

THE JOURNAL OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MARYLAND

MARYLAND CHURCH NEWS

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2009

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PARTNERSHIP

"For minds to think, and hearts to love, and hands to serve,
We thank you, Lord."

(BCP, Thanksgivings, p. 837)

[general convention]

Maryland's Impact on General Convention

BY VAL HYMES AND SHARON TILLMAN

The “hard work of legislating” Bishop Sutton said of the 76th General Convention, Anaheim, Calif., July 8-17, “was done in a spirit of love and mutual respect.” Bishop Rabb called it the “least contentious and in one sense the most productive” because the 1,100 deputies and 150 bishops took action on all 406 resolutions. See GC reflections and photos at ang-md.org.

MEMBERS OF THIS DIOCESE also crafted resolutions and lobbied for causes. Here is a brief summary of some of the work that was done behind the scenes.

Justice, prison ministry

Three resolutions proposed by the diocese's Prison Ministry Task Force were passed by both houses. Actions approved by General Convention or the Executive Council means the Episcopal Church's government relations office in Washington can lobby for appropriate legislation before Congress.

Bo21 urges Episcopalians to press their legislators to ensure that prisoners have “broad access” to DNA testing. EPPN, the Episcopal Public Policy Network, led its Aug. 20 Policy Alert with this resolution. To join: episcopalchurch.org/eppn.

Co75 for the creation and support of more summer camps like Camp Amazing Grace for children of the incarcerated was approved at the 2009 Diocesan Convention. Co75 was adopted but not funded in TEC's budget.

Do95 calls for a Prison Ministry Sunday in all dioceses and congregations. It was amended to “focus on ways to minister to God's children behind bars, those returning to the community, and their families and victims.”

Health care

Dr. Wayne Spiggle and Archdeacon Lauren Welch reported on the results of the work of the Health Care Task Force. Both the House of Bishops and House of Deputies voted to work for Single Payer Health Care. Bishop Rabb and the Health Care Task Force of the diocese have been working on this issue for the last four years. Now that TEC has joined with the Presbyterian Church USA in support of Single Payer Health Care, there are growing plans for the faith community in Maryland to be a strong leading voice and active partner on this issue.

Serving the wider church

The Rev. Angela F. Shepherd was elected to the Joint Nominating Committee for the Election of the Presiding Bishop. In the event an election becomes necessary during the 2010-12 triennium, Shepherd would be called into action.

THE JOURNAL OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MARYLAND MARYLAND CHURCH NEWS

EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MARYLAND

4 E. University Parkway
Baltimore, MD 21218-2437

410-467-1399

800-443-1399

Fax: 410-554-6387

E-mail: mcn@ang-md.org

www.ang-md.org

www.marylandchurchnews.org

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 116 congregations covering 10 counties and Baltimore City (ang-md.org). *The Rt. Rev. Eugene T. Sutton, Bishop of Maryland; the Rt. Rev. John L. Rabb, Bishop Suffragan of Maryland.*

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Post-General Convention Meetings

The 10-day event was packed with legislative meetings and sessions, presentations, worship services, elections and so much more. To learn more about General Convention and the work of the diocese's bishops and deputation, please attend one of the following post-convention meetings.

Tuesday, Sept. 15: The Cathedral of the Incarnation, Baltimore, 7:30-9 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 16: St. Margaret's Church, Annapolis, 7:30-9 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 22: St. Thomas' Church, Hancock, 7:30-9 p.m.

Individual deputies are also available to come to your church or organization. Please contact the Diocesan Center to arrange for an individual meeting.

On the cover: Children of the Parish of Middleham & St. Peter's, Calvert County, Bible School fill bags of food for people in need at SMILE. See page 6 for the full story. Photo: Hugh Davies

IN THE NEXT ISSUE:

ECUMENICAL/INTERFAITH
RELATIONSHIPS

Deadlines for next issue:

EDITORIAL/CALENDAR LISTINGS: Oct. 17

ADVERTISING SPACE: Oct. 17

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Sharon Tillman, *Editor*

Val & Don Hymes, *Contributing Editors*

Jason Hoffman, *Photo Editor*

All God's Children

The 76th General Convention is now behind us, and it will take some time – perhaps years – for us to realize its full impact on the life of the Episcopal Church. If I had to summarize the significance of the convention in one word, that word would be *all*.



DESPITE ITS FREQUENT USAGE in everyday discourse, “all” is a surprisingly difficult concept for us to get our finite human minds around. Our Creator had no problem with setting into motion a seemingly infinite variety of elements and living organisms, but such a project is still beyond our ability to fully comprehend. For example, of the billions of human beings that have ever lived, isn't it remarkable that each one of them is absolutely unique, yet every one of them is astonishingly similar to every other human?

“I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some,” said St. Paul. (*I Cor.* 9:22) Could it be that TEC has decided to embrace the idea of all as an opportunity to evangelize, just as Paul did? At first glance that would be over-optimism bordering on fantasy, given the fact that TEC lost 148,000 members from 2003 to 2007 (according to the latest reported figures). There are many reasons for this decline – sociological, theological, and even biological – and all but a few of the Christian denominations in the U.S. similarly cite membership losses.

But I am a person blessed with a fervent faith and stubborn hope. I firmly believe that TEC is poised for a tremendous rebirth in our culture, precisely because we are going through the pain and tumult now of trying to mean what we say when we say *all*.

We have in this diocese, in TEC and in the Anglican Communion, a great variety of persons who all profess that Jesus Christ is their Lord and Savior. These persons, much to the dismay of some, have considerable disagreements as to what that means. *All* of them claim allegiance to Christ, *all* read and hear the Holy Scriptures as being in some way inspired and normative for their lives, and *all* claim to be right in their convictions. They are men and women, old and young, gay and straight, high church and low church, conservative and liberal.

One of the great tests of our faith today, I believe, is to show the world that this is one community of faith in which *all* of us still love each other, pray with each other, and live together as a spiritual family. In a world tearing itself apart by racial/ethnic tensions, political conflicts and theological wars, the feeble attempts of one Christian denomination to include *all* who want to follow Christ together is a very powerful witness.

The bishops and deputies of General Convention tried to do just that, being as faithful to the gospel and to one another as they could. There were many examples of this generous spirit. One bishop asked during a discussion on the ministry canons, “What is it about ‘all’ that we don't understand?”

There is a field far beyond our understanding. I invite you to meet me there.

When we arrive we will embrace, take off our shoes, and kneel down.

For we will know we are on holy ground, in the presence of the One who loves us most.

– Former Presiding Bishop Frank Griswold, in his lectures on the need for reconciliation.

The bishops voted for wording to say that *all* baptized persons should have full access to discern any ministry, lay or ordained. The convention established a mandatory health plan that will cover *all* clergy and lay employees. It also mandated that *all* lay employees be covered in a pension plan, just as the clergy are. In several other instances, from evangelism to racism to youth ministry to efforts to create a safe church, the convention reaffirmed its commitment to the full inclusion of *all* the baptized.

However, it is important to note that the bishops did not equate *all* with *anything*. We took seriously our vows to uphold Christ through scripture, tradition and reason. We did not consent to the election of the bishop-elect of Northern Michigan; we did not consent to revising the Baptismal Covenant; we pulled back from specifically designing rites for same sex blessings, trying as best we could to balance our commitment to minister to *all*

people in our context with our commitment to *all* our Anglican brothers and sisters who have to minister in *their* contexts.

This is exceedingly difficult to do; even in the Church, not everybody gets everything they want, precisely because we have respect for *all* people and the issues they hold dear.

Personally, what impressed me most about General Convention was how we did the hard work of legislating in a spirit of love and mutual respect. Many General Conventions have been known to be political battlegrounds, not places of prayer and reconciliation.

I like what Sarah Eagle Heart, program officer for Native American Ministries, said to the Episcopal Church Women delegates about “all.” She reminded them of the words that end every prayer of the Lakota people – *Mitakuye Oyasim*, meaning “we are all related ...we are all connected; and we are all called by our baptismal vows to heal that wounded world.”

We are all connected. We are all God's children. I love you *all* – *Mitakuye Oyasim!*

The Rt. Rev. Eugene Taylor Sutton

On Why We Need One Another

Jesus told his disciples; “You did not choose me, but I chose you.” (*John 15:16*)

So often when we speak of community and of communion we start with what it means for us or is to us. In fact communion is God’s desire and God’s plan. We are called into it not for our needs, but because it is God’s will.



FRANCIS OF ASSISI WROTE in *The Testament of 1226*, “...the Lord gave me brothers and sisters.” Francis struggled long and hard with the difficulties of community. It is what drove him to La Verna, the place of the stigmata, for he often thought, “Why can’t I just do what I feel called to do and leave it at that?”. But he knew that it was God’s will he have sisters and brothers. We are in communion as Anglicans and in the Body of Christ because God wills us to be together and not apart.

Too often we see faith as solely what is in it for me, not seeing that God calls a redeemed people and calls them to be instruments of God’s salvation. We are called as our Lord tells us into a community, into a body, a church and family that is God’s.

In what may have been the great misunderstanding of the recent General Convention, Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori noted a “Western heresy.” She was not attacking anyone, but speaking of something that others, including such notable theologians as John Macquarrie, Stanley Hauerwas and George Lindbeck, have noted. Since the Enlightenment, Western culture has been exceedingly focused on the individual.

I often see this reality in how focused we are on consumerism in the way we speak of church – meeting the desires and wants of people. We are called into a faith that is not one of “cheap grace,” but one that is demanding and one that holds us accountable to God and to one another.

When we speak of partnerships we are not speaking of an add-on. We are speaking of our faith and of God’s demands upon us. As Anglicans we are struggling, and this is not a bad thing. We are trying to understand what it means to be in communion and be accountable to one another. The Lord, to use Francis’ words, gave us our sisters and brothers and we cannot simply say that we have no need of them.

My friends in the Sudan, the Church of North India and the Church of Central Africa, for example, do not understand our struggle in regards to human sexuality, but they listen. And we do not know the pains of civil war, of total displacement of persons and of the crying needs for survival. We need one another.

My brother bishops (and they are all brothers) from Myanmar live under constant surveillance and persecution. But they have hope knowing that beyond their borders are praying and caring sisters and brothers. Partnerships are an active way for us to live into the demands our Lord has put on us in telling us we did not choose him, but He chose us.

As Americans and as people with resources we may assume that we have things to give. We do have great resources to share. However, partnerships work both ways. We must be ready to receive the gifts of stories of others.

Shortly after the first of next year I am going to North India to look at education and how we can work together on education and gender equality. I know for a fact that their experiences of Christian education are extensive. We can, and must, be willing to learn from them. I am convinced that we can learn a great deal from people for whom Christian education is not just about growth in one’s faith but about survival, justice and opportunity.

Slowly I am coming to see and believe that as Episcopalians we are willing to see that being in the Anglican Communion is not an option, but a necessity. Further, it is part and parcel to who we are as the church catholic. I was pleased to hear at General Convention that while there is much work to be done, the idea of an Anglican Covenant is one worth the work and effort. I was pleased at the number of primates, 12, who joined us in Anaheim, Calif. It was great to have the Archbishop of Canterbury with us.

As a diocese we are looking at a number of partnerships. I had the opportunity to meet with the Most Rev. Nathaniel M. Uematsu, primate of the Nippon Sei Ko Kai – the Anglican Church in Japan. We rejoiced at the long relationship the Diocese of Maryland had with the Diocese of Tokyo, but more importantly at what awaits us.

At The Lambeth Conference one of the most moving moments was during the Prayers of the People at a Holy Eucharist being led by the Anglican Church in Korea. Bishop Uematsu, unannounced, went to the microphone and offered apologies for what his people had done to Korea. There was total silence at this grace filled moment. I told Bishop Uematsu how powerful that was for me, and we talked about the necessity of reparations. Our correspondence and work will be on what both of our churches have in common – the necessity of reparations.

To be in partnership with our sisters and brothers is to be doing exactly what our Lord demands of us when it comes to being in community – in communion. You have need of one another because God has need of us being together.

The Rt. Rev. John L. Rabb

For an excellent study of how the “Western heresy” is exhibited in American life read *America’s God* (2002) by Dr. Mark Noll. And lest you think Noll, a professor of History at the University of Notre Dame, is a “new age” thinker, he has been noted among America’s leading evangelistic thinkers.

[partnerships]

A Journey Worth Continuing

BY ALMA ROBERTS

IT WAS A BRILLIANT SATURDAY MORNING in 2007 when the Rev. Charles Barton, rector of St. James' Parish, Monkton, stepped into the great hall at the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Baltimore. He was immediately struck by the overwhelming sense of history: 134 years of fellowship, a young Thurgood Marshall (*Thoroughgood Marshall, Bap. 22 March 1914*) running between the tables and chairs, the gallery of pictures of previous vicars and rectors of the parish.

