

MOUNTAIN ECHO

News of the Episcopal
Diocese of Vermont

and Episcopal Life

Vol. LXXI No. 5

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

May 2006

Province One conference offers tools and inspiration

by Anne Clarke Brown

"This is the largest stewardship, evangelism, and congregational development conference in the Episcopal Church," Mr. Bruce Rockwell told over 300 participants on March 31, as he opened "Seeing Jesus and Living the New Covenant: Another Way of Life," the seventh annual conference sponsored by the Province of New England and the Congregational Development Office of the Episcopal Church Center.

Beginning on Friday afternoon at the Doubletree Hotel in Westborough, Massachusetts, the conference concluded with a noon Eucharist on Sunday, April 2, celebrated by the Rt. Rev. Catherine M. Waynick, Bishop of Indianapolis and a conference keynote. Participants heard four keynote addresses, selected from among fourteen workshops offered in three sessions, experienced a special presentation on the "EPIC Church," and enjoyed musical offerings from The Three Cantors.

The Three Cantors, Anglican Church of Canada priests, engaged the large gathering in singing contemporary and traditional



The Three Cantors, the Rev. Canon Bill Cliff, the Rev. Canon David Pickett, and the Very Rev. Peter Wall, and their accompanist Angus Sinclair provided music for the conference.

hymns, offered some of their own compositions and, on Saturday evening, entertained with folk, Broadway and even Tom Lehrer songs. The trio began singing together nine years ago to raise funds for the Canadian Primate's Fund for World Relief and Development, and to date, they have raised over one million Canadian dollars. This was their first appearance in the United States.

In her lead-off keynote address, "Stewardship and the Covenant of Abundant Grace," Bishop Waynick sought to broaden the understanding of stewardship to embrace "all we do with all we have all the time." We are, she said, "created in the image and likeness of God and have therefore been entrusted with something of the divine and holy as part of our very being." She concluded, "When we become able to live in the conviction that there is more than

enough to go around—more than enough grace, more than enough money, more than enough energy and creativity—our lives will

begin to exhibit the abundant generosity of the image of God. We will be living in the grace of the New Covenant. And that will be Good News." [The full text is available at www.Province1.org.]

Friday evening's keynote, the Rev. Stephanie Spellers, spoke about "Radical Welcome: Embracing God, the Other and the Spirit of Transformation." The minister for radical welcome at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston told of her journey to learn how "some Episcopal congregations managed to welcome those of us coming out of oppressed or marginalized backgrounds," and she shared characteristics they have in common, such as openness, connection to the community, honesty, and moving beyond a focus on diversity to a focus on discipleship. "When God presents us with a holy opportunity to be stretched beyond our comfort," Spellers said, "either by welcoming a particular group or by allowing that group's culture and perspective to transform us, then we leap forward in faith."

Continued on Page E

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

Inside this issue:

Bishop's Column B
Sr. Bible Person C
Coming Events D
News C, E, G, H
Deanery Doings F
Calendars H



Left: The Rev. Stephanie Spellers led a workshop on the fear of change.

Right: Bishop Catherine Waynick serves communion to Vermonters Janet and Rick Hunter.



Deputies plan pre-General Convention deanery gatherings

The Diocese of Vermont's clergy and lay deputies and alternate deputies to the 2006 General Convention that will meet in Columbus, Ohio, June 12-21, have scheduled a gathering in each deanery prior to the Convention. They invite all who are interested in learning about the workings of Convention and about some of the many resolutions and issues to be considered to attend one of these events.

At least two members of the Vermont deputation will be present at each gathering, and they hope not only to share what information they have, but also to engage in discussion and to learn about the interests and concerns of other members of the Diocese of Vermont. If you can't make the meeting in your own deanery, feel free to attend the session most convenient for you.

- Northwest Deanery (1):** Sunday, May 21, 4:00 P.M.
St. Matthew's, 323 Church Street, Enosburg Falls
- Otter Creek Deanery (2):** Sunday, June 4, 2:00 P.M.
St. Thomas', 19 Conant Square, Brandon
- Southwest Deanery (3):** To be announced.
Check www.dioceseofvermont.org
- Southeast Deanery (4):** Sunday, May 21, 5:00 P.M.
St. Mark's, 33 Fairground Road, Springfield
- Three Rivers Deanery (5):** Wednesday, May 10, 7:15 P.M.
St. Barnabas', 262 Main Street, Norwich
- Central Vermont Deanery (6):** Wednesday, June 7, 7:00 P.M.
Good Shepherd, 39 Washington Street, Barre
- Northeast Deanery (7):** Sunday, June 4, time and place to be announced
- Champlain Deanery (8):** Tuesday, May 23, 7:00 P.M.
St. James', 4 St. James' Place, Essex Junction

Easter hope, Easter challenge

by the Right Reverend Thomas Clark Ely, Bishop of Vermont

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

In the Gospel of John, Mary Magdalene is the first person to arrive at the tomb and is later the first witness to the resurrection. Her announcement to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," becomes the first of many such proclamations of witness to the power and possibility of God's liberating love at work in the world. From her witness to the witness of Peter and the other disciples, and down through the ages to this very day in all the circumstances where our witness is offered, the ancient salutation on Easter Day proclaims the heart of the Christian Faith: Alleluia! Christ is risen! The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The vitality of the Christian faith, however, comes not just from hearing or saying these words, but from living these words and from countless encounters with a Living Word, a Living Christ, a Living God, who gives salvation meaning to the Easter proclamation. Mary Magdalene proclaimed her faith in God and the resurrected Christ because she experienced the crucified Jesus alive. It was an experience that would not permit her to continue her former relationship with Jesus but one that demanded a new relationship with the risen and glorified Christ, who knew her and called her by name. That new relationship was one of testimony, of witness, both in word and daily living to the transforming power of God.

Today, we stand in the tradition of those first witnesses who have, in the prophet's words, "a new heart" given to us by God and "a new spirit" put deep within us. We stand as those who, in Paul's words, "are buried with Christ" by baptism into death so that as Christ was raised from the dead we too might "walk in the newness

of life." We are those called to consider ourselves "dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus!" We are those baptized into the priesthood of all believers. We are the Body of the Risen Christ! We are the Church, Christ's disciples, witnesses to a living God and a living faith.

As witnesses to this faith, and as living members of the Body of Christ, we are called to come to our living full of the hope and promise that is the Easter proclamation, even—and especially—when that seems most difficult for us to do. We are called to be witnesses to this faith about God's great power of love in all the tomb-like experiences of our lives, the lives of others and the world in which we live. And, because we are members of a community of faith, we buoy one another up as needed for the living out of that witness. In words that Bishop Barbara Harris has given into our hearts, "We are an Easter people in a Good Friday world."

