

MOUNTAIN ECHO

News of the Episcopal
Diocese of Vermont

an edition of
Episcopal Life

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

November 2007

St. Peter's celebrates Cornerstone Centennial

by Anne Clarke Brown

The congregation of St. Peter's, Bennington, kicked off a year-long "Cornerstone Centennial Celebration" with a festival choral Eucharist on Sunday, September 30. Bishop Thomas Ely presided at the service, which followed the 1892 Book of Common Prayer, and Governor James Douglas presented Rector Anita Schell-Lambert with a proclamation declaring September 29 to be "Cornerstone of Saint Peter's Episcopal Church in Vermont Day."

The congregation in Bennington was formed in the late eighteenth century. Its original brick church, built in 1835, was torn down to make way for a new structure designed by William H. Bull and built of blue-gray dolomite from a nearby quarry. The new building's cornerstone was set on the Feast of St. Michael and All Angels, September 29, 1907, and the church was completed and consecrated in 1909.

St. Peter's shares this special cornerstone anniversary date with the Cathedral Church

of St. Peter and St. Paul—the National Cathedral—in Washington, D.C., which is also celebrating a centennial year. According to Judy Krum of St. Peter's, "approximately four St. Peter's could fit inside the National Cathedral."

In her sermon, the Rev. Anita Schell-Lambert noted that, "We have been working very hard to make [this day] reflect the spirit of our spiritual benefactors who had the courage, the vision, and the faith to stay with this gift of a new stone church—this legacy, not only to the congregation, but also to the community of Bennington."

Schell-Lambert reflected on life in Bennington in 1907 and the "honesty, integrity, dedication, commitment and deep connection to the town of Bennington" that are at the heart of the history of St. Peter's. Then, inviting the congregation to look to the future, she said, "The bottom line for us this Feast of Michaelmas is, how then do we love one another these next 100 years?"

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Bishop Thomas Ely reads a letter of congratulations to the congregation at St. Peter's, Bennington, at the service celebrating the centennial of the laying of the building's cornerstone. With him are Rector Anita Schell-Lambert and Deacon Penny Hawkins.

House of Bishops meets and works in New Orleans

by Anne Clarke Brown

The House of Bishops of The Episcopal Church held their annual fall meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, in late September. At the top of their agenda was the formulation of "A Response to Questions and Concerns Raised by Our Anglican Communion Partners," and they were joined by Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams and members of the Joint Standing Committee of the Primates and the Anglican Consultative Council.

The bishops chose the New Orleans location, according to Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori, "as an act of solidarity with the people of Louisiana and the Mississippi Gulf Coast, so that we might represent the prayers and concern of the whole church and offer a small contribution to the rebuilding effort." As part of that contribution, the bishops' agenda included a day spent visiting areas both in New Orleans and on the Mississippi Gulf Coast devastated by Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath and working on projects from construction to delivering lunches to project crews.

On the evening of September 20, the bishops joined members of the New Orleans community for a special ecumenical worship service titled, "Humanity Renewed, Restored, Re-centered in God," at the Morial Convention Center, a place that had been the scene of chaos, death and suffering during the post-Katrina floods. During the service, bishops from all over The Episcopal Church presented financial offerings from their dioceses totaling nearly one million dollars that will be shared by the Dioceses of Mississippi and Louisiana for their relief and rebuilding work. Vermont Episcopalians contributed \$5,000 to that offering.

Preaching at the ecumenical service, Archbishop Williams asked, "What do we owe one another?" We are, he said, "indebted to one another," and "what we owe most deeply of all is gratitude." Further, he said, "What we owe one another is what we owe Jesus Christ," who "gives us restored, renewed humanity. We owe Christ big time!"

The accompanying issue of Episcopal Life includes articles on the substance of the bishops' meeting and their response to requests

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Vermont Bishop Thomas Ely, Albany Bishop William Love and Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori worked on hanging sheetrock in a Gulport, Mississippi house.

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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"The ministry of Jesus is a ministry of liberating justice and inclusive love..."

A sermon preached at the October Ministry Fair Days
by the Right Reverend Thomas Clark Ely, Bishop of Vermont

Every eye in the synagogue was fixed on him that day. The hometown boy, now an itinerant preacher of growing renown was back home and in the synagogue of his youth, as was his custom. His reputation as a gifted teacher, praised by others, was increasing. He read the familiar words of liberation, justice and jubilee from the scroll of the prophet Isaiah and then sat to offer a word of commentary. They were all looking at him, wondering what this rabbi would say to them. And then he spoke: "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing" (Luke 4:21).

We look back to this account in Luke's Gospel (Luke 4:14-21) and see in it the inauguration of our Lord's public ministry, following as it does his baptism at the River Jordan and his temptation in the wilderness. We identify in this narrative the defining quality of his ministry, as Luke would have us understand it. The ministry of Jesus is a ministry of liberating justice and inclusive love, with a particular focus on the poor, the captive, the oppressed and those in need of healing—the blind, both physically and spiritually. We witness in this narrative the declaration of Jesus that he embodies the fulfillment of this scripture and that the mission to which this scripture calls God's people is his mission. It is the mission of restoration, liberation, transformation, and reconciliation. It is the mission of jubilee justice.

As Luke records the events of this day, the initial response to this teaching is positive. Glancing beyond the end of the Gospel text we just heard, we read, "All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth." We don't know what else Jesus said that led Luke to record that reaction, but we do know from reading further in Luke that this initial positive reaction

"became increasingly hostile as the magnitude of Jesus' message sank home."*

This tension between the reaction of some to his teaching as powerful, transformative and with authority, versus the reaction of those who were none too keen about the tone, content and challenge his teaching presented, was a tension throughout his public ministry and ultimately a significant dynamic leading to his crucifixion. That tension is still present today, both in the world and in the church.

Living into this jubilee justice mission of Jesus is just as challenging to the church and to the world today as it was to the religious and civic establishment 2,000 years ago. We experience this tension close to home in The Episcopal Church when we say gay and lesbian persons are full and equal members of our church and then deny them the blessing of the church on their committed relationships and on their full participation in the ordained ministry of our church.

We experience this tension close to home in our country when we claim our compassion and commitment for those whose lives were devastated by Hurricane Katrina, and yet two years later witness that the poorest among those affected are still waiting for that compassion to reach them, as Ann and I recently witnessed.

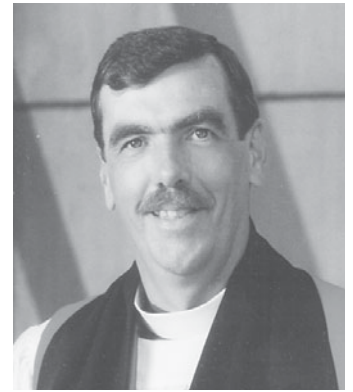
And, we experience this tension in the world when the nations of the world make a commitment to eradicate global poverty

by addressing the root causes of poverty—hunger, education, gender equality, child mortality, maternal health, disease, and environmental sustainability—and then fail to follow through with the commitment of readily available resources to accomplish the goals articulated in the United Nations Millennium Development Goals.

