

MOUNTAIN ECHO

News of the Episcopal
Diocese of Vermont

an edition of
Episcopal Life

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

February 2008

Journey "toward resurrection" at Province I Conference



Meditations at the Province One Conference will be based, in part, on the Anastasis (Resurrection) Icon, in which the risen Christ pulls Adam and Eve back from death. It was written in 2001 by monks at the Prodromou Skete on Mount Athos, Greece, from the original (1310-1320) in the apse of Holy Saviour in the Fields (Chora) Monastery, Istanbul, Turkey. (Egg tempera on carved wood 9" x 12"—original in private collection in NH).

Stewardship, evangelism and congregational development event set for March

by Anne Clarke Brown

Planners for the 2008 annual Province One Conference on Stewardship, Evangelism and Congregational Development invite members of congregations throughout the Province of New England to journey "Toward Resurrection" March 7-9, 2008, in Westborough, Massachusetts at the Double-Tree Hotel.

According to the design team, "The goal of the Conference is transformation in our lives so we are more equipped to carry out the important work of stewardship, evangelism and congregational development in the Church and the world." The theme, intended as "a reminder that our faith is based on the reality of Jesus' resurrection," is expressed in the words, resurrection, resistance and renewal.

Resurrection is "the foundation for our lives and our ministries in the Church and the world." Resistance refers to "the human response we often have when God is busy transforming our lives. Most transformation feels like death but always leads to resurrection." And renewal represents "the glorious experience of new life that happens over and over again as we live in the reality of the resurrection."

The conference will feature the Rev. Canon Charles LaFond, canon for steward-

ship in the Diocese of New Hampshire and priest-associate at Good Shepherd Episcopal Church in Nashua, as keynote speaker. His current ministry combines a decade as a fund raiser and a second decade as a priest and monk with the Society of St. John the Evangelist (SSJE).

Joining him will be storyteller Valerie Tutson and musician Fran McKendree. Tutson draws her stories from around the world, with an emphasis on African traditions, and she is gaining a reputation for her exciting retelling of age-old Bible stories. McKendree is known throughout The Episcopal Church as a music leader and coordinator for conferences, keynote presenter, mentor, and workshop leader.

The conference begins on Friday, March 7, with registration at 3:30, dinner at 5:30 and an evening program. Saturday includes large group sessions and conversations fo-

Continued on Page G

The Episcopal Diocese of Vermont

Praying the prayer of Christ, learning the mind of Christ and doing the deeds of Christ through ministries of

Formation

Liberation

Communication

Connection

Celebration

Inside this issue:

<i>Bishop's Column</i>	B
<i>Opinion</i>	C
<i>Diocesan News</i>	C, F-H
<i>Coming Events</i>	D-E
<i>Calendar</i>	H

Life of Carolyn Kerr celebrated at St. Paul's Cathedral

Carolyn Brooks Hill Kerr died peacefully following a short illness on December 20, 2007, with family members at her side. She was predeceased by her husband, the Right Rev. Robert Shaw Kerr, Seventh Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont, who died on November 18, 1988. Members of the diocese and her family celebrated her life at a service at St. Paul's Cathedral on December 29, with Bishop Thomas Ely as presider and the Rev. Lisette Baxter as preacher [see her homily, Page B]. Interment will occur in May 2008 at the Bishop's Cemetery at Rock Point.

Carolyn Kerr was born in Worcester, Mass., May 14, 1912, the daughter of Burton Phillips Hill and Bessie Brooks Canady Hill. She graduated from St. Faith School, Saratoga Springs, New York, and Packard College. She met Robert Kerr while working at the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine in New York City, and they were married on June 19, 1945.

Mrs. Kerr's life centered on her husband's clerical life and on her family. The Kerrs moved in 1946 to the Church of the Good Shepherd, Barre, where their first child, Phillips, was born. This was followed by a move to Immanuel Church, Bellows Falls, where their second child, Elizabeth, was born. In 1961, they moved to St. Paul's, Burlington, and during their time there, St. Paul's became a cathedral. She was stalwartly beside her husband and the parish following the destruction of the cathedral in 1972 and its rebuilding at its present location.



ACB photo

Mrs. Kerr with Bishop Ely at the 2006 Diocesan Convention.

Continued on Page B

“For Christians, *metanoia* is about change with a purpose...”

by the Right Reverend Thomas Clark Ely, Bishop of Vermont

One word more than any other has dominated the rhetoric of politicians during this presidential primary season. That word of course is **change**. Whenever I hear folks talk about change, whether in politics or in the church, I am put in mind of the old Dilbert cartoon with the caption, “Change is good. You start!”

It seems to me relatively easy to talk about change when it comes to politics. Delivery is another matter. All the rhetoric as I hear it is focused on systems, or policies, or personnel, or a particular way of dealing with a problem. In other words, it is focused on something beyond the candidate. Those expressing their hopes, ideas and plans for change have, I would credit them, good intentions. While at times they might “play to the crowd,” I rather think they truly believe in the change they are seeking, even if it often gets expressed in vague and general terms. Most often it seems that their election is the key to the change, but what I haven’t heard is anyone talking about how **they** need to change. Like our friend Dilbert, it is much easier to encourage another to change than to look deliberately upon one’s own life and circumstance for what might need to change.

Examining our own lives and making appropriate changes is an important part of our spiritual life as Christians. The approaching season of Lent is, in the rhythm of the Christian liturgical year, a time when we are especially encouraged in that direction. The Greek word that best captures this understanding of change to which we are called is *metanoia*.

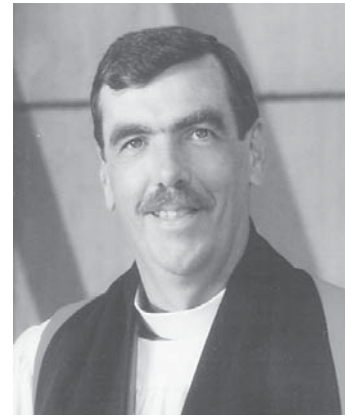
Metanoia was a central theme in the preaching and teaching of Jesus, and it had to do with changing the orientation or direction of one’s life. It had to do with conversion and transformation, a change of heart and a change of mind. Repentance is the word most often used to translate *metanoia*, but repentance not only in the sense of regret, as it is so often applied, but rather the turning around of one’s life toward a more positive direction. Repentance in this sense is not about groveling before God or “beating our selves up,” but about embracing a new vision.

“...it is much easier to encourage another to change than to look deliberately upon one’s own life and circumstance for what might need to change.”

The invitation to the observance of a holy Lent beginning on page 264 in The Book of Common Prayer calls us to self-examination and repentance, along with the other spiritual disciplines of prayer, fasting, self-denial and Bible reading. The Litany of Penitence beginning on page

267 offers some broad categories and specific examples for thinking about our lives and those places where we might well embrace a new vision with a sense of purpose and hope: relationships, service, personal tendencies, human need, injustice, and God’s creation to name a few. I commend to you a thoughtful, prayerful and reflective rehearsal of that litany this Lent.

Arguably the most compelling story of *metanoia* in the New Testament is the parable of the prodigal. The repentance in the story is indeed heartfelt and certainly exemplary, but the real power of the parable is in the welcome offered the prodigal, “while the prodigal was yet a long way off.” This aspect of the story



helps remind me that *metanoia* is not just about me, about who I am and about what I do. It is also about God, about the nature of God and what God is always ready to do.

For Christians, *metanoia* is about change with a purpose, not change for the sake of change. It is about turning to God, embracing a change of heart and mind that draws one more deeply into the purposes of God—the reign of God. *Metanoia* is about change in us, and I bid you to explore the possibilities of *metanoia* in your lives and faith journeys this Lent.

