

Interactive TV brings diocese together for Vestry Workshop

by Anne Clarke Brown

New and continuing vestry members, along with several clergy, "gathered" the afternoon of February 6, via nine Vermont Interactive Television sites for the first annual workshop for new vestry members. Led by the Rev. Angela Emerson, diocesan minister for stewardship development, the event allowed participants in Bennington, Brattleboro, Lyndonville, Montpelier, Newport, Rutland, St. Albans, White River Junction and Williston to see and interact with one another without driving long distances in unpredictable winter weather.

Emerson told participants that the workshop would have three sections: the vestry and faith formation; conceptualizing and organizing the flow of a vestry's work; and discussion of a planning calendar as a tool for that organization.

To those who are concerned that the vestry has too much business to allow time for Bible study, Emerson responds that, "We need to see vestry service as a ministry, not the drudgery of the church." She invited the groups to spend time at their locations in conversation about Matthew 7:24-27, noting that the work of vestries should be grounded in Bible study. She asked the groups to reflect on, "How does a commitment to Bible study help us to improve our stewardship of time? How does our commitment to this and to our relationships to each other improve our ministry and our ability to bring spiritual growth in the congregation?"

Emerson introduced a model vestry covenant that offers a way to begin thinking about vestry ministry as one of spiritual leadership and spiritual growth. It states, in part, "We believe that The Vestry, as spiritual leaders of the congregation, must set an example in how to center our

lives and work on understanding what the Gospel means for us in this time and in this place."

In organizing the work of the vestry over the course of a year, Emerson suggested the challenge is to find a way to move through the year so the last quarter can be one of an opportunity for celebration. By the end of the year, she said, "people are often running around like chickens with their heads cut off trying to get everything done." But with careful organization this can be avoided.

The first quarter should involve building the vestry team and becoming oriented to the tasks at hand. The second quarter involves organization, developing a plan of action. The vestry can identify tasks, match the tasks with gifts and skills and spread the ministry beyond the vestry. In the third quarter, it is important to evaluate how things are going

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Vermonters active in churchwide consultation on same-gender blessings

by Anne Clarke Brown

Seven Vermonters were among nearly 200 members of the Episcopal Church House of Deputies and some 40 members of the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music and its four Blessings Project task groups gathered in Atlanta March 18-19 for a churchwide consultation on same-gender blessings.

The SCLM invited one lay and one clergy deputy from each of the church's 109 dioceses and three regional areas to hear about and reflect on its work to date on the mandate given to it in General Convention 2009 Resolution C056, which directed the SCLM to work with the House of Bishops to collect and develop theological resources and liturgies for blessing same-gender relationships. Deputies from 98 dioceses registered for the event, described by House of Deputies President Bonnie Anderson as historic because "never before have only deputies met in a large gathering outside of General Convention for the specific purpose of church business" and to discuss a topic due to be taken up the next meeting of convention.

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Susan Russell image

Vermonters at the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music's consultation on same-gender blessings: Stan Baker, Keri Aubert, Reid Farrell, Thad Bennett, Tom Ely, Tom Little and Anne Brown.

Changing the Conversation author coming to Vermont

by Susan Ohlidal

Anthony B. Robinson, author of *Changing the Conversation: A Third Way for Congregations*, will offer teaching opportunities in the diocese on June 4-5, in conjunction with the June 4 Special Diocesan Convention called to consider whether to move ahead with a capital campaign.

On June 4, Robinson will present at St. Paul's Cathedral, 10 a.m.-Noon, just prior to the Convention. This formation opportunity is open to all in the Diocese's congregations, and clergy and delegates are particularly encouraged to attend.

On Sunday, June 5, Robinson will visit St. Luke's in Chester, a congregation that used *Changing the Conversation* to transform their leadership and congregational life, becoming strong advocates for mission at the center of who they are and what God is calling them to be. He will preach at the 10 a.m. Eucharist and attend a brunch.

Robinson will be at Trinity Church, Rutland, Sunday afternoon, 2-4 p.m., where he will repeat the presentation from Saturday. Again, this presentation is open to all in the Diocese, and those in leadership (vestry, diocesan organizations and committees/commissions, and clergy) are



particularly invited.

In his work, Robinson presents a vision of a "third way" for congregations, moving out of the polarized models of progressive/traditional, liberal/conservative, and others, and showing how to have conversations in congregations that set them on the course for following God's call to mission.

Several congregations and groups in the Diocese have used Robinson's conversation method to deepen understanding of mission and purpose and to break free of the either/or places we can sometimes get stuck. I am delighted Robinson will be with us in June, presenting in times around the Special Convention and teaching us ways that can strengthen our participation in God's mission. His appearances are supported by the Diocese and funds available to the bishop.

Copies of *Changing the Conversation* are available through the Hopkins Bookshop at www.hopkinsbookshop.com, or 877-287-2422. Read more about Anthony Robinson and *Changing the Conversation* at www.anthonyrobinson.com/books.htm.

Susan Ohlidal is canon for ministry development in the Diocese of Vermont.

2011 Annual Appeal is well underway by the Right Reverend Thomas Clark Ely, Bishop of Vermont

For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. (Luke 12:34)

One of the wonderful things I have come to know and appreciate about the people of the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont over the course of these past ten years is how incredibly generous you are. Year after year I have witnessed the faithfulness with which congregations respond in fulfilling their financial commitment to our diocesan mission. In 2010, 100% of our congregations fulfilled 100% of their commitment (assessment). That is generally the way it is in our diocese, except in some extraordinary circumstances. Thank you for that continuing faithful witness to our common life and mission. I take it as an important indication of where your hearts are beating as we live out and into the promises of Baptism.

Beyond that, and even more impressive to me, are the human and financial responses you make to pressing human needs in your local congregations and communities, as well as in response to appeals for help in times of earthquake, famine, fire and flood, both in the United States and in countries throughout the world. Whether it is helping a child go to Summer Camp at Rock Point, supporting Nets for Life, Kids4Peace, Camp Agape, CHABA, the church and its people in El Salvador, Sudan, Uganda, Haiti, Honduras, Jerusalem, or now in Japan, the people of our diocese are as generous as any I know or read about. And that is only a small list of ways in which we share our human and financial resources with others.

Clearly, the people of Vermont "get it" that we are called, as part of our discipleship and participation in God's reconciling mission, to give: to give of our time, our talent and our treasure in response to all God has given us. To be sure, we are still growing and learning this way of life

more fully each day, but there is no doubt in my mind that we are faithfully striving to live into the holy pattern of stewardship of a generous and loving God inviting our love and generosity in return. There is no joy greater for me as your bishop then to see the evidence of this commitment expressed in so many ways.

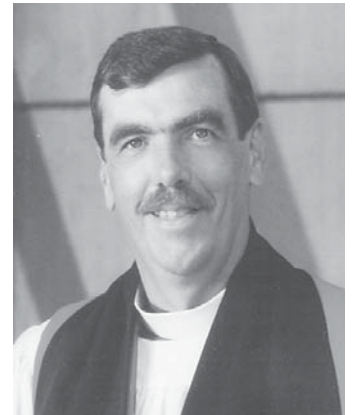
It did not surprise me, therefore, when faced with a need for additional income to support the mission and ministry priorities of our diocese that the Diocesan Council and other leaders who participated in budget deliberations last year recommended that we initiate an Annual Appeal in 2011. Diocesan Convention embraced this new initiative in approving the 2011 Diocesan Budget as presented. The goal is \$100,000, and we are well on our way toward meeting that goal.

