

MOUNTAIN ECHO

News of the Episcopal
Diocese of Vermont

an edition of
Episcopal Life

Vol. 19, No. 7

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

July/August 2008

NESEI opens health sciences school in South Sudan

The Vermont-based New Sudan Education Initiative (NESEI) reached a major goal in its effort to build 20 secondary schools in South Sudan, with the opening of the New Sudan School for Health Sciences in Lanya County, near Yei. The school will serve 90 young women in its first year, expanding to 240 students in 2009. Both a standard secondary curriculum and a health sciences curriculum will be taught, training the students to be competent and capable community health workers upon graduation.

Many Vermont Episcopal congregations have raised funds for NESEI, and several contributed backpacks filled with school supplies for the new school's students. The account below is by NESEI's communications director. Two of NESEI's co-founders, Robert Lair and Atem Deng, along with other members of the Vermont NESEI staff and community, traveled to South Sudan for the opening ceremony.

by Mari Kenton Wright

On May 19, NESEI's U.S and Sudan staffs, joined by regional chiefs and elders and other members of the local Lanya County

and Yei town communities, welcomed the first students of NESEI's flagship school to the new campus.

The "blessing ceremony" was an opportunity for the NESEI family and local Sudanese friends to come together and stand witness to a milestone in development for South Sudan. As each student shook the hand of Directors Robert Lair and Atem Deng and passed through the entrance of the dining hall, where the ceremony was held, the dream of providing secondary education in South Sudan took a step closer towards reality.

The 20 young women present for the blessing ceremony that morning are the first of many young women and men who will receive a quality, life-changing education at a NESEI school. They donned their uniforms—a NESEI-orange shirt that bears the message, "Building Peace Through Education," and black, cotton skirts—with visible pride. Despite long, difficult journeys from various counties across the region, the girls were cheerful and energetic, listening carefully as the speakers addressed them and the founders of their school.

The ceremony began with a brief address from schoolmistress Margaret Juan, which was followed by an emotional offering of song by the local Lanya County women. Their voices rang out, strong and sympho-



Maggie Colacchio photo

Four of the first girls to attend NESEI's School of Health Sciences near Yei, South Sudan

nious, capturing the spirit of the day, and expressing in music a feeling difficult to describe with words. Defying borders, languages, and roads riddled with the potholes of a persistent rainy season, we assembled together that morning to show gratitude and reverence for the accomplishment that was materializing before us.

Each chief took his turn addressing the NESEI community, stressing the importance of community partnerships, respect

for the land, and commitment to provide quality education to the young people of Sudan. Robert Lair and Atem Deng also spoke, addressing the group with humility as they presented to the community a school that has been many years in the making.

For Lair, Deng, and the other NESEI founders, this ceremony was the culmination of an idea that first took form on a

Continued on Page D

The Episcopal
Diocese
of Vermont

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

Formation

Liberation

Communication

Connection

Celebration

Inside this issue:

Bishop's Column	B
Diocesan News	C-H
Deanery Doings	F
Coming Events	G
Calendar	H

Everyone, Everywhere Conference explores world mission

by Anne Clarke Brown

The Diocese of Vermont joined a number of Episcopal Church organizations and three other dioceses in sponsoring a church-wide conference on world mission titled, "Everyone, Everywhere." Held at The Maritime Institute in Baltimore, June 5-8, the event drew over 250 people from across the United States and fourteen other countries, including four members of the Diocese of Vermont's Global Reconciliation Committee (Anne Brown, Lee Alison Crawford, Margo Fletcher and Michelle Peattie).

Opening and closing with celebrations of the Eucharist, the event included three challenging plenary addresses, two inspiring sermons and a rich variety of workshops. Each participant was assigned to a small group, which met for conversation after each of the plenary sessions.

Preaching at the opening Eucharist, the Rev. Mike Kinman, executive director of Episcopalians for Global Reconciliation (www.e4gr.org) focused on Jesus' words as he sent the disciples forth: "Take nothing with you." We are, said Kinman, challenged not only with how to love those who come to us with nothing, but also with how to be vulnerable ourselves. "It is only when we become fully vulnerable that we make

room for God to work the divine dream of abundant life in us and through us," he said. We need a conversion "to take nothing with us, to hold nothing back," trusting on the providence of God.

Kinman concluded, "My dream is that we will go back to our families and communities and vestries and finance committees and diocesan councils with the good news that they can let go, too. That maybe the 'worst case scenario' of being left with nothing isn't a worst case after all but a faithful following of a Christ who sends us out not as smart businesspeople but as sheep among wolves. A Christ who showed the way of the cross to be the way of life."

"We are connected..."

Thursday's plenary speaker, Dr. Steve de Gruchy of the University of Kwa-Zulu-Natal, South Africa, spoke about being connected as a statement of fact, a statement of faith, and a statement of function. Pointing to the many ways we are connected—information technology, a global economy, global events such as the Olympics—de Gruchy said, "Everyone, everywhere doesn't benefit equally from the connection." He said he saw his task at the beginning of the conference as one of "waking up the choir by offering a new way of seeing the connections."



The Rev. Mike Kinman preaches.

Acknowledging the connectedness of the world as a statement of faith, de Gruchy said, rests in four key theological resources that include membership in the church, which shows a rootedness in God that cannot exclude anyone; the Trinity, which shows that God is connected in the heart of God; the incarnation of God in Christ, which shows God reaching out to include the created world in the embrace of the Trinity; and the mission of the church, which should flow out of the Trinity and the incarnation.

As a statement of function, connectedness holds together the statement of fact and the statement of faith. "Mission," said

Continued on Page D

I invite your prayers for all attending the Lambeth Conference by the Right Reverend Thomas Clark Ely, Bishop of Vermont

Dear people of Vermont:

Ann and I leave for the Lambeth Conference for Anglican Bishops and the parallel Lambeth Conference for Spouses on July 13. More than anything else, we ask for your daily prayers for us and for all those who gather in Canterbury and at Kent University during this time of tension and challenge within the Anglican Communion. Our three weeks at Kent University promise to be a time of learning, engagement and enrichment. There is also the potential for disappointment, disagreement and controversy.

Deepest in my heart is the hope that this gathering of bishops and spouses will be what the Archbishop of Canterbury has called for it to be: "...a spiritual encounter. A time when people are encountering God as they encounter one another, a time when people will feel that their life of prayer and witness is being deepened and their resources are being stretched. Not a time when we are being besieged by problems that need to be solved and statements that need to be finalised, but a time when people feel that they are growing in their ministry."

At the heart of the both the bishops' and spouses' gatherings are the small Bible study groups of eight that meet nearly every day. Both groups will use portions of the Gospel of John in our Bible studies. I have been asked to serve as a facilitator for one of the bishops' Bible study groups and I hope to do that; however there are still some logistics to be worked out with regard to our travel plans so that I can participate in the facilitators' training session at Kent University in advance of the conference. I know that many of you have participated in Bible study groups like these and can attest to their value in building and deepening relationships.

Bishops also gather on most days in larger *Indaba* groups composed of five

Bible Study Groups. Archbishop Williams described the *Indaba* groups this way: "Indaba is a Zulu word describing a meeting for purposeful discussion among equals. Its aim is not to negotiate a formula that will keep everyone happy but to go to the heart of an issue and find what the true challenges are before seeking God's way forward. It is a method with parallels in many cultures, and it is close to what Benedictine monks and Quaker Meetings seek to achieve as they listen quietly together to God, in a community where all are committed to a fellowship of love and attention to each other and to the word of God." The focus in each *Indaba* group will come from the theme of the day.