As God's Easter people, I believe we are commissioned to bring a powerful resurrection witness to bear on the life of the world. And that is my Easter hope and challenge to us as a diocese.

I believe we have a resurrection witness of hope and possibility to bring to bear upon the greed, arrogance and self-centeredness that infect the stone heart of so many, including ourselves at times.

I believe we have a resurrection witness of justice to bring to bear upon the corruption, hatred, prejudice and cruelty

of those who oppress, exploit or defile any human being or any part of God's creation.

I believe we have a resurrection witness of compassion to bring to bear upon the hurting, the hungry, the homeless, the suffering and the dying conditions of God's people in Vermont and beyond.

I believe we have a resurrection witness of love to bring to bear upon the forgotten, the abused, and the neglected—

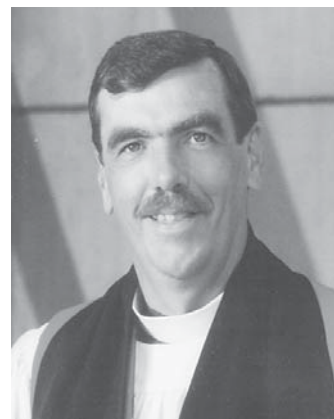
young and old alike—for whom God weeps tears of sorrow and lament.

And, I believe we have a resurrection witness of reconciliation and peace to bring to bear upon all the ways and means of violence and war to which people and nations turn so quickly in their fear and in their anger.

"Resurrection," writes Sister Joan Chittister, "is about reconciling the light within us with the darkness around us. Jesus, you

see, did not leave us with empty longing. Jesus left us with light, a direction, a way, a meaning, a truth. Consequently, the Resurrection did not change the world. On the contrary, the Resurrection changed the apostles who are supposed to change the

"Easter tells us that as Christians we should never assume that a situation contains only death. Instead, we should expect the possibility that God has been there before us."



world. What is supposed to be celebrated on Easter Sunday is not only that Jesus has risen but that we have risen by His rising to become something new and something bold and something strong."

Mary Magdalene and the others who came to the tomb that first Easter Day came expecting to find only death, but instead they found life. Easter tells us that as Christians we should never assume that a situation contains only death. Instead, we should expect the possibility that God has been there before us. In our living, we should look for any signs of even small stones recently rolled away, because what others may see as only death—bodies, dead issues, a dead relationship, a dead community, a dead end job, a dead idea—may well have life within, waiting only to be discovered.

**Alleluia! Christ is risen.
The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Bishops issue "A Word to the Church" and pastoral letter on "The Sin of Racism"

by Anne Clarke Brown

The House of Bishops of The Episcopal Church met at the Kanuga Conference Center in North Carolina March 17-22, 2006, for their annual spring gathering. The bishops adopted a resolution on immigration and issued two statements, "A Word to the Church" and a pastoral letter to be read in churches titled, "The Sin of Racism: A Call to Covenant." Both documents may be read at www.dioceseofvermont.org through a link on the home page.

The resolution declares the bishops' "strong opposition to any legislation that would make it unlawful for faith-based or humanitarian organizations to act to relieve the suffering of undocumented immigrants

in response to the Gospel mandate to serve the least among us and our Baptismal covenant to seek and serve Christ in all persons;" and it "calls upon the people of the Episcopal Church to act on their Baptismal covenant without regard to such unjust legislation."

The pastoral letter reaffirms the bishops' 1994 pastoral letter on "The Sin of Racism" (also available on the Web site) and commits "to discern and confess our own prejudice and complicity in the pervasive sin of racism, to confront it, and make amends for it in intentional ways every time we gather as a House." It invites members of the church to covenant with them in a series of actions

Continued on Page G

The Episcopal Diocese of Vermont

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MOUNTAIN ECHO

News of the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont

Anne Clarke Brown, Editor

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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 have been reading news stories about The Gospel of Judas, and I watched the TV special about it. I am quite confused about what it all means. Can you help?

Confused

Dear Confused,

Pardon me while I sigh deeply before answering. *SIGH*. The sigh comes because every year I wonder what is going to be the "Holy Week Attention-Getter." It used to be the annual replaying on TV of Cecil B. deMille's "The Ten Commandments" (which didn't have anything to do with the Jesus story, but, hey, at least it's "religious," right?). Then, two years ago, we had the release of Mel Gibson's bloody movie. This year we are provoked by this alleged "new discovery" of the lost Gospel of Judas. Well, it makes for some good headlines and draws a good audience for a TV show, but let's be clear about the fact that there is not much "new" about this gospel. Consider the following:

- Irenaeus, a Bishop in France in the late second century, knew about this gospel and gave it a real "thumbs down" assessment.

- A 2nd Century contrarian group known as the "Cainites," who probably had existed before Jesus, admired Judas as being heroic. The Cainites seem to have "sponsored" the Gospel of Judas, because they saw Judas as, like Cain, one of the "good guys" who was cursed by a "bad God" (who for them was the Creator God of Hebrew Scripture); they believed that the "bad God" created the world, and therefore our task as humans is to get liberated from this bad world. (Judas' alleged desire to hasten Jesus' departure from this world fits nicely into that schema, doesn't it?) This kind of thinking was at the heart of the belief system of many of the people known as the "Gnostics."

- A vast "library" of non-canonical gospels existed in the ancient world. The four gospels that made it into the New Testament were the ones that Christians found to be the ones that nurtured them in the most authentic way of living and dying. The others, such as the Gospel of Peter, the Gospel of Mary Magdalene, the Gospel of Judas, etc., were what we might call "knock offs" (replicas of the "real McCoy" written by authors who had a real clear ax to grind and who usually were writing for a marginal group of believers who often thought that they, instead of mainstream Christians, were the "true believers"—hmmm, that sounds familiar doesn't it?).

My recommendation is to tune into this current "fuss" the same way you would if someone came up with a document that "proved" that Jesus was actually married to Mary Magdalene and they produced a child and.... Wait, that's already been done, hasn't it? And that story will soon be coming to a theatre near you! Ah, the clink, clink, clink of money in cash registers! (Note: Some current commenta-

tors on the Judas story, of course, will drag out the old argument that Judas himself was motivated by greed. In other words, they think he did it for the money.)

So, take all of this with a big grain of salt and appreciate the fact that at least there will be some helpful education that might result from this fuss. More people will understand that early Christianity was a very complex reality, and this means that a sentimentally simplistic view of "the good old days" of the Church is just not accurate. If nothing else, this will help us understand that the arguments and conflicts in the Church now—and some of the weird ideas about Jesus and his mission that we encounter in some modern writers and movie-makers—are nothing new. It's just the same ol', same ol' with a modern spin.

