

MOUNTAIN ECHO

News of the Episcopal
Diocese of Vermont

an edition of
Episcopal Life

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

December 2007

175th Diocesan Convention welcomes presiding bishop

by Anne Clarke Brown

Delegates and visitors welcomed Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori to a special 175th annual Convention of the Diocese of Vermont, November 2-3 in Burlington, and they celebrated the first anniversary of her term as presiding bishop. The convention theme, "What ONE Can Do: Changing the World," focused participants on the diocese's commitment to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

After a morning session with the clergy and lunch with the official Convention Youth Presence [see article on Page F] the presiding bishop led a nearly two-hour public forum in the University of Vermont's Ira Allen Chapel on global poverty and the Millennium Development Goals [see below].

Friday evening, Jefferts Schori spoke to a capacity crowd of nearly 400 at the convention dinner about her first year as

presiding bishop and the variety of areas in which she has responsibilities, ranging from representing The Episcopal Church in the Anglican Communion to church governance to advocacy, ecumenical work, policy and pastoral care. Among the many highlights of the year, she mentioned, "the incredible health and vitality I get to see in the church," visits to Jamestown, Virginia, and the Towards Effective Anglican Mission (TEAM) Conference in South Africa.

Jefferts Schori noted a vast increase in the opportunities for transformation offered by partnerships between The Episcopal Church and other places over the last ten years. She spoke about visits to Cuba and Brazil and an upcoming trip to North Korea, where an invited group will have "a profound opportunity to work on reconciliation." She said, "I think this is one of the most exciting

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Members of the first official Convention Youth Presence pose with Canon Connie Saeger Proctor (top left), Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori and Bishop Thomas Ely.

Presiding bishop leads public forum on global poverty

by Anne Clarke Brown

On Friday afternoon, November 2, some 560 Vermont Episcopalians, Burlington area college students, a group of Episcopalians from Western Massachusetts and local residents filled the University of Vermont's Ira Allen Chapel to hear Presiding Bishop

Katharine Jefferts Schori speak and engage in conversation on "What ONE Can Do: Global Poverty and the United Nations Millennium Development Goals."

Members and friends of the Vermont-based New Sudan Education Initiative (www.nesei.org) served as greeters and ushers for the forum and were available to describe their ambitious project to build twenty secondary schools in Southern Sudan. The project grew out of a deep desire of Sudanese who came to Burlington as "lost boys" in 2001 to help their people in Southern Sudan. Many of them, now in college or recent graduates, have been involved with area Episcopal congregations. Funds collected in an offering at the door will go to NESEI for their work.

Bishop Thomas Ely opened the forum, telling the crowd, "I hope your resolve and commitment to eradicate global poverty will be strengthened by what you hear today." He introduced NESEI co-founder Atem Deng, who spoke briefly about his group's hope that they can do something to make the peace achieved in Southern Sudan last. "How can we make it last?" he asked. "How can

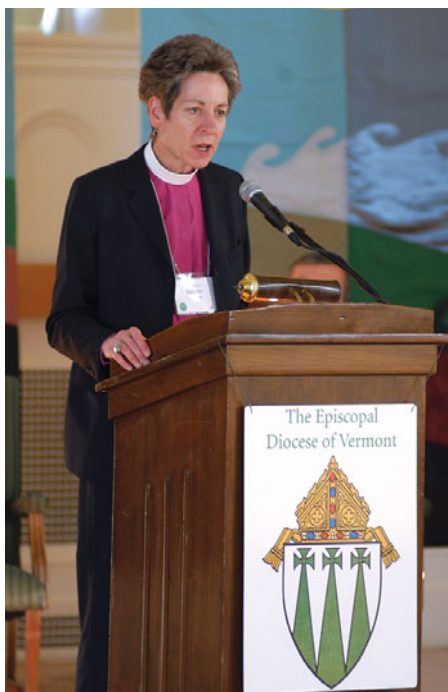
we make it work? The answer is to bring in education." Turning to the presiding bishop, Deng said, "She is a symbol of peace for this community."

Jefferts Schori offered her audience a theological framework for understanding the importance of the MDGs in the mission of the church. "The Millennium Development Goals are a contemporary illustration of the work Jesus did himself and the work to which he continues to call his followers," she said, and later added, "Many of those goals focus on the *anawim*, the little ones on whom Jesus' own ministry is focused.... They are looking toward a profound change in the way this world works—or does not work."

"The MDGs" said Jefferts Schori, "have caught the imagination of this church in a way that is really quite startling." She described learning in 1998 about the notion that if all the developed nations gave 0.7% of their income toward poverty reduction, the extreme poverty that is so prevalent in large parts of the world could actually be eliminated. "You and I, together with all the likeminded folks we can muster, from whatever faith or denomination or none, need to lobby our governments to raise the level of aid we give." The United States, she said, currently gives only about a quarter of what it has committed to give.

The giving by members of churches, she said, "is an essential and prophetic act, but it is an act meant to challenge others, particularly our governments." Noting that

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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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Address to the 175th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont

November 3, 2007

by the Right Reverend Thomas Clark Ely, Bishop of Vermont

With the encouragement of my sabbatical planning team, I used a portion of the sabbatical grant I received from the Louisville Institute to purchase a new digital camera before beginning my sabbatical last December. They thought it would be a good idea for me to develop (no pun intended) a new interest during my sabbatical—and so photography became that new interest. I am glad that I paid attention to their advice. The point is not that I became a great photographer during my sabbatical—I didn't—although I certainly did become a prolific one. Instead the point was to cultivate an interest in something new in such a way that this interest might carry on past the end of the sabbatical. It worked! I carry my camera with me most of the time and I'm continuing to learn more about how to take good pictures.

This camera purchase and the joy it has brought me came to mind as I thought about my convention address this year. In the short time I have available this morning, I want to share some pictures, some snapshots if you will, about the Diocese of Vermont through the metaphorical lens of the bishop's camera. Of course, I am not the only one in the diocese with a camera through which to look at our common life. Each of us is both a picture taker and a picture maker. Together our various impressions, reflecting our particular experiences in this diocese, create the album that is the Diocese of Vermont. This morning, I want to share a few of my pictures for that album.

The first picture is the one we are creating this weekend. What a joy and privilege it is to welcome our presiding bishop among us for this time of memory making and mission commitment. I suspect most of you are aware that this weekend marks the first anniversary of

Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori's investiture as the 26th presiding bishop of The Episcopal Church. Katharine, we are delighted that you have chosen to spend your anniversary with us as we celebrate the 175th anniversary of our diocese.

On May 31, 1832, John Henry Hopkins was elected as the first Bishop of the newly created Diocese of Vermont. This followed the formalities of Vermont's withdrawal from the Eastern Diocese, which had served as our ecclesiastical group home since 1811, along with Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and later Maine. From January 13, 1865, until his death on January 9, 1868, in the days when presiding bishops served by virtue of seniority, Bishop Hopkins also served as the eighth presiding bishop of The Episcopal Church and therefore, as you know, as one of your predecessors.

Your presence among us is a poignant reminder of our connection to the larger Episcopal Church. We celebrate that connection. Your presence also serves as a visible link between the global mission effort of our diocese and the larger Episcopal Church as we embrace the mission and funding priority established by General Convention related to the United Nations Millennium Development Goals. The powerful public forum you led yesterday and the Global Reconciliation Offering presented to you this morning from the congregations of this diocese clearly demonstrate our shared commitment to give ourselves over to the reconciling, transforming, liberating, jubilee

justice vocation of Jesus. Your leadership in this regard is inspiring, and we thank God for it.

My hope is that the picture we are creating this weekend—the picture of the Diocese of Vermont that I want the world to see—is of a diocese deeply committed to justice ministry, a place where the inclusive, embracing love of God reaches all and where all who seek to be faithful disciples of Jesus are empowered for their ministry. Grounded in the promises of the Baptismal Covenant, we are a people who seek to pray the prayer of Christ, learn the mind of Christ and do the deeds of Christ

in order that we might faithfully bear witness to the love of Christ both close to home and in places far away. We are a people of mission with much to offer and much to discover.

Continuing on with this theme of mission, the second picture I want to add to our photo album this morning reflects the gratitude I have for my recent sabbatical. The focus of my sabbatical was the global aspect of the vocation of the bishop. I

had the wonderful opportunity to explore that theme in two very different and sacred parts of the Anglican Communion: the Diocese of Bor in Southern Sudan and the Diocese of El Salvador. The welcome I received in both places and the opportunities to learn about the church's mission in these two unique settings was the gift of a lifetime. Since returning I have tried to share some of what I experienced, and I am quite willing to do more. I have sought to call the people of our diocese to an ever deepening commitment to global mission engagement, and my heart is indeed glad that so many have responded with such generosity to that invitation. I look forward to continuing this focus of our common life and ministry.

Closer to home, I add next to our album a wonderful collage of pictures meant to reveal a diocese that is reaching out in countless expressions of local mission and ministry. Our five-year Diocesan Strategic Plan for Growth and Ministry is at the midway point. The themes of



ACB photo

Formation, Liberation, Communication, Connection and Celebration continue to guide the work of diocesan committees and commissions, as well as the effort of the diocesan Ministry Support Team. These themes also provide the lenses through which I am able to view the tremendous mission and ministry being carried out in and through the congregations of our diocese. I see evidence of this local mission effort in your newsletters (I do read them), on your websites, and most of all in my face-to-face encounters with clergy and lay members of our diocese.

For me, the greatest joy of episcopal ministry continues to be the Sunday visitations and other opportunities I have to be present with members of this diocese; to see and hear about the joys, challenges, opportunities and struggles that are part of your lives as communities of faith. There is a generosity and tenacity to your commitment to be the church in each and every local community where The Episcopal Church is present. I thank God for that, and I thank you for that.

