

THE JOURNAL OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MARYLAND

MARYLAND CHURCH NEWS

WINTER
2009/2010

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IN THIS ISSUE:

ECUMENICAL AND INTERFAITH RELATIONS



Love can exclude no race or creed
if honored be God's name;
our common life embraces all
whose father is the same.

Where Charity and Love Prevail, Hymn 581, 1982 Hymnal

MCN special bonus: Bishops' Appeal donation form, page 16. Help support mission and ministry throughout the diocese with a donation.

[from the editor]

Honoring My Heritage

I am proud to say that I am the product of a 1950s interfaith marriage. Raised Roman Catholic by my Italian Catholic dad and Sephardic Jewish mom, I thought everyone was like us – a happy mixture of seemingly disparate worlds. It was amazing – the foods, the cultures, the emotions. To this day I love the complication and the messiness of it all.



Sharon Tillman

When the time came in school, around 3rd or 4th grade, to talk about genetics, genealogy, or whatever guise that discussion takes, I went home and asked, “What am I?” “Well...” mom answered, hesitating. Looking back I could see she was deciding between the short not-so-accurate answer half-Sicilian/half-Spanish or the more complex post-Inquisition explanation with maps, diagrams and the *Old Testament*.

As I grew older I learned about my mother’s ancestors, their struggles and their need to keep moving – from Spain to Greece and Turkey. Wherever they went they weren’t considered citizens of that country, but Jews. When the Greek army tried to draft my grandfather to fight the Turks, he and my grandmother left for the U.S. I learned more about the Sephardic culture than the Jewish religion. I was Baptized, received First Communion and was Confirmed. We had Passover Seders and ate ham on Easter.

As a result of my upbringing I am fascinated by different religions, and how beliefs play into the culture of a society. However, I observe Middle East issues with a less-than-objective eye. This fall I attended my first Interfaith Peace Service – a service held the 22nd of every month (Maryland’s peace day) to pray for peace among Muslims, Jews and Christians in the Middle East. I was invited by the Rev. Charles Cloughen, a founder of

the service, to dinner with others before that evening’s service.

What I experienced that night was nothing short of amazing. Seated around the room were Christians and Muslims and me. Stories of visits to Israel and Palestine – home for several gathered there – brought to life the issues beyond the media reports, beyond the press releases, beyond the politics.

The epiphany for me was that at the core are the people who are living, trying to make a life amidst the bombings, the speeches and the hatred. People whose faiths may be different but whose desire to raise a family, pass down their heritage and leave a legacy are the same as anyone else’s.

Looking at the ecumenical and interfaith relationships we have forged in the Diocese of Maryland I see the same theme. No one religion can be all things to all people, there are many ideologies and beliefs just as there are many cultures. But despite differences, the desire to help others, work for peace, educate our children, feed the hungry and create a better world is universal.

Salaam-Shalom-Peace,

Editor, *Maryland Church News*

P.S. Don’t forget to visit *MCN Online* (marylandchurchnews.org) for more ecumenical and interfaith stories and news from the diocese.

ON THE COVER: The Shalom Cottage, the infirmary at the Bishop Claggett Center, a healing place, stands as an open reminder that this diocese is committed to join with people of all faiths to do God’s work side by side, in faithful witness to his glory. You can still faintly see the Hebrew characters spelling Shalom next to the front door. Shalom is the Hebrew word for peace, completeness and welfare – peace between individuals, groups and even countries, but first and foremost Shalom means the peace between a person and God. The Arabic equivalent is Salaam. Photo: Donna Kerner

THE JOURNAL OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MARYLAND MARYLAND CHURCH NEWS

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IN THE NEXT ISSUE:

RURAL MINISTRY

Deadlines for next issue:

EDITORIAL/CALENDAR LISTINGS: Jan. 22

ADVERTISING SPACE: Jan. 22

ADVERTISING MATERIALS: Jan. 29

DELIVERY: Feb. 23

Sharon Tillman, *Editor*

Val & Don Hymes, *Contributing Editors*

Jason Hoffman, *Photo Editor*

Diocesan Staff News

BY SHARON TILLMAN

Visit the diocesan staff Web page at ang-md.org, for complete list of responsibilities.

Natalie Conway is now transitions missionary. She works primarily with congregations and clergy in matters relating to clergy deployment and training. nconway@ang-md.org

In addition to his duties as director of human resources, the **Rev. Stuart Wright** will also oversee issues related to clergy transition, and has taken on additional responsibilities as canon for lifelong Christian formation. In this role, he will support the work of the Christian Formation Council. He is available to assist congregations in developing programs and leadership according to their needs. swright@ang-md.org

The **Rev. Charles Cloughen** joined the staff part-time as director of planned giving, stewardship and development. He is available to work with congregations. ccloughen@ang-md.org

Sharon Tillman is now director of communications, overseeing the needs of the diocese as well as assisting congregations, schools and ministries with theirs. She is joined in the communications office by **Jason Hoffman**, diocesan webmaster and associate for electronic communications. stillman@ang-md.org and jhoffman@ang-md.org

Sam Marlow is a new staff accountant. As a staff accountant specializing in accounts payable, he primarily processes non-payroll operational expenses that come due to the Diocese of Maryland. smarlow@ang-md.org

Kay Barnes, diocesan Resource Center director since 2002, announced her retirement effective Dec. 31. Kay has been a wonderful gift to the Diocese of Maryland, bringing her organizational skills and library training to meet the needs of congregations and parish leaders in Christian formation.

The **Rev. Daniel Webster** will begin work Feb. 1 as canon for evangelism and ministry development. In this new position, Dan will oversee evangelism efforts, develop and implement a strategy for church growth, recommend new mission starts and identify resources for supporting these missions, and assist existing congregations in identifying, nurturing and equipping leaders. Dan comes here from the Diocese of New York, where he served as vicar of St. Francis of Assisi Church (Montgomery) and as one of three canons for congregational development.

Theresa Brion will also begin work with the Diocese Feb. 1 as Western Maryland missionary. A graduate of Episcopal Divinity School, she is a candidate for ordination in the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia. Theresa has a longtime interest in rural ministry and the empowerment of the baptized. Theresa will assist and provide service and direction to the clergy, vestries, and congregations in the western region on whatever issues they may face, but especially in the implementation of Mutual Ministry.

226th Diocesan Convention

April 30-May 1 • Marriott Hunt Valley Inn
Visit the Convention page of the diocesan Web site for the latest news and information.

2010 Deadlines

Certification Forms	Feb. 5
Nomination Forms	Feb. 15
Resolutions	March 1
Journal Reports	March 1
Display & Exhibit Forms	March 12
Registration Forms	March 23
Hotel Reservations	March 30
Nominations for Bishops Awards	April 5

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.

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All God's Children, Part 2

As many of you know, I have been calling for the Diocese of Maryland to turn its attention to the needs of poor children, particularly toward the education of children who have been impacted by crime, violence and societal neglect. I envision the formation of a new Episcopal-related urban school, with the mission of providing a first-rate education for the poor in Baltimore City.



A S I SAID IN MY VERY FIRST SERMON as your bishop-elect: "...St. Paul emphasized that it is all of creation that needs to be reconciled under God, not just individuals. In the public arena, our systems of caring for each other have broken down. In the city of Baltimore, for example, we are well aware of how much the public school system has failed the poorest, most vulnerable people in our society. It is a moral priority for the church when only 35 percent of Baltimore's children graduate from high school. I believe that God is calling us to do our part in providing better quality educational opportunities for all of God's children." Diocesan Convention, 2008

Baltimore has the highest concentration of poor children and youth in Maryland. All of us, whether we live in the most rural parts of the state or in the wealthiest towns and suburbs, have a stake in a society that puts out tens of thousands of young people who are uneducated, unskilled and angered by a system that does not seem to care.

Now is the time for the Episcopal Church – which is known for having top-flight primary schools – to step up and say that we care, we are willing to commit to doing our share to address this problem. For 2,000 years followers of Christ have established schools, hospitals, and missions of mercy and justice to show all people that God loves them. Now is the time to put our best efforts forward to accomplish this mission in our day.

I was encouraged to explore this possibility further with experts and interested parties after many exciting conversations about this vision with people across the diocese. To that end, last February I called together the Urban School Working Group to assess the need, identify resources, address obstacles and make recommendations as to how the diocese can make the dream of involving itself in urban education a reality.

Included in these discussions were the heads of St. Paul's School, St. Paul's School for Girls, St. James' Academy and St. Timothy's School – representing the more than 20 Episcopal schools in the diocese, each ensuring that their institutions are accessible for students of diverse backgrounds. I've been very pleased at their support of this study.

This fall, the USWG submitted its report to me, outlining three possible approaches:

- Establish an independent Episcopal school
- Explore a public-private partnership with Baltimore City Public Schools for a new school
- Form a diocesan Office of Urban Education to advance several initiatives addressing the needs of poor students

Each of these approaches has its advantages and disadvantages. The working group provided a forum to discuss the relative merits of each possibility.

With that, I believe that the best course for us is to work toward a new charter school with the BCPS, possibly beginning

in the fall of 2011. It's important to note that we are in the early stages of this discernment – no final decisions have been made, and no application for a charter school has been submitted. I will be calling on the diocese to support this continued discernment through the Horizons Gathering.

While this approach will not afford us the freedom of providing the kind of Episcopal education that we normally enjoy through independent schools, it will be a very powerful symbol for us and for a public school system in some distress. The Episcopal Church will not abandon the city in its efforts to turn itself around. We are willing partners in educating many of its poor students.

The decision to explore this possibility relates to a larger mission: *the spirituality of reconciliation in action*. If we are willing to roll up our sleeves and work with the public schools on this issue, we will be fulfilling the dream of the prophet Jeremiah to "seek the welfare of the city...and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare." (*Jer 29:7*)

There is another powerful historic reason why I believe that the Holy Spirit is calling us to revisit the mission of urban education. In 1899, the Rev. George Freeman Bragg, the nationally prominent rector of St. James' Church, Lafayette Square, (the first African-American Episcopal parish south of the Mason-Dixon Line), formed a group of interested citizens that established the *Maryland Home for Friendless Colored Children*. The closing of an orphanage precipitated the new venture.

In 1923, the home moved from its cramped facility in the city to a 32-acre site in western Baltimore County. Dormitories, classrooms, a chapel and gymnasium formed the campus. In 1920 Bishop John Gardner Murray adopted this unique home as a diocesan institution, with its trustees elected annually by Convention. By 1950, however, decreased institutional support and declining enrollment forced the school's closure. The site was purchased by the city school system, which still operates the Bragg Nature Center, a resource for urban students to experience nature, gardening and an appreciation for creation.

The need that Murray, Bragg, and others saw then still exists today. Thousands of disadvantaged youths still roam the streets of Baltimore, many of them seeking a way out of desperate situations, needing our help. We know that the most effective way to lift people out of poverty and crime is through a quality education, and that is the great gift of our Church. We are called to keep faith with that vision of our forefathers. Now is the time to fulfill the promise of educating the urban poor, and complete the work that we began more than a century ago.