God's justice mission of restoration, liberation, transformation, and reconciliation continues to challenge all of us, but particularly those who are content with the status quo and who benefit greatly from it. The promise of God spoken through the prophet Isaiah that, "I am about to create new heavens and a new earth where the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind" (Isaiah 65:17), is a direct challenge to the hearts and minds of those who delight in their privilege and whose lives prosper at the expense of others.

Thank God that the divine words of jubilee and mission still echo in the hearts and minds of the many who commit themselves to the liberating, inclusive mission of Jesus. In my mind that divine imperative offers

"Living into this jubilee justice mission of Jesus is just as challenging to the church and to the world today as it was to the religious and civic establishment 2,000 years ago."



both the foundation and the justification for our commitment as the Episcopal Church to the United Nations Millennium Development Goals.

One of the brilliant things Desmond Tutu has said, among the many superb things he has spoken and written is this: "One of the wonderful things is how God depends on all of us, which is actually mind-boggling because here you have God who is omnipotent and yet waits on human creatures to be God's partners and collaborators. Each one of us has a contribution, each and every one of us."

"And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him." Today, the eyes of God are fixed on us. We can make a difference. We must make a difference. *What ONE Can Do: Changing the World*. That is the theme of our Diocesan Convention. That is the future-looking mission focus of our 175th Anniversary celebration. May God sustain and strengthen us for that mission.

+ Thomas

* Oxford Annotated Bible Commentary

What can ONE do?

Become a ONE Episcopalian and/or a ONE Congregation at www.episcopalchurch.org/ONE/

Stand-Up and Speak Out Against Poverty and for the MDGs. Last year Episcopalians across the country took part in setting a Guinness World Record by Standing-Up to Fight Poverty. This year, on November 16 and 17, the organizers want to exceed the 23.5 million who Stood Up last year. Your church can take part. Go to: <http://www.standagainstopoverty.org>.

Participate in ONE Sunday. The 2006 General Convention set the last Sunday after Pentecost (November 25) as "ONE Sunday" for the Episcopal Church. For a special bulletin insert, go to www.dioceseofvermont.org under "Become a ONE Episcopalian." Additional resources at www.episcopalchurch.org/eppn. The same Sunday is the ONE Campaign's ONE Sabbath. Download the ONE Sabbath overview at www.one.org/faith/index.html.

Take the "Counting Prayers" pledge. Congregations and individuals can go to www.countingprayers.org and take the pledge to say aloud the prayer, "The world now has the means to end extreme poverty; we pray we will have the will," at every service, every week until the millennium goals are met. The first official prayer was offered at St Paul's, the chapel of Trinity, Wall Street, on 23 September 2007.

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Anne Clarke Brown, Editor

Contributions of news and photographs are invited and encouraged

Please send such materials to the editor at

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Ask Sr. Bible Person

Do you have questions about the Bible?

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

Dear Sr. Bible Person,

The Gospel reading for the 17th Sunday after Pentecost (Luke 16: 1-13) left me scratching my head. The sermon I heard that day was a decent attempt to make sense of this weird story, but I am still wondering where the Good News is in it?
J.R.

Dear J.R.,

Join the club! I am sure that many preachers groaned when they opened the lectionary and realized that they would have to wrestle with the story of the "dishonest steward." And my guess is that many preachers that day slumped into their chairs after the sermon wondering if they had clarified anything or just added to the confusion. I understand clearly why Matthew, Mark, and John didn't include this story in their Gospels. Too many headaches.

Why would Jesus praise the actions of a scoundrel who apparently was ripping off his boss's debtors and then cooked the books in order to ingratiate himself with the debtors once he saw that he was going to get fired? Weird, indeed.

Some interpreters have seized on the idea that the unscrupulous steward at least took action when faced with a crisis. He tried to make a bad situation better. True enough, and when it comes to making a decision about the Kingdom of God, maybe Jesus was saying that it's time for folks, no matter what their ethical track record is, to make a decision and take action to "get with the program." But that still seems to suggest that unethical behavior can be justified. The end justifies the means. Do what you have to, regardless of the methods. Oh, how modern. And, oh how unlike Jesus.... Hmm... what else can we try?

Other interpreters suggest that the steward learned that relationships are more important than money. That's a great thing to learn, but in this story, the steward carries favor with some slippery bookkeeping. Is that the basis of a good relationship? I don't think so, and I doubt Jesus did either.

Finally, some folks—in a bit of clutching at straws, in my opinion—focus on the fact that the debts were "forgiven." Great. I'm in favor of forgiveness, and I celebrate the fact that divine forgiveness is always greater than my sin, but is that what this story in Luke is about? What if someone at the bank called me and told me that my mortgage debt had been taken off the books and I no longer owed any money to the bank? That would be more than good news. That would be terrific news. But if we substituted this mortgage metaphor in Jesus' story, we would have a lowly bank teller calling me and, allegedly on behalf of the bank manager, forgiving my debt. I might initially be happy but I would be very suspicious about the validity of the forgiveness. Doesn't sound like truly good news, does it?

A friend of mine suggested that the only interpretation that makes sense of this strange parable is the one proposed

by Elton Trueblood in his book, *The Humor of Christ*. Trueblood thinks that Jesus was being sarcastic when he said, "Make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth." In that same spirit, instead of importing a bit of sarcasm into the story, maybe we could just put a question mark in the text instead of a period, so it would be "Make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth?" And then we could imagine Jesus pausing, shaking his head from side to side as he indicates non-verbally, "I don't think so."

Better yet, if Elton Trueblood had been alive when Saturday Night Live became popular on television, he might have enjoyed the characters of Wayne and Garth, who regularly appeared on the segment entitled "Wayne's World." Their signature gag was to make an important statement and then deny its truth. Sitting in their ramshackle basement hideout, one of them could have shouted out, "So, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth!" Then, after a pause, both of them would have yelled, "NOT!"

So, the next time you realize this story is going to be read in public, you could ask ahead of time if the Gospel reader would pause after that crucial sentence so that you can shout out, "NOT!" It will shake some people up. It will get a smile from fans of Saturday Night Live. And Wayne and Garth will be proud of you. Go for it!

[Send questions for Sr. Bible Person in care of the editor, abrown@vermontel.net, or PO Box 67, Plymouth, VT 05056.]

Wanted! Missing Diocesan Resource Center Materials

A Diocese of Vermont Resource Center Task Force has been working for a year to revive the Resource Center. We have purchased software to catalogue the resources and now we need your help in gathering up all the resources scattered around the diocese.

