

THE JOURNAL OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MARYLAND

MARYLAND CHURCH NEWS

SUMMER 2011

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O God, in the course of this busy life, give us times of refreshment and peace; and grant that we may so use our leisure to rebuild our bodies and renew our minds, that our spirits may be opened to the goodness of your creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen. (BCP, p. 825)*

All God's Peeps Diorama Contest

The winners of the 2011 All God's Peeps Diorama contest. The theme of this year's contest was Proclamation, from the Horizons 2015 Priorities.

Bishops' Choice, First Place

Love One Another
Luke Norato (age 6)
and Debra R. Boender
St. Peter's Church,
Ellicott City



"I give you a new commandment: love one another; as I have loved you, so you are to love one another. If there is this love among you, then all will know that you are my disciples."
Jn 13: 34-35

This scene depicts Jesus (purple peep and halo) stripped with a towel wrapped around him, holding a towel and sponge with a basin of water at his feet, washing the feet of his disciples. Notice the intricate detail of the Passover feast.

Bishops' Choice Second Place

Feeding the 5,000 PEEPS
St. Thomas' Church, Hancock,
Pre-K-3 Sunday school class

This is a rendition of the miracle of the loaves and fishes with Jesus represented by the bunny with the robe on in the center of the picture. The basket in front of him is made from a marshmallow rope, and it contains peep loaves, and Swedish fish. Not all 5,000 fit in there, but there are many, even above, on the "mountain side."



Winner Group Effort

He Has Risen
St. John's Parish, Hagerstown
Primary Sunday school class

"He is not here; He has risen from the dead." Lk 24:6

The women found the stone rolled away from the tomb. The purple Peep Jesus actually rises from the tomb!



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The Episcopal Church

THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION is a global community of 77 million Anglicans in 38 member churches/provinces (<http://anglicancommunion.org>). *The Most Rev. Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury.*

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH is a community of 2.4 million members in 100 nationwide dioceses, 10 overseas dioceses and six extra-provincial territories (<http://episcopalchurch.org>). *The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, Presiding Bishop.*

THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MARYLAND is a Christian community of 22,000 households in 113 congregations covering 10 counties and Baltimore City (episcopalmaryland.org). *The Rt. Rev. Eugene Taylor Sutton, Bishop of Maryland; The Rt. Rev. Joe Goodwin Burnett, Assistant Bishop of Maryland.*

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ON THE COVER: Bishop Claggett Center's Special Challenge Camp, a week of summer camp for high-functioning, developmentally delayed adults. Photo: Donna Kerner.

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Sharon Tillman, *Editor*

Val & Don Hymes, *Contributing Editors*

Jason Hoffman, *Photo Editor*

Convention Confronts Future

BY VAL HYMES

The 227th Convention – a giant family reunion of more than 500 members – stepped boldly into the future May 12-14 at the Hunt Valley Marriott north of Baltimore.

FOR THE FIRST TIME, it folded its work and worship over into the Christian Formation Festival at St. Paul’s School on the same weekend.

For the first time, it expanded the combined workshops into all phases of Christian formation, not only of education, but also of church, family, work and spiritual life.

For the first time, it put into action and words the 2015 Horizon goals of Proclamation, Evangelism, Action, Christian Formation and Education.

The five task forces demonstrated in unusual ways – skits, parables, videos – the need for attention to those priorities in the church...

In one of the more dramatic moments of the convention, three members of the Action Task Force stood to tell true stories about a nephew with multiple sclerosis and no health insurance; a father who is jobless facing foreclosure, and a gay son who has a partner of 18 years but has no legal rights as a couple. In each case, the question was asked, “Where is the church?” The answer: “The church is not there.” The convention attendees were asked to stand if they know someone facing those troubles. Hundreds stood in each case, the majority for the foreclosure story.

“Look around you and see what needs to be done,” said the Rev. Betsy Van Auken, Action Task Force co-chair. “We ask, ‘Where is the church?’”

The convention began on Thursday evening after a buffet dinner with elections (see box) and Compline. It resumed Friday morning with the Eucharist and a homily by new Assistant

Bishop Joe Goodwin Burnett, who comes to Maryland to serve as “an experienced diocesan bishop until I get my sea legs,” said Bishop Eugene T. Sutton.



PHOTO: VAL HYMES

Voting at Convention.

The former Bishop of Nebraska is a former professor of theology, father to three sons, and a musician married to a musician. His homily focused on women in scripture who persevered against many odds and on the Gospel of the feeding of the 5,000.

“We of the Episcopal Church are uniquely gifted and uniquely poised,” he said, “to offer freedom to a broken world. Horizons 2015 can help us embrace the hungry multitudes ... and do something. We can do it—one day, one church, one group, one priority, one person at a time.”

The elections went smoothly as did debate over the resolutions (see box). The Rev. Scott Bellows was elected head of the diocesan deputation to General Convention in 2012 and history was made when the Rev. Madeleine Beard became the first deacon elected to the deputation.

The tellers from parish youth groups led by the Rev. Wes Wubbenhorst made the elections hop and sold T-shirts to help fund a trip to the Episcopal Youth Event in Minnesota.

The bishops ate breakfast with the youth tellers Friday morning and, joined by Bishops Sutton and Burnett, “rocked” at a Young Adult Festival Friday evening with the Fantastic Steam Orchestra and the House Band of All Saints’ Church, Sunderland.

Two of the first orders of Convention business were to announce the winners of the PEEPS® contest and recipients of the \$1.6 million collected for 59 projects in the United Thank Offering.

The Rev. Canon Angela Shepherd of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission urged parishes to search their histories for the impact of slavery and racism and to take part



PHOTO: SHARON TILLMAN

Tellers have lunch with the Oriole Bird.



PHOTO: VAL HYMES

The procession enters the ballroom at the Hunt Valley Marriott for Eucharist on Friday morning May 13. Bishop Sutton was the celebrant and Bishop Burnett was the preacher.

in the “conversations” scheduled around the diocese or at churches. “Some of our parishes were built by slaves,” she said.

Some bad news for mainline denomina-

tions came in an address by Dr. Mark Chaves, director of the National Congregations Study. “Any minute now,” he said, “Protestants will become not a majority.” The good news, he said, is that America is becoming “more accepting and appreciative of religious diversity.”

In his diocesan address, Bishop Sutton said “There are risks one cannot afford not to take.” He told how his parents left poverty and “virulent racial segregation” in the South to come to Washington D.C. with nothing but their faith. They succeeded, he said, and so can the church despite “an increasingly secularized society that is indifferent or even hostile to organized religion.”

“Every parish in this diocese will be called upon to risk, but we will succeed,” he said, because “We have asked of us something great. We are no longer settling for the status quo... We have chosen things that matter”

Celebrate with us!

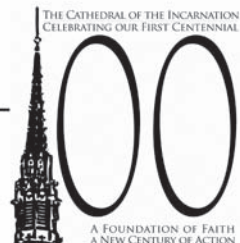
Save the date for these special events!

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| July-August | On The Same Page—Community Book Groups reading "Not in my Neighborhood" by Antero Pietila* |
| October 2
10am | Dedication of the Gardner Peace Chapel
Bishop A. Theodore Eastman, Celebrant
Dean Emeritus Van H. Gardner, Preacher |
| November 10-11
All Day | The Shaia/McLaren/Tutu Conference
A Conversation on the Future of Church |
| November 13
8am, 10:30am | Bishop Eugene Taylor Sutton Visitation
On the Future of Church |

Watch the website for more details.
*Call 410-467-3750 to join a group.