The Rt. Rev. Eugene Taylor Sutton

Dignity and Differences

At the 2008 Lambeth Conference one of the most inspiring speakers was Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, chief rabbi for United Congregations of Britain and the Commonwealth. In his two books, *The House We Build Together* and *Dignity in Difference*, Sacks eloquently states that having differences does not and should not preclude us from the fullest of cooperation. He also notes there can be dignity in our differences; they need not be sources of contention or strife.



Ecumenism involves Christian churches and communities seeking deeper unity and cooperating on common matters. For the Episcopal Church, unity involves such things as our intercommunion with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Moravian Church, as well as the various dialogues we have both as Episcopalians and as Anglicans. The various cooperative ministries we do include ministerial associations, outreach, and various educational and social ministries.

Interfaith work is what we do with Jews, Muslims and people of other faiths throughout the world. This work is complicated by our differing theologies. Nevertheless these relationships are critical. I was very moved back in 1994 when I attended a presentation by that year's Nobel peace laureate Shimon Peres. Currently the president of Israel, Peres spoke of how Christians, Jews and Muslims were all being assaulted by violence and what we can do together to bring about peace.

Peres' speech led me to take a pilgrimage to Israel and Palestine to try and understand how peace can be attained. Violence pervades cultures everywhere. Uninformed and prejudicial comments can often lead to a dismissing of another because of her or his faith. Dismissing another denies them their dignity and worth.

Sacks offers another great point in regard to interfaith work, which is to build solidarity in society such that the dignity of all is upheld, as in our own Baptismal Covenant. Further, solidarity in society is about the vehicles of peace, justice and caring that are common to many faiths. In such solidarity we not only coexist but we cooperate.

I believe that ecumenical and interfaith work start with deeper understandings of who we are, what we share and what may divide us, or as Sacks calls it, "the dignity of difference." We need to see the dignity in our sisters and brothers of various faiths and Christian bodies. We must cease the judgmental and isolating acts that divide people against people. I am always saddened by the quick judgments we place on people who differ from us and how we fail to understand who they are and what they believe.

In ecumenism the challenges are complex. First, the great move toward Christian unity has been slowed in part because we are working to understand our own identities so we are not in a position to discuss greater unity with other faiths. Second, we are facing the reality that we are not working anymore for

People of various faiths are often brought together by what Sacks calls the "covenants of circumstances." Finding peace and ending violence is one such reality.

what the late Dr. Theodore Wedel called "the coming, great and mighty church" (his words for a unified Christian church) but rather in bilateral work. This ranges from dialogue with the Roman Catholics, to formal conversations with the United Methodists, to full communion with the Lutherans and Moravians.

However, as we share common faithful commitments to justice, the environment, combating racism and addressing so many matters common to all Christians, we are seeing an increase in ecumenical work.

While the next steps may not be fully apparent, this does not mean that ecumenism is dead or even on life support, but that a new reality is emerging and that reality is not fully clear to us yet.

My own theology is rooted in what John Macquarrie says in *Principles of Christian Theology*. When we, as Anglicans, look at matters ecumenically we ask how they manifest what we say in the Nicene

Creed that we are a "one, holy catholic and apostolic church." I would like to see greater unity with Anglicans and Roman Catholics and with the Eastern Orthodox churches. Here we need to work more diligently on our theology and our understanding of church. While these dialogues are of special interest to me, I want us to be about dialogue and conversation with all Christian bodies.

In such work we will have a greater clarity, I believe, on what may be the deepest question for all Christian bodies: What does it really mean to be the church? Apart from the historical, cultural, ethnic and certain traditions of our churches is the deeper understanding of what Christ is calling the church to be and to do. This can, and should be, exciting, even demanding work.

Our interfaith work must uphold dignity for all God's people. This applies to our ecumenical work as well, for there is dignity in the great traditions of Christianity, the dignity of being the church catholic and dignity in being the church reformed. Differences do not have to divide and call us into conflict. We can affirm our identity and affirm our common mission.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+John L. Rabb". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Rt. Rev. John L. Rabb

[ecumenical & interfaith relations]

Children 'Giving Voice' Through Art Students Find Their Voices at The Club at Collington Square

BY NANCY FENTON

Faith. Trust. Love. Hope. Strength. These are the titles of self-portraits painted by youths at The Club at Collington Square. These words also reflect the nurturing and caring community that embraces this after-school program. The Club operates through Episcopal Community Services of Maryland.

SINCE 1993, ECSM has been involved in many aspects of Collington Square's community life: participating in community planning meetings, the establishment of the Collington Square Community Association, cleanup events, and eventually the development of community-based programs. Over the years, our work has been blessed by the involvement of many Episcopal churches, members of other faith communities, local businesses, civic groups, high schools and universities. Together, these partnerships have created a richly blended community in a neighborhood beset by many of the city's all-too-familiar problems of violence, poverty and drug addictions.

In a city that struggles to keep youth in school, on track and out of trouble, the club's program represents something that is very right with Baltimore. The introduction of community arts programming two years ago has produced a wealth of thoughtful and expressive artwork such as those of the students' self-portraits, which were created during last year's presidential election.

The students titled their collective portfolio *B-More Hope*, knowing that someday, given the right amount of support; one of them might be president of the United States.

Club Director Julia DiBussolo said the art show was powerful. "For the first time, our students saw themselves reflected in the face of the president of the United States. The enormous impact of the historic election of President Barack Obama was felt deeply throughout the Baltimore City community. As a teacher, the election reminded me that it is not only our goal but our duty as teachers and adults to encourage young people to see themselves as leaders of positive change within their own communities."

The *B-More Hope* art show has received wide public recognition. In August, artwork from the show was highlighted at the annual meeting of the Union of Black Episcopalians in Silver Spring. The artwork has been displayed at Area 405 (a local gallery), Loyola University and Common Ground Coffee in Hampden. The show will be at the Diocesan Center in November and December. The new year will kick off with a show at Trinity Church, Towson.

Community arts is an emerging field that encourages young people to explore social issues of importance to them and then express their thoughts and solutions through an artistic form such as painting and drawing. "Giving voice" is a phrase commonly used to explain the goal of community arts. This art form allows students to be fully engaged and actively involved in the creation of art.

Our goal is always to build connections to the world through critical and creative thinking, to encourage young people to realize their potential as leaders of positive change. The club's art teachers have used art as a medium to teach students about civil rights, issues in Baltimore's mayoral race, and the aftermath of hurricane Katrina.

Students have also created art to express their reactions to violence in their own community. The program has



Artwork from the Club at Collington Square's art program. The paintings are modeled after a painting of Barack Obama by Los Angeles street artist Shepard Fairey, which was based on an AP photo taken by photographer Mannie Garcia.

expanded to include art classes for adults living in Collington Square. These classes have helped to create a closer bond between the youth, family members and community members. These bonds have translated to more parental involvement and community volunteers working to help the youth with their homework and after-school projects.

Art is just one of the vehicles used to create a positive environment. Students have many opportunities to participate in field trips, meet local artists, acquire employment through our summer camp program, and receive assistance with the high school selection process. These and many other program activities have helped club members thrive and become discerning young people. Perhaps, as their artwork promises, a child from Collington Square will become president and tell the rest of America about the wonderful community that exists in Collington Square.

Nancy Fenton is the development director for Episcopal Community Services of Maryland, nfenton@ecsm.org.

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Opening Doors for His Children

BY VAL HYMES

Twelve years ago, the people of Epiphany Church, Odenton, “adopted” a young woman – an Episcopalian – who was in prison serving two life sentences. They learned that she was at the scene of a crime – an accomplice to murder and car theft. They also found out that she was a victim of child abuse from the age of 4 and into later years from her adoptive family. She had served 20 years in prison.

WORKING WITH HER ATTORNEY, they appealed to Gov. William Donald Schaefer and promised as a church family to “adopt” Linda by using Episcopal Church refugee resettlement guidelines. The governor commuted her sentence to 25 years. She was released on five years’ parole on Christmas Day in 1997. The parishioners and clergy helped her return to community life. In six months, she was independent and working. Today she is married, still working and is a homeowner.

In the process the congregation also learned that the nearby communities, including neighborhoods surrounding Fort Meade, had a high number of domestic and child abuse cases at the time and a low number of services for struggling families. Their first thought was to protect the children and to provide a safe place for them.

In five months, they had raised \$850,000 for a day care center next to the church open to all people. They did it with creative grants, donations and loans, including one from the Maryland Department of Transportation. Soon, commuters using the nearby MARC train station were joining local residents at the doors of the center as they dropped off their children.

This fall, a new door opens for the little ones at the Play and Learn Center next door to the church. Plans were unveiled at the third annual “Super Fair” held Sept. 26 for “Maryland in Miniature,” a \$50,000 model outdoor classroom for preschool children. The event raised \$7,500 toward the first \$20,000 phase.

The 10,000-square-foot greenspace

project will give the children hands-on opportunities to learn about Maryland’s farms and forests. “It will help today’s child become tomorrow’s conservationist,” said the rector, the Rev. Phebe McPherson.

“Studies show that the average child spends six and a half hours looking at television or video games,” she said. “The child in nature is an endangered species. We are reclaiming the outdoors for the children.”

The outdoor classroom will have a patio of permeable pavers covered by a sail with a large chalkboard on the exterior of the center. A tricycle path will lead to the Chesapeake Bay, represented by a rain garden, rain barrels and a rowboat, and through the farmyard with a mini-barn and animal hutches and areas for planting vegetables. The path leads to the forest, or trees, where there are places for reading and reflecting.

McPherson said the outdoor classroom was inspired by author Richard Louv of *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature Deficit Disorder*. Most programs like this begin at the sixth grade and up, she said. “This is unique because it is for preschool children.”

Studies have shown, she added, that there is a great improvement in children from low self-esteem, cognitive ability, creativity, lack of imagination, depression and obesity when they are reconnected with nature. Parents these days are being asked to see that children spend at least one hour a day outdoors.

The innovative design was created by Mimi Armstrong, the creator of the blueprint for the Chaplain’s Peace Garden outside the church, which was dedicated in 1998 to chaplains of World War I.

Epiphany Church is the only known chapel built in the Great War in 1918. It served as a home away from home for the

doughboys at Camp Meade preparing to go to war on the battlefields of France. Chaplains were routinely issued tents and a flag with a cross, but two Washington, D.C., Episcopal women gave \$11,000 and insisted that a chapel be built for the chaplains and the young soldiers as they trained at Camp Meade.

Donations may be made to Epiphany Episcopal Church, marked for the Children’s Center Fund, P.O. Box 110, Odenton, MD 21113, epiphany-md.org.

Val Hymes is a contributing editor of the Maryland Church News and a member of St. James’ Parish, Lothian.

Attention all Clergy and Health Care Advocates: Save the date.

Diocesan Health Education Day May 15, 2010: The Diocesan Council and the Health Care Task Force will sponsor a Diocesan Health Education Day at the Bishop Claggett Center, Buckeystown, as an all-day event with keynote speaker Matthew Ellis, executive director of the National Episcopal Health Ministries, and relevant workshops.

Please mark your calendar and look for more information to come.

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[ecumenical & interfaith relations]

URI: Cooperation Circling the Globe

By BARBARA HARTFORD WITH SHARON TILLMAN

“There is peace in the Middle East, and we have seen it.”