Barton had driven almost 30 miles from his own parish at the invitation of St. Mary's rector, the Rev. Gerald (Jay) Collins, to take part in a day-long dialogue on and celebration of the life of Absalom Jones, the nation's first African-American Episcopal priest. And though Barton was excited about the day's discussion and fellowship, his unspoken wish was that by the end of the activities there would be a new and different pathway for his congregation and himself to express the glory of God. He was not disappointed.

That day marked the beginning of a journey for the two priests: one white, one African-American; for their two parishes: rural, sprawling St. James'; urban, historic St. Mary the Virgin; and finally, for their congregations: one comprised of affluent white families, and the other largely comprised of African-American seniors on fixed incomes.

Barton and Collins became fast friends, sharing many hours of theological and intellectual conversation and strategic discussion about their ministries, their congregations and the Episcopal Church in general.

These two church leaders, while comfortable in their current circumstances, shared a gnawing realization that there was a need to do ministry together. They shared a hope and vision to recognize, embrace and celebrate the commonalities between themselves and their congregations. Their common goal: that this might become a mission and ministry that would begin to dismantle old prejudices, forge new pathways to godliness, strengthen and expand outreach to those in need, and enhance the lives and spirituality of both their churches.

And so a journey began. Initially, small groups of members from both parishes came together over lunch, first at St. Mary's then at St. James', to discuss what this journey might look like and

where it might take them. There was discussion about sharing activities - summer camp and social events like St. Mary's JazzFest. The members talked about the obvious differences of race and economics. They talked about how St. Mary's celebrates high mass and St. James' celebrates low mass.

Then, as the Easter season approached, the idea of celebrating mass together seemed to emerge from the group like a synergistic force. In April 2008, a year after the journey began, more than 45 members from St. Mary the Virgin traveled to Monkton to worship at St. James'. Later that year members of St.

James' worshipped at St. Mary's.

Barton and Collins shared vision to bring their congregations together in spiritual unity, beginning a paradigm shift away from "segregated Sundays" in America. They provided us with an opportunity to celebrate our considerable commonalities while learning to respect our very few differences. I know that the path they have put us on pleases God.

So the journey continues, step by step toward understanding and forgiveness. Each time the parishes come together, there are more members present and a greater level of comfort.

In May 2009, St. James' worshipped with St. Mary's. In turn, St. Mary's visited St. James' in June for worship, followed by the second annual joint-parish picnic. At the picnic, a joint committee was formed to plan future events, activities and ministries in which the two parishes will share opportunities for mutual ministry.

Alma Roberts is a member of the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, West Baltimore. She is a member of the joint committee of the two parishes.



Join the Baltimore International Seafarers' Center for an evening cruise of the Port of Baltimore aboard the **Duchess of Pintail** Wed., October 7

Reserve your space for the 2-hour Harbor Cruise by **Sept. 18**
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For cruise details visit baltseafarers.ang-md.org



[partnerships]

Camp Ministry Spreads Its Wings

By VAL HYMES

Twenty-three children at Camp Amazing Grace 2009 said, “Yes I Can!” to a new, more diverse staff team, new activities and new experiences because of our partnerships with the parishes and the community this year.

IN ITS FOURTH YEAR, this ministry to children with parents in the criminal justice system was held at the Bishop Claggett Center June 28-July 3. For the first time, a Back-to-School Reunion was scheduled Aug. 15, not only for the children but for their families, at the Diocesan Center.

While the camp’s partnership with the Bishops’ Appeal is a cornerstone of support, churches and individuals from the diocese and the community stepped up to help this year, not only with donations and scholarships for campers, but also with volunteers. The 18-member staff team was led by Will Pass, administrative director, Rick Conover, staff director, and Holly Pass, program director. Deacon Patrick Arey, 2008 director, served in an advisory role.

A dozen more activity leaders came from a dozen more churches to spend one day “spreading the ministry even farther through the diocese,” said Conover. “We had a well-structured, excellent staff.” Other staff members also represented different denominations in new partnerships. They included three teachers, a former principal, a social worker, a guidance counselor, two deacons and a priest.

For the children, it was a kaleidoscope of new, bright experiences and old familiar favorites. For the first time, they paddled canoes on the pond, went on a nature hike with Maryellen Bodnar, took a tour of a farm on a hayride, and learned about a slave family that lived there from Orion Jones. Fishing with Ken McElroy, swimming and the ropes course were perennial favorites.

The children built bluebird boxes with Deacon John Martin Jr., who brought with him wood prepared by youths he teaches at a juvenile facility. They planted three trees and made step-



PHOTO: JOAN STRALKA

Fourth and fifth graders gather around the “campfire” during the St. John’s Church 2009 week-long Vacation Bible School “Camp E.D.G.E.” where 150 children, and 150 teen and adult volunteers, learned to “experience and discover God everywhere” through music, games, lessons, art and skits. Campers donated drinks and snacks for Camp Amazing Grace.

ping stones for them. “They left their mark at the Claggett Center for years to come,” said Will Pass.

They also learned a new camp song from the Rev. Ken Phelps and Deborah Watson; they danced with the Nu World Ensemble and served each other meals. Each day’s activities were based on the letters from I CAN: including others, communicating courteously, accepting responsibility and noticing others’ uniqueness. The children were rewarded with beads and a chance to douse the counselors with water balloons at the end of the week.

“I feel like one of the children when I’m there,” said Marshella Riddick, a social worker. Joel, 8, said he most liked “kunwing on the lake.”

The closing Eucharist celebrated by the Rev. Glenna Reed, included blessings with a branch and holy water. Conover based his homily on Philip 4:13: “I can do all things in him who strengthens me.” He told the children, “God is always with you.”

Val Hymes is coordinator of the Prison Ministry Task Force, sponsor of Camp Amazing Grace. prisonministry.ang-md.org/camp



PHOTO: HUGH DAVIES

SafeNights provides winter shelter and meals for the homeless.

SMILE: You’re in Calvert County

By SHARLEEN WAGNER

Cooperative outreach is tremendously successful in southern Calvert County. Folks in need come to SMILE (“Makes Individual Lives Exciting” – an ecumenical community outreach ministry) to shop the thrift store, get weekly food donations, and when in extreme difficulty, assistance with housing, medical or utility bills. The facility is located on the Middleham campus and is efficiently managed and staffed entirely by volunteers from seven local churches. The Parish of Middleham & St. Peter’s, Calvert County, is a founding member and provides strong staff support. In the current economic downturn the client list has greatly expanded and the volunteer effort has met the need with grace and joyful cooperation.

When winter arrives, the Calvert County area churches provide nighttime shelter and meals for the homeless in a cooperative effort called SafeNights. Each church with a facility large enough to house 15-25 people provides the space, partnering with a smaller church to provide and serve dinner and breakfast for one or two weeks. Some churches transport the people each night to the host facility. Some take the cots and bedding to the next location. It is an extremely well-organized and successful handoff. M&SP has enjoyed partnering with the Patuxent Friends who generously share the meal duties at our facility.

Patuxent Habitat for Humanity was founded by two of our parishioners and now encompasses all of southern Calvert and St. Mary’s Counties. M&SP has participated in one Apostles’ Build financed and constructed by 12 Calvert County churches. Many members of our parish serve on the board of directors, organize lunches and just show up on Saturdays to wield the hammer or paint brush.

Sharleen Wagner is the Middleham & St. Peter’s Outreach Committee chair. Sharleen and her husband, John, are very active in the Habitat for Humanity’s builds in the Calvert/St. Mary’s County areas. sharleenjohn@verizon.net. For further information on any of these programs please contact the parish office, 410-326-4948.

Seven Churches: 'A Unit of Love'

Answering God's Call in More Ways Than One

BY IRENE McENTEE

"The poor you will always have with you." (Mt 26:11)

ECONOMIC TIMES ARE TOUGH for many people. But there is a segment of the population that has it worse — the injured worker waiting for disability, the single mom whose child support check is somehow missing, the job-seeker whose car just broke down — the myriad of situations individuals find themselves in...life happens. Bills come. And when that helpless feeling sets in, some people instinctively turn to a church for help.

Calls for help have not gone unnoticed and the faithful do respond. But in the Crofton area of Anne Arundel County, a few people took note of the needy going from church to church and decided that the churches should work together. In 1984, the Crofton Christian Caring Council was born. Seven churches of various denominations agreed to provide funds and to abide by basic guidelines.

Among its stated purposes are: "to pool the resources of the churches in the Crofton area for the more economical use of their money and materials; to establish direct and effective working relationships with local, private, county, and state emergency care organizations; to develop uniform procedures for determining the validity of stated emergency; to foster stronger ecumenical ties among the member churches."

Eventually three of the member churches established food pantries, and one a baby item pantry. Volunteers took turns fielding phone calls and visitors seeking help.

Throughout the years, one of the founding members and a driving force for this organization was St. Stephen's-Severn Parish member, Ella Mae Zorb. Her heart was truly for the poor. She initiated meetings, confirmed procedures, wrote the checks, took food to the pantries and was not above delivering checks or food personally to those in

need. Volunteers came and went but Ella Mae was a guiding light and always had the last word.

Council members were thrown into a panic when, in the fall of 2008, Ella Mae succumbed to cancer. CCCC's matriarch was gone. There was only one other person authorized to sign checks. One of the food pantries closed. Things looked dim. An emergency meeting — the first of many — was called.

As a result, CCCC experienced a major overhaul. There are now officers and a board of directors. Bylaws were reviewed, files were put on a laptop, and CCCC's nonprofit status is being secured. The pantries were consolidated to one food pantry housed at the Catholic church and the baby-items pantry is housed at the Methodist church. Regular meetings are held at the Baptist church. The Rev. Steven Hagerman, rector of St. Stephen's-Severn Parish, is a member of the board of directors. The treasurer is from the Lutheran church and the secretary is from the Presbyterian church.

The lines of communication among CCCC volunteers are wide open. E-mails with questions and problems are exchanged. Everyone talks. They have to. Ella Mae isn't there. And it seems in her passing that CCCC is somehow stronger, growing into what she and the founding members had hoped for.

"This ministry has brought together our area churches. The ecumenical bond which we all share, has formed. We feel, in the name of Christ, things are completed and as small as it seems, we must continue as a unit of love," said Ella Mae Zorb in the Crofton Christian Caring Council Report for St. Stephen's Annual Report, 2001.

Irene McEntee is the parish secretary at St. Stephen's Church-Severn Parish; 410-721-2881, st_stephens@verizon.net

A Banner Partnership

BY THE REV. BETH McNAMARA

It is late June, the first summer day that promises to reach 90 degrees. A little before 9 a.m., the air still remembers a cooler night.

From my desk just inside the glass front doors of the Church of the Resurrection, East Baltimore, I watch as a teenage girl with brown skin, a bright blue tee-shirt, and flying braids removes weeds from the city property that separates the sidewalk from the street. She gives the task her utmost attention as she bends, examines, plucks, shakes off dirt, and hands the offending weed to a co-worker armed with a trash bag.

She radiates energy and purpose. She is part of Banner Neighborhoods Summer Youth Employment Program.

Banner Neighborhoods occupies the former vicarage at Resurrection. The former vicar's study now holds materials for Banner's Reading Club. The basement is filled with supplies for Banner's Senior Home Maintenance program. Upstairs, the director of the Arts Club prepares programs on sustainable gardening — the zucchini growing in the vegetable garden he planted in Resurrection's green space is flourishing, and the corn stalks are starting to show promise.

Who knows? Maybe this summer, maybe next, Resurrection parishioners and Banner kids will gather around the same table to share the garden's bounty. Until then, we can check out their progress on the Culinary Arts Blog at banneneighborhoods.org.

For sure, when the school supplies go on sale, Resurrection's best bargain hunters will be out there collecting notebooks, pens, pencils, sketch-pads and water colors for Banner students.

We'll do it all again in December when the Reading Club students celebrate their accomplishments, and earn the right to "shop" for themselves, their parents, and their siblings using points they have accumulated for attendance, completed assignments, and good grades.

And if you happen to drop by the meet Banner's staff and students, take a look at Resurrection's brand-new fence. It's there thanks to a multi-agency partnership with Banner, Healthy Neighborhoods and Patterson Park Community Development Corporation.

The Rev. Beth McNamara is the vicar of the Church of the Resurrection, Baltimore. 410-342-6670

[partnerships]

Caring for God's Beloved

BY THE REV. WILLIAM R. BELL JR.

“So what exactly do you do here at Hopkins?” The question comes from a mostly lapsed Episcopal patient. Recovering from successful brain surgery, she is feeling relieved and a little giddy. Her father is a retired Episcopal priest, so she is also curious.