In the meantime, I encourage you to read the book, *Judas: Images of the Lost Disciple*, by Kim Paffenroth, a professor at Iona College. His book, published in 2001, is a comprehensive and non-strident study that gathers together all the different interpretations of Judas that have been advanced by scholars, poets, playwrights, movie makers and novelists over many centuries. With a bit of whimsy, Paffenroth closes his book with an epilogue in which he fantasizes that maybe Judas actually paid off the authorities to spread the story that Judas had committed suicide, but that Judas, who was never very much liked by the other disciples, retired to a farm outside of Jerusalem and married the "eminently practical Martha" (cf. Luke 10:38-42) and raised several children" (p. 144).

That's a bit of a stretch, isn't it? But it makes for an interesting story. As does the Gospel of Judas. Meanwhile, there is some very good nourishment in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, which is where I hope you will spend most of your "quality time."

Note: one item in the news about the Gospel of Judas that I still can't quite wrap my mind around is that fact that it was stored for sixteen years in a safe-deposit box at a bank in Hicksville, N.Y. (New York Times article by Wilford and Goodstein, April 7, 2006). What is that all about? If you know, please help me understand!

Ed. Note: Congratulations to Sr. Bible Person, whose February Mountain Echo column was reprinted as the "Since You Asked" column in the April issue of Episcopal Life!

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

**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.

Susan Ohlidal to be Province One Executive Director

by Anne Clarke Brown

The Rt. Rev. Chilton R. Knudsen, Bishop of Maine and President of the Province of New England (Province One), announced on April 5, 2006, that Ms. Susan Ohlidal of the Diocese of Vermont has been called to serve as the new executive director of the Episcopal Province of New England, beginning June 15, 2006. Her primary role will be that of "empowering ministry in the Episcopal Church in New England."

The new position is half-time. Ohlidal will continue in her current role as Pastoral Enrichment Coordinator for the Diocese of Vermont, also a half-time position that is part of the five-year Lilly Endowment funded Pastoral Excellence Program coordinated by the Episcopal Divinity School.

The announcement culminates a nearly year-long search process that included consultation with staff members, bishops and others in the seven New England dioceses. The Rev. Canon Thad Bennett served as consultant to a search committee of members from each diocese, including the Rev. Jean Jersey of Brattleboro, and Dwight MacDonald of Rutland, who developed a job description and conducted the search process. They winnowed an original pool of forty applicants down to three finalists, and the Executive Committee of Province One made the final call.

Knudsen made her announcement at a Pastoral Excellence Program gathering of the Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont diocesan staffs and Episcopal Divinity School faculty. She noted that Province One, under the twenty-two year leadership of its former executive secretary and now Bishop of New Hampshire, Gene Robinson, pioneered the development of province-wide ministry in the Episcopal Church. When the Executive Committee met April 3 to make their decision, she said, "The clarity was



resounding about whom God was calling to this ministry."

Ohlidal, who was present at the gathering, said, "The job, as I have seen it, is a ministry of relationship, a ministry of connection. Those are the two things that drew me to consider the ministry and drew others to suggest that I consider the job." She noted that a number of people had urged her to apply and said, "The call was very pronounced from the community." She added, "It is fitting that the first public announcement should be made in a group of people who were drawn together for creating connections."

Ohlidal who has a Master of Divinity from Harvard Divinity School, a Master of Arts in English from Pennsylvania State University, and a Bachelor of Arts from Wilson College in Pennsylvania, succeeds the Rev. Ran Chase, who has served as interim executive secretary for the province since late 2003. She lives with her partner in St. Johnsbury, Vermont, where she is a member of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. ❖

Time to prepare for Diocesan Convention

by Laura Chase

The 2006 Diocesan Convention will be October 27–28, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Burlington. The date is a week earlier than normal because The Episcopal Church will be installing its newly elected presiding bishop the first weekend in November.

A new feature this year will be more active participation by youth members of the diocese, some of whom will be attending General Convention in Columbus, Ohio. While the youth are in Columbus, they will learn how to write a resolution, and upon their return to Vermont, they will create a resolution for consideration by Diocesan Convention.

The deadline for submitting resolutions to the Resolutions Committee is September 8, so it's not too early to start thinking about potential resolutions. The first Diocesan Convention mailing, due to be sent to delegates and clergy in early May, will include an information sheet about how to write a resolution. It can also be found on the diocesan Web site by clicking on the link to the 2006 Diocesan Convention.

Resolutions should be clear and concise, call for specific action/s, identify those who will be responsible and clearly state any budget implications.

Laura Chase, who chairs the Resolutions Committee, is a member of Trinity, Rutland.

Letters to the Editor

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

Anne Clarke Brown, Editor, Mountain Echo

100!

More Coming Events

Arts at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul

2 Cherry Street, Burlington, Vermont

Duo Concertante

Friday, May 12, 8 P.M.

Dale Henderson, cello and Annemieke Spoelstra, piano, present music demonstrating the development of sonatas for piano and cello. Hear beautiful melodies and song cycle history in Schubert's *Arpeggione Sonata*. Rich harmony and swinging rhythm are featured in the Slavic sonata of Bohuslav Martinu and warm grandeur in Johannes Brahms' late *Sonata in F major*. Adults, \$18; students/seniors, \$13; 12 and under, free.

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 2: Jessica Voyer, soprano and Susan Summerfield, piano, "Music to Dream By." Classic, beloved bedtime melodies to lull little dreamers and the young at heart.

May 16: Syrinx, directed by Glenn Sproul, "Spring Returns." The eleven voices of Syrinx provide a zesty assortment of unaccompanied madrigals and motets, old and new, in French, German and English. All celebrate the gentlest season.

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

Episcopal Divinity School Events

99 Brattle Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts

Venues are handicap accessible. For additional information, visit www.eds.edu.

Kellogg Lectures – Karen Armstrong

Thursday, May 4, 10:00–11:45 A.M. and 2:00–3:30 P.M.

Friday, May 5, 10:00 A.M.–12:00 noon.

Karen Armstrong, author of *The Spiral Staircase: My Climb Out of Darkness*, will offer her insightful and hopeful approach to what Islam, Judaism, and Christianity have in common. Her best selling books, *The History of God*, *The Battle for God*, *Jerusalem: One City, Three Faiths*, and *Buddha*, as well as her television documentaries, were among the first contemporary works to offer an understanding of the rise of fundamentalism and the complexities of religious movements today.