— Bishop William E. Swing, retired, Diocese of California and URI founder

ONE OF THE GREAT GIFTS of the interfaith movement is that it creates the conditions that allow people of diverse faiths to come together in ways that lessen the likelihood of division and violence. It enhances a mutual appreciation of the good that exists in each faith and an impulse toward cooperative action for the good of all.

The United Religions Initiative is a grassroots, bridge-building organization that believes when people's passions and initiative are organized, connected and shared, they can create a sustaining global force for good. To date, more than 1 million people from different faiths in over 70 countries are overcoming distrust and hostility to work together in their local URI communities to address urgent human needs and to heal the Earth.

Joining together in more than 400 interfaith Cooperation Circles worldwide, these individuals are tackling such issues as AIDS work in Africa, conflict transformation in the Philippines, Indigenous leadership for the environment in the Americas, and religious cooperation in the Middle East. While respecting differences among beliefs and spiritualities, URI pursues a common purpose: to promote enduring daily interfaith cooperation, to end religiously motivated violence in order to create cultures of peace, justice and healing.

The lead quote by Bishop Swing reflects the hope and trust that live in the heart of URI. It seems daily that the media provide us with the details of a new negative aspect of the Palestinian-Israeli relationship. Rarely are we presented with the positive steps being taken to bring peace to this region long beset by conflict. As the bishop said, this peace does indeed exist and is being acted out on a daily basis by URI members and others across the Middle East.

An example of this is the work of the Jerusalem Peacemakers Cooperation Circle. Founded in 2004, Jerusalem Peacemakers is a network of independent

interfaith peace-builders dedicated to encouraging, understanding and reconciliation in the Holy Land. Working largely at the “sub-non-governmental organization” level, they focus on people supporting people with a humanitarian and interfaith emphasis. Its membership is comprised of women and men who are leaders, both religious and lay, in the Christian, Druze, Jewish and Muslim communities from all corners of Israel and Palestine.

As part of facilitating personal interactions between the different communities of faith, they have established Peace Centers in East and West Jerusalem; helped organize the “Big Hug” bringing together 2,000 people to surround the walls of the Old City; led more than 1,000 people in prayers for peace at the Damas-

cus Gate; and participated in gatherings across the world in addition to hosting faith and interfaith groups who visit, including His Holiness the Dalai Lama.



Local URI chapter

The Baltimore Cooperation Circle of United Religion Initiative was founded in 2000 with sponsorship from Emmanuel Church, Baltimore, where the Rev. David Cammack, local CC coordinator and retired priest, was the rector. This chapter is very active, hosting gatherings at various houses of worship, speaking to and with religious and civic groups about peace and interfaith relationships, and recognizing the holy days and celebrations of member religions.

Just recently, the chapter held an interfaith birthday celebration for Mahatma Gandhi at the Hindu Temple in Finksburg. Dialogues with Christian and Muslim participants and with Christian, Muslim and Jewish participants are held throughout the year at various locations in Baltimore and the surrounding counties.

(see URI, page 11)

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Interfaith Cooperation Works

BY DON SCHROEDER AND THE REV. MADELEINE BEARD

Interfaith cooperation contributes to the diocese's efforts to realize General Convention and diocesan resolutions and increase the effectiveness of our public policy efforts at the state and local government levels.

INTERFAITH COOPERATION enables the sharing of information and developing action plans on issues of mutual interest. Together with our interfaith partners we find common positions and make them known to public officials, our own members, the media, and the general public.

An example of this cooperation was the 2009 effort to abolish the death penalty in Maryland. Bishop Sutton joined with the bishops of the Archdiocese of Baltimore and the Methodist Synod in testifying before the committee reviewing the death penalty. Later our bishops joined with other faith leaders, including rabbis and imams, and spoke to the press expressing the interfaith belief that the death penalty is contrary to the ethos of the Abrahamic faith tradition.

In Annapolis, the diocese has been a leader speaking to the legislative issues supported by the Maryland Interfaith Legislative Committee. MILC is an interfaith organization comprised of Christian denominations, Jewish and Islamic faiths, and community social service organizations. MILC is celebrating its 30th anniversary. It holds monthly meetings and every fall invites social justice organizations working with underserved and in-need populations to brief us on issues they will be introducing before the next General Assembly – issues like health care, prison reform, senior citizens, children and education, low income assistance, housing affordability and the fiscal impacts on state agencies serving the underprivileged. We have been in the forefront of many of their programs and activities.

Together with the Ven. Lauren Welch, archdeacon of the Diocese of Maryland, we serve as the Public Policy and Justice Team and we work throughout the year to represent our church and

keep parishioners informed on a broad array of social justice and public policy issues, both local and national.

Other interfaith work goes on all around the diocese. The Rev. Jane Mayerer, deacon at the Church of the Holy Nativity, Pimlico, and St. Luke's Church, Cary Street, together with other Episcopal clergy, plays a prominent role in BRIDGE (Baltimore Regional Initiative Developing Genuine Equality), a Gamaliel organization that seeks to bring the needs of Baltimore and the surrounding counties to the attention of legislators. BRIDGE and BUILD (Baltimore United in Leadership Development), an Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF) organization located in Baltimore, both work to hold legislators accountable for the promises they make to their constituents.

The Rev. Ken Phelps, rector of All Saints' Church, Sunderland, is vice president of PRISCM, the Partnership for Renewal in Southern and Central Maryland, another Gamaliel organization in the diocese. PRISCM, BRIDGE and BUILD reach across county lines because they realize that political boundaries are not necessarily reflective of social realities.

In Howard County, Episcopal churches are members of PATH – People Acting Together in Howard – an IAF organization working to expand *Healthy Howard* to include more uninsured people, put an end to usurious interest rates, and make affordable housing more available throughout the county.

The Rev. Jim Blackburn is one of the senior members of *Interfaith Dialogue*, an interfaith organization that meets at the Baltimore Jewish Council offices. The Rev. Paul Tunkle, the rector of The Church of the Redeemer, Baltimore, is one of the co-chairs of this organization that meets three times a year to discuss Christian, Jewish and Islamic views on such issues as money, human sexuality, jus-

tice and the role of women in their faiths.

Outreach efforts by many of our churches extend to working with other faiths on such issues as homelessness and hunger. They work together, helping immigrants, prisoners, and others less fortunate in our communities. Our rectors and lay leaders often lead the charge for these Christian missions.

Advocacy and coalition building are effective ways to join with others who share common views and positions and to mount a stronger effort to bring about the betterment of our society.

The Episcopal Diocese of Maryland, its churches and organizations work every day to bring God's justice and mercy to Maryland and the world. Interfaith cooperation enables all God's people to act together to heal our broken world.

Don Schroeder, dschroeder@ang-md.org, is the bishop's deputy for public policy, and the Rev. Madeleine Beard, deacon, is the MEPPN coordinator and treasurer of MILC, beardmcd@verizon.net.



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[ecumenical & interfaith relations]

Urban Missioners Mark 10th Year of Vows

"...to live in love and to support one another in prayer."

BY VAL HYMES

A group of committed members of the diocese called to the gritty, often lonely work of urban ministry devoted mainly to people of other faiths celebrated the 10th anniversary of the covenanting of the Order of Urban Missioners Sept. 19 at the Cathedral of the Incarnation.

RETURNING TO THE SCENE to renew her vows with 18 others and to preside and preach was an OUM charter member, the Rev. Vicki Sirota, former vicar of the Church of the Holy Nativity, Pimlico, now the canon pastor of the congregation of St. Saviour at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, New York City. She is leading the effort to create a second chapter of the order there.

Bishop Eugene Taylor Sutton sent a letter expressing his gratitude for the anniversary, adding, "When I

covenanting to become an OUM member last year, I was impressed with the depth of commitment to doing urban ministry within the context of prayer and mutual support. The cross given to new members is a visual image of a profound spiritual truth: that we are all connected in a circle of love with the cross of Christ at the center of our lives."

The community was founded a decade ago out of conversations of the Urban Task Force of the Mission Strategy Committee. As a result of discussions

about the need for some kind of local religious community, Sirota invited Sr. Carolyn Darr (Society of Saint Margaret, Boston) to lead a one-day retreat at Holy Nativity in November, 1999.

The order "nurtures ministry as a community experience," said the Rev. Mary H. T. Davisson, convener. Its members meet monthly at Holy Nativity to worship, sing and eat together. They wear the cross designed by artist Deborah Patterson as a sign of the order, follow some form of Daily Office and attend a two-day retreat in the winter. They renew their vows every year, promising "to give our fears over to God, to live in love and to support one another in prayer."

The community "recognizes that people who undertake urban ministries must pay attention to their spiritual health," Davisson added. "We hold each other accountable in a gentle way."

"It's a really supportive group to be with," said the Rev. Carol Bustard-Burnside and artist Barbara Bustard-Burnside.

(see Urban Missioners, page 13)



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Forming Ecumenical Minds and Friendships

BY PATTY RATH AND THE ECUMENICAL INSTITUTE STAFF

THE RT. REV. HARRY LEE DOLL caught the vision. It was a vision that had come to life among a small group of clergy and laity, including W. F. Albright, the world renowned professor of Near Eastern Studies at Johns Hopkins University. The year was 1967, and by the fall of 1968 the vision had become a reality: a home for people of many different faith traditions to pursue serious theological dialogue and study, whether for personal growth, preparation for ministry, or professional development. That reality was, and is, the Ecumenical Institute of Theology, the evening graduate division of St. Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore.

Episcopalians have been an integral part of the Ecumenical Institute from the very beginning," said Dr. Michael J. Gorman, who has been the dean since 1995. "They have been founders, administrators, professors, benefactors, and – above all – students. Plus, Bishop Doll was behind us at the beginning, and the Rt. Rev. John L. Rabb, bishop suffragan of Maryland, was with us to celebrate our 40th anniversary one year ago."

In honor of that anniversary, Bishop Rabb, then bishop-in-charge, noted that the "Ecumenical Institute of Theology provides excellent spiritual development, academic enrichment, and preparation for various forms of Christian ministry.... The Episcopal Diocese of Maryland has benefited greatly from its rich offerings. The Ecumenical Institute has been a strong symbol of ecumenical and inter-faith cooperation, and it has been a great resource for all churches and faiths."

Among the many Episcopalians with ties to the Ecumenical Institute (or "E.I.") is Dr. Christopher Dreisbach, a philosopher and ethicist in the Division of Public Safety Leadership in the School of Education at Hopkins. He has taught part-time at the E.I. for nearly 20 years.

"The Ecumenical Institute is a gift from God to its students, staff and faculty—and to the larger community," Dreisbach said. "Infused with the Holy Spirit, the E.I. brings together people from many religious and professional walks of life who rejoice in the exploration and deepening of their faith, wisdom, and friendships."

Unlike many theological schools, the Ecumenical Institute does not primarily serve people preparing for ordained ministry. Most of its students are lay people and intend to stay so. Episcopalians join

Catholics, Baptists, Lutherans, Pentecostals, Jewish and Muslim students, and others for serious study of Scripture, theology and ethics—what they have in common, and where they differ. This can be done in a single graduate course, a graduate certificate program, or one of two master's degrees: the M.A. in Theology and the M.A. in Church Ministries. Episcopalians can take a special course on the Anglican Tradition and Ethos among the school's many course offerings (about 70 annually).