The 175th Anniversary Celebration of our diocese is yet another gathering theme for a collage of pictures I want to include in our photo album this morning. On June 2, we began our celebration with a wonderful liturgy at Saint Stephen's, Middlebury—the site of the Diocesan Convention in 1832, which elected Bishop Hopkins. A DVD of that celebration is available to all congregations. During the liturgy we premiered the hymn commissioned by the Anniversary Committee and authored by Judy Krum of Saint Peter's, Bennington. It was the hymn we sang as the entrance hymn this morning. I want to encourage you to use this hymn throughout the remainder of our anniversary.

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Bishop Ely's Address

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sary celebration, along with the beautifully crafted Anniversary Collect.

In addition, our anniversary celebration has given birth to a new historical narrative by Elizabeth Allison, titled, "To Have a Bishop of Our Own." Several new parish banners have been crafted, and thanks to the creative leadership of Dave Shuffleburg and Judith McManis, we launched an ambitious artistic project to design and produce shields for each congregation that will serve to welcome each of us to this—our Cathedral. I hope you noticed the first fruits of that effort as you entered the cathedral narthex. We need and want every community of faith represented on that welcome wall.

According to Elizabeth Allison, there were nineteen congregations in the diocese at the time of Bishop Hopkins's election. Several are no longer active, but most are. I want to honor those congregations by asking any members present to stand when I mention the name of your church. Four congregations present at the electing convention in 1832 are no longer active: Calvary Church, Berkshire; Trinity Church, Fairfield; Trinity Church, Pawlet; and Saint John's, Perkinsville.

The congregations continuing to this day include: Saint James, Arlington; Immanuel, Bellows Falls; Christ Church, Bethel (that's the "old" Christ Church); Saint Paul's, Burlington; Christ Church, Guilford (here the members of Saint Michael's, Brattleboro can stand); Zion Church, Manchester; Saint Stephen's, Middlebury; Saint John's, Poultney (members of Trinity, Poultney should be standing); Trinity, Rutland; Union Church, Saint Alban's (now known as Saint Luke's); Trinity, Shelburne; Grace Church, Sheldon; Saint Paul's, Wells; Saint Paul's, Windsor; Saint James', Woodstock. All disputes about this list are herby referred to Elizabeth. Let's thank and congratulate these congregations for their long history in our diocese.

Looking ahead, the balance of our anniversary celebration includes participation in Vermont Day at the National Cathedral in Washington, DC, on March 30, 2008, and the conclusion of our 18 month celebration next year at this time when we gather for Diocesan Convention in Rutland—the site of Bishop Hopkins's first Convention. Along the way there will be some other opportunities to mark this important milestone in our life, even as we look forward to the future life and mission of our diocese.

One important question about that future will be before us later today. On our Convention agenda is consideration of a resolution that will help us take the next step toward an anticipated capital campaign. It has been over ten years since the last diocesan campaign, and there are many pressing needs and even more wonderful opportunities that require the stability of our long-term financial commitment. Our ancestors in the faith were very generous in their giving. The legacy we enjoy today is a direct result of their commitment. We have the same obligation and the same opportunity for those who will call us their ancestors in the



Above: Bishop Ely asked members of congregations present at the Diocese of Vermont's first convent in 1832 to stand.

Below: Jim Larkin, Tom Little, Bishop Jefferts Schori, Lynn Bates, the Rev. Canon Tanya Wallace and Penny Pillsbury react to a comment in the bishop's address.

faith. I hope you will support our moving forward in this effort.

No photo album of the Diocese of Vermont would be complete without a glimpse of the property and ministry of Rock Point. Most of you know it well, and for those of you who don't, I want to extend the warmest invitation to come and visit and spend a bit of time there. Rock Point is home to Rock Point School, the Diocesan Office, the Bishop Booth Conference Center, the Bishops' House, a number of residents and a vast array of God's creation witnessed in plants and trees and animals. It is truly one of our diocesan treasures. The stewardship of that resource is a continuing challenge.

Currently, we are addressing some major financial challenges connected with the Bishop Booth Conference Center, as well as with the continuing maintenance and infrastructure at Rock Point. The Rock Point Board is attending to these concerns with the help of Diocesan Council and the Trustees. Modifications in industry regulations, insurance and the ever-changing landscape of camp and conference center ministry, along with higher fixed costs and years of deferred maintenance have all contributed to the current situation. There is a strong commitment to the future of the Bishop Booth Conference Center, but it will require our continuing and increasing financial support for this ministry to thrive.

The proposed Diocesan Budget for 2008 takes a small step in this direction, but more will be needed. New programming ideas are emerging and new marketing strategies are underway, but I would be less than candid if I didn't report my concern about all this. Gratefully, good people are working to turn this situation around, including those who minister at the Bishop Booth Conference Center and on the Rock Point Board. The best thing each of us can do is to support the programs of the BBCC, including the summer camp program, and use this facility as much as possible. It is a significant diocesan ministry worth our investment.

Next, allow me to include in our photo album this morning an expression of thanks to all the members of the diocesan Ministry Support Team. The diocesan Ministry Support Team serves as an extension of the bishop's ministry of oversight and support for the congregations of our diocese. We are currently in the process of interviewing the finalists for the new position of Minister of Stewardship Development, and so the picture of the team is



ACB photos

about to change. I trust you will welcome this new member, and indeed all members of the team, into your congregations. We don't have all the answers. We don't even know all the questions, but we do have a commitment to partnership with you in the building up of this diocese and its congregations to the glory and service of God.

Likewise, I offer a picture-word of thanksgiving for the many ways in which so many of you share your time and talents in service to the larger church, both here in Vermont and beyond. I have been privileged to meet and work with some very gifted people in the course of these past six and a half years. I truly believe in the power and potential of collegiality and shared episcopacy and, with your help, I will continue to work toward a deeper expression of those goals in our mutual life and ministry as a diocese.

The Baptismal Covenant includes the promise to "proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ." We have Good News to share with the world. In our baptismal living we are heralds, with all the saints who have come before us, of God's Good News story of life and salvation. Discipleship is about living into that proclamation and trusting in the power of God's transforming love to move the hearts and minds and spirits of others to embrace the Paschal Mystery of life from death. My photo contribution to our diocesan album includes countless expressions of that devotion and disciple-

ship in your lives and ministries. Don't stop now!

Finally, I want to add to our diocesan photo album an affirmation that we are part of a larger family, with a larger photo album. As members of The Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion, we currently find ourselves in a place of challenge and some anxiety, due in large part to theological and ecclesial disagreements with regard to human sexuality. We have been in similar places before. Part of what is different this time is the reality of globalization, the challenge of information management and the pace with which we carry on conversations across the Internet.

For example, I keep shaking my head and wondering how did the Windsor Report, a report that started out as a committee report, become in such a short time the sacred text and standard of "right" moral and ecclesial behavior that it is for many today! In my judgment, calls to be "Windsor compliant" are premature at best and do a disservice both to our Anglican heritage of faithful engagement with one another around complex issues and to the special Anglican charism of the *via media*, the middle way.

On this day when we remember in our liturgical calendar the great Anglican theologian, Richard Hooker, we would do well to take to heart the words of the collect appointed for his commemoration.

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Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori's sermon for the Convention Eucharist

So what is this thing called the Diocese of Vermont? How would you explain it to people who know nothing about the church? It's more than 48 congregations; it's more than this body gathered. What's the connection with those who first gathered here in 1832? What allows us to still call this by the same name?

Richard Hooker would ask us whether we think this is a religious society or an assembly. Is this the church just because church people have come together? Is it the church because we're here to do something? What happens when we leave?

This is certainly a society—it's part of our name—the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society; it's the legal name of the Episcopal Church. The society Hooker was talking about is the society of the church, something whose identity continues even when the assembly goes home. When this assembly of people gathered for worship disbands, the church continues. When the Diocesan Convention adjourns later today, the church goes on, and this body will have some continuity with the body that gathers in many places on Sunday and 1000 Sundays from now.

Richard Hooker asked questions like these in the late 1500s, questions that still challenge us today. He wrote one of the foundational books that have guided the Anglican experiment for the last 400 years. His opus is called, *Of the Laws of Ecclesiastical Polity*, but that high-falutin' title could just as well be expressed as

Bishop Ely's Address

"Grant that we may maintain that middle way, not as a compromise for the sake of peace, but as a comprehension for the sake of truth." As noted in the recent publication, *Communion Matters*, from the Theology Committee of House of Bishops: "Comprehension for the sake of truth has served us well. Perhaps it is our unique and essential charism as a Church."

In the spirit of that heritage, I will continue to labor for a church that is welcoming and inclusive of all in every aspect of its life, governance and ministry. In particular, this means that I will continue to champion the justice ministry toward full inclusion of gay and lesbian persons in our church, including their full access to all orders of ministry and the liturgical blessing of the church on the committed, life long relationships of gay and lesbian couples.

I do not mean this to the exclusion of those who are not able to embrace this movement in the theological and ecclesial development of The Episcopal Church. I remain committed to conversation and to living with theologically diverse points of view. I also remain utterly open to the power of the Holy Spirit who leads us into all truth and trust that the Spirit will help us find ways to celebrate our common life with one another in Eucharist and through engagement in God's mission to a hurting and searching world.

Inevitably, some will choose to leave and find their spiritual home elsewhere. While the leave-taking of anyone from a community of faith is an occasion of sorrow, it may well be a needed move for the



ACB photo

"Principles of Church Governance" or maybe today we might say, "how Anglicans and Episcopalians follow Jesus." An awful lot of what he thought and said and wrote underlies the self-understanding of this church. The three-legged stool image about the authority of scripture and reason and tradition comes from him. So does that wonderful passage in the collect for today, "grant that we may maintain that middle way, not as compromise for the sake of peace, but comprehension for the sake of truth." He helped to make that idea of the middle way, and the concept of comprehensiveness, absolutely foundational for Anglicans.