The various themes are:

- Monday, July 21 – Celebrating Common Ground: the bishop and Anglican identity.
- Tuesday, July 22 – Proclaiming the Good News: the bishop and evangelism.
- Wednesday, July 23 – Transforming Society: the bishop and social injustice.
- Friday, July 25 – Discerning our Shared Calling: the bishop, other churches and God's mission.
- Saturday, July 26 – Safeguarding Creation: the bishop and the environment.
- Monday, July 28 – Engaging with a multi faith world: the bishop, other religions and Christian witness.
- Tuesday, July 29 – Equal in God's sight: when power is abused.

• Wednesday, July 30 – Living under scripture: the bishop and the bible in mission.

* Thursday, July 31 – Listening to God and each other: the bishop and human sexuality.

• Friday, August 1 – Fostering our common life: the bishop, the Covenant and the Windsor Process 1.

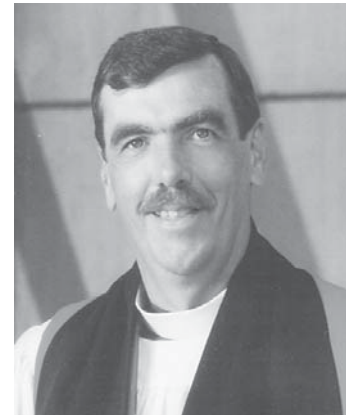
• Saturday August 2 – Fostering our common life: the bishop, the Covenant and the Windsor Process 2.

While each day's theme is important, there will likely be intense interest in the final few topics. The Lambeth Conference is not intended to be a decision-making body for the Anglican Communion, and so I enter into the discussion of these sensitive topics knowing that for the Episcopal Church it is the General Convention where important matters affecting our church are ultimately determined. I do think discussion among the bishops in these areas can be helpful, and so I will enter those days with the intention of listening carefully to others and sharing fully my thoughts, concerns and hopes for our common life in Christ, for a church that is fully inclusive and welcoming to all, and for a church bound together by mission.

Another important part of the Lambeth Conference for me is the planning and hosting of two receptions for bishops and spouses who desire to meet and learn more about Bishop Gene Robinson and his faith journey. I am working on these receptions with several other bishops from New England, and I think there will be great interest from bishops around the world in attending these gatherings.

It would be easy to be bitter because Bishop Robinson did not receive an adequate invitation to attend the Lambeth Conference, but at this point I don't think that serves any useful purpose. I—and many others—have expressed our disappointment, and now it is important that we help him be present in a significant way to those who want to meet him and

"...I enter into the discussion of these sensitive topics knowing that for The Episcopal Church it is the General Convention where important matters affecting our church are ultimately determined."



hear from him rather than about him. In a related matter, Ann and I will arrive in London on Monday, July 14, in time to attend the British premiere of the documentary, *For the Bible Tells Me So*. This event is being held in Queen Elizabeth Hall at the Southbank Centre for the Arts and will include greetings from Bishop Robinson and Sir Ian McKellen.

Other aspects of the Lambeth Conference include worship, workshops, the Marketplace featuring various mission and ministry organizations from around the world, along with vendors and church interest groups, and a day in London when we will walk *en masse* in support of the Millennium Development Goals and visit Buckingham Palace. Following the conference, Ann and I will head to Edinburgh, Scotland, for some vacation time with long-time friends.

I plan to stay in touch with folks back in Vermont during the course of the conference via a link on our diocesan Web site. More information about that and how to use our Web site to link to "all things Lambeth" is in this edition of the Mountain Echo, along with other important information about the Lambeth Conference [see Page E].

I end where I began by inviting your prayers for both Ann and me and for our respective conferences. We'll both write more when we return, but knowing that you are holding us in your prayers means so very much to us. May your summer include some time to relax and be with family and friends and may God continue to bless you in your daily life and ministry with grace and hope.

Faithfully,

+ Thomas

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The Right Reverend Thomas Clark Ely, Bishop

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MOUNTAIN ECHO

News of the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont, in publication since 1894
Now an edition of *Episcopal Life*, Vol. 19, No. 6

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Episcopal Life ISSN 1050-0057, USPS# 177-940 is published monthly by the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, Inc., 815 Second Avenue, New York, NY 10017. Periodical postage paid in New York, NY and additional mailing offices.

Postmaster: Send changes of address to Episcopal Life Circulation Department, P.O. Box 2050, Voorhees, NJ 08043-8000.

Address changes may also be sent to elife@afwebprinting.com, or by calling 800-374-9510.

"Tending God's World: – NOW!" is theme of 2008 Diocesan Convention

by Anne Clarke Brown

Culminating the Diocese of Vermont's celebration of its 175th anniversary, the 176th Convention of the Diocese of Vermont will meet November 7–8, 2008, at Trinity Church, Rutland. Rutland was the site of the diocese's first full convention under the leadership of its first bishop, the Rt. Rev. John Henry Hopkins, following Vermont's separation from the Eastern Diocese and the election of Bishop Hopkins in 1832.

The Convention theme will be "Tending God's World: – NOW!" Environmentalist, educator and author Bill McKibben of Ripton, Vermont, will lead a Friday afternoon forum (3–4:30 p.m.) titled, "Not Just Talking: Actually Taking Action on Climate Change." He will also speak at the Convention dinner, which will be held at the Franklin Conference Center in Rutland's Howe Center. For information on his publications, visit his Web site, www.billmckibben.com.

The Rt. Rev. Mary Adelia McLeod, Ninth Bishop of Vermont, will preach at the Saturday morning Eucharist (8:30 a.m.) at Trinity, and the service will be followed by

Bishop Thomas Ely's annual address and Convention business.

In keeping with the Convention's focus on environmental sustainability and climate change, the event will be "paperless" as much as possible, with minimal extra material handed out beyond the main mailing to delegates. Resolutions and information on nominees will be printed in the November issue of the Mountain Echo and will be posted in early October on the diocesan Web site.

Ministry Fairs are set for October 11, at St. John's, Randolph, October 18, at Zion Church, Manchester Center, and November 1, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Burlington. The workshops (see right) will relate to the Convention theme and will follow the pattern developed over the last several years, with morning workshops followed by Eucharist, lunch, and pre-Convention informational sessions for delegates.

This year, lunch—a simple locally grown and prepared meal—will be provided at each location, with a suggested donation of \$5/person. ❖

Nominations open for Convention elections

by Polly Larkin

One of the most exciting and important pieces of business at our Diocesan Convention is the election of people to fill diocesan committees and boards. Who will be nominated, and how? Individuals can nominate themselves or others they think would be good for the job. Permission is needed from the nominee. Both the nominator and the nominee need to be either canonically-resident clergy or lay persons in good standing—those "who for the previous year have been faithful in corporate worship and in the working, praying and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God." Please keep in mind that this definition of a fit person is perceived through the charitable and generous eye of God.

Nomination forms may be downloaded from the diocesan Web site, www.dioceseofvermont.org. Click on "Diocesan Convention 2008" on the home page for the link. Nomination forms are also available at the Diocesan Center (863-3431 or 800-286-3437), and they have been sent to all delegates to convention, all parish senior wardens and diocesan committee chairs. Or email Polly Larkin (below) for a copy.

