

178th Convention practices new ways for "living our prayer"

by Anne Clarke Brown

The 178th Convention of the Diocese of Vermont met at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Burlington, November 5-6. The two-day event featured special guest Emily Scott, who shared the ministry of St. Lydia's, New York City, in workshops, a forum, a Friday evening Sacred Meal modeled on that group's dinner church experience, and a sermon at Saturday morning's Eucharist. A few hardy souls participated in a rainy pilgrimage of Rock Point led by Craig Smith on Friday morning.

In a Saturday business session that began with Bishop Thomas Ely's annual convention address and concluded with the announcement that next year's Convention will be held in the southern end of the Diocese, delegates adopted resolutions, elected deputies to the 2012 General Convention and representatives to a variety of diocesan bodies, heard reports on diocesan programs, and gave thanks to individuals and groups for their ministries.

The Convention offering will go to a new initiative of The Episcopal Church's Executive Council to raise \$10 million toward reconstruction of the Cathédrale Sainte Trinité complex in Port au Prince, Haiti. Delegates more than matched the Global Reconciliation Committee's designation of \$3,000 of funds available to it by contributing \$4,544 (as of November 15). For information on the appeal and how to contribute, see "Diocese of Haiti plans for rebuilding" on Page F.

Friday workshops and hearings

Those able to travel to Burlington Friday morning had the choice of attending Emily Scott's workshop, "Through the Cracks in the Sidewalk: What's Emerging in Your Church?" or touring the property at Rock Point.

Scott asked her workshop participants to think about what is emerging in their congregations, and led them in conversation and discussion in small groups, using the Acts 2 story of Pentecost and the subsequent communal life of the believers. Regardless of the challenges facing the church, Scott said there still is a hunger for a moral community for people who feel beleaguered, who want security. People are hungry, she said, hungry to be part of something that



Emily Scott (left) and Cathedral Canon Precentor Mark Howe (at piano) led a Friday workshop on "paperless music." Participants in the workshop served as music and worship leaders at the evening Sacred Meal.

is larger than oneself, to be part of a community of trust, for mystery, the ineffable, leadership, for bread, and ties to the past and to the future. The work of the community, therefore, is to discern where true security in God lies. Most important, she reminded attendees through song that, "What we need is here."

The Rev. Craig Smith, rector at Trinity Church, Shelburne, was undaunted by the chill and frequent rain showers as he led a small group on a pilgrimage of the diocesan property at Rock Point. Smith, whose ties to—and affection for—Rock Point are rooted in his childhood summers with his parents at the Rock Point Summer Conferences, had prepared an eight-point "Stations of Rock Point," each with a scripture reading, a meditation and a concluding prayer. His script and worship leaflet are posted on the diocesan website (find the link under "Rock Point" on the home page), so other groups can follow the pilgrimage and learn about this key diocesan resource.

First-time delegates attended a noontime "Convention 101" workshop, where they learned the workings and "etiquette" of doing business as the Diocese of Vermont. Delegates then could attend open hearings on the various

business items or a workshop with Emily Scott and Cathedral Canon Precentor Mark Howe on "Paperless Music." Scott and Howe demonstrated how to lead groups in song and chant, and they prepared attendees to serve as leaders for the evening Sacred Meal.

Friday Forum and Sacred Meal

After hearing candidates for deputy to the 2012 Episcopal Church General Convention offer two-minute "campaign speeches," delegates moved to the Hilton Hotel for a forum with Emily Scott titled, "What We Need is Here: Building Enculturated Communities of Practice."

Scott opened by teaching and leading a chant, "What we need is here," and then asked the group, "What did you notice?" She said, "A practice you might cultivate in your own spiritual life is noticing, especially after a liturgy."

Scott said St. Lydia's exemplifies the theme of the Convention, *Praying Our Life—Living Our Prayer*. She told about moving to New York City and beginning to imagine what a church for the people she was meeting might look like. Only after nine months of listening did she host a trial

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Vermonters share experiences of same-gender blessings

by Anne Clarke Brown

Members of The Episcopal Church's Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music (SCLM) held a hearing October 19, in Concord, New Hampshire, to hear the experiences of dioceses and congregations in the Province of New England with same-gender blessings. Participants from the Diocese of Vermont are pictured at right.

The SCLM is charged by General Convention Resolution 2009-C056 to work in conjunction with the House of Bishops to collect and develop theological resources and liturgies for blessing same-gender relationships. The commission is to report to the 77th General Convention in 2012 in Indianapolis.

C056 said that bishops, "particularly those in dioceses within civil jurisdictions where same-gender marriage, civil unions, or domestic partnerships are legal, may provide generous pastoral response to meet the needs of members of this church." The SCLM

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Image courtesy of Nancy Vogeles

Bishop Thomas Ely speaks to the members of the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music during their Province One hearing on blessings for those in same-gender unions. Other Vermonters at the table with him are Beth Hilgartner, Nancy Vogeles, Stan Baker, Clark Anderson and Zachary Roesemann.

Address to the 178th Convention of the Diocese of Vermont by the Right Reverend Thomas Clark Ely, Bishop of Vermont November 6, 2010, Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Burlington



ACB image

Our Diocesan Convention theme—*Praying Our Life, Living Our Prayer*—captured my attention some months ago and has engaged my imagination ever since. One place this contemplation has taken me is a deeper appreciation for the seasons and rhythms of life as they are both prayed and lived. The Community Gardens at Rock Point have become for me a living metaphor of this theme. Day after day I walk (or drive) past and survey these gardens as the seasons come and go. The rhythms of seedtime and harvest play out their marvelous symphony on the Rock Point stage.

I have come to recognize that there really is no beginning and no ending to the rhythm of these gardens. Sure, you can name a beginning or an ending point, but that is an arbitrary choice at best since the rhythm is really that of seasons and cycles, and each is really important. The months when the land lays fallow or covered with snow are as crucial as the months of rain and sun that break open the ground to new growth and produce. The season of preparation—the tilling of the soil, the planting of the seed and the precautions taken against uninvited creatures—is as important as the season of harvest with its watchful timing for ripeness and careful awareness of approaching frost.

Such cycles play themselves out not only in our liturgies but also in our congregational and individual lives. That has been especially apparent to me this year, and so I have chosen to reflect that in my convention address. First, I'll offer a brief look back over the ten years since my election as your bishop; next, an assessment of some present realities of our life as a diocese; and finally, a look ahead to where it is God may be calling us as a diocese in the divine dance of seasons and cycles. Along the way we'll mark some of these transitions by singing hymns I've picked to compliment the key themes in my address.

The four hymn texts we'll be singing are from a collection written by the Reverend Michael Hudson and designed for use with the three-year eucharistic lectionary cycle. Each text is set to a familiar hymn tune, and the words will be projected on the screen so you can sing along. (You can even stand and stretch at those points if you care to do so.)

The first hymn is a general meditation written for Advent that picks up the theme of sacred seasons, cycles, signs and times. (Sing: tune = *Ratisbon*)

1. At the turning of the year we return to contemplate seasons, cycles, signs, and times, sacred ground to cultivate. Insight often grows more clear at the turning of the year.
2. At the turning of the year waxing nights annunciate warmer days that promise spring, even as the sun migrates. Hope sleeps in the husk of fear at the turning of the year.
3. At the turning of the year we look back and speculate on the ebb and flow of life, asking what it indicates. Wisdom speaks, and some will hear at the turning of the year.

4. At the turning of the year we look forward as we wait for the grace of God in time, never early, never late, always distant, always here at the turning of the year.

My favorite phrase in that hymn is, "Hope sleeps in the husk of fear at the turning of the year." To be honest, there was plenty of fear in *this* human husk ten years ago on November 18, 2000. That's when you—the Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont—made a decision that would dramatically alter the shape and direction of my ministry. You called me to be your bishop.

Ten years later and with a few more grey hairs, two grandchildren, thirty years of ordained ministry completed, and my first ever hole in one, I look back and say, "Thanks be to God." Thanks be to God for revealing the hope and joy and satisfaction that were

sleeping in that human husk of fear ten years ago. For truly, I have come to know the great joy and privilege of serving as your bishop.

I don't intend this section of this my convention address to be nostalgic. Instead I want to acknowledge five important commitments that have marked our journey together. These, along with countless expressions of faithful ministry by the clergy and lay members in our various parishes and missions, stand out as sacred signs of our common life, mission and vitality as a diocese. I think they are worth celebrating.

The first is our growing commitment to care for God's creation through education and specific actions that reduce our carbon footprint, improve our energy efficiency, and make use of alternative, renewable energy sources.

"Ten years later and with a few more grey hairs, two grandchildren, thirty years of ordained ministry completed, and my first ever hole in one, I look back and say, 'Thanks be to God.'"

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ACB images

Bill Bridges of Zion, Manchester, presents Bishop Ely with a plaque commemorating his first hole-in-one on the 17th hole at the Dorset Field Club on October 4. Other Zion parishioners in the foursome with Ely and Bridges were Lee Romano and Keith Michl.

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MOUNTAIN ECHO

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Bishop Ely's Address

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Each is a part of our commitment to sustainability—for our congregations and for our planet. As I said in my convention address two years ago, this is the number one theological, moral, ecclesial and political priority for me, and I believe for our diocese. Today, I renew my call for us to be attentive to this in all that we do.

The second sacred sign is our commitment to expand local and diocesan enthusiasm for outreach and social justice. This was demonstrated through our embrace of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals and the 0.7% initiative, the establishment of our diocesan Global Reconciliation Committee, and our participation in Vermont Interfaith Action and the United Valley Interfaith Project. It is rehearsed in the many local expressions of outreach that I read about each month in your newsletters; our role in birthing Kids4Peace Vermont and Camp Agape; our many mission partnerships around the world; our continued generosity in giving to the United Thank Offering and Episcopal Relief and Development and our giving this day (and beyond, I hope) to the Haiti Solidarity Initiative, an ambitious project of helping rebuild the Episcopal Church in Haiti. We are a small diocese with a big heart!

The third sacred sign is the continued commitment and leadership provided during this past decade to the full inclusion of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons in the life and ministry of The Episcopal Church. I am pleased that Vermont is one of the states assuring civil marriage equality to all couples, and I commend the excellent pastoral work of our clergy and congregations that embraces all couples who seek the assurance of God's blessing in their committed relationships.