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

Spiritual Activism Conference

May 17-20

All Souls Unitarian Church

1500 Harvard Ave., Washington, DC

The interfaith Network of Spiritual Progressives, co-chaired by Rabbi Michael Lerner, Benedictine Sister Joan Chittister, and Professor of African American studies and Religion at Princeton University Cornel West, will sponsor a conference that aims to provide a positive vision of what a progressive spiritual politics is about. Speakers include the network co-chairs as well as Harvey Cox, Jim Wallis, Cindy Sheehan and Archdeacon Michael Kendall of the Diocese of New York. For information, visit www.spiritualprogressives.org.

Re-Imagining the Small Rural Church

July 27-30, 2006

Huron College, London Ontario

Lay and clergy leaders of small rural churches will learn the fundamentals of Appreciative Inquiry; engage in an appreciative inquiry into the best of rural ministry to discover how God is still present and how the people are still caring for one another and the world; and be equipped with the appreciative skills to take back to their communities to do their own development work.

Facilitators are the Rt. Rev. Ed Leidel of Eastern Michigan and the Rev. Robert Voyle, Director of the Clergy Leadership Institute. Residential training and accommodation: \$500; two or more attending from the same parish will each receive a \$50 discount. For more details see: www.clergyleadership.com/training/small.html.

St. John's to host "A Feast of Singing"

by Jane Eubanks

Peter Amidon will lead a choral singing workshop on Saturday, June 3, 2006, at St. John's, Randolph, from 1:30 to 4:00 P.M.

The workshop will include new and old American shape note songs from the Sacred Harp and the Northern Harmony collections as well as some of Amidon's arrangements of (mostly) sacred songs from various singing traditions that range from Appalachian ballad/hymns to African American gospel. While learning the songs, the singers will work on different singing styles called for by the different traditions. This is a great workshop for choral leader and chorister alike.

Peter Amidon is a teaching and performing musician dedicated to traditional song, dance and storytelling. He is choir director at the Guilford, Vermont, Community



Church and has been organizing and helping to lead the monthly Brattleboro area Sacred Harp singing for over twenty years.

The cost is \$5.00 at the door. For more information or to pre-register, call Jane Eubanks, 802-234-9671.

Jane Eubanks is a member of St. John's, Randolph.

Experience disability at May workshop

by Andrew Crane

The Diocesan Accessibility Committee invites all the "temporarily able bodied" to join with Bishop Thomas Ely in a special workshop on "Experiencing Disability," Sunday, May 21, 2:30–4:30 P.M., at St Mark's, Springfield.

Conducted by a team from the Crotched Mountain Rehabilitation Center in Greenfield, NH, the free workshop will be a chance to walk in the moccasins of people for whom "normal" means something very different than we may understand it. Through this brief exposure to the experience of disability, participants can better understand the obstacles and barriers to full inclusion in the shared life of our community.

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

Andrew Crane is a member of Grace Church, Sheldon.

BBCC to host Gaelic College

The Gaelic College of Celtic Arts and Crafts will offer a session of classes at the Bishop Booth Conference Center in Burlington, August 14-18, 2006. The US Gaelic College is an offshoot of a college founded in St. Ann's, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, "to promote, preserve and perpetuate...the culture, music, language, arts, crafts, customs and traditions of immigrants from the Highlands of Scotland."

Instruction will be available at various levels in subjects such as bagpipe, fiddle, Celtic harp, Gaelic song, and Highland dance, and instructors are from the main college in Nova Scotia.

For more information or to register online, visit www.gaeliccollege.edu/vermont.html.

*St. Peter's, Bennington
will celebrate*

A New Season of Ministry

*with the congregation's
26th rector*

*The Rev. Anita Louise
Schell-Lambert*

*in a Service of Choral
Evensong with the Rt. Rev.
Thomas C. Ely presiding*

May 7, 2006 at 4:30 P.M.

*Following the service,
all are invited to a pot luck supper
in the Parish Hall*

Safer Church Training

June 23, 8:45 A.M. to 3:30 P.M.

Bishop Booth Conference Center

This session will be for Rock Point Summer Conference counselors, but it is open to others needing training. **Please register in advance** with Anne Brown (802-672-5250, or abrown@vermontel.net) so we will be sure to have enough materials available. Plan to bring lunch.

The training is required for clergy, church employees, lay eucharistic ministers, all who work with children and youth (except unpaid church school teachers who teach in a public place on Sunday morning), spiritual directors, and those who make pastoral visits in homes, hospitals and nursing homes.

Retreat brings Vermont, Maine and New Hampshire staffs together

by Nancy Davidge

Diocesan staff members from Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont, including Bishops Chilton Knudsen, Gene Robinson, and Tom Ely, joined EDS faculty and staff on April 4 and 5 for a retreat in Waterville Valley, New Hampshire, funded by the Lilly Endowment's Pastoral Excellence Project. Bishop Steven Charleston, president and dean of Episcopal Divinity School bookended the retreat with meditations on "Transformation" and "Translation."

Building community around project goals was the theme of the first day. Facilitator Alice Mann, from the Alban Institute,

helped the group create a living network of collaborative dialogue as small groups shared what each diocese was discovering about releasing baptismal ministry and fostering pastoral excellence at the congregational, regional, diocesan, and cross-diocesan levels. These conversations generated excitement over the work being done in each diocese and affirmed a commitment to the development of systems to improve communication among the three dioceses.

Seven members of Vermont's Ministry Support Team attended the retreat in addition to Bishop Ely: Lynn Bates, Thad Bennett, Anne Brown, Susan Ohlidal, Connie

Saeger-Proctor, Patrick Sims, and Jeanette Tweedy.

Setting the stage for the next phase of the grant period and beyond the grant was the focus of day two. After an inspirational worship service, each diocese and EDS made a brief presentation highlighting the major emphases of the Pastoral Excellence Project work. Bennett, Ohlidal and Tweedy presented five "mini-grant" projects that address specific needs to grow or further develop particular ministries of congregational leaders and clergy in Vermont. The mini-grants, which address areas such as video and web conferencing technology, a network for bivocational clergy and supporting collaborative leadership in congregations, act as seed money to help start a project or accomplish

work that might not be done otherwise. In this way, the Pastoral Enrichment Program is responding to direct needs in Vermont in both the congregational, local, sphere and throughout the entire diocese.

In his closing meditation, Bishop Charleston said, "Working together through the Pastoral Excellence Project, we will help each other translate what each role at each level of the church means as we move into a new organic culture of true collaboration in the body of Christ. Hopefully, this model will be so dynamic and workable that it will help other dioceses move toward this model: the new way we are church in this century."