Faithfully,

+ Thomas

The Episcopal Diocese of Vermont

The Right Reverend Thomas Clark Ely, Bishop

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Carolyn Kerr’s life celebrated Continued from Page A

Mrs. Kerr was active in the diocese, serving most recently as honorary chair of the 175th Anniversary Committee. She was directress of the Diocesan Altar Guild, as well as of the Altar Guild of Province One. She coauthored a book titled, *Church Needlepoint*, with Louise Raynor, and their work, along with that of Marion Smith, is prominent in kneelers at both St. Paul’s and the chapel at the Bishops’ House.

In the Burlington community, Mrs. Kerr participated in the Well Child Clinics operated by the State of Vermont. She served on the VNA Board, and she volunteered at Mary Fletcher Hospital and the American Red Cross. She was a member of the Women of St. Paul’s, Klifa Club and Athena Club.

Thanksgiving for the life of Carolyn Kerr

Homily by the Rev. Lisette Baxter

29 December 2007

The passage from Galatians “When the fullness of time had come...” came to my mind last night as I was remembering Carolyn and reflecting on this day when we are giving thanks and celebrating her life. Carolyn’s life was a long and full one, the biblical measure: “pressed down, shaken together, running over.”

Advancing in years, like any other stage in life, has its own joys and sorrows, pleasures and pains. Old age can bring with it weakness, but what I remember of Carolyn is that old age brought grace. It is with grace that she dealt with the death of her husband, Robert, the seventh Bishop of Vermont. It was with grace that she dealt with her own health issues. It was with grace that she dealt with all the changes in the life of her beloved church and remained faithful and in good spirits.

We want peace of mind throughout our life but especially in our later years. To find beauty and meaning in life I believe that we must say “Yes” to our aging and everything that comes with it. I believe Carolyn said yes and hence was able to accept the changes needed to have peace of mind.

I believe also that we find peace when we know with certainty that we belong to God and nothing is able to change that. In our baptism we are given the gift of no longer having to fear death, and once being freed from that fear, we are freed for life. We can look back on our life and accept it for what it was, its joys and its disappointments, knowing that no matter what, God has never abandoned us and never will.

Don Boyer, one-time dean of this Cathedral Church and a long-time friend of

Continued on Page F

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,

It was delightful this year to have January 6 fall on a Sunday. I never can attend mid-week services because of my work schedule, so I seldom get to be at the Eucharist on the Feast of the Epiphany. What caught my attention in the Gospel that day was the fact that Matthew makes no mention of three kings arriving at the Nativity. What does that mean?

C.B.

Dear C.B.,

When Bishop Hopkins's son, John Henry Hopkins, Jr., composed that great hymn, "We three kings of Orient are," he accepted the version of the Nativity story that has evolved over hundreds of years. (By the way, where exactly is "Orientare?" Might that be where modern day Bulgaria is?) He specifies that there were "three" visitors from the East, but Matthew never says there were three visitors. Furthermore, Hopkins identifies them as "kings," but Matthew says they were "magi," a word which has no royal connotations.

So, it seems to me that we have to accept the fact that there is a real conflict between the biblical text of the story and the version of the story that we have enshrined in our imaginations and countless Christmas pageants.

Ah, those Christmas pageants! I wonder what Matthew would think if he could witness some of the productions of the Nativity story held each year in our parishes. A classic example is described in an essay by that noted theologian, Dave Barry, who writes for the Miami Herald. In his essay entitled, "Young Frankincense" (in his 1988 book, *Dave Barry's Greatest Hits*) Barry recalls his own participation as a child in the annual Nativity pageant at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Armonk, New York.

Barry writes appreciatively of the director, Mrs. Elson, who would analyze children's artistic abilities, and, "if your artistic abilities were that you were short, you would get a role as an angel." In the hierarchy of that parish's pageant cast, a child who had served some time as an angel graduated to a shepherd (who, presumably, was taller than an angel), and then "did a stint as a Three King." And, as Barry notes, "God forbid that you should drop one of the gifts because the gifts were played by valuable antique containers belonging to Mrs. Elson.... One year, Ernie Dobbs, a Three King, dropped the frankincense only moments before showtime, and he had to go on carrying, as I recall, a Rolodex."

Obviously, it's a long way from the magi's frankincense to Ernie Dobbs's Rolodex, but somehow we muddle our way through the Nativity celebration each year and occasionally even find some new meaning in the story. This year, I appreciated reading Sam Portaro's reflections on the Epiphany in his book, *Brightest and Best: A Companion to Lesser Feasts and Fasts*. He notes that the term "magus" (plural: "magi") was often a con-

temptuous name for itinerant magicians and entertainers. In other words, they were professional "fools" who conceivably could have brought as gifts some items (for example, a few small pieces of gold) with which they had been paid for performing in a royal court. That would mean that the gold given to the baby Jesus could have actually had a royal stamp on it, not because it was delivered in person by a king, but because it wound up in a clown's pocket as a "tip" from a king who enjoyed the clown troupe's show.

That interpretation of who the "magi" were would certainly upset a lot of pageant-watchers and would definitely give Mrs. Elson heart palpitations ("Ernie, why are you dressed in a clown costume and who told you to wear that bulbous red nose?"), but it might please those Christians who take seriously Paul's admonition that we all should be "fools for Christ." Can we take this divinely foolish wisdom seriously? Hmmm.... Good question. Some real irony there, right? Maybe the answer to that question is filed away in Ernie Dobbs' Rolodex.

I hope you have a good Epiphany season. May the star of wonder guide you in whatever darkness you experience.

[Do you have a question for Sr. Bible Person? Send it in care of the editor at the address on Page C, or email it to abrown@dioceseofvermont.org.]



Roy MacNair: A Pastor's Pastor

by Al Stefanik

In 1983, Roy MacNair was a pastor twenty-one years my senior. Initially, our experiences with counseling connected us. Our meetings moved deeper. This man shared his insights into the mystery of Christ. Our tête-à-tête remained intriguing, because with crystal clear thoughts he confirmed my suspicion that this mystery evolves if you attend to it. He counseled me to respect every stage of my understanding with loving attention, and that a pastor owed this respect to everyone.

I saw this early on. Roy stood in the Cathedral narthex after Easter Day Service. A distressed parishioner voiced disapproval of the service because, "there was a crease on the right corner of the frontal." Roy calmly replied, "That's a very interesting observation. I would like to hear more about it. How about meeting with me on Tuesday?" Later I questioned his response. His answer honed my pastoral skills. "Al, this is who she is at this time in her life. This is how she relates to the Church now. I need to be with her."

Our conversations rolled on. He validated my expertise by asking for supervisory help whenever his counseling of parishioners stalled. On the non-professional level, Roy found I had wired my house. One day he told me his basement electrical circuit intermittently tripped the breaker. Could I fix it? As I fixed the problem, I saw wood working tools and

by Lisette Baxter

The Rev. Roy E. MacNair, 89, of Lititz PA, died on December 29, 2007 at the Moravian Manor. Roy was a very important person to many of us in this Diocese of Vermont, and his faithful service to the Lord deepened the lives of the many people he encountered throughout his life. For many years, he was canon pastor at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, where many of us got to know and love him.

The Rev. Bruce Jacobson, one-time dean of St. Paul's, wrote that, "Roy taught me about being a pastor and about the mysteries that one discovers in being another Christ in the myriad people that a priest serves over multiple generations of people's lives."