I SPEND MOST OF MY DAY *traveling the halls of Hopkins, visiting with patients and their families. I listen to them, to their worries and their joys. I help them as they try to find meaning in the midst of suffering and loss. Sometimes, we uncover a blessing, a glimpse of God's grace. Often I pray with them and bless them. Sometimes, I provide anointing with holy oil, or Eucharist, or even Baptism. What would you like?*

“I'll take some of the anointing, please.” So, in a tradition dating back 2000 years, I lay my hands on her head, anoint her with oil and pray for healing in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. I beseech Christ to fill her with grace so that she may know the healing power of God's love. When I stand back, a tear traces a line down her cheek. Mine, too. A tender moment in a day flooded with the full range of human emotion.

The Johns Hopkins Hospital is a huge, bustling complex – the number one hospital in America, by some accounts. And the Diocese of Maryland's presence here dates back to the day it opened its doors. The partnership with Johns Hopkins Hospital supports a full-time chaplain. An ordained priest visits Episcopal patients from our diocese, as well as those from the region,

the nation and the world. You help fund this mission with your support of the Bishops' Annual Appeal.

But the partnership is much more than that. It helped establish, and continues to support, the Clinical Pastoral Education program. This intensive program trains clergy, seminarians and lay people of all faiths in the art of hospital chaplaincy. An official ACPE supported program began in 1998.

The Rev. Eric Zile, rector of Holy Trinity Church, Essex, was the first chaplain/CPE resident in this combined effort. The Rev. Tammy Wooliver was the last full-time Episcopal chaplain and is now an associate CPE supervisor in Delaware. Before I came in April, the Rev. Caroline Stewart served as a much-loved interim chaplain.

As the current chaplain/CPE resident, I visit more than Episcopal patients. My ministry extends to all the patients in the global scope of JHH. I work to support the medical institution's threefold mission of patient care, teaching and research. The teaching and research portions of my mission will unfold in the coming year.

The partnership with Hopkins began

to take its current shape in 1986. Bishop Theodore (Ted) Eastman formed the Committee for Ministry to the Johns Hopkins Hospital. Since then, Dr. John W. Payne has led and nurtured this joint ministry. In turn, his inspiration flows from his experience as a student and physician at JHH. Payne's faithful service keeps the legacy of the Rev. Herman diBrandi alive.

The next time you visit JHH, stand at the old main entrance with the statue of *Christus Consolator* at your back. As you look across to the Outpatient Center, imagine a beautiful 19th-Century stone church, the Episcopal Church of Our Savior. If you stood there in the 1960s, you might see Payne and others heading to an informal Sunday dinner.

diBrandi, past-rector of the parish predecessor of St. James' Church, Mt. Airy, hosted both dinner and lively discussion. Here a generation of Hopkins physicians integrated their ethical and spiritual selves into their professional roles. diBrandi founded a program for Episcopal clergy to practice the art of ministry to hospitalized patients. Today's Episcopal ministry stems from diBrandi's loving service to the patients, family and staff of Johns Hopkins.

The next major step in this partnership opens in 2011. JHH will fill the void created by the loss of the Church of Our Savior. A large interfaith chapel will open in the new Clinical Towers. This fulfills the vision of the original agreement by the diocese to sell the property to Hopkins. On Friday mornings, I celebrate an Ecumenical Healing Eucharist in the current chapel. I hope to celebrate it within the new sacred space.

The Episcopal Church has set me apart to work as “pastor, priest and teacher.” In this hospital, founded by a gentle Quaker, an Episcopal priest has visited the sick, the poor and the suffering since the doors first opened. And I have been called to continue that tradition, to care for God's beloved at Hopkins.

The Rev William R. Bell Jr. is the current Episcopal chaplain/CPE resident at the John Hopkins Hospital. He is a retired pathologist and hospital administrator from Pensacola, Fla. He was ordained an Episcopal priest in 2008. 850-450-2801

New Clinical Pastoral Education Program to Be Offered in Maryland for 2010

Upper Chesapeake Health is now a satellite CPE center of Christiana Care Health System (Delaware) and will offer an extended internship program (Level I) from Jan. 19, 2010 through May 23, 2010. This “intensive extended” unit will require 16 clinical hours and five education hours a week, as well as one-to-one supervision every other week for one hour. Chaplain interns may choose to work at either Upper Chesapeake Medical Center in Bel Air or Harford Memorial Hospital in Havre de Grace, where the group will meet for education every Tuesday from 12 noon-5 p.m. Prospective applicants, both laity and clergy, are invited to learn more about CPE and Upper Chesapeake Health by visiting acpe.edu and uchs.org, respectively. For additional information and an application, please contact the Rev. Nick McDonald, director, Spiritual Care at 443-643-1375 or nhm.01@ex.uchs.org.

Step Out of Your Comfort Zone to ‘Rebirth’

By HARRISON MORSON

What faith-driven motive moves this spirit? I wasn’t born or raised in a city, although Philadelphia was within commuting distance during my teenage years. I came to have a limited familiarity with Newark, New Brunswick and Trenton, N.J., while attending graduate programs at Rutgers University and through employment at community colleges in New Jersey.

THROUGHOUT THE LATTER ENGAGEMENT

as a college administrator, I had numerous occasions to work with students whose lives were intrinsically tied to their inner-city experience. Of course, on most occasions, they were adjusting to “my comfort zone” as opposed to my understanding and appreciating the myriad of issues that challenged their ability to achieve success in school.

There were times when I am certain that I was the one receiving a new orientation to life in their world as they struggled to cope with their human need for survival contrasted with the safe haven perpetuated by a college campus.

Since retiring after a 44-year career in secondary and higher education in 2000 and relocating from central New Jersey to Glenwood, Md., I have devoted the past eight years as an outreach *volunteer* for St. Andrew’s Church, Glenwood. The outreach was focused particularly upon the Church of the Guardian Angel, in the Remington neighborhood of Baltimore. Initially, the Church of the Redeemer, Baltimore, was already linked with Guardian Angel.

As monthly meetings evolved to consider activities, projects, etc., we titled our relationship, the Tri-Parish Coordinating Committee. Over the past few years, there have been changes in the committee membership, but the essence of our mission has not wavered. We continue to search for ways to improve communication among our parish communities and examine how best to measure the benefits received on both sides of the equation.

Reflecting upon this volunteer experience, the most significant change for me has without a doubt been a rebirth of my Christian faith. In my heart, I no longer boast of bearing the title as a volunteer, accepting the role of working for those less fortunate outside my immedi-

ate parish family or comfort zone.

Somewhere in the midst of the interactive events that flow from delivery of donations, purchasing goods, participating in work projects, conversations and the like, the mantle shifted. There is presently a sense of partnership, extended family, with all the inevitable positive and negative ramifications.

The personal gratification and continued spiritual growth that flows from this experience is immeasurable – the give and take, sharing, joyful and awkward moments, and the continued opportunity for renewal.

Certainly, there is an inherent risk factor when you step forward as a volunteer. Concurrently there may be reason to question your ability to be a positive role model or mentor, bringing some form of value-added expertise to support the successful achievement of the vision, mission or goals of all participating parties. Hopefully, you can bring energy, enthusiasm, some measure of leadership and organizational skills. Most importantly, you need to demonstrate your commitment by example – an example that will compel other parishioners within your own parish community to participate.

Given these considerations, was this suburban/rural resident prepared to go forth to volunteer in an urban city like Baltimore? Of course I read the newspapers and follow the TV broadcasts that often pinpoint concerns for personal safety on city streets, especially after the sun sets.

In response, isn’t it really a question of prudent behavior on my part? Seek out the familiar routes to travel; identify some city residents that can guide and familiarize you with safe havens; don’t take unnecessary risks; seek the counsel of the inner-city parish rector and/or staff – these folks know what their com-

munity is all about on a daily basis; and be respectful, courteous and sincere in developing relationships. Commit to learning the names of those who are your new, inner-city *partners*.

Yes, I occasionally succumb to requests for financial assistance as I come to know my extended family more intimately. But, I am not an easy mark, and don’t have nearly as many repeat requests for assistance from those who are well aware of long-standing debts. They are counting even if I am not.

And, with only slight hesitation do I intervene when adolescents act out, often with language that curls my ears. You just cannot replicate their behavior style and hope to bring about reasonable resolution. Worst case scenario, when you find yourself out of your element with the situation escalating in a negative direction, seek assistance from the nearest local authority.

Time, patience and prayer are indeed virtues to be heavily counted upon when you step forth as a volunteer in this particular calling. *Harrison Morson is a member of St. Andrew’s Church, Glenwood, serving as the Mission & Outreach Committee representative to the Church of the Guardian Angel (2001–present). 410-489-4035*

Read more about the Church of the Guardian Angel partnership at MCN Online, marylandchurchnews.org

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Beyond the Docks at the Seafarers' Center

BY THE REV. MARY H.T. DAVISSON

The Baltimore International Seafarers' Center is a partnership ministry in every sense. The center originated in 1994 through the volunteer efforts of Bro. Ed Munro, a deacon of this diocese, and then Barbara Munro, Allene Taylor (Old St. Paul's) and others. Fifteen years later, a full-time salaried director works with nearly 20 volunteers, whose hours total 100-120 per week.

THE HOSPITALITY TO SEAFARERS couldn't happen without our diocesan partners. This means not only diocesan publicity expertise, the monthly check from 4 E. University Parkway (about 9 percent of our operating income), and enthusiastic attendance at our events by our bishops and the Rev. Canon Mary Glasspool. "The diocese" also means St. James' Parish, Monkton, funding office equipment, Old St. Paul's Church printing our newsletters, congregations as distant as the Parish of Middleham and St. Peter's, Calvert County, sending substantial checks, and St. George's Church, Mt. Savage, delivering Christmas boxes from Western Maryland. Our board members and volunteers alone have represented about 30 congregations.

Our partnerships are ecumenical as well. Evangelical Lutherans provide about half our Christmas boxes, two of our bBoard members, several volunteers and speaking invitations. Pastor Don Bryant works with us by arrangement with the Baltimore Baptist Association. Presbyterians, Roman Catholics, and nondenominational supporters have both volunteered and donated. Our center, located in Locust Point, also exchanges referrals with the Roman Catholic ministry in Dundalk.

Partnership with the Port of Baltimore community is apparent in industry representation on our board, which facilitates both financial health and access to seafarers in an era of increasingly strict security. Most seafarers have left family behind in economically struggling homelands for nine to 14 months. They're eager to phone home during their few hours in port. But since December 2008, seafarers generally can't even get to telephones unless escorted by a trained visitor with a badge.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BISC.

Younger partners: students from St. Matthias' School (Roman Catholic) in Lanham visited the Center in 2008 to deliver Christmas boxes for seafarers. They were accompanied by their teacher, the Rev. Michelle Doran, an Episcopal deacon.

Our ongoing relationships with numerous ships' terminals have allowed us to continue supporting seafarers' relationships with their families. Our strong port connections are also evidenced by recognition at a "Women in Maritime History" event, and by invitations to meet with Coast Guard officers and others assisting troubled vessels.

Our partnership extends around the world: we obtained a grant for a van from the International Transport Workers' Federation, the director was recently elected to the board of the North American Maritime Ministries' Association, and we often contact the chaplain in the next port about pastoral issues discovered in Baltimore. Many forces conspire to isolate seafarers, and only by working together can we resist that isolation.

The Rev. Mary Davison is the executive director and chaplain of the Baltimore International Seafarers' Center. maryhtdavisson@aol.com or 410-685-1240; baltseafarers.ang-md.org



PHOTO: JAN HAMILL

Through Cathedral Advocates for Public Education, members of the Cathedral of the Incarnation partner with the Greater Home-wood Community Corporation and two local schools: Abbotston Elementary and Waverly Elementary/Middle schools. The group collects supplies, encourages tutors, offers parent advocacy training through BRIDGE, and advocates for the schools with the city and the state. In July new Waverly Principal Michele Ferris was welcomed at a reception at the Cathedral.

The Cathedral's partnership with Sandtown Habitat for Humanity goes back 17 years with its first house on Calhoun Street. During this summer's Build Week volunteers made and served lunch to more than 800 Habitat volunteers. Some of the Cathedral youth spent a morning taking pictures. Visit MCN Online, marylandchurchnews.org, to see a slideshow of this year's Build Week.

Fall Highlights!

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(special concert before the 10:30 service)

The 24th Annual Ferris Lecture
Sunday, Nov. 8, 12:45 p.m.
Dr. Judy Fentress-Williams
Associate Professor of Old Testament
Virginia Theological Seminary

St. Andrew's Day Celebration
with the Kiltie Band of York
Sunday, Nov. 29
Festive Procession begins at 10:15 a.m.