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one who has chosen to settle elsewhere. Only time will tell, and so I think we are meant to be gracious toward those who do leave. On the other hand, some will be drawn into our fellowship because of what they see and hear and experience of the presence of God in our congregations. They may be coming from some other community of faith, or from no community of faith, but likely always from a place of deep searching and longing. We are meant to be gracious to these as well and welcome them as companions on the way, inviting them to bring their stories, their own picture albums, into our midst and thereby let our story and our album expand.

Obviously there are many other pictures I could have chosen to highlight this morning. Throughout the day today some of those will become evident. Others will need to wait for another time and place. Suffice to say for now that I expect to keep on the lookout for more pictures to add to the album of this fantastic diocese as we discover and live into the fullness of what God is calling us to be. One hundred seventy five years is a good beginning, but there is plenty more that awaits us and invites our engagement. Keeping the focus on our participation in God's reconciling mission is the best way I know for making sure that the pictures we have not yet taken will be among the most memorable.

Thank you for your faithfulness and zeal.

Faithfully,

+ Thomas

Hooker is a remarkable example of what wisdom in the flesh looks like—which is probably why he made it onto our list of saints. He wrote his most famous work in response to controversy with another wing of the church. And you don't have to look much beyond the first page to see the connections with current controversies in this church.

Richard Hooker was appointed Master, or Rector, of the Temple Church in London in the late 1500s. He had an assistant there, from the Puritan wing of the church, named Walter Travers. Hooker's duty was to preach in the morning. Travers followed him in the afternoon, and he took the opportunity one day to refute what the rector had said in the morning, when he preached about salvation and the possibility that all of us will be saved. The Puritan position, along with Calvin, believed that some may be damned even before they can do anything. Hooker insisted that that understanding took away the possibility of God's grace.

Hooker's focus on reason and tolerance and inclusion is foundational to that broad stream of Anglican thought. This isn't just academic theologizing. It has to do with the basic identity of our tradition—that we can be comprehensive and inclusive as we search for a larger truth. And that rather than being a cop-out, that focus on comprehension is a sign of the spirit at work.

That focus on comprehension lies underneath the challenging and uncomfortable place we are trying to stand in as a church today—affirming that gay and lesbian, bisexual and transgendered Christians are deserving of the best ministry of this church, and that there is a place for those who take a different theological position. We say that we are willing to live in that uncomfortable and unsettling place because we believe that only God has truth in its fullness.

Wisdom, and the search for it, is one of the gifts and vocations that the body of Christ always needs. None of us ever has it all, and it is only in the wisdom of the body gathered that we can even begin to think that we might have the mind of Christ.

That is one of the essential reasons why we continue to govern our church through assemblies like this one. Even after 175 years, Vermont does not have the fullness of God's truth. And somehow, I think you'd be too modest to announce the fact even if you did. Yet you recognize that there is more chance of it when you gather like this for counsel.

There is a remarkable sentence buried in the middle of that passage from Corinthians: "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived,

what God has prepared for those who love him"—these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God." We trust that the Spirit is present here, and at work, in the midst of this assembly. We trust that the spirit continues to be at work in the society called the church. And we trust that the spirit continues to search everything, even the depths of God.

Somehow that seems to say that everything is grist for the mill, that every aspect of existence is potentially instructive—that we can learn something from the people we think most wrong, as well as from studying the created order. Both the sacred and the secular may be useful study sites. It also seems to say that the spirit continues to search the depths of God—i.e., that we may not know everything quite yet, because God hasn't revealed everything yet.

An example. In this country, and in Canada, in the 1800s, the respective governments made a deal with several different churches. The different denominations were asked to evangelize the various native American tribes. In exchange, the government gave the churches exclusive rights to do their work in different parts of the territories. Later on those churches would enter similar agreements to educate the children of those tribes. It seemed to good and faithful Christian people that this was a wise and a just thing to do. It turned out rather otherwise, as nobody asked about the wisdom of the native

peoples themselves. Human wisdom, even as the product of prayer and searching, can be wrong—sometimes horrendously wrong.

One of the gifts of which Hooker reminded us is the sense that keeping the question open may be the wisest and most faithful thing to do. That can be a wretchedly uncomfortable place to live, but only if we insist that God speaks in black and white, either/or ways. The spirit is still

searching, my friends. That understanding is a characteristic of the society called the Episcopal Church. The assembly that is this gathering, and this diocesan convention, are meant to do something, they are meant for public action. The question for us is how to live in that tension between the call to act and the awareness that the spirit hasn't finished just yet. Hold that tension between confidence that this society has the mind of Christ, and be willing to act boldly, yet also firmly believe that the spirit is still at work, searching, searching, even in the places and people we would least expect. If we can hold that tension lightly, aware in all humility that we do bold things only by the grace of God, then we can be messengers of grace to generations yet to come. As the Scots are fond of saying, as messengers angels can fly only because they take themselves lightly.



175th Diocesan Convention welcomes Presiding Bishop Jefferts Schori

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times in recent history to be an Episcopal and an Anglican, because we are paying attention to each other.”

Bishop Thomas Ely thanked the presiding bishop and presented her with a wood plate made by a Vermont artisan. He also introduced the members of the Convention Youth Presence and said he had told them at lunchtime that “they needed to find their voice and speak up. So when they do,” he said, “listen to them. Please!”

The dinner ended with the awarding of prize teddy bears to the table of those who as a group correctly answered the most MDG related questions on a quiz put together by Polly Larkin and Margo Fletcher.

Convention Eucharist and offering

Preaching at the Saturday morning convention Eucharist—observing the feast day of Richard Hooker—the presiding bishop quoted the day’s collect: “Grant that we may maintain that middle way, not as compromise for the sake of peace, but comprehension for the sake of truth.” Hooker, she said, “helped to make that idea of the middle way, and the concept of comprehensiveness, absolutely foundational for Anglicans.” [See her sermon text on Page D].

Nearly every congregation in the diocese took up a special “global reconciliation offering” on Sunday, October 28, to be given to the MDG Inspiration Fund established by Episcopal Relief and Development and The Episcopal Church’s Executive Council. Funds will be used for the Nets for Life Program that provides treated anti-malaria nets and malaria education, now in sub-Saharan Africa and eventually in other parts of the world. The Fund was officially launched at an October meeting of Executive Council, and Vermont is the first diocese to take up the challenge of meeting a goal of \$2 million in addition to the funds voted by General Convention. At the offertory during the Convention Eucharist, representatives from the congregations presented their offerings to the presiding bishop. Bishop Ely later announced a total donation of \$34,120.

The traditional loose offering from convention attendees totaled nearly \$2,200. It will be sent to Episcopal Relief and Development for California wild fire relief efforts.

Bishop’s address

Bishop Ely gave his annual address to the assembled delegates and visitors following the Eucharist. He expressed gratitude to Bishop Jefferts Schori for spending the first anniversary of her investiture as presiding bishop with the Diocese of Vermont and thanked God for her leadership in “our shared commitment to give ourselves over to the reconciling, transforming, liberating, jubilee justice vocation of Jesus.”

Using “the metaphor of the bishop’s camera” to offer snapshots of the diocese, Ely said he wants the world to see a picture of a diocese “deeply committed to justice ministry, a place where the inclusive, embracing love of God reaches all and where all who seek to be faithful disciples of Jesus are empowered for their ministry.” He expressed gratitude for his period of sabbatical leave, spoke about the diocese’s 175th anniversary celebrations, asked for support for a capital campaign, described some of the needs at Rock Point and thanked the members of the



ACB photo

Bishop Ely presents Presiding Bishop Jefferts Schori a gift following her remarks at the Convention dinner.

Ministry Support Team, and all in the diocese, for their devotion and discipleship.

The bishop said the final image he wanted to share was “an affirmation that we are part of a larger family, with a larger photo album.” He acknowledged the current tensions in the Anglican Communion and said he would both “continue to champion the justice ministry toward gay and lesbian persons in our church” and “remain committed to conversation and to living with theologically diverse points of view.”

Ely concluded, “One hundred seventy five years is a good beginning, but there is plenty more that awaits us and invites our engagement. Keeping the focus on our participation in God’s reconciling mission is the best way I know for making sure that the pictures we have not yet taken will be among the most memorable.” [The full text of the bishop’s address begins on Page B.]

Convention business

Official convention business began with the Rev. Lisette Baxter’s announcement that 46 congregations had registered delegates in attendance and that 70 canonically resident clergy had registered, thus creating a quorum. Delegates then approved a request to allow five of the official Convention Youth Presence to sit on the floor and participate fully in deliberations. This is the first convention to welcome the participation of youth in an official capacity. They prepared by attending a Ministry Fair Day with a lunchtime training on the nature and workings of Diocesan Convention. The youth took turns occupying the five seats.

Delegates also agreed to add to the agenda a sixth resolution. Because the resolution had not been pre-filed, a two-thirds vote was needed to add it to the agenda for consideration later in the day. The resolution commends a resolution adopted by the Executive Council of The Episcopal Church at its October meeting. The Council expressed appreciation to the House of Bishops for their September statement responding to requests made by the Anglican Primates at their Dar es Salaam meeting but also noted a concern that the bishops may, by singling out gay and lesbian people as the subjects of General Convention Resolution B033, have inappropriately suggested a qualification for the episcopacy that goes beyond those expressed in the Constitution and Canons.

Elections

The Nominating Committee presented a slate of candidates for a variety of positions on diocesan boards and committees. As all elections but the clergy and lay Gen-

eral Convention deputy positions would be uncontested, delegates cast a single ballot to elect those candidates who had no opposition. The first ballot for the four clergy and four lay General Convention deputies resulted in the election of three clergy and four lay deputies: the Reverends John Morris, Lee Alison Crawford and Thomas Brown, and Thomas Little, Anne Brown, Nanci Gordon and Jennifer Ogelby. The Rev. Tanya Wallace was elected to the fourth clergy deputy position on the fifth ballot.