For those who may be considering preparation for ordained ministry as a deacon or priest, the E.I. can sometimes be the place where they do some—or even most—of their theological preparation. "The diocese [considers those wishing to enter the diaconate or priesthood] on a case-by-case basis," says Dean Gorman, "and we aim to provide the best education we can offer, no matter what the student's long-term goals."

The Rev. Jane Mayrer is the deacon at Church of the Holy Nativity in Pimlico. "I decided to pursue theological studies in order to enhance my vocation as a deacon and my profession as a hospital chaplain," said Mayrer, a former attorney. "I found the superb quality of instruction and the high academic standard to be intellectually stimulating and challenging. But the most valuable aspect was studying and praying with people of so many other faith traditions, an experience I think is unique to the Ecumenical Institute."

Patty Rath is the coordinator for recruitment and communication, prath@stmarys.edu. For more information about the Ecumenical Institute of Theology, call 410/864-4200 or visit stmarys.edu/ei.

Sharing Worship Spaces

BY SHARON TILLMAN AND RACHEL QUERRY

All Saints' Parish, Frederick, was particularly lively, prayerful and welcoming this summer when the congregation from the Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ across the street shared its worship space.

The Rev. Barbara Kershner Daniel, senior pastor of the ERUCC, approached All Saints' with a request to hold its services in the Great Hall for ten Sundays starting Memorial Day weekend. The church sanctuary, which is less than a block from All Saints', was being painted over the summer as part of a major renovation project. In an article in the *Frederick News-Post* (July 11, 2009) about sharing sacred spaces Daniel noted, "...the project has also provided a new opportunity to build a closer relationship with [All Saints']."

All Saints' clergy recognized a chance to extend hospitality to ERUCC and embarked on an extensive consultation process with staff, vestry, parish council and parishioners to gather feedback and establish a plan. The vestry unanimously approved the proposal to open the doors to ERUCC, upholding the church's long-standing tradition of welcoming other congregations and organizations in need of a place to serve the greater Frederick community.

In order to make the most of the situation, a shared coffee hour following the 10:30 a.m. services, joint Christian formation programs and invitations to select among three Sunday morning services made All Saints' the place to be on Sunday mornings this summer.

"The best part," Daniel said, "is this isn't just the pastors talking, or planning to do something in the future. A lot of this dialogue is really being picked up and led by the members of both congregations and that's what is great to see."

Rachel Querry is the registrar of the Vestry of All Saints' Parish, Frederick, 301-663-5625.

(URI, cont'd from page 8) To become a member of the Baltimore chapter of the United Religions Initiative and to learn more about future events, contact the Rev. David Cammack, Baltimore Chapter coordinator, at Fairhaven C31, 7200 Third Ave, Sykesville, MD 21784, or 410-552-9475.

For more information visit uri.org. Barbara Hartford is the director of communications for URI. 415-561-2300, bhartford@uri.org



PHOTO: MARY FRANCES SCHJONBERG

Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori takes communion wine from Moravian minister the Rev. Dr. Deborah A. Appler during a Eucharist Nov. 11 at the Moravian Theological Seminary in Bethlehem, Pa. Meanwhile, Moravian Bishop Hopeton Clennon, who presided at the Eucharist, receives wine from the Rev. Otto Dreydoppel Jr., a church history professor at the seminary and a member of the Moravian-Episcopal Dialogue Team.

Episcopal-Moravian Full Communion Could Offer Mission ‘Riches’

Presiding Bishop joins in dialogue of possibilities

BY MARY FRANCES SCHJONBERG

[EPISCOPAL NEWS SERVICE — BETHLEHEM, PA.] The process for building a closer relationship between the Episcopal and Moravian churches is taking place in the denominations’ decision-making bodies, but the realities of that work will bear fruit in their congregations and beyond.

That was the consensus of a morning’s worth of conversation and worship Nov. 11 at the Moravian Theological Seminary here.

Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori, the Rev. Thomas Ferguson, associate deputy to the presiding bishop for ecumenical and interreligious relations, and the Rev. David Bennett, president of the Moravian Church’s Eastern District Executive Board, talked for an hour with a group of about 50 Episcopalians, Moravians and seminary students of other denominations.

After a conversation that ranged from envisioning mission partnerships to how members of both churches could get to know each other, Jefferts Schori said, “We have only scratched the surface of the riches of this possibility.”

The nature of a full communion relationship “will play out in different ways,” Ferguson said. The possibilities range from specific outreach opportunities in

the parts of the country where Moravians and Episcopalians are concentrated to other places where, he suggested, the partnership may center on sharing resources such as theological education.

In the first case, Jefferts Schori said that during her concurrent pastoral visit to the Diocese of Bethlehem, she learned that Moravians and Episcopalians were already working together at Trinity Episcopal Church’s soup kitchen and at the diocese’s New Bethany Ministries, which serves the poor, homeless, hungry and mentally ill.

Across much of rest of the church, the presiding bishop said, “the sad reality” is that Episcopalians don’t know any Moravians “or don’t know that they know Moravians, so it’s an opportunity to discover another part of the body of Christ with whom we share a great deal.”

The Rev. T. Scott Allen, priest-in-

charge at St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church in Allentown, Pa., told the gathering that as a General Convention deputy from the Diocese of Bethlehem he helped educate the triennial meeting about the Moravian Church.

“We did have to answer questions,” he said. “People were confusing you with Mormons and Mennonites.”

Jefferts Schori later met with a small group of seminarians and then preached during the Eucharist at which Bishop Hopeton Clennon, chaplain to the seminary and near-by Moravian College, presided.

Clennon was present at the July meeting of General Convention in Anaheim, Cal., when deputies and bishops agreed to enter into a full communion relationship with the Northern and Southern Provinces of the Moravian Church.

The two provinces’ synods are expected to act on the proposal in June and September of 2010, respectively. Each province votes on the agreement individually and can enter into a full communion partnership independent of the other.

Some participants in the Nov. 11 conversations suggested that the votes in both provincial synods will be colored to differing degrees by the Episcopal Church’s stance on the full inclusion of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons in the life and ministry of the church.

The Rt. Rev. M. Blair Couch of Allentown, one of two female bishops in the Moravian Church, predicted that some Moravians will organize opposition “because of what they perceive the Episcopal Church to be.” Couch, who attended an Episcopal Church House of Bishops meeting where she said she experienced “mission-, Christ-centered faith and beauty and worship and wonderful fellowship,” promised “to do my part to say that [full communion] will be a blessing.”

Ferguson, acknowledging differences in understanding human sexuality, said “the key question is whether these are church-dividing or not ... can we live in diversity with one another the way we live internally [with difference] within our own communions?” He noted that the Episcopal Church has been in full communion relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for nearly nine years and that it was not until this past summer that the ELCA decided

to allow partnered gay clergy.

Bennett, of the Northern Province's Eastern District, said that the Moravian Church, which "has not yet had those hard conversations," can learn from the Episcopal-Lutheran experience and will be asking both denominations for advice. The Moravian Church has a full communion relationship with the ELCA.

Allen, who told the gathering that he is gay, asked Moravians if his ordained ministry would be welcomed in their church. Bennett said that both provinces agreed in 2002 to affirm "the presence and ministry of gays and lesbians within the congregation but fell short of affirming their ministry in an ordained way" if they are in committed relationships. He predicted that the issue will return to the synods, if not in their next meeting cycle then in the following one.

The two churches began talking in 1997 about full communion, a relationship in which churches formally recognize that they share essential doctrines including baptism and Eucharist, agree to accept the service of each other's clergy and pledge to work together in evangelism and mission. Episcopalians and Moravians have had interim Eucharistic sharing since 2003, allowing joint celebrations of the Eucharist using the liturgy of the host church with ministers of both denominations at the altar.

The proposed full communion agreement was presented to General Convention via "Finding Our Delight in the Lord" from the Standing Commission on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations' report.

Both churches are already in full communion with the ELCA and the Episcopal Church also has such relationships with the Old Catholic Churches of Europe, Philippine Independent Church and the Mar Thoma Syrian Church of Malabar, India.

The Northern Province has 28,000 Moravians in 102 congregations in 13 states in the U.S. and two Canadian provinces. The Southern Province includes nearly 20,000 members in 58 congregations, which are located primarily throughout the Southeast U.S.

Information about the Moravian Church is available at moravian.org.

The Rev. Mary Frances Schjonberg is national correspondent of the Episcopal News Service. mfschjonberg@episcopalchurch.org

Christian Community at Work

BY THE REV. JACK SHARP

THE CENTRAL ECUMENICAL COUNCIL has been the ecumenical outreach to congregations for Christian denominations the last 80 years. Formerly called the Maryland Council of Churches, CMEC represents Baltimore, Carroll, Howard, Ann Arundel and Harford counties, and Baltimore City.

The member denominations include the local conferences and districts of the American Baptists, the Church of Christian Science, Church of the Brethren, Disciples of Christ, the Greek Orthodox, Moravian, the Religious Society of Friends, the Salvation Army, the United Church of Christ, the United Methodist Church, the United Baptist Missionary Church, as well as the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland, the Maryland and Delaware Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, the Archdiocese of Baltimore and the Presbytery of Baltimore (PCUSA).

About 80 individual congregations from these denominations also hold membership.

CMEC also promotes the gathering of the denominational leaders in Central Maryland for the purpose of promoting dialogue amongst the leadership. Additionally, the Ecumenical Leaders Group is utilized for the denominational leaders to meet as a group with political leadership.

Each year the ELG elects a chair from its midst. The 2009-2010 chair is Bishop Eugene Taylor Sutton. Earlier this year, under the leadership of the former chairman, the Rev. Dr. Peter Nord of the Presbytery of Baltimore, the ELG, working with CMEC, organized congregational support for the repeal of the death penalty in Maryland.

In addition, CMEC hosts events, meetings and special services:

Annual service during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service – denomination leaders to come together to worship as one.

Ecumenical Honors Banquet – honors those individuals who have provided leadership, service and lived a life promoting service to the Lord and His people.

Middle East Clergy Dialogue – In conjunction with the Baltimore Jewish Council, a program with speakers and presenters on the Middle Eastern Christian-Jewish-Muslim issues that face the region.

Good Neighbor Week – honors Baltimore County residents who have made an impact in their neighborhoods.

Interfaith Thanksgiving Prayer and Awards Breakfast – honors two leaders each year for their interfaith service. The award is the prestigious Agus-Shehan Interfaith Leaders Award – named for two of Baltimore's early pioneers in interfaith dialogue, the Rabbi Jacob Agus and Lawrence Cardinal Shehan.

The Rev. Jack Sharp is the president of CMEC. The office is located at 4 E. University Parkway, Baltimore, MD 21218. cmecouncil@gmail.com, 410-467-6194

(Urban Missioners cont'd from page 10) "Nobody judges." Both of them have worked with the Baltimore City children of prisoners at Camp Amazing Grace, and they minister in their neighborhood and at city churches.

The Rev. Lauren M. Welch, archdeacon for the diocese and another charter member, said, "Urban ministry can be hard because it is dealing with a population that is poor, transitional, often with limited education and without the resources they may need."