Roy remained a faithful and prayerful priest in his long ministry, and he was an inspiration to me. His lifestyle remained "simple," following the example of the Gospel. When he learned about the cancer that took his life, he told me that he could not be discouraged because, "my heart is thankful for all that He (God) has given me; He is present and all will be well."

Roy cared patiently and lovingly for Winnie, his wife of 61+ years, who has dementia. "She was a faithful partner in my ministry. It is now a privilege for me to support her," he once told me. His care of Winnie exemplifies true commitment and affection.

The Rev. Tom Craighead, one time Vicar of St. Andrew's, Colchester, wrote, "I'll not forget Roy and I sitting on their living room floor sharing deeply as we inflated an air

mattress. He tells me that his great spiritual work has been to become free of the need to judge people...." Indeed Roy and I at one of our last lunches at the Ferry Dock in Grand Isle talked about this. We agreed that God is "love," that God's love is not limited, and it's offered freely to all people, and we are to share that gift. Roy was faithful to the church he was nurtured in and he sought to be attuned to the present world where he was asked to serve.

Roy MacNair was born in Jersey City. During World War II, he served in a US Army medical unit in Europe, where he received the call to serve as a priest in the church. He—and Winnie—served many parishes, one being a traditionally white parish emerging into an African-American parish in Washington, DC, at a time when the nation's capital was in great social and political turmoil. He was canonically resident in the Diocese of Vermont and maintained a summer home in North Hero.

MacNair is survived by his wife Winifred and his three children: Russell MacNair and his wife Sandra, of Manheim PA; Alan MacNair and his wife Mary, of Rochester MI and Mary Merriam of Mason Neck, VA. He is also survived by eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. A funeral service was held January 5, at St. John's Episcopal Church, Lancaster, PA. Memorials may be sent to: Habitat for Humanity—Lancaster Area, 443 Fairview Ave., Lancaster, PA 17603.

The Rev. Lisette Baxter is rector at St. Andrew's, Colchester.

learned Roy cherished time working with his hands. This opened up another connection between us. And there were model trains and a love of real ones too—an other connection.

Amtrak #465, *the Keystone*, linked me to Roy after he and Winnie had moved to Lititz and I to Long Island. He loved the restored Lancaster station, the Friendly's Restaurant around the corner and sundaes. The sundaes were never a weight problem because he walked much and briskly. We walked to his office at St. John's Church, where he counseled part-time. We walked around Lititz and sometimes into the Lititz Chocolate Factory. We walked the path built over an abandoned Reading Railroad right of way.

We shared meals with Winnie, who was gradually losing her mental acumen to Alzheimer's. Over the period of my visits, Roy's share of the couple's chores increased, even to the tying of Winnie's shoe laces. In this humble act of a husband bending the knee I witnessed a true pastor bending the knee of his heart to serve. Pastor was not a role but the way of life.

This past October, Claire and I spent three days with Roy, now living in a residence that provided a full-care unit for Winnie. In Roy's apartment, his son and son-in-law had mounted his model trains on the study wall. Roy told me the hardest part of moving was the loss of the wood shop. Physically he was losing his balance

but, as I found out at two restaurants, not his appetite. At Reflections Restaurant I asked if he were still practicing Centering Prayer. He said he had stopped in favor of being in a constant state of prayerful gratitude. With a wink said, "And believe me, some days that takes a lot of work."

Before Christmas he called his friends. He had been diagnosed with lymphoma and declined chemotherapy. He anticipated discomfort later. "Right now, I am enjoying life minute by minute." I asked if he were still praying with gratitude. "Yes, I am. And, Al, God makes it easier and easier." What a friend and pastor. His last remark removes the sting of death.

The Rev. Al Stefanik is a retired priest who lives in Morrisville, Vermont.

Lenten Day of Prayer offered in Boston

Sr. Kristina Frances of the Society of Saint Margaret (SSM) will lead a Lenten Day of Prayer on "Repentance, Forgiveness and Trust: Praying the Psalms in Lent (Psalms 32, 91, 107)", on Saturday, February 23, 2008, from 9:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. at St. Margaret's Convent, 17 Highland Park Street, Boston, MA 02119.

The suggested donation is \$35. Luncheon is included. For information, call 617-445-8961 x127, or email resbostonssm@yahoo.com.

Praise and Worship Service for the young and young at heart

Theme: "What is Lent about?"
When: Saturday, February 16, 2008
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Rock Point Chapel

There will be fantastic music, an invigorating speaker, yummy snacks and the breaking of bread together! Come, and bring a friend.

For more information call the Rev. Lisette Baxter at St. Andrew's, Colchester (802-658-0533).

More Coming Events

Events at Bishop Booth Conference Center

20 Rock Point Road, Burlington

Taizé Evening Prayer

Tuesday, February 12, 2008, 6:00 pm, St. Michael's Chapel

Taizé is an ecumenical, monastic community in the heart of France that seeks to live simply and help bring reconciliation in the midst of a world in turmoil. Taizé Prayer is very meditative, incorporating chants, scripture, silence, and prayer.

Valentine Dinner 2008

Thursday, February 14, 6-9 pm (rain, snow or shine)

Share your love of Rock Point with loved ones. Bring your sweetheart, mother, father, sister, brother, child, cousin, aunt, uncle, friends..... to the BBCC for Chocolate and Wine Tasting, Valentine Dinner, and Musical Entertainment by pianist Cody Michaels. Overnight accommodations are available and child care can be provided. The admission price of \$25.00 benefits the BBCC.

Senior Luncheon: Best Friends Forever

February 20, 2008, 11:00 am-2:00 pm

What makes you a good friend? What do you look for in a friend? What would you do for your best friend? Come to the BBCC to explore how to be your own Best Friend Forever (BFF). Learn simple exercises in self-care, treat yourself to a gourmet lunch, some good company, and a special treat. Leader: Betsy Brown, BBCC program director. The fee for Senior Luncheons is \$15. Please pre-register with fee by February 13, 2008 (BBCC, 20 Rock Point Circle, Burlington, VT 05408-2735)

Stone Church Arts

Immanuel Episcopal Church, 20 Church Street, Bellows Falls

Tickets for most Stone Church Arts concerts are \$15 and \$10 (seniors and children under 12). Call 802-463-3100 for information, or visit www.immanuelepiscopal.org.

Zoë Darrow & The Fiddleheads

Saturday, February 9, 7:30 pm

Most people spend their whole lives awaiting an epiphany; 17 year-old fiddle phenom Zoë Darrow had hers when she was just six. No trumpeting angels or robbed gurus were involved; Darrow's revelation lay in the sizzling bowing of Prince Edward Island's J. J. Chaisson, who just happened to be playing a gig with extended clan members near Darrow's western Massachusetts hometown of Blandford. Before she was eight, she and her father—who is the guitarist in her band, Zoë Darrow and the Fiddleheads—were busking on the streets of Northampton, Massachusetts. By the time Darrow released her first CD at age twelve, her precocious talent and frenetic performance style drew comparisons to Natalie MacMaster when she was a young whelp barking at the heels of public prominence.

St. Patrick's Fiddle Frenzy: Eugene Friesen & Friends

Saturday, March 8, 7:30 pm

Get an early start to St. Patrick's season! Cellist Eugene Friesen once again brings fiddling stars from the Berklee College of Music in Boston for an unforgettable evening of airs, reels, jigs, and step-dancing. Don't miss this high-energy concert by the best of the new fiddle talent!

Vermont ECVA Art Show

April and May 2008

Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Burlington

The theme of the 2008 Vermont Chapter of the Episcopal Church and the Visual Arts art show will be "Resurrection," which can be expressed by visual artists in many ways through paintings, sculpture, photography, fiber-art, calligraphy, etc. Artists may submit up to three pieces for the exhibit.