Nancy Davidge is director of communications for Episcopal Divinity School.

Stewardship and Evangelism Conference

Continued from Page A

Ms. Terry Parsons, stewardship officer for The Episcopal Church, offered the group an image of "an extreme stewardship makeover" that focused on reclaiming the centrality of the offering in worship. "The offering plate," she said, "is where the culture meets the Kingdom."

The final keynote, the Rev. Tom Furrer, Rector of Trinity Church, Tariffville, Connecticut, spoke about his own conversion experience, and he emphasized the both/and, not either/or, of evangelism and social justice ministry, which he termed "mercy ministry." He described the various programs of Trinity church and concluded that, "Growing and healthy churches are mission minded churches. I love the Episcopal Church," he said. "Do you want to focus on the mess or do you want to focus on the mission?"

The Ven. William Coyne offered a multimedia interpretation of EPIC culture, taken partly from the work of Leonard Sweet. Beginning with a photo of a 1950s pink Cadillac, Coyne asked, "Will we continue to do church the same way we did it 50 years ago?" Post-moderns, he contended are looking for an EPIC church in EPIC times. The EPIC model tells us that we are called to be more Experiential than rational, more Participatory than representative, more Image-driven than word-based, and more Connected than individualistic. He illustrated his themes with images and music, and concluded,

Council endorses young adult ministry report

The Rev. Liz Stedman, Dick Mansfield, Paul Gratz and Derek George, members of an advisory group studying ministry to young adults and college students in the Diocese of Vermont, presented their findings [see adjacent article] to Diocesan Council at its April 1, 2006, meeting at Saint Luke's, Saint Albans. The bottom line, they said, is that the need for these ministries is tremendous and the diocese needs to address it.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Council passed the following resolution: "Diocesan Council receives with gratitude the report, supports the two recommendations in the report and will establish a task force to plan the implementation contained therein and raise additional funds." ❖

"What are the possibilities for EPIC worship and ministry in your congregation. Are your pink fins showing?"

Conference workshops addressed topics such as church statistics, legacy stewardship, fear of change, stewardship 101, and practical evangelism. One participant commented on the "seamlessness of conversation between the plenaries and the workshops." People were "putting it together" and continuing the conversations during meal and free time.

The design team dedicated the offering at the concluding Eucharist, which totaled \$4,249, to hurricane relief in Mississippi and Louisiana (90%) and to The Episcopal Network for Stewardship (10%). ❖



Thad Bennett and Susan Ohlidal present Vermont's Pastoral Enrichment Program projects to Waterville Valley retreat participants.

Report advocates ministry to students and young adults

A report commissioned by Bishop Thomas Ely has found that a young adult/campus ministry program in Vermont is feasible but would require significant investment in its early years. The report, "The Next Generation: Episcopal Ministry With Young Adults and College Students, An Assessment of Needs and Opportunities for the Diocese of Vermont," argues that such investment "is worthwhile, even imperative, and will resonate benefit throughout the diocese."

"The plight of young adults in Vermont is generating considerable conversation across the state," said Bishop Ely. "I hear from parishes a desire to reach out to young adults in our communities and a desire to be present on college campuses. I also hear concerns about scarce resources and precious clergy time. I commissioned the report to help think through how the diocese might build a bridge between young adults, college students, and the parishes that want to minister to them."

Bishop Ely hired the Rev. Liz Stedman to conduct the study. Stedman is a deacon at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul and heads a nonprofit consulting practice. Dick Mansfield of St. John's in the Mountains, Stowe, chaired the advisory group that supervised the study and helped shape its recommendations.

Through email correspondence, interviews, and surveys, the group reached out to lay and ordained Vermonters across the state. Mansfield said, "The bishop asked us to keep the entire diocese in view. We listened to people who held many different

perspectives, and we worked to craft recommendations that could be implemented in any one of a number of locations in Vermont."

The study investigated three sets of questions:

- 1) Is there a need for young adult/campus ministry? If so, who needs it and what specifically do they need?
- 2) If the Diocese of Vermont were to launch such a ministry, what would it do and how would it be organized?
- 3) How much would such a program cost, how would it be funded, and is it financially sustainable?

The group immediately perceived a strong need for such a program, voiced by young adults, parish priests, and college faculty and staff. Randy Krum, choirmaster at St. Peter's, Bennington and a member of the faculty at Southern Vermont College, served on the advisory group for the study. Krum said, "When I am able to have unstructured conversations with students, it is often clear to me that these young adults have grown up in a spiritual vacuum. They are ill-equipped to cope with the complexities they face as they move away from family and familiar surroundings. Many are intellectually very competent, yet they pose questions and seek answers that are beyond the realm of intellect. We need committed adults who can minister to students and young adults as they grow spiritually."

The study suggests that the need goes in two directions, experienced both by young people and by churches. "We heard loud and clear that Vermont parishes yearn to reach

out to young adults in their midst, but do not know how to do so effectively," said the Rev. Stedman. "The term 'generation gap' may be dated, but the phenomenon is alive and well. We heard a plea from parishes to help them deepen their understanding of this generation: people from 18 to 30 years of age."

The report makes two recommendations:

- 1) That the Diocese of Vermont establish a full-time college chaplaincy based at a single institution of higher education in Vermont, perhaps in partnership with a host parish.
- 2) That the diocese convene conversations among parishes interested in learning more about young adult ministry and potentially partnering with each other to launch such ministries.

Mansfield said, "We see the two recommendations as intricately connected. By establishing a full-time college chaplaincy, we will develop a diocesan expert on ministry to young adults. We do not expect the chaplain to staff both a campus ministry program and a diocesan young adult ministry, but we do see this person communicating regularly with the entire diocese and offering expertise to parishes seeking to launch campus or young adult ministries in their towns. It is a very exciting new initiative that could add energy and vitality to the diocese in the years ahead."

The report may be downloaded through a link on the home page of the diocesan Web site. Copies can also be obtained by calling the Diocesan office: 802-863-3431.

Northwest Deanery 1**Beth Crane**, Bureau Chief

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Montgomery, VT 05470

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beth@gracechurchsheldon.org

The next Northwest Deanery meeting is May 3 at Holy Trinity, Swanton. Evening Devotion at 6 P.M. Meeting to follow.

Dean **Linda Maloney** will be attending the Global Mission Event at UMass, Amherst, July 27-30 and encourages as many members of the Deanery as can do it (lay, clergy, men, women, kids) to go also! [See article on Page G.]