Completed nomination forms must be received by August 22, to ensure the nominee will appear in the Mountain Echo prior to convention. Send to Nominating Committee Chair Polly Larkin, 38 Pleasant Street, Essex Junction VT 05452 or email to larkinej@hotmail.com. She can answer questions at 878-8047.

Positions open for nomination at this year's Diocesan Convention follow. Descriptions of the organizations and contact information for people who can answer questions about the positions are on the Web site. Click on "Diocesan Convention 2008" on the home page for the link.

Four clergy and four lay **Alternate Deputies to General Convention 2009** (July 8–17 in Anaheim, California).

Three Members for three-year terms on the **Brookhaven Board of Trustees**,

which has full jurisdiction and authority over the management and operation of the Brookhaven Home and School.

Four at-large members for two-year terms and two youth representatives for one-year terms on **Diocesan Council**, which, with the bishop, exercises the executive power of the diocese between Diocesan Conventions.

One clergy and one lay member for three-year terms on the **Oversight and Audit Committee**, which is responsible for implementing and enforcing the audit, financial reporting, funds management and other requirements of diocesan and national canons relating to diocesan and parish financial management.

Three members for three-year terms on the **Rock Point Board**, which is responsible for administration and maintenance of the buildings and grounds of Rock Point.

Four members for three-year terms on the **Rock Point School Board of Trustees**, which has authority over the management and operations of the school.

One clergy and one lay member for four-year terms on the **Standing Committee of the Diocese of Vermont**, an advisory body to the bishop and the ecclesiastical authority in the absence of a bishop.

One member to be elected to a seven-year term **Board of Trustees of the Diocese of Vermont**, which is responsible for receiving, holding and properly disposing of all assets, real and personal, of the diocese.

In addition to the above positions that will be filled by election in November, each deanery should elect a lay or clergy representative to Diocesan Council by August 1, and send the name to the Secretary of Convention, James Larkin, larkinej@hotmail.com, as required by Canon 6A.

Polly Larkin is a member of St. James', Essex Junction.

The next Mountain Echo will be the September issue. Deadline for submissions: August 11.

2008 Ministry Fair Workshops

Getting started! What is an energy audit and how do I get one?

In November 2007, delegates to the 175th Convention of the Diocese of Vermont unanimously resolved that each of its parishes conduct an audit of its energy use and consumption patterns and that each parish file a report before the 177th convention. To help congregations get started, members of Vermont Interfaith Power & Light (VTIPL, www.vtipl.org) will conduct a sample energy audit with its do-it-yourself audit workbook for religious buildings.

Workshop leaders will describe the assessment process and summarize VTIPL's assessments of many Episcopal churches in Vermont. They will describe what some churches in the Diocese of Vermont have done to decrease their carbon footprints. The final piece to the hour-long workshop will include an instructional walk-thru audit of the church where the workshop is being held.

—Anita Schell-Lambert

Carbon Emissions and Carbon Offsets

Led by Tracy Magner and Bob Waters of Green Mountain Offsets, the workshop

will address issues surrounding carbon emissions. In addition to explaining our carbon footprint, and touching on ways we can conserve to lessen our impact on the environment, the workshop will provide a lecture/discussion detailing the concept of carbon offsets: what they are, how they work, and how they help the fight against global warming. Green Mountain Offsets is a Vermont-based company started by Magner and Waters in 2008, with the vision of helping Vermont become the first carbon neutral state. Through the proper use and implementation of carbon offsets, this vision may soon become a reality. The photo-voltaic installation at St. Barnabas, Norwich, Vermont will be highlighted as an example of what can be done throughout the diocese.

—Elizabeth Hilgartner

The Global Water Crisis Comes to Vermont

Starting off the three-part workshop, the Rev. Sister Laurian Seeber will present a quick overview of water issues on the international level (with thanks to Maude Barlow). The major presenter will be An-

Continued on Page E

Reserve Convention display space

by Sarah Gallagher

The 2008 Diocesan Convention promises to be an exciting and energizing event, capping the 175th Anniversary celebrations. As always, all diocesan committees and ministries are welcome to provide an informational display for convention. Displays will be set up in Trinity Church's Nourse Hall. The work diocesan groups do is important. Let others know how they can support it.

Because of this year's focus on aspects of climate change, those groups with an environmental lean are particularly encouraged to do displays.

Send your display space request to Sarah Gallagher (864-0471 x 10 or sarahg@stpaulscathedralvt.org). As always, space is limited so please reserve soon.

Sarah Gallagher is administrator at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Burlington.

Convention resolutions due August 24

by Laura Chase

This year the Diocese of Vermont completes the celebration of its 175th anniversary at Diocesan Convention, November 7–8, at Trinity Church in Rutland. Now is the time to start thinking about resolutions to submit for action at Convention.

Resolutions should call for specific action and state clearly who or what group should be responsible. Questions to consider when writing a resolution include:

- Does this resolution amend an existing position or policy of the Diocese of Vermont?
- Does this resolution offer a new position or policy?
- Are there any budget implications if this resolution is adopted?
- Does this resolution require a canonical or constitutional change?

Elements of a resolution are:

I. Title: Each resolution should have a brief descriptive title that highlights the area of concern. Ex. "Establish a Fun Day Task Force"

II. Preamble: Unless it is absolutely necessary, please eliminate the preamble [see IV, below]. If a preamble is necessary, each clause, written as a separate paragraph, begins with the word "Whereas" underlined or printed in italics and followed by a comma.

The preamble should never contain a period. Each of its paragraphs should close with a semicolon followed by the word "and."

III. "Resolved" clauses: The word "Resolved" is underlined or printed in italics and is followed by a comma and the word "That" which begins with a capital "T." Each resolved paragraph should close with a semicolon, followed by the word "and therefore be it" if there are additional resolves, or a period. A resolving paragraph should not contain a period within its structure.

IV. Explanation: In order to avoid lengthy "Whereas" clauses, a separate paragraph entitled "Explanation" follows the resolution. This is where the presenter can provide the rationale and background clarification for the resolution.

V. Proposer: At the end of the resolution the proposer or proposers should be identified, along with who/what body they represent.

The deadline for submitting resolutions is August 24. E-mail resolutions to Laura Chase at LAURACHASE@aol.com. Please send the resolution in the body of the e-mail. For information or with questions, e-mail her or call her at 802-483-2995.

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

NESEI opens school

plane ride home to Vermont, after Deng's first journey back to East Africa in 2005. That day, Lair and Deng made a plan to bring sustainable peace through education to the people of Sudan. Three years later, the long-awaited moment of the first school's opening had arrived, but for the people of South Sudan, the wait for education has been much longer and far more costly. In a region that has been plagued for two generations with a destructive civil war, where over 93% of women are illiterate, where there are fewer than 100 doctors to serve 10 million people, this health sciences high school is an incredible resource and achievement. It is one of the first major steps towards education and economic development in this region, and it would not have been possible without Sudanese and Americans working tirelessly side-by-side.

This was illustrated as NESEI staff member Anita Henderlight closed the ceremony with a story she had heard from a Sudanese friend: When a group of Sudanese boys were fleeing the civil war and found themselves being forced to cross the River Nile, they had a choice to make. They could either jump in as individuals and fight the currents as many small persons, or they could join hands and

Continued from Page 4

swim across to safety as one, unified body. Unity was their greatest strength in the face of great difficulty.