The approach we developed for inviting gifts to the Annual Appeal was to ask diocesan leaders to make the first commitments. During the first two months of 2011, I invited members of the Diocesan Council, Standing Committee, Trustees, Ministry Support Team and members of diocesan Committees, Commissions and Boards to make their gift or pledge to this appeal. To date, 44 people have made gifts or pledges totaling just over \$20,000. More are responding each week. During the month of March, clergy and lay delegates to Diocesan Convention (who have not already been invited to give) will be asked for their support. Following that, a general appeal will go out to all members and

friends of our diocese with the hope that we will reach our goal by Ascension Day (June 2, 2011). Of course, no one need wait to be asked to give to this Annual Appeal, and those wanting to make a gift or pledge have a number of options for how to do so (see box).

Each person is invited to give according to his or her means. To date, contributions have ranged from \$20 to \$4,000. The measure of our success in this effort, beyond the total amount raised, will be the number of people who participate. My hope is that each member and friend of the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont will make a contribution to this Annual Appeal. I know full well that this is not the only appeal for financial support that you have been asked to make this year, nor will it be the last.

"Year after year I have witnessed the faithfulness with which congregations respond in fulfilling their financial commitment to our diocesan mission."



Gillian Randall image

What I do hope is that it will be among those to which you respond by saying YES!

With your continued generosity and hearts aligned for participation in God's mission, our common ministry will continue strong and expand in ways that will serve our congregations, communities and God's mission in the world with faithfulness and vitality.

Gratefully yours in Christ,

+ Thomas

How to give to the 2011 Annual Appeal

1. Use the new "donate now" button at www.dioceseofvermont.org under "Annual Appeal." You can make a one-time donation or schedule smaller donations over a period of time. You will be asked for basic information and will have the option of electronic transfer from your bank account or credit card payment. The basic information will be stored as your account on a secure site, so that in the future, donations or payments for registration fees can be made quickly and easily.
2. Download a pledge card at www.dioceseofvermont.org under "Annual Appeal," print it, and mail it to Annual Appeal, Episcopal Diocese of Vermont, 5 Rock Point Road, Burlington, VT 05401.
3. Call or email the diocesan office and ask to have a pledge card mailed to you: 800-286-3437 or 802-863-3431; adminasst@dioceseofvermont.org.

Council proposes mission district boundaries

The 2010 Diocesan Convention adopted a resolution to replace the eight Deanery structure with a five Mission District structure. Each Mission District will nominate and elect three Diocesan Council members at Diocesan Convention and, if it wishes, collaborate in ministry and mission and foster a closeness of community within the Mission District and across the Diocese. Council will have fifteen elected members instead of twenty-six.

Diocesan Council has the responsibility to configure the new mission districts, and at its March 2011 meeting agreed to seek comments on a proposed map. It has two districts in the northern part of the state, two in the central part, and one covering the southern part. The aim is to create districts of relatively similar size based on average Sunday attendance. The new map can be downloaded via a link at www.dioceseofvermont.org/Orgs/DCouncil.html. ❖

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News of the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont, in publication since 1894
Now an edition of Episcopal Journal, Vol. 1, No. 3

Anne Clarke Brown, Editor

Contributions of news and photographs are invited and encouraged

Please send such materials to the editor at

P. O. Box 67, Plymouth, VT 05056

Telephone: 802-672-5250; E-mail: abrown@dioceseofvermont.org

Application to mail at Periodicals Postage Prices is pending at Bryn Mawr, PA, and additional mailing offices. Episcopal Journal is published monthly by the Episcopal Journal, 111 Hickory Lane, Bryn Mawr PA 19010.

Postmaster: send address changes to: Episcopal Journal, PO Box 1402, Voorhees NJ 08043.

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

Vermonters participate in Episcopal Village Mission Event

by Mark Gensler and Helen Daly

Contemplative prayer is not often thought of as a tool for mission. Yet, it was the subject of one of the “mission conversations” at the Episcopal Village Mission Event held March 5, 2011, at the Cathedral of St. Paul in Boston. Helen Daly of St. Michael’s, Brattleboro, led a session called “Contemplative Prayer for the Unchurched, Dechurched, and ‘It’s-complicated-churched,’” in which she described the ways in which contemplative practices like centering prayer, chant, *lectio divina*, and others can offer “...a generous, hospitable prayer space for those outside of traditional church structures and liturgies.”

As those at the session mentioned, if many people in our culture—and particularly in Vermont—have a skepticism toward historically received forms of Christianity, contemplative practice can be a less widely open door for many who feel drawn to Christ (and to silence, transformation, community, mystery, justice...). It is in this way that contemplative practices are most immediately tools for mission, particularly in a hectic, pluralistic, and stressful world.

Attendees at the Mission Event joined in a variety of morning and afternoon “conversations:” a church in Watertown, Massachusetts, that had removed its pews and created a flexible worship space in their nave; student activists who sought to create spiritual community within the largely secular environmental movement; a variety of community organizers who led conversations about their own experiences linking mission to social justice; newly formed monastic communities; social media, community building, and mission; preparing established congregations to host newer communities within their structures as “fresh expressions” of the Holy Spirit (from gospel-playing hipsters in their 20s to families with autistic children); celebrating the Eucharist outside, with the homeless.

Yet, nowhere was there the sense that the guru had arrived to tell the faithful what they ought to do in their own contexts. An underlying point of many of these conversations is that mission must begin with good questions about context, hunger, and need. What will the Church look like later in the 21st century? Depends on where you are, and to whom the Spirit is calling you—and your community—to minister.

While the day was also a Spring Learning Event co-sponsored by the Diocese of Massachusetts, people came from all over New England (and the globe) to learn more

of what constitutes the emerging church within the Anglican Communion. And, of course, other Vermonters were there: Susan Ohlidal, canon for ministry development in the Diocese of Vermont, the Rev. Jean MacDonald (St. Johnsbury), Todd McKee (White River Junction), and Mark Gensler (Brattleboro), who joined Helen Daly to discuss emerging contemplative communities, including their own.

For many, the day’s draw was the main speaker, Ian Mobsby, an Anglican priest living in central London, where he has helped to found—after local, contextual discernment—a “neo-monastic” community called Moot. (www.moot.uk.net). Equally compelling was the presence of Karen Ward, leader of the Church of the Apostles (ELCA) and a co-founder of the emerging church network (co-sponsor of the gathering) called Episcopal Village (<http://episcopalvillage.org/>).

Both Ward and Mobsby have been leaders in what has been called the “emergent church” (“Anglimergent” in Mobsby’s case), even as the term “leader” goes somewhat against the grass-roots sense of a loose network of people engaged in similar ministries.

Mobsby’s morning keynote address gave a bit of cultural analysis regarding several types of post-Modern people whom one might encounter in our consumer culture(s) and asked of each category: What are they seeking? What spiritual hunger are they displacing onto other pursuits? How might we minister to them, specifically?

During a closing panel discussion in the afternoon, Mobsby and Ward were joined by others, including the Rev. Tom Brack-

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Province I has environment minister

by Lynette Wilson

[Episcopal News Service] Bishops of the seven dioceses in Province I recently created an “energy stewardship minister” position aimed at coordinating congregations’ efforts at carbon footprint reduction through decreased energy usage, according to a February 16 press release.

“Global warming and rising concentrations of greenhouse gases are the greatest threats to the sustainability of our planet,” said Connecticut Suffragan Bishop James Curry, Province I president, in an e-mail. “In 2003 the bishops of Province I issued a pastoral letter on the environment which positively affected ministry in all of our dioceses. We have continued to act together on the stewardship of the environment. We have identified decreasing the carbon footprint of our buildings and programs as an initiative that could make a big impact in local settings and as a witness to all of New England.”

