group of six is drafting an initial vision, which will be unveiled at the next meeting. Several members of St. James' participated: **Jill Anderson, Phil Barton**, the Rev. **Christina Brannock-Wanter, Danelle Sweeney, Kent Williams, Jane Wolfe**, and **Bob O'Donnell**, who is also serving as the facilitator.

Central Vermont Deanery 6

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ST. DUNSTAN'S, Waitsfield has finished a fourth house for Habitat for Humanity. They have used a total of \$10,000 in grants from the diocese's McClure Initiative IV outreach funds for the Habitat projects. **Edward Pei**, the

Continued on Page G

Don't forget "The Invisibles"!

by Genie Rayner

Thanks to Judith Krum, a parishioner at St. Peter's in Bennington, I've been thinking about people who have "invisible" disabilities. In the midst of organizing "That All May Worship,"* planned for the fall at St. Peter's, Judith wrote to the Diocesan Accessibility Committee for suggestions and resources. She also asked if any of the members on the committee had disabilities. I responded that most of us do, and/or are close to someone who does, but that some of the disabilities are not obvious when people look at us.

Being one of what I call "the invisibles," I know how hard it can be for many people to understand that I do indeed have disabilities or challenges. Most of them are in the adjacent box, and all of them are invisible most of the time. Occasionally, when I need to use some obvious "hardware" such as a cane or a wheelchair or a portable cast, it can be easier to live with my disabilities—I don't have to explain why I need to take more time than others, or why I fall, or why I need more room to move. It is the times when I'm invisible that are hardest for me, because, literally, I have nothing to show for them, and some people seem to need to see something that is physically evident.

I used to feel people thought I was shirking my duty or responsibilities because of the ways and times I was limited. One of the comments I grew used to hearing was, "But you're so young!" (As in, "so you should be able to do more.") At a recent Accessibility Committee meeting, we discussed this very issue of "invisibility." Some of us use moments of such comments—or the stares received when parking in handicapped-accessible places, or using accessible restrooms, or the sometimes-rudeness of people in a check-out line—as teaching moments. Others of us have learned when we can, and should, let the incidents roll off our backs and when we should take a (figurative) stand.

Then there are the times when we should be aware that everyone with whom we come in contact likely has some kind of disability. It may be physical or emotional or spiritual, or some combination thereof, but I believe we are all more alike than different in our capabilities and challenges. There truly is more than "just the ramp" involved in disability awareness. Just look to the person sitting to your left or right in church: what might he or she need you to be aware of? Jesus took the extra steps to eradicate the margins of society and brought the mar-

Invisible disabilities such as

Fibromyalgia	Marfan's Syndrome
Osteoarthritis	Depression
Rheumatoid arthritis	Bipolar Disease
Lupus	Alzheimer Disease
Other autoimmune diseases	Epilepsy
Chronic fatigue syndrome	Light sensitivity, especially to fluorescents
Myofascial pain	Tinnitus
Diabetes	Meniere's disease
Hypo/hyperglycemia	Cystic fibrosis
Heart disease	Multiple Sclerosis
Environmental allergies/sensitivities	Hearing and/or visual impairment
Food allergies	and many more ...

need accommodating accessibility.

It's not just about the ramp, the sound system, large print ...

ginalized, the invisibles, of society into the community. Taking Jesus as our model, it helps to remember that it's not a matter of accommodating someone in the pejorative sense; it's a matter of compassion and hospitality for the other's well-being.

We on the Accessibility Committee, with our own challenges, disabilities and needs, are working to make it possible for all our sisters and brothers to be more secure, more comfortable, and able to participate more fully in the eucharistic life and ministries of our worship communities, whether we can see their challenges or not. Thanks, Judith,

for starting such a fruitful discussion. I have no doubt all of us in the diocese will benefit!

*"That All May Worship" is a program of the National Organization on Disability (NOD), "which seeks to promote the acceptance and full participation in all aspects of life of America's 54 million men, women and children with physical, sensory, and/or mental disabilities ...". Judith Krum is the organizational liaison, and the Accessibility Committee is co-sponsoring the conference.

Genie Rayner is a member of Christ Church, Bethel.

deanery doings

Continued from Page F

son-in-law of **Betsy and Tyler Kohler**, was cinematographer for the ABC remake of the "Ten Commandments," shown in April. He spent five months in Morocco filming in 125 degree desert heat.

Northeast Deanery 7

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Ronald McDonald House is looking for volunteers for their family room at Fletcher-Allen as well as at the house. If interested, call **Bobbi Moser** 862-4943 for further information. Annual cleanup days were held at several churches in May. Special thanks to all the leaders for Christian education and for working with our youth this church year.

CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. PAUL, Burlington, administrator **Sarah Gallagher** begins her sabbatical June 1, which includes plans for rest, renewal, relaxation,

refreshment and recreation. Deacon **Catherine Cooke** reports that Vermont received a grant from UTO for the installation of plumbing for a bathroom and a kitchen in St. Luke's, Alburgh. The Cathedral community gathered for a parish pot luck May 25, and parish picnic is planned for June 4; contact **Penny Pillsbury** 862-3537 for information or to offer help.