Reports

Reporting for the *Canons Committee*, Chancellor Tom Little explained a proposed revision to the canons relating to property, insurance, audit and finance. Delegates approved a motion to refer the proposal to the Canons Committee for continued work and ultimate presentation to the 2008 convention.

The Rev. Nancy Vogeles, chair of the *Dismantling Racism Commission*, reported on work requested by the previous year’s resolution on slavery and racial reconciliation. All congregations, she said, have a history with regard to race, some that are nice and some not so nice. She encouraged participation at a workshop sponsored by the commission to be held at the Vermont Historical Society that is intended to help with the study of congregational history, particularly that dealing with slavery and race. She also noted that the commission will be sponsoring a trip to Washington, D.C., for Vermont Day at the National Cathedral March 30, 2008 [see Page I].

The Rev. Diana Collins, outgoing president of the board of the *Brookhaven Home and School*, said that the past year had been a challenging one for the school, due partly to a growing budget deficit and partly to the related underutilization of Brookhaven and other similar facilities by state agencies. But, the new gym has been completed and the school had received a bequest that will be used as seed money for scholarships.

Collins paid tribute to Joseph Anthony, a counselor and transition home house parent, and Dr. Brewster Martin, former chair of the board and longtime supporter of the school. Both died during the past year. Martin, Collins said, “used to say that each of us should each day do something nice for a friend, neighbor or stranger—something you don’t get paid to do.” The boys, she said, have responded by contributing to the “Big Blue Bus” given to a facility in Honduras, by cleaning up the river on green-up day, and by visiting seniors. “Brewster loved his village and his boys,” she said, “and the boys are passing that love along. Come and see.”

Neal Robinson of the *Trustees of the Diocese* told delegates that the new asset allocation strategy for the investment portfolio had shown a total return for its first full year of 15.6%. Worth \$23.5 million on October 1, 2006, the portfolio one year later was worth \$25 million. He said he is “comfortable in knowing we have a well-diversified portfolio.”

Budget

Treasurer Steve Smith presented the proposed budget for 2008, saying that he hoped delegates had heard the full presentation at the Ministry Fairs. The balanced budget, with a bottom line of \$1,175,280, was ap-



ACB photo

Neal Robinson reports for the Trustees on the diocese’s investment portfolio.

proved with no discussion. It includes a 16% commitment to The Episcopal Church, up from 15% in 2007, and working toward the full asking of 21%.

Resolutions

Laura Chase, chair of the Resolutions Committee presented six resolutions for consideration. All were adopted either unanimously or with only a sprinkling of “no” votes, and all may be viewed on the diocesan Web site (link to a convention index page on the home page).

- A resolution calling on congregations to conduct in-house environmental audits of their energy use, consumption patterns and plant use management and to report to the 2009 convention on the audits and plans to address deficits in environmental stewardship.
- A resolution commending the Executive Council of The Episcopal Church for its resolution NAC 026, regarding the September House of Bishops’ statement.
- A resolution to establish a capital campaign committee.
- A resolution to merge St. Thomas’ Church, Brandon, and Grace Church, Forestdale. (Grace had been a mission of St. Thomas, but the two had been effectively functioning as a single parish for many years. They will continue to use both church buildings.)
- A resolution establishing minimum clergy compensation for 2008.
- A resolution to establish a process for determining minimum clergy compensation for clergy employed less than full-time.

Courtesy Resolutions

Nanci Gordon of the Resolutions Committee presented courtesy resolutions: expressing appreciation and gratitude to the presiding bishop for her presence and words; honoring women’s ministries in Vermont and offering grateful prayers for Presiding Bishop Jefferts Schori, Bishop Mary Adelia McLeod, and the 39 women priests and 14 deacons ordained in the diocese; honoring Bonnie Fournier for her ministry at BBCC; honoring Susan Tobias on her retirement as rector of St. John the Baptist, Hardwick; and honoring Dennis Hayward on his retirement as rector of St. Luke’s, St. Albans.

Gordon also presented a resolution authored by the Youth Presence thanking the delegates for seat and voice and expressing special thanks to the Dispatch of Business Committee for arranging the lunch visit with the presiding bishop. ❖

Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori... meets with clergy and youth...

by Neva Rae Fox

[Neva Rae Fox, public affairs officer for The Episcopal Church, accompanied Presiding Bishop Jefferts Schori to Vermont. Below is a portion her article, "On the road in Vermont with the Presiding Bishop." The complete article may be found at www.episcopalchurch.org/79901_91714_ENG_HTML.htm.]

More than 70 clergy gathered on the top floor of Three Cathedral Square, a senior housing facility located next to and started by the cathedral. Priests and deacons, most of them serving in the diocese part-time, perched on sofas, chairs and at tables in the multi-purpose living room area.

Following a presentation and a spiritual exercise, the Presiding Bishop and the clergy engaged in a frank conversation. A myriad of topics was explored, ranging from human sexuality, to the restructuring of the Episcopal Church Center, Resolution B033 passed by the 2006 General Convention, and the Anglican Communion.

Following the two-hour session, the clergy thanked the Presiding Bishop for listening, and for her presence. "I couldn't



The presiding bishop joined the official Convention Youth Presence for lunch in the cathedral chapel.

do this without the prayers that I know go on all over the church all the time," she told them.

Noon lunch with the youth

Relaxing on the floor and in chairs, snacking on chips and subs and soda, the thirteen youth and two young adults had a lot of questions for the Presiding Bishop.

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engages delegates in conversation...

by Anne Clarke Brown

The Convention took a one-hour recess after lunch for a time of conversation with Presiding Bishop Jefferts Schori, who began by asking, "So what do you want to talk about?"

Linda Horn asked how Jefferts Schori's life as a scientist informs her life as a bishop. The presiding bishop said she is trained to look at situations without prejudgment, and she tries to approach the church that way, to assume in each situation "that there is the image of God here, and it's my job to discover it" and to figure out what God

is calling for in that encounter. Her background, she said, gives her "a firm conviction that everything is related, that none of us can say we have no need of that thing or that person over there, that how we interact with the world has an impact on that thing or person or system over there."

Stewart Pierson asked, "Do you have any idea where we are headed with our Anglican brothers and sisters in the next five years?" Jefferts Schori said "I think this is a very exciting time to be an Episcopalian and an Anglican. We are like a bunch of teenagers

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Photos this page by ACB

The presiding bishop responds to a question from Stewart Pierson (in white sweater, right).

joins St. Paul's, Windsor, for worship...



The ushers at St. Paul's, Windsor, present the congregation's offering, designated for The Haven, to Maggie Griffin and Richard Knight.

by Anne Clarke Brown

On Sunday, November 4, 2007, the first anniversary of her installation as presiding bishop of The Episcopal Church, the Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori preached and presided at the Eucharist at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Windsor.

St. Paul's is typical of smaller Vermont congregations, with just over 60 baptized members and an average Sunday attendance of approximately 30. Attendance at Sunday's service was about 110, with some coming from nearby Episcopal congregations and some from the Windsor community. The congregation is in the midst of an extensive renovation to its historic 1822 building and 1826 tracker organ [Mountain Echo, September 2007].

The Rev. Jud Pealer, rector of St. Paul's, and Deacon Joel Hill of St. Michael's, Brattleboro, joined Jefferts Schori at the altar, along with chalice bearers Maggie Griffin and Richard Knight. Bishop Thomas Ely sat in the congregation.

Beginning her sermon on the Lukan beatitudes, Jefferts Schori looked at the congregation and said, "Love your enemies. Wow! Who can do that?" She said that Jesus' words remind her of Paul's challenging passage about feeding your enemies and giving them something to drink, "for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." She said she is also reminded of a prayer that asks that God turn the hearts of those who do not love us, or, if not, to turn their ankles

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and celebrates Eucharist with prisoners

by Anne Clarke Brown

Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori's last stop in her very busy three days in Vermont was the Southern State Correctional Facility in Springfield. She and Bishop Ely left St. Paul's, Windsor, for an hour-long visit to the medium-security 350-bed facility for men. The facility is four years old, and a team from St. Mark's, Springfield, and other area Episcopal churches has been involved in a ministry there since it opened. David Shuffleburg of St. Mark's arranged the visit and said at the end when he thanked the presiding bishop for coming, "I am still pinching myself that this whole thing is happening."

Jefferts Schori, with St. Mark's Rector Sherry Osborn assisting, presided at a worship service attended by eighteen residents along with Acting Superintendent Ellen McWard and Volunteer Services Coordinator Margie Reurink. Accompanied on keyboard by a member of the prison ministry team, Jan MacDonald of St. Luke's, Charlestown, NH, the group sang several hymns with which they were clearly familiar. Two residents read the lessons.

After Osborn read the Gospel, Jefferts Schori said the readings invite us to think, at this time of year, about saints. She asked, "Who do you think of when you think of

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David Shuffleburg, the Rev. Sherry Osborn, Bishop Jefferts Schori, two facility residents, Bishop Ely and Acting Superintendent Ellen McWard after the Eucharist at the Southern State Correctional Facility in Springfield.

Images from the 175th Convention of the Diocese of Vermont



ACB photos



Above: Congregation representatives present the global reconciliation offering to the presiding bishop and ERD representatives Marge Zabriskie and Kristin Wood.



Counterclockwise from above:
Bishop Ely recognizes the congregations that were present at the first Convention of the Diocese of Vermont in 1832.

Atem Deng speaks to the forum on global poverty about the war in Sudan and the work of the New Sudan Education Initiative.

Thurifer William Holmes and Deacons David Ganter and Lucy Pellegrini prepare for the reading of the Gospel.

Members of the Convention Youth Presence offer the Prayers of the People at the Eucharist.

Canon Lynn Bates reads the Epistle.