All this represents progress and yet there is still much to do. We have only to recall the most recent incidents of bullying directed at GLBT youth, and several subsequent suicides, to know that there is continuing ministry for each of us to do. To live fully into our baptismal promise to "respect the dignity of every human being" in a society where that commitment is not embraced by all is demanding work. We cannot rest from that work! I know we will not rest from that work!

A fourth sacred sign is our determined commitment to baptismal ministry. It is in life-long Christian formation and the renewal of the Church through the support of ministry models that honor, value and bear witness to the gifts and ministries of all God's people, that God's life amongst us is revealed. No witness is more important.

I have said before that the profile this diocese prepared for that election ten years ago reflected more of an anticipated way of thinking about mutual ministry than a description of the way things were functioning on the ground. I have experienced both joy and frustration in the past ten years as we've attempted to live into a truly liberated and fully functioning ecclesiology of total ministry, one in which the gifts of all—lay and ordained—are offered, received, valued and respected in



ACB image

Bishop Ely joined Convention attendees in singing the hymn that concluded his address.

our own hearts and minds. I am convinced God welcomes and embraces them all. I invite us to renew our commitment to that vision.

The final sacred sign I want to name is our commitment to generosity in the stewardship of our human and financial resources for the mission and ministry of the larger Episcopal Church. It is evidenced in our work in the area of safer church training and anti-racism training, our engagement in the global dynamics of our partnership within the Anglican Communion, the number of people from Vermont serving in leadership roles in The Episcopal Church, and in our determination to pay our full asking in support of the General Convention budget. The Diocese of Vermont is fully and firmly devoted to being part of The Episcopal Church!

On the local level, that commitment is demonstrated in many ways, but none more so than the financial commitment of each of our 48 congregations in contributing your full share to our diocesan budget through our shared and agreed-upon assessment formula. It is the rarest of cases when one of our congregations is unable to pay its full share, and never in the course of my years as your bishop has it been for lack of trying or as some expression of protest. Thank you for that and for the gift of being able to tell that story to my colleagues in the House of Bishops.

These five commitments, each a sacred sign of our common life, mission and vitality, offer a strong foundation for today and beyond.

With that, I think it is time to sing another hymn. This hymn text from Michael Hudson's collection is written to accompany the Mark Gospel narrative of the widow's generous gift. For me, it captures well the sense of the faithful, mindful, caring people in this diocese among whom it is my joy to serve. (Sing: Tune = *Omni die*)

1. Simple gifts of faithful people, splashed like raindrops on the sand, one by one and all together spread refreshment through the land.
2. Willing hands of mindful people linked and pressing palm to palm, like a reef around an island, still the waves and aid the calm.
3. Liberal love of caring people, given both to foes and friends, makes in time the sea of difference that the grace of God intends.

There is indeed grace in all of this, an important reminder as we look to our current situation in the Diocese of

Vermont—for that reality is both challenging and hopeful. Much of the challenge is related to finances, of course, as well as to the aging of our buildings and of our church membership. Perhaps our greatest challenge is the changing cultural realities of people's relationship to organized religion.

It may seem counter-intuitive to some, but in the face of these current realities I believe it is time for us to *invest more* in God's mission of reconciling love for the world. This is not a time to shrink back in either our personal or financial commitments,

and I want to name three key places where that investment is especially important today.

First, our Diocesan Ministry Support Team. I think we have done necessary and appropriate work in scaling back our Diocesan Ministry Support Team in response to the economic crisis of the past couple of years, but to do more would severely cripple our capacity to serve you effectively.

The loss of dear and valuable colleagues Jeanette Tweedy, Connie Saeger-Proctor and Thad Bennett from our team has led to a serious reimagining of the "what," "who" and "how" of our diocesan ministry support system to congregations, committees, commissions and boards. I want to use this occasion of my conven-

tion address to publicly recognize these three colleagues for their outstanding work on behalf of this diocese and its congregations.

Thad, as many of you know, has taken the "early retirement" option from the Church Pension Fund and is continuing to live in Vermont, serving the church in a variety of ways as a consultant and purveyor of new and exciting ideas! I am happy to report that Jeanette has returned to full-time parish work at Trinity Church in Saugerties, New York, and Connie is now serving full-time at Saint Anne's, Annapolis, Maryland, overseeing youth ministry and Christian formation. Even though two of them are not here, please join me in thanking them for their outstanding contributions and many fine years of ministry among us.

As part of the major reconfiguration occasioned by these losses, Lynn Bates has assumed a huge new responsibility for transition ministries, along with being my trusted colleague, confidant and canon to the ordinary extraordinaire. I appointed the experienced and talented Susan Ohlidal to the full time position of ministry developer. I have continued the full-time ministry of Angie Emerson as our outstanding minister of stewardship development, and the half-time ministry of our award winning communications minister, Anne Brown. Julie Giguere continues her super-human, multi-tasking ministry as our financial administrator. Patrick Sims continues his amazing juggling act of serving as executive assistant to both the bishop and the canon to the ordinary. Elisabeth Allison continues her invaluable volunteer ministry as our diocesan archivist and historiographer.

Jackie Risen left her post as administrative assistant at the end of 2009, and earlier this year we welcomed into the office two new and wonderfully skilled team members: Iris Darling and Josh Cheney. And, of course, we continue to mourn the loss of our dear sister in Christ and long-time receptionist, Jan Lawrence, who died on March 15.

Under the leadership of Susan Ohlidal, this year has seen the expansion and evolution of our Companions Ministry Program as an integral component of our ministry support network. Seven gifted and trained Companions now serve our diocese in a variety of ways, most especially in the work of transition and discernment in the calling of new clergy leadership in congregations. I invite others among us to explore the possibility of this ministry.

I am privileged to serve with all these talented and dedicated individuals, and I pray your patience and cooperation as we work into new patterns of service and support.

Communication is a second area of our common life and ministry challenged by changing circumstances where our investment is vital.

During 2010, the Communications Task Force, appointed by Diocesan Council, completed its work and recommended several strategies for our ministry in this key area. Those strategies include a continued commitment to the use of print media for publishing The Mountain

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Bishop Ely's Address

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Echo; increased use of email communication to the widest possible number of people throughout our diocese; a totally revamped, modern, accessible and interactive diocesan website; an effective strategy for supporting local and regional distribution of diocesan news and events; and the development and distribution of key evangelism messages about the beliefs, values and mission of the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont, aimed especially at those who are "un-churched" or "de-churched."

Recently, we learned that the Episcopal Church Center in New York made a decision to cease its print media operations and focus on electronic media as its principal communication vehicle. Anne Brown and others are now working to assess the impact of this decision on our commitment to print media, and some promising alternatives are in the works. One way or the other, we are committed to continuing the Mountain Echo in 2011. There will be some changes to format and content that we hope will be well received.

This coming Pentecost is the target date to launch our new diocesan website. It might happen sooner, and I recognize that for some of you it can't happen soon enough! If you want to join this project team, please speak to Anne.

Our commitment to communication is vital to our mission. Clearly linking our congregations to one another and creating more effective ways by which to proclaim the Good News of God in Christ to the world is an investment worth making.

The third area where our investment is crucial is our own ecclesial household here in Vermont.

This takes many forms, including our environmental commitment to reduce the carbon footprint of our buildings; our individual commitments to serve in leadership roles at the local and diocesan level; our financial commitment to maintain and expand our diocesan mission and ministry; and our spiritual commitment as disciples of Jesus Christ to deepen our faith through prayer, worship, study and service.

Later in the course of this Convention you will hear a report from Diocesan Council on our updated Diocesan Strategic Plan [available via a link at www.dioceseofvermont.org]. It will, of course, take all of us working together at the local and diocesan level to carry out this vision. I commend it to you.

You will be voting today on a new approach to electing representatives to serve on Diocesan Council. While those who serve on Diocesan Council do so with great commitment and effectiveness, the current canonical configuration of Council is not serving us well. For several years now, we have been unable to have full representation from deaneries. The proposed canon changes are intended to provide a good structure for electing a smaller, yet still representative, Diocesan Council. The challenge will be agreeing on the "mission districts" from which the representatives will be elected. Members of Diocesan Council have created this plan and invite your investment. I hope we will give it a chance to succeed.

This Convention will also be making a commitment to invest in our future mission and ministry when you vote on the diocesan budget. As you know from your reading and the presentations at the Ministry Fairs, a new initiative is being launched that will invite individual members of the diocese to claim a portion of our common diocesan life and mission. This Annual Appeal, with its goal of \$100,000 is intended to supplement our congregational commitment to the many ministries that make our diocese what it is and to provide funds for new initiatives, including the kind of fresh expressions that Emily Scott invited us to consider.

I believe our support of the Rock Point Summer Camp, the Cathedral Chapter, the Mountain Echo, our outreach and social justice commitments, the work of our Earth Stewards Committee and our Dismantling Racism Commission, our involvement in ecumenical and interfaith ministries, and the support offered to congregations through our Ministry Support Team—indeed our entire diocesan mission and ministry—are worth our personal investment in addition to the investment we make through our parish assessments. As part of our personal stewardship, rooted in thanksgiving for the generosity and grace of God, Ann and I stand ready to lead the way in this personal investment. We invite you to join us at whatever level you can.

I think it is time to sing another hymn. It is (not surprisingly) a meditation on Matthew 25: 14-15, 19-29—the parable of the talents. It calls to mind the Gospel invitation to risk generosity. (Sing: Tune = *Deus tuorum militum*)

1. To think like Jesus is to risk the many gifts we have from God, not guard or bury secretly our treasure in congenial sod.
2. God gives us wealth of soul to dare ten thousand good, creative deeds; still there are times when saints decline to grow the gifts the Spirit seeds.
3. We hold a story that explodes with news God's mercies never fail. Why speak the words as if they made a merely cautionary tale.
4. We can live boldly with a God who ventures grace so dauntlessly and learn to take, like Jesus did, the risk of generosity.

Calling to mind the invitation to live boldly with God, following the example of Jesus, brings me to the final chapter of this convention address.

Our future will be the briefest section of my address, not because I don't

have lots to say, but because what matters most is how we will live and shape that future together. The decisions we make, the direction we take, the risks we accept, the choices we embrace over the course of the next several years will significantly determine the viability and vitality of this diocese well beyond my time as your bishop, but not beyond the time of the young people who worshiped with us this morning. It is that future that must concern us now.