The Rev. Stephanie Johnson, who is working on a master’s degree in sacred theology with an emphasis on environmental ministry at Berkeley Divinity School at Yale, which is providing her with a workspace, began work in the new, part-time position on Feb. 1.

“My passion is for protecting the environment; I do it as an offering of gratitude for God,” said Johnson in a telephone interview. “I want to help others realize that protecting the earth is part of who we are as Christians.” (Johnson also is the director of youth ministry at St. Ann’s Episcopal Church in Old Lyme, Connecticut.)

The Province I Bishops Committee on the Environment, which is leading this initiative, is particularly interested in helping congregations meet the Genesis Covenant

(<http://genesis.eds.edu>) goal of 50 percent energy reduction for all church facilities, according to the release. The Episcopal Church’s General Convention memorialized the Genesis Covenant in 2009.

In addition to Curry, the committee includes Maine Bishop Stephen Lane, Vermont Bishop Thomas Clark Ely and Massachusetts Bishop Suffragan Bud Cederholm.

Cederholm was one of the first responders from the diocese to travel to the Gulf Coast following Hurricane Katrina in 2005. It was then, he said during a February 16 telephone interview, that he began to comprehend the seriousness of global warming and its threat to coastal communities. Later, he began to research the science backing rising temperatures and sea level, and realized something needed to be done as many more, often densely populated coastal communities worldwide will become threatened.

As opposed to “writing another pastoral letter” to emphasize the imperative to act as environmental stewards, the bishops decided to pitch in and fund the energy stewardship minister position, he said.

Eighty percent of the position’s funding will come from the diocesan budgets and personal accounts, the other 20 percent will come from the province’s synod. This is the first time a program person has been hired to work directly with bishops and dioceses across the province, Curry said.

There are 675 congregations throughout Province I, and many like Grace Church in Medford, Massachusetts (www.gracemedford.org), have committed to reducing their carbon footprint, saving energy and money, and educating church members and the community about energy conservation and

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The Very Reverend Henry Lawrence Whittemore, Jr.

January 8, 1918 – January 30, 2011

The Very Reverend Henry Lawrence (Larry) Whittemore, Jr. died peacefully on Sunday, January 30, 2011, at Southwestern Vermont Medical Center in Bennington, Vermont. His family was at his side. Only three weeks before his death, he celebrated his 93rd birthday at his home in Manchester with all of his family.

Whittemore, husband of Elizabeth Eschmann Whittemore, was born on January 8, 1918, in Ardmore, Pennsylvania, the son of Henry Lawrence Whittemore and Caroline (Doremus) Park Whittemore. He grew up in New Canaan, Connecticut, and graduated from the South Kent School and from Williams College in the Class of 1939.

Whittemore taught at St. Albans School in Washington, D.C., enlisted in the United States Army, and was assigned to the OSS, serving in Southeast Asia—Sri Lanka and Burma. He was awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious service.

After being honorably discharged from the Army, he entered the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and graduated from there in 1948. Ordained to the Episcopal priesthood in the Diocese of Connecticut, he served as assistant at Trinity Church in Hartford, and as vicar of Old St. Andrew’s Church in Bloomington, Connecticut. From there he went to Swarthmore, Pennsylvania, to serve as rector of Trinity Church.

In 1957, he and his family moved to Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts, where he served as rector of the Church of the Redeemer until 1967, when he accepted a call to be Dean and Rector of the Cathedral Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. He served there until his retirement in 1983.

In his post-retirement years, Dean Whittemore served as Vicar of St. Andrew’s Church, Boca Grande, Florida, for five years. He and his wife returned to their home in Landgrove, Vermont, and then moved to Middlebury, where they resided for sixteen

years and were active at St. Stephen’s. In 2007 they moved to Equinox Village in Manchester Center.

Dean Whittemore served on many Diocesan committees and was a deputy to four General Conventions of The Episcopal Church. He was a trustee of the Philadelphia Divinity School and of the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge. He was an instructor at the Philadelphia Divinity School and also taught homiletics at the Cambridge seminary as well as the Moravian Seminary in Bethlehem, PA. In Middlebury, he served on the Board of the Friends of the Middlebury College Art Museum and on the Board of Elderly Services, Inc.

Whittemore is survived by his loving wife of 59 years and by their two children, Elizabeth B. Whittemore of Hopkinton, Massachusetts, and Henry L. Whittemore and his wife, Darcy, of Readfield, Maine, by two grandchildren, Katherine and Samuel Whittemore, and by his brother Charles P. Whittemore and his wife, Cecile Brown Whittemore, of Salisbury, Connecticut.

Services were held at Zion Episcopal Church in Manchester Center, Vermont on Friday, February 4, 2011. Donations in his memory may be sent to Episcopal Relief & Development, PO Box 7058, Merrifield, VA 22116-7058, or www.er-d.org.

Stewart Wood appointed to Civil Rights Advisory Committee

The Rt. Rev. Stewart Wood, retired Bishop of Michigan, resident of Quechee and active participant in the life of St. Paul’s, White River Junction, has been appointed to a two-year term on the Vermont State Advisory Committee of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. Chaired by Diane Snelling of Hinesburg, the Committee has 15 members from around the State.

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights is an independent, bipartisan agency charged

with monitoring federal civil rights enforcement. Congress has directed the Commission to establish advisory committees in all states and the District of Columbia to assist in its fact-finding function. They receive reports, suggestions and recommendations from individuals, organizations and public officials and forward advice and recommendations to the Commission. Members of State Advisory Committees serve without compensation. ❖

Consultation on blessings

Continued from Page A

The Commission is to report to the 77th General Convention in 2012 in Indianapolis. It's goals for the consultation were threefold: to inform the deputies about the SCLM's work regarding Resolution C056, to engage them "in theological reflection as a Christian Community" that would provide feedback to the Commission and to equip them "to report to their deputations and engage them in ongoing theological reflection." Ultimately, the General Convention will determine whether to proceed with the Commission's final recommendations.

The SCLM's four Blessings Project task groups address theological resources, liturgical resources, pastoral and teaching resources, and canonical and legal considerations. Each group made a presentation in plenary session, and small group conversations followed all but the presentation on canonical/legal issues. Each of the 15 small groups reflected the diversity of The Episcopal Church. Facilitators and "scribes" ensured that the conversations remained focused and that key points were captured for the continuing work of the task groups.

Planners set the fairly intense 22-hour event in a context of prayer, with a total of five opportunities to worship and sing together, and participants agreed to a "covenant for conversation" designed to encourage respectful listening. The Very Rev. David W.T. Thurlow of South Carolina, who opposes same-gender blessings, said after the consultation that the gathering felt "incarnational," explaining that here "they see that people who have a different viewpoint are human beings to be respected and treated with dignity." The Rev. Shawn Sheiner, deputy from Chicago, told ENS that the consultation process was an opportunity for "really embracing that we can be a body that has some difference of opinion, but do it very amazingly respectfully."

Vermonters participating in the consultation were Bishop Thomas Ely, a member of the SCLM, Chancellor Tom Little, chair of the canonical and legal considerations task group, the Rev. Thad Bennett, co-chair and the Rev. Stan Baker member of the pastoral and teaching resources task group, the Rev. Keri Aubert, Blessings Project manager, Clergy Deputy Reid Farrell and Lay Deputy Anne Brown. Little and Baker are also General Convention deputies.