Fabulous Christmas Bazaar
Sundays, Nov. 29 & Dec. 6, Noon

For worship schedule & event details visit

EmmanuelDowntown.org

A Partnership Centuries Old

BY BETH SMITH

As part of its 50th anniversary celebration, St. Paul's School for Girls, Brooklandville, will send more than 430 students, along with 100-plus faculty and staff, to Old St. Paul's Church, Baltimore, to celebrate an historic connection. For decades, actually for centuries, SPSG and OSP have enjoyed a remarkable partnership.

THIS APRIL 2010 EXCURSION will not be the first time the SPSG community has visited the church. During the school's 40th anniversary celebration, a special worship service was held at OSP, after which the entire school picnicked at the Baltimore Zoo and visited the grave of Eleanor Buchanan Rogers, who in the early 19th century lived on what is now zoo property.

Rogers is the key to understanding why St. Paul's School for Girls, which is not a parish school, and Old St. Paul's Church have a long and rewarding history that spans two centuries.

In 1799, as author Mary Bready explained in *Through All Our Days*, her history of the school, Rogers, married to a rich and prominent Revolutionary War hero, persuaded her husband that something needed to be done for poor and needy girls, often orphans, in the city.

She was clear that she wanted these young women to learn not only domestic skills so they could find work, but also to learn how to spell, read, write and do arithmetic. Poor girls learning to sew and cook was standard for the time. Poor girls learning to read and write was visionary.

As a member of Old St. Paul's, Rogers looked to fellow parishioners to help fund a special type of institution, a place whose program went beyond the norm; a place where girls could challenge themselves to have higher goals than just becoming a servant in someone else's house.

Rogers and her friends, including the clergy of the church, founded the Benevolent Society of the City and County of Baltimore, a group whose express purpose was to help educate young women.

While the orphanage/school evolved over the decades and the school's name



PHOTO: SPSG

Founded in 2002, the SPSG Girls' Choir frequently performs at Old St. Paul's Church.

and location changed several times, the mission to teach young girls remained strong. Unfortunately In 1950, St. Paul's Girls' School closed, but members of the Benevolent Society kept the door open to educating girls.

The group was in business again when they founded St. Paul's School for Girls, with Rosalind Levering as the first headmistress. The school opened Sept. 16, 1959. From the beginning, the ties between SPSG and OSP were strong, with the rector of Old St. Paul's serving on the Board of Trustees, a commitment that continues today, making the church an active player in the decisions that guide the future of the school.

Although the Benevolent Society dissolved in the 1970s, SPSG has continued to embrace its Episcopal heritage and Episcopal traditions. The school has remained grounded in the Episcopal view that every child is a child of God, and a full-time Episcopal chaplain serves the needs of the students and the entire

SPSG community.

"We seek to embrace our Episcopal tradition as a guidepost for interpreting our mission, our commitment to diversity, and our respect for the environment," said the Rev. Kristen Looney, SPSG chaplain.

The partnership between SPSG and OSP is renewed every June when the school's baccalaureate service is held jointly with St. Paul's School in the magnificent sanctuary at OSP. In 2002, a Girls' Choir was formed. The Girls' Choir, its members all students at SPSG, sings regularly at the church.

SPSG choral concerts, including the inspiring Christmas Choral Concert, are often held at OSP. The church faithfully supports the student newspaper through advertising and, when the school was renovated in the early 2000s, OSP gave the school a wonderful gift – the Benevolent Chapel, named in honor of the Benevolent Society.

"As we celebrate our 50th anniversary as St. Paul's School for Girls, we remember the two centuries of women and men of Old St. Paul's Church who believed in us before we were even a school and who continue to support our mission for girls' education in Baltimore," says Dr. Monica Gillespie, current head of school.

Beth Smith is the director of communications for St. Paul's School for Girls and serves as advisor to the epistle, the school newspaper. 443-632-1028



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[partnerships]

Church Without Walls Ministry

BY ALLISON ROBINSON

Started in 1995 as the theme for a Crusade Revival, the Church Without Walls Ministry has become a innovative partnership — a collaboration of the Lafayette Square churches in West Baltimore, which include Emmanuel Christian Community Church, Enon Baptist Church, Macedonia Baptist Church, Metropolitan United Methodist Church, St. James' Church, St. John's African Methodist Episcopal Church and Star of Bethlehem Spiritual Temple (Church of Christ).

THE ANNUAL CRUSADE REVIVAL in the Square, the first activity of the CWWM, seeks to bring the word of God to people through worship and song. The revival is held for one week in the summer in Lafayette Square Park. Pastors from each church alternate preaching to an audience usually of 100 people or more.

This year, the revival culminated with the sixth annual Community Health Fair June 27. The event, also held in Lafayette Square Park, draws hundreds of people seeking free health information and screenings, as well as community resources. This year's health fair was kicked off by the councilman for the 44th District, William H. Cole. Additional speakers included Patricia Jessamy, Baltimore City state's attorney, and Michelle Sheldon-Rubio of the Delmarva Foundation.

Sheldon-Rubio introduced the Every Diabetic Counts program and later held a diabetes education session in the St. James' Parish Center. A highlight of the event was the "Ask the Doctor" booth, where an individual could ask any health question and obtain free and accurate health information and/or referral services. Staffed by physicians from St. James' and St. John's, specialties represented were nephrology, pediatrics and internal medicine.

The goal of the health fair is to foster collaboration among the Lafayette Square churches while making a greater impact in the health of the community. The objectives are two-fold: to connect families with health information and resources to meet their health needs; and to make available health screenings and testing to promote prevention and early detection.



PHOTO: STEVEN JAMES

Allison Robinson registers a vendor at CWW Health Fair.

Due to the success of the health fair, the CWWM recently received a community award in the health care category at the recent Legends and Leaders of the 44th Legislative District awards ceremony and reception, hosted by Maryland State Senator Verna L. Jones and the Community Building Network. The event was held at the Eubie Blake National Jazz Institute & Cultural Center June 18. Additionally, each Lafayette Square church received an official citation from Senator Jones in recognition of their outstanding achievements and contributions to health initiatives in the 44th Legislative District.

The vision of the Lafayette Square pastors is to make the CWWM a formal partnership that will enable the group to seek grant funding and offer more ministries that respond to the needs of the Harlem Park/Lafayette Square community.

Allison J.M. Robinson is a member of St. James' Church, Lafayette Square. 410-523-4588, stjamesonthesquare.org.

Baltimore Churches: Help Wanted

BY THE REV. GLENNA REED

"He called and began to send them out two by two." (Mk. 6:7)

The Church of the Holy Nativity, Pimlico, is a community that has flourished due in part to the willingness of other congregations to support its ministries. Over the past 10 years the partnering churches have built and completed a community center that caters to the demanding needs of families and children in the neighborhood. Holy Nativity could not have been as successful in that venture without the help of many churches, denominations, and individuals.

Holy Nativity and St. Luke's Church, Carey Street, are currently seeking partnerships with a variety of churches to help both congregations continue to provide a valuable Episcopal presence in the neighborhoods they serve.

St. Luke's currently provides a summer camp, an after-school program, a monthly Saturday activity and an occasion for artists to express themselves through poetry and music. All these ministries are financially supported through a variety of resources. But St. Luke's is a small congregation and would benefit from the presence of people who would like to help with this and other work.

God's work is so much more effective with collaboration. There is a variety of things that these two parishes are not doing but could do if they had a commitment from other congregations which are willing not only to help financially but to also work alongside of the members.

A partnership would also help these two congregations explore ministries outside of their own neighborhoods, allowing them to see many of the different ways that God is working in the Diocese of Maryland and the world.

We were created to be in relationship with each other individually and structurally. Please consider expanding God's kingdom through a partnership with one or both of these churches.

The Rev. Glenna Reed is the Urban Vicar to St. Luke's Church, Carey Street, and Church of the Holy Nativity, Pimlico. 443-529-7302, stlukesnativityvicar@gmail.com

Web Calendar

Stay up-to-the-minute on diocesan and parish events with the **Web Calendar**. Click the Calendar link on the diocesan home page, ang-md.org, to find out the Bishops' Visitation Schedule and the diocesan Prayer Cycle. You can also submit an event for posting.

In Haiti: Great Beginnings in Youth Partnership...Slowly

BY THE REV. TRACY A. BRUCE

Good partnerships, especially across barriers of language, economics and culture, begin slowly. There is no substitute for care at the beginning of any relationship, especially partnerships between collective groups of people.

THE BONDS OF OUR COMMON HUMANITY give any two groups of people a good start in relationship. In spite of differences, we are all remarkably alike as human beings. Not surprisingly the church is a good place to forge cross-cultural partnerships because it provides depth and breadth of experience in human community so that those seeking partnerships are presumably not novices.

The Episcopal Church in particular provides a common language of worship (our *Books of Common Prayer* are alike, simply in different languages) and our common ways of doing business and viewing the world also give a strong foundation for partnership. The awareness of our differences, however, always makes the task of achieving mutual trust among human beings a delicate enterprise.

The youth at St. John's Church, Glyndon, began this delicate enterprise by seeking an invitation to visit the youth at St. Etienne's Church in Buteau, Haiti. When the invitation arrived, St. John's youth planned a trip over five days between Christmas and New Year's Day last year. The purpose of their trip was to introduce themselves, meet the youth of St. Etienne's and — if that went well — to propose working together.

To prepare for the trip, the American youth appointed a leader to be their spokesperson, and anticipating that the question might come up, thought about what their hopes and dreams were before they went. Then, they checked out their dreams with the rest of the Youth Group, so that when asked in Haiti, with confidence, they could speak for the entire group.

The December trip went very well. The group was welcomed into the community, celebrated their host's Patronal

Feast Day (St. Stephen's Day on Dec. 26), participated in Sunday worship and afterward met with the Comite Des Jeunes (Youth Group) of St. Etienne's.

Working in Haiti presents challenges because the people in the mountains speak Creole, a language which is spoken nowhere else in the world. While lack of a common language can be a barrier, it also allows two separate groups to be in the same room and to come to consensus within their respective groups in conversations that are essentially private, before making commitments to each other. In this case the language barrier served to facilitate the partnership relationship.

The first meeting of two groups was successful. The Youth Group from St. Etienne's welcomed their guests and their ideas. The St. John's youth shared their dream of working in reforestation. Together the groups agreed to plan a trip wherein both groups would jointly participate in a reforestation project, with the group from St. Etienne's being the leaders of the project. Each group took on separate responsibilities:

St. John's Youth

- send money in advance to get Internet access on the mountain through the priest's computer
- raise money in the U.S. to fund the joint reforestation project
- return in June with a larger group

St. Etienne's Youth

- purchase tools and materials needed
- plan for the implementation of the reforestation project
- organize the "home stays" wherein pairs of the St. John's youth would spend the night in host homes

Each group did what was promised and in June 10 youth from St. John's



The St. John's Youth Group and the St. Etienne's Youth Group with guides on their trip to the sacred waterfall/National Park, Bassin Bleu in June, 2009.

PHOTO: STEPHEN DAVENPORT

joined 10 youth (specially selected) from St. Etienne's to implement the plan and develop the growing relationship.

They began their project by meeting together and confirming their activities. Their time together included doing all they had planned — fencing and planting trees in the mountain, participating in home stays, worshipping together — and more. The two groups also went together to a sacred waterfall/National Park and had a party on a beach and sang songs to each other. The youth of St. John's Church found that the deciding factors in forming partnership were honesty, humor and music.

The final day of their time together included a long meeting between the two

(see *Haiti*, page 22)

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Epiphany's Young Partners Van Bokkelen Elementary School, Severn

By JACQUELINE M. CLARYS

Graduation Day 2009 for two fifth graders at Van Bokkelen Elementary School dawned with unexpected and far-reaching changes for their lives: during a severe storm the night before, lightning struck their homes starting fires that destroyed everything for families who can least afford setbacks. But when morning came, with the help of the school social worker Claudette Robinson and faculty members, they and their families were present, dressed for the occasion, behaving as though no adversity had come their way.

THIS IS THE SPIRIT of a school that has its roots in the post Civil War era, created through the leadership of the Rev. Libertus Van Bokkelen, educator, Episcopal priest, church and civic leader, for whom the school is named. Van Bokkelen's thread of educational hope for children in the late 1800s has been picked up by Epiphany Church, Odenton, and is being woven into the present-day tapestry of making up for the past. In a task so large, steps we make often seem small, even insignificant. But to the children of Van Bokkelen Elementary, every effort matters. Trajectory is everything in this line of work.

Epiphany's volunteers read to the children, help students in classes, assist teachers, deliver weekly food and clothing donations, and provide special music for graduation. Emergency collections garnered over \$1,000, gift cards and clothes for the fire victims.