As she told this story, Anita and the other NESEI staff members joined hands with their Sudanese, Ugandan, and Kenyan friends who have made this first school possible. Then, together, the unified NESEI family took a symbolic jump forward for Sudan.

NESEI plans to build 20 secondary schools that will include a wide variety of innovative programs and student/community services. These will include: community health and girls education counseling centers, transition primary schools for girls, income generating projects to create self-sustainability for NESEI students and NESEI school communities, and innovative curriculum development that will include gender studies, peace studies, and vocational training. NESEI schools will give students skills that they can use to rebuild their post-conflict communities, bringing new services in healthcare, business, agriculture, and other important areas.

For information about NESEI and how to support its school projects, visit www.nesei.org.

Everyone, Everywhere

de Gruchy, "is about transforming that connectedness so that it resonates with the connectedness within the Trinity made known to us in the incarnation." Such transformation requires that people who come from places of privilege and relative wealth such as the U.S. must be mindful of the imbalances in the connections and be willing to listen to the stories of what it's like to be on the other side. It also requires respect of the particularities of each context.

Noting that, "The poor are the collateral damage of globalization," de Gruchy said that poverty "is not the failure of the system; it is how the system is designed to work." He concluded, "Mission is not just out there in exotic places. We have to do mission in the north, with those who damage the environment."

Muslims and the way of Christ

The Rev. Paul-Gordon Chandler, Episcopal missionary, author and the conference's June 6 plenary speaker, urged participants to work to "bridge this chasm of misunderstanding" between Christianity and Islam, not by seeking to convert Muslims but by working to form interfaith friendships in which both religions can explore all that the two faiths have in common.

Muslims who are pressured into converting to Christianity suffer in what Chandler called a "total break with society," describing how Christian converts from Islam in Senegal, where he grew up as the son of Christian missionaries, were exiled for the choice they made. "They ended up getting Jesus, but the rest of their life was hell," he said.

Chandler said he feels called to help find another way of showing Muslims about the



Steve de Gruchy



Paul-Gordon Chandler

way of Christ. Muslims must be able to see Christ in the lives of Christians, not simply be told about Christ, he said.

Chandler, who is the rector of the Church of St. John the Baptist in Cairo, suggested that Christians use the Five Pillars of Islam as a way to explore their common religious heritage with Muslims (submission to Allah, prayer five times a day, alms-giving, fasting and pilgrimage). That commonality is centered in the fact that Jesus was a Middle Eastern man whom Islam reveres, he said, and he urged Christians to act more like pilgrims asking for directions and seeking companions on the way, rather than assuming they have already arrived at the truth that they need to proclaim to unquestioning listeners.

than assuming they have already arrived at the truth that they need to proclaim to unquestioning listeners.

Going beyond the MDGs

Hellen Wangusa, Anglican Observer at the United Nations and the conference's June 7 keynote speaker, told participants that the church must be prepared for the days after the year 2015, by which time the MDGs are targeted to be achieved.

Wangusa, a lay woman from Uganda, said she was glad to be talking to a "group of very strong believers in the MDGs." While the Episcopal Church and its main offices in New York City might be "MDG-ized," she said, many other parts of the Anglican Communion are not as convinced, convicted or passionate about the eight goals aimed at making measurable progress combating poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, environmental degradation and discrimination against women.

Wangusa pointed out that the church has been about the work of the MDGs since

Continued on Page 5



Maggie Colacchio photos

Above: NESEI co-founder Atem Deng celebrates with NESEI school students holding backpacks donated by NESEI friends in the United States.

Below: NESEI co-founder Robert Lair welcomes students before they enter the dining hall for the opening ceremony.



Congregations awarded MDG grants

by Anne Clarke Brown

Members of the Diocesan Global Reconciliation Committee met at St. Stephen's, Middlebury, on June 10, to consider grant applications from five congregations for matching funds to go toward projects aimed at achievement of the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The grant funds are from a \$6,000 line item in the diocese's 2008 budget that is part of a Diocesan Convention commitment to allocate 0.7% of net disposable income toward meeting the MDGs.

St. Barnabas', Norwich, received a grant of \$1,000 to supplement \$2,668 raised from the congregation for the New Sudan Education Initiative and for Episcopal Relief and Development's efforts to provide potable water to communities that lack access to safe water supplies.

St. Paul's Cathedral, Burlington, received \$166.50 to help pay the \$500 booking fee for the African Children's Choir performance scheduled for August at the Cathedral (see Page H).

The Sunday School at St. Mark's, Newport, received \$500 to inspire a summer effort to raise \$1000 for projects that provide safe drinking water (MDG #7).

St. Paul's, White River Junction received \$500 to match \$1,000 raised for God's Little Lambs, a ministry to children and families in Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

St. John's in the Mountains, Stowe, received a grant for \$1,300 to match over \$2,600 raised from the congregation toward construction and scholarships for a primary school in Santé Fe, Dominican Republic.

Just over \$2,500 are available for additional grants in 2008. A congregation can apply for funds to defray the up-front costs of a fundraising project or for matching funds—\$1 of diocesan money to match \$2 raised by the congregation—for a specific international project or program.

Applications are due September 1. Application forms may be downloaded from the diocesan Web site by clicking on the "Diocesan Organizations" button on the left side of the home page and then on "Global Reconciliation Committee." Or, call or email Jackie Connaway at the diocesan office: 800-286-3437; adminasst@dioceseofvermont.org.

Note that vestry approval is required for an application to be considered, so plan accordingly. For more information, contact Lee Alison Crawford, 802-485-6011; lacinv94@aol.com.

Take your "stimulus check" &
Give It 4 Good
www.GiveIt4Good.org

Everyone, Everywhere

Continued from Page D

long before they were named as such, and it is the one institution that will still be working when the MDGs fall out of fashion or we fail to meet them. "Governments and NGOs come



Hellen Grace Wangusa

and go," she said, and the promises of governments are different from those made by the church, which believes in what she called a "promise-keeping God."

Wangusa noted several areas for future investment of energy: education, women, the problems of commercialization and the life of girls, trafficking of children and the sex trade, the environment, fair trade, economic justice, and, most especially, water. And she said attention needs to be given to an area that is not addressed by the dominant economic model: the value of household work and the care economy.

Responding to a question about how to develop "mutually transforming relationships" between those in need and those who want to help, Wangusa suggested that people follow the model of Jesus encountering the Samaritan woman at the well. They were, she said, "at par with each other, and, I tell you, Jesus couldn't outdo her." A goal should be to meet the other without the intent to condemn or patronize, but to empower.

Missionaries commissioned

Seventeen Episcopal Church missionaries were commissioned for their work during the conference's closing Eucharist. The Rev. Dr. Titus Presler, of General Theological Seminary preached. Noting the variety of people and organizations that participated in the conference, Presler said, "Difference is the distinctive mark, for mission has to do with reaching out across boundaries."

"If there's a difference, we know that the gospel must somehow reach it because the gospel has something to say to and in every difference," Presler said. "Mission is, in fact, ministry in the dimension of difference."

"Today, as never before, congregations are engaging the task of mission discernment," Presler said. "They hear God calling them to mission, and they understand intuitively that mission involves an encounter with the other, the different, and that they are embracing the fullness of God's call only if they are reaching out to the other and the different, whether in their own neighborhoods or across the world."