In presenting the work of the theological resources task group, the Rev. Dr. Jay Johnson explained that they began with the recognition that the Christian life—and there-

fore covenantal relationships—is grounded in the sacrament of baptism and with an understanding of Anglican theological method as rooted in Scripture, attentive to tradition and contextualized to today. Their subsequent reflection led to the articulation of five key theological principles intended to inform the work of all the task groups as they respond to Resolution C056: vocation, households, covenant-making, fruitfulness, and mutual blessing. Their reflection paper may be found at <http://liturgyandmusic.wordpress.com>, along with all the other materials presented at the consultation.

The Rev. Dr. Patrick Malloy described the work of the liturgical resources task group, which has been engaged to date primarily in collecting what proved to be a large quantity of blessing services and other resources. The group developed a series of principles for evaluating liturgical materials and is clear that any liturgical resources proposed for blessing same-gender relationships "must above all be consistent with the implicit theology and ecclesiology of the 1979 Book of Common Prayer." And, reflecting the theological principles, the group states that, "The rites should give expression to the Church's understanding that the couple is freely assuming a vocation, which can be expected to yield the fruits of mutual fidelity for the couple itself, for the Church, and for the entire world, pointing ultimately toward the fulfillment of all human relationships and unity in the eschatological Reign of God, when God will be all-in-all."

Malloy invited the small groups to use the principles presented to review an outline for a service of blessing that is informed by the order of service for baptism, with the liturgy of the Word preceding the vows prayers and blessing of the couple, followed by Eucharist.

The Reverends Thad Bennett and Susan Russell outlined the work of the pastoral and teaching resources group, including the results of a Survey Monkey instrument that garnered over a thousand responses from all parts of the Church. The resources being prepared are designed to inform congregational discernment processes, to help those not interested in offering rites of blessing understand why others do want such resources, and to assist clergy in counseling same-gender couples. They asked small groups to respond to a series of questions regarding a proposed brochure explaining the SCLM's response to C056.

Finally, Vermont Chancellor Tom Little shared the findings of the canons and legal considerations group, who looked at questions such as whether laws like the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) or other state

laws affect the Church regarding blessings, and whether a decision to provide blessing rites would require changes to the Canons of The Episcopal Church. Little explained that the first amendment of the Constitution protects churches so long as they are blessing relationships and not purporting to legally marry couples otherwise not eligible for civil marriage. And, if the rites proposed are offered for trial use and not intended to affect the canons on marriage or the BCP marriage rite, there is no need for canonical changes.

Nine deputies spoke to the consultation's final session on March 19 about how they planned to use their experience when they returned home. Athena Hahn, Diocese of Southern Virginia, echoed an often-expressed plan to ask people with whom she talks "to just be open and think about this and reflect about this as we have for the last two days."

Anderson told the deputies in her concluding remarks, "We don't agree on every single word and every single approach and on all of the theology. Some deputies didn't

agree on C056. They said so then and they say so now and that's okay."

"Some of us did agree and we have moved together in a common rhythm," she said. "We have learned from each other and it reinforces the fact that we are the holy people of God brought together by God in holy and Christian community."

Bishop Ely said during a post-consultation press conference that if the participating deputies carry through on their promises to engage their deputy colleagues in such a process between now and the 2012 convention, "the General Convention is going to benefit so much from that engagement."

The plenary presentations and post-consultation press conference were webcast live and are archived at www.episcopalchurch.org/live/sclm. All the resources presented are available at <http://liturgyandmusic.wordpress.com>. Questions and additional resources are welcome and may be sent to sclm@episcopalchurch.org.

Mary Frances Schjonberg's article for Episcopal News Service contributed to this article.

Episcopal Relief & Development supporting Anglican Church in Japan

[New York] Episcopal Relief & Development is sending support to the Nippon Sei Ko Kei (NSKK; the Anglican Communion church in Japan) to help with its initial emergency relief efforts in response to the 9.0-magnitude earthquake and resulting tsunami that struck Japan on March 11. This quake was the strongest to hit the country since officials started keeping records over 100 years ago. Adding to the crisis is the situation at the Fukushima nuclear power plants, which prompted the evacuation of more than 180,000 people.

"We are standing by the Church in Japan during this difficult time," said Nagulan Nesiiah, Program Officer for Episcopal Relief & Development. "As you can imagine, the needs are overwhelming and it will take time to assess the best ways to support the Church and Japan as they move toward recovery."

In the affected dioceses of Tohoku and Kita Kanto, the NSKK is working as quickly as they can to collect information and assess needs. So far it has been reported that there are no casualties among clergy, though the Cathedral in Sendai (Diocese of Tohoku) and two churches in the Diocese of Kita Kanto have suffered major damage.

Donations to Episcopal Relief & Development's Japan Earthquake Response Fund (www.er-d.org/donate-select.php) will provide vital support to the NSKK for their immediate work in assessing and respond-

ing to the disaster. In Tohoku, the Church is establishing an emergency relief center at the diocesan building, and leadership at the Provincial level is developing a response structure to organize and support a network of volunteers to carry out the relief and restoration work.

"What we can do is pray," wrote the Most Rev. Nathaniel Makoto Uematsu, Primate of Japan and Bishop of Hokkaido. "Prayer has power. I hope and request that you pray for the people who are affected, for those who have died and for their families. Pray for the people involved with the rescue efforts, and in particular pray for Tohoku and Kita Kanto dioceses."

After the emergency phase, Episcopal Relief & Development will continue to provide additional support as the NSKK assesses its needs and makes longer-term recovery plans. Episcopal Relief & Development has collaborated with the NSKK in the past, through broader regional partnerships to address climate change, peace-building and humanitarian initiatives.

Outside Japan, the effects of the tsunami are widespread. Churches and partners around the Pacific region have been impacted, including those in Hawai'i and on the west coast of the US. Episcopal Relief & Development has been in contact with affected dioceses and is standing by to offer assistance.



Province I environment minister

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environmental stewardship.

These are the types of things Johnson said she will work to identify and share so that other churches in the province will not need to start from scratch.

Johnson's work will include identifying resources for congregations to evaluate their energy use and reduce their energy output; helping congregations to network and share their challenges and successes; supporting collaborative efforts across the province

for training and education; and identifying grants and rebates. She also will work closely with diocesan environment committees, state affiliates of Interfaith Power and Light and other organizations.

Resources and networking opportunities will take place primarily on the Province I website (www.province1.org). Stephanie Johnson may be reached at 203-675-2813, or energysteward@province1.org.

Lynette Wilson is an ENS reporter and editor.

Episcopal village Mission Event

Continued from Page C

ett, Episcopal Church Officer for Church Planting and Ministry Redevelopment, and the Rev. Stephanie Spellers, priest at the Boston cathedral's emergent community, "The Crossing." They responded to several questions put to them, among them being, "If you were a bishop, what might you do to encourage the movement of the Spirit in your Diocese?"

The day was framed by opening and closing worship led by The Crossing community, in whose space we were gathered (www.thecrossingboston.org). Indeed, the

whole day was thus framed by worship, as we began together in the morning with the Crossing's version of the Liturgy of the Word, broke for the keynote address, mission conversations, lunch, afternoon conversations and panels, and then moved right into the Liturgy of the Table. The whole day was "Eucharist," and though we left with many questions, they were all about how we might discern the work of the Spirit in our own communities.

Helen Daly and Mark Genzler are members of St. Michael's, Brattleboro.