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Behind the Scenes at Convention

BY THE REV. CANON SCOTT SLATER

I ATTENDED MY 11TH ANNUAL CONVENTION in the Diocese of Maryland May 12-14, but it was my first up on the dais. The setting at the Hunt Valley Marriott was quite familiar, but I saw a much different side of things than the previous 10 years when I was simply a clergy delegate.

What an amazing amount of planning, meeting, scheduling, printing, e-mailing and delegating goes into Convention, beginning more than a year in advance. Last year, I had just accepted Bishop Sutton's invitation to step into the "running shoes" of the Rev. Canon Mary Glasspool as she concluded her last Convention with us before her consecration as Bishop Suffragan in the Diocese of Los Angeles. The image of running shoes is most appropriate! I watched last year as Mary dashed around during Convention, up and down the dais, and popping over to the microphone on the podium time and time again. I thought, "That will be me next year. Pay attention!"

And so I did. I watched. I listened. I jotted notes. And as I moved into my new role last summer and attended my first Convention planning meeting in the fall, I was immediately impressed by the volume of thoughtful preparatory work beforehand by a group of people with many and varied gifts. The Convention planning team, co-chaired by the Rev. Adrien Dawson and Mr. Mark Garcia, met monthly to go over plans for liturgy, schedule, theme, exhibits, budget, logistics and deadlines. We boldly ventured into a completely new schedule with two locations and three workshop sessions featuring nearly 80 workshops. It feels like preparing a cruise ship for its maiden voyage, making sure everything was in place for a smooth sail.

When the week of Convention rolled around, the diocesan staff went into full-court press preparing the last-minute details to make the arrival and check-in as smooth as possible. It was exciting and rewarding for me to watch all the pieces fall into place, to learn the "secret passageway" behind the ballroom, to wear and use my "power pin" (a pink lapel pin that designated me as one of the planning team members that the Marriott wait staff could take orders from—such as to adjust the room tem-

perature), and to do my share of dashing up and down the dais and to and from the microphone.

Things ran as smoothly as I could have hoped for. The six infomercials and workshops captured the essence and efforts of the Horizons 2015 priorities as we begin living into them. We received many positive comments about the Convention, including many who were delighted at how much they carried away from the workshop experience. I am additionally grateful for how accommodating the Hunt Valley Marriott and St. Paul's School were with the unknown challenges of trying things in a new way.

Am I ready for next year's Convention? Absolutely not. We begin anew to plan, to dream, to prepare to gather once again next spring as the leadership of the diocese to steer our ship onward toward a new horizon.

The Rev. Scott Slater is the canon to the ordinary for the Diocese of Maryland, 800-443-1399, 410-467-1399, sslater@EpiscopalMaryland.org.



Canon Scott Slater

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'Called upon to risk'

We all know stories of important people who took big risks to achieve greatness in life. It is easy to recall the stories of the rich and famous when commending the taking of risks, but what about the rest of us? Let me tell you a story about some special people in my life who taught me a thing or two about risking everything.



MY PARENTS, JAMES AND ALEEN SUTTON, migrated from the poverty and virulent racial segregation of rural North Carolina to Washington, D.C., in 1951, searching for a way to live their lives in dignity despite their dark skin. They came to that city with *nothing*. Well, they did have one thing: *faith* – faith in God, faith in themselves, and faith that if they risked everything that they had to seek a better life for themselves and their children here, then something good would happen.

So with little money, little formal education, and zero connections in the nation's capital, they worked and prayed and saved and invested their energies to succeed in business and in government service. They raised my brother and me to do the same in our own way. Their values are my values. They have been incredible role models for me in how to live this life, and while not rich or famous in the world's terms, they are the most successful people I know. There were many rough times for them, I know, but in those moments at their darkest hours, I know that our Lord came to them in the middle of many fearful nights, consoling them, "Do not fear. Trust in me, do the right thing. Things will be okay." And my parents prevailed.

Now, why am I telling you all this? Two reasons. First, as you are aware, this is a very tenuous time for all of the mainline Christian denominations in America, all of which are struggling to survive in an increasingly secularized society that is indifferent or even hostile to organized religion. Despite the fact that about a third of the churches in the Episcopal Church and in our diocese have grown in the last five years, the larger reality is that the vast majority of churches in America have declined – and some of them significantly in the last 25 years.

The second reason I tell you my parents' story is that it points out the power of *choosing something great*. For it is demonstrably true from the data that when churches as well as individuals take the risk of charting a future of

their own choosing – despite the cultural and spiritual forces that buffet them – then those institutions thrive.

Again, the data is clear. In an overview of Episcopal congregations based on surveys published on the Episcopal Church's website in 2009, churches that were characterized as growing congregations were most likely to agree that they have a "clear mission and purpose," are "a force for positive change" in their communities, and are "spiritually vital and alive." In fact, 72 percent of the members surveyed in parishes that showed growth in the five-year period ending in 2007 were able to state that their church had "a clear mission and purpose." Only 7 percent of those parishes that did not identify a clear mission and purpose had shown any growth in that same period.

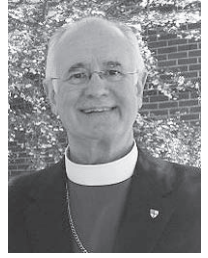
Last year, the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland chose to focus on things that matter in coming up with and choosing the Horizons 2015 Priorities. Needless to say, given the present environment, these are HUGE goals.

We have chosen things that matter. We have expanded our diocesan convention to help us focus on achieving our priorities. We have formed task forces composed of volunteers from all over the diocese to direct our efforts in these areas. And we are risking our time, energies, monies and even reputations to actually do what we have said we will do.

We are no longer settling for the status quo, and we will no longer accept that the way we have been doing things will be the way that we will do things. Every parish in this diocese will be called upon to risk, even to the level of its discomfort. But we *will* succeed. This great diocese, in this great church, in this venerable worldwide communion, we will pray, prepare and perspire our way into becoming the church that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ had in mind when he founded us.

Excerpted from each bishop's address to Diocesan Convention. Visit ang-md.org/convention.php to read each in its entirety.

'The Need is So Great'



I have always been fascinated to hear people speak of “the plain sense of scripture.” Yet what has often been characteristic of a stereotypical reading of the so-called “plain sense of scripture” is a plain *misreading* of the significance of women. Women are inextricably woven in the story. Their presence is inescapable.

TODAY, WE RIGHTLY CELEBRATE the vital ministries of women. Thanks to the trial-use volume of lesser feasts and fasts, *Holy Women, Holy Men*, we commemorate the life and witness of Frances Perkins at this Convention Eucharist... It is little wonder, given my own “maleness,” that I had never heard of Frances Perkins, the first woman ever to serve a president of the United States as member of the cabinet—in this case as the secretary of labor in the administration of Franklin D. Roosevelt.

This is not a sermon per se about women, or women’s ordination, or women’s ministries—nor is it really a sermon about Frances Perkins. It is, however, a sermon about her witness, and the timeliness of that witness for us in our time and place.. I say this because Perkins was clearly motivated by her experience as a member of the Episcopal Church.

The church’s teaching...guided her moral life, and over time her religious leanings became increasingly progressive. When friends asked why it was important to help the poor, Frances responded that it was “What Jesus would want them to do.” Apparently, she understood better than some what the “plain sense of scripture” really means.