Many of us have given time, attention, and study to what is called by many "emergent Christianity," or "the emergent church," or "fresh expressions." I wrote about this in the Mountain Echo last June. Changes in the culture and in the church are both challenging and exciting—and for some quite scary. Change is upon us, and we need to participate in the conversation in order to engage in shaping our mission and ministry for an uncertain future. Many of us in this diocese are being aided in that effort by reading and discussing the book, *Changing the Conversation*, by Anthony Robinson. I commend that book to you, and I encourage conversations among you in vestry meetings and other congregational group settings.

The author will be with us in Vermont the weekend of June 4-5, next year in conjunction with a special Diocesan Convention that I will talk about in a moment. For now, be aware that the future shape of the Church is at its heart a matter of spiritual formation and connection. It is about relationship and community. While these are matters we know well, our greatest risk is in **not** trying to understand the world around us, **not** rethinking or reshaping the patterns of our institutional life in order to respond to what God is up to in our midst. Of course, if we do enter the conversation, we risk being changed ourselves, and perhaps that is what frightens some of us the most.

One other thing I want to say about our future together concerns the prospect of a capital campaign for our diocese. Later today you will hear a report from the committee which has been hard at work discerning God's call to us and what might be included in a capital campaign, if that is your will. The current draft of the Case Statement [available via a link at www.dioceseofvermont.org], which you will have opportunity to discuss in regional gatherings around the diocese, holds up much of what I have been talking about in this address: spiritual and faith formation;

our stewardship of the earth; our energy consumption and our carbon footprint; communication tools and messaging for a changing church and a changing world; as well as the valuable property resources we have in this diocese, including Rock Point in Burlington and Mission Farm in Killington.

Later, you will hear about the timeline with which the committee is working, leading up to a Special Convention, which I am now officially calling for the afternoon of Saturday June 4, 2011, here at our Cathedral. The purpose of that convention is to hear from the committee and engage in conversation and action in response to their recommendations.

I am not sure where things will stand when we come to June 4th, but I trust that God is at work in this process and that something good will come of it for our diocese and its future. I remind you that the investment made through the last capital campaign this diocese undertook resulted in the creation of the several McClure Discovery 2000 funds. Since then, nearly \$700,000 in grants and hundreds of thousands of dollars in low interest loans have been awarded to congregations of this diocese, and every single congregation has benefited in some way.

If it is your will that we move forward with a capital campaign for our diocese in the next couple of years, then I am prepared to give that effort my very best and fullest attention. Please hold this discernment work and the members of that committee in your prayers.

Before the conclusion of my convention address with our singing of one final hymn, I want to offer you this four-fold charge, which is really my prayer for us in this season and in all the seasons and cycles of our lives:

Remain: Remain rooted in God and God's compassion, justice and reconciling love;

Proclaim: Proclaim to all God's Good News of radical welcome, inclusion and unconditional love;

Sustain: Sustain our witness to being a lively faith community and sustain this fragile earth our island home.

Claim: Claim God's abundance and blessing in the faithful stewardship of your many gifts and talents.

Thank you for the gift of your support, encouragement and collegiality in the common work of mission to which God has called us in this Diocese. Amen.

(Sing: Tune = *Forest Green*)

1. A rabbi scattered hope like seeds beneath a desert sky; he knew in every waking plant a sacred force would rise to break the ground, to reach for life, to search with leaf and root, and draw the strength of earth and sky to bear the promised fruit.
2. The rabbi saw the desert bloom, the Eden of his prayer, a garden ripe with hope and life and also ripe for care. "So come," he says, "my friends, with me to tend, to sing, to plod—the earth cries out to celebrate the greening love of God.



Diocesan Convention

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worship based on a communal meal and a second century eucharistic prayer. What is now St. Lydia's is built on the three pillars of "telling our story, sharing the meal, and working together."

Everyone who comes to the Sunday evening service helps to prepare the space or the meal that will be shared. It eliminates, she said, "the awkward coffee hour Styrofoam cup moment." They begin with a candlelight procession and have a sung blessing of the bread at the beginning. After the meal, they study Scripture, using a single "chunk" over several weeks. A brief sermon is followed by time for people to share stories from their own experience. Then the blessing of the cup, shared clean-up, and gathering for a final hymn, a blessing and the peace. [To learn more about St. Lydia's and see some



ACB image

Convention speaker Emily Scott.

SCLM hearing

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hearing was meant to learn how a group of Episcopalians, most of whom live in civil jurisdictions that recognize same-gender unions in some way, provide that pastoral response.

Many of the more than 30 Episcopalians—some of whom have been involved in blessing same-gender unions, sometimes for decades—told the SCLM that they want to see the church treat such unions equally and with the same openness that it treats heterosexual marriage.

The 30-minute diocesan presentations involved lay people, deacons, priests, bish-

New headmaster for Rock Point School

The Rock Point School Board of Trustees is pleased to announce the appointment of C.J. Spirito as the next head of school, effective July 1, 2011. He will succeed John Rouleau, who will retire in June after 19 years at the school's helm.

Spirito was selected from a pool of highly qualified candidates based on his many gifts and skills and his passion for the mission of Rock Point School. He is the current dean of students and assistant head at Rock Point School and brings twenty years experience at Rock Point School to this new position. The Board of Trustees believes Spirito has the visionary leadership needed to move Rock Point School forward and looks forward to working closely with him for the future success and vitality of the school. ❖



Secretary of Convention Jim Larkin's announcements bring smiles to Tom Little, Tom Ely, Lynn Bates and Sarah Gallagher.

ACB image

of the images in Scott's presentation, visit www.stlydias.org.]

In explaining what she means by "enculturation," Scott said she sees "the Gospel as a seed that when planted in a particular soil will take a shape related to that context." At St. Lydia's, "We are building a culture. People are taking charge of their ritual life." Noting that, in the words of Juan Oliver, "enculturated worship both vivifies and confronts the culture," she invited participants into small group conversations about how their own worship vivifies or confronts the culture in which they find themselves.

Some responses: "The culture is changing and the church is getting left behind." "It is difficult to be mindful of those who are not in our church community." "We live in a polite environment and need to confront an aggressive niceness." "Our tourist culture is not conducive to church."

Scott outlined some key principles emerging from the St. Lydia's experience: Practice comes before belief in a cyclical loop in which worship changes people, who in turn change worship. Keep symbols, such as bread, close to their meaning so they are not mysterious. People want to work, so St.

Lydia's does not "run programs." Let people take care of themselves. "Worship at St. Lydia's," Scott said, "can be uncomfortable because it is real and because it is deep."

After a time for questions, Scott concluded by asking the group to discuss, "Where are your dyings and where are your risings?" And finally, she said, carry with you the question, "What are you noticing?"

During the social hour before dinner, Scott and Howe taught the music that would be used for the Convention Sacred Meal. Then, led by worship leaders carrying candles, and singing a chant, delegates and

guests processed into the Hilton banquet room for a meal patterned on the worship at St. Lydia's.

Convention Eucharist and Business Session

Preaching at the Saturday morning Eucharist on the prologue to the Gospel of John, Emily Scott asked, "What if what we do in church is not as complicated as we think? What if it is as simple as a loaf broken and a cup shared? What if Christ is at the table with us in the eyes of every soul gathered here today?" She spoke of journeys

Continued on Page F

Congregations welcome new clergy



St. John's in the Mountains, Stowe celebrated a new season of ministry with Rector Richard Swanson on November 16. Swanson comes to Vermont from the Diocese of Western Michigan, where he served on its Executive Council and was an alternate deputy to General Convention.

St. Mary's Parish, Northfield, welcomed the Rev. M.P. (Empy) Schneider, who began her ministry as rector on November 1. She comes from the Diocese of Rhode Island, where she was recently ordained to the priesthood. Schneider was a classmate of the Rev. Scott Neal at General Seminary.

Partnership aims to assist Episcopal churches "go green"

[Episcopal Church] In an innovative venture that benefits congregations of all sizes, The Episcopal Church has partnered with GreenFaith (www.greenfaith.org), a leading national religious environmental group, to assist churches' efforts to "go green."

According to Michael Schut, Episcopal Church Officer for Economic/Environmental Affairs, goals of this partnership include: to support the development of faithful, strong environmental leadership; to help congregations learn to reduce their operating costs; and to model creation care, spirituality and justice throughout a congregation's life and practice.

To address those goals, GreenFaith is offering its GreenFaith Certification Program, which Schut explained as a two-year, holistic process engaging an entire congregation through education, worship, environmental

justice advocacy, building and grounds, and developing relationships with the larger interfaith community. Among the tools and resources provided by GreenFaith to participating churches are webinars, web-based resources, and phone/email support.

To participate in the program, GreenFaith offers a sliding scale fee, based on congregational size. To mark the launch of this collaboration, the Economic/Environmental Affairs Office and GreenFaith are underwriting 50% of the tuition of 30 churches nationwide, enabling selected churches to enroll for a total discounted cost of \$250 – \$750.

To apply, contact Schut at mscht@episcopalchurch.org. Application deadlines for tuition subsidies for the program are December 1, 2010, and February 1, 2011.

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Diocesan Convention

Continued from page E

that begin in the light and may end in darkness unless we open our eyes to new ways of seeing. Hearing God's call, she said, may mean *doing* less, allowing one to find "that what you have been looking for has been there all along."

Bishop Ely opened the official Convention session with his annual address, in which he spoke of key "sacred signs" of diocesan life in his ten years as bishop, challenges and commitments of the present, hopes and plans for the future, and a charge to members of the Diocese to "remain, proclaim, sustain, and claim." The full address, which was punctuated by the singing of four hymns related to its major themes, is printed here beginning on Page B and is posted on the website.

The bishop thanked members of the Convention Planning Team (Sarah Dyke, Linda Maloney, Margaret Mathauer, Caitlin McFarland, Tamara Plummer, Craig Smith and Jane Wolfe), and Cathedral Dean Ken Poppe welcomed delegates and invited response to questions about the Cathedral's mission planning [see article on Page L]. The Rev. Lee Alison Crawford read a letter of congratulations and solidarity from El Salvador Bishop Martin Barahona.