So...please look around your churches and homes and see if you have any materials to return. There will be a table at the Diocesan Convention where you can drop them off, or you can pick up a mailing envelope at the table and mail them back using media mail. You can also drop them off at the Diocesan Office or hand them to a ministry developer who visits your parish. If congregations have materials they have used for programs that they would like to share with others, we would be glad to accept donations.

Thanks for your help as we gather up the resources and prepare to make them available for all!

Members of the Resource Center Task Force are Carole Wageman, Jennifer Ogelby, Tanya Wallace, Connie Saeger-Proctor, Anne Brown, and Lynn Bates.

Letters and Opinion

Letters to the Editor (300 words or fewer) and **Opinion** articles are welcome and encouraged on any relevant topic. **Letters must have a name and phone number or email address so I can check details.** Anonymous letters will not be printed, but names may be withheld upon request. Submissions may be edited for reasons of space.

Anne Clarke Brown, Editor, *Mountain Echo*

Brewster Martin

To the editor:

Thank you thank you for your article on Brewster Martin. Certainly the people of Chelsea and Orange County who have known Brewster so well over his life can speak so much better that I about this amazing, wonderful man.

I would like to share two stories that to me speak volumes about the character of this man. The first is about a fellow classmate from graduate school who had a place in Chelsea, was an alcoholic and, it turned out, revealed this to us (we hadn't known) one weekend when he went on a binge. I found him delirious on Saturday morning, and so I spent the whole day and then early evening with him, talking, giving him food, water, coffee, talking with him some more, and whatever else I could do to keep him from doing even more damage to himself. Finally at my wits end I called Brewster. He said, "You need a break, Craig, I'll be right there." On up the mountain he came. It turned out he spent the entire night there, helping my friend sober up and get rest, as well

as this physician's medical help. Ever the gentleman and country doctor.

The second story is more personal. We had a wonderful son, Jacob, who struggled with severe congenital heart disease for two years. After many open-heart surgeries at Boston's Children's Hospital, his wee heart finally gave out, a few days after his 2nd birthday. I was in Boston with him at the hospital for more surgery; my wife was at home on our farm in Chelsea with our daughter. I tried and tried to call my wife, but couldn't reach her. After a while, I thought, "I'll call Brewster." I reached him at home. He said, "Craig, I'll find her." And he did. He went to our home and found my wife, out in back, sitting with our sheep, finding there what comfort she could, not yet knowing for sure, but fearing nevertheless. Brewster spent the rest of the morning there with her.

Truly a man of grace, integrity, charity beyond measure. God, how blessed we were.

Craig Hammond
Marlboro, Vermont

Wetlands, Water and Creation Care

To the editor:

God's Creation includes wetlands, where water, land and wildlife interact in a myriad of ways. Fish, birds, amphibians, insects, mammals, plants, trees—including rare species—interact to create vibrant wildlife communities. Visiting a wetland on a stream in Charlotte, I perched on a log near a green frog, who sat three feet from me without moving. I have been grateful for this unusual experience over the years.

Wetlands collect water, clean it up through interaction with various plants and organisms, slow it down and hold it during spring melting, storms or floods, absorb some into the ground or send cleaner water on its way down a stream. If the wetland has been able to do its job, the water carries less silt, runs with less force, and creates less erosion on its way to a lake or stream. Wetlands may help collect the water coming to your home, whether

from a well, Burlington Water Department, or Champlain Water District.

Because Vermont loses wetlands every year from development, a state-led group is struggling to find common ground about how to regulate or protect wetlands. Current regulation relies on maps created by aerial photography almost 30 years ago. The maps are recognized by most to be inadequate as they miss at least 30 percent of wetlands known to exist through field observation. Vermont's Wetland Rules do not protect a wetland unless it appears on the old maps or is connected to one that is on the maps.

Protecting wetlands means protecting water essential to all life, protecting land and buildings from erosion, and protecting the diversity of God's Creation by saving habitat where wildlife can live, feed and reproduce successfully. We all need to understand wetlands as assets, not burdens.

Please keep this process in your prayers, perhaps using the prayer below.

Sylvia Knight
Earth Care Circle Coordinator
Cathedral Church of St. Paul

CS&R awards grants

The Congregational Support and Resources Committee approved the following grants at their September meeting:

Initiative II, the Talent and Resource Network, two grants to Calvary, Underhill, for clergy transition expenses.

Initiative III, Congregational Renewal and Emergency Assistance, a grant to St. Luke's, St. Albans, for fire alarm system replacement.

The Irish Fund (assistance to churches in small communities), a grant to Christ Church, Island Pond, for congregational renewal.

A special grant to the Accessibility Committee to provide signing for the hearing impaired at Diocesan Convention.

Prayer for the Care of Creation

O God, creating word, source of wisdom, grant us new vision, new hearts, new understanding for protecting your Creation. We pray especially for those in Vermont seeking agreement on how to live with vulnerable parts of your Creation. Inspire us through the blessed life of St. Francis of Assisi to see you in the glory of your Creation, to love and protect your Creation for all generations, for the sake of your Son Jesus, lover of all life. Amen.

More Coming Events

Cathedral Arts

Cathedral Church of St. Paul, 2 Cherry Street, Burlington

Tuesdays Noon to One

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

November 6, Strings and Things: Laura Markowitz, violin; John Dunlop, cello and Elizabeth Metcalf, organ, will play the Gulliver Suite by Telemann, the Church Sonata in F Major for violin and organ by Biber, a suite for solo cello by Bach, and a set of variations for violin & cello by Mozart.

November 13, Vermont Chamber Group: Carolyn Lukancic Hopkins, violin; Peter Brown, cello; Robert Rachlin, piano.

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

Music for a Sunday Afternoon

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

Social Band

Sunday, November 4, 4 p.m.

Burlington's lively band of singers presents their trademark blend of choral styles old and new from diverse sources in a program exploring rest in a restless world. Directed by Amity Baker, pieces include premieres of new works by Vermont composers, Early European and American songs and selections from Social Band's 2005 Vermont Composers Project. The frivolous side of idleness is also explored with several tunes extolling the virtues of worldly pleasures. Suggested donation, \$10. Information on the full series is available at www.musicforasundayafternoon.com.

Cornerstone Centennial Events at St. Peter's

St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 200 Pleasant St., Bennington

The Wills Memorial Pipe Organ Concert Series

Sunday, November 4, 3:00 p.m.

John Riddle, organist, will play the 1938 Estey Pipe Organ (refurbished) given in memory of Harry Wills by William Wills, former governor and lieutenant governor of Vermont. Call 802-442-2911 to reserve tickets: \$8, or \$20 for the 3-concert series (other concerts are January 13 and April 13, 2008). After-concert receptions in St. Peter's Guild Room. Sponsored by Wills Insurance and Bob and Cora May Howe.