Vermont reactions

Deacon Margo Fletcher was impressed to learn of the vastness of the mission work of the Episcopal Church, and she particularly appreciated Paul-Gordon Chandler's plenary on interfaith relationships.

Michelle Peattie of St. Peter's, Bennington, appreciated the "focus on reconciliation and how we do mission in the context of understanding each other's traditions." She said, "Seeing the trust and faith [on the part of the church's missionaries] that God will provide was an amazing grace."

[The Rev. Mary Frances Schjonberg of Episcopal Life Media contributed to this story.]

Province One Lambeth Prayer Vigil

July 16–August 3, 2008

The Province of New England invites all members of the province to pray for the twelve New England bishops during the Lambeth Conference. The prayers below, written by the Rt. Rev. Barbara Harris, may also be found at www.dioceseofvermont.org (Lambeth Conference link), along with a downloadable bulletin insert.

Petitions

Gracious and loving God, whom we know as the God of justice, peace and reconciliation and who alone can order the affections of your people, be present with those assembled in prayer, study, worship and converse at this fourteenth decennial Lambeth Conference. Watch with them in their daily round. Lend your Holy Spirit to the diverse minds, tongues and interpretations of Scripture gathered there that they might seek to strengthen the bonds which unite us and seek to dispel those things that divide and separate us.

Let flow the balm of mutual respect which brings a realization that unity does not require uniformity, nor that such unity is achieved at the cost and sacrifice of your great gift of diversity.

Give to the bishops, spouses and other attendees, especially those from Province One of the Episcopal Church, strength to witness to the wholeness of all your creation and people, including our brother Gene who has been excluded and relegated to the margins of this gathering. Help them to raise clear voices as they seek to engage others in dialogue. Also give them open hearts as they listen to other understandings of your purpose and will for your people.

As we keep vigil here at home, strengthen us in that deep sense of solidarity which upholds us in the fellowship of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord and Savior in whose Holy name we pray. Amen.

Province One Bishops: Laura Ahrens, Bud Cederholm, James Curry, Thomas Ely, Gayle Harris, Chilton Knudsen, Stephen Lane, Gene Robinson, Gordon Scruton, Andrew Smith, Thomas Shaw, GERALYN WOLF.

Lambeth Conference Prayer

Pour down upon us, O God, the gifts of your Holy Spirit, that those who prepare for the Lambeth Conference may be filled with wisdom and understanding. May they know at work within them that creative energy and vision which belong to our humanity, made in your image and redeemed by your love, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



by Anne Clarke Brown

Bishops from nearly all 38 provinces of the Anglican Communion will gather July 16–August 3, at the University of Kent in southeast England for the once-every-ten-years Lambeth Conference. Named for Lambeth Palace, the London home of the Archbishop of Canterbury and the site of the first such gathering in 1867, the decennial event is the oldest of the Anglican Communion's four "instruments of unity."

Vermont's first bishop, the Rt. Rev. John Henry Hopkins, was the first to suggest a meeting of Anglican bishops in 1851, but there was little interest until 1867, when the Canadian bishops pressed for a gathering. Archbishop Charles Longley agreed, but was clear that, "no declaration of faith shall be made, and no decision come to which shall affect generally the interests of the Church, but that we shall meet together for brotherly counsel and encouragement." Longley and others were concerned to avoid establishing a centralized decision-making body.

Subsequent Lambeth Conferences issued an increasing number of resolutions and statements, but while they carried the moral authority of the assembled bishops, none was considered binding on member churches, and many were reversed by later gatherings.

Planners of this year's Lambeth Conference have chosen, as Bishop Ely notes in his column on Page B, a different approach, one that might be said to reflect the original intent of "counsel and encouragement." According to the Rev. Dr. Ian Douglas, a

member of the design group, "Basic to the new design was the imperative to provide space where deep and meaningful conversations across differences could be engendered in a prayerful manner."

Some 700 of the more than 800 active bishops eligible to attend Lambeth have accepted invitations from Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams. Many of their spouses will attend a parallel conference hosted by Jane Williams. A number of bishops have chosen to attend an alternative event, the Global Anglican Future Conference (www.gafcon.org) in late June.

Episcopal Life Online has published nine bulletin inserts addressing various aspects of Lambeth (find bulletin insert link at the bottom of the ELO home page). More is available at the Web sites in the box below.

How to follow events at the Lambeth Conference

News from Lambeth will be posted daily at Episcopal Life Online, www.episcopalchurch.org/episcopal-life.

The Anglican Communion News Service is an additional source for daily news: www.anglicancommunion.org/acns.

Bishop Ely will send occasional notes and photos that will be posted at www.dioceseofvermont.org (Lambeth 2008 link on the home page).

The Lambeth Conference Web site is www.lambethconference.org.

Ministry Fair Workshops

Continued from Page C

nette Smith of Vermonters for a Clean Environment on the statewide situation with water. The third part will be different in each venue, with folks from Water 1st in Randolph; from Dorset Citizens for Responsible Growth in Manchester; and People Concerned about Chloramine in Burlington: all discussing how local issues are dealt with.

—Sr. Laurian Seeber

Providing a Rich Soil for All Generations

Young people will offer a hands-on workshop for those interested in strengthening the relationships among adults, children, and youth. This energizing workshop will explore the ways young people are good stewards in their congregations by giving themselves to service in their communities and churches.

Step onto rich soil and experience worship, conversation, and the abundant fruits that young people offer. Young people have something to say about how they are perceived by the church and about how important spirituality is to them. They will bear witness that they are "Sown in the Heart of

Christ." This workshop is inspired by young people who will attend the Episcopal Youth Event in San Antonio Texas July 8-13.

—Connie Saeger-Proctor

Bread and Community

Bread is a profound and ancient symbol of life. Flour and salt—the makings of bread—were frequently brought to our early altars. Today we share bread at almost every meal, and it is broken and shared at the center of our worship every Sunday. We have always known that in order to live we will always have to receive and care for the gifts of life.

And we also know that we must share these gifts. They are not for us alone. In order to really live, we need to give, we need to share, we need to love. How are we bread for one another? How do we break, bless and share all the gifts that God has given us?

This workshop will focus on the metaphor of bread through meditation, *Lectio Divina* and the mixing and baking of communion bread using local ingredients. We will share recipes, experiences and offer our bread for our Noonday Eucharist.

—Theresa Gleason and Lisa Ransom

Northwest Deanery 1

Beth Crane, Bureau Chief

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Montgomery, VT 05470

802-326-4603

beth@gracechurchsheldon.org

The Northwest Deanery plans, in the fall, to hold two Oxfam Hunger Banquets, one at St. Luke's in St. Albans on September 12, and one at St. Matthew's, Enosburg Falls, on October 2. Each will feature a speaker on food and hunger issues.

The ladies of ST. LUKE'S, St. Albans, conducted a very successful annual salad luncheon with more than fifty delicious salads prepared in the kitchens of the parish family and more than 125 luncheoners attending and enjoying the "goodies." The Ministry Development Committee has conducted a productive "Parish History" session reflecting on the past fifty or more years and reviewing the history over the earlier years from people's recollections and the Registers of the Parish. Former Rector **Dennis Hayward** reports that he and **Deb** are comfortably ensconced in their home in Nova Scotia and have two acres under cultivation and a greenhouse full of tomato plants.