Capital Campaign Committee issues updated “case statement”

by Anne Clarke Brown

The 2007 Diocesan Convention authorized a Capital Campaign Discernment Committee to explore the feasibility of a major diocesan-wide fundraising effort to support the common mission and ministry of the Diocese for decades to come. The financial crisis of 2008 delayed that work, but it is now well underway. The Committee made an initial report to the 2010 Diocesan Convention and presented a draft case statement.

After additional work by several committees and “stakeholder” groups, including lay and clergy leaders from around the Diocese, the Discernment Committee has developed a new “Preliminary Capital Campaign Case Statement that lays out the critical financial needs of the Diocese, based on the directions and priorities in the Strategic Plan, as revised in 2010.

This document is part of the continuing study that will lead up to a special Diocesan Convention June 4, 2011, when delegates and clergy will be asked whether or not to proceed with a Capital Campaign. It proposes a campaign spread over five years with a goal of raising \$5,625,000, to be followed by an Endowment Campaign with a goal of raising \$5,500,000.

The first phase includes five critical and intertwined ministries, as well as modest costs of the campaign. In addition to the summary Case Statement, more detailed

documents have been prepared for each of the five ministries. All are available at www.dioceseofvermont.org. Click on “Proposed Capital Campaign Information” for links. The five ministries are:

Spiritual Formation: The campaign would raise \$975,000 to fund a spiritual development initiative and an “Innovation Fund” for grants for congregations to support spiritual development programs, including new and creative ways of discovering God already at work in the larger community.

Earth Stewardship: The campaign would raise \$1,500,000 to establish a “Congregational Energy Efficiency Grant Program for building assessment and improvements.

Communications: The campaign would raise \$500,000 to improve connections among individuals and congregations through publications (print and electronic) and the development of a Spiritual Learning Center.

Rock Point: The campaign would raise \$1,360,000 to meet immediate needs in the areas of building repairs, safety improvements, use of renewable energy sources, establishment of partnerships for long term financial stability and support for program ministries.

Mission Farm: The campaign would raise \$990,000 to protect, update and enhance the buildings for use as a spiritual life center for the southern tier of the diocese.

Vestry Workshop

Continued from Page A

and adapt the plan if necessary. The fourth quarter, when the liturgical calendar leads to celebration, can be a time to give thanks, to be present to Advent, to celebrate and to look ahead to the coming year. Emerson emphasized the importance of communication with the congregation throughout the year, not just about the work accomplished and to be done, but also about insights gained in Bible study.

Emerson concluded the workshop with a discussion of a vestry planning calendar, a tool to flesh out organizational work. It visually outlines tasks and events by month in the areas of parish life, finances, buildings and grounds and personnel. She focused on the financial aspect, because, she said, “I see so much anxiety about money.”

The beginning of the year is, she said, laundry list time. Then lay out all the tasks in a monthly schedule so nothing is a surprise and too many things don’t fall at the same time. Some items are given, such as the deadline for the annual parochial report, the parish audit, and the annual budget. With careful planning, those deadlines can be met without the all too frequent last minute rush. Nancy Voegel, rector at St. Paul’s, White River Junction, Scott Neal, rector at St. James, Arlington, and others affirmed the value of the planning calendar. Voegel said, “Angie worked with us, and this was hugely helpful for us this year.”

Emerson noted that the creation of a calendar that really works for a particular congregation can be a 3–5 year process. The goal is to effectively organize the ministry so there is time for visioning, time to ask, “Where are we going? Where is God calling



Video screen image of the Rev. Angela Emerson during the vestry workshop.

us to be in three years?” She added, “Most of our vestries are so in maintenance mode that we are not creating a vision.” Maintaining the status quo, she said, will not increase giving to the congregation. She concluded by suggesting that vestries not underestimate themselves and that with careful organization much more can be achieved than initially imagined.

The vestry covenant and a sample vestry planning calendar from St. Paul’s, White River Junction, are on the stewardship resources page on the diocesan website. On the home page, click “Stewardship Resources.”

The workshop was 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. ❖

Ministry Expo designed to educate and inspire parish ministries

The Ministry Support Team of the Diocese of Vermont will offer the second annual Ministry Expo with two nearly identical day-long events (8:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.): April 2, at Trinity Church in Shelburne, and April 9 at St. Michael’s Church in Brattleboro. Both events will begin with worship and continue with four sessions of workshops designed to educate and inspire ministry in a wide variety of areas. The Ministry Expo consolidates events formerly spread over several Saturdays during the year. Congregational teams can attend together, experience a variety of learning opportunities, and share their experience and insights when they return home.

Workshops will be offered in two morning and two afternoon sessions. Most will be 75 minutes long, with 15 minutes between sessions. Two in the area of financial stewardship will fill the morning and the afternoon respectively. Planners hope that congregational teams will have the opportunity to experience and share the richness of many ministries. A list of workshops with times is below. Brief workshop descriptions as well as a downloadable brochure can

be found posted on the diocesan website. Follow the link on the home page under “Coming Events.”

On the recommendation of the Earth Stewards Committee, the Ministry Expos will reflect a commitment to “zero-waste.” Containers will be provided for recycling and for organic waste (food scraps & paper napkins) to be composted. Please plan to bring a mug for coffee, tea or water, and lunch in a bag or container with utensils that are reusable and will be taken home. And, please, no bottled water—the very popular stainless steel water bottles will be available for purchase at the Expos.

Please register in advance, using the form posted at www.dioceseofvermont.org. The fee of \$10 for individuals or \$40/parish team up to six people (\$5 for each beyond six) includes morning snacks and coffee/tea. Contact Wendy Grace at Trinity, Rutland, with questions and to register: trinity2@sover.net, or 802-775-4368. Mail registrations and fees to: Ministry Expo 2011, c/o Trinity Church, 85 West St., Rutland, VT 05701, or register ahead and bring the fee to the Expo. ❖

Workshops, Ministry Expo 2011

Financial Stewardship

Endowment Management that Invites More Giving (9:45–12:30)

Presenter: Angela Emerson, Minister of Stewardship Development

“Ask Thank and Tell”: Growing Financial Stewards (1:15–4:00)

Presenters: Angela Emerson, Minister of Stewardship Development; Ken Horseman, Trinity, Shelburne

Diocesan Resources

Communication as the Key to Effective Financial Management in Church Affairs (9:45–11:00)

Presenter: Peter MacLean

Asset Mapping for Your Parish (11:15–12:30)

Presenters: Anne Brown, Diane Root, and others from Church of Our Saviour, Killington

Communicating the Good News of Your Congregation (1:15–2:30)

Presenter: Anne Brown, Communication Minister

New The World Café Discussion Process (2:45–4:00)

Presenter: Karen Speerstra, Christ Church, Bethel

Earth Stewards

Zero-waste, Earth’s Economy and Covenant (9:45–11:00, Shelburne only)

Presenter: Sylvia Knight, St. Paul’s, Burlington

Community Gardening (11:15–12:30, Brattleboro only)

Presenters: Jordan Schell-Lambert and others from St. Peter’s, Bennington

Faith Community Composting (11:15–12:30 at Shelburne; 9:45–11:00 at Brattleboro)

Presenters: Lisa Ransom, Susan Pillsbury, and Bob Wertz

What Is a Parish Environmental Plan? (1:15–2:30)

Presenters: members of the Earth Stewards Committee

Ecology & Spirituality: The Universe Story (2:45–4:00)

Presenter: Bob Wertz, Earth Stewardship chairperson

Pot Pourri

The Influence of Welsh Music in American Hymnals (9:45–11:00, Shelburne only)

Presenter: James P. Cassarino, music director, Trinity Church, Rutland

Festival Liturgy for Beginners (9:45–12:30, Brattleboro only)

Presenter: Peter Walker, Walker Pipe Organs

Grounding Vestry in Prayer (11:15–12:30, Shelburne only)

Presenters: the Rev. Paul Brannock-Wanter and vestry members of St. Luke’s, Chester

Forgiveness 101: What it is, how to do it (11:15–12:30, Brattleboro only)

Presenter: Jane Wolf

Daughters of the King: Being a Daughter (1:15–2:30)

Presenter: Donna Abramov, Province 1 President of Daughters of the King

Baptismal Ministry and Models of Leadership in Congregations (2:45–4:00)

Presenter: Susan Ohlidal, Canon for Ministry Development

More Coming Events

Arts at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul

2 Cherry Street, Burlington, Vermont

J.S. Bach, St. John Passion

Oriana Singers, William Metcalfe, Conductor

Sunday May 8, 4:00 p.m.