Given [her] witness... I am mindful of the strategic priorities you affirmed at last year’s convention—Horizons 2015.

The purpose of these goals is to build up the Body of Christ, and to grow the church. The motto I often see used around this diocese is “minds to think, hearts to love, hands to serve.” The question is “for whom” and “for what purpose” do we undertake these initiatives? The short answer is that it is part and parcel of our mission to restore all people to unity with God and one another in Christ. As the prayer book puts it, we pursue this mission as we pray and worship, proclaim the gospel, and promote justice, peace and love.

I believe our gospel lesson from Luke about the feeding of the 5,000 not only gives us a flesh-and-blood answer to these ques-

tions, but also a useful metaphor to frame our purposes, and even a vital clue about a key strategic necessity for this undertaking. I recall a splendid sermon preached by Barbara Crafton at graduation at the School of Theology at Sewanee, May, 2010. She knew how so often in preaching we shed little new light and offer even less inspiration.

She also knew how these graduating students... would soon become overworked, and overwhelmed, by the enormity of the “hungry multitudes” that they would encounter. “The need is so great,” she said to the eager graduates, “and your resources are so small, how can you ever hope to make a difference? It is a setup for a paralysis of mind, body and spirit. It will sap your strength. Either you will give up or you will burn out.”

And then she turned to the disarmingly simple approach of Jesus, who says to his befuddled disciples, “Make them sit down in groups of fifty.” And so they do. And the multitudes are fed, and leftovers are abundant.

In other words, you can’t do everything. So do something. Make them sit down in groups of 50. Organize your work. Strategize for success. Do what you can; make a start; deal with someone; do something!

I can’t help but think that it was just such a plain sense about the enormity of the social challenges of the 1930s that led people of faith like Frances Perkins not to give up in the face of such mind-boggling need, or shrink back in the face of angry and reactionary opposition. Instead, she and others charted a course, one step at a time, one need at a time, one group at a time, that led to Social Security, unemployment insurance and minimum wage—social networks that we still depend upon today.

We...are uniquely gifted and uniquely poised to offer freedom to a broken world. Horizons 2015 can help us embrace the hungry multitudes and sit them down in groups of 50, and do something. We can do it—one day, one church, one group, one priority, one person at a time.

Hope for a Brighter Future

By JOYCE DUFFY

HARFORD FAMILY HOUSE helps homeless families with children rebuild their lives. Started by the Episcopal Churches of Harford County in 1989, Harford Family House has been and continues to be a refuge for families who find themselves with nowhere to turn. More than just providing a bed for the night, the Harford Family House provides hope to families who have none — hope for their children, hope for a home of their own, hope for a brighter future.

To say that Jim and Tina Brooks never expected to be homeless is most definitely an understatement. For all of the years of their marriage, Jim's job paid the bills. Tina stayed home with their children. You would notice Jim and Tina in a crowd only for their youthful appearance and three well-behaved children with various shades of red hair. Then Jim's work hours were cut. Then cut some more. Their debts, already a nagging issue, exploded. The Brooks rapidly lost their footing and could no longer keep up with housing and food expenses. No friends or relatives could take in a family of five.

One of Jim's co-workers told them about Harford Family House. The family was accepted on the same day they were evicted from their home. "If it can happen to us, it can happen to anyone," says Tina. Jim and Tina see Harford Family House as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to assess mistakes, reorganize their lives, set goals and get back on track.

Looking back, they realize that they lacked two essential ingredients to weathering an economic crisis: goals and a budget. The staff at Harford Family House is helping them organize both. Jim is working again and they are rebuilding their lives. They are on track to be almost debt-free in a year. Tina has returned to col-

lege to work on a longtime dream of becoming an accountant. Overall, Tina and Jim say that they will be much more prepared for the future and whatever it brings. When they move on, Jim says: "I'm going to look back and say 'Wow, if it wasn't for Harford Family House, we'd be living in a car or on the street with three children.' I thank God for Harford Family House being there when we needed it. It's humbling."

This is just one of the many success stories that would not be possible without the support of friends and partners in the Episcopal Church and throughout the community. Harford Family House is grateful for the foresight of its founders from the Episcopal Churches in Harford County, including Mr. "Bowtie Bill" White. Bowtie Bill has been a fixture at Harford Family House since the beginning and has been instrumental in involving the local Episcopal Churches in our mission.

For more information about Harford Family House or to arrange a personal tour of the facilities, please contact Joyce Duffy, executive director, at jduffy@harfordfamilyhouse.org, 410-273-6700 or visit the website at www.harfordfamilyhouse.org.



BISHOPS' CUP

CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

**IN SUPPORT OF
HARFORD FAMILY HOUSE**

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14

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Registration form online at ang-md.org/bishopscup.php
Questions? Contact Sharon Tillman, stillman@episcopalmaryland.org

New Grants Give Aid and Worldwide Care

BY ELIZABETH (IZZY) WINN

This spring lots of people shouted *Alleluia* while walking around with expanded hearts and smiles on their faces because that “cute little church” on St. Margaret’s Road gave away \$115,000 to improve the lives of countless individuals around the world. St. Margaret’s Church has once again issued to qualified applicants annual grants (announced Easter Monday) through its endowment grants program. In the eyes of many, many people who will benefit from these grants, St. Margaret’s just became a *huge* church.

BY DECEMBER 2010, 39 applicants had submitted to St. Margaret’s the required multipage application, financial statements and promotional information, all in anticipation of one of these sought-after grants. The 12 parishioners on the

Grants Committee reviewed each application, evaluating whether one or more of the following mission criteria are addressed: Endow the poor and hungry with the means to feed, shelter and clothe themselves; Restore the ill to health and heal the broken; Promote, preserve and sustain environmental health and good practices; Improve access to educational opportunities.

The committee takes into consideration whether applicants demonstrate need, support a new initiative, expand an existing project, or justify short-term assistance for general operating expenses. Applicants must show that their programs have a high probability of success, clearly defined goals, schedules, budgets and committed personnel. The committee also evaluates the urgency of a program and its potential to deliver value in terms of the number of people it benefits per dollar invested.

Requests are not restricted by location or by a minimum or maximum amount. The focus is on the mission, not on the money. Finally, grants are awarded for one year at a time; follow-up requests must be submitted in subsequent years.

This year the field of applicants was narrowed to 15 for final consideration relying on liaisons to do up-close-and-personal research into each proposal and sponsoring organization. This year, 33 St. Margaret’s parishioners, in teams of two or three, served as liaisons. When possible, they made on-site visits, or they interviewed applicants by phone, Skype or e-mail. Written reports of their findings and insights were distributed to the committee members in the week preceding an applicant’s appearance before the committee. In

addition, liaisons accompanied their applicant to the committee interviews.

St. Margaret’s has issued 204 grants totaling \$1,513,305 from endowment earnings since 1998. In the early years of the grants program, most applicants were locally based, averaging a request size of \$5,000. As the grants program has become better known and accessible throughout the world via our website, the number of applicants has increased, as has the average size of the grant request. The largest grant we have ever issued was \$40,000. Nine is the fewest number of grants awarded in one year and 25 the most (the very first year).