ECVA-VT formed last April and presented an inaugural exhibit of more than 50 pieces from artists throughout the Diocese of Vermont. The chapter hopes more Vermont Episcopal artists will join the previous participants in making the Resurrection show even more representative of the wide-ranging response to spiritual themes in this most incredibly artistic diocese.

Direct questions to Judith McManis, communications director for ECVA-VT. (802) 951-9942 or laudata@mac.com.

Choirs to join forces in choral Evensong at St. Paul's Cathedral

by Mark Howe

St. Paul's Cathedral, through its Cathedral Without Walls initiative, will offer Choral Evensong on the Third Sunday in Lent, February 24, at 4:00 p.m. The choirs of Christ Church, Montpelier, and Saint Mary's Parish in Northfield, will join with the Cathedral choir to sing the service. The Rev. Canon Lee Alison Crawford, rector at St. Mary's, will officiate.

Evening Prayer, whose roots are in ancient Hebrew services of psalmody and prayer, is the service Thomas Cranmer formed in the first Book of Common Prayer (1549) by conflating the Roman end-of-the-day offices of Vespers and Compline. While daily Evening Prayer is said throughout the world by Anglican worshiping communities and individuals, daily choral Evensong is increasingly rare in the U.S.; at St. Paul's Cathedral in Burlington, Evensong is an occasional offering, sung in a variety of styles.

From the beginnings of Anglicanism in the sixteenth century, Evensong took on an artistic life of its own in which composers turned their skills to clothing the service's texts in distinctive musical settings, heightening the expressive power of the Prayer Book's psalms, canticles, and prayers. This flowering of musical creativity continues into the twenty-first century throughout the Anglican Church.

The service in Burlington will include Anglican chant psalmody, sung antiphonally; the *Short Service* of Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625); the *Preces and Responses* of Thomas Tallis (1505-1585); and an anonymous sixteenth century setting of *O Lord, the Maker of All Things*. The choirs will sing under the direction of Mark Howe, Brian Webb, and Brett Murphy.

A reception will follow the service, and all are welcome.

Mark Howe is Canon Precentor at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Burlington.

"Create, grow, learn" is theme of February BBCC retreat

by Betsy Brown

The Bishop Booth Conference Center will host a weekend retreat from Friday, February 22, at 4:00 pm until Sunday, February 24, 1:00 pm, with a focus on finding God through creativity. The Rev. Meredith Vanderminden will serve as retreat leader.

God is a creating God. We are made in God's image. That makes us creative, too! Come discover your innate God-given creativity and reconnect with the divine. We'll learn how creativity can be a path to spiritual growth and a force for peace and justice. We'll also learn how to use the creative process to notice God and discern an authentic response to God's work in our lives. Starting with the creation scriptures, we'll use many accessible art forms to consider our relationship with God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. We'll also look at how creativity can inspire and open us to the Spirit in everyday decisions and situations.

This retreat is gentle, empowering and renewing and will uncover the creative person you never thought you could be. Come

with a willingness to experiment. Artistic ability is **not** required to participate, as what we discover about God through the creative process is emphasized over the quality of our artistic talent.

The Rev. Meredith Vanderminden is a pastor, spiritual director, retreat leader and artist with a passion for helping others deepen their relationship with God. She is an ordained elder in the United Methodist Church and the founder and Director of Entheos, The Center for Creativity and Spirituality based in upstate New York. She has extensive experience leading spiritual retreats and brings her love of the expressive arts into all aspects of her ministry.

The fee ranges from \$210-\$260 per person (depending on the number of participants in a room) and includes the program, 2 nights lodging, 6 meals, and all-day beverage service. Please pre-register with deposit of \$75 by February 15. For more information or to register contact BBCC Program Director Betsy Brown at 802-658-6233 or betsybrown@hotmail.com. ❖

Join "Vermont Day" pilgrimage to DC

Washington National Cathedral will observe "Vermont Day" on Sunday, March 30, 2008, and the Diocese of Vermont's Dismantling Racism Commission is helping to plan a weekend trip to the nation's capitol that will include the Vermont Day celebration, transportation and housing.

A bus (or buses) will leave Burlington mid-day on Friday, March 28, making stops in White River Junction and Brattleboro. The return trip will be Monday, March 31. Housing is being arranged in the Washington area. The March Echo will have details on the weekend schedule and instructions to reserve a place; or check the "Coming Events" page on the diocesan Web site.

Vermont State Day will be observed 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.

The preacher at the 11:15 worship service will be the Honorable John Lewis, a living legend of the civil rights movement and Georgia's representative for the 5th Congressional District. Other events of the day will include a 10 a.m. Sunday forum, a Vermont Day Coffee Hour and a tour featuring the ways Vermont is represented in the Cathedral. The Green Mountain College Choir, directed by Jim Cassarino of Trinity, Rutland, will sing at an Evensong service. ❖

Race and congregational history workshop rescheduled

The Dismantling Racism Commission has rescheduled the workshop on race and congregational history originally planned for last November to Saturday, April 19, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. (lunch provided) at the Vermont Historical Society, 60 Washington Street, Barre (Route 302E).

The workshop will offer an opportunity to learn about such questions as: Did Montpelier really have a very active underground railroad stop? Where was it? Was your parish active in this movement? Did it support or discourage the Underground Railroad? Did your church or its members benefit from slavery? Did members of your church actively support the Civil Rights Movement of the 50's and 60's?

Dr. Elise A. Guyette, educator and specialist in the history of the black community in eighteenth century Vermont will share her research on blacks in Vermont in general, starting in the 1790s, and also tell the story of a black farming community in Hinesburg whose members first came to Vermont soon after statehood.

Vermont is touted in history books as the

first state to outlaw slavery and as a leader in the national abolitionist and Underground Railroad movements. With no coastline, Vermont did not participate in the lucrative slave trade, but Guyette says there is a growing understanding that Vermonters benefited from slavery in many ways, including enslaving people of color until they reached the age of majority, the forced indenture of young African Americans and discrimination against them in the workplace.

Guyette's presentation will illuminate ways that Vermonters benefited from slavery and discrimination and also introduce many African Americans who called Vermont home for many decades in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Paul Carnahan, librarian at Vermont Historical Society, will show participants how to use the society's facility to research their congregations' histories. Wouldn't this be a great term paper for a high school senior?

To register or get more information, call Nancy Voegel, Chair of Dismantling Racism Commission, at 802-295-5415 or email: st.pauls@valley.net. ❖

Diocese to offer preaching course

by Linda Maloney

During the months of April and May 2008 the Diocese of Vermont, in cooperation with Episcopal Divinity School, is offering a course for those licensed as lay preachers who desire to improve their preaching skills, as well as for prospective new preachers. The course will be taught by faculty from EDS, including Professor Fredrica Harris Thompsett. It is free and will be presented online. In some of the "live" sessions, students and facilitators will see and be seen directly, through the use of webcams.

Five diocesan clergy have volunteered to act as facilitators and mentors to the students. The preachers will meet several times with their mentors/facilitators and each other, in small groups, and at the end of the course will preach one or more times in venues arranged by these clergy.

Registration for the course will remain open through March. It is a golden opportunity for all those who preach in Vermont to improve their skills and deepen the spirituality of their preaching. Persons interested in having their names added to the list of students may contact the Rev. Linda Maloney, who is coordinating the course, at lmaloney@csbsju.edu.

The Rev. Linda Maloney is priest-in-charge at St. Matthew's, Enosburg Falls.

