

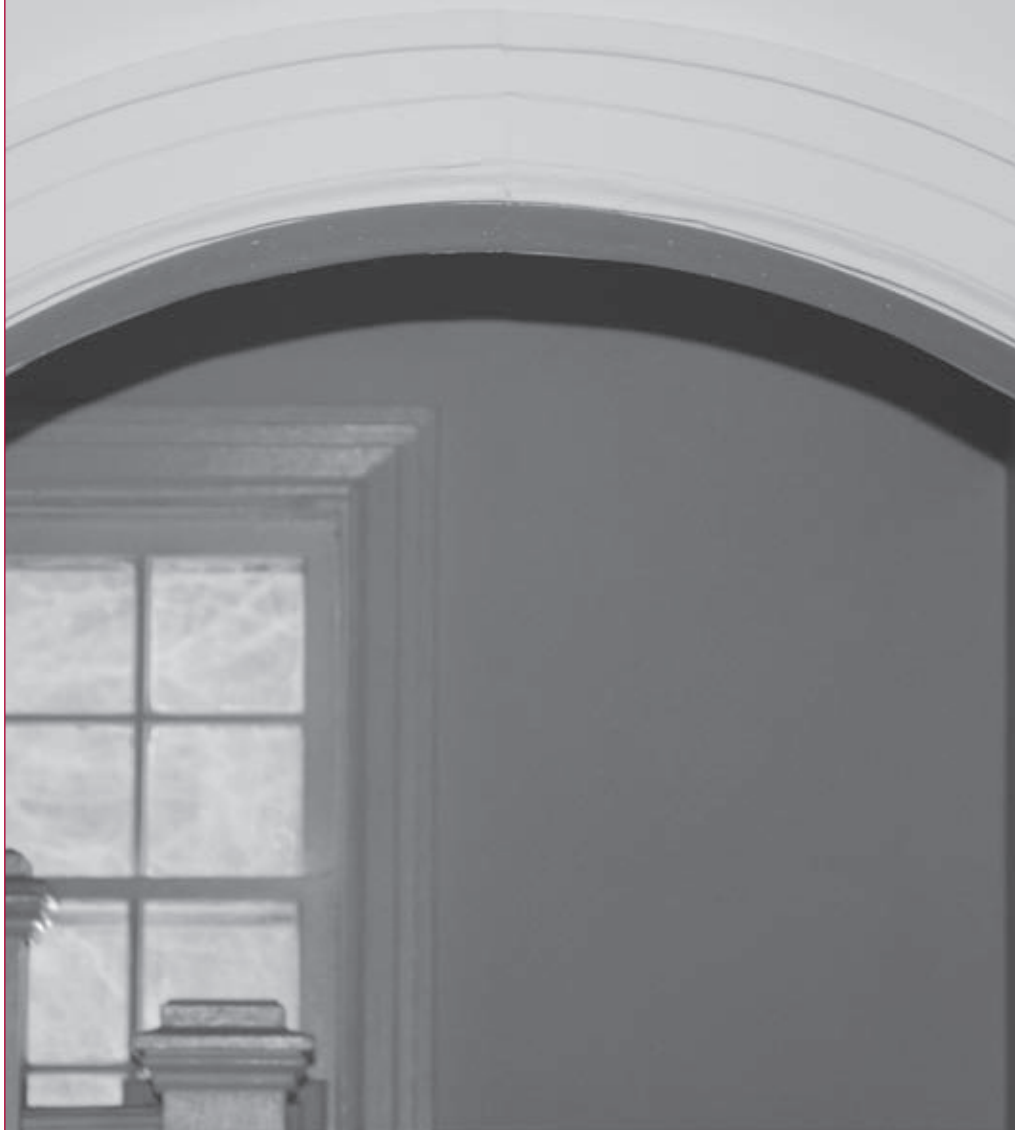


THE JOURNAL OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MARYLAND

MARYLAND CHURCH NEWS

WINTER 2011/2012

BE STILL, AND KNOW THAT
I AM GOD



Prepare for Diocesan Convention

BY SHARON TILLMAN

AS THE NEW YEAR APPROACHES and the 2012 calendar fills up with graduations, spring fairs and weddings, it is time to put this annual diocesan event on your calendar. The 228th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland will be held May 4-5, 2012, at the Marriott Hunt Valley Inn, near I-83 in Baltimore County.

We welcome Dr. Diana Butler Bass as our keynote speaker. Bass is an author, speaker, and independent scholar specializing in American religion and culture. She holds a Ph.D. in religious studies from Duke University and is the author of eight books including *Christianity After Religion: The End of Church and the Birth of a New Spiritual Awakening*, forthcoming from HarperOne in February.