"Green Day" achievement recognition for the children sparked an ice cream social. When asked by Epiphany, Brewster's Ice Cream of Glen Burnie donated enough ice cream, cups, spoons, and napkins for 371 children and their teachers.

The day before Maryland School Assessment testing was designated Spirit Day to boost students' confidence. Since it fell on St. Patrick's Day, a leprechaun from Epiphany (rumored to be the church's rector, the Rev. Dr. Phebe L. McPherson) attended the student rally, giving each child a green paper shamrock decorated with a shiny new 'lucky penny.'

On Jan. 20, the children celebrated



Children of Van Bokkelen Elementary School pose with a cardboard cutout of President Obama at the inaugural ball sponsored by Epiphany Church.

with President Obama at their very own Van Bokkelen Inaugural Ball featured on the evening news. Sponsored by the church, each child received a White House-style invitation to the ball, a memorable dress-up occasion that included music, waltzing, book donations, party bags, refreshments, cupcakes, and tiaras for the girls and top hats for the boys. Later, each child received a copy of the book *Barack Obama, United States President* from the Anne Arundel County Board of Education, a gift coordinated by Epiphany.

Epiphany Church is learning that willing participation in the healing intention of God creates a little piece of heaven on earth, the giver always receiving more than was given.

Jacqueline M. Clarys is a member of Epiphany Church, Odenton. 410-674-8819



A Meals on Wheels van sits ready to be loaded with meals for Parkville-area homebound residents in front of St. Margaret's Church, Coventry.

St. Margaret at the Wheel

By JOE MAINOLFI

St. Margaret's Church, Coventry, teamed up with Meals on Wheels in May 2007. Meals on Wheels had been searching for a new staging site for three months. The congregation at St. Margaret's saw this as a calling to walk in the footsteps of St. Margaret.

St. Margaret was canonized in the year 1250 by Pope Innocent IV in recognition of her charitable works as she personally served orphans and the poor every day before she ate.

While St. Margaret's is a small congregation with limited resources, we do have the advantage of a long driveway to stage the Meals on Wheels' vehicles.

Meals on Wheels of Central Maryland is a non-profit organization that helps homebound people to eat well and remain in their own homes. Staff and volunteers prepare and deliver over 800,000 nutritious meals a year throughout six counties and Baltimore City. Meals on Wheels also provides grocery shopping, phone check-ins, and other support services to help its clients maintain independence and peace of mind.

The Meals on Wheels site coordinator is Phillip Douglas. His team of at least 16 volunteers has eight routes and serves 100 clients one hot and one cold meal daily. While St. Margaret's has opened its doors to Meals on Wheels, the non-profits have also given to St. Margaret's.

One of the volunteers purchased a new refrigerator for the church. Another completed repairs to the building and lent a helping hand to one church member. Several of the volunteers have made donations to the church and all show appreciation for St. Margaret's hospitality.

From its Parkville location, St. Margaret's outreach programs also include donations to the Towson Assistance Center, and facility use for the community and Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous.

In the spirit of St. Margaret, we realize that outreach is a continuing ministry that we must all be open to expand even if we believe our resources to be limited.

Joe Mainolfi is the senior warden St. Margaret's Church, Coventry. 410-665-2426. To learn more about Meals on Wheels visit mealsonwheelsmd.org

AGAPE- A Gathering of Women: Addressing Some 'Meaty Issues'

BY THE REV. PAM FAHRNER

In the mountains of Western Maryland, there are stirrings, stirrings of ecumenical encounter, laughter, stimulating conversations and the growth of understanding. They arrive, bearing nuts, cheese and baked goods and look like any church gathering. But there, the resemblance ends.

EXISTENCE AND NATURE OF EVIL. Speaking in tongues. Bare crosses versus Christ crucified versions. Experiences of faith from a cultural and identity perspective. Manipulation of God. These and more were topics for discussion at a recent gathering of women-AGAPE and is representative of the "meaty" issues addressed at every gathering.

AGAPE is a gathering of women from disparate faith traditions who meet every six weeks to candidly discuss their faith and experiences as women in our society. Their gatherings are intentionally nonconfrontational, supportive and respectful of the women who participate.

Very specific norms were established at the first gathering in September of 2008. Respect and a prohibition of "selling" anything — even one's religion, creates an atmosphere where sharing is safe. Although the members are encouraged to discuss issues with their friends and family, they are prohibited from using names to maintain confidentiality. The flavor is clearly pro-women, not anti-men.

Background material is e-mailed to all participants about a week before the gathering. The written material provides a springboard for free-flowing discussions.

Although the group is open to all

women, the group is characterized by *remarkable* women, primarily middle-aged and older, who are comfortable enough with their own faith traditions to share freely their concerns, questions and love of their faith as well as their individual views of God.

The group does not attempt to "solve" these problems or provide answers, but places value in the search for truth itself. Relationships grow as frank discussions reveal how much more these women have in common than differences.

In just six gatherings (as opposed to meetings with minutes and rules of order), the roster has grown from five to 30 women. Newspaper ads and flyers distributed around town invite women of the community to "come and see." E-mail reminders are sent a few days before each gathering to all women on the roster.

So far, the women represent at least five different churches and four faith traditions. Trust and relationships are being built.

Earth changing? Well, maybe not yet...

The Rev. Pam Fabrner was recently ordained a priest on June 27 and works with St. John's Church, Deer Park. Her focus is on women's ministry and local outreach. 301-387-6313 or phfabrner@comcast.net.

Local to Global Mission A Few Hands, Hundreds of Hours

BY THE REV. ANN BOYD

St. Paul's Church, Mt. Airy, enters into partnerships to amplify the mission and outreach of the parish. Revenue from the parish thrift shop supports the Mt. Airy Food bank, purchases phone cards for veterans, and supplies coats and other material goods for girls housed at the Sisters of the Good Shepherd and Frederick Mission, and other causes.

Beyond the neighborhood, parishioners give hundreds of hours to organizing and delivering Rainbow Camp for the diocese. The camp serves children ages 7-11, recommended to us by agencies dealing with families affected by HIV/AIDS. Our partnership with St. Bartholomew's Church, Baltimore, supplies backpacks for the Rainbow campers each year filled with school supplies.

Mission work outside the U.S. includes several parishioners' work with an orphanage in Honduras primarily sponsored by St. David's Church, Atlanta, microloans to women in Haiti through St. John's Church, Glyndon, and being a One Congregation; 0.7% of our income goes to Episcopal Relief and Development.

The children of the parish participated in the Diocesan Nets for Life effort during Lent, and the parish has purchased animals through Heifer International in honor of someone dearly loved. St. Paul's is a small parish with an average Sunday attendance of 74 and a part-time rector, making abundant opportunities for lay ministries. More than 60 percent of the active members are involved in one or more of the ministries and mission projects of the parish.

The Rev. Ann Boyd is the rector of St. Paul's Church, Mt. Airy. 410-489-4411, revannboyd@comcast.net

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The Diocese and the State House Bringing Passion to Politics

BY THE REV. MADELEINE BEARD

“The Church is the bearer of the Good News, the Gospel, the announcement to the world that the Kingdom is near. We are bringing to the world little foretastes of a coming Kingdom,” said James K. A. Smith in “The God of Americanism,” from *The Devil Reads Derrida*.

HOW CAN WE DO THIS, bring the Good News, foretastes of the Kingdom to the world? One way is to ask: *What is my passion? What do I care about?* If you ask Bishop Sutton, he will say, without any hesitation, the environment and education. If you ask Bishop Rabb, he will say cities and health care.

How about you? What are you thinking about, trying to imagine solutions for? What are you doing right now? Are you on a committee at your church? Do you take your passion into the community at a homeless shelter or food pantry?

We all have things we care about deeply. When we work on those things, the time spent gives us the most joy. This work is our vocation. When we are actively aware of what we are doing, then we see the connection between our “church” work and our “civic” work.

Then we ask how can I share my passion with others? We know we can recruit others to work along side us. We call on our neighbors, even those we don’t know, to help. We are advocates.

When we advocate, we understand that we are citizens of God’s Kingdom as well as the United States and Maryland. Living fully in the Kingdom includes accepting collective responsibility for our neighbors. Living fully means being a Good Samaritan.

The Preamble to the Constitution says the role of government is to “establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare.” It is our responsibility as neighbors to keep the government focused on those goals.

Maryland’s Constitution says, “Government of right originates from the people, is founded in compact only, and

instituted solely for the good of the whole. As a Church we assert boldly that we will hold our governments to those aims.

So while we build and feed, clothe and visit, we work for justice and speak out for peace. Because our God wants good for all his people. How do we do that? One way is to join the Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network.

MEPPN coordinates its work with the Diocese of Maryland’s Justice Team: the Ven. Lauren Welch, Don Schroeder, and me. MEPPN also networks with a number of coalitions, including the Maryland Interfaith Legislative Committee and the Prison Ministry Task Force of the diocese.

Don Schroeder is the Bishop’s Deputy for Public Policy. He serves as the “Episcopal Voice in Annapolis” representing the commitment of all three Maryland Dioceses to social justice and public policy issues before the Maryland General Assembly.

MEPPN keeps Episcopalians around Maryland informed on key issues with Legislative Alert emails and through this web site and encourages Maryland Episcopalians to take action on the issues in accordance with the established positions of the Episcopal Church.

Lawmakers in Maryland are very interested in hearing from their constituents and special interest groups. When a member of the Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network contacts his or her legislator, it enhances the message Don Schroeder conveys to them in person or in testimony at hearings.

Every three years the Episcopal Church meets in General Convention — this year, in Anaheim, Cal. After debate, votes taken on a variety of resolutions, Those passed at these Conventions and the resolutions passed at our own Dioc-


san Conventions, are part of the Church’s response to Jesus’ first sermon, what was and is the shortest sermon in history. He unrolled the scroll of Isaiah, and after reading:

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.


said, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled.” (Lk 4:17-21)

We are all called to be disciples, bearers of the Good News to the world. The Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network invites you to join and be an advocate, a Gospel bearer, sharing a foretaste of the Kingdom with a world longing for Kingdom.

The Rev. Madeleine Beard is a deacon at St. Mark’s Church, Highland, and chair of the Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network. Join MEPPN by e-mailing beardmcd@verizon.net or by visiting www.meppn.ang-md.org.



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Teaching Girls the Way Girls Learn Best

Annual Visits to Western Md.

BY HECTOR RODRIQUEZ

Last year two van loads of parishioners from Tres Santos Reyes participated in the ordination of the diocese's first Mutual Ministry Team at St. James' Church, Westernport. On that occasion, we had the opportunity to visit with Latino members of St. James'. After the festivities at St. James', we introduced Latino members of both congregations to Dan's Mountain State Park, Lonaconing. Even though the park is but a few miles from Westernport, none of our friends from that part of the state had had the opportunity to visit the mountaintop park, with its swimming pool and other facilities.

This year St. James' invited members of Tres Santos Reyes to once again make the trek to Westernport on the occasion of the parish's patronal feast day. And again, members of our Baltimore-based church visited that far-flung church and town. After a wonderful celebration following the Sunday liturgy, we again made it to the state park, where the kids had a good time in the pool, despite the cloudy cool weather, while others had a chance to visit and enjoy the beautiful mountains and forest.

This year a majority of our visiting Baltimore-area congregation included immigrants from Guatemala, which is also the country of origin of the workers in Western Maryland who attend church services at St. James'. These workers are employed in a small lumber company in Keyser, W.Va. Many other workers who were employed in a different company in Keyser are no longer employed there, so there are few Latinos left in the area. This was all the more reason for our visit. We wanted to let them know that we remain mindful of them and pray for their well-being and that of their families back home.

We are delighted that the Mutual Ministry Team and the parish of St. James' continue to reach out to the Guatemalans and any other Latinos in their midst. One of the newly ordained priests, the Rev. Tom Hudson, OP, ably leads the liturgy and singing in Spanish. Jeannie Thrasher, another member of the team, provides transportation for her friends from Keyser, since none of them own their own vehicle. Thanks to grants from the diocese in 2007 and 2008, English classes have been offered to our Latino brothers and sisters.

For our part in Baltimore, we are happy to know that these sisters and brothers are being cared for by our sister parish. And while it is not possible to travel more frequently for a visit, we are glad to be able to renew our friendship with St. James' Church, Latino and non-Latino, even if only for a special occasion.

Learning English, Workers' Rights

BY HECTOR RODRIQUEZ

THE EPISCOPAL REFUGEE and Immigrant Center Alliance of the Cathedral of the Incarnation makes available excellent training programs to help immigrants learn English and negotiate life in a new country and culture.