ST. JAMES, Essex Junction, will begin A Silent Auction of Time, Talent and Treasure on June 4, concluding June 11. Items will be accepted through June 2; be sure to bid! Contact **Karen Robinson** 878-2727 for more information. **Bishop Ely, Thad Bennett and Leslie Black** will meet with the vestry, discernment committee, calling committee and Interim Rector **Kipper DeGavre** on June 6 to discuss the parish profile. The Summer Ecumenical Lunch Bunch program begins June 23.

TRINITY, Shelburne, held the year's final Senior Luncheon May 8; contact **Maxie Ewings** to volunteer when luncheons resume in September. **Jean Henshaw** thanks all parishioners who contributed for flowers on Easter Sunday. On Monday, the remaining flowers were rearranged into bouquets and delivered along with potted lilies to parishioners. The **Diehl-Noble family** have offered to serve as organizers for the pre-school nursery program.

ALL SAINTS, So. Burlington, bade farewell to **Mike and Marty Torpey** during the coffee hour on May 7. Deacon **Peggy Mathauer** presented her annual slide show of "The Saints of All Saints" at the Mother's Day service. May 21 featured an afternoon neighborhood tour for parishioners of All Saints, Church of the Latter Day Saints, Temple Sinai and Faith United Methodist Church. See Page D for information on the Lobster Supper. ❖

VTIPL offers free workshop and energy audit

Vermont Interfaith Power & Light (VTIPL) is a non-profit dedicated to promoting energy efficiency in Vermont's faith community. VTIPL's board members offer to any congregation a free workshop on energy conservation, renewable energy, and transportation. The workshop highlights some concrete steps that individuals can take to reduce their energy consumption that will make a real difference in cutting greenhouse gas emissions. VTIPL also offers a free "walk-through" of the house of

worship and/or other buildings of the faith community to audit the energy use and offer suggestions for saving energy.

VTIPL's goal is "to engage Vermont's faith communities in promoting energy conservation and using renewable energy as a way of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, while living out our covenant with the Creator." VTIPL is a non-profit organization operating under the VT Ecumenical Council. To learn more, call the VEC & VTIPL office at 802-434-7307 or email info@vtipl.org. ❖

Newcomer Ministry Tip

Help Parents Teach Their Children About the Christian Faith

On a recent visit to Arizona, I met with Ruth Fisher, Director of Family Ministries at Trinity Lutheran Church in Litchfield Park. This church, which is a magnet for young families, baptized 52 infants in the last year.

Here is a summary of some of the ways Trinity enables parents to teach their children at home about the Christian faith:

1. Workshops in different seasons to prepare parents for faith sharing. Materials and props are provided for at-home projects and devotions with children.
2. Coaching: When a child receives the sacrament of Holy Baptism, a church member is assigned to meet periodically with the parents, share resources and provide support until the child is age 3.
3. Mothers of Pre-Schoolers (MOPS) meet regularly at the church for support and discussions led by a trained church member. One group is currently studying *Five Star Families* by Carol Kuykendall, a book about families being **loving, fun, loyal, growing and faithful**.
4. Resources provided to parents include:
 - a. Websites such as MOPS.org, creativecommunications.com, and Christian-Parenting.net.
 - b. Lists of Resources for families, including Christian bookstores in area
 - c. Prayers for meals and bedtimes
 - d. Handouts (1-2 pages) on passing on our faith to our children
5. Take Home Talk Time Tool: a weekly church bulletin insert with family talk time activities related to the Scripture and sermon.

Don Scott
Chair, Evangelism Committee

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

Diocesan Calendar

June 2006

- 3 Diocesan Council, St. Andrew's, Colchester, 10AM-2PM
- 3 Diocesan Study Program, Christ Church, Montpelier
- 4 Bishop's Visitation, St. James', Essex Junction
- 5 Ministry Developers, TBA, 10 AM-4 PM
- 6 Clergy Fresh Start, Good Shepherd, Barre, 9:30-2:30 PM
- 11 Bishop's Visitation, St. John's in the Mountains, Stowe
- 12-15 Alumni Friends of Rock Point, BBCC
- 13-21 General Convention, Columbus, Ohio
- 23 Deadline, July/August Mountain Echo**
- 25 Bishop's Visitation, St. Dunstan's, Waitsfield
- 27 Standing Committee, St. Paul's, Burlington, 12-2 PM
- 28 Executive Committee, Diocesan Office, 1-3 PM
- 28 Cathedral Chapter, Diocesan Office, 3:15-5:15 PM
- 29 Ministry Developers, TBA, 10 AM-4 PM

July 2006

- 4 Clergy Fresh Start, Good Shepherd, Barre, 9:30-2:30 PM
- 8 Fresh Start for Congregations in Transition (TBA)
- 9 Bishop's Visitation, St. Barnabas', Norwich
- 13 Ministry Support Team, Diocesan Office, 10 AM-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
- 27 Ministry Developers, TBA, 10 AM-4 PM
- 30 Bishop's Visitation, St. Paul's, Canaan

Hilary Cooke ordained priest



Left: Greg Buzzard and Hilary Cooke with Isaac Paul Buzzard-Cooke, baptized at Cooke's service of ordination to the priesthood.