This Christian community of clergy and lay missioners works in a wide range

of ministries including neighborhood advocacy, volunteer tutoring, social work, bolstering and leading parishes, expanding hospice, addiction counseling, serving merchant seamen, enriching children's lives, providing opportunities for creative expression and advocating for better education, criminal justice reform, health and environmental initiatives and more.

For more information contact maryhtdavisson@aol.com, or visit urban.ang-md.org/urban_missioners.htm

Val Hymes is a contributing editor of MCN and a member, St. James' Parish, Lothian.

[ecumenical & interfaith relations]

Embracing One Merciful God

BY THE REV. JULIE C. WIZOREK

In Southern Maryland there is a group of women who gather seven to eight times a year with the sole purpose of sharing their understanding of the One Merciful God. This group, the Daughters of Abraham, originally started as a dialogue between Roman Catholics and the Muslim community here in Southern Maryland at the beginning of the Iraq War in 2003. Since then it has evolved into an interfaith group that promotes friendship and understanding among women of Judaism, Christianity and Islam, the three great Abrahamic faiths.

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, Prince Frederick, is the meeting place for the county's Jewish congregation, Beit Chaverim (House of Friends). Located within Calvert County, members of the Southern Maryland Islamic Center enthusiastically share their faith and religious customs. Add to this Episcopalians, Methodists, Lutherans, Baptists, Roman Catholics and Quakers and you have a broad mix of religious customs, ideologies and perspectives that make up the Daughters of Abraham.

The Daughters' meetings have been a mixture of the sharing of religious traditions, book discussions and worship practices. Guest speakers have broadened the group's focus with topics such as the trafficking of women, the plight of women and children throughout Africa, and education of women in Afghanistan. These presentations remind us that we are all closely connected. But more than that, we have opened up for each other



PHOTO: PHEBE L. MCPHERSON

The Rev. Julie Wizorek accepts an award from the League of Women Voters on behalf of the Daughters of Abraham.

the awareness of our unique connections to God and our common desire to live in God's love and mercy. Peace, Shalom, Salaam.

The Rev. Julie C. Wizorek is the rector of St. Paul's Church, Prince Frederick. She is the facilitator of the Daughters of Abraham, jwizorek@ix.netcom.com.

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The Rev. Jack Sharp, president
410-467-6194 :: cmecouncil@gmail.com

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Don Schroeder, bishop's deputy for public policy:
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– Compiled by Sharon Tillman



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Bishops' Appeal Spotlight: Diocesan Grants for Ministry

Applications for 2010-11 grants now being accepted

BY SHARON TILLMAN

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, Mt. Washington, introduced its Feed My Sheep program in 2008. Members of the parish purchased and prepared the food served to more than 2,000 homeless individuals during that year. In addition, St. John's donated clothing to Paul's Place and the Baltimore Rescue Mission. In that same year, St. John's average Sunday attendance was 25-30 people. This translates to each congregant feeding 60 people.

St. John's reaches out to other churches and faiths to do the work God has given them to do. They feed the hungry and clothe the needy. St. John's ministry was made possible by a Grant for Ministry funded by the Bishops' Appeal.

In 2008 Feed My Sheep was one of 10 parish ministries awarded grants funded in part by the Bishops' Appeal. These grants allow parishes to respond to the needs of those to whom they minister, and have a direct impact on their communities.

Who can apply? The Diocesan Grants Committee considers all grant requests submitted exclusively by diocesan parishes and regional councils.

What are the criteria for Grants for Ministry? Grant requests of no more than \$10,000 will be considered for new ministries or expansions of existing ones, and that are sponsored by a parish or regional council. The ministry in question must come under one of the following categories: Congregational Development;

Ministry for the Laity; Ordained Ministry; Social Ministry; Outreach Ministry

Where does the grant money come from? There are eight funding sources of the Diocesan Grants for Ministry. When you make a gift to The Bishops' Appeal you can designate Grants for Ministry as the destination for your gift.

When are grants awarded and for what period of time? Applications for grants are due to the Diocesan Grants Committee by March 31, 2010. Grants winners are announced in July. The funds are awarded for a one-year period, and should not be envisioned for continuing support of on-going efforts.

Why would my ministry be considered for a grant from the diocese? Priority will be given to grant proposals that: Support ministries that are collaborative in nature; support ministries that reflect the geographic and cultural diversity of the diocese; support ministries that serve as models of other parishes and regional councils; support the vision of the diocese.

How can a church or region apply? One or more members of the Diocesan Grants Committee will be assigned to work with each applicant. Known as mentors, they will critique the application and make recommendations for improvement. Grant applications can be found on the diocesan Web site under *Parish Resources* or may be requested from the business office of the diocese, 410-467-1399.

Giving Just Got Easier: Bishops' Appeal Now Accepting Online Donations

BY SHARON TILLMAN

IN AN AGE when more and more people are giving up cash for debit cards and checkbooks for online banking, the Development Office of the Diocese of Maryland is changing to meet their needs.

"It's a new age and we need to meet people's needs in giving as well as in ministry," said the Rev. Charles Cloughen Jr., director of Development and Planned Giving for the Diocese of Maryland. "By offering online donation as an option we are eliminating a barrier to not just a younger generation of donors, but also to those who might not have even considered the Bishops' Appeal as part of their annual giving."

To make a donation to the Bishops' Appeal online, visit ang-md.org, click on the "Bishops' Annual Appeal" button on the homepage and follow the directions for making a gift online. You can also print a donation form and mail it with your gift to the Diocesan Center.

[bishop claggett center]

Claggett—A Place Where All Are Welcome

BY JOE KERNER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Bishop Claggett Center has a long history of being welcoming to all. When it first opened as a camp in the early 1950s, Claggett, along with many of its sister camps, made many people uncomfortable by welcoming persons of color as full participants in the camping experience. As Claggett developed into a full-fledged camp, retreat and conference center, it continued to be a place where all are welcome regardless of their faith affiliation.

JEW, MUSLIMS, UNITARIANS, secular groups as well as a wide variety of Christian denominations were and still are all welcomed in a manner that we hope is consistent with God's command to love our neighbor as ourselves.

This is not always easy. Several years ago, Claggett hosted a Muslim group that desecrated the Bibles and crosses in the sleeping and meeting rooms. It would have been easy for the staff to resist booking future Muslim groups, but it would have been wrong. God has forgiven us so very much, why would we carry a grudge because of this one isolated incident? It is also not unusual for Jewish groups or individuals to request that crosses be removed from sight. We politely respond that we are happy to extend every aspect of our hospitality to them but we cannot deny our identification with Jesus Christ and thereby become something we are not.

Despite these isolated instances, over the long haul we have found that the practice of welcoming all brings with it a multitude of blessings. On one level, many indicate that Claggett is a place where they gain a sense of what it means to be part of a diocese. This was certainly true during the early summer camps and, based on feedback from our guest groups, it remains true today. On another level, the presence of Catholics, Baptists, and every denomination in between offers our guests, diocesan and non-diocesan alike, an expanded sense of how the diverse parts come together and form the Body of Christ.

We find it rewarding to host our parochial school groups during the week. Bishop Walsh School from Cumberland

visits here on retreat in November. The seniors from Boy's Latin were here for a 3-day retreat as well, and in December the seniors from Loyola Blakefield in Baltimore County come for their Kairos retreat. Each of these retreats is focused on building a stronger community and equipping these young people for the challenges of the next phase of their lives. On a practical level, our diverse school groups produce about 45 percent of our revenue. In doing so they bring robust ministry to Claggett and underwrite a significant portion of our fixed cost, thereby helping us to offer more reasonable rates to all of our guests.

Recently we hosted a Roman Catholic Gospel choir. Throughout the weekend they gathered in St. Andrew's Chapel and serenaded us with the most incredible music. One could not resist the temptation to sit outside of the chapel and enjoy the heavenly chorus. Next we hosted Maryland Episcopal (Cursillo) Weekend #98. While the music was different, the result was the same. In the midst of these ecumenical weekends, God paved the way for a member of the Cursillo community to share with those in need about Harford Family House, a temporary residence for homeless families, and an unchurched member of the staff began asking questions about the incredible joy expressed by many of our guests.



Joe Kerner

PHOTO: DONNA KERNER

Make Your Claggett Plans

The Claggett Staff would like to welcome you at one of the following programs:

Women's Weekend – Jan. 8-10

Theme: "Welcome the Holy Spirit, the breath of God"

Women's Weekend – Jan. 22-24

Theme: "Being a Valuable Vessel of God"
Keynote Speaker: The Rev. Canon Mary Glasspool

Marriage Retreat – Feb. 13-14

Leaders: The Rev. Michael & Susan Wallens

Ember Day – Feb. 26

Wed. 9:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.

Men's Weekend – March 5-7

Theme: "Forgiven, Loved and Free"
Speaker: Bishop Eugene Taylor Sutton

Holy Hands & Heart Day – March 13

Chaplain: The Rev. Loree Penner

More information and registration:

bishopclaggett.org
dkerner@bishopclaggett.org
301-874-5147 ext 102



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[environmental stewardship]

Environment 'Core' to Spiritual Vocation

BY KIM COBLE

SEVERAL MONTHS AGO, Bishop Eugene Taylor Sutton announced the creation of an environmental initiative for the diocese. This underscores his belief in and commitment to our call to care for God's creations. I, along with John Campagna and Shelley Klinefelter were asked to spearhead the initiative and we gladly accepted.

We started this past spring by holding three meetings around the diocese to discuss the new initiative. The purpose of these meetings was for the bishop to share some of his thoughts and for us, in turn, to hear the concerns and ideas people had about how the diocese could become better environmental stewards. From these meetings, the bishop selected 17 people to serve on a steering committee. We have met twice, and will meet several more times before the end of the year to finalize the tasks for the next year in order to help shape our diocese in a

more environmentally friendly fashion.

The vision we have created is as follows: *For the Maryland Episcopal Diocese, caring for the environment is core to our spiritual vocation. As stewards of creation, we must strive to live a life that sustains our environment and in turn allows all of us to live healthy and just lives through sharing and protecting the earth's resources for everyone. Therefore, during these dire environmental times, we must actively put forth solutions and actions that can be embraced by the diocese and its members, and be a beacon for all people in our region.*

Our two primary goals are: 1. Increase the actions the diocese, congregations and individual members take to improve the health of our environment by educating, inspiring and calling on them. 2. Serve as an example for the larger Episcopal and faith communities.

Our tasks during the first year include

increasing our communication, education and outreach tools so that we can more effectively help individual congregations and members. Additionally, we will be working with several different types of congregations to assess their needs, resources, interests and opportunities. Our hope is that by better understanding the range of needs and opportunities of different congregations, we will be better able to help to focus our efforts.

Environmental Steering Committee members: Paul Beares, Liz Burdock, John Campagna, Kim Coble, Jay Collins, Myra Frazier, Kathleen Gibbs, Diane Giblin, Rich Hall, George Kelly, Shelley Klinefelter, Lee Marston, Beth McCarty, Tom Momberg, Dan Schoos, Meg Stephenson and Jim Truby.