Polly Larkin, chair of the Nominating Committee, introduced nominees for the several offices to be filled by election, and, since only the General Convention deputy election was contested, delegates elected all other nominees by acclamation. [See

the link to "election results" on the website homepage for a full listing.] Those elected to represent Vermont at General Convention will be (in order of votes attained): Lay—Anne Brown and Thomas Little (tied), Steve Smith and Jennifer Ogelby; Clergy—Lee Alison Crawford, Stan Baker, Scott Neal and Reid Farrell. Alternates will be elected in 2011.

Peter Galbraith and Jamie Hastings, co-chairs of the Capital Campaign Discernment Committee, reported on the group's work and outlined a process that will lead to a June 4 Special Diocesan Convention to act on a recommendation about a possible capital campaign. A draft "case statement" that describes three focal areas for funding—environmental stewardship, communication and the resources for spiritual growth offered by Rock Point and Mission Farm—is available by a link on the website homepage.

Other reports to Convention included Rock Point School (C.J. Spirito), Episcopal Relief and Development (Kristen Wood and Kit Cook), the Trustees (Carolyn Fouts), Rock Point Summer Camp (Jenny Ogelby), Brookhaven Treatment and Learning Center (Jim Kennedy), and the 2011 Episcopal Youth Event (Heather Ogelby). Diane Rooney spoke about the process Diocesan Council had used to update the Diocese's "Strategic Plan for Growth and Ministry." The update is posted on the website, and articles related to some of these reports are elsewhere in this issue.

Delegates approved a recommendation to move Trinity Church, Poultney, from

parish to mission status, adopted resolutions on minimum clergy compensation, on fossil fuel awareness and conservation, and on commending the presiding bishop for remarks on reproductive ethics and inviting conversation on the issue within the Diocese. They also approved canonical changes that conform diocesan canons on ecclesiastical discipline to those of The Episcopal Church and that establish a new method for electing Diocesan Council representatives. All are posted via a link on the website homepage, "resolutions adopted."

Nancy Gordon of the Resolutions Committee presented a series of courtesy resolutions, all of which were approved, recognizing and thanking St. Paul's Cathedral, the Convention Program Committee, Polly Larkin (retiring chair of the Nominations Committee), recently retired clergy (John Keenan and Thad Bennett), Emily Scott, and Bishop Ely (for his address and his ten years as Bishop of Vermont).

Bishop Ely announced that the 2011 Diocesan Convention will be held at the Grand Summit Resort in West Dover, Vermont, November 4-5, in keeping with a commitment to hold the Convention in another part of the Diocese every third year. The



ACB image

During the Eucharist, the bishop commissioned four new members of the Diocesan Companions Ministry: Ann Cooper, Beth Hilgartner, Steve Smith and Jean Smith (unrelated).

special guest will be President of the House of Deputies of The Episcopal Church Bonnie Anderson, and the theme will be, "I love to tell the story." He invites those interested in participating on the program committee to contact him. ❖

Diocese of Haiti plans for rebuilding Episcopal Church initiates Haiti Cathedral Appeal

by Anne Clarke Brown

At an early November gathering in Miami, Bishop Jean Zaché Duracin of the Episcopal Diocese of Haiti shared a Plan for the Reconstruction and Development of the Diocese of Haiti that has a cost estimate of nearly \$200 million.

A January 12, magnitude-7 earthquake destroyed 71 percent of the diocese's churches, 50 percent of its primary schools and 80 percent of its secondary schools. Seventy-five percent of its higher-educational facilities must be demolished, along with 33 percent of the rectories, convents and guesthouses, the bishop's house and an income-producing condominium.

The diocese says in the plan that it wants to go beyond rebuilding to look at the capacity of its parishes, schools and medical institutions to address community and congregational needs in the tradition of the diocese's service to Haiti since the church was founded in late 1850. When available, the plan will be posted at www.haitiepiscopalconnection.org.

The Rev. Rosemary Sullivan, who, with the Rev. Joseph Constant, was recently appointed to become part of Duracin's

staff and help to coordinate The Episcopal Church's response to the rebuilding efforts, said they hope the work can be done in a way that is effective for all concerned. She and Constant can be contacted at haititeam@episcopalchurch.org.

Haiti Cathedral Appeal

The Episcopal Church's Executive Council recently committed to a plan to raise \$10 million to help rebuild the Diocese of Haiti. At Duracin's request, that money will be dedicated to reconstruction of the Cathédrale Sainte Trinité complex in Port au Prince. The Diocese of Vermont's Global Reconciliation Committee voted to designate \$3,000 of the funds in its budget line item to the appeal, and those attending the Diocesan Convention Eucharist have so far given \$4,544.

The Episcopal Church Foundation, which will coordinate the fundraising effort, has a new webpage on which one can buy bricks for the Cathedral—two bricks for \$20. A link is at www.dioceseofvermont.org. Or, checks made payable to the "Haiti Cathedral Appeal" may be sent to the Episcopal Church Foundation, 815 Second Avenue, New York, New York 10017. ❖

Pure Water for the World responds to cholera outbreak in Haiti

Several thousand people have been infected and hundreds have died since a cholera epidemic began spreading through Haiti. The danger of rapid expansion of the epidemic has been exacerbated by flooding associated with Hurricane Tomas. The bacteria that cause cholera are transferred through the consumption of unsafe drinking water.

Vermont-based Pure Water for the World (PWW) has been active in Haiti since 2008, working to provide improved drinking water to Haiti's largest slum, Cité Soleil. [Executive Director Carolyn Meub is a member of Trinity, Rutland.] PWW's Haiti Deputy Director Noelle Thabault, MD (also a member of Trinity) calls this mission "cholera prevention in action."

PWW trucks 350,000 gallons of clean water a day to 35 different sites in Cité Soleil, which is home to some 450,000 of Port-au-Prince's poorest residents. Since the cholera outbreak, PWW has begun chlorinating the already-treated water to disinfect the buckets most Haitians use to transport the water to their homes. Working toward a sustainable solution in Cité Soleil, PWW has installed bio-sand filters in over 200 schools and trained over 700 teachers how to inform their students to use them properly.

In the early weeks of the epidemic, the Artibonite region northwest of Port-au-Prince was the most severely affected. Thabault and members of the PWW team found that even though there is a water purification system nearby, most of the community consumes water directly from the Artibonite River. "It became immediately

glaringly evident to me that the tragedy of all this, particularly in this community," said Thabault, "is that there's an enormous gap in the educational capacity put forth when these filters were originally installed two years ago by another large NGO." It highlighted the importance for her of the educational portion of PWW's work.

"Our mission is to develop clean water programs and hygiene education and do it at the community level and in a sustainable fashion," said Thabault, who adds that providing clean water is useless without programs to help communities understand the reasons for, and correct uses of, that water.

Unimproved drinking water is the number one cause of illness in people in developing nations. In Haiti, 42 percent of the population does not have access to clean drinking water. Thabault, who arrived in Haiti in March, says she hopes Haiti's cholera epidemic creates a sense of urgency about water and sanitation in Haiti that should have existed years before the first cases of the illness appeared.

"Haiti has the opportunity of a century to recover, rebuild and give its people an opportunity for a healthy life...to get out of this cycle of poverty," Thabault said. "Water is going to be at the forefront of that. As unglamorous or unexciting it may seem to provide clean water to communities, it's the single most important thing that we can do." To learn more about PWW's work in Haiti, visit <http://purewaterfortheworld.org/our-projects/haiti>.

[This article is taken from e-newsletters from PWW.]

Partners for Sacred Places group wraps up formal training

by Anne Clarke Brown

Bishop Thomas Ely joined representatives of eight of the ten Vermont congregations that have been participating in the Partners for Sacred Places "New Dollars/ New Partners for Your Sacred Place" training program for their final session at Christ Church, Montpelier, on November 13.

The four formal training sessions focused on giving participating congregations tools to be better stewards of their buildings, resources for creating community partnerships, methods for fund-raising within the congregation and in the community, and tools for ongoing stewardship of buildings and financial resources.

The aim of this fifth session was to share stories of progress and projects undertaken over the last year. Tuomi Forrest of Partners for Sacred Places told the bishop, "We've had one of the best training experiences I've had in this program." He invited stories of accomplishments and reflections on future challenges.

Ann Grady of **Christ Church, Montpelier**, expressed what others would later echo: "We have a new notion that this building is a tool for ministry." With all its challenges and problems, she said, it had seemed a drag on ministry. Now the congregation is energized to tackle the challenges, to make needed repairs and find new ways to open the church to a variety of community activities. Dick Mansfield added that, "The process has taught us the right way to work with historic properties for the long term."

Give "alternative gifts" this Christmas

by Anne Clarke Brown

Opportunities to honor loved ones at Christmas are abundant and are a gift not just to the honorees but also to people in need. Virtually every charitable organization welcomes donations in honor of someone, and many have special Christmas gift programs. Even the youngest appreciate knowing that they gave something—a flock of chickens, a malaria net, a goat, etc.—to help others.

Christmas is an excellent time to make a commitment to give 0.7% of disposable income to help achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Gifts to most organizations working internationally count. Examples are Episcopal Relief & Development (www.er-d.org; see this page on the *Gifts for Life* catalogue and Bishops Blend gift boxes), and the Vermont-based Pure Water for the World (www.purewaterfortheworld.org; see article, Page F).

Other Vermont-based organizations are

Celebrate Christmas with the real Santa Claus

The American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem (AFEDJ) invite congregations and individuals to celebrate Saint Nicholas Day on or near December 6, and dedicate a special offering to benefit the children of the diocese's hospitals and schools in the Holy Land.

The 13 Episcopal schools in the region accept children without regard to religious, ethnic or economic background. Four of them teach blind, deaf, physically and men-

Again reflecting the thoughts of others, Diane Root of **Church of Our Saviour, Killington**, said the cheerleading from Forrest, Angie Emerson and other participants has been really important. She said, "The best gift has been moving a very small group into a very outward-looking church, into partnerships with the community.

Winnie Grace and Lee Alison Crawford of **Trinity, Rutland**, described their "Gala of Gratitude," the new community lunch, and the installation of energy-efficient windows in the parish house. They spoke of dreams for new initiatives, possible partly because of the positive asset-based approach learned in the program.