In final summation to the vestry in April regarding this year’s grants work, Ann Lallande, chair of the Grants Committee, reported, “The work of the Grants Committee is characterized by a remarkable level of consensus both at the beginning of the process, when the committee selects its ‘finalists’, and at the end, when it makes its recommendations to the vestry. A spirit of fellowship and cooperation infuses the process because members respect each other’s opinions and understand the need for compromise, mutual consideration and good humor. It is the experience of every committee member that the Holy Spirit guides deliberations and transforms a serious responsibility into a joyful and rewarding process.”

Visit the Mission Commission web page for a complete list of 2011 grant recipients, st-margarets.org.

Elizabeth (Izzy) Winn is the grants administrator for St. Margaret’s Church, Annapolis, missions@st-margarets.org

Hands, Hearts and Art

BY THE REV. CHARLIE BARTON

IT HAS BEEN SEVERAL YEARS now since we first organized a gallery team and began to put on art shows at St. James' Parish, Monkton. Our goal was for each participant to feel valued. We supported our artists royally. We fed our guests' minds, bodies and souls richly. And the parish has netted tens of thousands of dollars for social ministries and the care of our historic buildings. As our art show work expanded we added an online gallery, "The Art of Good Works," which can be seen at saint-james.org/art/index.html.

Now we have expanded our vision to include art instruction in a newly redeveloped red barn next to our labyrinth. Our intention was to create a place dedicated to exploring the cusp between art and spirituality. Like all our ministry projects we have a clear intention, a specific plan for our first event, and an openness to where the Spirit will lead us from there. We expect to be surprised and delighted. We invite you to join in the fun.

Our first event is an art summer camp for adults called "Hands, Hearts and Art" to be held July 14-17. We have six different artists offering classes in six different media: Pastels, Assemblage, Altered Books, Polymer Clay/PMC, Painting, and Fused Glass/Etched Metal. Go to saintjames.org/artprogram/index.html to see our artists' bios, their class descriptions and the materials lists. You can also register on site. I encourage you to act quickly as I can't help telling everybody about this event and there is only so much room in each class.


We have done our homework, looking at a wide range of studios and instructors. Our classes are competitively priced, \$225, including the Thursday night dinner cooked by a chef in the parish. They are limited in size, focused in a unique way and designed with the same intent as our art shows – we want everyone to come away feeling valued and glad they came. We want to honor the work of our instructor/artists, support the ministries of our parish, and encourage more people to discover how art can be a part of their spiritual practice and an expression of their faith. Our classes do not require previous art instruction.


We'll begin with a meal and conversation among the artists and adult participants in

Macdonald Hall at 6:30-9 p.m. on Thursday. Childcare and dinner for children will be provided on site (Thursday night only). There will be a short presentation on spirituality and art that night. Each of the two days of instruction will start with a spiritual exercise – a labyrinth walk, a prayer form – something to ground us before we begin the work.

This event is a joint offering of the St. James' Out-of-the-Box Committee, chaired by Alex Secor, and the Center for Spiritual Development at St. James'. Our chaplain will be the Rev. Martha McGill who has co-led retreats in Maryland, Virginia and New Mexico with Debra Barton, the director of the center. We look forward to seeing you and celebrating what you create.

The Rev. Charlie Barton is rector of St. James' Parish, cbarton@saintjames.org.

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Disaster Response and Long-Term Recovery in the U.S.

BY FAITH ROWOLD

IN APRIL, TORNADOES SWEEP through the South and Southeast, killing hundreds of people and causing hundreds of millions of dollars in damage. In the weeks after the storms, communities and relief agencies worked together to assist people as they salvaged belongings and started planning to rebuild. Now, Episcopal Relief & Development is supporting the Episcopal dioceses of Alabama, North Carolina, East Carolina and East Tennessee as they help impacted communities move from immediate relief to longer-term recovery.

Katie Mears, program manager for Episcopal Relief & Development's US Disaster Program, has been in contact with diocesan disaster coordinators and other diocesan leaders in impacted areas, providing assistance as they determine how best to use their resources to help vulnerable people make a full and sustained recovery.

While Episcopal Relief & Development has assisted with emergency relief in a number of disaster-stricken dioceses in recent weeks – providing temporary shelter, food, household goods and gas vouchers in the dioceses of West Missouri, Alabama, North Carolina and Kentucky, for example – the U.S. Disaster Program focuses mainly on preparedness and long-term recovery.

“Episcopal churches have great organizational capacity and are really good at caring and helping people,” said Mears, “so we try to build on the resources and connections that congregations have in order to mitigate damage in case of a disaster and help the community recover afterward.”

Mears continued, “First responders generally leave after the crisis phase is over, but for local Episcopal congregations, this is home. These congregations are uniquely equipped with know-how that can help their town recover in the long term, and we want to support that as best we can.”

In addition to the tornadoes that have swept through so many areas of the country, including recently Western Massachusetts, historic floods are affecting communities that lie near the Mississippi River and its tributaries. From Louisiana to Montana, populated areas and hundreds of thousands of acres of



PHOTO: MELODIE WOERMAN

A home lays in ruins after the May 22 Joplin, Missouri, tornado.

farmland are underwater as heavy rains and melting snow overwhelm river systems. Episcopal Relief & Development has been in contact with the Episcopal dioceses of Louisiana, West Tennessee, Missouri, South Dakota, North Dakota and Montana, and is standing by to offer assistance as needed. The organization also recently supported a flood-prevention program in the Episcopal Diocese of Kentucky, which supported the community as they protected their town from rising waters. Episcopal Relief & Development will continue to reach out to local dioceses and partners, and work with them to assess needs and respond.

“This is a stressful time for many people,” said Mears, “but by working through local dioceses and leveraging the resources and skills of Episcopal institutions and ecumenical partners, we will be able to respond in ways that provide necessary assistance in the short term and strengthen communities in the long term.”

Please continue to pray for all those affected by disasters, for those who lost loved ones and livelihoods, and for those who are working to help communities recover.

To support these efforts, please donate to the U.S.A Disaster Response Fund by visiting www.er-d.org, calling toll free 855-312-HEAL, or sending a check to Episcopal Relief & Development, PO Box 7058, Merrifield, VA 22116-7058.

Faith Rowold is the Communications Assistant for Episcopal Relief & Development 800-334-7626, ext. 6311, frowold@er-d.org.

Employee Healthcare Mandate

BY THE REV. CANON STUART WAYNE WRIGHT

Many of Episcopal congregations, schools, etc. are likely to have budget implications as a result of the denominational health plan (DHP) established by General Convention Resolution A177 of the 76th General Convention and its associated canon in July, 2009.

EFFECTIVE NO LATER THAN JAN. 1, 2013, all congregations (and other ecclesiastical organizations or bodies subject to the authority of the Church) are required to provide eligible clergy and lay employees — those regularly scheduled to work 1,500 hours or more per year (i.e., 30 or more hours per week) — with healthcare benefits, as delineated by the diocese, through the Episcopal Church Medical Trust.

In the Diocese of Maryland, an earlier policy makes this also apply to employees regularly scheduled to work 20-29 hours or more per week. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about these changes.

Employees with coverage from an approved source may waive (“opt-out” of) coverage from their Episcopal employer.

The Medical Trust is committed to providing the Church with the same or better benefits at the same or lower cost, while seeking additional ways to improve members’ health and well-being.