One recent training program taught people about their rights as workers under the laws of the United States. ERICA sponsored this program through the support of the University of Baltimore School of Law and the Murthy-Nayak Foundation.


The Office of Latino Ministry of the Diocese of Maryland was grateful for the opportunity to extend the reach of this training opportunity to members of the Latino community. The workshop flyer was translated and invitations were made at Tres Santos Reyes and to other workers in the area who could make good use of this educational event.

Immigrants often fall prey to employ-

ers who pay low wages and provide no benefits, but some are unscrupulous enough to not pay their employees on time, not provide overtime pay, and at times provide no pay at all, dismissing the employee instead of paying their wages. Some workplaces are also notoriously unsafe, and information about employee rights regarding safety and security is not always forthcoming.

For these reasons, the type of workshop ERICA provided recently is critical, and our two groups are happy to partner together to extend its reach to as many as possible.

Hector Rodriguez is the pastoral leader of Tres Santos Reyes, coordinator of the Latino ministry team and a resource to the Mutual Ministry team at St. James' Church, Westernport, in its ministry to the Latino community. He is currently in Anglican studies in preparation for reception into the priesthood of the Episcopal Church. 443-631-0115, hector@comcast.net



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[lifelong christian formation]

Christian Formation Charter Offers Structure

BY SHARON J. TILLMAN REPRINTED FROM *EPISCOPAL LIFE ONLINE*, UPDATED 8/6/09

“The Charter for Lifelong Christian Formation (LCF) is a philosophy, not a program,” said Janie Stevens, Diocese of Texas, missionary for Christian formation and Proclaiming Education for All (PEALL) member. She was representing the National Association for Episcopal Christian Education Directors (NAECED) in testimony to the legislative Education Committee July 8 at General Convention in Anaheim, Cal.

THE EDUCATION CHARTER (GC Resolution A082), put forth by the Standing Commission for Lifelong Christian Education and Formation, and passed by both houses of General Convention, provides a structure for dioceses and parishes to develop LCF programs. It does not specify or recommend a curriculum.

The proposed budget for this resolution was \$30,000 to be used in part to create and post resource materials to the Internet, creating an online resource center. This resolution however was not funded in the 2010-2012 budget.

“It is important to have the charter, but we also need to provide tools to the people,” said Sharon Pearson, deputy from Connecticut, member of NAECED and Christian formation specialist for Church Publishing. According to a statement on the charter organizers’ Facebook page, The Charter for Lifelong Christian Formation, “The Web site will soon be updated, with ideas as to how to move it forward and live it out in congregations.”

In conjunction with A082 is resolution A083, Directive for Dioceses to Formulate a Strategy for Lifelong Christian Formation in the Next Triennium, directs dioceses to be “more intentional about it. This resolution calls upon dioceses not only to share their wisdom and aspirations, but also mandates that every diocese must have a purposeful plan for Christian Formation that is appropriate

to their context,” according to the resolution explanation.

“We hope this resolution brings forth conversation about Lifelong Christian Formation and gets dioceses defining the core value and working toward programs,” said Keane Akao, alternate deputy diocese of Hawai’i and vice-chair, Standing Commission on Lifelong Christian Education and Formation.

Resolution A083 also was not funded in the 2010-2012 budget.

“We [the Education Committee] passed A082 and A083. The Charter for Lifetime Christian Formation is a watershed moment for the Episcopal Church, and gives us both a foundation and a vision for Christian education and formation that will equip us for mission, deepen our understanding of our faith, be a great resource for evangelism as it states what we are called to do and be as a church,” said Bishop John L. Rabb of Maryland, house of bishops co-chair of the committee.

In his own diocese, the Rev. Amy Richter, former missionary for Lifelong Christian Formation, was recently called to become rector of St. Anne’s Church, Annapolis.

Visit formationcharter.com to read the Charter for Lifelong Christian Formation. For information on education groups visit:

NAECED: naeced.org

PEALL:

episcopalchurch.org/48931_ENG_HTML.htm

Resource Center for Christian Formation

Open Wednesdays and Thursdays and by appointment, the diocese’s Resource Center for Christian Formation is there for the first-time Sunday School director, the veteran teacher or anyone looking for Christian education materials.

“I am here to guide teachers and directors through lesson plans, curricula, supplemental material, whatever they need to help their Church Schools run smoothly,” said Kay Barnes, Resource Center director.

Whether troubleshooting a lesson, looking for help answering that difficult question, or just looking for an interesting video series for your Adult Education forum or Youth Group meeting, chances are the Resource Center has the answer.

Contact the Resource Center:

Kay Barnes, Director

Wed/Thurs: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

By appointment

410-467-1399

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Web Calendar

Stay up-to-the-minute on diocesan and parish events with the **Web Calendar**. Click the Calendar link on the diocesan home page, ang-md.org, to find out the Bishops’ Visitation Schedule and the diocesan Prayer Cycle. You can also submit an event for posting.

[bishop claggett center]

Leap of Faith

BY JOE KERNER, DIRECTOR, BISHOP CLAGGETT CENTER

Investorwords.com defines a partnership as a relationship of two or more entities conducting business for mutual benefit. Typically the entities or partners share equally in the profit or loss of the partnership and share any liabilities that may arise. Often professionals such as architects, attorneys, or engineers are joined in a legal partnership.

THEN THERE ARE the myriad of other informal partnership-like relationships. Included in this category for Claggett might be our relationships with guest groups, constituents, donors, vendors, staff and board members. In both cases, the participants have a somewhat different vision of success, the achievement of which requires working as a team.

Claggett has had a very special seven-year relationship with Upward Enterprises, Inc. What started as a simple land-lease agreement has matured into a small “p” partnership. UEI is the experiential learning center, owned by Clive Felgate and located on 25 acres of Claggett property.

Some think of UEI as a “ropes course,” but it’s much more than that. Felgate and his staff offer an array of outward bound learning opportunities. A typical 4-6-hour session is led by a trained facilitator. It might include a warm-up activity, group challenge games, time on a few of the low ropes elements and a visit to at least one or two of the high ropes elements. At the conclusion of each segment, the facilitator helps the group “process” their experiences by first sharing their feelings about the experience itself and then examining how the experience might be applied to day-to-day relationships in the “real world.”

My first experience with a ropes course came in 1993 during a week-long training course titled “The Power of Vision.” One of our first activities was the “trust fall,” which challenged each person to climb up to a five-foot platform



PHOTO: DONNA KERNER

Kita Konerth from St. Paul's Church, Poplar Springs, takes a "leap of faith" at Youth Adventure Camp.

and fall backwards into the waiting arms of our fellow participants. We were total strangers, having arrived just a few hours earlier. Most of us gave a sigh of relief upon landing safely. Some couldn't muster enough of the “trust” to give the “fall” part a try.

Without a doubt the most moving experience of the week came when a woman who days earlier had refused to participate asked for a second chance. She had grown more confident with each additional challenge and impressed us all with her courage. She accepted the challenge and performed beautifully. The incredible level of trust engendered by that and other shared experiences on the ropes course enabled our group to accomplish much more than expected during our week together, and ultimately helped to bring Donna and me to Claggett. But that is another story.

Summer campers at Claggett all receive a UEI experience. Most enjoy the

low ropes group challenges like the Web or the Whale Watch because they require group planning, cooperation and teamwork to excel. On the other hand, others really get into the more exciting high ropes challenge elements like the Leap of Faith, Zip Line or Giant Swing.



PHOTO: DONNA KERNER

Joe Kerner

From a community standpoint, both experiences help to establish a positive tone for the week; the former because it engenders positive group dynamics and the latter because it fosters individual self-confidence.

We are very grateful to be blessed by this wonderful partnership with UEI. Our programs gain incredible benefit from having UEI located right here on the land that previously was leased to a tenant farmer. Now instead of \$55 per acre we receive no monetary return but lives are touched by God. In return, our partners, Felgate and his staff, have a place for their course and the opportunity to do something they love for a living.

Imagine if you can, 15 middle school youths balanced on a telephone pole suspended like a huge swing a foot off the ground. Awesome!

Upcoming Claggett Center Events

Women's Weekend, Jan. 8-10
Women's Weekend, Jan. 22-24
Men's Weekend, March 3-5

Registration forms and additional information:
bishopclaggett.org, dkerner@bishopclaggett.org
301-874-5147 Ext. 102

Are you receiving multiple copies of *Maryland Church News*? Report duplicates to mcn@ang-md.org or call the office, 410-467-1399 or 800-443-1399.

PHOTO: DONNA KERNER



Clive Felgate

Reflections of Honduras in Words and Pictures

Every year when the groups of youth missionaries return from their week in Honduras, either from the agricultural school in Talanga or the orphanage in the capitol city of Tegucigalpa, they write reflections of their time with the young men, boys and girls of El Hogar de Amor y Esperanza. Presented anonymously, they reveal the true meaning of mission, and the church in the world.

"THIS WAS MY SECOND TRIP to the farm in Talanga, and the first and most memorable thing that happened occurred once we arrived after a three-hour van ride, which should have only taken an hour. Once we unloaded the van, one of the boys who was in his third and therefore last year, came up to me and three other girls from my trip last year, and said each one of our names, and gave us each a hug. I knew that I would never forget the ever-spirited Feliciano from last year, but the fact that he remembered us as soon as he saw us made me so happy."

"EVEN THOUGH I HAD BEEN to Honduras before, I had never been to the farm, so I was pretty nervous going in. But those nerves were replaced with feelings of happiness, confidence and most importantly love. I've been reminded of all the beautiful things in this world that can transcend cultures - a smile, a song, a dance, a joke, a silly handshake, a hug or even a quick glance. Honduras, again, has opened my eyes and heart, reminding me of what is truly important in life and restoring my faith in love."

"HONDURAS IS FAR FROM PERFECT like every place on earth, yet you can find yourself and lose yourself in a heartbeat. There is such love, happiness, and faith that you



PHOTO: REYNA TILLMAN

Cows at the agricultural school of El Hogar de Amor y Esperanza, Talanga. The students, teenage boys, learn animal husbandry and farming practices, along with technology and automotives, while at the school.



PHOTO: REYNA TILLMAN

Amanda e-mails home from the computer lab of the agricultural school of El Hogar de Amor y Esperanza, Talanga. Under normal circumstances the mission groups would not send e-mails home, however, while this group was in Honduras, June 26-July 2, the Honduras president was arrested and exiled and the youth were encouraged to let their families that they were just fine.

believe you did find perfection. These are the things that make us not want to leave and draw us back. We plant our soul here and it becomes a new home for our hearts."

"MY FIRST ENCOUNTER with the boys of Talanga was an awkward one. I was standing beside the football field not knowing how I would ever learn their names let alone find a way to communicate with the boys. I felt overwhelmed, timid and tired. Little did I know that a few days later I would regard these incredible young men like my brothers. Throughout the week my self-consciousness dissipated and the boys accepted me for who I am. I have never felt so inspired and I am already attempting to make plans to return. The boys at Talanga showed our group so much love. I pray we were able to touch them in some way as well."

"THE HARDEST PART about his experience is having to say good-bye in the end, and not know exactly when you will see these amazing people again. But the best part is also the faith these boys have that one day, God will indeed reunite us once again. I wait for that day with excitement and thank God tremendously for another unforgettable journey in Honduras."

Celebrating Our Common Faith Connecting With Their Faith

BY THE REV. WES WUBBENHORST,
YOUTH MISSIONER FOR THE DIOCESE
OF MARYLAND

This mission began in 1992 in response to the great need in Honduras and in the Diocese of Honduras. Honduras is the largest Spanish-speaking diocese in the Episcopal Church and certainly one of the poorest. With more than 120 churches throughout the country, for the last two decades Honduras has also been one of the fastest-growing dioceses in the Episcopal Church.

Our missions go where the need is greatest. Each summer, three groups of more than a dozen young people and adult chaperones spend a week working with El Hogar Ministries, which consists of an orphanage and two technical schools. While there we do basic construction (sidewalks, painting, building, etc.), but more importantly we connect our youth with the wider church. We connect by interacting with the children at the orphanage and working side by side with the young men at the Technical Institute and the Agricultural School.

These interactions are invaluable as we cross over the barriers of language, food, culture, music, etc. and forge new relationships. We celebrate our common faith and discover another part of God's Kingdom. The time spent opens our hearts and eyes to see the poverty in the midst of our prosperity and to know and see the church having a major impact on the lives of these people. These trips connect us with our faith and open our hearts to God's call to love and serve all God's Children.

Hold the Date

Join Bishops Sutton and Rabb at the 2nd annual Bishop's Ball Dinner Dance for Youth Ministry Nov. 14, St. John's Church, Ellicott City 6-11 p.m. Live music and DJ.