Parish symbols displayed at Cathedral

by Judith McManis

A project to create visual symbols for each worship community in the Diocese of Vermont is part of the diocese's on-going 175th Anniversary Celebration. The symbols are displayed on the wall just inside the entrance to the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Burlington, welcoming all Vermont Episcopalians to their cathedral.

Well-known heraldic-style designer, David Shuffleburg of Springfield and liturgical artist and calligrapher, Judith McManis of South Burlington are doing the work, and by the time of Diocesan Convention, designs representing most of the Vermont parishes had been completed, with others 'in process.' The journey has been an exciting one.

Some Vermont parishes have existing coat-of-arms designs (due to years of work by David), while others included the classic symbols of various saints in images on their Web sites. St. Andrew's, St. Johnsbury, for instance, has a red shield with a white St. Andrew's cross at the top of their home page. Jerusalem Gathering, a "house church" meeting in the Bristol-Starksboro area, could only be represented by a Jerusalem Cross, itself symbolizing the iconic town and the gathered community common to early



Judith McManis photo

Christianity. Trinity Churches often include some form of overlapping three-part design: Celtic arcs, interlaced rings or inter-woven triangles, and these often over-lying imagery more specific to that parish.

But then it got a bit more complicated. In wonderful conversations with folks at various parishes, the designers learned that rather than pay homage to the name of their church, they elected to represent the nature of their ministry. The churches of the Border Parish (St. Paul's, Canaan, Vermont, plus a congregation in Canada and one in New Hampshire) chose a tent image to represent them. St. Dunstan's, meeting in an art gallery in Waitsfield, worships in the round

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Presiding Bishop leads forum on poverty

Continued from Page A

politics is "the art of living in community" and "does not have to be a dirty word," Jefferts Schori said. "If you take nothing else home from this gathering, I hope you will carry away the message that advocacy is essential." The Kingdom of God, she added, "is about a society of peace with justice, and we need to use all the means at our disposal, including politics."

Jefferts Schori said, "It is long past time to beat our swords into plowshares, to lay down our weapons of destruction and to build an open city of truly human relationships rooted in the radical freedom and friendship of God." And she said, "I want to challenge you to think more seriously and carefully about poverty and what it means."

As part of that challenge, she offered a number of staggering statistics, including:

- 50,000 die each day of poverty (mostly women and children);
- 800 million go to bed hungry;

- 70% of those in poverty are women;
- a child dies every 3 seconds from treatable or preventable disease;
- malaria kills 1 million yearly;
- one billion lack access to safe drinking water.

What can a person do? "Pay, pray, listen, and go out and work in community to respond," she charged. "Or as Bishop [Paul] Moore [of New York] used to say at the close of the Sunday morning service, 'get up, get out, and get lost.' Get up, get out there, and lose yourself in God's work of healing this world."

For the last 45 minutes of the forum, Jefferts Schori responded to written questions from the audience posed by Mark Johnson of WDEV Radio and a member of St. Paul's Cathedral. "How do we get the MDGs into the current campaign?" one person asked. "That's a wonderful question," she smiled. "We must challenge our government—your legislators and mine."

[Neva Rae Fox contributed to this article.]

PB meets with clergy and youth

Continued from Page F

More than anything, there was laughter, excitement and lots of banter.

Youth are important in the Diocese of Vermont. Two youth seats are maintained on diocesan council, and the convention would, the next day, grant five youth seats and voice. Jefferts Schori noted General Convention established youth, young adults and children as a priority of the church.

The hour kicked off with a direct question to the Presiding Bishop: what do we call you? "My baptismal name is the most honorable thing you could call me," she established.

They gave her a pair of reflective sunglasses, which helped to explain their theme: "Look at yourself and see what you can do." In fact, some never took the sunglasses off.

This was followed by a song of praise and dance—instructions were that "movements

are mandatory"—calling on head-shoulders-knees and God, knees and God (you had to have been there).

Amid the laughter and fun, there was also serious business. She was asked:

- What do you think about what people say about you behind your back? "It's easier to have a face-to-face so you can have conversation," she replied.

- Why are they making such a big deal about gays and gay rights? My definition of an Episcopalian is having a more open view. "Most of this stuff for your generation is not an issue," Jefferts Schori agreed.

- What do you do every day? "It differs day to day."

They talked about youth ministry, music, U2charists, youth in churches, and what they want for the future. They could have talked for hours, but time was up and it was off to the work of the convention. ❖

PB joins St. Paul's for worship

Continued from Page F

"so we know them by their limping."

Noting that, "Most of us find it desperately difficult to let go of a wish that others might get what's coming to them," she said, "Jesus' words are a challenge about people we think are out to get us." The images about turning the other cheek or giving away one's coat are not, however, naïve, she said. "Jesus is not telling us to be doormats."

Jefferts Schori went on to describe the meaning of those actions in the culture of Jesus' day and then offered an example of a non-violent but effective response to oppressive behavior, a kind of response Jesus seems to encourage. "Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr. learned their tactics from Jesus," she said.

"Lots of us," said the presiding bishop, "would rather ignore an insult or injustice rather than confront the one who offers it. That may occasionally be appropriate, but long run, it isn't going to solve anything." Our yearning for justice has roots in the biblical tradition of the beatitudes with their blessings and woes. She said, "God does plant a dream in us that all people should live in peace, with justice."

"Living in peace," Jefferts Schori said, "means living in right relationship to God

and our neighbors....The kind of behavior Jesus is talking about—striking others on the cheek or depriving them of their shelter—is bullying....It is a profound dismissal of the image of God that each of us bears. It is a use of violence to dominate another." Noting that our question is how to respond, Jefferts Schori said that using violence only makes things worse. We respond by respecting the dignity of the other while saying, "I will not participate in your violence."

Jesus asks us to confront bad behavior, she concluded. It asks the best of the other, saying in effect, "I love you enough to encourage you to confront yourself." Part of our job, she said, "is to help heal those burning heads and sore ankles—and maybe the soreheads too."

The presiding bishop spent nearly an hour with members of the congregation at a pot-luck brunch after the service. One person said, "She is so approachable." Another said, "I loved the way her sermon dealt with that tricky business of loving enemies. We are too afraid of confronting people, and this helped me understand that that's just what Jesus asks us to do." And another added, "This has been a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for us at St. Paul's. It's great that she wanted to come to a small church." ❖

Parish symbols displayed at St. Paul's Cathedral

Continued from Page G

and chose a Canterbury cross to represent them, as it is equidistant from the center to all who gather around it.

Other parishes wanted to include an acknowledgement of their history in their shield design. Good Shepherd, Barre, chose to include stone tools to recognize the builders of that parish and principal work in the local granite quarries. St. John's-in-the-Mountains, Stowe, has a design with Vermont mountains, an eagle soaring above (St. John's conventional symbol) and a ski trail on one of the mountains!

These examples are just a small taste of the many rich traditions and stories behind the naming of Episcopal worship communities in Vermont. In addition to the installation at the Cathedral in Burlington, these images and their stories (all of them, for

sure!) will be available in electronic format so everyone in Vermont can learn about the treasures that exist all around them in the form of our unique Episcopal heritage.

Personally, I have found it to be very fulfilling work to be part of this project. David laid incredibly invaluable groundwork, both with the designs he has created and the conversations he has begun with so many parishes. Everyone I contacted was wonderfully helpful and appreciative of our efforts. As you can see with the display, we are not finished, but at this point everyone has been "invited to the dance" as it were, and the fruits of those invitations will soon be made visible. A sincere thank-you to all who have helped.

Judith McManis is a member of the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Burlington.

PB engages delegates in conversation

Continued from Page F

as members of the Anglican Communion, and daddy isn't in charge the way he was 100 years ago. England isn't the head of the empire any more. What we are dealing with is very much like what a bunch of fractious brothers and sisters deal with when the parents die and they haven't figured out how to be adults in relationship with each other or when there is another family crisis." She said, "I think we are growing up, and it's painful work and it's challenging work, and we don't know what the future is going to look like." She added, "Our challenge is to grow up into the full stature of Christ and encourage our brothers and sisters to do the same. And their growing up may look different and that's okay."

In response to John Morris's question about putting General Convention Resolution B033 (which asked bishops and dioceses to exercise restraint in approving the ordination of those whose manner of life presents a challenge to the wider church) in context, Jefferts Schori said that while dealing with it has been painful, it has given some space. She said, "I'm enormously thankful another General Convention is coming. I think it is only when the whole church gathers that we can speak for the whole church, and we've got another opportunity in 18 months."

To Mary Gerish's concern about explaining the importance of the MDGs in the context of need and poverty at home, Jefferts Schori said, "I want to come out of a

focus on abundance rather than on scarcity. There is more than enough for every human being in this world to have a decent life. It's a problem of distribution. There is far more than enough if we are willing to share." She added, "What we learn from the focus on the MDGs informs our eyes and our ability to focus locally as well. It's another example of that interconnectedness of all that is. All of our lives are made more abundant when other peoples' lives are made more abundant."

Other questions addressed environmental sustainability, baptismal ministry and Christian formation, and concerns about how to work on issues of classism, consumerism, justice for children, the relationship of disabled people and their faith to the church, and relating to the young people of our society.

Addressing the last question in particular, but actually all relating to the church's relationships with others, Jefferts Schori said, "Rather than waiting for people to come through our beautiful red doors, we have to go out there. We have to get out of our comfort zones and figure out ways to encourage conversations that lead people in the basics of what we understand as relationship with God."

Bishop Ely concluded the conversation, saying, "What a gracious gift to us with your willingness to be here and be in conversation with us. We want to say a big Vermont thank you for that gift." The Convention responded with sustained applause. ❖

PB celebrates Eucharist with prisoners

Continued from Page F

saints?" The responses came quickly: "I think of Dave Shuffleburg." "My brothers who I served with overseas." "St. Francis. His life was a prayer." "Anyone doing the Lord's work on earth." "Father Urang, who used to be at St. Mark's."