ST. LUKE'S, Alburgh, received a TV and VCR from **Greg Saylor** and **Pat Elmer**. To put it to good use, the parish held a series of coffee hour short videos after 10:30 A.M. service, including "Seek the Silence," set at Holy Cross Monastery in West Park, NY, and "The Stone Carvers," which won an Academy Award in 1985, and is about the artisans who did the stone work on Washington Cathedral.

At ST. LUKE'S, St. Albans, **Pat Guimette** organized an Easter basket project to reach out to elderly/housebound parishioners.

GRACE CHURCH, Sheldon, kicks off its Summer Music at Grace series June 2, with **Mark Sustic and Friends'** 4th Farewell Reunion Concert. Always a good time with lively music, this event will begin with a potluck meal at 5:30 P.M., featuring soup provided by the Foothills Bakery in Fairfax. Proceeds benefit the **Tom Sustic** memorial fund. Information on the series will be posted in May at www.gracechurchsheldon.org.

HOLY TRINITY, Swanton, completed a six-week Lenten program in "Spiritual Fitness" led by **Jane Wolfe**. About 2 dozen people regularly attended each Wednesday evening in Lent. One participant stated, "This was very enlightening and totally worthwhile. It has helped me balance and strengthen my faith. Jane is very engaging and plows through an awful lot of stuff in a really short time." Quarterly visits with Jane to continue the fitness process are being contemplated.

Holy Trinity, along with Memorial United Methodist Church co-hosted an ecumenical group of junior high school students from St. Johnsbury on March 27-28 as part of the "Dismantling Racism" program. Holy Trinity youth and adults prepared and served the evening meal on Saturday. **Norm Lavalee**, **Katy Marshall**, **Alicia Jenkins**, and **Lydia Roundtree** spoke at both services at Holy Trinity on April 23 about their mission trip to Honduras in February.

Part 3 of the Holy Trinity Zoom Zone Trilogy for children will be Thursday, May 4, 3:30-6:00 P.M. Contact **Carol McCurdy** at 868-7185 for more information.

Otter Creek Deanery 2**Donna Abramov**, Bureau Chief

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The Rev. **Terry Gleeson** was installed as the new rector at ST. STEPHEN'S, Middlebury, at a very moving Evensong

❖ **deanery doings** ❖**News of Parishes and People in the Diocese of Vermont**

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

service on March 25, followed by a lavish reception. The special collection went to the Counseling Service of Addison County, a non-profit community mental health and developmental disabilities agency.

St. Stephen's Prayer Shawl Knitters have completed one shawl and have another almost ready. The knitters received a lovely note: "At my initial diagnosis visit to the Breast Care Center in Burlington I was given—guess what?—a prayer shawl!!! I was so touched I could hardly speak! This is an important ministry!"

At ST. PAUL'S, Vergennes, the big semi will roll into town May 6, loaded with cocoa mulch for the annual sale. The farewell bash for the **Macaleys** was a huge success. Lots of tears, lots of hugs, lots of laughter were all the order of the day.

Southwest Deanery 3**Sarah Smith**, Bureau Chief

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2007-2008 is the Centennial Year for ST. PETER'S, Bennington, and the Cornerstone Centennial Committee is meeting regularly to plan for several celebratory events. "The Power of Language" series will replay on four Wednesday evenings from 7-9 P.M., beginning April 26. The series will look at the way language can promote grace and healing as well as promote discord and strife. During the great fifty days of the Resurrection from Easter to Pentecost, Bible study groups will continue on Thursday mornings at 10 A.M. and Sunday mornings at 9 and welcome new participants. On May 7 St. Peter's will celebrate a new season of ministry between the rector and congregation (see invitation, Page D).

Many parishioners at ZION CHURCH, Manchester, participated in the Lenten program of "Forty Days of Purpose." On Palm Sunday, a group presented "The Singing Bishop," a short play about the hymn, "All Glory Laud and Honor." An Easter Sunday sunrise service was celebrated at Mt. Equinox.

The Gospel of Thomas was the subject of the ST. JAMES', Arlington, Lenten Bread and Soup discussion group. The final gathering was a service in a style synchronous with the insights gleaned from the discussions. Daily services in Holy Week included a Maundy Thursday family Seder meal.

Southeast Deanery 4**Bette Harrison**, Bureau Chief

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Stone Church Arts at IMMANUEL, Bellows Falls, has completed its second season of classical concerts with great success. The concert series is now well-established, drawing 100-150 people per event. It was started in collaboration with RAMP

(Rockingham Area Art and Museum Project), and Immanuel looks forward to continuing the collaboration for at least another year and to a bright future.

Three Rivers Deanery 5**Genie Rayner**, Bureau Chief

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Big thanks go to **Marjorie Matthews** of ST. BARNABAS, Norwich! As the new dean, she has organized the first meeting of her tenure, set for May 10. A representative to Diocesan Council will be elected, and the possibility of exploring joint activities (such as educational programs, social and political action, outreach and, perhaps, fundraising) is on the agenda.

It seems the more evident Spring becomes, the more active the deanery congregations have become! Increasing outreach ministries and educational opportunities are evident in each parish. St. Martin's, Fairlee, St. Paul's, WRJ, and St. Barnabas, Norwich are all participating in the 29th annual Habitat for Humanity fundraising walk in the Upper Valley on April 29th. But that's not all...

Howard Clarke of ST. JOHN'S, Randolph, is working with Deacon **Diana Collins**, of St. Mark's, Springfield, to buy a used bus they plan to drive to Honduras so a young Episcopal missionary named **Suzy McCall** can transport 30-40 children to church, day care and/or school. The cost is between \$10-\$15,000, and contributions to LAMB (Latin American Mission and Bible Institute) are tax deductible. Email dianacollins@valley.net.

One parish goal at ST. MARTIN'S, Fairlee, is to "welcome children and encourage their spiritual growth." In that light, parishioners have joined in conversations and discussion and are considering several different models.

According to the treasurers, in addition to surpassing their pledging commitments for 2005, the people of ST. JAMES', Woodstock, will be "good and faithful stewards" when they opt to receive their quarterly financial reports by e-mail attachments.

The vestry and parishioners of CHRIST CHURCH, Bethel, reviewed progress on the parish vision presented at Annual Meeting over a potluck lunch in April. Using the areas of communication, outreach, stewardship and ministry development noted in the Vision, the vestry also updated those present on how they are organizing to provide more comprehensive leadership.

ST. PAUL'S, White River Junction, celebrated Earth Day a little late (April 30th), but with an international flair. Carrying out a desire for varied worship that was highlighted in the parish's Vision Quest of last year, the congregation used the "Thanksgiving for Creation and Redemption" liturgy of the Eucharist from the Anglican Church of New Zealand at its 10 A.M. service.