The performance features an orchestra of period instruments led by Scott Metcalfe. Soloists include Mark Sprinkle (evangelist), Jane Snyder, Linda Radtke, Gary Moreau, Vincent Pelletier (Jesus) and Steven Falbel (Pilate). The *St. John Passion (BWV 245)* is a dramatic representation of the Passion of Christ, as told in the Gospel according to St. John. Bach composed it for a Good Friday vespers service (1724). Admission: \$25; student / seniors \$20.

Steinway 'B' (1927) meets the Elegant Erard (1877)

Elaine Greenfield and Janice Meyer Thompson, pianists

Friday May 20, 7:30 p.m.

A celebration of the release of "The Transcontinental Piano Duo's" new CD recording, *French Four-Hands with the Elegant Erard (1877)*. Recording engineer Christopher Greenleaf joins the Duo, providing recorded excerpts that illustrate the vivid contrast between live performance on the Cathedral's modern grand piano and the historic Erard grand piano of the recording. Music of Debussy, Bizet, Ravel, and Fauré. Admission: \$20; student / seniors \$15; age 15 and younger free.

Piano Master Class

Sat. May 21, 9:30-Noon.

A master class with Janice Meyer Thompson, co-sponsored by Cathedral Arts and Greenfield Piano Associates. Free and open to the public.

Evening Prayer in the Manner of Taizé

Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Burlington

Monday, April 18, 7:30 p.m.

The special service on Monday of Holy Week will include a meditation led by the Rt. Rev. Chilton Knudsen, retired bishop of Maine.

Stone Church Arts

Immanuel Episcopal Church, 20 Church Street, Bellows Falls

Tickets for most Stone Church Arts Concerts are \$17 (\$13 seniors and children under 12) in advance and \$20 (\$15) at the door. They may be purchased online at www.battleborotix.com. Call 802-463-3100 for information, or visit www.immanuelepisopal.org/StoneChurchArts.html.

Eugene Friesen and Friends

Saturday, April 9, 7:30 p.m.

Once again, Friesen, Vermont-based cellist and composer and music director of Stone Church Arts, brings world class musicians to Bellows Falls for a jazz/world music concert the likes of which are normally only seen in big cities such as NYC or Boston. Friesen is active as a soloist and educator and is on the faculty of the Berklee College of Music in Boston. His CD "In the Shade of Angels" (recorded in Immanuel Church) is on sale to benefit Stone Church Arts.

Second Annual Open House

Rock Point Summer Camp

Sunday, May 15, 1-5 p.m.

This is a great opportunity to take a walking tour of Rock Point and to meet summer staff and volunteers. And then join in special camp activities and a traditional camp barbecue. Camp brochures and information are at www.rockpointcenter.org, or contact RPSC Director Jenny Ogelby, jenloring52@yahoo.com.

Sewanee Church Music Conference

Sewanee and Monteagle, Tennessee

Monday, July 11 – Sunday, July 17, 2011

The annual conference for church musicians and choir members, now in its 61st year, features a distinguished music faculty and lectures by the Rev. Barbara Cawthorne Crafton and the Rev. Dr. Susanna Metz. The registration fee is \$250, and accommodations and meals are available with rates depending on location. For more information and brochure with registration form, visit www.sewaneeconf.com, or contact Janet Perkins, 770-498-1678; janet@wingwing.com.

Training for a Safer Church 2011

May 21, 2011

Trinity Church, Rutland

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/SaferChurch.html.

Cristosal to sponsor Base Community Summit at BBCC

[Fundación Cristosal] The 2011 Base Community Summit planned for the Bishop Booth Conference Center (BBCC), Rock Point, Burlington, May 27-30, is intended to seed solid leadership from North America to help promote and grow Fundación Cristosal and its vision of mission work in El Salvador.

The Memorial Day weekend summit will combine workshops and guest speakers such as the founding director, the Rev. Richard Bower, El Salvador Bishop Martín Barahona, and Executive Director Noah Bullock. There will be time for reflection and recreation as well as presentations about new projects and initiatives like Romero Sunday, the Alternative Break Program, and the online social network.

Base communities first emerged Latin America in the 1970s as small groups of peasants and urban poor that met to read the Bible and share the conditions of their lives in the light of the Gospel. In these groups, people learned to analyze their reality, identify the causes of poverty and oppression, and advocate for justice and the well-being of their communities. They became agents of their own liberation, because the initiative and the empowerment came from the base of the community and not from above.

Fundación Cristosal is organizing regional chapters or Cristosal Base Communities (CBC) across North America. The base model of organizing will channel the energy and passion of North Americans who deeply care for El Salvador, share the mutually transformative experience of accompanying the Salvadoran people, and organize Cristosal's support base to have a greater impact in its shared mission with the Episcopal Church of El Salvador for peace, justice and inclusion.

The summit will be an opportunity for people who work with Cristosal and care deeply for El Salvador to meet face to face, share experiences, and build a strategy to make a greater impact together.

Accommodations at the BBCC begin on Friday May 27, with a dinner reception and extend until breakfast on Monday morning. The conference itself will begin Saturday at 9:00 a.m. and conclude on Sunday at 12:00 p.m. Accommodations include, lodging, food, and conference facilities. The cost for three nights is \$371 (single room); \$281 (double room); and \$251 (quad).

Registration forms and more information are available at www.cristosal.org. Cristosal was founded in Vermont in the 1990s to support the work of the Anglican Episcopal Church in El Salvador. ✚

Mediation skills training offered

Leaders in all walks of life often have a responsibility to help others work through their conflicts. The Lombard Mennonite Peace Center (www.LMPeaceCenter.org) is offering its Mediation Skills Training Institute for Church Leaders on May 2-6, 2011 in Manchester, New Hampshire.

The Institute is designed to equip church leaders with the skills necessary to deal effectively with interpersonal, congregational, and other forms of group conflict. The five-day institute also includes a component on congregational intervention and consultation, placed within the context of family systems theory.

Although focused primarily on the church setting, the skills learned are directly transferable to other settings. Thus, not only clergy and lay leaders, but also managers in business, attorneys, experienced mediators and others in leadership will be enriched by the training, gaining skills in a transforma-

tional model of mediation.

Members of the diocesan Ministry Support Team and several of the Companions have attended the Lombard training and found it to be very valuable. Tuition is \$695 when paid by April 4, or \$770 after April 4. Participants receive a training manual and other materials upon arrival. Cancellations are subject to a \$75 non-refundable fee if LMPC is notified at least two weeks prior to the institute, or half of the registration fee otherwise. Enrollment is limited, so register early. Visit www.LMPeaceCenter.org for more information and to download a registration form.