Kim Coble is the bishop's advisor on the environment. For more information please contact Shelley Klinefelter, bishops' assistant to convention & the environment at sklinefelter@ang-md.org, ang-md.org/environment/index.php

[latino ministry]

Immigration Reform – All Hands on Deck!

BY THE REV. HECTOR RODRIGUEZ

THE CENTRAL MARYLAND ECUMENICAL COUNCIL has decided to place immigration reform on its agenda for action this year. Now more than ever, it is necessary for the religious community to exercise its moral leadership around an issue that is bandied about with little useful and factual information.

Far too little consideration is currently given by media outlets to the undocumented immigrant who lives, works and pays taxes into local, state and federal coffers without receiving many, if any, benefits for his or her efforts. Those who have made the painful decision of risking life and limb to come into this country illegally have only done so because there is no legal option available to them. That's why both major party candidates in last year's presidential election referred often to our broken immi-

gration system.

Diocesan officials from the offices of Public Policy, Episcopal Refugee and Immigration Center Alliance, Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network and Latino Ministry hosted a meeting at the Diocesan Center Nov. 10, inviting representatives of the Central Maryland Ecumenical Council. Most church bodies have previously issued statements on the need for comprehensive immigration reform, but in the coming months speaking forcefully and clearly and with a unified voice will be increasingly important as Congress moves from Health Care Reform to Immigration Reform.

What we people of faith will have the opportunity to do this Advent and through Lent is to steep ourselves once again in our Judeo-Christian tradition of welcoming the stranger. The Gospel calls

us to see Christ in the most oppressed residents of this state and to do all we can to defend the dignity and rights with which they have been blessed by our common Creator. As the debate tends to deteriorate into noisy confrontation, we must all first be confronted by what our faith and our founding documents call us to be: a neighbor and Good Samaritan, as well as a people endowed with human dignity and human rights by God.

This message of welcoming immigrants into our communities and recognizing their contributions to our society is one to be communicated not just by the offices cited above and by the personnel assigned to them, but by every Christian who seeks the truth of the Gospel and the courage to act on it.

The Rev. Hector R. Rodriguez serves as vicar of Tres Santos Reyes and as diocesan Latino Missioner, brodriguez@ang-md.org, 410-467-1399.

PATH Says "YES!"

BY THE REV. MADELEINE BEARD

PATH'S SEPTEMBER 2009 ACTION was held for the first time at a mosque, Dar-Al-Taqwa, in Clarksville. PATH (People Acting Together in Howard) is a coalition of 16 churches, including St. Mark's Church, Highland, and St. Peter's Church, Ellicott City, and is one of several Industrial Areas Foundation organizations in Maryland. Others are BUILD in Baltimore and AIM in Montgomery County.

Howard County is the third richest county in the country with a median family income of \$92,262, according to Forbes.com. It isn't the place anyone would expect to find dynamic interfaith community organizing, but thanks to the efforts of the Rev. Hector Rodriguez and Cynthia Marshall, PATH is making a real difference in the lives of the residents whose incomes are far below the median.

From an initial victory when PATH convinced the county to run buses every 30 minutes instead of once an hour, PATH has continued to work to enhance the quality of life for people in Howard and in cooperation with the other IAF affiliates in Maryland and citizens across the state. PATH said "Yes" to three initiatives developed out of 61 house meetings with 487 Howard County residents: affordable housing, access to health care, and an end to usurious practices.

PATH's focus for several years has been on affordable housing. In Howard County, mobile home parks are among the last affordable housing available. The residents live under constant threat that the land they rent and on which their homes sit will be sold for residential or commercial development. PATH will once again lead the way for passage in the Maryland General Assembly of legislation to protect these residents if or when the parks are sold.

Howard County is one of the few jurisdictions in the country to be proactive in providing health care to uninsured working adults. For as little as \$50 a month *Healthy Howard* will provide a variety of health services including doctor visits and Emergency Room treatment, low-cost or free prescription medicine, and a personal health coach (healthyhowardplan.org).



PHOTO: RUTH ALICE WHITE

An interfaith gathering for PATH Action, Sept 17, 2009, at Dar-Al-Taqwa mosque, Clarksville.

PATH said "Yes" to working with Howard County Executive Ken Ulman and Health Officer Dr. Peter L. Beilenson in spreading the word about *Healthy Howard*. The member congregations will fan out into designated neighborhoods, knocking on more than 20,000 doors, and handing out information so Howard County's uninsured population can take advantage of this unique program. PATH hopes to reach 6,000 of the uninsured this fall.

The third leg of PATH's 2009 campaign is usury. After joining 28 IAF affiliates from Massachusetts to North Carolina and Germany to Wisconsin in METRO IAF's *10% Is Enough* campaign, PATH enlisted the support of County Executive Ulman at the September Action in fighting outrageous lending practices.

The county executive had an idea of his own – would PATH join him in working for legislation to allow installment payments for those uninsured motorists required to participate in the Maryland Auto Insurance Fund (MAIF) who currently must pay in full or finance this mandatory insurance through credit cards or other lenders who charge exorbitant interest. PATH continues to explore working with Ulman and legislators to change this system.

PATH is truly People Acting Together in Howard. It is an example of community organizing and interfaith cooperation making a difference in the lives of people and empowering them to active citizenship. To learn more about the Industrial Areas Foundation and community organizing visit industrialareasfoundation.org.

Visit MCN Online for more *Justice & Peace* news.

We Are the Angels

BY THE REV. MADELEINE BEARD

Christmastime is a wonderful time to give in honor of the Christ Child, poor and in a manger. At Christmas and this season of gift giving, we often find people on our lists who "have everything." What to give is the question. And when we are asked what others can give us, what to request is the question.

Here are answers to both questions.

Episcopal Community Services of Maryland's two programs for children, the Ark Preschool for homeless children and the Club at Collington Square, an after-school program for elementary-middle school students, will joyfully accept donations. Visit ecsm.org to learn more about these programs.

The Baltimore International Seafarers' Center collects "Shoe Boxes" for seafarers stopping in the port of Baltimore. A list of things to put in the box is at baltseafarers.ang-md.org.

Help fund the Millennium Development Goals. Give directly to the diocese to add to 0.7 percent of the diocesan budget the MDG Committee uses to award grants. (Make your check to the diocese with MDGs on the memo line and send to 4 E. University Pkwy, Baltimore MD 21218). Giving to the MDG Committee will increase the ability of the diocese to make a difference in alleviating extreme poverty. If you would rather, you can give to the individual organizations to which the diocese has given grants. Learn about them and their work at globalmission.ang-md.org.

If you prefer, consider Episcopal Relief and Development (er-d.org), the Heifer Project (heifer.org), and Care (care.org). You can be a micro-lender through Kiva (kiva.org) or World Vision's Loans to Break Poverty program (meero.worldvision.org/sf_loanstobreakpoverty.php).

All these are worthy causes you can support not only at Christmas but all year long.

We know it is Christmas when "whoever will take it is given the role: the fruitful, the faithful, the joyous of soul, for Christmas comes into the here and the now when we are the angels who dream and deliver, who rise and create this new world!" (Shirley Erena Murray, *Worship and Rejoice*, Hope Publishing, 2001.)

Justice & Peace

The Rev. Madeleine Beard
 Diocese Jubilee Officer: jubilee.ang-md.org
 Coordinator, MEPPN: meppn.ang-md.org
 Treasurer, MILC
 Deacon, St. Mark's Church, Highland
beardmcd@verizon.net
 301-439-5418 Home
 301-785-2586 Mobile
 301-854-2304 St. Mark's office

[around the diocese]

UTO Grants Two Maryland Programs' Wishes

BY DOTTIE ARTHUR AND SHARON TILLMAN

AT THE TRIENNIAL CONVENTION in Anaheim, Cal., United Thank Offering of the Episcopal Church Women announced that it awarded \$2,650,472.43 in 63 grants both nationally and abroad. Each diocese was encouraged to submit two grants for consideration by UTO. Both proposals submitted by this diocese were awarded grants totaling \$70,000.

The Turnabout Café and Bakery, sponsored by All Saints' Parish, Sunderland, received \$30,000. According to the Web site, the registered nonprofit café provides "fair trade, fair play and fair employment" practices, as well as a community gathering place. The grant will be used to train six women over a 12-month period as pastry cooks, deli operators and food service professionals. These women are presently unemployed single mothers and developmentally disabled women. Learn more at turnaboutcafe.com.

The second grant was awarded to Ghanaian Mother's Hope, Inc. Operating in the Diocese of Accra, Ghana, West Africa, and sponsored by the Church of the Ascension, Westminster, GMH educates children and empowers villages by building schools, playgrounds and health centers. The \$40,000 grant will be used to expand a primary school, train teachers and offer health and nutritional programs for both children and their mothers. Call 410-215-9543 for additional information.

UTO's historic mission is to address compelling human need and expand the mission and ministry of The Episcopal Church, of which it is a spiritual and



PHOTO: CHARLES GRATCH

Suzanne L. Hall, an ARC of Southern Maryland employee, works in the kitchen of the Turnabout Café and Bakery.



Ghanaian Mothers' Hope, Inc. receives its 2009 UTO grant. (l-r): Chery Vecera, treasurer of GMH; the Rev. Ron Fisher, rector, Church of the Ascension, Westminster; and Dottie Arthur, Maryland ECW delegate.

financial partner. The grants are awarded each spring from money donated throughout the year by individuals, parishes, dioceses and provinces. Twice a year, October and May, the diocese hosts UTO Ingatherings, when people can bring their offerings to be collected and joined with others.

The size and number of grants awarded each year depends solely on the generosity of donors. It is the belief that together we can do more than we could possibly do alone that fuels UTO.

Dottie Arthur is one of three Maryland ECW/UTO delegates along with Barbara English Bonadie, 301-722-5816, and Sarah Brownlowe. To learn more about UTO visit episcopalchurch.org/uto.htm.

The Cathedral Columbarium

Members of other diocesan congregations are invited to reserve space in the beautiful columbarium located next to the Peace Chapel at the Cathedral of the Incarnation in Baltimore. Designed by cathedral member Tom Gamper, it won an AIA (American Institute of Architects) award for its originality and beauty.

Information about the Cathedral columbarium may be obtained and tours scheduled by calling Fran Brown or Mary Jane Hall at the diocese, 410-467-1399 or 800-443-1399.

Anniversary Celebrations

COMPILED BY SHARON TILLMAN

THIS NEW COLUMN in *Maryland Church News* celebrates the milestones of churches, ministries and schools of our historic diocese. To submit your institution's anniversary, send a photo and brief description of the celebration – either planned or completed – to mcn@ang-md.org. Be sure to include a link to your Web site where visitors can find the history, photos and news of the special events and celebrations surrounding your anniversary.

St. John's Church, Havre de Grace 200th Anniversary

The oldest church in Havre de Grace, St. John's celebrated its 200th Sept. 20 with a church service and banquet. Special guests included



Bishop Eugene Taylor Sutton and the Rev. John Elledge, recently retired rector of the church. Elledge was named rector emeritus in honor of his dedication to the parish. To learn more about this historic parish in Harford County, visit stjohnshd.org.