Cost savings were positively reflected in Medical Trust’s 2010 rates. The Medical Trust’s 2010 average rate increase was well below the projected national average of 9 percent. While the full amount of savings to the Church will be realized only when the denominational health plan is completely implemented, this is early evidence that leveraging our size, and using that size to negotiate with our product partners, can yield savings for the Church. The Medical Trust is working to implement other cost-containment strategies including, the expansion of existing wellness and disease management programs, reviewing available plan options, and evaluating benefit plan designs.

Wellness initiatives are being implemented while a comprehensive health and wellness strategy dedicated to empowering our members to take better care of themselves and their families is being developed. As part of this initiative, effective Jan. 1, 2010, the Medical Trust eliminated copayments for annual, in-network, routine physicals in health plans spon-

sored and administered by the Medical Trust to encourage members to get their annual screenings. This \$0 co-pay also applies to an annual eye exam, and all of our dental plans now include three free in-network dental cleanings and related oral examinations per year.



Rev. Stuart Wayne Wright

What are the goals of the DHP?

- Provide savings to our Church by leveraging its aggregated size for the large scale purchasing of employee healthcare benefits
- Provide dioceses and groups with control, choice, and flexibility
- Balance financial constraints with the cost of delivering adequate employee healthcare benefits
- Provide health benefits through parity of plans and funding for all mandated group employees, whether clergy or lay
- Provide access to healthcare benefits to all eligible employees
- Secure future healthcare benefits for clergy and lay employees
- Provide financial stability for employees (protection from catastrophic expenses) and provide employers a more stable position from which to absorb claim fluctuations and volatility
- Decrease the healthcare benefit administrative burden for most employers
- Provide comprehensive and integrated care management programs and processes for delivery of improved health outcomes
- Be proactive by working with TEC employees concerning healthy lifestyles, wellness, and preventive healthcare information
- Provide excellent customer service.

The Rev. Canon Stuart Wayne Wright is the diocesan transitions minister and director for human resources, 410-467-1399, 800-443-1399, swright@episcopalmaryland.org.

21st Century Parish Leadership = Adaptive Change

BY THE REV. CANON DAN WEBSTER

WE LIVE IN A VUCA WORLD; volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous. The term was coined in the late 1990s and has been used by organizational experts helping corporations and non-profits deal with a changing society.

That's the world we live in, too. It is not the world most in the church grew up in. It is filled with rapidly changing dynamics that challenge any church leader, lay and ordained.

"Leadership might be the greatest challenge facing churches," writes Tom Ehrich in *Church Wellness, A Best Practices Guide to Nurturing Healthy Congregations* (Church Pub. 2008). His book and another by Carol Howard Merritt, *Reframing Hope, Vital Ministry in a New Generation* (Alban, 2010), both address leadership. He is a 60-something Episcopal priest/congregational development consultant. She is a 30-something Presbyterian pastor with a different perspective on the new world we live in.

They both agree the hierarchical model doesn't work anymore. Younger folks (18-39) are interested in networking. Leadership models in corporations and even in the military are flattening; they are concentrating on teams. "The diffusion of authority is sweeping like a wind over the landscape," writes Howard Merritt. "In the shifts that are taking place, we feel the breath of the Holy Spirit, blowing through conversations, relationships, and connections."

Ehrich's list of church leadership qualities include: less managing and more nurturing, seeks transformation not comfort, seeks renewal not continuity, encourages circles of friendship not hierarchies of power, and embraces risk rather than avoiding or managing it.

There are examples of congregations that have adapted to change in their neighborhoods highlighted on video at episcopalchurch.org/vitality, the Episcopal Church website.

Change can be frightening. We resist change as human beings. So did Jesus. When he sent out his disciples (*Mt.10:5*) he told them not to preach to the gentiles or the Samaritans. Later, after a theological discussion

with a Canaanite woman (*Mt.15:24ff*) his ministry is forever changed. The gospel message is to be shared with everyone.

I wonder how many of Jesus' followers had had it? How many walked away when Jesus spoke to the Samaritan woman at the well, which was against the law? How many balked at his healing on the Sabbath, also against the law? How many of our church members will leave if we change something in our congregation because God is calling us into new ministries to share the gospel message with those who aren't coming to our, or any, church?

Jesus lived in a VUCA world. Israel was occupied by a foreign empire for his entire earthly life. Religious authorities had made their accommodations with the ruling powers. There were Jews who favored armed insurrection against the Romans. Public execution was commonplace. The gospel message was born in uncertain times. We are called to proclaim it in our uncertain times. And through it all the Holy Spirit will empower, inspire and strengthen us just as those who experienced the first Pentecost.

The Rev. Dan Webster is canon for evangelism and ministry development for the Diocese of Maryland, 410-467-1399, 800-443-1399, dwebster@episcopalmaryland.org.



Canon Dan Webster

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Summer's the Time to Prepare

BY RANDI HICKS ROWE

SUMMER IS A GOOD TIME to plan Christian formation programs for the coming program year. Parishes will want to assess the past year to determine how to build upon their strengths for the upcoming term. Some parishes may discern that their parish mission or the needs of parishioners have changed and will want to rebuild or start new programs. Others may want resources to continue progress they've already made.

The Diocesan Resource Center and missioner can help with these processes in several ways:

By working with formation committees, volunteer coordinators, education directors or parish clergy to help the parish assess and discern needs

- By lending books, DVD or videos
- By providing samples of various curricula for evaluation before buying

- By suggesting free or inexpensive resources available on the web
- By coordinating with members of the diocesan Christian Formation Commission and Horizons Task Force on Christian Formation to develop, discuss and publish best practices that might help meet challenges in other parishes.




Randi Hicks Rowe

Randi Hicks Rowe is the missioner for Christian formation and Resource Center director, 410-467-1399, ext 371, rhicksrowe@episcopalmaryland.org. The Diocesan Resource Center is typically staffed on Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to noon and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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Thoughts from the Director of Planned Giving, Stewardship and Development

BY THE REV. CHARLES CLOUGHEN JR.

“The Minister of the Congregation is directed to instruct the people, from time to time, about the duty of Christian parents to make prudent provision for the well-being of their families, and of all persons to make wills, while they are in health, arranging for the disposal of their temporal goods, not neglecting, if they are able, to leave bequests for religious and charitable uses.” BCP, page 445

Planned Giving

This summer is a good time to update your will to have it reflect your current family situation and values. Consider remembering your church, Bishop Claggett Center, Episcopal school, or the diocese in your estate plans (wills). If you have not written your own will, the State of Maryland has one for you. However, it most likely will not reflect your priorities and your values.

Have you thought about a **Charitable Gift Annuity**, where you make a gift now, receive an income for you and your spouse as long as you live, and upon your deaths, your designated beneficiary receives the remainder.

For example, a charitable gift annuity of \$10,000 at age 75 will produce a yearly income 6.3 percent or \$630 for life will provide a tax reduction for the year the gift was made, and a yearly tax deduction for part of the yearly income. Upon death a lump sum will go to the church, Bishop Claggett Center, diocese (for illustration purposes only).

Consider making a gift of appreciated stock to your congregation and/or the Bishops' Appeal with tax benefits that may enable you to make a larger gift.

Stewardship Committees

Some things the Stewardship Committee can do now to encourage parishioners to remember your congregation, diocese, Bishop Claggett Center or Episcopal school in their estate plans (will).

On your congregation's Pledge Card this fall add these two questions:

___ I have remembered St. _____ in my will (estate plans)

___ Please send me information concerning wills.

Your congregation can create a Legacy

Society and name it, for the members of your congregation who have remembered your congregation, Bishop Claggett Center, Episcopal school or diocese in their will.