Daily refreshments and lunches on Monday and Friday are included. Participants will need to arrange for their own lodging and the other meals. Lodging options, directions, and a registrant list will be sent with confirmation of registration, after the pre-registration deadline. ✚

Webinars explain planned giving

[ECF] As part of the Episcopal Church Foundation's (ECF) on-going effort to educate Episcopal leaders about planned giving, ECF will be offering several webinars on the basics of planned giving, the first on April 13, 2011, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Setting Up a Planned Giving Program for Your Parish takes the mystery out of planned giving. Learn how planned giving differs from annual stewardship and capital campaigns, and how a parish can build endowment through wills and life income gifts. Participants will learn about the different types of planned gifts, as well as about the importance of parish vision, protecting and growing the endowment, and how to invite

others to remember the parish through estate and financial planning. They will leave the webinar with a plan of action.

This webinar is being offered at no cost and is available to lay and clergy leaders who want to implement or revitalize a planned giving program. All that is needed to participate is a computer (PC or Mac) with an internet connection and telephone. Pre-registration is required. In addition to April 13, the Webinar will also be offered July 20 and October 19, 2011, both from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

To learn more and to register, visit www.episcopalfoundation.org or email jmurphy@episcopalfoundation.org. ✚

New candelabra grace St. Thomas Church in Brandon



Pete Orvis Image

Gus Fjeld lights the new candelabra along the center aisle in St. Thomas, Brandon. St. Thomas & Grace parishioner and master carpenter Bud Austin made the candelabra as well as two moveable lecterns that enable Priest-in-Partnership Margo Fletcher to preach from the nave floor.

Good Friday offering assists Jerusalem and Middle East

[The Episcopal Church Office of Public Affairs] The Good Friday offering to assist churches in Jerusalem and the Middle East is an 89-year tradition in The Episcopal Church. Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori has sent a letter to all congregations asking for their continued support.

The Good Friday offering, the Presiding Bishop writes, "offers us the opportunity to join in deepening the bond we have with the churches and people in the land of the Holy One."

Funds collected on Good Friday are gathered and distributed to the Diocese

of Jerusalem and Cyprus and the Gulf, all members of the Anglican Communion.

Projects assisted include a home for seniors, clinics and medical ministries, a vocational school and educational scholarships, housing for young Christian couples and ministry to seafarers.

Resources for understanding and implementing the Good Friday offering in local congregations are available at www.episcopalchurch.org/gfo. For more information contact the Rev. David Copley, Episcopal Church Mission Personnel Officer and Team Leader, dcopley@episcopalchurch.org. ❖

Bishop Ian Douglas to speak at New England global mission conference

The Rt. Rev. Ian T. Douglas, Bishop of Connecticut and former professor of global mission at Episcopal Divinity School, will give the keynote address at "From Called to Sent: Finding Your Way into Global Mission."

Planned for May 19-21, at the Marist House in Framingham, Massachusetts, the conference is for all interested in global mission, particularly those who have felt called to go somewhere in mission and want to learn how to follow that call. It is sponsored by the Global Episcopal Mission Network (GEMN) and The Episcopal Church Center.

In addition to time for networking and connecting, the program will include sessions such as:

- Our Part in God's Mission: Historical and Biblical Roots
- Am I the Mission Type?
- Culture Shock
- Spiritual Health 101
- Physical Health
- Security: Mission in a Broken World
- Mission Finances

Communication Technologies and Mission

Registration information was not available at press time but should be posted soon at www.gemn.org. A link is on the Coming Events page, www.dioceseofvermont.org. ❖

Everyone, Everywhere 2011

The 2011 global mission conference, "Where is Your Place in Mission?" will be October 13-16, 2011, at the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park, Colorado. Welcoming everyone, everywhere, the conference is for individuals, congregations, dioceses, and groups active in the global and domestic mission of the Episcopal Church.

Register early and save. Visit <http://events.SignUp4.com/everyoneeverywhere2011> for cost and accommodation details.

For more information visit www.episcopalchurch.org/ee11.htm, or contact ee2011@episcopalchurch.org. ❖

St. Peter's, Lyndonville, hosts tribute to Jonathan Myrick Daniels

by Anne Clarke Brown

"Freedom: A Constant Struggle," featuring Ruby Nell Sales, is a three-day community event, April 2-4, in Lyndonville that will celebrate the life and witness of Jonathan Myrick Daniels. Hosted by St. Peter's, Lyndonville, assisted by an Initiative II grant (see Page H) and the branchlead of the Rev. Jeanette McKnight, the event has grown to involve a number of community organizations.

Jonathan Myrick Daniels, an Episcopal seminarian and civil rights worker, was the grandson of Cora and Martin Daniels, who lived on South Street in Lyndonville. He was martyred in 1965 in Hayneville, Alabama, when shot by a deputy sheriff after pushing Sales, an African-American teen, out of the way of the bullet intended for her.

Sales, who accepted McKnight's invitation to come to Lyndonville to participate in the tribute to Daniels, is a recent graduate of Daniels's seminary, Episcopal Divinity School (EDS) in Cambridge Massachusetts. She is founder and co-director of The SpiritHouse Project, a national organization headquartered in Columbus, Georgia, that uses the arts, research, education, action, and spirituality to bring diverse peoples together to work for racial, economic, and social justice, as well as for spiritual maturity.

The celebration, which is free and open to the public, begins on Saturday evening, April 2, from 7-9 p.m. in the Lyndon Institute Auditorium, with Sales delivering the



Ruby Nell Sales

keynote address. Former Freedom Riders from the 1960s will be in attendance and will be recognized for their sacrifices and good works. Other speakers will include classmates of Daniels from EDS.

The weekend's events will continue with the Holy Eucharist on Sunday morning at St. Peter's, Lyndonville (51 Elm St.), at 10:00 a.m. Bishop Thomas C. Ely will preside, and Sales will preach.

On Sunday, April 3, at 4:40 p.m., St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church (642 Hill St., Lyndonville), will offer Evensong, followed by a reception for Ruby Sales. On Monday, Sales will speak to students of area middle schools. This is not a public event.

Accompanying Sales during the various events will be an icon of Jonathan Daniels commissioned by St. Andrew's Church in Birmingham, Alabama, and loaned to St. Peter's for the weekend. According to St. Andrew's Senior Warden Melanie Atha, the icon is always part of the annual procession and tribute to Daniels in August in the Diocese of Alabama. She said, "Everyone here is praying for a wonderful pilgrimage for our icon, and for a blessed celebration for all of you. Thank you for including us in this wonderful tribute to our shared martyr!"

For more information, please contact the Rev. Jeannette McKnight at 626-5075 or at arachnibane@yahoo.com. A poster for the event may be downloaded at www.dioceseofvermont.org/ComingEvents/ComingEvents.html. ❖

Video series features healthy congregational practices

[TEC Office of Public Affairs] "Transforming Churches, Changing the World" is a new video project intended to present identifying characteristics of healthy churches according to the Rev. Bob Honeychurch, Episcopal Church Officer for Congregational Vitality.

With a focus on ministry and outreach, Honeychurch noted that in the series, "we are intentional about identifying characteristics of Episcopal congregations across the church, which have demonstrated a hands-on approach to being more accessible to the wide community. They have a sense of themselves that is so compelling to non-church members that it appeals to that ministry."

Honeychurch believes the series will be used as a learning tool. "This series will be a cornerstone for congregations of all sizes to learn what impact they can make in the lives of their community."