Nancy Vogeles shared pictures of the new signage on the building of **St. Paul's, White River Junction**. To finance the project, members of the congregation purchased individual letters. She reported one member's comment that, "If anybody misses St. Paul's now, they shouldn't be driving." The asset-focused language of the Partners program has led, Vogeles said, "to a mindset shift." St. Paul's is exploring the question of "What new big thing is happening in our culture that we can embrace?"

Jeanette McKnight of **St. Peter's, Lyndonville**, described the genesis and evolution of a planned event to celebrate the life of Jonathan Daniels, whose grandparents lived in Lyndonville. The Episcopal seminarian and civil rights worker was shot and killed by a deputy sheriff in Hayneville, Alabama, in 1965, after he pushed Ruby

Fundación Cristosal (www.cristosal.org), which supports the Anglican Episcopal Church in El Salvador, and the Kagando Foundation (www.kagando.org), which supports the Kagando Hospital and Rural Development Center in the Kaese district in southwestern Uganda. Another very timely option is to buy bricks for the Haiti Cathedral Appeal (see article, Page F).

Gifts that will help children might include a donation to Kids4Peace Vermont (www.kids4peacevt.org), to Children Affected by HIV/AIDS (www.chabha.org), a Vermont-based organization working with AIDS orphans in Africa), Camp Agapé Vermont for children with an incarcerated parent (campagapevermont.org), or the Angel Program (scholarships) of Rock Point Summer Camp (www.dioceseofvermont.org).

Many more opportunities for giving are waiting to be discovered. Have fun "shopping!" ❖

tally disabled children and their families how to find a productive path in an unforgiving environment.

Saint Nicholas, the inspiration for Santa Claus, is the patron saint of children, sailors, innocents and others in need. The AFEDJ has a variety of resources for intergenerational activities, as well as information on St. Nicholas and the ministries of the Diocese of Jerusalem, on its website, www.afedj.org. Click the St. Nicholas link. ❖



Beth Crane, Jean Townsend and Janet Brown report on activities at Grace Church, Sheldon.

Sales, an African-American teen, out of the way. McKnight invited Sales to come for the event, and, she said, "It has a life of its own. Everybody wants to be part of it." Save the weekend of April 2-3, 2011, and watch for more on Ruby Sales's visit to Vermont in the February Mountain Echo.

Robin Bergman said that members of **St. Andrew's, St. Johnsbury**, were dismayed to learn that they had not been connected to the community with any kind of outreach. "We looked in the mirror and didn't see what we wanted to see," she said. So they started a once-a-month community supper that has since been emulated by the Roman Catholic Church. Senior Warden Diane Montague added that they are moving beyond feeling stuck with a building that has significant accessibility issues.

Joanna Taylor, Patricia McKee and Scott Neal spoke about how a series of survey questions about the history of **St. James', Arlington**, handed out on Sunday mornings led to a very successful Heritage Breakfast that "brought us together in a positive way." And the inspiration to host a reunion for those who had been models for Norman Rockwell in his years of living and painting in Arlington during the town's Norman's Attic event (coordinated by St. James') brought the town together as well—it even made the *New York Times*.

Beth Crane said **Grace, Sheldon**, has a new sign that has increased visibility, and they continue to host a successful music series. Janet Brown told how she had connected with an architect who has an affec-



Jeanette McKnight tells of the planned tribute to Jonathan Daniels in Lyndonville.

tion for Grace and who designed an addition that will give them, for the first time, a bathroom (with composting toilet) kitchen and meeting space. It will be a "green" building with a geothermal heating system.

Asked to reflect on what he had heard, Bishop Ely said, "I am excited about what you all are doing, and I see it connecting to our diocesan priorities. That is a blessing." He added that, "It is wonderful to hear your ability to tell your stories." He thanked the group "for jumping in, for trying new things, for taking risks. It is evident to me that this is not just about your buildings," he said. "It is about your faith and how you are living out your baptismal ministry."

The gathering concluded with the decision to remain in communication, to continue being cheerleaders for one another, and to share learnings and ideas. ❖

Tom Mousin's 2011 Advent Calendar available online

A one-page Advent calendar designed by the Rev. Thomas Mousin, a Methodist minister who will be ordained an Episcopal Deacon at St. Michael's, Brattleboro, December 14, is available for download on the home page of the diocesan website (www.dioceseofvermont.org). The calendar includes a poem by Mousin and daily scripture references and very brief meditations by the Rev. Merry Watters.

Episcopal Relief & Development Gifts for Life

Each year, Episcopal Relief & Development's *Gifts for Life* catalogue helps individuals, families and parishes here in the US to connect with communities around the world by providing support for projects that empower people not just to survive, but to thrive.

There are 52 gifts in this year's catalog, ranging from NetsforLife mosquito nets (only \$12 each) to micro-credit loans for women (\$250 each) and a pair of dairy cows (\$710). To browse the gift selection, visit www.er-d.org/GiftsForLife, or request a catalogue by emailing er-d@er-d.org. For each gift, *Gifts for Life* will deliver a card to send to the recipient in whose honor the purchase was made. Place orders by December 6, to ensure timely delivery of printed gift cards. Customizable e-cards are also available for online orders—great for last minute gifts.

Bishops Blend coffee and tea

Episcopal Relief & Development and Pura Vida Coffee are offering Christmas boxes that feature fair trade, organic, shade-grown Bishops Blend coffees and teas. Three packages are available: the coffee lover's package includes three bags of Bishops Blend coffee (\$29.50), and the two other packages combine coffee or tea with Divine fair trade chocolates. All packages come with a personalized card, and a coupon for 15% off the recipient's next purchase of Bishops Blend products. Buy two to qualify for free shipping. Bishops Blend boxes can be purchased through December 17 to guarantee delivery in time for Christmas. Orders can be placed at www.er-d.org/BishopsBlend or by phone at 877-469-1431.

Taking the initiative at Brookhaven Treatment and Learning Center

by Dr. Anthony N. Iazzo

Brookhaven Treatment and Learning Center, a ministry of the Diocese of Vermont, has been providing out-of-home care for boys age 6–13 for almost 60 years. Our comprehensive residential treatment program is designed specifically for those boys whose difficulties have become so severe that removal from the home is essential to the treatment process. Our Learning Center, a state licensed independent school, provides a therapeutically oriented academic curriculum for our residents as well as for day students from the community.

2010 has been a difficult year for budget-makers in Vermont, and Brookhaven is among the many independent organizations affected. While every department in state government has been pressured by the administration to adopt its “Challenges For Change” plan, it is becoming very clear the burden for state budget shortfalls is increasingly being born by those least able to bear it—children with severe emotional/behavioral issues and learning difficulties.

Beleaguered state officials have scrambled to find ways to cut costs and still provide Vermonters with essential mental health and special education services. But dramatic cuts in the budgets of the Agency of Human Services and the Department of Education mean that Vermont’s carefully crafted out-of-home system of care is now in significant jeopardy. Funding for dozens of residential treatment beds has been lost in the past couple of years. In addition, independent schools that educate children identified as unable to succeed in the public school system are closing.

The need for facilities such as Brookhaven remains profound, yet we have open desks and empty beds. There is simply no money. The State maintains that high-needs children can now remain with their families and attend public schools because the Departments of Children and Families, Mental Health and Education are working with community-based mental health agencies and other nonprofits to provide supports and services at the local level. That’s fine in theory, but in reality these community based



Brookhaven Executive Director Anthony Iazzo.

organizations have also taken significant financial cuts.

These high-needs children may no longer be in state custody, but is there evidence that the recent changes have resulted in their increased well-being? A child trapped in an impoverished/abusive environment because of a lack of funding might disagree that they are in fact, better

off. The State’s largest provider of care for homeless youth, reports a 30 percent increase over the past year in the number of homeless youth residing in its shelter, and a 91 percent increase in the number of times they had to turn a homeless youth away due to lack of beds. During the same period, The First Call program and Chittenden County’s Children’s Crisis Team, experienced an astounding increase in contacts over the past year to more than 16,000.

The findings of a 2010 report released by the independent think tank, The Justice Policy Institute, titled, “Money Well Spent: How positive social investments will reduce incarceration rates,” finds that even as crime rates have dropped nation-wide, there is a significant increase in the populations of individuals incarcerated with mental illness and/or drug addiction issues. To put this in simplest terms, it will always cost far less to educate and treat a child, than it will cost to incarcerate an adult.

The question is, what do we do? How do we address this systemic failure? Brookhaven Treatment and Learning Center has taken the lead in spear-heading a community-based effort to address this problem. Our answer is the Brookhaven Initiative, a scholarship fund that will provide full and partial scholarships for Vermont’s children to access all of our services. These include our independent school, residential treatment program, family retreat and our therapeutic summer camp.

To learn more about Brookhaven Treatment and Learning Center and the Brookhaven Initiative visit their websites at www.brookhaventlc.org or www.brookhaveninitiative.org.

Dr. Anthony N. Iazzo is executive director of Brookhaven Treatment and Learning Center.

Willem Lange to read *A Christmas Carol* at Christ Church, Montpelier



Storyteller Willem Lange.

by Dick Mansfield

The words of Charles Dickens will come alive on Sunday, December 19, at 7:00 p.m. at Christ Episcopal Church, Montpelier, when master storyteller Willem Lange presents a distinctive reading of Charles Dickens’s holiday classic, *A Christmas Carol*. Lange first started the *Christmas Carol* readings in 1975. Thousands have enjoyed his special performance, including servicemen when it was broadcast worldwide on Armed Forces Radio. Lange will use a special performance edition prepared by Dickens himself for his own readings.

The admission fee for this family-friendly event is a freewill donation of canned goods or cash to the church food shelf. All are welcome.

Lange has worked as an Adirondack guide, preacher, bartender, construction laborer, cab driver, bob-sled run announcer, bookkeeper, ranch hand, high-school English teacher, carpenter, contractor, and from 1968 to 1972 he directed Dartmouth College’s Outward Bound Center. In 1973, Lange founded the Geriatric Adventure Society, a group of outdoor enthusiasts whose members have skied in the Himalayas, bush-whacked on skis through most of northern New Hampshire, and paddled rivers north of the Arctic Circle.