Poetry Reading by Stephen Sandy

Sunday, November 11, 3:30 p.m.

Stephen Sandy is the author of eleven books of poetry, including *Surface Impressions* and *Black Box*. He has taught at universities and workshops in Massachusetts, North Carolina, Rhode Island, and Vermont, and has received, among other honors, a residency at the Bellagio Study and Conference Center; a fellowship at the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, Massachusetts, and a Fulbright Visiting Lectureship in Japan. He lives in Shaftsbury, Vermont. The reading in the parish hall is free and open to the public. Refreshments and conversation will follow.

All Saints' Holiday Bazaar

All Saints Episcopal Church, 1250 Spear Street, South Burlington

November 10, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The annual bazaar will feature a bake sale, craft table, plant sale, antiques and treasures, books, white elephant items and a luncheon. Information at 802-862-9750.

Clergy Lecture/Discussion on Same-Sex Marriage

Thursday, November 15, 9:30 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

St. John's Episcopal Church, 15 Summer St., Randolph

The Vermont Freedom to Marry Task Force is sponsor of this clergy lecture/discussion program with Dr. Marvin M. Ellison, Bass Professor of Christian Ethics at Bangor Theological Seminary. An ordained Presbyterian minister, he is the author of *Same-Sex Marriage?: A Christian Ethical Analysis*. Open to clergy of all denominations. For registration information, contact the Rev. Carole Carlson (802-985-1596; carlsoncl@aol.com) or Robyn Maguire (802-310-6683; field_director@vtfreetomarry.org).

Faith, Advocacy and Public Policy

Province of New England Convocation

Friday and Saturday, November 16-17

Doubletree Inn, Westborough, Massachusetts

Lay people, clergy and bishops from the seven dioceses of New England will gather to discuss *Faith, Advocacy & Public Policy: Reclaiming Our Voice for Justice, Mercy and Kindness*, at the annual Province I Fall Convocation. Participants and featured speakers will have an opportunity to share political and advocacy experiences and organizing skills on behalf of social and economic justice. Convocation will examine the scriptural roots and historical perspectives that compel us to engage in advocacy.

The event is designed to be intergenerational, and all members of the Episcopal Church are invited. A brochure and registration information are at www.province1.org.

Study questions of race and congregational history

by Nancy Voge

Ever wonder what your congregation's history was with regard to race? If your church is old enough, did it or any of its members benefit from slavery? Did it support or discourage the Underground Railroad? Did it support the Civil Rights Movement of the 50s and 60s?

If you are interested in finding out how to go about answering any of these questions, come to a workshop Saturday, November 17, from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Vermont Historical Society, 60 Washington Street, Barre. Lunch will be provided. The workshop is sponsored by the Dismantling Racism Commission of the Diocese of Vermont.

Elise Guyette, educator and specialist in Vermont's black community of the 17th century, will lead off the morning by giving the "Vermont View" on slavery. For example, Vermont's constitution supposedly banned

slavery in the state, yet census records show that several Vermonters owned slaves. Paul Carnahan, librarian at the Vermont Historical Society, will address the "how to's" of research.

This workshop is the result of a 2006 General Convention resolution (A123) and a resolution of the 2006 Diocesan Convention that charged the Dismantling Racism Commission the take the lead in the effort to learn the extent to which the Diocese of Vermont and/or its congregations may have been complicit in, or benefited from, the institution of slavery and the subsequent history of segregation and discrimination.

To register, contact: Blanche Cooper (802-439-6798; bcooper@valley.net) or Nancy Voge (802-295-5415; st.pauls@valley.net).

The Rev. Nancy Voge is rector at St. Paul's White River Junction, and chair of the Dismantling Racism Commission.

Craig Smith to lead Advent Retreat

by Mary Lou Ashton

The annual Advent Retreat will be held at Bishop Booth Conference and Retreat Center at Rock Point, Burlington, from 5 p.m., Friday, November 30 to 2 p.m., Sunday, December 2, 2007. Come and refresh yourselves in this holy place, and listen to meditations given by the Rev. Craig Faulkner Smith, rector of Trinity Church, Shelburne. The chaplain will be the Rev. Thora Chadwick of St. Luke's, Alburgh.

Smith titles his meditations, "Celtic Christian Practices: Soul Friendship and Pilgrimage as 'Preparing Room in our Hearts.'" He will draw on the work of John O'Donoghue, Ian Bradley, A.M. Allchin, George Hunter and Esther de Waal to offer reflection on how our life experiences of friendship and pilgrimage open us to practicing God's presence in the midst of relationships and our daily rounds. They will invite reflection on our own experiences of God's unfolding presence as one means of experiencing the promises of Advent and Christmas.

Reservations may be made by sending a \$50.00 non-refundable deposit to John King, 433 Bean Road, Colchester, Vermont 05446. The cost of the retreat is \$150 for a double or triple room if registered by November 24 and \$175 after that date. A private room, when available, is \$175 if registered by November 24 and \$200 after that date. Questions: Call John at 802-862-6834.

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

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. It will look at a variety of models and approaches for deepening and supporting spiritual growth and discernment in communities of faith, as well as in "secular" organizations dedicated to advocacy and social justice.

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 will meet from Sunday, January 27 after dinner until 11 a.m., Friday, February 1. The cost of the program 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, thanks to grants from the Lilly Endowment, Inc, and Trinity Wall Street. Register by contacting lmagill@eds.edu. Questions? Call Liz Magill at 617-682-1581. ❖

Congregation Web site workshops set

by Leslie Black

Two more workshops will be held this fall to help small congregations—those with average Sunday attendance of fewer than 75—to create and maintain their own Web sites. The dates are Saturday November 17, 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., at a location in the northern part of the state, and Saturday, December 8, 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., at St. Paul's White River Junction.

Come with a WiFi equipped laptop if you have one (there will be loaners available if you don't), digital photos of your congregation and other information you would like on your Web site.

For more information and to register, contact Leslie Black: leslie.black@valley.net; 802-685-3491.

Leslie Black is a member of St. Paul's, White River Junction.

DSP to offer second book discussion

by John Morris

All interested adults are welcome to participate in a discussion of Archbishop Desmond Tutu's *God Has a Dream: A Vision of Hope for Our Time*, to be held on Sunday, November 18, from 3 to 5 p.m. The location will be announced after it is determined what will be most convenient for those who will be attending. This event is sponsored by the Diocesan Study Program, and the discussion will be led by the Rev. John Morris, Dean of DSP.

This will be the second DSP book discussion event this fall. On September 18, fifteen people from nine parishes gathered at St. John's, Randolph, to discuss *The Dream of God*, by Verna Dozier. During a lively and enjoyable discussion, the group shared their reactions to many of Dozier's ideas and also generated a list of bumper stickers that could be designed in memory of Ms. Dozier. The list included the following ideas:

- God became incarnate as a human, not a book.