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The annual COTS (Committee on Temporary Shelter) Walk is Sunday, May 7, starting at 1:30 at Battery Park. Sign up to walk or to sponsor a walker.

At the CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. PAUL, Burlington, the Earth Care Circle will hold an Earth Celebration liturgy May 21. The ECC is a fellowship of members who seek a more caring relationship between humans and God's creation and seek ways to express it through prayer, hymns, education, and the arts. For information contact **Sylvia Knight** or **Bob Wright** at 425-2068. **Sarah Howe** thanks all who donate their time, money and goods to the post-Katrina cleanup in Ocean Springs, Mississippi.

ST. ANDREWS, Colchester, honored organist **Lonnie Sweet**, who retired April 23 after 44 years, with a special reception and gift. A planning meeting for a new singles group will be April 30; contact **Roni Lesage**. May 19, from 7-9 will be the first coffee house evening. **Roni Lesage** will present her stand-up comedy routine.

ST. JAMES, Essex Junction, will host their annual spring rummage sale May 5 and 6. Donations of good clean clothes and linens are welcome. On Sunday May 21, there will be a parish-wide meeting following the 9 A.M. service to discuss the draft parish profile.

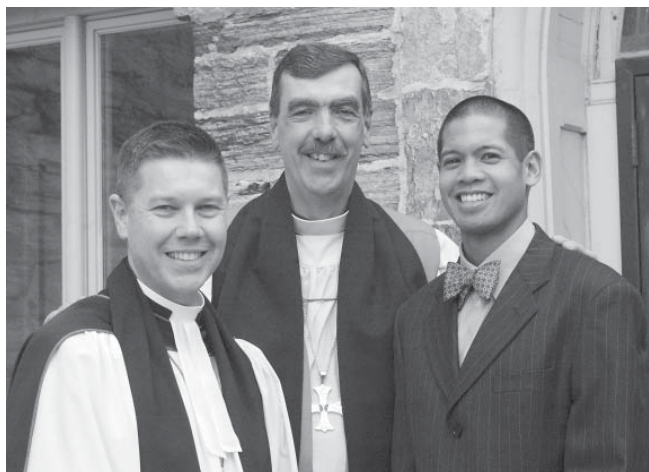
TRINITY, Shelburne, will have a spring cleaning day May 20. Choir Director **Phyllis White** seeks donations to purchase additional copies of *Lift Every Voice and Sing II* (\$13.60/copy). **Sarah and Mark Ray** are stepping down as coordinators of the 10 A.M. nursery. Contact them at 985-3136, or pray@middlebury.edu if interested in this ministry.

ALL SAINTS', South Burlington held an Easter Egg Hunt and brunch following the Easter service, organized by **Helen McCabe** and **Katrina Waters**. On April 10, the vestry met with Canon **Lynn Bates** to discuss the process for a mutual ministry review. The date for the annual Lobster Supper is Saturday, June 3.

The annual spring rummage sale at CALVARY, Underhill, will be held Friday May 12, from 9-3, and Saturday May 13, from 9-12. Call 899-2326 for more information or to donate goods.



St. Stephen's and new rector celebrate ministry



The Rev. Terence Gleeson, Bishop Thomas Ely, and Dennis Manalo, Gleeson's life partner, after the special Vespers service at St. Stephen's, Middlebury.

Members of St. Stephen's, Middlebury, formally welcomed their new rector, the Rev. Terence Patrick Gleeson, in a special service of Vespers on the Feast of the Annunciation, March 25, 2006, led by the Rt. Rev. Thomas C. Ely, Bishop of Vermont.

In his homily, the Rev. John Beddingfield asked the congregation, "How do you embody Jesus Christ in this place and in relation to other places in the world?" While no one person has the answer, he said, "You have a whole lot to work with here: each other, Terry and Dennis, the Spirit of God."

Ten people traveled to Vermont from Gleeson's former congregation, Christ and St. Stephen's in New York City, for the event. Judy Phillips said, "Terry brings his education, his faith and his experience together, and it all comes out in his sermons." Paul Urband, now St. Stephen's senior warden, agreed. He served on the discernment committee that called Gleeson to Middlebury, and he said, "I do think he is the answer to this parish's prayers."

Grants available for outreach and social justice ministries

by Stewart Pierson

An endowed fund to assist parish outreach and justice ministries was established in the late 1990's: the McClure Initiative IV Fund. Eight congregations received grants in 2005, and three grants have been awarded so far in 2006. The Outreach and Social Justice Committee oversees requests. Grants may not exceed \$2,000, and a parish match equal to the request is required.

Parish outreach and justice ministries flourish throughout the diocese, and the purpose of this endowment is to encourage such efforts, especially when budgets falter. Start-up requests receive first attention, but if funds are available, repeat grants may be awarded. St. Dunstan's, Waitsfield, has a dynamite Habitat ministry that has received four grants over the past five years.

Food shelves, after-school programs and homeless shelters are often supported, but in recent years, requests for disaster relief and overseas ministries have been rising in number. A consortium of parishes in the

Book tells Katrina story through children's art

Proceeds from *Story of a Storm*, a picture book by Reona Visser and the children of the Mississippi Gulf Coast about Hurricane Katrina and its effects on cities, families, and countless individual lives, will benefit relief efforts in Mississippi. Thirty students from Coast Episcopal School in Pass Christian, Mississippi, ranging from kindergarten to eighth grade, worked on collaborative collages using a variety of media.

Visser, a 5th grade teacher at Coast Episcopal School and native of South Africa, said

Chester area has supported AIDS work in South Africa. The Cathedral has an active relief ministry in Mississippi. After Hurricane Katrina, Diocesan Council waived the \$2,000 limit to award a \$5,000 match to Bishop Ely's \$5,000 grant for the area.

For many years, grants have been less than annual income, resulting in a carry over surplus. The Outreach and Social Justice Committee hopes use of the fund will grow. Peter Galbraith chairs the Committee. Stewart Pierson and Margie Zabriskie provide initial screening of requests before the entire Committee makes awards. Application forms are on the diocesan Web site (linked from the Outreach and Social Justice page) or in Section Five of the Diocesan Handbook. Requests may be sent directly to Stewart Pierson, 232 High Rock Road, Hinesburg Vermont 05461, or preferably by email to him at stewjulie@juno.com. Call him at 802-482-5877 with questions.