Lange has published several audio recordings and six books and received an Emmy nomination for one of his pieces on Vermont Public Television. He writes for the Times-Argus and Valley News and has an award-winning show on New Hampshire Public Television. He and his wife, Ida, who is the proprietor of a kitchen design business, have been married since 1959. After forty years in New Hampshire, they moved several years ago to East Montpelier. They are active members of Christ Episcopal Church.

Dick Mansfield is a member of Christ Church, Montpelier.

Workshop planned for parish administrators, secretaries and clergy

All parish administrators and secretaries, as well as clergy, are invited to attend “Getting Things Done: The art of stress-free productivity,” a workshop to be held at the Bishop Booth Conference Center (BBCC) February 28, and March 1, 2011.

Robin Hammeal-Urban of the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut will present a methodology for self-management using aspects of time management and organization. But there is much more—the goal is to have mental peace so one can respond appropriately to life’s challenges rather than simply react.

A participant at a previous “Getting Things Done” workshop said, “If you are tired of feeling as if your parish office wheels are just spinning around, going nowhere, get thee quickly to GTD! You’ll say a prayer of thanksgiving that you did.” Others noted the value of attending with their clergy.

Workshop times will be Monday, February 28, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Tuesday, March 1, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Attendance at both sessions is necessary to complete the program. Maximum enrollment is 25, so register early. Lodging will be available at the BBCC. The fee of \$230 per person will cover the workshop, lodging at the BBCC, and some meals. For those who do not require

lodging, the fee is \$165. Grant opportunities are available through Initiative II of the McClure/Discovery 2000 funds. Go to www.dioceseofvermont.org/Orgs/Congsupport.html for information and to download an application form (deadline, Jan. 15, 2011).

To register or for more information, contact Patrick Sims at the Diocesan Office, psims@dioceseofvermont.org or 800-286-3437.



Ministry Expo 2011

One day – One stop
Learn a lot
Save the Dates

April 2 at Trinity Church, Shelburne

April 9 at St. Michael’s, Brattleboro

8:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Both days will have identical workshops in all ministries, offering training for new leaders, refreshers for long-time leaders and Christian fellowship for all.

Workshop proposals are welcome. Contact Wendy Grace at trinity2@sover.net.

“Introduction to Anti-Racism Awareness”

St. John’s Episcopal Church
15 Summer Street, Randolph

Saturday, January 15, 2011
9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

All diocesan leaders and those in the ordination process are required to take part in anti-racism training.

This workshop will offer a good mix of presentations, one-on-one and small group discussions, short videos, and even a game. There will also be time to think about practical actions to “take back home.”

For more information or to sign up to attend, please contact Dismantling Racism Commission member Connie Quinby at connieq1@myfairpoint.net or 802-862-4174.

“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.”

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Training for a Safer Church 2010

February 5, 2011

St. Paul’s, White River Junction

The Session will begin at 8:45 a.m. and conclude by 3:30 p.m. **Please bring lunch. Pre-registration is necessary** to ensure that sufficient materials will be available: Josh Cheney or Iris Darling, adminasst@dioceseofvermont.org, 802-286-3437.

More dates for 2011 will be posted at www.dioceseofvermont.org/education/

More Coming Events

Arts at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul

2 Cherry Street, Burlington, Vermont

Counterpoint: Four Centuries of Song

Sunday, January 9, 2011, 3 p.m.

Directed by Robert De Cormier, the twelve unaccompanied voices of Vermont's premier professional vocal ensemble offer choral songs spanning many periods, countries, and cultures. The program includes pieces by Debussy and Haydn, English madrigals, early American sacred songs and twentieth-century choral gems, settings of folk songs from Latin America and the Eastern European Jewish community and ends with a set of moving and rousing African-American spirituals.

General Admission, \$15; seniors and students, \$10; ages 15 and younger, free with ticketed adult.

Mythologies

Friday, January 14, 2011, 7:30 pm

The New York Baroque ensemble Repast, with soprano Nell Snaidas offers a performance of lively French music of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, including Clérambault's dramatic cantata *Medée* inspired by Ovid's *Metamorphosis*; excerpts from the opera *Phaëton* by Jean-Baptiste Lully; instrumental works of Jean-Philippe Rameau, François Couperin, and Marin Marais.

General Admission: \$18; seniors and students \$15; under age 15 free with ticketed adult.

Choral Services with the Cathedral Choir, Mark Howe directing

Sunday, December 12: The Great O Antiphons of Advent, 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 16, 2011, Evening Prayer in the style of the Community of Taizé, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesdays, Noon to One

Free, informal noontime concert series. Bring a bag lunch. Coffee and tea provided.

December 7: UVM Catamount Singers, David Neiveem, director. An annual winter concert of the University of Vermont's select choir. (Begins at 12:15 p.m.)

January 11, 2011: Young Artists. An annual concert featuring gifted young Vermont musicians.

Stone Church Arts

Immanuel Episcopal Church, 20 Church Street, Bellows Falls

Tickets for most Stone Church Arts Concerts are \$15 (\$10 seniors and children under 12) and may be purchased online at www.brattleborotix.com. Call 802-463-3100 for information, or visit www.immanuelepiscopal.org/StoneChurchArts.html.

Jacqueline Schwab, pianist

Saturday, December 11, 7:30 p.m.

Schwab, a folk and classical improvisational pianist, plays "gorgeously spare piano" (The Boston Globe) yet "sounds as if she has an orchestra at her fingertips" (Sing Out). Chosen by the renowned Ken Burns for numerous public television documentaries due to the emotional expression in her playing, Jacqueline has performed on the soundtracks for the Grammy award-winning *Civil War*, the Emmy award-winning *Baseball* and *Mark Twain*, among others.

Long Time Courting

Celtic Quintet

Friday, January 14, 2011, 7:30 p.m.

Take four individually accomplished traditional musicians and singers with fresh attitudes. Combine them, and you have the rich, soaring four-part vocal arrangements, and fiery Irish jigs and reels, that are Long Time Courting. Long Time Courting brings heavenly harmonies to old and new ballads—and serves up a zesty side of high energy dance tunes.

Integrity Vermont Events

Advent Party

Sunday, December 5, 4 p.m.

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

Valentine's Day and Feast of St. Aelred Eucharist and Party

Sunday, February 13, 2011, 4 p.m.

Holy Trinity Church, On the Green, Swanton

Integrity Vermont is the regional presence of Intergity USA, the leading public voice of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) persons in the Episcopal Church. It seeks to bring together individuals and congregations who share the vision of a church in which all the baptized are fully included in the Body of Christ.

Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Christ Episcopal Church, 64 State Street, Montpelier

Thursday, December 16, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

The service will feature the Christ Church choir, and members of the congregation will read the lessons. The price of admission is donation of non-perishable food items to the parish's food shelf.

New Vestry Member Orientation Workshop will be offered at nine sites

by Angela Emerson

A first annual workshop for new vestry members is scheduled for February 6, 2011, from 2–4 p.m. at nine convenient Vermont Interactive Television sites: Bennington, Brattleboro, Lyndonville, Montpelier, Newport, Rutland, St. Albans, White River Junction, and St. Albans.

The program is being funded by a 2011 Roanridge Grant, administered through the Office of Congregational Vitality of The Episcopal Church. The Diocese of Vermont is one of seven recipients of the grants, which are awarded to agencies actively engaged in developing new and creative models for leadership development in small communities across the Church.

- The workshop will include:
- reflections on Matthew 7 and the importance of spiritual grounding;
 - the ministries of planning, organizing, recruiting, and monitoring;
 - the ministry of communication;
 - the annual cycle of vestry life: orientation, organization, assessment, and celebration;
 - the canonical ministries of finances, buildings and grounds, and personnel;
 - the annual planning calendar and making time to do it all!

All new vestry members will receive copies of The Episcopal Church Foundation Vestry Resource Guide. Look for registration information coming in early January.

The Rev. E. Angela Emerson is diocesan minister for stewardship development.

Trinity, Shelburne, to host Trinity Institute conference via Web link

Trinity, Shelburne will serve as one of nearly 100 partner sites presenting Trinity Institute's 41st annual conference, *Reading Scripture Through Other Eyes*, on January 19–21, 2011 via video web link.

Do we read scriptures on our own, deciding what to believe? Do we read them as part of a group, with a similar mindset? Does our world-view shape what we find there? We turn to the Bible as a source of inspiration, but our interpretation may differ radically from someone on the other side of the globe, contemplating the same verse. How do we read scripture together?

At Trinity Institute's 2011 conference, an international roster of scholars will consider these questions, as well as the impact of cultural influences and individual perception on how we understand scripture. The goal is a deeper understanding of how to practice authentic and transformative Bible study.

Keynote speakers are: Walter Brueggemann (Professor Emeritus, Columbia Theological Seminary—Decatur, GA); Mary Gordon (best-selling chronicler of the American Catholic experience and Guggenheim Fellow); Teresa A. Okure, SHCJ (Professor, Catholic Institute of West Africa) and Gerald O. West (Professor, School of Theology, University of Kwazulu-Natal and Director, Ujamaa Center for Biblical and Theological Community Development and Research—South Africa).

This year, partner sites will be invited to take part in a unique, global Bible study led by Gerald O. West as part of his conference presentation.

Conference participation is open to clergy and laypersons of all faith traditions and can be attended at Trinity, Shelburne (5171 Shelburne Road). Registration forms and information to attend this local webcast are available by writing trinityinstitutevt@gmail.com. The live webcast will be offered January 20–21, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. A registration fee of \$60 (\$75 if received after Jan. 10) includes two days of conference, group facilitation, morning and afternoon snacks, materials, parking and handicap accessible facilities. An optional lunch will be available on both days for a small fee. Those who attend the entire conference are eligible to receive CEUs from the Trinity Institute.

The Rev. Carole Wageman, assistant rector in Shelburne said, "Trinity, Shelburne is pleased to be partnering with Trinity Institute again this year in bringing this important discussion to our local community. Our first venture with hosting a live webcast in 2009 was highly successful and we are excited about this year's theme and speakers. We hope we will have strong attendance from many different faith perspectives. All are welcome." ✝

Evensong
in the style of Taizé
at St. Andrew's, Colchester
1063 Primm Road
First Sunday of the month
6:30 p.m.