Participants in a discussion of Verna Dozier's *The Dream of God*, sponsored by the Diocesan Study Program.

- We're called to follow Jesus, not to worship him.
- The Bible: a book of wrestlings, not a book of answers.
- The opposite of faith is fear.
- The opposite of faith is certainty.
- Faith is a risk that takes courage.

God Has a Dream is available for purchase at Hopkins Bookshop in Burlington (1-800-639-3611, or www.hopkinsbookshop.com). Those interested in attending should contact John Morris (morrisvt@tops-tele.com, or 802-439-6599).

The Rev. John Morris is rector at St. Martin's, Fairlee.

Trinity Institute to address religion and violence

Trinity Church Wall Street will present Trinity Institute's 38th National Theological Conference, *Religion and Violence: Untangling the Roots of Conflict*, on January 21-23, 2008. A panel of prominent Christian, Jewish, and Muslim theologians will explore the deeply rooted, seemingly inexorable union of religion and violence, illuminating the resources within each tradition for living together in peace, without losing the unique identities of each faith.

Keynote speakers will include: James Carroll, James H. Cone, Susannah Heschel, and Tariq Ramadan. Katherine Jefferts Schori, Presiding Bishop and Primate of the Episcopal Church, will preach the opening Evensong. Conference participation is open to clergy and laypersons of all faith traditions and can be attended onsite at Trinity Church, at video-linked partner sites located throughout the U.S. and Canada, and online at trinitywallstreet.org.

While people of all faiths raise prayers for peace, reports of religiously fueled violence fill the news. Through keynote presentations and small group reflection, this interfaith gathering will provide opportunities to deepen understanding, build community and explore how religion can be a powerful force for peace within ourselves, our families, our communities, and the world.

Religion and Violence: Untangling the Roots of Conflict will be held for onsite participants at Trinity Church in New York City. Regional partner sites will allow groups to participate through an online telecast. Both forums will include the keynote speakers, panel discussions, and facilitated break-out groups. The conference presentations will also be telecast live online and available on demand following the conference.

To attend the conference in New York, registration before November 16 is \$300; between November 17 and December 31, 2007, \$350; after January 1, 2008, \$400. The

deadline is January 11, 2008. Register online at www.trinitywallstreet.org/institute or by phone at 1-800-457-0224.

Information on becoming a partner site is at www.trinitywallstreet.org/institute; click on "regional partners." The cost is \$500 and includes a variety of pre-conference materials, opportunities to participate in the conference discussions and post-conference copies of the conference DVD. ❖

January term courses at EDS

[EDS] Episcopal Divinity School's January term offers students the opportunity for critical reflection on issues facing the church and the wider community. Using the Gospel of Mark, the baptismal covenant, and the mission of the church as starting points, EDS's January courses provide continuing education students the opportunity to explore and discuss contemporary theological issues with some today's most prominent theological scholars.

Scheduled from January 7 to 18, 2008, January term courses meet five days a week for a minimum of two hours per day, allowing students to earn full graduate course credit in an intense two-week period. Short-term housing and meal plans are available for students enrolling in the January term.

"Mark and Politics" explores the social and political world of the earliest Christian gospel, the powerful theological themes in Mark, and the down-to-earth literary style of Mark. Taught by Dr. Larry Wills, this course will be held from 7:00-9:00 pm, Monday through Friday.

"Baptismal Vocation, Ministry, and Leadership: Toward a New Ecclesiology," will focus on the importance and place of baptismal theology. Students will reflect on what baptism means to them and will discuss ministry in these contexts as well as ministry in isolated and underserved com-

Ministry Fairs prepare delegates for Diocesan Convention

Both Diocesan Convention delegates and those interested in learning more about the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) turned out for three Ministry Fair Saturdays in October at Trinity, Shelburne, Trinity, Rutland, and St. Michael's, Brattleboro.

The five morning workshops shared the theme of the 175th Diocesan Convention: "What One Can Do—Changing the World," and each was given twice. One offered an overview of the MDGs, and the others fo-

cused on the work of Children Affected by HIV/AIDS in Africa, the church in Central America, the New Sudan Education Initiative and Vermont Kids4Peace.

Bishop Ely preached and presided at a mid-day Eucharist [see his sermon on Page B], ministry developers gave a presentation on deepening baptismal ministry, the Nominating Committee presented candidates for elected offices, the Resolutions Committee presented four resolutions to be voted on at Convention, Chancellor Tom Little explained a resolution from the Canons Committee, and Treasurer Steve Smith outlined key aspects of the proposed budget. ❖



Above: Treasurer Steve Smith presents the proposed 2008 budget.

Right: Atem Deng describes the work of the New Sudan Education Initiative.



ACB photos

Bishops meet and work in New Orleans

Continued from Page A

made by the primates of the Anglican Communion at their meeting in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania last February. The "Response" and links to news reports and related material may be found on the diocesan Web site by clicking "September 2007 Meeting of the

House of Bishops" on the home page.

The bishops state that they believe their responses "provide clarity and point toward next steps in an ongoing process of dialogue" and note the importance in The Episcopal Church of the participation of all orders of ministry as well as the Executive Council and the General Convention. Among other points, they confirm the language of resolution B033 of General Convention regarding exercising restraint in consenting "to the consecration of any candidate for the episcopate whose manner of life presents a challenge to the wider church and will lead to further strains on communion," and they "pledge as a body not to authorize public rites or the blessing of same-sex unions."

Bishop Ely's reflections

Bishop Thomas Ely served on the drafting committee for the bishops' "Response," and his reflections on that experience are posted on the Web site. He says that though he voted to support the final document, there were aspects that troubled him. He does, he says, "intend to continue the current pastoral approach we have in the Diocese of Vermont for the blessing of holy unions."

Ely says the discontinuity between the commitment to the civil rights of gay and lesbian persons "and the current circumstance within The Episcopal Church is both glaring and unacceptable to me. I believe we should have stated more clearly our current failure to stand on the side of complete justice and full equality for all persons in our church."

The bishop asks for forgiveness from "gay and lesbian members [whom we made] the object of our discussion," and he apologizes to those who disagree with his position and

Continued on Page H

Northwest Deanery 1

Beth Crane, Bureau Chief

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Northwest Deanery representatives from St. Matthew's, Enosburg; St. Luke's, St. Albans; St. Luke's; Alburgh; Holy Trinity, Swanton; and Grace, Sheldon; came together with members of the parishes of St. James, Bedford, PQ; St. James, Farnham, PQ; St. George, Clarencville, PQ; St. Thomas, Noyan, PQ; and St. Paul, Phillipsburg, PQ, for a light meal, prayer, and a presentation by the BORDERS REGIONAL MINISTRY on its first year together. The group was joined by Canon to the Ordinary **Lynn Bates**. The Rev. **Thora Chadwick**, vicar of St. Luke's Alburgh, and the Rev. **Brian Evans**, rector, St. James, Bedford, led the presentation on the history, organization, schedule, and programs of the Ministry. Unfortunately, **Dorothy Wootton**, who initiated the discussions leading to the regional ministry and kept the faith through the three-year process, was prevented by illness from attending. The Borders Regional Ministry is open to new members or clusters.