Church of the Holy Apostles, Arbutus 125th Anniversary

Celebrating its 125th year as a congregation and its 50th year as a parish of the diocese, Holy Apostles moved to its current location on Leeds Ave. in the 1950s. In



1979, the Rev. John L. Rabb became the church's second rector, serving for nearly 10 years. On Oct. 25, Bishop Rabb celebrated the church's homecoming service, honoring all those who made this church the vibrant community of faith it is today. Read more about the church's history at holypostles.ang-md.org.

Receive Diocesan News Electronically

For timely information on diocesan news and events visit the home page, ang-md.org, and sign up to receive the semi-monthly *Parish Mailing*.

Episcopal School Launches Innovative Program

BY SANDY SHULL

FOUNDED IN 1946 to serve working families, Grace and Saint Peter's School, Baltimore, has been known throughout the Maryland church community for providing a solid academic, aesthetic, social and spiritual foundation to a diverse population in its intimate and nurturing environment. In the same way that its founders, the Rev. Rex B. and Berniece Wilkes, were innovative and ahead of their time, the school today is initiating an innovative and distinctive approach to Episcopal education.

Our new program, to be known as The Wilkes School at Grace and Saint Peter's, will be implemented in the 2010-2011 academic year. The program is designed to foster critical thinking and problem solving skills, to structure the acquisition of content knowledge, and to provide engaging contexts to guide inquiry, reflection, synthesis and social understanding. In grades 2-5, faculty specialization, enhanced academic programs and cross-curricular thematic units are the three intertwined elements of the new Wilkes School program. The preschool and first grade programs will remain unchanged.

In each discipline, including reading, writing, math and social studies, faculty specialists will teach only one subject to all students in grades 2-5. Having teacher specialists will enable students to progress as quickly and as deeply as possible in each subject area. Subject specialists will be responsible for a coherent progression of content mastery and skills acquisition. The school will maintain its current programs with subject specialists in science, art, music, French and Latin.

The Wilkes School will provide the separate and unique Porter Writing Program, named after long-time first grade teacher Nona Porter. Students will develop the ability to organize and communicate ideas in an effective and disciplined manner, writing for a variety of purposes and audiences and in a variety of formats.

The academic year will be divided into major and minor thematic units. All students in grades 2-5 will study material

relating to the theme, at a depth appropriate to each level, in their reading, writing and social studies classes as well as in their special subjects (music, art, foreign language and religion) when the theme is conducive to integration. Coordinated units will foster multidisciplinary critical thinking skills needed to tackle future challenges as students advance in school and in today's globally competitive environment.

Mixed-age homerooms will afford students the opportunity to share work, build lasting friendships, collaborate with those younger and older and develop leadership skills.

The school will retain its mission as an Episcopal School and preserve its dedication to racial and social diversity. To develop greater cultural understanding, students will also study major current world religions and continue to learn about religious traditions and stories from the ancient world, particularly as they relate to the thematic curriculum.

Sandra Shull is the head of school at Grace and St. Peter's School, 410-539-1395.



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Clergy Movement

NEW MINISTRY

- Mary A. Eliot to priest-in-charge, Church of Christ the King, from associate rector, Christ Church, Columbia
- Allston Alexander Jacobs to rector, the Church of St. Katherine of Alexandria
- Sandra Kline-Mortimer to vicar, St. Anne's Church, Smithsburg, from supply priest
- Diane Tomlinson to associate rector from assistant rector, Emmanuel Church, Baltimore
- Shawn Hill to rector from priest-in-charge, St. Andrew's Church, Pasadena
- Anjel Scarborough to spiritual care director, Hospice of Washington County, remains part-time assistant rector of St. Mark's Church, Lappans

RECEIVED INTO THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

- Hector Rodriguez, priest, from the Roman Catholic Church
- Matthew J. D'Amario, deacon, from the Roman Catholic Church

RETIREMENTS

- The Rev. Walter V. Eversley from St. Michael and All Angels, Baltimore
- The Rev. James Ransom from Trinity Church, Towson
- The Rev. Elizabeth Webster from St. George's Church, Mt. Savage. She has taken vows as an anchorite in the tradition of Julian of Norwich, a solitary religious, and will be living at the hermitage at St. Anne's Church, Smithsburg.

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**[Dr. Boender is a parishioner at St.
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ONGOING

CANDLELIGHT VESPERS

4 p.m., Sundays
Christ Church
2100 Rock Spring Rd., Forest Hill
A combination of Taizé, Gregorian chant and contemporary Christian selections. This ecumenical service will feature healing prayer and Holy Communion the first Sunday of each month. 410-838-6606

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 Moberg, All Saints' Parish, Frederick. Cost: \$25. 301-874-5147, bishopclaggett.org

9

CAROLS AND BRASS

7:30 p.m.
St. James' Church
5757 Solomons Island Rd.,
Lothian
Christmas Carol Sing-Along with Salvation Army Brass and children's gift presentation. Potluck supper, 6:30 p.m. 410-867-2838

12

CHRISTMAS BAZAARS

10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Holy Cross Church, The Rocks
Rt. 24, Street
Benefits outreach efforts.
410-452-5502

10 a.m.-6 p.m.

St. John's in the Village
3009 Greenmount Ave., B'more
410-467-4793,
stjohnsinthevillage.org

13

LESSONS & CAROLS

5 p.m.
St. David's Church
4700 Roland Ave., Baltimore
410-467-0476, stdavid.ang-md.org

20

LESSONS & CAROLS

4 p.m.
Immanuel Church
1509 Glencoe Rd., Glencoe
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, stjohnsinthevillage.org

CLASSIC CHRISTMAS CAROLS CONCERT

5 p.m.
Old St. Paul's Church
N. Charles & Saratoga Streets,
Baltimore
Under the direction of Dr. Jeremy Fisel, the Choirs of Men, Boys and Girls will present a Classic Christmas Carols Concert. The event is free and all are invited. Free parking is available at the Paul's Place Garage behind the church.

LESSONS & CAROLS

5 p.m.
The Church of the Redeemer
5603 N. Charles St., Baltimore
Music by Poston, Rutter, Cooman, Warlock, Victoria and Adelman. 410-435-7333, redeemeronline.com

27

A VILLAGE CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

4-6 p.m.
St. John's in the Village
3009 Greenmount Ave., B'more
Join us to see the church in its Christmas glory as choristers sing, organists play, hot mulled cider and wine are served, and all are welcomed! 410-467-4793, stjohnsinthevillage.org

28

FESTIVAL CHORAL EUCHARIST FOR SAINT JOHN'S DAY

6:30 p.m.
St. John's in the Village
3009 Greenmount Ave., B'more
Service music will include Charles Gounod's *Mass in C*, *Iste est Johannes* by Luca Marenzio and *Hic est discipuli* by Francesco Geurrero sung by the choir of St. John's led by Thomas Hetrick, organist/choirmaster. Reception follows. 410-467-4793, stjohnsinthevillage.org

JAN

3

LESSONS & CAROLS, CONCERT

4:30 p.m.
Church of the Ascension
23 North Court St., Westminster
Concert by Celtic duo Port Right (portright.com) in the historic Stone Church. Candlelight recep-

tion, a Celtic Christmas immediately follows. Free-will offering. 410-596-1022, thechurchoftheascension.net

6

CHORAL EUCHARIST FOR THE EPIPHANY

6:30 p.m.
St. John's in the Village
3009 Greenmount Ave., B'more
Service music will include Victoria's *Missa 'Ascendenc Christus'*, *Videntes stellam* by Francis Poulenc and *Omnes de Saba* by Jacob Handl sung by the choir of St. John's led by Thomas Hetrick, organist/choirmaster. 410-467-4793, stjohnsinthevillage.org

8-10

WOMEN'S WEEKEND

Fri 5 p.m.-Sun 11 a.m.
Bishop Claggett Center
3035 Buckeystown Pike,
Buckeystown
Theme: "Welcome the Holy Spirit, the breath of God." Join women for a spiritual weekend with large & small group discussions, worship, prayer and fellowship. Cost: \$175. 301-874-5147, bishop-claggett.org

10

EVENSONG

4 p.m.
St. David's Church
4700 Roland Ave., Baltimore
The Schola Cantorum. 410-467-0476, stdavid.ang-md.org

CONCERT

4 p.m.
St. Margaret's Church
1601 Pleasant Plains Rd.,
Annapolis
Katherine Osborne, soprano.
Songs and arias with James Jenkins, piano. Free. 410-974-0200, st-margarets.org

13

PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

10-11:30 a.m.
St. John's Parish Day School
9130 Frederick Rd., Ellicott City
For early childhood classes age 3-5 transitional Kindergarten. 410-465-7644, stjohndspds.org, jtolen@stjohnsec.org

15

INTEGRITY/BALTIMORE MEETING

7-9 p.m.
Cathedral of the Incarnation
4 E. University Pkway, B'more
Eucharist in the Peace Chapel with the Rev. Canon Mary Glasspool, canon to the bishops, followed by potluck supper with conversation and fellowship. All

are welcome. maryh.miller@verizon.net

17

TRADITIONAL CHORAL EVENSONG

4 p.m.
St. John's in the Village
3009 Greenmount Ave., B'more
Service music will include George Dyson's, *Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in F* and Felix Mendelssohn's *Hear my prayer* sung by the choir of St. John's led by Thomas Hetrick, organist/choirmaster. 410-467-4793, stjohnsinthevillage.org

22-24

WOMEN'S WEEKEND

Fri 5 p.m.-Sun 11 a.m.
Bishop Claggett Center
3035 Buckeystown Pike,
Buckeystown
Theme: "Being a Valuable Vessel of God." Worship and celebrate your faith in prayer, song and meditation. Be refreshed by a variety of workshops. Speaker: The Rev. Canon Mary Glasspool. Cost: \$175. 301-874-5147, bishopclaggett.org

24

EVENSONG

4 p.m.
St. David's Church
4700 Roland Ave., Baltimore
The Schola Cantorum. 410-467-0476, stdavid.ang-md.org

26

PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

10-11:30 a.m.
St. John's Parish Day School
9130 Frederick Rd., Ellicott City
For early childhood classes age 3-5 transitional Kindergarten. 410-465-7644, stjohndspds.org, jtolen@stjohnsec.org

31

CHORAL EVENSONG WITH BACH MOTET

5 p.m.
The Church of the Redeemer
5603 N. Charles St., Baltimore
"Der Geist hilft unser Schwachheit auf" ("The Spirit also helpeth us"). Evening Service - Naylor. 410-435-7333, redeemeronline.com

FEB

2

CHORAL EUCHARIST FOR THE PRESENTATION

6:30 p.m.