Grants in 2005 went to Christ Church, Bethel, for an after-school program, St.

that having children draw pictures about the storm "seemed like a good way to help them deal with the trauma." To learn more about *Story of a Storm* and order copies, visit www.storyofastorm.com. ❖

For information about scheduling volunteer time at Camp Coast Care in Mississippi, visit www.campcoastcare.org, or contact Angel Scott, 228-234-5169, or volunteers@dioms.org.

Global Mission Event planned for July

by Sandy Zabriskie

The Episcopal Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America will co-sponsor a Global Mission Event, "Sent by God's Grace for the Sake of the World," July 27-30 at the campus of the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, MA.

The Global Mission Event, or "GME," will bring together Episcopal and Lutheran missionaries and as many as 1,500 church people from the eastern seaboard of our country, with particular concentrations from New England the middle Atlantic states. They will discover a global community of God's people bound together by God's grace and enlightened by Christ, the Light of the World. It promises to be an adventure with challenging ideas and exciting recreational opportunities for all.

Worship events will include music, words, and dance from around the world. International presenters will focus in workshops on specific missionary projects on every continent. Relief agencies will tell 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.

Whole families coming for the GME will find specialized programs for every age group, from infants and toddlers to grandparents. Care is provided for children through age two, and children 3-10 will have their own programs. Junior high and senior high youth will each have specially designed programs. Parish youth groups are encour-

aged to register and attend together.

This historic venture will be the first of its kind for Episcopalians, and among the first joint projects undertaken by the two denominations since they agreed upon a common mission a few years ago. The Lutherans have sponsored GMEs for many years in the mid-west, and the GME 2006 will be the first time such an event will be held in New England. The Episcopal Church was quick to pick up on the invitation to co-sponsor this event.

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.

The Rev. Alexander Zabriskie is a retired priest who attends St. James', Essex Junction.

House of Bishops

Continued from page B

to root out the sin of racism and "to join us in this mission of justice, reconciliation, and unity."

"A Word to the Church" shares a sense of the bishops' time together. It affirms their desire to remain a constituent member of the Anglican Communion and states, "We believe that the most effective way to foster communion is to be present for each other, as often as possible, so that we may learn from each other, be corrected by each other, and discern the mind of Christ together."

The bishops note that they were encouraged by a briefing from members of the Special Commission on the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion, whose report was to be issued in April, that they appreciated a day spent with biblical theologians from various parts of the world, and that they had fruitful conversation with the seven nominees for presiding bishop. They express appreciation for the retreat led by Presiding Bishop Frank Griswold and state, "This occasion manifested his depth of conviction and generosity of heart, which have so characterized his years as Presiding Bishop and meant so much to so many of us." ❖

Newcomer Ministry Tip

First Class Nursery: Newcomer Magnet

Today's parents are very particular about leaving their infants and toddlers in the church nursery unless they perceive that it is immaculate, cheerful, adequately furnished and staffed by well trained caregivers.

The best possible scenario is to have a uniformed registered nurse—the same one week after week-in charge of your nursery.

Another model is to have a number of parents who take turns as nursery caregivers. It is essential that these parents complete the Episcopal Church's Safe Training Program and a first aid course that teaches CPR for infants and children.

Offering the best church nursery care in your community can be a powerful magnet in attracting young families to your parish. Failure to make this kind of investment in nursery care will cause many newcomers to continue their church shopping after their first visit. It could also increase the potential for negligence litigation.

Don Scott
Chair, Evangelism Committee

Diocesan Calendar

May 2006

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

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

D Y C

Diocesan Youth Calendar

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

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 March 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.

Middle school youth learn about poverty, giving



Connie Saeger-Proctor photos

by Connie Saeger-Proctor

"Was the event meaningful, spiritual and fun?" someone asked me about the diocesan Middle School Event March 31-April 2, at the Bishop Booth Conference Center. I answered with an enthusiastic **Yes!** "What did young people talk about?" he asked. "What do you do at an event?" "Can high school young people really plan, lead, and organize an event for the middle school young people?" "Are they good leaders?" "Tell me, please!"

I replied that events are designed by a leadership group of high school young people with adult sponsors, called a design team. The young people are given great responsibility. They choose the guiding scripture, name the event and design all the workshops, activities and schedule. They also lead the event.

The Middle School Event theme was "The Giving Tree," based on the children's book by Shel Silverstein and on a passage from the Gospel of Luke: "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none, and whoever has food must do likewise." The design team developed two workshops that invited the middle school participants to examine Vermont's poverty and hunger needs. They also encouraged the participants to think about ways they could do something to help end poverty and hunger. Some of the participants said they were going to take projects back to their congregations and local communities.

Bishop Ely, who attended part of the event, suggested that the young people pay attention to policies from the state and federal governments and write letters. One workshop asked young people to review advertising in popular teen magazines and encouraged them to talk about how they affect decision-making. Participants took a personal inventory of their needs and wants. They reflected on what items were "needs" and which were "wants." Another workshop used the parable of the mustard seed to reflect on ways they could help those in need. They created a large tree and hung their "idea leaves" on it.

Tamara Higgins from Heifer International spoke about Heifer Projects around the world and locally

Above: Mary Bragg teaches Middle School Event participants a song about the river of God.

Below: Mary Bragg accompanies a song-writer.



in Vermont. She helped participants discover small ways to make a big difference.

Saturday morning breakfast was a Vermont Hunger Simulation. Each young person received a certain amount of play money to purchase breakfast. Some had meager resources and others had more than enough, maybe even too much. There were giving envelopes at the table, and some gave money while others gave food. In the end, all had enough to eat. One young person commented: "Wouldn't it be great if the world could be this easy?"

Mary Bragg, a professional musician, taught new music, led the old favorites, and offered a music-writing workshop. Young people showed their talents at a "coffee house," and one performed a song he wrote in Bragg's workshop.

The week-end was fun, spiritual and full of learning opportunities. During small group discussion leaders helped the participants dig deeper into their faith and express themselves. They helped to build community by being in community with the participants. As one young person wrote: I would tell a friend "that it started out pretty scary, but once it started we got to know each other; leaving is pretty sad....I loved how even though most of us didn't know each other, we all got to be friends, and we all had fun."

Others said they became aware of poverty and hunger in Vermont and leaned how not to just think about it but what they could do. Heifer, said some, showed a lot of fun ways to help and they were going to talk about it in their churches.

Young people have an amazing way of having fun and tackling problems at the same time. They are wonderful leaders and are not afraid to invite new people into the group. In the end, the adult youth leaders who were present expressed their thankfulness to the design team for taking on such great responsibility and leading with Christian love.

Canon for Youth Ministry Connie Saeger-Proctor is a member of St. Mary's, Northfield.

Rock Point Summer Conference Dates

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

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