The first two of five videos, now available at www.episcopalchurch.org/vitality, focus on Christ Church in center city Philadelphia, PA, about which Honeychurch says, "This is a parish that is deeply committed to its neighborhood on all levels," and Trinity Cathedral in Phoenix, Arizona, which, says Honeychurch, has "led the way toward urban renewal in downtown Phoenix."

A new video in the series will be presented each month through May 2011. ❖

ECVA calls for entries for online exhibition

Episcopal Church and Visual Arts (ECVA, www.ecva.org) invites ECVA artists (members of The Artists Registry @ ECVA) to submit their newest favorite or "best" work for "Open Studio 2011," an online exhibition that will run this spring. Artists may submit one image that has not been shown in previous ECVA exhibitions.

Learn about ECVA, join The Artists Registry, view previous online exhibitions and/or obtain an entry form at www.ecva.org.

The deadline for entries is April 17, 2011. The image must be in either GIF or JPEG file format and sized so that it is at least 600 pixels on the shortest side when displayed at a resolution of 72 pixels-per-inch. Send it attached to an email to ecvaexhibitions@gmail.com, with the subject line, "Open Studio 2011, your name." An image commentary of no more than 150 words may be included.

Send questions to editor@ecva.org.

Diocesan Calendar

April 2011

- 1-2 Deacon's Council Retreat, Mission Farm, Killington
- 2 Ministry Expo, Trinity, Shelburne, 8:30 am-4 pm
- 5 Fresh Start for Clergy, 9:30 am-2:30 pm
- 9 Ministry Expo, St. Michael's, Brattleboro, 8:30 am-4 pm
- 13 Dispatch of Business, Diocesan Office, 1-3 pm
- 17 Palm Sunday
- 19 Holy Tuesday Clergy Day, St. Paul's, Burlington
- 19 Rock Point Board Program, Diocesan Office, 3-5 pm
- 22 Diocesan Office closed for Good Friday
- 24 Easter Sunday

May 2011

- 3 Fresh Start for Clergy, 9:30 am-2:30 pm
- 4 Dispatch of Business, Diocesan Office, 1-3 pm
- 14 Diocesan Council, Trinity, Rutland, 10 am-2 pm
- 17 Rock Point Board Program, Diocesan Office, 3-5 pm
- 21 Safer Church Training, Trinity, Rutland, 8:45 am-3 pm
- 24 Rock Point Board, Diocesan Office, 3-5 pm
- 25 Dispatch of Business, St. Paul's, Burlington, 1-3 pm
- 30 Diocesan Office closed for Memorial Day



Rock Point Summer Camp 2011

Register Now

Elementary Camp ✨ June 27-July 1

Day Camp ✨ July 5-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

A new opportunity. Please email director if interested.

Please contact Jennifer Ogelby, Summer Camp Director at jenlorning52@yahoo.com to volunteer or ask questions.

Register by April 1st to receive an early bird discount. Forms and 2011 brochures are available on the Rock Point website, www.rockpointcenter.org.

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 January 15, 2010

Initiative I		
The Bishop Butterfield Revolving Loan Fund	\$	762,317
Initiative II		
The Talent and Resource Network	\$	25,469
Initiative III		
The Congregation Renewal and Emergency Assistance Fund	\$	16,206
Initiative IV		
The Diocesan Outreach Fund	\$	12,485
Walter P. Irish Fund		
Assistance for churches in small communities	\$	40,568

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.

CS&R Committee awards grants



Members of the Congregational Support and Resources Committee (seated: Lynn Bates, Steve Smith, Winnie Grace, Don Crofut and Dorothy Wooten) met on Valentine's Day and enjoyed a surprise serenade by singers from Maiden Vermont. The group had a fund raiser event of sending singing Valentine grams to folks in the Middlebury area. Winnie Grace, whose daughter Wendy Grace (standing, third from left) sings with the group, said, "I knew about the fund raiser so thought it would be great fun to send a singing gram to our Committee Meeting."

The Congregational Support and Resources Committee (CS&R) announced after its February 14 meeting at St. Stephen's, Middlebury, the awarding of six grants, five from Initiative II of the McClure Discipleship Discovery 2000 Fund, and one from the Walter P. Irish Fund for assistance to churches in small communities.

Talent and Resource Network (Initiative II) grants:

- Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Burlington, \$3,900 to support sabbatical projects for Cannon Mark Howe.
- St. Peter's, Lyndonville, \$5,000 to subsidize the week-end civil rights tribute to Jonathan Myrick Daniels (see Page G).
- Diocesan Stewardship Ministry, \$1,746 to assist representatives of four congregations attend the Northeast Ecumenical Stewardship Conference.



Angel Sunday for Rock Point Summer Camp Scholarships is April 3

by Jenny Ogelby

Rock Point Summer Camp (RPSC) invites congregations to celebrate Angel Sunday on April 3, by making contributions to the Angel Fund scholarship program.

Each Summer, children ages 6-18 come to RPSC from across the Diocese of Vermont to experience a resident camping program based on a sense of God's presence, the beauty of creation and restoration of body and spirit in a unique natural environment. In addition to the spiritual program, the camp offers a wide variety of traditional camp activities such as music, swimming, games, sports and creative arts. With strong leadership, campers develop independence, consideration and cooperation while having fun and reaffirming their relationship with each other and with God.

Unfortunately, not all of those interested in attending camp are able to do so. A full week at camp costs

- St. Michael's, Brattleboro, \$129 to attend the "Getting Things Done" program.
- St. James, Woodstock, \$1,000 to help subsidize the cost of the Summer Liturgy Festival.

An Irish Fund grant of \$4,500 was awarded to Church of Our Saviour, Killington, for replacing the roof on the guest house (Heminway House).

In addition, the committee approved four grant accountings.

CS&R has responsibility for awarding grants from Initiatives II and III of the McClure Discipleship-Discovery 2000 Fund and from the Walter P. Irish Fund. Applications are considered four times per year and should be submitted to the diocesan office. Application forms and descriptions of the funds are on the diocesan website. Click the "Organizations" button on the left and then the committee name.



\$410 and is beyond the financial means of many. The Rock Point Board and the Diocese are committed to seeing that all interested campers are able to attend, but available scholarship funds continue to diminish.

Congregations and individuals can help by making a contribution to the Angel Fund and encouraging others to do the same. Send checks to RPSC, 20 Rock Point Circle, Burlington, VT 05408.

For information, contact RPSC Director Jenny Ogelby at jenlorning52@yahoo.com. ✨

St. Stephen's, Middlebury, seeks organist, youth and family minister

St. Stephen's, Middlebury (www.ststephens-midd.org), has open part-time positions for an organist and a youth and family minister. The organist will work with the choir director on the music program. The youth and family minister will work with families on developing the Sunday School program and coordinating family liturgies as well as organizing family events.

For information, contact the Rev. Terry Gleeson, rector, at 802-388-7200, or tpgleeson@gmail.com.

Evensong in the style of Taizé

St. Andrew's, 1063 Primm Road, Colchester
Second Sunday of the month, 6:30 p.m.

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

Maine Episcopal church seeks organist/choir director

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Brunswick, Maine (www.stpaulsmaine.org), is accepting applications for organist and/or choir director. Candidates should have a strong musical background and be familiar with Anglican musical tradition. Send a cover letter and resumé to St. Paul's Episcopal Church, P. O. Box 195, Brunswick, ME 04011, Attn: Leslie Brancart. E-mail submissions should be sent to stpauls@stpaulsmaine.org. "Attn. Choir Search Committee" should appear on the subject line.