Wes Wubbenhorst

Contact the Youth Missioner:

The Rev. Wes Wubbenhorst
www.wubbenhorst@ang-md.org
410-467-1399 ■ 800-443-1399
www.youth.ang-md.org

(Haiti, cont'd from page 13) groups. The Youth Group from St. John's sought an invitation to come back again to do reforestation and proposed raising money for next year. The Youth Group from St. Etienne's (clearly not as enamored with agricultural work as their US counterparts) proposed more cultural exchange, teaching each other their respective languages and asking the St. John's youth to help them set up a computer lab room. Everyone agreed to find more ways to access communication through the Internet. A tentative plan for a return trip in June 2010 was planned.

Haitians, like many in economically poor countries, have entertained many guests with good intentions whom they never see again. Often partnership projects fail in Haiti because Haitians do not have the confidence that partners will actually return, that plans will actually be implemented.

Some of the success of this joint partnership comes from the willingness of the Youth Group from St. John's to find multiple ways of staying connected. Besides the pre-planning trip over the Christmas holidays, the youth sent a representative down to Haiti one month prior to the trip to solidify plans. Two Youth Group leaders arrived in Haiti two days in advance of the entire group to answer any last minute questions or solve any last-minute problems.

Staying in touch in multiple ways and the very act of returning to visit regularly slowly builds the trust that the youth of St. John's hopes will sustain this partnership into the future.

The Rev. Tracy A. Bruce is the rector of St. John's Church, Glyndon. She has traveled to Haiti on numerous mission trips. 410-833-5300

Position Available

The Diocese is looking for excellent candidates for Staff Accountant. Responsible for day-to-day processing and recording of financial transactions. Qualified applicants should see ang-md.org/employ.php for a position summary and application information.

Clergy Movement

From the Diocese of Maryland

- Mark Michael: from rector, St. Paul's Church, Sharpsburg, to rector, Christ Church, Cooperstown, N.Y.
- Charles Messer: from asst. rector, Church of the Redeemer, Baltimore, to rector, Calvary Church, Rockdale, Pa.
- Arthur Callahan: from curate, St. James' Parish, Monkton, to rector, St. Cyrian Church, Lufkin, Tex.
- Mike Wallens: from interim rector, St. Thomas' Church, Garrison Forest, to chaplain, St. Stephen's School, Austin, Tex.
- Rebekah Hatch: from asst. rector, Church of the Good Shepherd, Ruxton, to Atlanta, Ga.
- James Isaacs: from rector, St. Andrew the Fisherman, Mayo, returning to school
- Andrew Wright: from the diocese to rector, St. Anne's Church, DeSoto, Tex.

To the Diocese of Maryland

- Victor Hailey: newly ordained deacon to curate, St. James' Parish, Monkton
- David Reamsnyder: newly ordained priest to asst. rector, Mt. Calvary Church, Baltimore
- Hal Hayek: from rector, St. Anne's Church, Winston-Salem, N.C., to dean, Cathedral of the Incarnation, Baltimore

Within the Diocese of Maryland

- The Rev. Joe Rushton: from asst. rector, Trinity Church, Towson, to interim rector, Church of the Holy Comforter, Lutherville
- Anjel Scarborough: asst. rector, St. Mark's Church, Lappans

Deacons in the Diocese of Maryland

- Kristofer Lindh-Payne, transitional deacon, Epiphany Church, Dulany Valley
- Gail Landers, vocational deacon, St. David's Church, Baltimore
- John C. Martin Jr., vocational deacon, Church of the Holy Cross, Cumberland

Received into the Episcopal Church

- Stuart Wright from the ELCA, June 26, 2009

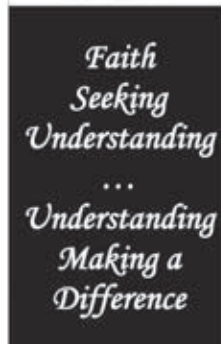
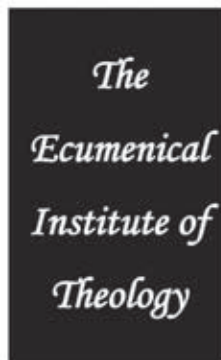
Licensed to Officiate in this Diocese

- J. Larrie Smith

Vows

- The Rev. Thomas J. Hudson professed Solemn Vows in the Anglican Order of Preachers

Visit the diocesan staff Web page at ang-md.org, for updates on staff assignments and contact information.



FALL EVENTS

DUNNING LECTURE

Thursday, October 15, 2009 • 7:30 p.m.

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Call or email for more information!
5400 Roland Ave., Baltimore, 410-864-4200
ei@stmarys.edu ♦ www.stmarys.edu/ei

SEP

12

CRAB FEAST

6 p.m.
St. James' Church
19200 York Rd., Parkton
Steamed crabs, pit beef, salads, live music, soft drinks, beer and wine. \$40 per person. Tables of 10 available. Limited tickets available. 410-357-4473

16

EXCAVATING THE PAST – EXPLORING THE FUTURE

7 p.m.
Calvert Marine Museum
14200 Solomons Island Rd., Solomons
Part one in a three-part series celebrating the Parish of Middleham & St. Peter's 325th anniversary. This episode, on the Development of Solomons Island and St. Peter's Chapel entitled *Solomons Island: The Ebb and Flow of Church and Community*, features CMM Historian Richard Dodds, author of *Islands in the River*. 410-326-4948, middlehamstpeters.org

18

INTEGRITY/BALTIMORE MEETING

7-9 p.m.
Cathedral of the Incarnation
4 E. University Pkwy, Baltimore
Eucharist in the Peace Chapel with the Rev. Scott Bellows, rector, St. David's Church, Roland Park, followed by potluck supper with conversation and fellowship. All are welcome.
maryh.miller@verizon.net

18-19

MUSIC MINISTRIES RETREAT

Fri 5 p.m.–Sat 4 p.m.
Bishop Claggett Center
3035 Buckeystown Pike, Buckeystown
The diocesan Committee on Liturgy and Music presents workshops, keynote speakers, and anthem reading sessions for choir directors and others in music ministries. Cost: \$135. 301-874-5147, bishopclaggett.org

19

FALL FLEA MARKET

8 a.m.-1 p.m.
St. Alban's Parish
105 First Ave., Glen Burnie
Rain or shine. 410-766-1455

EMBER DAY

9:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.
Bishop Claggett Center
3035 Buckeystown Pike,

Buckeystown

Meditations and quiet time to walk, read or work in the garden. Leader: the Rev. Amy Richter, rector-elect of St. Anne's Church, Annapolis. Cost: \$25. 301-874-5147, bishopclaggett.org

ECUMENICAL GATHERING OF WOMEN

10 a.m.
St. Matthew's Church
126 E. Liberty St., Oakland
Discussion group. Complimentary childcare is available by reservation. Contact: the Rev. Pam Fahrner, 301 387-6313 or phfahrner@comcast.net.

20

JAZZ EUCHARIST/FOUNDERS' DAY CELEBRATION

4 p.m.
Church of the Holy Covenant
5657 The Alameda, Baltimore
Celebrating 15 years as an independent parish. Features the John Lamkin Sacred Jazz Quintet. 410-435-3707, holycovenant.org

22

PRAY FOR PEACE

Maryland Presbyterian Church
1105 Providence Rd., Towson
7:30 p.m.
All are welcome at this interfaith service. The Rev. Charles Cloughen, frcharles@verizon.net

26

WINDSTORIES

5 p.m.
Cathedral of the Incarnation
4 E. University Pkwy, Baltimore
A performance by the Annapolis Chamber Players in support of ERICA – Episcopal Refugee & Immigrant Center Alliance, offering free assistance to refugees, asylum seekers and immigrants in the greater Baltimore area. A candlelight reception will follow the performance. Suggested donation per ticket is \$50. For tickets: 410-467-3750, erica@thecathedral.ang-md.org, erica-baltimore.org.

27

ANA HERNANDEZ

8, 9:15, 10:30 a.m.; 5:30 p.m.
All Saints' Parish
106 W. Church St., Frederick
The Sacred Art of the Chant
author leads worship services, using traditional and contemporary chants and spiritual songs. All are welcome. Contact the Rev. Tom Momberg at All Saints' fathermom@allsaintsmd.org; 301-663-5625.

TRINITY CHURCH, LONG GREEN

1-5 p.m.
Boordy Vineyard
12820 Long Green Pike, Hydes
Celebrate the church's 190th anniversary with music and square dancing from "Twin Sisters" band. \$10 admission; a portion of the proceeds benefit the Greater Long Green Community Association. trinitychurchlonggreen.org, trinitylg@verizon.net, 410-592-6224.

29

FEAST OF SAINT MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS

6:30 p.m.
St. John's in the Village
3009 Greenmount Ave., B'more
Service Music will include Giovanni Luigi da Palestrina *Missa 'Christi Aeterna Munera'*, Palestrina's *Venit Michael et Angeli Archangeli* sung by the choir of St. John's led by Thomas Hetrick organist/choirmaster. 410-467-4793 stjohsinthevillage.org

OCT

2

SHRIMP DINNER

11 a.m.-7 p.m.
Church of the Redemption
1401 Towson St., Locust Point
Six fried shrimp, macaroni and cheese, cole slaw, stewed tomatoes, roll and butter, coffee/tea for \$11. Dessert and sodas extra. No charge for carryout. Free delivery in Locust Point, Federal Hill and to Diocesan Center. Further information: the Rev. Annette Chappell 410-539-8270.

3

FALL FESTIVAL & HAM AND OYSTER DINNER

2-6 p.m.
St. James' Parish
5757 Solomons Island Rd., Lothian
Country and honey-baked ham and oysters and all the fixins'. \$20 at the door; children 3- 10, \$10; \$18 tickets in advance to be held at the door. Contact Wendy, stjamesdinner@aol.com, 410-746-5679. Festival admission free. Children's activities, Country Store, Garden Shoppe, crafts and White Elephant boutique, Bake Shoppe, antique cars, etc. 410-867-2838, stjameslothian.com

4

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

12 noon
Trinity Church, Long Green
12400 Manor Rd., Glen Arm

Celebrating the church's 190th anniversary. trinitychurchlonggreen.org, trinitylg@verizon.net, 410-592-6224.

CONCERT

4 p.m.
Immanuel Church
1509 Glencoe Rd., Glencoe
Romantic and Baroque Music for flute and organ. Admission is free. Ted Dix, Organ, Gretchen Dix-Flute. 410-323-3322

EXCAVATING THE PAST – EXPLORING THE FUTURE

Time & location TBD
Part two in a three-part series celebrating the Parish of Middleham & St. Peter's 325th anniversary. This episode: On Religious Toleration in Maryland, *Maryland's Religious Toleration: The Legends, the Myths, and Some Facts*. This symposium is co-sponsored by the Center for Democracy at St. Mary's College. 410-326-4948, middlehamstpeters.org

6

BOOK DISCUSSION

7 p.m.
St. John's Church
9120 Frederick Rd., Ellicott City
In Mortal Hands: A Cautionary History of the Nuclear Age by Stephanie Cooke. Meet the author, discussion, refreshments. Book available for purchase. Sponsored by the church's book club and Stewardship of Creation committee. 410-461-7793

7

PORT OF BALTIMORE CRUISE

4:45 p.m.
Pier 5, Baltimore Inner Harbor
Cruise aboard the Duchess of Pin-tail to benefit the Baltimore International Seafarers' Center. Happy-hour snacks, soft drinks, beer, wine. \$50 per person. RSVP by Sept. 18. 410-685-1240; maryhtdavisson@aol.com

11

CELEBRATION OF NEW ORGAN

10 a.m.
Emmanuel Church
811 Cathedral St., Baltimore
Organist/choirmaster Dr. John Bowen plans a special concert of preludes before the 10:30 Morning Prayer service to celebrate Emmanuel's new Letourneau Opus 114. Free and open to the public. Vince@Emmanuel, 410-685-1130

CAR RALLY

11:30 a.m.
Trinity Church, Long Green
12400 Manor Rd., Glen Arm
Celebrating the church's 190th anniversary. Car rally through the Long Green Valley and My Lady's

Manor, Baltimore County. trinitychurchlonggreen.org, trinitylg@verizon.net, 410-592-6224.

16

INTEGRITY/BALTIMORE MEETING

7-9 p.m.
Cathedral of the Incarnation
4 E. University Pkwy, Baltimore
Eucharist in the Peace Chapel with the Rev. Joann White, rector, Sherwood Church, Cockeysville, followed by potluck supper with conversation and fellowship. All are welcome. maryh.miller@verizon.net

17

COMEDY FUNRAISER

7 p.m.
Big Baker Chapel
McDaniel College, Westminster
Jeff Allen, inspirational comedian, and Monte Leister, singer/songwriter, perform, benefitting Church of the Ascension, Westminster, and the Manna Ministry soup kitchen. Tickets \$20, adults/\$10, 12 and under, at ticketleap.com or 410-848-3251, 410-876-0736

18

EUCHARIST & BARBECUE

10 a.m.
Trinity Church, Long Green
12400 Manor Rd., Glen Arm
Celebrating the church's 190th anniversary. Eucharist followed by a chicken barbecue. trinitychurchlonggreen.org, trinitylg@verizon.net, 410-592-6224.