St. John's in the Village
3009 Greenmount Ave., B'more
Service music will include William Byrd's *Mass for Three Voices*, *Senex pueram* and *Hodie beata virgo* sung by the choir of St. John's led by Thomas Hetrick, organist/choirmaster. The service will be followed by a 'social hour' in the rectory. 410-467-4793, stjohnsinthevillage.org

5

Organ Recital
7:30 p.m.
St. John's Parish
101 S. Prospect St., Hagerstown
Performed by Mark King, music director. Repertoire by Bach, Amatt, Balbastre, Hakim, Saint-Saens and Durufle. 301-733-2560, ext. 108, stjohnshagerstown.org

7

EPIPHANY CHORAL EVENSONG, CONCERT

4:30 p.m.
Church of the Ascension
23 North Court St., Westminster
Concert by the Westminster Ringers hand bell choir, and reception: A Victorian Valentine. Free-will offering. 410-596-1022, thechurchoftheascension.net

13-14

MARRIAGE RETREAT

Sat 9 a.m.-Sun 11 a.m.
Bishop Claggett Center
3035 Buckeystown Pike,
Buckeystown
Couples take time away together to explore their marriage and enjoy an elegant Valentine's dinner. Leaders: The Rev. Michael and Susan Wallens. Cost: \$200 per couple for full retreat. (\$120 for day and dinner only). 301-874-5147, bishopclaggett.org

14

34TH ANNUAL BALTIMORE BACH MARATHON

12:30-6:30 p.m.
St. David's Church
4700 Roland Ave., Baltimore
Area musicians perform Bach's works in 30-minute segments to celebrate his 325th birthday. 410-467-0476, stdavid.ang-md.org

CONCERT

4 p.m.
St. Margaret's Church
1601 Pleasant Plains Rd.,
Annapolis
The Annapolis Chamber Players. Free. 410-974-0200, st-margarets.org

16

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

5:30-8:30 p.m.

St. John's in the Village

3009 Greenmount Ave., B'more

Join us for fellowship over pancakes and all the fixings catered by Darker than Blue Cafe. Adults: \$8.50, children: \$5. 410-467-4793, stjohsinthevillage.org

19

INTEGRITY/BALTIMORE MEETING

7-9 p.m.

Cathedral of the Incarnation

4 E. University Pkwy, B'more

Eucharist in the Peace Chapel with the Rev. Dina van Klaveren, rector of St. Andrew's Church, Glenwood, followed by potluck supper with conversation and fellowship. All are welcome. maryh.miller@verizon.net

21

CONCERT

5 p.m.

The Church of the Redeemer

5603 N. Charles St., Baltimore

Peabody Consort, Mark Cudek, director, and "Candesco," Emily Noel,

Emily Frye, Julia McCabe, sopranos.

410-435-7333, redeemeronline.com

A PENITENTIAL PROCESSION

6:30 p.m.

The Cathedral of Mary

Our Queen

5200 N. Charles St., Baltimore

Lessons interspersed with anthems and hymns. A Baltimore tradition on the first Sunday in Lent. The service takes the ancient liturgical form of a procession of penitence and supplication, moving through the cathedral in a pilgrimage symbolic of our journey as the people of God, from our first disobedience unto our redemption and renewal in Jesus Christ, from the semidarkness of the nave to the brilliant light of the altar. The repertoire includes music of Purcell, Croft, Morales, Pärt, Ireland and Allegri. Sung by the choir of St. John's in the Village, Thomas Hetrick, organist/choirmaster. 410-467-4793, stjohsinthevillage.org

26

EMBER DAY

9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Bishop Claggett Center

3035 Buckeystown Pike,

Buckeystown

Meditations and quiet time to walk, read, pray & reflect.

Cost: \$25. 301-874-5147,

bishopclaggett.org

28

EVENSONG

4 p.m.

St. David's Church

4700 Roland Ave., Baltimore

The Schola Cantorum. 410-467-0476, stdavid.ang-md.org

MAR

5-7

MEN'S WEEKEND

Fri 5 p.m.-Sun 11 a.m.

Bishop Claggett Center

3035 Buckeystown Pike,

Buckeystown

Theme: "Forgiven, Loved and Free."

Men from many parishes and beyond will come with joy to be together and to worship their Lord. Leader: Bishop Eugene Taylor Sutton. Cost: \$175. 301-874-5147, bishopclaggett.org

7

CHORAL EVENSONG

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

13

HOLY HANDS & HEART DAY

9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Bishop Claggett Center

3035 Buckeystown Pike,

Buckeystown

Come for an inspiring day with individuals and groups who use their

hands to create and give. Cost: \$35.

301-874-5147, bishopclaggett.org

14

EVENSONG

4 p.m.

St. David's Church

4700 Roland Ave., Baltimore

The Schola Cantorum. 410-467-0476,

stdavid.ang-md.org

LENTEN CHORAL EVENSONG, CON-

CERT

4:30 p.m.

Church of the Ascension

23 North Court St., Westminster

Concert by The Old Line Statesmen

Barbershop Chorus and a light Hoe-

down supper. Free-will offering. 410-

596-1022,

thechurchoftheascension.net

19

INTEGRITY/BALTIMORE

MEETING

7-9 p.m.

Cathedral of the Incarnation

4 E. University Pkwy, B'more

Eucharist in the Peace Chapel with

the Rev. Flo Ledyard, rector of St.

Bartholomew's Church, Baltimore, fol-

lowed by potluck supper with conver-

sation and fellowship. All are

welcome. maryh.miller@verizon.net

21

TRADITIONAL CHORAL

EVENSONG

4 p.m.

St. John's in the Village

3009 Greenmount Ave., B'more

Service music will include William

Byrd's, *Second service* and, *Tribula-*

tiones Civitatem sung by the choir of

St. John's led by Thomas Hetrick,

organist/choirmaster. 410-467-4793,

stjohsinthevillage.org

CHORAL EVENSONG FOR

WOMEN'S VOICES

5 p.m.

The Church of the Redeemer

5603 N. Charles St., Baltimore

Music by Malcolm, How, Hogan,

Ledger and Casals. 410-435-7333,

redeemeronline.com

25

FESTIVAL CHORAL EUCHARIST FOR

THE ANNUNCIATION

6:30 p.m.

St. John's in the Village

3009 Greenmount Ave., B'more

Service music will include Basil Har-

wood's *Communion Service in E-flat*,

Dixit Maria by Hans Leo Hassler and

Ave Maria by Tomas Luis de Victoria,

sung by the choir of St. John's led by

Thomas Hetrick, organist/choirmaster.

410-467-4793, stjohsinthevillage.org

The Cathedral of the

Incarnation is co-sponsoring a

downlink with the diocese for the

Trinity Institute 2010 National

Theological Conference, Jan. 27-29.

Webcast worldwide, this year's

theme is Building an Ethical Econ-

omy: Theology and the Marketplace.

Please visit the diocesan Web site,

ang-md.org, to register.

2010 Christian

Formation Festival

St. James' Parish, Monkton

April 24

Theme: God: Invites, Inspires, Trans-

forms. (From the Charter for Lifelong

Christian Formation. To read the

charter online visit formationchar-

ter.com). Keynote speaker: Dr. Ian

Markham, president of Virginia

Theological Seminary.



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Who is God calling you to be?

When your Vestry or church is facing change, challenge and new opportunities it is often helpful to have an outside consultant provide direction and encouragement. I have 25 years experience in senior leadership in the Episcopal Church.

- Charting a direction for the future - vision and goal setting, strategic planning, organizational development.
- Assessing your ministry together - Mutual Ministry Reviews, leadership development and coaching.
- Staff development.
- Parish retreats.

For more information contact me:

Carolyn Moomaw Chilton

540-856-3194

carolynmoomawchilton@gmail.com

FEATURED EVENT

Feb 26-28 & March 5-7

HOBSON'S CHOICE BY HAROLD BRIGHOUSE

Fri & Sat: 8 p.m., Sun: 2 p.m.

Staged at Church of the Good Shepherd

1401 Carrollton Ave., Ruxton

The Church of the Good Shepherd in association with a revival of the Ruxton Players is staging the play to honor the church's centennial. Good Shepherd's celebratory year will culminate in September on the 100th anniversary of the church's consecration.

The production is under the direction of Bill Kamberger ("Baltimore's Best Stage Director," *The City Paper*). The Ruxton Players were a fixture of the Baltimore theater scene from the 1920s to the 1960s. *Hobson's Choice* is a beloved British comedy that was voted one of the 100 greatest plays of the 20th century in a poll sponsored by the National Theatre of Great Britain. Tickets: \$15 (adults) and \$12 (12 and under), in advance and at the door. 410-823-0122, goodshepherd-ruxton.org

[around the diocese]

Global Diversity Celebrated in Grand Style

BY THE REV. DR. ALLEN F. ROBINSON AND ALLISON J.M. ROBINSON

More than 250 people witnessed an uplifting and spirit-filled service. Oct. 25, when St. James' Church, Lafayette Square, hosted its inaugural International Sunday to celebrate its global diversity.

THE SERVICE OPENED with a procession of St. James' members who hail from various countries — Cuba, Eritrea, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Liberia, New Zealand, Trinidad and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Wearing ethnic attire, participants held placards with the name of their country and a flag. As they approached the altar, they turned to face the congregation. Each individual proudly shouted the name of their country and then in unison the group waved their flags and bellowed, "Welcome to International Sunday at St. James'!"

Members from the different countries read the lessons and it was such a delight to hear the distinct accents. The St. James' Youth Choir performed *Jesus Loves the Little Children/Kum Ba Yah*. Additional and soul-stirring musical selections were performed by the St. James' Expressions of Faith gospel choir.

The guest preacher was the Rev. Joseph Constant, director of Ethnic Ministries and Student Life at Virginia Theological Seminary. A native of Haiti, Constant delivered an inspiring sermon that he closed with a moving prayer in Creole. Haiti has been designated by the St. James' International Awareness Committee as the country to support because

of its insurmountable needs.

Following the welcome by the rector, the congregation was wowed by the costumes and performance of Grufolpawa, a Panamanian folklore dance group. As the dancers entered the sanctuary, a member was overheard saying, "Oh my!" The performance was breathtaking and coincided with Hispanic Heritage Month (October).

Following the service, the congregation was invited to the Parish Center where the celebration continued with the International Food Festival. St. James' members prepared elaborate and tasty dishes from their native lands to share with their church family and guests. There were also opportunities to learn about the countries from pictorial displays and artifacts, which lined the multipurpose room of the Parish Center. The mood was very festive as lively music played and for fleeting moments you felt transplanted to the Caribbean or Africa.

Families with young children had the option to play games inside a classroom designated just for them. Children whacked a piñata, played with balloons and completed word searches of African and Caribbean countries. A Journeys Unlimited travel consultant was on hand to promote the St. James' Holy Land



Grufolpawa, a Panamanian folklore dance group from Washington, D.C., performed at St. James' International Sunday.

2010 Pilgrimage, of which the Rev. Dr. Allen Robinson is the spiritual leader. The eight-day pilgrimage will be held June 14-21 and other churches are welcomed to join us.

Constant gave a very informative and enlightening presentation on the works of his non-profit group, the Haiti-Micah Project, a Christian organization committed to addressing the needs of impoverished and uneducated children in Haiti.

International Sunday was an amazing celebration that St. James' and its visitors won't soon forget. Due to the success of the inaugural event, International Sunday will be an annual celebration for the church. We welcome you to join us on Oct. 24, 2010.

The Rev. Dr. Allen F. Robinson is the rector of St. James' Church, Lafayette Square, and Allison Robinson is a member of the International Awareness Committee and coordinator of the food festival. For more information about the work of the St. James' International Awareness Committee, please call 410-523-4588 or visit stjamesonthesquare.org.