GRACE CHURCH, Sheldon, welcomed the Rev. **Janet K. Brown** "back" as priest in partnership beginning on June 1. Janet and Jean are no strangers to Grace Church, having been a part of Grace's ministry early in the parish's resurgence two decades ago. Grace Church's music ministry, "Summer Music at Grace" continues (see Page G) into the fall.

HOLY TRINITY, Swanton, joined by Bishop **Thomas Ely**, will dedicate the new parish hall, Sunday school and office spaces on July 6, beginning at 10 a.m. The bishop will also consecrate the new Chapel of the Annunciation, which is dedicated to the life and ministry of the Rt. Rev. **James Kelsey**.

Otter Creek Deanery 2

Krey Kellington, Bureau Chief

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kreykell@vermontel.net

ST. STEPHEN'S, Middlebury, is gearing up for Peasant Market its annual "All Parish Energizer" [see box this page]. A Middlebury-area tradition, this is a lively, fun-filled summer event for the entire family. And, a handmade kayak by St. Stephen's own boat wrights will be raffled.

Elizabeth Allison, diocesan historian and St. Stephen's member, has been elected to the board of National Episcopal Historians and Archivists. In addition, she reports that her narrative, *To Have a Bishop of Our Own*, written for the 175th anniversary of the election of Bishop Hopkins, received rave reviews from the group.

TRINITY, Rutland, is sprucing up, as it will be the site for Diocesan Convention this November. The Women of Trinity's recent lively, end-of-the-year picnic/auction at the home of Treasurer **Sue Zoesch** in Pittsford provided much fellowship and fun. Vacation Bible School will be July 7-11, daily from 9 a.m.-Noon, for children ages 5-12. Call 775-4368 for information.

❖ deanery doings ❖

News of Parishes and People in the Diocese of Vermont

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

ST. PAUL'S, Vergennes, is making improvements. The present sound system will be enhanced by the addition of four small speakers in the church, along with one in the infants' room near the entrance of the building.

Southwest Deanery 3

Sarah Smith, Bureau Chief

5849 Vermont Route 7A

Arlington, VT 05250

802-375-6974

ST. PETER'S, Bennington, celebrated the 20th anniversary of the ordination of Deacon **Penny Hawkins** on June 22. She has been part of the St. Peter's community since childhood and has been inspired by parishioners who, she says, "were extraordinary in their support, inspiration, and caring."



Emily Kennedy photo

The St. Peter's Teddy Bear Picnic, held June 8 on the church lawn, culminated the congregation's year-long centennial celebration.

Southeast Deanery 4

Bette Harrison, Bureau Chief

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A team from ST. MICHAEL'S, Brattleboro, and ST. MARY'S IN THE MOUNTAINS, Wilmington, spent five days working on a house in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, that was severely damaged by Hurricane Katrina. They were delighted to learn that 87 year-old "Miss Annie" would soon be moving back to live there with her daughter. Both had been trapped in the attic during the storm.

Donna Reidt of St. Michael's graduated May 15 from Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Seminarian **Kim Woodbury** will spend the summer in

St. Stephen's Peasant Market

Saturday, July 12

9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Village Green, Middlebury

Wonderful collections of vintage items, antiques, a silent auction, food, pies, etc... as well as a handmade kayak by St Stephen's own boat wrights.

St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, working in a mission congregation.

ST. LUKE'S, Chester, has installed a lift to make the church fully accessible. In June, the vestry invited all to attend a screening of *For the Bible Tells Me So*, and the congregation celebrated the 80th birthday of **Joyce Tiemann**.

ST. MARK'S, Springfield, continues its ministry to the Southern State Correctional Facility, under the leadership of **Dave Shuffleburg**. He reports that three young men have been baptized since the first of the year.

Three Rivers Deanery 5

Betsy Arnold, Bureau Chief

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betsyarnold@verizon.net

ST. JOHN'S, Randolph, will join for Sunday worship with CHRIST CHURCH, Bethel, at Old Christ Church (built when Abe Lincoln was 12 years old) on July 20 and August 8. September 7, will be Randolph's annual Old World Festival, bringing folks from near and far. Since its inception the women and men of St. John's have made well over 100 pies to sell by the piece and have gained a reputation for their pies. **Jane Eubanks** reports that registrations for the June 8 "Feast of Singing" event picked up after an article appeared in the June Mountain Echo.

ST. JAMES', Woodstock, hosts its annual St. James Fair on July 10 [see Page G].

ST. BARNABAS', Norwich, and ST. PAUL'S, White River Junction, are participating in the United Valley Interfaith Project, which plans to address transportation and housing issues in the Upper Valley. Both congregations are also involved in summer lunch programs.

St. Barnabas' has received the gift of a solar electric system in honor of the 80th birthday of **Ann Flowers**. The system will produce an average of 510 kilowatt hours of electricity per month, and when it is producing more than needed, it will feed power to the grid.

Central Vermont Deanery 6

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Northeast Deanery 7

Lynn Perry, Bureau Chief

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lynn@together.net

ST. ANDREW'S, St. Johnsbury, welcomes the Rev. **Jean MacDonald** as their new priest-in-partnership. Her first service will be July 13. MacDonald previously served at Christ Church, Island Pond.

Champlain Deanery 8

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lkmorr@myexcel.com

Betsy Yung, Bureau Chief

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Summer schedules have begun for all parishes in the Deanery. Thanks to all for your participation and support in a successful COTS Walk. Remember your food shelf this summer when donations are down.

THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. PAUL, Burlington, will embark on a capital campaign to address needed building renovations. An *ad hoc* committee has been formed. Sexton **Tony Galas** has thanked the many volunteers who with their commitment make his job easier.

ST. ANDREW'S, Colchester, has a need for Summer and Fall Sunday School teachers. Call 802-658-0533 for more information. Special thanks to **Michelle Viani** and **Mary Beth Mooney** for 14 years of dedication to the Sunday School. Volunteers are needed to help with the Colchester Summer Lunch program. Contact **Mary Lou Ashton** (mlavt@verizon.net) if you can help.

At ST. JAMES', Essex junction, the Soul Mates Breakfast raised funds for Camp Agape. July 11 and 12 is Parish Reunion Weekend.

TRINITY, Shelburne, has ended the senior luncheons for the year. A luncheon to thank the many volunteers will be held in September. The Children's Ministry Steering Team is conducting a survey about the Sunday school programs. Contact **Gail Anderson**, 425-6143 or **Darcy Jewett**, 985-2067, if you can help serve or prepare desert for the August Salvation Army dinner.

At ALL SAINTS', South Burlington, **Stewart Pierson** accompanied **Ed Darling** on June 1, and **Glen Sproul** on June 8, on the piano with special music during Communion. Sacred Ground Dance performed circle dances as part of the Solstice celebration on June 20. Tables are available for rent for the flea Market on July 19. Contact **Linda Morrell**, 878-9137.



Vermont youth to attend E.Y.E.

Nine young people plus adult sponsors **Connie Saeger-Proctor**, diocesan canon for ministry development, and **Pam Kidder** of St. Paul's, White River Junction, will attend the triennial Episcopal Youth Event (E.Y.E.) July 8-13, on the campus of Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas.