Above: The new priest with her mother, the Rev. Catherine Cooke, archdeacon of the Diocese of Vermont.

The Rt. Rev. Thomas Ely ordained the Rev. Hilary Cooke to the sacred order of priests on May 1, 2006, at St. John's Episcopal Church in Lafayette, Indiana. Other Vermonters participating in the service were Hilary's mother, Archdeacon Catherine Cooke of the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Burlington, the Rev. Dr. Paul Carling of St. Luke's Church, Darien, Connecticut (formerly of the Cathedral and St. Michael's, Brattleboro), and the Rev. Thomas Brown, rector of St. Michael's, Brattleboro.

The service included the baptism of Isaac Paul Buzzard-Cooke, son of Hilary Cooke and her husband, Paul Buzzard. Cooke said, "We wanted to have Isaac baptized not simply because all the out of town guests would already be gathered, but to remind us all that we are all called to ministry by virtue of our baptism." She added, "It was, for me, a truly moving experience."

The preacher, Paul Carling, said, "Tonight's service is a marvelous set of 'bookends' of the Christian life—the welcoming of one new soul into the Chris-

tian family, and the calling out of another soul to the special vocation of 'equipping the rest of us saints' to a life of service."

Noting that Cooke had resisted for some time the call to ordination that others saw in her, Carling said, "I think the reason Hilary resisted her own unique call from God so vigorously is that she wanted to be sure that opening herself to ordination would *never, ever*, diminish the priesthood that she shares with everyone else in this church. And when she eventually did succumb to ordination, this foundational belief in the priesthood of all the baptized became the bedrock of her ministry, and each person she ministers to will be the stronger for it."

Cooke and Buzzard moved to Indiana after Buzzard was offered a teaching position at Purdue University. Cooke is associate for youth and young adult ministry at St. John's and at the Chapel of the Good Shepherd in West Lafayette, where she is doing campus ministry with Purdue students (and where her parents were married when Catherine Cooke taught at Purdue). She says, "So far it's been great, I have been very warmly welcomed into the communities and feel very supported in my ministry." ❖

Diocesan Youth Calendar

**D
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For information about diocesan youth activities, contact Connie Saeger-Proctor, Canon for Youth Ministry
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2006

- June 15-20 E3: Educate, Experience, Empower (Youth program at General Convention in Columbus, Ohio)
- 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 April 1, 2006

Initiative I	
The Bishop Butterfield Revolving Loan Fund	\$ 433,000
Initiative II	
The Talent and Resource Network	\$ 9,800
Initiative III	
The Congregation Renewal and Emergency Assistance Fund	\$ 5,570
Initiative IV	
The Diocesan Outreach Fund	\$ 13,351

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

Join in General Convention octave of prayer

[ENS] An Octave of Prayer for the 75th General Convention will open on Pentecost Sunday, June 4, and conclude Trinity Sunday, just as deputies and bishops begin to gather in Columbus, Ohio, for the June 13-22 legislative sessions.

Patterned on a similar recent observance in the Diocese of Maine, the octave will feature daily meditations as well as prayers reflecting the General Convention's theme of "Come and Grow."

The hope of the planning group is that both individuals and congregations would participate in the octave to provide prayerful support to the General Convention proceedings. Prayers and re-

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DVD format and on www.province1.org.

Synod members approved a resolution that had initially been presented to the fall 2005 meeting proposing the establishment of a "Task Force on the Counseling of Same-Gender Couples," and set aside \$1,000 for the group's work. The Task Force is charged with investigating the unique counseling needs in preparing same-gender couples who seek the pastoral care of the church for their life-long commitments, identifying and developing resources, and providing resources for the ongoing pastoral support of such couples. The proposal notes that in four of the New England dioceses, same-gender couples may either marry or enter into civil unions. ❖

lated resources will be posted online at <http://www.episcopalchurch.org>.

The idea was conceived at the joint meeting of the Councils of Advice for the Presiding Bishop and the President of the House of Deputies. The Very Rev. George Werner, House of Deputies president, has named the Rev. Helen Svoboda-Barber of the Diocese of Ohio to chair the effort. "It is significant that the octave will begin on Pentecost, the Church's 'birthday party,' and continue through Trinity Sunday, the Church's 'family reunion,'" Svoboda-Barber said.

Themes for the daily observances focus on ways of growing in the Spirit, in hope, in love, in understanding, in gratitude, in service, in peace and in all ways into Christ.

Related resources are available on the Episcopal Church's visitor website, <http://www.comeandgrow.org>. For more information call Svoboda-Barber at 740-427-2187. ❖

Follow the events at
General Convention
on The Episcopal Church Web site:
www.episcopalchurch.org
Click on links to
"General Convention"
"Episcopal News Service"
"Come and Grow"