Info: standrewscolches@aol.com, or visit St. Andrew's on Facebook

Send a team to stewardship conference

"Money Follows Mission: Stewardship Practices for the Body of Christ," is a two-day conference sponsored by the Northeast Ecumenical Stewardship Council that will be offered March 18–19, 2011, at the Holiday Inn in Marlboro, Massachusetts.

The conference features the Rev. Mike Slaughter as guest speaker, ten workshops, networking opportunities and resources. Slaughter is the "Chief Dreamer" of Ginghamburg Church in Tipp City, Ohio, where his "dynamic teaching, heart for the lost, and innovative approach to ministry have

led Ginghamburg Church to outgrow all paradigms for a church in a cornfield."

Registration information is at www.ecumenical-stewardship.org. If registering before February 1, the cost for both days is \$95, with a \$10 discount for each additional team member. Housing is not included.

Congregations are encouraged to send teams. Assistance is available through Initiative II of the McClure Discovery 2000 Fund. Application forms are at www.dioceseofvermont.org/Orgs/Congsupport.html. The next deadline is January 15, 2011. ✝

Northwest Deanery 1

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HOLY TRINITY, Swanton, will host a Christmas Bazaar Dec. 4, from 8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m. Sales of crafts, food items and lunch will benefit the Outreach Ministry. Community Breakfasts continue on the 1st and 3rd Wed. of the month from 7–9 a.m. All you can eat hot breakfast for \$2.50/person. Holy Trinity worked in collaboration with the Methodist Church and the Elementary School to collect bags of food for distribution of Thanksgiving dinners at the Swanton Community Food Shelf. Plans are in the works for a “Spiritual Concert” to be held some time before Lent. Check the Holy Trinity website (www.holytrinityswanton.org) for this and other future events.

GRACE CHURCH, Sheldon, met with **Tuomi Forrest** from Partners for Sacred Places and Minister for Stewardship Development **Angela Emerson** regarding the development of a bathroom/kitchen/meeting place. They also participated in the last Partners for Sacred Places gathering with fellow travelers in the Diocese Nov. 13, in Montpelier.

Otter Creek Deanery 2

ST. THOMAS & GRACE, Brandon/Forest Dale, held an “Eggstravaganza” of a public breakfast Oct. 9. Hosted by the young people who attended Rock Point Summer Camp, it raised money to replenish the summer camp scholarship fund. Rather than worship during the winter in the undercrofts of the two buildings, the congregation will move to Forest Dale for Nov.–April, where there is adequate off-

St. Stephen's celebrates two significant milestones

by **Elizabeth Allison**

The time is coming when many Vermont Episcopal congregations will begin to celebrate significant one hundred and fiftieth and two hundredth anniversaries, either of their organization or of the completion of their first building. During December 2010, St. Stephen's, Middlebury, will celebrate not one but two significant two hundredth anniversaries: the first on December 5, and the second on December 26.

On December 5, 1810, forty-one men, not only residents of Middlebury but also of the surrounding towns of New Haven, Weybridge, Cornwall, Salisbury, Bristol and Whiting, met at the home of Artemus Nixon to complete the Articles of Association for The First Episcopal Society in the County of Addison, the state organizational formalities required by “An Act for the support of the Gospel” for the establishment of a recognized religious society.

In addition to naming the Society, they formally declared that they were “impressed with the importance of supporting the protestant Episcopal Worship,” wished to erect an Episcopal Church in Middlebury “for the purpose of supporting public worship,” and set the Society's first meeting for December 26, at Nixon's house.

Many early nineteenth century Episcopalians in Vermont struggled to maintain their identity through the occasional services conducted by the well-traveled Rev.

❖ deanery doings ❖

News of Parishes and People in the Diocese of Vermont

compiled and reported by the Mountain Echo “Deanery Bureau Chiefs”

As reported in the article about Diocesan Convention, next year the deaneries will be discontinued in favor of the creation of five new Mission Districts. Consequently, this is the last “Deanery Doings” page. Over the next two months, I will be exploring how to showcase congregational activities and members whose programs and ministries can be an inspiration to others in the Diocese of Vermont. I welcome suggestions. Should this sort of page be continued? Are you interested in serving as a reporter? Email me at abrown@dioceseofvermont.org with your thoughts.

I want to express my sincerest gratitude to those who have served as deanery “bureau chiefs” during my tenure as editor. You have helped me tremendously in allowing the Mountain Echo to be a source of connection for the members of the Diocese.

Anne Clarke Brown, Editor

street parking and heating the church is less expensive.

ST. STEPHEN'S, Middlebury, welcomes **Liz Cleveland**, who will share office staff duties with **Beth Stanway**. St. Stephen's will host the community lunch, a program of the Middlebury Community Care Coalition, every Monday until mid-May. **May Morris**, **Sandy Ketcham** and **Alice Van Tuyl** are coordinators. The parish held an Alternative Gifts Bazaar Nov. 21.

TRINITY, Rutland, held a Gala of Gratitude, a free celebratory dinner in a decorated Nourse Hall attended by over 80 members. The community lunch on the first Saturday of the month continues to be a success, reaching more of those in need of a hearty meal. Donated toiletries and other necessities are available for attendees to take with them.

Southwest Deanery 3

ST. PETER'S, Bennington, celebrated the election of **Mary Gerish** as a delegate

to an every-four-years review held by the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva, Switzerland, representing the National Economic and Social Rights Initiative and Vermont Worker's Center. The United States was one of the countries to be reviewed at this year's session. St. Peter's Youth Leadership and Evangelism group (STYLE) is raising funds to attend “Nightwatch” at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine.

ZION, Manchester Center, will hold a Christmas Quiet Day on Dec. 4, 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Call 802-362-1987 to sign up.

Southeast Deanery 4

ST. MICHAEL'S, Brattleboro, will hold an Advent quiet day, “Darkness and Light,” Dec. 7, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. **Karen Guthrie**, an Anglican church musician, will lead a spiritual journey through the liturgical hours as seen through the prism of Advent themes and David Steindl-Rast's book, *Music of Silence*.

ST. LUKE'S, Chester, hosts the annual

a building and support a minister. Finally, in 1825, with support and leadership of its first rector, the Rev. Benjamin Bosworth Smith, permission was granted to build on the Town Green. On October 14, 1827, “the new and beautiful Gothic Church” was consecrated as St. Stephen's Church.

To date, there is no documented explanation for the choice of Stephen as the patron saint. The legal name of the congregation, however, continues to be The First Episcopal Society in the County of Addison, and that has been the heading for the minutes of each annual meeting.

In its two hundred years, members of the Society have continued to be loyal and active Episcopalians in the local community and have participated actively on the State and Diocesan levels and in the Episcopal Church at large. The Society has supported a number of men and women who have answered the call to ordination and have been engaged in variety of ministries, from an early Episcopal missionary to West Africa, to a co-founder of The Virginia Theological Seminary, to seminary and college professors and bishops of three dioceses, beginning with the first bishop of Rhode Island to more recently, former Rector John Smith as Bishop of West Virginia.

Elizabeth Allison is the Registrar and Historiographer of the Diocese. She is also secretary of the board of the National Episcopal Historians and Archivists.

Christmas Tea & Sale Dec. 4, 11:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m. The event includes a sale of items for Christmas as well as a variety of tea sandwiches, baked goods, tea, and mulled cider. “We invite you to join us for a relaxing and fun day.”

Three Rivers Deanery 5

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ST. JOHN'S, Randolph, holds its annual Bazaar Dec. 4, with the sale of wreaths, crafts, gift baskets, trinkets and treasures, as well as a penny auction.

ST. PAUL'S, White River Junction, has new signage that makes the church's identity much more prominent. Financing came through the “sale” of individual letters to members and friends of the congregation.

Central Vermont Deanery 6

CHRIST CHURCH, Montpelier, will host **Willem Lange's** special reading of Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol* on Dec. 19 [see story on Page H].

ST. MARY'S, Northfield, welcomed the Rev. **M.P. (Empy) Schneider**, who started her tenure as rector in early November. She comes to Vermont from the Diocese of Rhode Island, where she was ordained to the priesthood in October.

Northeast Deanery 7

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Champlain Deanery 8

Linda Morrell, Bureau Chief
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ST. ANDREW'S, Colchester's Wednesday evening series used Richard Foster's book, *Prayer, Finding the Heart's True Home*, for an 8-week discussion session in Oct/Nov.

ST. JAMES, Essex Junction, is holding a Christmas Carol Sing for all ages in the Parish Hall Dec. 12, at 3 p.m. The singles group, Sole Mates, continues to be very active. In November, they attended Lyric Theater's production of *Peter Pan* and will be attending holiday musical events in December. Contact **Jeanette Racine**, 878-1502 or **Milly Meeks**, 878-3995 for information.

TRINITY, Shelburne's Senior Luncheons returned Nov. 8. The Holiday Luncheon is Dec. 11. The Youth are making 15 seasonally appropriate floral arrangements for the tables, which become prizes for the quizzes, birthdays, etc. Call **Dot Cole** at 985-3694 for reservations.

Plans are underway at ALL SAINTS', South Burlington, for their annual Player's production in February. This year, they will be doing two short plays based on parables.

CALVARY CHURCH, Underhill, began a 5-week video series from Church Publishing in October—“Embracing an Adult Faith. Marcus Borg on What it Means to be Christian.” The 5 sessions cover God, Jesus, Salvation, Practice and Community.



Congregations join local fall fests

St. Thomas & Grace, Brandon/Forest Dale, and Church of Our Saviour, Killington, both participated in their town's efforts to enhance the visits of fall tourists.



Margo Fletcher image

Businesses and other groups in Brandon created "leaf people" in their front yards, using a variety of costumes and motifs. The St. Thomas & Grace "leaf people"—garbed in choir vestments—waved at passers-by from the rectory yard.

In Killington, the theme was animals made from hay bales, both round and square, and the town produced a map for visitors to follow the HayFest trail. Our Saviour created a lamb lying down with a lion. Many visitors who came by to photograph them also stopped in to see the church, which is open daily for prayer.



ACB image

St. Martin's dedicates new pipe organ

by John Morris

On October 23, more than 100 people attended a concert at St. Martin's, Fairlee, to dedicate a new pipe organ that replaces an old electronic instrument. Matt Wiencke, Peter Walker, Margaret Gilmore, Catherine van Zanten, and the Bel Canto Singers were the featured musicians in the concert.