Gather together your Stewardship Committee, to decide now on the date of, and theme of your Stewardship Sunday, then plan your stewardship campaign for this fall based on the theme. Ask your vestry to approve the plan this summer.

Offer the members of your congregation the opportunity to pay their pledge payments by direct deposit from their checking account to your parish's checking account.

Questions? Need Stewardship help? Need help creating a Legacy Society? Contact me at 410-467-1399, 800-443-1399 or ccloughen@episcopalmaryland.org.

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Creating a Conservation Reserve at Claggett

By JOE KERNER, DIRECTOR, BISHOP CLAGGETT CENTER

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is a voluntary land retirement opportunity that helps farmers protect environmentally sensitive land by decreasing erosion, restoring wildlife habitat, and safeguarding ground and surface water. The program is a partnership among farmers, state and federal governments; and, in our case Save the Bay and Ducks Unlimited.

IN 1998, at the urging of Boyd Cook, a member of the Board of Trustees and chair of the Farm Committee, Claggett removed 32 acres from its farm lease and created a conservation reserve to naturally filter surface underground water runoff and improve animal habitat along the banks of the Monocacy River. In return for granting a 15-year contractual easement, Claggett received an annual incentive payment of \$4,200, some of which was used to maintain the planting.

In January 2010, the State of Maryland approached Claggett about replacing its contractual easement with a permanent real property easement. To attract program participants that are willing to accept a permanent easement, the state offered two incentives. First, they allowed us to match our existing CREP planting acre-for-acre up to an additional 32 acres and second, they paid \$5,750 for each acre enrolled.

This proved to be an offer that could not be refused by the Claggett board and Diocesan Council, which unanimously approved the agreement. Although it took

more than a year for the state to perform the survey and develop the easement, finally in May, 2011,

the easement for 64 acres was signed and the diocese was presented a check for \$368,000.

Much of the land is in the 100-year flood plain or on very steep, highly erodible hillsides. It would have been very difficult for the diocese to ever develop that land. Thanks to leadership from Boyd Cook and the rest of the board, we are delighted to be doing our little part for this incredibly important initiative and we were thankful to receive the one-time cash payment from the State of Maryland. The income from this easement was used to reduce the principal on the “Claggett debt” taken on by the diocese when the dining/meeting complex was built in 2007.



Tree planting at the Bishop Claggett Center.



Joe Kerner

Opening our Hearts to Serve

By Donna Kerner, Program Director, Bishop Claggett Center

Our days this summer will be filled with outdoor activities, swimming, games and worship under the trees. Everyone is welcomed, accepted and encouraged to stretch their horizons by trying a new activity.

During this sunny, joyful time, God opens and expands hearts to seek him and to serve others. This year all counselors and campers will spend a morning meeting and serving individuals at a nursing homes, homeless shelter or adult day programs. On the Mission Weeks in late July staff and participants will expand mission opportunities daily donating time to the Department of Natural Resources, Advocates for Homeless Families, and other groups.

Register for a life-changing week at Claggett at claggettcenter.org/camps.php.



Raising the Consciousness of Search/Transition Committees and Vestries

BY THE REV. CANON ANGELA SHEPHERD

As human beings it is our nature to grow comfortable with familiarity. We have our favorites – desserts, vacation spots, television shows and web pages. These things bring solace. Conversely, our lives may be filled with uncertainty, challenges and stress. This comfort zone then becomes crucial to our well being and tends to spill over into our worshipping communities. “Mr. Monetary has always been treasurer,” and “Ms. Coffey-house guards the kitchen.” And our beloved clergy will somehow always fill a long-standing cookie-cutter model for a particular parish.

THIS NEED TO PRESERVE familiarity often leads to biases in the discernment process for rector, vicar, interim, or associate. Since many of our congregations have shrunk in size and the pews may have more grey-haired folks than they would like, the logical solution appears to be found in calling a young priest — one who is preferably male, married to a woman and with children.

Well maybe. If s/he is too young, the thinking may be that a lack of worldly experience just won't do. Can you envision your next priest preaching from a wheelchair? Being someone whose ethnic origin is not the same as yours? Age, gender, ethnic origin, marital status, sexual orientation, race, color, national origin and abilities may become stumbling blocks along the way.

Our church explicitly states any of those attributes will not be impediments to persons

seeking ordination. That is fine. But what happens after ordination? Congregations may overlook the gifts of fabulous clergy because they do not fit a traditional model.

The implementation of Resolution 2011-4 will help search/transition committees and vestries become more aware of the ways we tend to unintentionally keep the status quo in our search processes. The Diocese of Maryland is leading the way as others in the Episcopal Church have been aware of this inequity for years but have not reacted. Read the resolution at ang-md.org/convention.php.

Since this is a new endeavor, a workshop must be created. It will be thoughtful and relevant. No one will be proselytized. Anglicanism embraces diversity and accepts the fact that some among our Body of Christ cannot imagine a woman or non-heterosexual serving as their priest. However, everyone attending a workshop will be respected.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission has taken on this task and is forming a subcommittee that will include representatives from Integrity and the Committee on Older Adult Ministries. Bishop Sutton will have the final say in this matter. Ultimately, this resolution is about consciously giving everyone a fair chance.



Canon Angela Shepherd

Seeing the Face of God in Each Other: Antiracism Workshops

This workshop is for everyone, but especially vestries, commissions, councils, boards, and other persons in leadership positions.

Sept. 24 and Oct. 1, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

St. John's Church, Kingsville

Oct. 22 and 28, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

All Saints' Parish, Frederick

Dec. 3 and 10, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Diocesan Center, Baltimore

Register by contacting Canon Angela Shepherd.

Visit *MCN Online* for more ways to engage and educate parishioners and reach out to the community with "Awareness Months."

The Rev. Angela Shepherd
Diocesan Canon for Mission and Outreach
410-467-1399
ashepherd@EpiscopalMaryland.org

Jubilee and Outreach News

BY THE REV. MADELEINE BEARD

Jubilee Ministries

Is your church doing Jubilee ministry? Whom are you serving? Are you a Jubilee Center or do you participate in a Jubilee Ministry? Are you providing a place of refuge and hope, a living expression of our Baptismal promise to seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbors as ourselves? If you are, go to the diocesan Jubilee web page, jubilee.ang-md.org, and fill out the application. Someday every church will be recognized and designated a Jubilee Center.

St. Etienne's Dream – Trees for Haiti

We were hoping to have a grand total of the number of trees we are giving to the people of St. Etienne in Haiti but the count is not yet in. We know that more than 7,000 trees will be bought (\$2,700) but also know that this is just the beginning. If you participated in the 2011 Diocesan Lenten Project, thank you. Please send your collection to the diocese, marked Trees for Haiti on the memo line of your check.

Millennium Development Grants

The diocese is pleased to announce the following grants have been awarded as part of our effort to fulfill the Millennium Development Goals:

Ghanaian Mothers' Hope (Ghana) – for latrines at the school - \$3,000

Ghanaian Mothers' Hope has been the recipient of grants beginning in 2007. Previous grants for this ministry (based at the Church of the Ascension, Westminster) have provided meals for the children at the preschool, teacher salaries, a water tank, and funds to help construct and stock a clinic. Ghanaian Mothers'



PHOTO: TRACY BRUCE

Trees for Haiti ready to be planted.