The presiding bishop asked, "Any grumps on your list?" She said that one of her favorite saints was Jerome, who translated the Bible and brought the word to many, "but his brothers found him hell to live with." No one seemed to want to list any grumps, so they went on with other saints: "The Holy Spirit is a saint in my life." "My parents."

Jefferts Schori said that in the version of the beatitudes read in the church where she had been in the morning, a list of woes is included along with a list of those blessed, and that she finds it easier to hear in that context. "Why do you think the gospel gives a long list of those who are having a hard time, of people who know they need more of blessing?" she asked. "How does that work in here?"

Again the responses flowed. One said, "I was always running from the Lord. Coming to jail has helped me stop running." Dave Shuffleburg said, "The fellows here minister to themselves." A resident responded, "We're not perfect," and, chuckling, added, "If we were, we wouldn't be here."

Another resident said, "My time here is coming to a close in a couple of weeks. While I have been here, God has taught me some things I needed to learn about my family and myself. God takes the things that we could avoid if we could and uses them to

help us be better people. I would not trade the lessons I have learned here. Of course I'd rather have learned them somewhere else."

Jefferts Schori said, "This is a room filled with saints. Thanks be to God for every single one." The residents responded with thanks of their own: "Thanks to Jan who comes with her music." "I was looking forward to this service. They said we had to sign up to come. I signed up twice just to be sure I'd be able to be here. Thank you. And thank you Ellen" [McWard, acting superintendent]. "Church is what keeps a lot of us alive," said another. "The only things that keep me going are God, my wife and my three children."

Bishop Ely said to the residents, "As you talked I was thinking of stained glass windows. On cloudy days, you can't see the saints as well, but when the light shines through, they are brilliant. When the light of Christ shines through each of us, it reminds me of that. It sounds like you have had some experiences like that here."

After Communion, one of the residents asked the presiding bishop if she would sign his Bible. "It's my family Bible," he said. Another also had her sign his Bible. She seemed clearly touched by the requests.

The group enjoyed a reception afterward with a special cake made by the prison kitchen. The presiding bishop had to leave for the airport, so she was unable to stay and engage in conversation. In response to a comment about how powerful the residents' remarks had been, she said, "It doesn't get any more real than in a place like that."

❖

More Coming Events

Cathedral Arts

Cathedral Church of St. Paul, 2 Cherry Street, Burlington
The Great O Antiphons of Advent
 Sunday, December 16, at 5:00 p.m.

The Cathedral choirs, under the direction of Mark Howe, sing at this festive candlelit evening service. Music will include Peter Hallock's setting of the seven Great O Antiphons, as well as works by William Byrd, Ellen Gilson Voth, Michael Fleming, and others. Festive banners designed by Judith McManis will adorn the nave.

Tuesdays Noon to One

Tuesdays 12 to 1 is a free, informal noontime concert series. Bring a bag lunch. Coffee and tea provided.

December 4, Annual Festive Choral Concert: UVM Catamount Singers, David Neiwem, director.

January 8, Young Artists: A concert featuring gifted young Vermont musicians.

Stone Church Arts

Immanuel Episcopal Church, 20 Church Street, Bellows Falls
Jayne Kelly, classical piano
 Saturday, December 1, 7:30 pm

Jayne Kelly's technical skill and expressiveness, along with her ability to find the inner voices in a wide variety of classical pieces, have won her many followers. She has performed in recital halls throughout the country, including Steinert Hall in Boston and the Concord City Auditorium in New Hampshire. Ms. Kelly, who lives and teaches in Keene, NH, has recorded a CD featuring a range of compositions.

Cornerstone Centennial Events at St. Peter's

St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 200 Pleasant St., Bennington
St. Petersburg, Russia, Men's Ensemble
 Friday, December 7, 7:00 p.m.

The four-member vocal ensemble will perform Russian sacred music and folk songs. For information call 802-442-2911, or visit www.stpetersbennington.org. Suggested donation \$20.

Advent Quiet Day

Trinity Church, 85 West Street, Rutland
 Saturday, December 8, 2007

The day, sponsored by The Daughters of the King Alpha Chapter, will begin with Morning Prayer, followed by times of meditation, prayer and reflection. Each participant should bring a bag lunch; coffee, tea and snacks will be provided. The day will end with Eucharist, the Rev. Alan Gibson presiding. Call Trinity, 802-775-4368, for information

Christmas Rock Point Style

Bishop Booth Conference Center, Rock Point, Burlington
 Saturday, December 15, 1-7 p.m.

Join people of all ages for winter games (weather permitting), parlor games by the fire, a "secret pal exchange" (bring a wrapped gift to exchange), a Pitch-in Holiday Dinner at 5 p.m. (bring a dish to share), and carol singing. Admission: a new toy for Toys for Tots. RSVP at betsycamps@hotmail.com.

Stars on The Lake Benefit for BBCC

Bishop Booth Conference Center, Rock Point, Burlington
 Saturday, December 22, 5-9 p.m. (rain or shine)

The festive event will include a wine and cheese tasting, a holiday dinner, musical entertainment, dancing and carol singing. Admission is \$25.00. For information or directions contact 802-658-6233. RSVP at betsycamps@hotmail.com.

Praise and Worship Service for young people (especially High School and Junior High)

Theme: The Journey continues...
When: Saturday, December 15, 2007
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Rock Point Chapel

Come join young people (and the young at heart) for a time of prayer with great music—including Christmas carols—Bible reading, reflection and the breaking of the bread. Bishop Ely will preside, and there will be time for fellowship after the service.

You are also invited to spend the afternoon at the Bishop Booth Conference Center experiencing "Christmas Rock Point Style" (see above for information.)

For more information call the Rev. Lisette Baxter, 802-658-0533.

Vermont Day at National Cathedral

Washington National Cathedral will observe "Vermont Day" on Sunday, March 30, 2008, in conjunction with the Cathedral's "Racial Reconciliation and Justice Week," March 30–April 6, 2008. The week, and particularly the Sunday service, will celebrate the ministry and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on the 40th anniversary of his last sermon, "Remaining Awake Through a Great Revolution." King preached the sermon at the National Cathedral March 31, 1968, just days before he was assassinated.

Vermont State Day will feature the Honorable John Lewis as preacher at the 11:15 service, invited Vermont religious leaders and elected officials, and Vermonters serving as bearers of the communion elements and gifts to the poor. Lewis, a living legend of the civil rights movement and Georgia's representative for the 5th Congressional District, will preach in honor of Dr. King.

Other events of the day will include a 10:00 a.m. Sunday forum, a Vermont Day Coffee Hour and a tour featuring the ways Vermont is represented in the Cathedral.

The Diocese of Vermont's Dismantling Racism Commission is helping to plan a



National Cathedral photo

weekend trip to the nation's capitol that will include the Vermont Day celebration, transportation and housing. Save March 28 to March 31, and watch future issues of the Mountain Echo for more details. ❖

GTS offers January courses

[GTS] The General Theological Seminary's Center for Christian Spirituality will offer three one-week intensive courses this January. Open to all, they may be taken for personal enrichment, to further the aims of one's ministry, or as part of a degree or certificate program. Each is five days, Monday through Friday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

"Contemplative Practice and Religious Reflection in Buddhism and Christianity," to be taught by Adjunct Prof. James Jones, January 7-11, combines theory and practice of contemplation from both faith traditions. Students learn various Buddhist meditations and spiritual practices and how

they could be integrated into an ongoing Christian life.

"Temple of the Spirit: the Body and Prayer," to be taught by Adjunct Prof. Nancy Roth, January 14-18, explores how we can deepen our relationship with God by including our bodies as partners in prayer.

"Imagination of the Medieval Church: Art, Poetry, and Spirituality 500-1500" with Adj. Prof. Clair McPherson, January 21-25, explores the history of medieval spirituality through theology, poetry, and visual art from the age of Gregory I (7th century) to the late Middle Ages (14th-15th).

The cost is \$450 per class to audit, or \$700 per graduate-level credit. For more information contact Jim Murphy at 212-243-5150 x461 or murphy@gts.edu, or visit www.gts.edu/ccsepiphanyterm.asp. ❖

EDS plans January course at BBCC

Just \$100 per congregation

"Developing Spiritual Communities," a course to be offered by Episcopal Divinity School at the Bishop Booth Conference Center, will focus on building spiritual communities within the church, within spirituality and discernment groups, and within progressive organizations.

Participants will be invited to experience a wide range of spiritual practices and will have the opportunity to gain concrete skills in group facilitation, deep listening, group discernment, theological reflection, and other practices helpful to the development of spiritual community. The class is open to adults of all ages, faith backgrounds, and professions.

The course begins Sunday, January 27 after dinner and concludes at 11 a.m., Friday, February 1. The cost is \$600, including the course, lodging, and food. It is available to members of congregations in the diocese of Vermont, Maine, or New Hampshire for \$100 per congregation. Register by contacting Imagill@eds.edu. Questions? Call Liz Magill at 617-682-1581. ❖

Kanuga to host health ministries conference

National Episcopal Health Ministries (NEHM) will offer "Seasons of Health Ministry," a national conference exploring starting, growing and refreshing parish nursing and health ministry programs, March 27-29, 2008, at Kanuga Retreat Center in Hendersonville, North Carolina.

NEHM's mission is to help congregations become vibrant, caring places of health and wholeness. NEHM educates and supports Episcopal health ministers and parish nurses and acts as an advocate for parish health ministry within The Episcopal Church. The Rev. Jean Denton, founder of NEHM and author of *Good is the Flesh: Body, Soul, and Christian Faith*, will be the conference keynote speaker.

For more information, visit www.episcopalhealthministries.org, or call 317-253-1277, ext. 34. ❖

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

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GRACE CHURCH, Sheldon, will host a holiday concert by Full Circle on Dec. 15, 7:30 p.m. Full Circle specializes in music from approximately 800 to 1600 AD, and have added to their repertoire Baroque instrumental music, folk songs, Celtic and Appalachian tunes, and some 20th century pieces. Members of Full Circle are **Maeve Kim, Beth London, Susan Reit, Linda Rodd** and **Mary Ann Samuels**.