ST. LUKE'S, Alburgh, will celebrate its 100th anniversary with a service on Dec. 22 at 2 p.m., using the 1892 Book of Common Prayer, followed by a Christmas tea and historical exhibit at the public library.

ST. LUKE'S, St. Albans, held its annual Book and Bake Sale in October. Senior luncheons have resumed at St. Luke's, and the congregation has convened a Ministry Discernment Committee as they seek new clergy leadership.

Offet Creek Deanery 2

Donna Abramov, Bureau Chief

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ST. THOMAS & GRACE, Brandon, officially becomes a single parish at Diocesan Convention. They will continue to use the two church buildings in Brandon and nearby Forestdale on an alternating basis. The Rev. **Arthur Parker**, a former rector, returned to the parish to baptize **Aaron Oliver** in August. Though a resident of South Dakota, he spends most of his time traveling in his RV.

ST. STEPHEN'S, Middlebury, celebrated their Newcomers' Fall Apple Dinner Oct. 6. The Outreach Committee promoted the United Way's Days of Caring in the community and had 14 volunteers at various sites.

The Women of TRINITY, Rutland, are hosting a Holiday Bazaar with local crafts Oct. 27, 9 a.m. till 2 p.m. Chef **Ernie Wright** will prepare a soup and sandwich lunch. Nov. 10, is their annual Fall Rummage Sale, with \$5.00 a bag clothing and lots of treasures, books, baked goods, toys and a soup and sandwich lunch. Programs at the women's meeting the first Monday of the month include a presentation by **Susanna Grannis** on CHABHA's work with AIDS orphans in Rwanda and South Africa, a presentation on the Clementwood Spiritual Life Center and **Michael Dwyer's** presentation on geneology.

❖ deanery doings ❖

News of Parishes and People in the Diocese of Vermont

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

Youngsters at Trinity collected funds for the Heifer Project, and the donations received, added to a collection at the U2charist service in June, totaled \$470. The children bought a water buffalo, a llama, a flock of chicks, a flock of geese and some tree seedlings.

Southwest Deanery 3

Sarah Smith, Bureau Chief

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ST. JAMES', Arlington, observed the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi by hosting a community-wide ecumenical service Oct. 4, to bless fanned and furred friends. The presiders included interim rector, the Rev. **Pamela Porter**, the Rev. **David Bort** of the Sandgate (non-denominational) Church, and Pastor **Kathleen Clark** of the Federated Church of East Arlington. With over 35 people and a myriad of well-behaved pets, including a turtle, 2 hens, a rooster, 2 rabbits, a cat and a wide variety of dogs of all sizes, shapes and ages, the evening was a wonderful time of fellowship and prayer. **Nancy Boardman**, below left, looks on as her dog, Posey, is blessed by the Rev. **Pamela Porter** outside St. James'.



Peter Crabtree photo, Bennington Banner

ST. PETER'S, Bennington, began a celebration of the 100th anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone of the current church building on Sept. 30 [see page A], and other events are planned throughout the year [see Page D for events coming up in November].

Southeast Deanery 4

Bette Harrison, Bureau Chief

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IMMANUEL, Bellows Falls, began a six-session Sunday morning adult ed course in October titled, "Everything you wanted to know about the Episcopal Church (well, almost), but were afraid to ask," and led by **Joellen Knight** and **Vic Horvath**. Topics include, Who are we? What do we believe? What do we do? Why

do we do it? What supports us? and a final session on questions participants wish to explore in greater depth.

ST. MICHAEL'S, Brattleboro, followed up on last year's "Aging with Grace" program with three sessions in October on "Facing the Inevitable: Together," an exploration of the challenges and rewards of having conversations together on the end of life. **George and Laura Lewis** began with an overview, followed by **Larry and Ellen Crockett** discussing their roles as singers providing live music to dying people. The final session was devoted to families and ways to collect memories.

ST. LUKE'S, Chester, had a September progressive dinner for newcomers and plans an Oct. 28 potluck luncheon to kick-off an effort to develop a 5-year strategic plan. A group of teens spent a Saturday cooking in the St. Luke's kitchen to make meals that have been frozen for delivery to the homebound. Proceeds from a murder mystery/comedy and dessert buffet will go to Children Affected by HIV/AIDS (CHABHA). The annual Christmas Tea and Sale will be Dec. 1, 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Three Rivers Deanery 5

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

ST. BARNABAS, Norwich, has begun "Tuesdays with the Rector," an after-school opportunity for young people 5th grade through high school to share snacks and engage in a "free-ranging discussion" with Rector **Beth Hilgartner**. The congregation is planning to create an "Episcopet" calendar as a fundraiser.

ST. PAUL'S, White River Junction, welcomed Rector **Nancy Voegle** back from sabbatical leave with a special parish dinner Oct. 13. The vestry and the sabbatical task gathered for a retreat Oct. 27, to talk about the sabbatical period—how it went and what they learned.

ST. JAMES', Woodstock, donates groceries twice a year for families with a member suffering with HIV/AIDS. The Rev. **Christina Brannock-Wanter** (below) blesses the gathered bags before delivery.



Central Vermont Deanery 6

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

Northeast Deanery 7

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Champlain Deanery 8

Linda Morrell, Bureau Chief

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Betsy Yung, Bureau Chief

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802-658-1433

Volunteers are needed at Vermont Respite House to help with the weekend meal, serving and cleanup, answering phones, folding laundry, and an occasional project. Contact **Susan Abell**, 860-4497 ext 5035, abell@vna-vt.org.

ST. ANDREW'S, Colchester, sponsored a praise and worship service for youth at Rock Point Oct. 27; games and a harvest supper preceded the service, contra dancing followed.

ST. JAMES', Essex Junction, provided meals the week of Oct. 14-20 for the Burlington Emergency Shelter. The Friday morning Bible study group is reading Luke, using the Serendipity Study Bible.

ALL SAINTS', South Burlington, has developed newcomer packets for the ushers to give to visitors. The October Forums focused on a study of Genesis.

TRINITY, Shelburne, has added a Sunday evening informal Eucharist in the McClure room at 5 p.m., and a Wednesday gathering at 11 a.m. for the Eucharist and readings from "Lesser Feasts and Fasts." Thanks to those involved in installing the new AV system in the McClure room, particularly Junior Warden **Cliff Deetjen**, **Don Lockhart**, **Tom Nola** and **Geer Sound**. The next Senior Luncheon is Nov. 12. Call the office, 985-2269, for information.