The conference theme, "Sown in the Heart of Christ," is drawn from the Gospel lesson for July 13, Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23. Planners say the event will provide rich soil for worship, education, recreation and service (www.2008eye.org).

The schedule includes daily worship, plenary sessions, workshops, free time, the opportunity to tour San Antonio, and a variety of special celebrations and activities. Look for a report on the Vermonters' adventures in the September Mountain Echo. ❖

More Coming Events

Cathedral Arts

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

Art Exhibit In the Church Nave

We Wish to See God: Places of Worship

June 4 to August 31

The photographic exhibit by Summer 2008 Artist-in-Residence Kristen M. Watson is an ongoing project focusing on the spaces and devices in use by people living and worshipping in Vermont. Ms. Watson began the project during her study of studio art at the University of Vermont. She says, "These images capture the spiritual fervor that is expressed in the architectural craftsmanship of centuries past and the loving maintenance of the well-used implements for connecting with God. They reflect the solace of sanctuary that is communion with the Divine." The Cathedral is open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and between services on Sunday. Call 802-864-0471 for other times.

84th St. James' Church Fair

Thursday, July 10, 2008, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., rain or shine

On the Green, Woodstock, Vermont

The annual fair includes bargains of all kinds: jewelry, books, fabrics and linens, white elephants (a great source for unusual gifts), toys, baked goods, large and small rummage. Also plants and garden vegetables. Lunch is available. For more information, call 802-457-1727, mornings.

Music for a Sunday Afternoon

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

For information on the full fourth season of the Sunday concert series, visit www.musicforasundayafternoon.com. Suggested donation for the concerts is \$10.00.

Maple Leaf Seven

Christmas in July Dinner Fundraiser

Sunday, July 13, 4:00 p.m.

The Maple Leaf Seven return for the annual Christmas in July Celebration with selected Christmas selections. Maple Leaf Seven was founded in 1977 by amateur musicians in St. Johnsbury, under the leadership of the local high school band director. The band performs in the "dixieland" style on clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, piano, tuba/bass and drums. Over the years the band's repertoire has grown to include a broad selection of dixieland favorites from the Original Dixieland Band, Louis Armstrong and others.

The concert will be followed at 6 p.m. by a traditional Christmas ham dinner with all the trimmings in a space decorated for the season. Dinner is by reservation only and is a fund raiser for the series. Tickets are \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children under 12.

The Gordon Stone Band

Sunday, August 10, 4:00 p.m.

For over 30 years, on banjo and pedal steel guitar, Gordon Stone has been writing his genre-crossing music, recording 5 studio albums of his own original material. Gordon was named "Best Instrumentalist" two years in a row and won an Emmy for Jay Craven's VPT series, "Windy Acres" soundtrack in 2005. He has recorded and performed with some of the country's most influential musicians in the bluegrass and jam world.

St. Margaret's Day

Saturday, July 19, 2008, 10:00 a.m.

St. Margaret's Convent, 17 Highland Park St., Roxbury, MA

The Honorable Byron Rushing, Massachusetts State Representative, will preach at the 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist. Luncheon will follow. Rushing represents the Ninth Suffolk District, is active in the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, and has served for many triennia as a General Convention deputy. For more information, contact the Reservations Desk at 617-445-8961, x127. To learn about the Society of St. Margaret, visit www.ssmbos.com.

Faith-based Community Organizing Training

Dinner, Thursday, September 18-Lunch, Saturday, September 20, 2008

Gove Hill Retreat Center, Thetford, Vermont

Sponsored by Vermont Interfaith Action (VIA), this training is for those new to VIA or the long-time leader who has not had the opportunity to attend the PICO national trainings (www.piconetwork.org). It is being customized to meet the needs of Vermont faith communities to bring our values and convictions into the public square. Topics include "how to" build relationships, identify self-interest, speak faithfully in public, frame an issue, conduct policy research, hold elected officials accountable, develop local organizing teams, and involve clergy.

The cost will be \$120 per person for two nights of lodging, linens and towels, and all meals. To register, call or email Amity at the VIA office: (802) 651-8889 or office@viavt.org. Sign up now, space is limited! For additional information please contact Ken Poppe at kpope@stpaulscathedralvt.org, Peter Galbraith at carloway@aol.com, or Peggy Poppe at ppope@verizon.net.

September stewardship workshops planned

by Anne Clarke Brown

The Rev. Angela Emerson, diocesan minister for stewardship development, will offer two workshops in September designed to assist congregations focus creatively on the stewardship aspect of their ministries. Congregations are invited to send teams who are ready to begin planning the annual commitment program (see Emerson's article on Page H) and committed to year-round theological education and formation of good stewards of the abundance and mysteries of God.

The workshops, scheduled for September 13, at St. Barnabas, Norwich, and September 20, at Holy Trinity, Swanton, will offer an in-depth discussion of the Personal Note Campaign and Letter Writing Campaign. Each workshop will open at 9 a.m. for light

refreshments, introductions and worship, and the program will begin promptly at 9:30 and end at 12:30 p.m. The first ninety minutes will include Bible study and reflection on giving and the second ninety minutes on the annual campaign.

Participants are asked to bring paper, pen and a Bible. Each congregation will receive one hard copy of the handouts. Attendees who provide an email address may receive electronic copies.

Please register by emailing Jackie Conaway at adminasst@dioceseofvermont.org. Include the name of the parish the number of people attending and contact information. For more information, email the Rev. Angela Emerson, aemerson@dioceseofvermont.org, or call 802-359-4059.



Interfaith Power and Light founder to lead "Caring for the Earth" retreat at BBCC

by Anne Clarke Brown

Vermont Interfaith Power and Light (VTIPL) and the Bishop Booth Conference Center will host "Caring for the Earth: Faith

Community Action in a Radically Changing World" October 26-28, at the BBCC, Rock Point, Burlington.

Led by the Rev. Canon Sally Grover Bingham, the retreat will help faith community leaders, both lay and clergy, to prepare for the future of global climate change and diminishing energy resources. The event will include a variety of workshops.

Bingham, an Episcopal priest, is founder and president of The Regeneration Project (www.theregenerationproject.org), an interfaith ministry devoted to deepening the connection between ecology and faith and to helping people of faith recognize and fulfill their responsibility for the stewardship of creation. The project's Interfaith Power and Light Campaign, of which VTIPL (www.vtipl.org) is a member, is mobilizing a national religious response to global warming while promoting renewable energy, energy efficiency and conservation. Bingham and The Regeneration Project are recipients of a number of national and international awards for their pioneering work in addressing global climate change.

Watch for more information in the September Echo and on the Web site. ❖



The Rev. Canon Sally Bingham.

Summer Music series at Grace, Sheldon

Grace Church, Sheldon, continues its annual summer music series with three concerts in July and one in August.

Sponsored by The Enosburg Opera House and Grace Church, the Saline Fiddlers will appear at the opera house July 8, at 7:30 p.m. The Fiddlers (www.salinefiddlers.org), a group of exceptional high school music students from Saline, Michigan, have earned national and international acclaim. They present an energetic, polished stage show that includes music, song and dance with their repertoire of American folk fiddle, bluegrass, western swing and Celtic music. Tickets: \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors/students and \$5 for a child under 5.

Full Circle, a group of five friends who have been making music together in various combinations since 1978, will play at Grace Church Sunday, July 13, at 7:30 p.m. Full Circle specializes in medieval and Renaissance dances and love songs, but their repertoire also includes Baroque instrumental

music, folk songs, Celtic and Appalachian tunes, and some 20th century pieces.