Vestry, Wardens and Treasurers Conference

Save Saturday, April 26, 2008

10 a.m.-3 p.m.

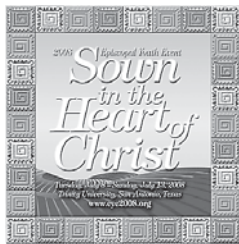
Location to be announced

Send "hot topic" ideas to: adminasst@dioceseofvermont.org

Participate in EYE 2008! Episcopal Youth Event to be in San Antonio

The Episcopal Youth Event, a triennial gathering of youth from throughout The Episcopal Church, will take place at Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas, July 8-13, 2008. Open to young people who will have just finished grades 9-12, EYE is an opportunity to meet other youth from around the world and to participate in worship, programs, music and fun.

This year's theme—Sown in the Heart of Christ—is drawn from Matthew 13:3, 23: "Listen! A sower went out to sow... But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields..." EYE is designed to inspire and equip participants



for Christian discipleship.

More information on EYE is available at www.dioceseofvermont.org (click on Youth Ministry Calendar and Events) and at www.eyeye2008.org. Young people wishing to attend must fill out an application form by March 1, 2008. Applications are also sought

from adult sponsors. Forms may be found at the above link on the diocesan Web site. Many costs for the event will be covered by grants and the diocesan budget, so the cost to participants will be between \$500 and \$700. Scholarships are available. Contact Connie Saeger-Proctor with questions: 802-479-1246 or clsproctor@dioceseofvermont.org. ❖

Companions attend "Umbrella Coaching"

by Jane Inrig and Vic Horvath

For three crispy cold days at the end of November, a group of thirty-two people from Province One met at the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center in Greenfield, New Hampshire, for "Umbrella Training." The program served as basic training for persons interested in serving as consultants to congregations and those who serve in interim ministry and as a "refresher course" for experienced consultants.

Ann Holtz, an organizational development consultant whose many clients include The Episcopal Church Foundation, the Church Development Institute and the Leadership Training Institute, facilitated the training. Her leadership, marked by professionalism, spirituality, humor and flexibility, served as a model for church consultants.

Members of the Diocese of Vermont attended the training as part of the new Companion Ministry Program. Companions work with congregations as they move through transitions of clergy leadership, work to enhance and support all leadership within congregations, assist congregations in discerning and forming local ministry support teams emerging from practices of baptismal ministry, and guide and support congregation members as they develop connections between baptismal ministries and the ways of living daily life outside of the public church setting.

The companions attending were Beau Bowler, Leslie Black, Susan Gratz, Jean Hancock, Vic Horvath, Laura Hunter, Rolfe Lawson, and Diane Nancekivell. Interim pastor from the Slate Valley Regional Ministry, Paul Gratz, also attended. They were joined by Ministry Developers Thad Bennett, who also helped in planning the conference, Connie Saeger Proctor, and Susan Ohlidal

who coordinates the Companion Ministry Program.

The conference focus was on developing and sharing tools and resources needed by companions, interim pastors, and other consultants as they work with congregations. Ann Holtz's expertise, as well as the expertise of the assembled participants, led the group through topics which covered the major elements of behavior and group development theory; understanding the nature of community building; the unique role of a consultant in the church; discovering and keeping one's own self-awareness; knowing the importance of understanding, designing and teaching discernment, and much, much more. And, always, as the body of Christ, the group incorporated worship, prayer and meditation into the process of the three days.

Jane Inrig is from the Diocese of Connecticut, and Vic Horvath serves on the Ministry Support Team at Immanuel Church, Bellows Falls.

Margo Fletcher to be ordained to diaconate

Margaret Ann Laurie Fletcher will be ordained as a transitional deacon on Saturday, February 2, 2 p.m., at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Bennington, by the Rt. Rev. Thomas C. Ely, Bishop of Vermont. All are welcome to attend.

Born in the Transkei in South Africa, Fletcher came to the United States in 1977. She has a Master of Divinity from Yale Divinity School and has been active at St. Peter's for several years. She will serve as a deacon for at least six months before she will be eligible for ordination to the priesthood. ❖

Workshop planned on "White Privilege"


A community workshop entitled "Social Justice and White Privilege: Facing Reality, Building the Vision" will be held at St. James', Essex Junction, on Saturday, February 9, 9:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. The workshop is being offered in partnership with community groups and the Peace and Justice Center. Leaders will be members of the Peace and Justice Center, the Dismantling Racism Commission of the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont and the Task Force for Uprooting Racism of the Vermont United Church of Christ. **Attendance at this workshop fulfills diocesan expectations for dismantling racism training.**

The morning session will look at history and personal histories. The afternoon will address white privilege and institutional racism, both of which undermine justice. The workshop's goals are to learn from one another, increase personal awareness, and consider how individual and corporate ac-

tion can work to dismantle racism in our communities.

Why should we, as people of God, be concerned about social justice and a culture of white privilege? Racism is prejudice with power, and power resides in the white dominant culture and institutions. We are called to seek justice and to respect the dignity of every human being. Until we can rid faith communities, local institutions and the dominant culture of racism, many will continue to enjoy the unfair advantages of being white, simply on the basis of their color, not by virtue of anything earned.

St. James' is located at Champlain Exposition Fairgrounds Gate F on Lincoln Street, Route 2A, in Essex Junction. Pre-registration is encouraged and a \$5 donation will cover lunch and materials. All are welcome, including youth. To register, please call St. James', 802-878-4014, or email contact@stjamesvt.org by February 4. ❖



**ASCENSION
LUTHERAN CHURCH**
South Burlington, VT
www.alcvt.org

Part-time organist needed, beginning April. Please send resume and cover letter to: Pr. Nancy Wright, Ascension Lutheran Church, 95 Allen Road, South Burlington, VT 05403, pastornancy@alcvt.org, (802) 862-8866.

Homily in thanksgiving for the life of Carolyn Kerr

Continued from Page B

the Kerr family, was saying that often when someone dies they become closer to you because the memories are now part of you. I agree. A few days ago I asked him to share with me a memory.

"When I first met her" Don said, "I was scared of her. She was a very imposing and domineering woman. It took me three days to have the courage to go to the rectory and say hello and introduce myself. When I arrived, she welcomed me and invited me to sit down. She then brought two Manhattans. I had never had one of those before," Don continued, "so I took it. It broke the ice and she became very human to me.

"I also remember a time when we, the Boyers and the Kerrs, spent time in Newport, Rhode Island where Bishop Kerr was born. We did some sightseeing. The next day we went to Crescent Park, an amusement park near the harbor. I remember Carolyn," Don continued, "sitting on a horse on the carousel. If you were to catch a brass ring as the carousel went around, you got an extra ride. I can see her sitting on that horse going up and down and suddenly bending to grab the brass ring. She got an extra ride. That was another time when her human side—if not the child in her—became so real."

Gordon Bardos, who retired from this diocese last year, wrote to me and said: "Mrs. Kerr was especially kind to our family when we were in seminary. She was a peerless hostess, especially the time I was invited to spend the night at the Bishops' House. I remember Bishop Kerr being described by Donald Boyer as 'the last Edwardian.' Mrs. Kerr could be described similarly. Old fashioned, mannerly, stylized. And yet, she had an infinite capacity for caring."

Yes, Carolyn was a "grande dame." For those who didn't know her, she had an imposing way about her. But those who got to know her soon discovered her generous, caring and human side.