CALVARY CHURCH, Underhill, joined by Bishop **Thomas Ely**, held a celebration of renewal of ministry and welcoming their new rector, the Rev. **J. Harrison L. Heidel**, on Oct. 21. ❖

The Episcopal Church wants YOU...

The Joint Standing Nominating Committee of General Convention is seeking applications from persons willing to be nominated for five elections that will take place at General Convention 2009, to be held in Anaheim, California, July 8-17: Court for the Trial of a Bishop; Board Members of The Church Pension Fund; Members of Executive Council; Members of the General Board of Examining Chaplains; Trustees of General Theological Seminary. Applications must be received by Feb. 1, 2008.

To learn more, visit the Committee's website at <http://tinyurl.com/2dv9fr>. The site is available in French, Spanish and English.

Pellegrini is named Chaplain of the Year

by William A. Davidson

The Rev. Lucy Pellegrini, one of the deacons serving the Diocese of Vermont, was named Chaplain of the Year by the Vermont Health Care Association at the organization's conference on September 19. Pellegrini has been the chaplain at the Helen Porter Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center in Middlebury since 2004. In addition to her ministry at the nursing home, she serves the congregation of St. Paul's Church in Vergennes, where she has inspired many of its members to discover their gifts for pastoral and social ministry.

The director of nursing at the Helen Porter Center says that Lucy is "an exceptional" inspiration for both the staff and residents of the home. In accepting the award, Pellegrini said that her work is first and foremost a matter of "being present" to all at the nursing facility. "Many of our residents feel abandoned by God in some of the things that they are dealing with, and my ministry is to be a companion to them through that process of discovering where they believe God to be and how God can be with them even when they feel alone."



Robert Laidman photo

Pellegrini is a strong advocate for all of the patients, stating, "Once someone becomes increasingly incapable of advocating for themselves, it's easy to dismiss them. As an advocate, I try to make sure they're not dismissed. We're called to be advocates for the invisible and marginalized in society." To give a cup of water to the least among us, to speak for those with no voice, to care for those that society has forgotten, are actions at the heart of Jesus' ministry. Lucy Pellegrini has taken these action very much to her heart. Kudos to her!

The Rev. William A. Davidson is interim rector at St. Paul's, Vergennes.

St. Peter's issues CD of choral music

by Judy Krum

St. Peter's, Bennington, introduced a new CD, *Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam*, featuring music of St. Peter's and produced in celebration of the Cornerstone Centennial, at the 10 am service on Sunday, October 21.

Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam contains 26 tracks of music by the Adult Choir, the Contemporary Ensemble, the Children and Youth Choir, solos, and organ. The CD draws on the contributions of 27 musicians as well as the extensive and diverse musical heritage of St. Peter's. Randall Krum, St. Peter's organist/choirmaster, directed and accompanied the musical offerings, which range from plainsong, Anglican chant, Renaissance polyphony, and classical cho-

ral works to contemporary anthems, and sacred songs and refrains of the 20th and 21st centuries.

From the very beginning, music has been part of the fabric of life at St. Peter's. The music ministry is now affiliated with the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM America), which is recognized worldwide as an organization whose objective is to achieve the highest possible musical standard in worship.

Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam is being offered for sale at \$10 per CD. Information is available at www.stpetersbenningtonvt.org, or call 802-422-2911.

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

Status of congregation audits

Below is the status of 2006 parish audits as of September 30, 2007. It is a canonical requirement that each parish perform a financial audit following instructions found in the diocesan audit manual. Annual audits for the prior calendar year are due September 1.

Congregations perform these audits to assure that all is in order financially and to help prevent parish rectors, vestries, treasurers, and others from being at risk for liability due to improper financial activity. 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

Brandon/Forest Dale
Lyndonville
Manchester
Norwich
Rutland
St. Albans
Three Rivers IPC
Underhill
Windsor
Woodstock

Colchester
Enosburg Falls
Essex Junction
Island Pond
Killington
Northfield
Randolph
Shelburne
Stowe
Swanton
Wells

Audit Received

(Awaiting Review or Clarification)
Bennington
Bethel
Brattleboro
Burlington

Audit Not Received

Alburg
Arlington
Barre
Bellows Falls
Canaan
Chester

Fair Haven/ Castleton
Fairlee
Hardwick
Middlebury
Montpelier
Newport
Poultney
Proctorsville
Sheldon
Slate Valley IPC
South Burlington
Springfield
St. Johnsbury
Vergennes
Waitsfield
White River Junction
Wilmington

Companion Ministry Program begins



Diocesan Companions put their heads together for a new ministry program.

Counterclockwise from bottom center are Leslie Black of Vershire, Susan Gratz of Poultney, Diane Nancekivell of Bridport, Peggy Crane Coyne of Bellows Falls, Jean Hancock of Chester, Deb Webster Foley of Barre, Laura Hunter of Marlboro, Rolfe Lawson of Gansevoort, NY, and Susan Ohlidal, pastoral enrichment coordinator for the diocese. Not shown: Vic Horvath of Bellows Falls, and Beau Bowler of Westminster.

by Susan Ohlidal

Four years ago, emerging needs of congregations involved in changing clergy leadership led the diocese to create a group of consultants to work with congregations involved with calling new clergy. Now, growing and changing needs have prompted us to expand and further develop the ministry of the consultants. And so the Companion Ministry Program was born.

The name "companion" reflects the nature of this ministry: to walk alongside. The name is also expressive of the relationship that Companions hope to have with congregations, a relationship of partners. This model of walking alongside a congregation and the training needed for it was developed by the ministry developers and adapted, in part, from a similar program in the Scottish Episcopal Church (see related story in the September 2007 Mountain Echo, available on the diocesan Web site).

Companions will work with congregations as they move through transitions of clergy leadership, assist congregations in discerning and forming local ministry support teams, facilitate mutual ministry reviews and LifeCycle sessions, to name a few roles they might play. Companions will be appointed by the bishop to work in congregations, and they will be paid for their time, as were the consultants.

Companions will not only expand the ministry of the diocese to congregations but also will offer an incarnation of baptismal ministry as they demonstrate their own ministry as baptized persons and celebrate the ministry of others.

There are currently ten companions, all moving through the first phase of training in areas of congregational development. Susan Ohlidal, pastoral enrichment coordinator for the diocese, oversees the Companion Ministry. ✦

St. James', Arlington, has new elevator



Reg Trayah photo

by Judie Evrard Brower

On Sunday, September 16, following a service that included three confirmations and two baptisms, Bishop Thomas Ely blessed a new elevator at St. James', Arlington. The congregation gave thanks for this wonderful addition and to all of those whose efforts made it possible.