Peter Walker of Brattleboro built the new organ from an Estey Organ built in 1912 that had been stored in the shop of John Wessel, Estey's last pipe voicer. It has 12 ranks (sets) of pipes, including a 3-rank mixture, and is laid out in the style of the mid-20th century American organ builder, Walter Holtkamp.

Before the music began, those in attendance applauded Julia Fifield who was seated in her usual pew and in whose honor the campaign to raise funds for the organ



Matthew Wiencke (St. Martin's organist), Julia Fifield (long time parishioner), Mary Sutherland (assistant to the organ builder), Jaqueline Wren (Senior Warden), and Peter Walker (organ builder).

was initiated. She stood up briefly and said, "Even at age 104, one's dreams can come true!"

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

Daughters of the King welcomes new members



The Vermont Alpha Chapter of Daughters of the King admitted Linda Barcomb and Catherine Williamson during the 10 a.m. service at Trinity, Rutland, October 10. Shown are Grace Makovec, Donna Abramov, Jean Donaghey, the Rev. Lee Alison Crawford, Linda Barcomb, Winnie Grace and Catherine Williamson. For information on the lay order of women, call Winnie Grace at 235-2221.

St. Michael's consecrates patronal icon

by Clark Anderson

St. Michael's, Brattleboro, received and consecrated its new patronal icon of Michael the Archangel during its celebration of the Feast of St. Michael and All Angels, Sunday, October 3. Bishop Thomas Ely offered the blessing in a liturgy specially written for the occasion that included music by parishioner and noted composer Paul Dedell.



Clark Anderson image

Bishop Thomas Ely with Zachary Roesemann and the new icon of St. Michael. Roesemann wrote for St. Michael's.

Zachary Roesemann, parishioner and parish iconographer at St. Michael's wrote and donated the icon. He had offered the icon more than a year before, as the church began the process of seeking a new settled rector. "I was nudged by the Spirit," Roesemann said, "to think about how creating an image of Michael and inviting him into our midst through the icon might be related to our discernment of who we are and what we are seeking as a parish. The blank icon board was blessed at the same time our discernment committee began its work, and as it turned out our parish profile was finished exactly when the icon was." A photo of the icon then went on the cover of the profile, and the icon itself has quickly become an important part of the congregation's identity.

Icons are still something of a novelty to most Episcopalians, since these holy images are most closely associated with the Eastern Orthodox churches. But recently there has been a strong resurgence of interest in icons among non-Orthodox believers and particularly among Episcopalians. Roesemann

apprenticed, for example, with the Rev. John Walsted, an Episcopal priest whose work graces many Episcopal churches around the country. Walsted and Roesemann both agree that "the Holy Spirit is up to something" with icons and are pleased to be a part of this rediscovery of holy images. "After all," Roesemann points out, "for more than 1,000 years icons were an important part of Christian life and worship for the entire church. It was only after the formal split between East and West in the 11th century that we in the West lost this vehicle of the Spirit." There are currently several practicing Episcopalian iconographers whose work can often be seen online in exhibitions of Episcopal Church in the Visual Arts (www.ecva.org).

Roesemann also wrote the icon of "Christ in Majesty" at St. Paul's Cathedral in Burlington. For more information about icons and to see some examples of his work, visit www.sacredicons.net.

Clark Anderson is a member of St. Michael's, Brattleboro.

St. Paul's holds Trunk or Treat party



Nancy Vogeles image

A group of St. Paul's "Trunk or Treaters" on All Hallows' Eve.

by Angela Emerson

St. Paul's, White River Junction, enjoyed All Hallows' Eve with a service of dramatized readings intended to both explain and celebrate the holiday, followed by a Trunk or Treat party. Costumed parishioners showed off the decorated trunks of their cars and then shared a meal in the parish hall.

Halloween is shortened from "All-Hallow-Eve'n," which originated with the Celtic tribes who lived in Ireland, Scotland, Wales, and Brittany. For the Celts this Festival marked the end of summer and the coming

of winter. It is a time when the bridge that separates the world of the living and the world of the dead becomes firmer, allowing spirits and ghosts and ghouls to cross over. These spirits or departed souls are honored and asked to grant luck and prosperity. The dressing up is to resemble the souls of the dead, which the pagans believed walked the land along with the evil spirits that night. The people wore masks and lit bonfires to scare them away.

The Rev. E. Angela Emerson worships at St. Paul's, White River Junction.

Diocesan Calendar

December 2010

- 3-4 Commission on Ministry, Diocesan Office
- 5 Bishop's Visitation, St. Mary's, Wilmington
- 7 Fresh Start for Clergy, 9:30 am-2:30 pm
- 11 Diocesan Council, Trinity, Rutland, 9 am-3 pm
- 12 Bishop's Visitation, St. Andrew's, Colchester
- 14 Ordination of Thomas Mousin to the Sacred Order of Deacons, St. Michael's, Brattleboro, 7 p.m.
- 24 Diocesan Office closed for Christmas Eve
- 27-31 Diocesan Office closed for Christmas holidays

January 2011

- 4 Fresh Start for Clergy, 9:30 am-2:30 pm
- 6 Diocesan Ministry Support Team, 10-1
- 9 Bishop's Visitation, Immanuel, Bellows Falls
- 16 Bishop's Visitation, St. Paul's Cathedral, Burlington
- 22 Rock Point Board Program, Diocesan Office, 3-5 pm
- 18 Deacons' Council, St. Stephen's, Middlebury
- 23 Bishop's Visitation, St. James', Arlington
- 25 Rock Point Board, Diocesan Office, 3-5 pm
- 30 Bishop's Visitation, St. Mary's, Northfield



Rock Point Summer Camp 2011

Save the Dates

- Day Camp ❖ June 27-July 1
- Elementary Camp ❖ July 3-July 8
- Intermediate Camp ❖ July 10-15
- Junior High Camp ❖ July 17-22
- Kids4Peace ❖ July 13-July 24
- High School Camp ❖ July 24-August 3

Note: High School Camp moved to accommodate the 2011 Episcopal Youth Event
Also new this year: High School Camp is 10 days!

Family Camping ❖ August 7-12

All new opportunity. Please email if you are interested!

If you are interested in volunteering or have any questions please contact Jennifer Ogelby, Summer Camp Director at jenloring52@yahoo.com.

For more information, visit us at the Bishop Booth Conference Center website: www.rockpointcenter.org or the Rock Point Camp Blog: rpsc.wordpress.com

Please join us for the 2nd Annual Rock Point Camp Open House on Sunday, May 15 from 1-5 p.m.

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

Funds Available for Parish Use As of November 15, 2010

Initiative I	
The Bishop Butterfield Revolving Loan Fund	\$ 748,483
Initiative II	
The Talent and Resource Network	\$ 20,585
Initiative III	
The Congregation Renewal and Emergency Assistance Fund	\$ 11,894
Initiative IV	
The Diocesan Outreach Fund	\$ 10,657
Walter P. Irish Fund	
Assistance for churches in small communities	\$ 9,659

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.

Bishop Robinson preaches at Integrity Eucharist



ACB images

by Anne Clarke Brown

The Rt. Rev. V. Gene Robinson, bishop of New Hampshire, traveled to Burlington September 25, to preach at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in a Eucharist inaugurating Integrity in Vermont. Bishop Thomas Ely presided at the service. Integrity USA is the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and ally (LGBT) organization of The Episcopal Church.

Robinson began his homily by telling the congregation, "I want you to know what a friend Tom Ely has been to me. I don't know how I could have done all of this without Tom and his unwavering support."

Noting that, "It is an amazing time to be an Episcopalian," Robinson said, "I have been thinking about what Integrity might look like in a church and a diocese where gay and lesbian and bisexual and transgendered people are fully accepted—an Integrity 2.0." The epistle for the day (2 Corinthians 5:16-21) tells us, he said, that "we are ambassadors for Christ. Ambassadors to whom, and what is the message the ambassadors are carrying?"

Robinson told the story of an encounter with a restaurant waiter, who on overhearing the table conversation about liturgies for same-sex couples, was in tears, because, "It had never occurred to him that he could put his sexuality and his spirituality together, that there would be a church that would welcome him." These are the people "who are desperate to hear God's love."

Pointing to the Bible he carried, Robinson said, "The message is right here, and you can tell people that the bishop of New Hampshire was preaching with a Bible in his hand." He read a lesson appointed for the ordination of a priest (Isaiah 6:1-8), and said, "This is Isaiah's story of salvation." He continued, "Every Christian person has to learn to tell the story of his or her salvation and to articulate a vision of God... When God calls you, how is it that you find the courage to say, here am I, send me?" The message we have to give, Robinson said, is "how we came to

Above: Deacon Stan Baker, Jimmie Sue Deppe, Bishop Robinson, Bishop Ely, Sarah Dyke and Deacon Cathie Cooke.

Below: Bishop Robinson preaches with his Bible.



know a God who loves us unconditionally and how we came to be God's people in the world."

Robinson concluded, "An Integrity 2.0 here can be a kind of SWAT team for Jesus. It has to do with all those people out there—gay and straight, old and young—whom Jesus wants to know. And nothing would make God happier." ❖

Cathedral seeks responses to questions about its role

St. Paul's Cathedral Dean Kenneth Poppe told those attending Diocesan Convention that the Cathedral is beginning a process of re-planning its mission as both a parish church in Burlington and the cathedral church of the Diocese of Vermont. The effort is called, "Charting Our Path Together."

Poppe has since written to congregations reiterating the two questions he posed at Convention and inviting each vestry in the Diocese to respond:

1. Describe your actual connection to the Cathedral?
2. Sketch out your image of the role the Cathedral will play in the Diocese by 2014?

Poppe's letter says, "I also invite each rector, warden, and convention delegate to respond to these questions. I would be happy to receive responses from other leaders as well. I look forward to hearing from you in November or December. We will present the themes we hear both from diocesan leaders, parishes, and the Cathedral parish to our Annual Meeting on January 23, so I would like to receive your responses by Feast of the Epiphany (January 6, 2011) at the latest. I will report back to you our summary of these themes."

Responses may be sent to kpope@stpaulscathedralvt.org or: The Very Rev. Kenneth W. Poppe, St. Paul's Cathedral, 2 Cherry St., Burlington, VT 05401.