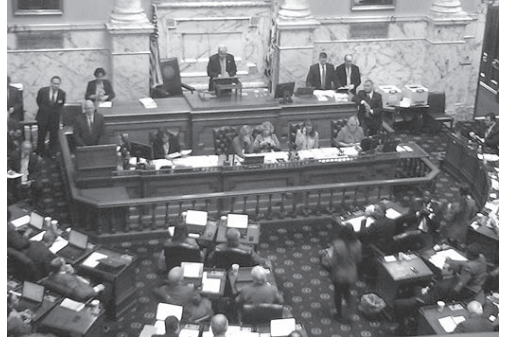


PHOTO: MADELEINE BEARD

The Maryland General Assembly in session this winter. Visit *MCN Online* to learn about those bills followed by the Maryland Episcopal Policy Network.

Hope was also the initial Diocesan Lenten Project – *Pennies for the Playground*.

Opac (Uganda) – green commerce – co-cultivation of crops and trees - \$4,850

This is the second year the diocese has given a grant for the ministry at Opac in Uganda. This ministry is sponsored by St. John's Church, Mount Washington. This ministry was the 2010 Diocesan Lenten Project – *Sunflowers for Opac*.

CCD (Thailand) – teacher and physical therapist salaries for Rainbow Daycare center - \$8,375.

This is the third year the diocese has awarded MDG grants to CCD. The grants have paid teacher salaries at the Christian Care Foundation for Children in Thailand. CCD provides care for disabled children who otherwise would be abandoned. This project is sponsored by Christ Church, Columbia.

Nyakishenyi (Uganda) – construction of a health care facility - \$7,170

Church of the Transfiguration, Braddock Heights, sponsors this ministry in Uganda. Previous MDG grants have helped provide water and sponsored young people in trade schools in 2009 and 2010.

The Rev. Madeleine Beard, deacon
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Helping Seafarers Help Our Planet

BY THE REV. MARY DAVISSON

Seafarers spend most of their lives on the ocean, and most of them take care to keep it as clean as possible. Recently, for the second time, the Baltimore International Seafarers' Center had the privilege of helping seafarers protect our environment.

THE OUTCOME OF THE M/V Capitola case did not become public till late February, 2011. But it was back in May of 2010 when I paid a pastoral visit to this vessel, then docked in Baltimore. After listening to several crew members, I helped them contact the Coast Guard regarding their concerns about illegal discharges of oily waste. These investigations usually take many months, a stressful time for any crew members who are required to stay behind in modest nearby hotels and to assist the inquiry as needed. In this case, the shipping company was eventually sentenced to a fine and probation.

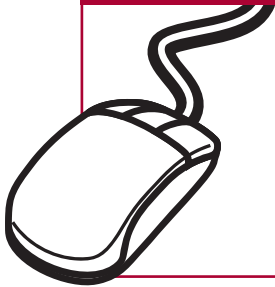
Mission to Seafarers ("Flying Angel") centers such as ours, as well as many other seafarers' centers, both assist particular crews and advocate on a larger scale. For example, the Baltimore International Seafarers' Center is an active member of the North American Maritime Ministry Association; I serve on the board, and Allene Taylor, associate chaplain, is

a life member. NAMMA in turn cooperates with the North American Marine Environment Protection Association on various projects, including helping to educate crews about appropriate practices.

Networking is part of all our assistance to crews. In this case, the speedy response of the Coast Guard, telephone advice from Doug Stevenson of the Center for Seafarers' Rights, and the extra hours put in by volunteers with other crews while I focused on the Capitola were critical. In the case of the M/V Iorana crew (baltseafarers.org/docs/StNicholasBag_Wtr11.pdf), phone calls from the shipping agent, assistance with a salary issue from Arthur Petitpas (International Transport Workers Federation), and volunteers' extra hours helping the witness seafarers acclimate to Baltimore were equally essential.

The Rev. Mary Davisson is the director of the Baltimore International Seafarers' Center, marybtdavisson@aol.com.

**MCN Online – your source for even more news and information from your diocese
Featured in MCN Online – at MarylandChurchNews.org – this Summer:**



- An article by Diocesan Convention keynote speaker Dr. Mark Chaves on the vitality of churches today
- 2011 St. Margaret's Church grant recipients
- News from the 2011 Maryland General Assembly legislative session
- How St. Anne's Parish, Annapolis, is partnering with Habitat for Humanity
- "Awareness Months" are a great tool for engaging and educating parishioners and reaching out to the community
- June 10 was Episcopal Diocese of Maryland Night at Camden Yards – are you in any of the pictures from the ballpark?

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Bike to Church Sunday

By BILL MALICKI

On May 15, 16 hearty souls, including the Rev. Joe Pagano and the Rev. Gid Montjoy, braved the threat of rain and pedaled their way to church in Annapolis in honor of St. Anne's second Annual Bike to Church Sunday.

BEFORE SETTING OUT on the trek to church, Parker Jones of Capital Bicycle assisted anyone who needed tires inflated or minor repairs on their bicycles. Once again, three generations of riders took part with ages ranging from 3 years to seven decades. Each rider could be identified as a participant in the event by a lime green bandanna.

As the cyclists proceeded up West Street and got nearer to St. Anne's, a boisterous crowd of parishioners let out a huge roar, cheering on the riders.

The church service featured a special Litany and a blessing of the bicyclists... After the church service, festivities included the typ-

ical bicyclists' "Rest Stop" with oranges, b a n a n a s , cookies and bagels in addition to prizes for the riders. Thanks to Capital Bicycle, Lucky Sachdeva of Subway and Rita's Italian Ice of Edgewater, prizes were presented to all riders for their appreciated efforts.

To mark the end of the event, many of the cyclists returned to the rally point at the DNR parking lot via Clay Street and past the Habitat for Humanity project that St. Anne's supports.



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Blogging across Western Maryland

BY THE REV. THERESA BRION

ABOUT TWO MONTHS AGO, when 90 degree days were an enticement during the icy, snowy weather, Jason Hoffman and Sharon Tillman suggested that I might be interested in starting a blog where I might post my thoughts and experiences as a ministry developer in the Western Maryland region. I admit that I blurted a quick “yes, I would love to” before they hardly got the words out of their mouths.

Although my childhood diaries had few entries and regular, daily journaling was something that I managed to do only for sporadic periods of time, I jumped at the chance. As a former editor, I missed the opportunity to write, particularly to write in a creative manner. (Remember, I was a tax editor. There is little creative in writing about the Internal Revenue Code and regulations!)

This would be just what I needed to feed my soul while sharing what we are doing in Western Maryland with others. With Sharon’s and Jason’s continued help, my blog, “Diary of a Ministry Developer” went live in late March and is the recipient of my intermittent thoughts and ramblings. I admit that I am not much of a regular blogger, but I invite you to go to ministrydeveloper.blogspot.com from time to time and read my ramblings as I serve the Church and the region. I hope that you will find it of interest to visit from time to time, and I welcome your questions and postings as well.

The Rev. Theresa Brion is the bishops’ deputy for Western Maryland, 443-642-7116, tbrion@episcopalmaryland.org.

Save the Date!

The Ferris Lecture - 2011 Emmanuel Church, Baltimore

The Rev. Dr. James Alexander Forbes Jr., pastor emeritus of the Riverside Church in New York City, will deliver the annual Ferris Lecture Saturday, Oct. 15, at 2 p.m., in the nave of Emmanuel Church, Baltimore. His theme is: “Courage to Risk Justice, Compassion and Peace.”