After the death of Bishop Kerr, Carolyn and I developed a relationship that I will dearly miss. In these last twenty years I got to know that human, gentle side of her, while not losing the "being proper" quality that sadly is fading away in our society. It is one that I cherish, probably because of the French in me. The "vous" and the "tu" of the French language still ask of us that certain care and respectfulness in relationships.

Oh, I will miss our luncheons—with a glass of wine mind you—which is unusual for me at noon but a "proper thing to do with Carolyn." "We're not quite ready to order," she would tell the waitress again and again... Her love for the church remained strong till the end. She adjusted to all the changes as best as she could. She knew well the parishes and missions in the diocese and loved to hear news about them. As us old timers know, accompanying Bishop Kerr in all his visitations was an important part of her life. Folks looked forward to not only seeing the bishop but also meeting her. Actually, last Sunday when Ben Chase announced at St. Mark's in Newport that Carolyn had died, folks were moved to tears. I would not be surprised to hear of similar reactions from other parishes.

Now, I could tell you of all the ministries she was involved with. But I'll limit myself to two. She was for many years the Diocesan Altar Guild directress. Since I see altar

guild work as being "holy hospitality," I am not surprised that she was involved in that, because she was a very hospitable woman. The bishop's house—and I gather the earlier rectories before—was often open for parish or diocesan functions. I remember fondly our Community of the Cross of Nails gatherings.

Look at the beautiful kneelers in front of you. With Louise Raynor and Marion Smith, she developed what became known as the "kneeler project." The center designs were stitched by Louise, Marion and Carolyn, while the green backgrounds were stitched by individuals as memorials to whomever they named.

Her humanity and her capacity for caring are what endeared me to her. I would be remiss if I didn't mention a very important part of her life that was always in our conversations: her beloved children, Phillips and Liz, the grandchildren Katherine, Emily and Robert. I got to know lots about you all and your spouses: the good, the challenging, the humor, and the joys. I have to say that I saw the hands of God during her last days as I watched you, Liz and Phillips. You were so good to your mom.

Carolyn will be dearly missed by the staff and the residents of Allenwood. She moved there soon after it opened. She was the first resident of the apartment she lived in. She

told me often how much she felt well cared for by the staff and how much she appreciated the attention, concern and safety of the place. Being a member of the Allenwood upper club brought her much joy.

One of our last long conversations was when she was in hospital a couple of weeks ago. She felt her weakness and feared to be wheelchair bound. We talked about faith. For someone who was and remained a faithful church-goer, I wanted to know if her faith was helping her at this time. So I asked her. She said to me "I am not forgotten and..." As it often happens in hospital we were interrupted. I wasn't sure what she meant by this and so I was looking for an opportunity to pursue this. Sadly it didn't happen, the moment never came...but I wrote it down.

I have been pondering it. I think last night I had the answer—or at least an insight into what she might have been saying. If we remember that we are God's beloved, when we look back on our lives, we know that we will not be forgotten in life or in death. Maybe that is what she was saying. If we pay attention to the voice of God in Christ Jesus throughout our life and seek as best as we can to follow God in all that we are and do, we will have peace of mind and we will remember. We will know that we will not be abandoned. Carolyn was a

faithful church-goer for as long as I have known her, and I believe that when she said, "I am not forgotten," she was saying that she knew she was loved by God and she knew God was not forgetting her.

Death was very kind to Carolyn. Carolyn had prepared for it, and actually she planned this service—a gift of love. She didn't run away from death but faced it. She is now in the love and company of God in Christ and the communion of saints.

Death is one more stage in life. It is the final step which we are able to look forward to, the ultimate step in which we have victory over all the powers of evil which have assailed us through life. To be a child of God is to face death for what it is and know that the victory belongs to God.

We thank God today for Carolyn's witness and her hope. Today especially, as the pain of her loss and our other losses overshadow hope, we need to remember the confidence that powered Carolyn's life and faith. A confidence that no matter what life would bring she could rest assured in God's promises of eternal life, she knew she was not forgotten.

It is with this assurance that we celebrate and give thanks for Carolyn's life. We know that her joy is in the Lord, as it has been all her life. We also celebrate her life today,

Continued on Page G

Reflections of a "child of this mission"

Continued from Page H

Some 30 years later, my brother Dick was baptized at the Lady Chapel in Grand Isle for the same reason. When my siblings and I were of Sunday school age, we were the only children in the parish, and we went to Sunday school at the Congregational Church. I remember very well the meeting at our house when my mother, June Naylor Stata LaBombard, made it clear (very clear) to the Congregational pastor that we were and would remain Episcopalians but that she would be glad of the opportunity for us to get a sound Christian education if he was willing to provide it under those terms.

When it was time for confirmation, my sister Patty and I sat in on the adult classes until someone had the good idea to have us taught with the two teenagers at Holy Trinity, Swanton. St. Luke's helped send us to the Rock Point Summer Conferences to be sure that the Anglican ethos remained in our blood and bones. Fortunes changed again, and by the time I was in high school, there were three families with children, and I was pressed into service as a Sunday school teacher.

At that time I was a student at the Roman Catholic high school across the lake and a member of the Congregational Church's youth group. I was given all the material and support I needed. (There was actually a Sunday school superintendent at that time! Such riches!) And I felt perfectly confident in my ability to share the faith. No doubt the children I taught experienced quite a blend of Reformation and Catholic theology. When I left for college, the congregation gave me a beautiful silver cross in thanksgiving for my work. This was my first taste of the ministry of the baptized and it was heady stuff.

The church doors opened and closed several more times, and when I came back

to Vermont with two children and a baby on the way there were once again no young families at St. Luke's so we began to attend Holy Trinity in Swanton as well as St. Luke's. The congregation supported me in my process to discern God's call to me, and I presided at the Eucharist for the first time at this altar.

In my lifetime St. Luke's has been linked, yoked or otherwise partnered with Holy Trinity and other congregations for decades at a time in what, when I was canon to the ordinary, I called the Northwest Kingdom. Ben Chase, Jim Kelsey and I provided ordained leadership to Holy Trinity, Swanton, St. Luke's, St. John's, Highgate and Grace Church, Sheldon during the 70s and 80s, with Jud Pealer joining in the early nineties.

Changes in relationships between parishes brought the twentieth century to a close, and St. Luke's began a new phase in its corporate life. (It is interesting to note that prior to the building of the bridge between Alburgh and Swanton, clergy came from Burlington and from across the Canadian border to celebrate the Eucharist and other sacraments and to preach and teach.) Most recently, in what might be called coming "full circle," St. Luke's has established a new relationship in the Border Ministry jointly supported by the Dioceses of Montreal and Vermont.

Now to go back to the "too small for what?" metaphor. Certainly St. Luke's has not been too small to be a ministering community. What is clear to me is that ministry has been happening here the whole of these last 100 years, whether the congregation was medium small or very small or seemingly non-existent. The sacraments have been celebrated in homes if there was no money to heat the church or if that seemed

a better way to build community. Children have been baptized and educated in the faith (even if it was sometimes by hook or by crook), people have been equipped for ministry in the world and have lived faithful Christian lives in their homes and work places. Demographics change, church political winds blow, structures shift and realign. It has been so from the beginning, and I expect it to be so in the future. There are neither good-old or bad-old days—only new days and new opportunities to do ministry.

It is my fervent prayer that the current structures supporting the life of this congregation will provide a foundation for fruitful ministry. More importantly, I hope that what happens inside these doors will be only a small part of the ministry of St. Luke's. Fewer than 500 people attend church regularly in Alburgh and Isle LaMotte out of a population of over 2500. Surely many of those who do not are hungry for the good news entrusted to us by the Savior whose birth we are about to celebrate. St. Luke's is not too small to grow.