Village Harmony will return to Grace, Thursday, July 31, 7:30 p.m., with a potluck dinner preceding the concert at 6:00 p.m. A perennial favorite, Village Harmony will perform hard-driving 1930's gospel quartets, sacred and folk music from Republic of Georgia (including west Georgian yodeling!), music from Corsica and South Africa, and shape-note music.

Martha Gallagher, an explorer of and recognized innovator on the Celtic harp will play at Grace Friday, August 22, at 7:30 p.m. She has pushed the boundaries of what many believe to be the perimeters of harp music with her gutsy blues, punky jazz, and unique song interpretations. At the same time, her love of traditional Celtic music has been highlighted in performances with six-time Grammy winners, The Chieftains. For more information, or to hear Gallagher's music, visit www.adkharper.com. ❖

Diocesan Calendar

July 2008

- 1 Rock Point Board, Diocesan Office, 3–5 pm
- 1 Fresh Start for Clergy, Good Shepherd, Barre, 9:30 am–2:30 pm
- 2 Administrative Group, Diocesan Office, 10:30–12:30
- 2 Rock Point Board, Diocesan Office, 1–3 pm
- 6 Bishop's Visitation, Holy Trinity, Swanton
- 17–Aug 3 Lambeth Conference of Anglican Bishops
- 31 Trustees, Diocesan Office, 11 am–3 pm

August 2008

- 5 Fresh Start for Clergy, Good Shepherd, Barre, 9:30 am–2:30 pm
- 4 Rock Point Board, Diocesan Office, 3–5 pm
- 7 Ministry Development Group, 9:30 am–4:30 pm
- 11 Deadline, September Mountain Echo**
- 26 Executive Committee of Diocesan Council, Diocesan Office, 9:30 am–3:30 pm
- 31 Bishop's Visitation, St. Luke's, Alburgh

September 2008

- 1 Diocesan Office closed for Labor Day holiday
- 2 Fresh Start for Clergy, Good Shepherd, Barre, 9:30 am–2:30 pm
- 6 Diocesan Council, Trinity, Rutland, 10 am–2 pm

St. James' addresses health care choices



Margy Zabriskie photo

St. James', Essex Junction, offered a May 10 workshop, "Health Care Choices: Helping Our Loved Ones Help Us," designed to help participants plan for the expected or unexpected events that may surround a medical emergency in their families. Keynote speaker the Rev. Robert Macauley, MD, Director of Medical Ethics at Fletcher Allen Health Care, (in red shirt) spoke on "Medical Directives: What They Can and Can't Do."

St. James' Rector Ken Hitch (left) led a session on "Funeral Planning: Help us Honor Your Wishes and Your Memory;" Maura McClure, RN, (second from left) led a session on "Palliative Care, What it is and What it Can Do for You;" and Michael Hechmer, Staff Chaplain at Fletcher Allen, (right) led a session on "Care Grief and Bereavement, a Human Response to Loss."

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

Funds Available for Parish Use As of May 1, 2008

Initiative I		
The Bishop Butterfield Revolving Loan Fund	\$	617,872
Initiative II		
The Talent and Resource Network	\$	17,182
Initiative III		
The Congregation Renewal and Emergency Assistance Fund	\$	5,107
Initiative IV		
The Diocesan Outreach Fund	\$	11,471
Walter P. Irish Fund		
Assistance for churches in small communities	\$	22,661

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.

African Children's Choir to sing at Saint Paul's Cathedral



by Mark Howe

The internationally acclaimed African Children's Choir will present a concert at St. Paul's Cathedral in Burlington on Friday evening, August 29, at 7:30. The Cathedral Chapter and the diocesan Global Reconciliation Committee are sponsors for the event.

The choir, under its parent organization, Music For Life, is composed of 26 children aged seven to eleven, from Kenya and Uganda. Many are orphans, and all come from very poor villages. Music For Life invites children to spend five months in training in Vancouver, B.C., and they then tour as a choir. While training and touring, they have daily classes and music lessons, as well as playtime, housework, prayer, meals, and all the routines of normal life in North America.

The concerts benefit schools, orphanages, medical and dental clinics, literacy programs, and other organizations and initiatives in Sudan, Ghana, Nigeria, Uganda, Rwanda, Kenya, and South Africa.

In its 24 years, the African Children's Choir (www.africanchildrenschoir.com) has appeared in thousands of concerts around the world, including concerts at the Pentagon, the United Nations and on Capitol Hill. They have been featured on popular television broadcasts such as The Tonight Show, Good Morning America, Ellen, and American Idol. They have also performed alongside a number of well-known artists and musicians, including the National Symphony Orchestra of Belgium, Wyclef Jean, Bobby McFerrin, Mariah Carey, Chantal Kreviazuk, and Josh Groban, to name only a few, and in venues such as Royal Albert Hall and Madison Square Garden.

Their concert programs deliver a powerful blend of singing, dancing, and storytelling to bridge cultural differences and spread hope and joy to audiences throughout the world. Admission to the concert is free, and an offering will be taken. Don't miss it!

Mark Howe is canon precentor at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Burlington.

Planning the Annual Commitment Program

by Angela Emerson

Some call it the pledge drive, some the fall stewardship campaign, and others the annual commitment program. The label chosen to describe the program suggests a difference in content and how the program is "pitched" to the congregation.

National Public Radio does a pledge drive about as well as it can be done. There is ample disclosure and education about what it costs to broadcast each program. But there is even more discussion about the importance of the program in the life of the listeners—how much the listener either enjoys or depends upon the program. The listener is invited to put a value on the importance of the particular program through the amount of the pledge.

Church pledge drives typically appeal to the budget as the motivation for making the pledge. The budget (from the previous year or the next year's projection) is often distributed along with a pledge card, and the congregation is asked to consider the budget in determining the amount of the pledge. This approach assumes that the congregation is motivated by: 1) a sense of duty or obligation; or 2) a sense of contributing a "fair share;" or 3) a sense of patronage much like the NPR appeal; or 4) guilt! In every such case, the pledge drive focuses on the needs of the church rather than the need of Christians to give in thanksgiving for God's blessings and God's gifts. A stewardship campaign that focuses on getting the pledge card signed takes much the same approach.

An annual commitment program is designed first and foremost to educate and celebrate the many ways that the church is changing lives and relieving suffering. An effective commitment program provides opportunities for people to share stories about their encounters with God in and through the work of the church and encourages an offering of time and material wealth in thanksgiving for God's presence. The commitment program occurs within the context of an ongoing, year round theological education effort in which people are invited to engage Scripture, reflect on how God is working in their lives, and what God is calling each person to do with the gifts God has given. This approach assumes that people want to make a difference in the world and, when given the opportunity, will respond with generosity.

Planning for the commitment program begins with the mission statement and the goals the vestry has set for the congregation. Opportunity is provided for people to share their own encounters with God through the various ministries within the church and in the world. Consider having one or more lay preachers at sermon time, or short witness talks at the offertory. Try a "contemporary epistle" in lieu of the Epistle reading in the lectionary—a letter written by a parishioner about a particular ministry. Be creative, inventive, and bold! Put the call of the Gospel to serve at the center of your commitment program instead of the budget. It will make a huge difference.

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