18

TRADITIONAL CHORAL EVENSONG

4 p.m.
St. John's in the Village
3009 Greenmount Ave., B'more
Service Music will include *Service for Trebles* by Thomas Weelkes and Thomas Tomkins' *O sing unto the Lord a new song* sung by the choir of St. John's led by Thomas Hetrick organist/choirmaster. 410-467-4793, stjohsinthevillage.org

22

PRAY FOR PEACE

7:30 p.m.
Location TBD
All are welcome at this interfaith service. The Rev. Charles Cloughen, frcharles@verizon.net

24

HOLIDAY BAZAAR

9 a.m.-2 p.m.
St. Paul's Church
16457 Old Frederick Rd., Mt. Airy
Baked goods, jellies, ornaments,

collectibles, entertainment books, fall and winter holiday items, silent auction, gifts to go, decorations, craft items, lunch and more. Free. 410-489-4411

25

ART AUCTION

1-3 p.m.
St. Alban's Parish
105 First Ave., Glen Burnie
Variety of art venues with priced and silent auction items. Light refreshments. Peg Davidson
410-360-6216

Nov

EXCAVATING THE PAST – EXPLORING THE FUTURE

Date, time & location TBD
Part three in a three-part series celebrating the Parish of Middleham & St. Peter's 325th anniversary — on African-Americans and their impact on community and church life yesterday and today. 410-326-4948, middlehamst-peters.org

1

EVENSONG

4 p.m.
Immanuel Church
1509 Glencoe Rd., Glencoe
Organ and choral works celebrating the 350th anniversary of the birth of Henry Purcell. Admission is free. 410-323-3322

CHORAL EVENSONG FOR ALL SAINTS'

4 p.m.
St. John's in the Village
3009 Greenmount Ave., B'more
Service Music will include *Evening Service - Collegium Regale* by Herbert Howells and William Byrd's *O quam Gloriosum* sung by the choir of St. John's led by Thomas Hetrick, organist/choir-master. 410-467-4793, stjohsinthevillage.org

CHORAL EVENSONG FOR ALL SAINTS' DAY

5 p.m.
St. John's Parish
101 S. Prospect St., Hagerstown
Sung by the Parish Choir, Mark King, director, the Rev. Stephanie Yancy, officiant. 301-733-2560, ext. 108 st.johnshagerstown.org

3

CHORAL REQUIEM FOR ALL SOULS' DAY

6:30 p.m.
St. John's in the Village
3009 Greenmount Ave., B'more
Service music will include Orlando di Lasso's *Requiem* and the *Burial Sentences* by William Croft sung by the choir of St.

John's led by Thomas Hetrick, organist/choirmaster. 410-467-4793, stjohsinthevillage.org

6-7

PEACEMAKER MINISTRIES SEMINAR

Fri and Sat: 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
St. Timothy's Church,
200 Ingleside Ave., Catonsville
Friday: Biblical Peacemaking. Saturday: Marital Reconciliation. Attend one or both days. Cost: \$18.00 per person/per day or \$28.00 per couple/per day. Lunch on your own; local restaurants. www.sttimscatonsville.org
410-747-6690

7

HOLIDAY ARTS & CRAFTS FESTIVAL

9 a.m.-3 p.m.
St. James' Church
19200 York Rd., Parkton
7th annual holiday festival featuring juried artisans. Tea Room serving gourmet breakfast and lunch. Admission: \$1 and a can of nonperishable food for the Hereford Food Bank; children 12 and under free. Proceeds support local charities and church programs. 410-357-4473, stjamesparkton.org

ANNUAL FALL DINNER

3 p.m.-6:30 p.m.
St. Stephen's Church-Severn Parish
1110 St. Stephen's Church Rd., Crownsville
Annual dinner features roast turkey and all the fixings. Takeout available. Adults \$17 at door (\$15 advance sale); children 5-12 \$6; children under 5 free. Bake sale. 410-721-2881

8

24TH ANNUAL FERRIS LECTURE

12:45 p.m.
Emmanuel Church
811 Cathedral St., Baltimore
Dr. Judy Fentress-Williams, associate professor of Old Testament at Virginia Theological Seminary, will speak. Reception follows. Vince@Emmanuel, 410-685-1130

10

QUARTERMANIA

Doors open 6 p.m.
Holy Trinity Catholic Church Fellowship Hall
7436 Baltimore & Annapolis Blvd., Glen Burnie
Benefits St. Alban's Parish, Glen Burnie. \$5 advance tickets through St. Alban's includes one paddle. Additional paddles \$2 at the door. Peg Davidson 410-360-6216

12-14

36TH ANNUAL MISTLETOE MART

Thurs-Fri 10 a.m.-8:30 p.m.

Sat 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Church of the Ascension
23 N. Court St., Westminster
50 juried artisans and crafts featuring 15 new vendors. Door prizes, silent auction, cafe, country store. Admission \$5; under 12 \$1. On-site parking, handicap accessible. 410-848-3251, mistletoemart.org

14

HOLIDAY BAZAAR

12-6 p.m.
St. Alban's Parish
105 First Ave., Glen Burnie
Turkey Dinner with all the trimmings and gift items for sale. 410-766-1455

15

TRADITIONAL CHORAL EVENSONG

4 p.m.
St. John's in the Village
3009 Greenmount Ave., B'more
Service music will include Herbert Howells' *Gloucester Service* and Edgar Bainton's *And I Saw a New Heaven*. 410-467-4793, stjohsinthevillage.org

20

INTEGRITY/BALTIMORE MEETING

7-9 p.m.
Cathedral of the Incarnation
4 E. University Pkwy, Baltimore
Eucharist in the Peace Chapel to celebrate the chapter's 19th anniversary, followed by potluck supper with conversation and fellowship. All are welcome. maryh.miller@verizon.net

21

HOLIDAY BAZAAR & SILENT AUCTION

10 a.m.-4 p.m.
St. Stephen's Church-Severn Parish
1110 St. Stephen's Church Rd., Crownsville

Handmade articles, holiday decorations, theme baskets, homemade baked goods, and silent auction. Lunch served. Look for silent auction item list on church website: stephens-severn.ang-md.org in early October. 410-721-2881

22

PRAY FOR PEACE

7:30 p.m.
Location TBD
All are welcome at this interfaith service. The Rev. Charles Cloughen, frcharles@verizon.net

29

ST. ANDREW'S DAY CELEBRATION

10:15 a.m.
Emmanuel Church
811 Cathedral St., Baltimore
The Kiltie Band of York brings its bagpipes to Emmanuel for this special celebratory procession and service, long a tradition at Emmanuel. Vince@Emmanuel, 410-685-1130

29

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

12 noon
The Great Hall at Emmanuel Church
811 Cathedral St., Baltimore
The Women of Emmanuel assemble a uniquely fabulous collection of just about everything for their annual fun fundraiser. Refreshments. Vince@Emmanuel, 410-685-1130

"MESSIAH" SING-ALONG

4 p.m.
St. James' Church
5757 Solomons Island Rd., Lothian
Bring a snack and a score to sing the Christmas portion of Handel's "Messiah" with chamber ensemble, directed by Michael S. Ryan. Candlelight reception follows in parish hall. Some scores available

to buy and borrow.
Val Hymes, 410-224-2478,
valhymes@aol.com,
stjameslothian.com

DEC

5

EMBER DAY

9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
Bishop Claggett Center
3035 Buckeystown Pike,
Buckeystown
Unique time in the presence of God with meditations by the Rev. Tom Momberg, All Saints' Parish, Frederick. Cost: \$25. 301-874-5147, bishopclaggett.org

6

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

12 noon
The Great Hall at Emmanuel Church
811 Cathedral St., Baltimore
The Women of Emmanuel assemble a uniquely fabulous collection of just about everything for their annual fun fundraiser. Refreshments. Vince@Emmanuel, 410-685-1130

20

4 p.m.
Immanuel Church
1509 Glencoe Rd., Glencoe
A Christmas Festival of Lessons and Carols. Admission is free. 410-323-3322

TRADITIONAL CHORAL EVENSONG

4 p.m.
St. John's in the Village
3009 Greenmount Ave., B'more
Service music will include Arvo Part's *Magnificat* and Palestrina's *Canite Tuba in Sion*. 410-467-4793, stjohsinthevillage.org

FEATURED EVENT

November 20-22, 2009

MEN'S RECOVERY RETREAT

Fri 7:30 p.m.-Sun 1 p.m.
Bishop Claggett Center
3035 Buckeystown Pike, Buckeystown

A retreat to focus on recovery and share fellowship, prayers and worship, this program is designed for men presently in 12-step programs: AA & NA. All meals, snacks and beverages are included. Led by the Rev. Robert Herzog, deacon in the Archdiocese of Baltimore. Space is limited! Please register by Sept. 28.

Costs: \$160 overnight or \$90 day only; \$50 deposit requested

Contact: The Rev. Henry Sabetti, Church of the Transfiguration, Henry.Sabetti@verizon.net, 301-371-7505 or the Rev. Wes Wubbenhorst, Diocese of Maryland, wwubbenhorst@ang-md.org, 1-800-443-1399 to register.

[around the diocese]

The Geography of Discernment A discernment program for lay ministry

BY DEBRA DONNELLY-BARTON

“To be rooted is perhaps the most important need of the human soul.”
– Simone Weil

DISCERNMENT IS THE ART of separating one thing from another—taking the outside information and listening to its inside significance, in the midst of a praying community. Geography helps us locate ourselves and explore the possibilities of our particular landscape.

As we look back over the ways in which God has been present to us we can chart a course of these divine encounters. Each person will have a personal geography of discernment set into the larger context of human discernment, much as a local area has its own landscape, which contributes and speaks to the topography of a region.

We are people of the land, from Genesis to Golgotha, from Eden to the New Jerusalem; we are searching for the ground upon which we find our true home.

We are spiritual cartographers charting our way from our beginnings to the present moment. “The Geography of Discernment” offers seekers an opportunity to come away for a while and focus on the significant landscapes of their own listening to God’s call.

In this eight-month program of learn-

ing discernment and deepening of lay ministry, participants will meet on-line and on site to reflect upon scripture, practice spiritual disciplines and discuss assigned texts.

In response to the revised canons under Title III-Ministry, Canon I: each diocese is responsible to “make provision for the affirmation and development of the ministry of all baptized persons.”

The Center for Spiritual Development at Saint James’ Parish, Monkton, is offering this program, focused on three geographic themes: location, place and climate.

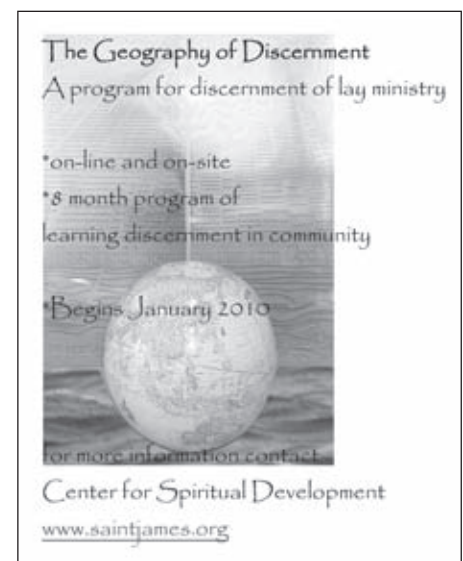
Location helps us answer the questions about where we find ourselves now.

Place addresses itself to the places in the heart. What is our affective interaction with both physical location and spiritual reality?

Climate refers to the atmosphere that we help to create which encourages our growth toward God.

Along with these geographic themes we will explore three monastic vows: stability, obedience and conversion of life.

Stability keeps us committed to the places that God is presenting to us, whether our church community, our job, our present location or spiritual practice.



Obedience reminds us that we are not on this journey alone. Trusted mentors and our communities often see aspects of God’s call that we cannot perceive.

A vow to conversion of life keeps us asking questions and stretching our hearts God-ward. The spiritual life moves like river water even when that water is held by rocky banks and fed by mountain springs.

The Geography of Discernment invites all baptized persons to explore the depth of their own journey and the horizon of God’s desires for them.

For more information please contact the Center for Spiritual Development, Debra Donnelly-Barton, saintjames.org, 410-771-4466