Certainly there are human needs to be met and care to be given, hearts to be touched and lives to be reconciled. St. Luke's is not too small to make a commitment to meet the needs of the world around it. Let the words of Christina Rossetti, in the beautiful Christmas hymn, resound for the next hundred years; "Love shall be our token; love be yours and love be mine, love to God and neighbor, love for plea and gift and sign."

In addition to serving the several congregations of "the Northwest Kingdom," the Rev. Molly Stata Comeau served as interim rector at St. James', Arlington, director of the Bishop Booth Conference Center, and as canon to the ordinary during the episcopate of Bishop Mary Adelia McLeod.

St. Mary's Celebrates 150th



Jane Bryant photo

Members of St. Mary's celebrated the consecration of the church building 150 years ago.

by Jane E. Bryant

The day after Christmas Day at St. Mary's Parish, Northfield, marked the 150th anniversary of the consecration of the church building. The Rt. Rev. John Henry Hopkins, first bishop of Vermont, consecrated the building in 1857 and ordained his son to the priesthood in the same service. The Rev. Lee Alison Crawford and members of the present congregation observed the anniversary with Eucharist and a potluck supper.

Episcopalians have worshipped in the space since 1857, when those few who had been meeting in offices, homes, and other churches bought a fourteen-year-old church building at auction for the grand sum of \$400. They moved the building about a

mile to their half-acre site on South Main Street at a cost of \$400. The land cost them \$500 and repairs \$300. The grand total for a house of worship in those days: \$1,600.

From the physical changes documented over the history of the building, it is evident that originally it was like a plain box. In 1869, the wall at the east end was removed, a chancel was added, and stained glass windows were installed. In 1892, the people bought the pipe organ still in use today. At some point, the gallery above the main floor was walled off; an oil furnace replaced wood stoves. The pews, though perhaps not original, may seem as uncomfortable as one imagines the first ones were. A descendant of the first skunk family on the site visits under the foundation from time to time.

Over the decades, the size of the congregation has waxed and waned. The ability of the parishioners to afford to pay a full time priest has also varied. During the Depression, the congregation was so small that the priest was as underpaid as were the church mice. In 1934, when the vestry informed the bishop that they were going to have to close Saint Mary's doors due to lack of funds, he advised them that they could not. Somehow, they went on.

Today's rector, St. Mary's 25th, the Reverend Doctor Lee Alison Crawford, was ordained in 1993 and has served the parish since July 1994.

Jane E. Bryant is a member of St. Mary's Parish, Northfield.

Carolyn Kerr

Continued from Page F

remembering how she faithfully lived out her identity as a faithful church-goer—in good times and challenging times—and as a follower of Christ, the great shepherd.

Today we thank God for Carolyn, for her life, for her presence and for her quiet witness to all who knew her. We give thanks today for the Good Shepherd in whom we all can place our trust and hope, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. And now the memories are part of us, she remains part of us. We give thanks and Praise. Amen.

The Rev. Lisette Baxter is rector at St. Andrew's, Colchester.

Status of congregation audits

Below is the updated (and last to be published) status of 2006 parish audits, as of December 31, 2007. The audit reports were due to the diocesan office by September 1, 2007, and many parishes have diligently worked to accomplish this important aspect of parish financial stewardship. A report of delinquent audits will now be forwarded to Diocesan Council for their action. If there are any questions about this process or the published status of an audit, please call the diocesan office (802-863-3431). [Data provided by the Diocesan Financial Administrator and the Oversight and Audit Committee.]

Audit Approved

Alburgh
Arlington
Barre
Bethel
Brandon/Forest Dale
Brattleboro
Burlington
Colchester
Enosburg Falls
Essex Junction
Island Pond
Killington
Lyndonville
Manchester
Middlebury
Newport
Norwich

Proctorsville

Randolph
Rutland
St. Albans
St. Johnsbury
Shelburne
South Burlington
Stowe
Three Rivers IPC
Underhill
Wells
White River Junction
Windsor
Woodstock

Audit Received

(Awaiting Review
or Clarification)
Bellows Falls

Bennington

Fair Haven/ Castleton
Northfield
Slate Valley IPC
Swanton
Wilmington

Audit Not Received

Canaan
Chester
Fairlee
Hardwick
Montpelier
Poultney
Sheldon
Springfield
Vergennes
Waitsfield

Support Good Friday Offering for church in Jerusalem and Middle East

Since 1922, Episcopalians in the United States have supported the ministries of the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East through a special Good Friday Offering.

In a letter to Episcopal congregations asking for support for this year's offering, Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori wrote, "This year's 86th Good Friday Offering offers us the opportunity to be nourished by a deepened bond with the churches in this region that is so central to our faith. I met recently with representatives of the church in Cyprus and in Palestine, and have been deeply moved by their stories of the pain that division brings to the lives

of all in this Province of the Anglican Communion."

The presiding bishop continued, "This offering expresses our own commitment to walk with the church of Jerusalem & the Middle East as they continue to work toward justice, reconciliation, and peace. Through our support of these churches we are helping to realize God's vision of shalom." Funds from the offering support an extensive network of hospitals, schools, orphanages and other programs operated by the Episcopal Church of Jerusalem and the Middle East.

Congregations can participate by sending the offering collected on Good Friday to Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, Good Friday Offering, P.O. Box 12095, Newark, NJ 07101. Make check payable to DFMS and write "Good Friday Offering" on the memo line.

Information and downloadable materials (poster, bulletin cover, offering envelopes) are available at www.episcopalchurch.org/agr/friday/. Please note that the materials order form included in the letter to congregations was the 2007 form. The 2008 order form is available on the Web site. Those without internet access may order the materials by calling Episcopal Books and Resources, 800-903-5544. ❖

New semester abroad program in Israel: Peace, Justice, Ecology

Living Routes is offering a new exciting study abroad opportunity in Israel in the Fall of 2008. This program will examine the connections between ecological sustainability and social justice for gap-year or college students in the exciting backdrop of the Middle East. Students have the opportunity to earn 16 university credits transferable from the University of Massachusetts, while learning in a dynamic, hands-on, interdisciplinary, inter-cultural, inter-religious context.

This program runs for 14 weeks. No language skills in Hebrew or Arabic are required. The application deadline is March 31, 2008. Scholarships are available.

Living Routes, the first carbon neutral study abroad organization in the United States, offers additional semester, summer, and January-term programs in Senegal, Scotland, India, Mexico, Peru, Brazil and the U.S., serving approximately 170 students annually. Participants earn transferable college credit. For more information, visit www.LivingRoutes.org/p_lotan.htm, or call 413-259-0025. ❖

Emerson begins stewardship ministry

The Rev. E. Angela Emerson will join the diocesan Ministry Support Team as minister for stewardship development on February 1, 2008. Her office will be at 747 Hartford Ave., Suite 1 (St. Paul's), White River Junction, VT 05001. She may be reached by phone at 802-359-4059 (toll-free, 800-286-3437 x206) and by email at aemerson@dioceseofvermont.net.

Please welcome her, and watch for an interview in the March Mountain Echo.

"Toward Resurrection" conference

Continued from Page A

cused on "Resurrection" and "Resistance," as well as workshops, a banquet and an evening musical program. Sunday's large group session and conversation will focus on "Renewal."

Among the workshop topics are, "Is God 'Green?'," "Hispanic Mission: El Nuevo Amanecer" (A New Awakening), "The Emerging Church of the Postmodern Generations," "Will Our Children Be Stewards?" and "Gathering God's People through Mission Partnerships."