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

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ST. THOMAS AND GRACE, Brandon, will now have a Rite One service at 8 a.m. and a Rite Two service at 9:30 a.m. The services have been planned close enough together so that all will have an opportunity to see each other between services.

Outreach Committee members at ST. STEPHEN'S, Middlebury, made possible a shower to welcome a baby whose family is living at the John Graham Shelter. Adult education in January 2008 will include a three day event on "The Passion of the Arts" arranged by **Larry Yarbrough** with speakers from Middlebury College.

The Women of TRINITY, Rutland, raised over \$2,300 for outreach programs such as the Open Door Mission and Rutland Women's Shelter at a Nov. 10 rummage sale. Their Dec. 6 holiday party will begin at 6 p.m. with a pot luck supper.

Seniors 60 years and older are invited to a free Poetry and Memoir Writing Workshop at Trinity on Nov. 28 and Dec. 5 and 12. For information contact **Cynthia Caruso** at 786-5990.

Día de Los Muertos marked at St. Mary's

Lee Crawford photo

The Rev. Lee Alison Crawford, rector of St. Mary's, Northfield, worshipped last fall at All Saints' Church, Ravenswood (Chicago), Illinois, while at a meeting of the Executive Council. There, she saw how they decorated the church for the Feast of All Saints and All Souls with colorful banners and remembrances of the dead. This year, she brought the fiesta, "Día de los Muertos," east to St. Mary's. On the Sunday after All Saints' Day, parishioners made banners with the names and attributes of their loved ones. Beth Neal and Patsy and Fred White helped assemble and hang up the banners. The festive decorations will remain in place through All Saints' Tide until the First Sunday of Advent.

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

The Trinity Choir will present a Christmas Cantata by 17th century German composer Dietrich Buxtehude at the 8:30 Christmas Eve service.

Teens **Helen Cowan, Nicholas Earle** and **Connor Merrill** of ST. PAUL'S, Vergennes, will run an alternative Christmas gifts boutique the first two Sundays of December after the 10 a.m. services. Featured will be jewelry made by African women, fair-trade coffee, wrist bands from Darfur, and special cards that allow the giver to provide livestock to families in need.

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

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ST. JAMES', Arlington, celebrated the ministry of Interim Rector **Pamela Porter**, who completed her time at the parish in November. They will welcome the Rev. **Scott Neal** as rector Dec. 9 [see Page K].

ST. PETER'S, Bennington, continues their Cornerstone Centennial with the Annual Christmas Tea on Dec. 8. Centennial ornaments and St. Peter's Music CDs will be on sale.

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

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ST. LUKE'S, Chester, will honor retiring church musician **Joe Grannis** at a special reception Dec. 2. The "St. Luke's Church Lunatic Fringe Theatre Company" put on "Next of Kin..." an evening of

comedy and mystery that raised nearly \$700 to benefit CHABHA (Children Affected by HIV/AIDS). According **Bonnie Watters**, "We scared a couple of kids, made some new friends, created reasons to laugh out loud and stirred up some deep, probing questions as to 'who done it.'"

ST. MARY'S IN THE MOUNTAINS, Wilmington, welcomed Rector **Thad Bennett** back from sabbatical leave in early November.

Three Rivers Deanery 5

Editor's note: I would welcome a volunteer Bureau Chief. Call me at 802-672-5250.

The grades 3-5 church school class at ST. PAUL'S, White River Junction, will offer opportunities to give alternative gifts in someone's honor from Episcopal Relief and Development's "Gifts for Life" catalogue. They will be available on the Sundays of Advent with cards and answers to questions about the various gifts in the catalogue.

Central Vermont Deanery 6

Editor's note: I would welcome a volunteer Bureau Chief. Call me at 802-672-5250.

Northeast Deanery 7**Lynn Perry**, Bureau Chief

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Auburn Watersong Harter of CHRIST CHURCH, Island Pond, reports that the Rev. **Brendon Whittaker** presided at a Community Blessing of the Animals service held at the gazebo by the lake in Island Pond on October 4 in honor of the Feast of St. Francis. Christ Church organized the event, which was blessed with perfect weather. Many animals of all denominations attended, with the owners in tow of course—8 dogs, 3 rabbits, 2 hamsters, 1 cat and 2 horses were blessed. All animals were very well behaved and fun was had by all!

Marcy Miller of ST. MARK'S, Newport, reports that the Sunday School class set a goal for themselves for the summer. Each child pledged to raise money for the Nets for Life project of Episcopal Relief and Development, and they also encouraged the rest of the parish to sign a pledge sheet promising to donate \$15 towards the purchase of a mosquito net. Shown at right are the children at their bake sale, held at Jay Peak's August West Festival, where they made over \$90. When Sunday School reconvened this fall, the children gathered the pledge money from parishioners who had signed the pledge sheet. They collected a total of \$600 for Nets For Life, and Sunday School member, **Emily Corkins** presented the check to **Presiding Bishop Jefferts Schori** at Diocesan Convention.

Champlain Deanery 8**Linda Morrell**, Bureau Chief

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Betsy Yung, Bureau Chief

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Advent begins Dec. 2. Many parishes will be making Advent wreaths. Check your parish newsletter for holiday events and time of services.

The CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. PAUL, Burlington, will host a children's holiday shopping event Dec. 15, and the funds raised will be used for children's programs. There will be an overnight Dec. 7-8 for the Senior High Youth Group. Canon Educator **Tanya Wallace** will lead a group for part 2 of the Christian initiation process beginning Sunday Dec. 9, at 10:15.

The annual wreath project at ST. JAMES', Essex Junction, will support tuition for the congregation's "godson" in Honduras. St. James's commitment is for \$900 for the year.

ALL SAINTS', South Burlington, participated in an interfaith Thanksgiving service Nov. 18, at Church of Latter Day Saints, along with members of Temple Sinai, Faith Methodist, and the Mormon community. The 2008 annual play will be held in April, rather than February, due to an early Lenten season. ❖



The Rev. Brendon Whittaker blesses Muriel O'Gorman's cat, Chi-Chi (above) and Katherine and Katelyn Maxwell's horses.



Auburn Watersong Harter photos



Jen Johansen photo

News from the Rock Point Property Manager



by Chuck Courcy

With winter approaching and snowflakes in the air, I thought it might be a good time to reintroduce myself. My name is Chuck Courcy, and for those of you who don't know me, I'm the guy who took over the property manager's position at the Rock Point property in 2000.

It has been my great pleasure to work with Debi Patterson, director of the Bishop Booth Conference Center (BBCC), in order to extend our reach into the Burlington Community and beyond. We are now partnering with the University of Vermont to build curriculum in the areas of environmental education and sustainability. We are blessed with a number of interns from UVM who are in the process of developing lesson plans to be offered to school groups and campers for years to come.

It has become obvious to those who live and work at Rock Point that we are

positioned to be a role model in the community. The Conference Center recently hosted a Quaker group with Bill McKibben as the guest speaker. Bill is one of the leading voices in the country speaking out about global warming. I was fortunate to sit in on Bill's question and answer session. I left the meeting feeling hopeful for our future.

This winter, I will be taking a sabbatical with the purpose of learning more about myself and the world. Specifically, I will be concentrating on issues dealing with sustainable living. My family and I will travel to India in order to visit my wife's family, but also to visit the community of Auroville.

Auroville is in the southeast of India. It's an intentional community with a membership from over 35 different countries. The purpose of Auroville is to realize "human unity." Participants come from different social backgrounds, classes and religions. Along with its experiment in human unity and its emphasis on transforming consciousness, Auroville is researching sustainable living practices and developing strategies for the environmental, social and spiritual needs of humankind.

Needless to say, we are grateful for the opportunity to check out this unique community. It is our hope to visit and volunteer in one of the many hands-on projects offered to visitors. Upon my return, I hope to use the experience in ways that will benefit our community. It's also my hope to report on our adventure via the links on the diocesan Web page and in the Mountain Echo. ❖

EDS receives second Lilly grant

[EDS] Episcopal Divinity School has been selected to receive a grant of \$750,000 from Indianapolis-based Lilly Endowment Inc. to continue participation in the national "Pastoral Excellence Project." This three year grant will allow EDS to complete the integration of the knowledge gained from the initial "Sustaining Pastoral Excellence Project" grant awarded in 2002. The Diocese of Vermont will continue as a participant.

The EDS proposal for Lilly II is titled *Baptismal Ministry Collaborative: Sustaining*

Efforts that Promote Pastoral Excellence in Underserved Areas. Baptismal ministry is the idea that congregational vitality is not dependent on the size of the congregation, but rather on the way the ministry of baptized members contributes to caring for one another, worshiping God, and serving the community.

The program has created a hybrid educational model that allows congregations to educate and form local leaders without leaving home. It includes local facilitation along with the theological expertise of EDS faculty. "It's a partnership model and a dialogical model that takes the local church seriously," said Dr. Fredrica Harris Thompsett, EDS faculty member and project co-director. In addition, EDS will be able to create additional on-campus, videoconference, and written resources for helping congregations develop baptismal ministry. Materials will be tested through a partnership with the Dioceses of Vermont, Northern Michigan, and Wyoming, but will be available to any diocese, congregation, or other group interested in helping to inform, transform, and form their local leadership.

"We are particularly grateful for the opportunity to have worked with the EDS community, fostering a deeper relationship and working together to create the programs necessary to meet the needs of the church in Vermont," said Bishop Thomas Ely. ❖

Calvary welcomes new rector

by Karen Floyd

The people of Calvary Church, Underhill, gathered to commemorate a new season of ministry at a special service on Sunday, October 21. Bishop Thomas Ely presided and preached at the liturgy for "The Renewal of Ministry and Welcoming of a New Rector." The Rev. J. Harrison L. Heidel began his ministry at Calvary in June when he and his wife, Marcie Nicholas, moved to Vermont from Newfoundland.