In 1996, Baylor University named Dr. Forbes one of the “12 most effective preachers” in the English-speaking world, said the Rev. Gerald (Jay) Collins, interim rector. He was also voted by *Time Magazine* as one of the 10 most effective preachers in the English language. Dr. Forbes’ recent book is *Whose Gospel? A Concise Guide to Progressive Protestantism*. A reception will follow the lecture.

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Date: Sunday, September 18, 2011

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Association for Episcopal Deacons; Deacons' Organization Announces New Name

BY THE REV. SUSANNE WATSON EPTING

ASSOCIATION FOR EPISCOPAL DEACONS (AED) is the new name of the organization for Episcopal deacons formerly known as the North American Association for the Diaconate (NAAD). The new name was officially adopted at a meeting of the AED Board of Directors in March. The Association for Episcopal Deacons is the professional association serving the approximately 2,900 deacons throughout the Episcopal Church.

According to Deacon Pamela Nesbit, newly elected president of AED, the name was changed in order to better reflect the organization's mission within the Episcopal Church, which is active in 16 nations around the world.



ASSOCIATION FOR EPISCOPAL DEACONS
ENGAGING THE DIAKONIA OF ALL BELIEVERS

In addition to its mission to provide a broad range of infor-

mational and educational resources to deacons and those interested in or studying for the diaconate, AED has also expanded its vision to engage the diakonia of all believers, recognizing that all Episcopalians are called by our Baptismal Covenant to serve the marginalized in Christ's name.

The Association maintains a website at diakonoi.org and also publishes a journal, *Diakoneo*, and an online newsletter, *Deacon Update*, which are available through the website.

The Rev. Susanne Watson Epting, deacon, executive director of AED, 563-359-0541 or director@diakonoi.org.

Save the Date!

Save the date! The next Baltimore International Seafarers' Center Harbor Cruise has been set for Thursday, Oct. 6. Boarding takes place at 4:45 p.m. at Inner Harbor Pier 5. The boat returns about 7 p.m. Details will follow soon. Our last two cruises sold out!

Two Baltimore City Churches Celebrate 100 Years

Church of the Holy Nativity

The Church of the Holy Nativity, Pimlico, Baltimore, is celebrating its 100th anniversary with two events in September. A catered dinner will be served at the Cathedral of the Incarnation Sept. 16 and a service of thanksgiving and renewal will be held at the church Sept. 17. On its website, the Holy Nativity family describes itself this way: "With our rich mix of race and class, we like to think of Holy Nativity as a taste of the Kingdom of God. We have people of many different backgrounds and experiences all drawn together by God's love, all attempting to support one another, and all wanting to recognize and respond to the presence of Christ in the faces of our neighbors." For more information, or to reserve tickets for the dinner, contact 410-366-5598 or kendorrwalt@verizon.net.



Cathedral of the Incarnation

Conceived in 1908, the Cathedral was not completely finished until Christmas Eve, 1932. The neo-gothic building stands at the intersection of University Parkway and Charles Street on the west, and University and St. Paul on the east. Functioning as the seat of the bishop of The Episcopal Diocese of Maryland, The Cathedral of the Incarnation is also home to a vibrant community parish of over 400 families, with nearly 200 children enrolled in Sunday school and youth programs. It was in June of 1911 that the cathedral's undercroft was completed, providing worship space for over two decades while the sanctuary was being planned, redesigned, and completed. Events planned for later this year include the Dedication of the Gardner Peace Chapel on October 2, and a conference featuring Dr. Alexander Shaia, Brian McLaren, and the Rev. Mpho Tutu. This two-day conversation on the future of church will be held November 11-12. Worship services were held June 12 to commemorate the church's mission and ministry in the city. Visit thecathedral.ang-md-org for more information and photos.



Slave Gravesite Committee Sets \$95,000 Goal for Restoration Project

BY THE REV. WILLIAM FALLOWFIELD

THE SLAVE GRAVESITE COMMITTEE, at its January meeting approved a goal of \$95,000 to restore the grounds and walls of the Hasselbach Family Cemetery and to tell the story of the enslaved people and their owners who lived at Buckingham Plantation, now the Bishop Claggett Center.

Archival research is continuing to reveal details about the story of the life of the owner family and their enslaved servants. Being buried together is somewhat unusual in the Ante-bellum period.

The Frederick Regional Council held a clean-up day in April to care for the newly planted trees along the road to the cemetery. Bricks from the old wall were cleaned and

stacked in preparation for rebuilding the new one. The work concluded with a worship service by a field stone that marks the slave gravesite. It will have a bronze marker stating: "Gravesite of an Enslaved Man of African Descent."

The committee, after pledging \$4,000, is seeking 100 stakeholders whose \$250 pledges will complete the first phase of the project. It will include rebuilding the wall, landscaping and historical signage. For more information, episcopalmaryland.org/committees/sgtf.php

The Rev. William Fallowfield, former director of the Bishop Claggett Center, is assisting at St. Michael and All Angels, Baltimore.

ST. TIMOTHY'S SCHOOL ANNOUNCES THE HANNAH MORE SCHOLARSHIP

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St. Timothy's School celebrates its Episcopal identity as the Diocesan school for girls in Maryland. Our 160 boarding and day students hail from 19 countries, 16 states and the District of Columbia.

St. Timothy's School offers the prestigious International Baccalaureate Diploma Program.

St. Timothy's School Chaplain Kirk Kubicek Named 2011 Carter Award Recipient

BY NANCY SHERMAN

THE REV. KIRK KUBICEK, chaplain of St. Timothy's School, is the recipient of the 2011 Carter Award, presented by the girls school in recognition of the outstanding contribution he has made to the life of the school and for "exemplifying the equalities of mind and spirit most valued by the school's founders."

The award was presented to Kubicek by Randy S. Stevens, head of school, during the St. Timothy's School's 125th commencement exercises, held on Sunday, June 5, in the Carter House Garden on the school's campus.

In presenting the award, Stevens recognized Kubicek as "a man of varied talents, who shows great compassion and warmth and has a fun-loving spirit inspired by wisdom." Among Kubicek's many contributions to the St. Timothy's School community, Stevens noted that he has "brought a new dimension of spirituality and has elevated the level of participation and appreciation for chapel services at the school through his music and sermons. While he is very committed to sharing his own faith journey and tradition, he warmly engages faculty and students to ensure that their faith traditions have equal voice. He promotes a true tapestry of religious traditions within our community."

Before coming to serve as chaplain at St. Timothy's School in 2009, Kubicek served as rector, and continues to serve as co-rector, of St. Peter's Church in Ellicott City, for 15 years. In addition to guiding chapel services at the school, Kubicek teaches a world religions course and serves as faculty advisor to the student-directed Shalom Club.

St. Timothy's School offers a unique world-centered and experiential college-preparatory education for young women through its International Baccalaureate Program – preparing girls to assume positions of leadership with moral focus and courage, intellectual honesty and acumen, and the confidence to act responsibly and ethically in all areas of their lives. Grounded in the Episcopal tradition, St. Timothy's provides unparalleled opportunities for students and teachers of different faiths and diverse backgrounds to work together in a community.

Nancy Sherman is the director of communications and public relations, 410-486-7400 x3042, nsberman@stt.org.

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