As at recent provincial events, the Discovery Center will be available throughout the conference for all ages to interact and engage in various ways. This experiential, self-directed free-play area is always popular with children of all ages.

The conference will conclude with a U2charist at 10:45 a.m. Sunday. The Rev. Paige Blair, rector of St. George's in York Harbor, Maine will preside and preach. Blair and St. George's are recognized as having popularized the U2charist by developing it

in its current, recognizable format, taking the service to other churches, and serving as consultants to over 500 churches around the world.

The conference fee of \$225 (\$200 before Feb. 1) includes registration, materials and meals Friday evening through Sunday morning. The fee for a second family member over 12 is \$150, and that for additional family members over 12 is \$125. There is no fee for children under 12. A lower fee is available for those who will attend Saturday and Sunday only. The extended registration deadline is February 25. A registration form is in the conference brochure, mailed in late January to individuals and the diocesan office, or available on the Province One Web site, www.province1.org.

Participants are responsible for making their own hotel arrangements. Contact the DoubleTree Hotel, at 508-366-5511, no later than February 8, to get the special rate of \$85/night single or double; \$95 triple and \$105 quad. ❖

Saint Luke's Episcopal Church celebrates 100 years of ministry in Alburgh



by Thora Chadwick

St. Luke's, Alburgh, celebrated the 100th anniversary of the consecration of the church on Saturday, December 22. Bishop Thomas Ely presided at the Eucharist, the Rev. Benjamin Chase preached, and the Rev. Molly S. Comeau proclaimed the Gospel. Both Chase and Comeau were former clergy at St. Luke's as well as of other Episcopal congregations in northwestern Vermont. The Rev. Peter MacLean, immediate predecessor of the current vicar of St. Luke's, the Rev. Thora L. Chadwick, served as the bishop's chaplain.

St. Luke's is now a member of The Borders Regional Ministry with Canadian Anglican congregations in Bedford, Clarenceville, Farnham, Noyan, and Philipsburg. The archdeacon of Bedford, the Ven. Brian Evans, as well as a number of lay leaders, represented the regional ministry.

Bishop Ely dedicated a new handicapped-accessible

entrance and the church's first restroom, which is also accessible and has a composting toilet. Also dedicated during the service were vestments given in memory of the Rt. Rev. James Kelsey, formerly of the northwestern Vermont Episcopal congregations, and a lectionary book of Sunday scripture readings in memory of June Naylor Stata LaBombard, a longtime member of St. Luke's and the mother of the Rev. Moly Comeau [see Comeau's reflections below].

The newly dedicated items were made possible by grants from The Episcopal Church (United Thank Offering) and the diocese as well as by generous gifts from summer and year-round members and friends of St. Luke's.

A Christmas tea at the Alburgh Public Library followed the service. The tea and continuing historical exhibits were cosponsored by St. Luke's and the Alburgh Historical Society.

The Rev. Thora Chadwick is vicar at St. Luke's, Alburgh.

Diocesan Calendar

February 2008

- 3 Bishop's Visitation, St. James', Essex Junction
- 4 **Deadline, March Mountain Echo**
- 5 Fresh Start for Clergy, 9:30 am–2:30 pm
- 9 Anti-Racism Training: "Social Justice and White Privilege," St. James', Essex Junction, 9 am–3 pm
- 12 Taizé Service, BBCC Chapel, 6:00 pm
- 14 Valentine Dinner at Bishop Booth Conference Center, 6-9 pm
- 19 Clergy Day, St. John's, Randolph, 9:30 am–2 pm
- 20 Senior Luncheon, BBCC, 11 am–2 pm
- 22-24 "Create, Grow, Learn" Retreat at BBCC

March 2008

- 4 Fresh Start for Clergy, 9:30 am–2:30 pm
- 5 Taizé Service, BBCC Chapel, 6:00 pm
- 7-13 House of Bishops Spring Meeting, Camp Allen, TX
- 10 **Deadline, April Mountain Echo**
- 14 Ministry Development Group, 9:30 am–4:30 pm
- 15 Diocesan Council, St. Paul's, White River Junction, 10 am–2 pm
- 16 Palm Sunday, Bishop's Visitation, St. Peter's, Lyndonville
- 20 Maundy Thursday
- 21 Good Friday, Diocesan Office closed
- 23 Easter Sunday
- 26 Dispatch of Business, Diocesan Office, 2:00 pm
- 28-30 Vermont Day Pilgrimage, Washington, DC and National Cathedral

Reflections of "a child of this mission"

by Molly Stata Comeau

[Written for the 100th anniversary of the consecration of St. Luke's, Alburgh, December 22, 2007.]

When she was in her early teens, my daughter Rachael had a friend named Katherine. Katherine was a beautiful, blue-eyed blond. She was also nearly six feet tall by the time she and Rachael were in the 8th grade. We all know that girls often grow faster than boys, but in Katherine's case the difference in height between her and the boys she and Rachael were increasingly interested in was truly amazing.

Katherine endured a lot of teasing, and I remember the night when she had finally had enough. Picture the scene—a dance with more young people standing awkwardly around than dancing and Katherine and several other girls more or less trying to disappear into the walls. Finally a group of boys circles the perimeter a couple of times and then moves in to ask some of the girls to dance. One young man, nearly six inches shorter than Katherine, stares at his feet for a few minutes in front of her and then announces loudly, "Katherine, you're too tall." And Katherine straightens her shoulders, looks down at him and replies, "Too tall for what?"

This story has always been a metaphor for the life of small churches for me. For it has been true for much of the recent history of the Episcopal Church that small churches were made to feel that they were

not quite the "right size." The church as a whole seemed to say, "St. Luke's (or St. John's, or you name it), you are too small." And it has not always been easy to reply with firmness, "Too small for what?"

At this important moment in the life of this small church, I am glad to have the opportunity to share some of the stories that were handed down to me and to reflect on congregational life and ministry here as I have experienced it.

My great grandmother Anna Goodsell Botsford and my grandmother Mary Naylor were among the original matriarchs of this place. Anna returned to Vermont from Iowa as a young widow with three children just about the time this building was consecrated.

It seems clear that the pattern of congregational life with which most of us are familiar was established very early. At times, St. Luke's prospered, and services were held every week. I know that at times there were active ladies auxiliaries doing good works, and I have heard tales of the (paid) organist who limited the length of sermons by starting the offertory hymn when she had heard enough.

Periodically the congregation shrank, or there were no clergy available, and the doors were closed. My mother, June, was baptized at Trinity Church in Plattsburg 84 years ago during just such a time.

Continued on Page F

Peter Carey ordained priest in Virginia

The Rt. Rev. Peter James Lee, Bishop of Virginia, ordained the Rev. Peter M. Carey to the sacred order of priests on December 18, 2007, at St. James Episcopal Church in Richmond, Virginia.

The son of Carolyn and Jason Carey of Cornwall, Vermont, the new priest began attending St. Stephen's Church in Middlebury at the age of three and was an active participant in parish life (Tuesday School, acolyte, pageant, youth group, etc.). He was also a camper, counselor, and eventually assistant director of the Rock Point Summer Conferences.

After graduating from Bates College, Carey volunteered with the Volunteer Service Community of the National Cathedral in Washington and participated in the work of the national Episcopal Peace Fellowship. He taught high school history and religion at Durham Academy in North Carolina, and the Episcopal Academy near Philadelphia before entering Virginia Theological Seminary, from which he received his M. Div. with honors this past May.

Married to Lisa Plog and the father of Zachary and Sam, Carey is currently chaplain of St. Catherine's School in Richmond, Virginia.



Carolyn Carey photo

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.