The liturgy used recognizes mutuality among all the ministers of the Church, not just those ordained. All enjoyed a reception in the undercroft after the celebration.

Karen Floyd is parish administrator at Calvary, Underhill.

Diocese calls Minister of Stewardship Development

by Anne Clarke Brown

The Reverend E. Angela Emerson has accepted the call to serve the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont as its first Minister of Stewardship Development. She brings to the position years of experience in stewardship ministry as a stewardship consultant working with many parishes in the Southeast and with the Dioceses of Upper South Carolina, Missouri and Atlanta.

Emerson, who was selected by the bishop and a diocesan discernment committee from among a number of gifted candidates, serves on the board of The Episcopal Network for Stewardship (TENS). She also has experience in the area of planned giving through her work with Oconee Regional Hospital Foundation Board of Directors. She said, "I am excited and honored to be invited to lead this very important theological work in the Diocese of Vermont. Learning to be a good steward of the mysteries and abundance of God is a challenge for all of us, especially in this consumer-oriented society."

In announcing the appointment, Bishop Thomas Ely said, "I am grateful for the work of the Discernment Committee and to Bob Uerz, who has worked with the Diocesan Council and the Discernment Committee as a consultant for the past eighteen months. He listened to local congregations and worked on the fund development plan for the diocese and the description for this new position." Ely continued, "I am also grateful to the Hunt Fund and to the Trustees of the Diocese for the funding that makes this position possible for the next three years."

Recently ordained an Episcopal priest, Emerson is currently serving as associate to the rector and school chaplain at Saint Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church in Tucson, Arizona. She has also been working with congregations in the Tucson area in the establishment of legacy societies. She said, "It is difficult and very sad to say good-bye to the students, teachers, parishioners and fellow sojourners who have taught me so much about how to be a priest during my

first year in ministry. I shall miss them and will hold them in my prayers with great respect and affection."

Emerson earned her law degree from Woodrow Wilson College of Law and practiced law from 1977 to 2003 in Georgia, where her home parish was St. Stephen's, Milledgeville. She left Georgia to attend the Seminary of the Southwest in Austin, Texas, where she received her Masters of Divinity in 2006. She has a B.A. in sociology from the University of Tennessee.

Emerson will move to Vermont after the first of the year and begin her ministry on February 1, 2008. Ely said, "I look forward to working with Angela as a member of the diocesan Ministry Support Team as we implement the stewardship goals and objectives that are part of the Diocesan Strategic Plan for Growth and Ministry. Angela brings to this new position many wonderful gifts, years of solid experience and a strong passion for this ministry."

[Bishop Thomas Ely contributed to this article.]



Scott Neal called to St. James' Arlington Ordination set for December 1

Bishop Thomas Ely announced at Diocesan Convention that St. James', Arlington, has called the Rev. Scott B. Neal to serve as the congregation's next rector. Neal, who was ordained deacon in November 2006, graduated from the General Theological Seminary last May.

Prior to attending seminary, Neal was a long-time member and choir director at St. Mary's, Northfield. He and his wife, Beth, owned a florist business in Northfield.

Bishop Ely will ordain Neal to the Sacred Order of Priests at St. James' on December 1, at 1 p.m. Neal will begin his new position on December 9. ❖

Status of congregation audits

Below is an updated status of 2006 parish audits as of October 31, 2007. It is a canonical requirement that each parish perform a financial audit according to guidelines found in the Manual for Audit Committees of Vermont Churches. Annual audits for the prior calendar year are due September 1. If there are any questions about this process or the published status of a congregation's audit, please call the diocesan office, 800-286-3437. [Data provided by the diocesan financial administrator and the Oversight and Audit Committee.]

Audit Approved

Bethel
Brandon/Forest Dale
Burlington
Colchester
Essex Junction
Island Pond
Killington
Lyndonville
Manchester
Norwich
Rutland
St. Albans
Shelburne
Three Rivers IPC
Underhill
Wells
Windsor

Woodstock

Audit Received

(Awaiting Review or Clarification)
Alburgh
Bennington
Brattleboro
Enosburg Falls
Middlebury
Newport
Northfield
Randolph
South Burlington
Stowe
Swanton

Audit Not Received

Arlington

Barre
Bellows Falls
Canaan
Chester
Fair Haven/ Castleton
Fairlee
Hardwick
Montpelier
Poultney
Proctorsville
Sheldon
Slate Valley IPC
Springfield
St. Johnsbury
Vergennes
Waitsfield
White River Junction
Wilmington

Kagando Foundation continues its work in Uganda villages

by Sue and Joe Bamford

Sue and Joe Bamford, parishioners of Zion Church, Manchester, and founders of the Kagando Foundation, have recently returned from an on-site visit to the Kagando Hospital and Rural Development Center in Uganda. Their objective was to determine how contributed funds were being allocated and to talk with those responsible for implementing programs as well as those participating in and receiving benefits from them. They were also able to hand-deliver two duffel bags of drugs and medical supplies. The bottom line is that Foundation funds are being spent according to guidelines and with accountability.

The Foundation's primary objective continues to be providing clean water to as many people as possible. This year, in addition to funding all but a small portion of the 31-kilometer Munkunyu Water Project, the Foundation was able to provide \$27,000 to upgrade the hospital's aging water system.

Probably the most moving news was that no new cases of cholera had been reported from communities served by the gravity flow water systems in the past year. This is a tremendous accomplishment, which in no small part is the result of the generosity of their contributors. The most encouraging news was that the county government and local councils

have responded by purchasing land surrounding the water sources to protect them from encroachment.

Locating water taps every kilometer has saved thousands upon thousands of hours previously consumed by the back-breaking labor of water gathering. An old mama drawing water from a new tap told the Bamfords, "I used to walk six kilometers to fetch dirty water from the river. I've got too old. Thank God, now good water comes to me."

Twenty-six rag dolls, handmade by Zion women, were received with great enthusiasm. The Bamfords left some with the AIDS orphans and the rest on the pediatric ward for the children needing a friend. These children have no real toys but play with sticks and stones, or perhaps a discarded rim of a bicycle tire. So the dolls are greatly loved.

The Foundation is funding other activities as well. Women who are incontinent of urine or have fistulas resulting from prolonged labor live miserable, outcast lives, shunned by family and neighbors. Some are in their teens. Through partnership with specialists in Kampala and Engender Health, which is dedicated to improving reproductive health worldwide, the surgical correction of these maladies is giving new life to those afflicted. "I rejoice in being a person again," said Ruth Nwanda.

Maintaining proper hydration in infants suffering from acute malaria is a tricky process. Failure usually

results in death. The use of infusion pumps purchased by the Foundation has saved scores of infants. Moses Barnabas said, "I take my son home healthy. The machine made him well."

Plans for 2008 include:

1. Extending the gravity flow, pure water system to serve an additional 7,000 people.
2. Providing space for premature and ill infants and their mothers by expanding the perpetually overcrowded pediatrics ward.
3. Supplementing school fees for AIDS orphans.
4. Helping Dr. Ahimbisibwe Asa complete graduate training next July so he can return to Kagando with specialty skills.
5. Expanding family planning services.
6. Replacing antiquated equipment in the operating rooms.

The challenges continue. The Foundation hopes for further support to meet these continuing needs. Fortunately, there is a group in England, "Friends of Kagando," that is also making a substantial contribution, and another group in the Netherlands. The Danish government has recently awarded a grant to rebuild the School of Nursing and Midwifery, which had been condemned by the Uganda government as unsafe.

Please visit our Web site, www.kagando.org, for further information. We ask for your prayers. ❖

Diocesan Calendar

December 2007

- 1 Ordination of the Rev. Scott Neal to the Sacred Order of Priests, St. James', Arlington, 1 pm
- 2 Bishop's Visitation, Calvary, Underhill
- 4 Fresh Start for Clergy, Calvary, Underhill, 9:30 am
- 5 Rock Point Managers, Diocesan Office, 8:30 am
- 7 **Deadline, January Mountain Echo**
- 8 Diocesan Council, All Saints', South Burlington 10-2
- 11 Advent Getaway Second Tuesday Retreat, BBCC, 10-4
- 12 Executive Committee of Diocesan Council, Diocesan Center, 1-3 pm
- 12 Taizé Service, BBCC Chapel, 7:30 pm
- 13 Ministry Support Team quarterly meeting, 10 am-3 pm
- 14 Ministry Development Group
- 15 United Thank Offering grant application deadline
- 15 Christmas Rock Point Style, BBCC, 1-7 pm
- 16 Bishop's Visitation, St. Andrew's, Colchester
- 18 Clergy Day, St. John's, Randolph, 10 am-2 pm
- 19 Senior Luncheon, Third Wednesday Retreat, BBCC
- 22 Stars on the Lake, wine tasting, BBCC, 5-9 pm
- 24 Diocesan Office closes at noon until January 2, 2008

January 2008

- 2 Rock Point Managers, Diocesan Office, 8:30 am
- 3 Ministry Development Group
- 6 Bishop's Visitation, Holy Trinity, Swanton
- 7 **Deadline, February Mountain Echo**

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

Funds Available for Parish Use As of November 1, 2007

Initiative I	
The Bishop Butterfield Revolving Loan Fund	\$ 491,500
Initiative II	
The Talent and Resource Network	\$ 15,636
Initiative III	
The Congregation Renewal and Emergency Assistance Fund	\$ 6,565
Initiative IV	
The Diocesan Outreach Fund	\$ 7,240
Walter P. Irish Fund	
Assistance for churches in small communities	\$ 13,693

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



Sue Bamford photos

Above: The Rev. Boguma and the "tap committee" are ready to fill their water containers. Below: School children enjoy the water flowing from a tap in their village.