The result of a generous donation in memory of a beloved parishioner, the el-

evator now permits people with difficulty walking or using the stairs to participate in coffee hour and other parish fellowship functions in the lower level Memorial Lounge and Sunday School area. As part of the congregation's effort to become fully accessible, a handicapped accessible restroom has been installed in that area.

Julie Evrard Brower is a member of St. James', Arlington.

Diocesan Calendar

November 2007

- 2 Clergy gathering with Presiding Bishop, 3 Cathedral Square Burlington, 9:30–11:30 am
- 2 Presiding Bishop's Forum on Global Poverty and the Millennium Development Goals, Ira Allen Chapel, UVM, Burlington, 3:30–5:00 pm
- 2-3 Diocesan Convention, St. Paul's Cathedral, Burlington
- 4 Presiding Bishop at St. Paul's, Windsor, 10 am
- 5 **Deadline, December Mountain Echo**
- 7 Rock Point Managers, Diocesan Office, 8:30 am
- 7 Dispatch of Business, Diocesan Office, 1–3 pm
- 7 Taizé Service, BBCC Chapel, 7:30 pm
- 14 Executive Committee of Diocesan Council, Diocesan Center, 1–3 pm
- 15 Ministry Developers, TBA, 10 am–4 pm
- 16-17 Province One Convocation, Westborough, MA
- 17 Dismantling Racism Workshop, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, 10 am2:30 pm
- 17 Fresh Start for Congregations, Trinity, Rutland, and Good Shepherd, Barre
- 18 Bishop's Visitation, All Saint's, South Burlington
- 21 Senior Luncheon, BBCC, 10 am–4 pm
- 22-23 Thanksgiving Holiday; Diocesan Office closed
- 24 Alternative Thanksgiving, BBCC, 1–7 pm
- 28 Global Reconciliation Committee, Trinity, Rutland, 1–3 pm

December 2007

- 1 Fresh Start 2.0, Trinity, Rutland, and Good Shepherd, Barre, 10 am–2 pm
- 2 Bishop's Visitation, Calvary, Underhill
- 5 Taizé Service, BBCC Chapel, 7:30 pm
- 7 **Deadline, January Mountain Echo**

Rock Point Power Challenge

Please join our pioneering efforts to take Rock Point off the power grid. Share your ideas in discussions leading us into an action plan for a more self-sustainable future. To Share the Power, we need each other.

Share The Power !

Monday, November 12, 2007 4–8 p.m.
Bishop Booth Conference Center
6 p.m. Light Dinner
Chili, Cornbread, Dessert

RSVP by November 8, to one of the following:

Debi Paterson, Executive Director
Bishop Booth Conference Center, 658-6233
Chuck Courcy, Rock Point Property Manager, 355-8737

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

Funds Available for Parish Use As of October 1, 2007

Initiative I		
The Bishop Butterfield Revolving Loan Fund	\$	455,000
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.

St. Peter's celebrates Cornerstone Centennial

Continued from Page A

Schell-Lambert spoke about the congregation's commitment to the Millennium Development Goals and said, "As we look into the twenty first century and the next one hundred years, we begin, as children do, with the reality of today—the reality of world poverty; the reality of economic and environmental degradation at our doorsteps...I believe that the more we stay focused on the local and global economic and environmental challenges in front of us, the better we help to create a future that is more sustainable than the world in which we are living."

Concluding, Schell-Lambert said "Let our spiritual benefactors who led the way 100 years ago be our angels this day in reminding us that without a vision the people will perish, and with God all good things are possible. The blessings from them are always pouring forth. May they pour forth from us these next 100 years as well. How then will we love?"

Randall B. Krum, organist and choirmaster at St. Peter's, chose the Merbecke Mass setting and hymns appropriate both for the centennial and the Feast of Michaelmas. The offertory anthem included a bass solo by Gary Whiting and a soprano duet with Carol Newell and Michelle Betit.

The Church Insurance Company of Vermont hosted a brunch reception following the service. ❖



ACB photo
The Rev. Anita Schell-Lambert holds a microphone for Governor James Douglas as he proclaims September 29 to be "Cornerstone of St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Vermont Day."

Bishops meet and work in New Orleans

Continued from Page E

have felt alienated. "It is never my intention," he says, "to treat others as objects or to act in anyway that fails to respect the human dignity of another."

Pledging "to continue working for both the full inclusion of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons in the life of the Episcopal Church and for the full and dynamic participation of all members of the Episcopal Church in the mission and ministry of the Anglican Communion," Ely says, "Either one without the other would represent to me a failure on our part to live into the fullness of God's saving grace, glory and hope for the world. I pray that you will join me in this work."

Communicators join work day

Over twenty members of Episcopal Communicators, including Vermont Communication Minister Anne Brown, scheduled a mission trip to New Orleans to coincide with the House of Bishops meeting. They spent Thursday and Friday working on rebuilding projects for the Diocese of Louisiana Office of Disaster Response, attended the service at the Morial Convention Center Thursday night, and on Saturday, they joined the bishops and their spouses at various work sites in New Orleans and Mississippi.

Brown worked with a team hanging sheetrock on the ceilings of a house in the Gentilly neighborhood

that had flood waters up to the kitchen countertops. It had been completely gutted, and they nearly finished the ceilings in preparation for a Saturday crew of bishops and spouses to work on the walls. Her team did not meet the owner, a 74 year-old man who has been living in a FEMA trailer in his small front yard and who is being treated for cancer, but he and his partner/caregiver did meet the bishops and spouses who worked on the house. The two are reported to have felt so uplifted by all that had been accomplished that they decided to celebrate by getting married.

Brown and five communicators toured the Mississippi Gulf Coast on Saturday with a group of bishops and their spouses. Evidence of the Katrina storm surge is ubiquitous even two years later. Part of the group, including Ann Ely, spent the afternoon painting in a house in Gulfport. Tom Ely joined a team that hung sheetrock in a second Gulfport house.

Need remains great

The parts of New Orleans most visitors see have been substantially restored, but many neighborhoods remain devastated. Of the 100,000 housing units lost, only 4,000 have been restored or replaced. The Office of Disaster Response is well-organized and very much in need of volunteers, especially those with some skills in finish work such as carpentry, hanging cabinets, and tile work. Housing for volunteer teams is available. Contact information is at www.edola.org.

A thirty-foot high wall of water smashed onto the Mississippi Gulf Coast, and what was not swept away by the oncoming surge was destroyed by wind and the water rushing back to the Gulf. Six Episcopal churches and countless homes and businesses were destroyed, and the recovery process is expected to take a minimum of ten years. The Diocese of Mississippi's Camp Coast Care is at the center of the recovery effort and welcomes volunteers. Contact information is at www.dioms.org. ❖



ACB photo
Irvin Mayfield plays his Elysian Trumpet at the Morial Convention Center service. Mississippi Bishop Duncan Gray, Baptist Bishop J. Douglas Wiley and Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori look on.