Currently a Chabraja Fellow with the SeaburyNEXT project at Seabury Western Theological Seminary, Bass regularly consults with religious organizations, leads conferences for religious leaders, and teaches and preaches in a variety of venues. She blogs at *The Huffington Post* and *Patheos*, and regularly comments on religion, politics, and culture in the media. She is a contributing editor for *Sojourners Magazine* and has written widely in the religious press, including *Christian Century*, *Clergy Journal*, and *Congregations*.

Bass also serves on the boards of the Beatitudes Society and Public Religion Research.

Bass has taught at Westmont College, the University of California at Santa Barbara, Macalester College, Rhodes College, and the Virginia Theological Seminary. She has taught church history, American religious history, history of Christian thought, religion and politics, and congregational studies. Source: dianabutlerbass.com

Going to Convention

Diocesan Convention is a time when representatives from around our diocese gather to share in the polity of the Church, upholding the common mission and ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ. While voting representatives and alternates must preregister and pay to attend Convention, anyone is welcome to attend as an observer for free or to pay the registration fee. Registered attendees receive packets of information, including the *Pre-Convention Journal* and meals during the two-day meeting.

The registration fee is \$190 per person on or before April 16 (\$240 after), which includes both days and the following meals: lunch and dinner Friday and lunch Saturday. Guest tickets for dinner Friday are \$50.

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EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MARYLAND

4 E. University Parkway
Baltimore, MD 21218-2437

410-467-1399

800-443-1399

Fax: 410-554-6387

E-mail: mcn@episcopalmaryland.org

www.episcopalmaryland.org

www.marylandchurchnews.org

The Episcopal Church

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

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

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

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ON THE COVER: "Be still and know that I am God" These words from Psalm 46 set the tone for the Diocese of Maryland's Hermitage at St. Anne's in Smithsburg, a place for self-directed, often silent retreats, a place where clergy, lay leaders and all who are seeking time apart to deepen their relationship with God can go on their own time – for themselves. This phrase is stenciled above the doorway to the small chapel inside the hermitage where two Daily Offices – Matins (Morning Prayer) and Vespers (Evening Prayer) are offered. To learn more visit hermitageatstannes.org. Photo: Jason Hoffman

Sharon Tillman, *Editor*

Val & Don Hymes, *Contributing Editors*

Jason Hoffman, *Photo Editor*

Note these Convention deadlines

Lay & youth delegate certification	Feb. 21
Nominations	Feb. 21
Resolutions	March 5
Reports for the Pre-Convention Journal	March 12
Hotel reservations	April 3
Convention registration	April 16

Committee descriptions, vacancies for nomination

The canons of the diocese require the secretary of convention to publish a list of offices that are to be filled by the Convention (Canon 1-240, Section 1). At present, we need to elect the following persons:

- Secretary of Convention (till 2013)
- One cleric to compensation & benefits (till 2015)
- One layperson to Compensation & Benefits (till 2015)

- One cleric to Diocesan Council (till 2015)
- Two laypersons to Diocesan Council (till 2015)
- One cleric to Disciplinary Board (till 2015)
- Two laypersons to Disciplinary Board (till 2015)
- One cleric to Standing Committee (till 2016)
- One layperson to Standing Committee (till 2016)

Forms for registration, nominations and resolutions will be available online at Episcopal-Maryland.org in late December. A letter with detailed information and forms will be sent to each parish also in late December to allow for ample time to register clergy and delegates, nominate individuals for offices and prepare resolutions.



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A Week in the Life of a Bishop

As I travel around the diocese, I am frequently asked, especially by our younger members, “What does a bishop actually *do*?”



MY RESPONSE USUALLY TAKES various forms, depending on which week it is, my mood, and on how much time the questioner is willing to give me! I am greatly blessed to be the bishop of the Diocese of Maryland, and I'd like to share with you the breadth of activities that fill up my days and many evenings. Let's just take one week, for example, the last week of October going into November:

Sunday

Maryland Cursillo #101 – from Thursday evening through Sunday afternoon, I served as one of the spiritual advisors for this weekend held at the Bishop Claggett Center. Cursillo is one of the great tools for forming Christian leaders for our parishes, and I wholeheartedly commend it for everyone!

Monday

My day off, but also a time for me to catch up on important communications and phone calls. On this morning, I had a long conference call with others around the country to plan the next Episcopal-Presbyterian dialogue to be held in December. All bishops are assigned to at least one board, commission or agency of the Episcopal Church and my assignment is to co-chair this ecumenical dialogue with my Presbyterian counterpart.

Tuesday

Tuesdays are my most scheduled time of the week; full of staff, program and calendar meetings. The big respite for me is the 12:15 p.m. Contemplative Eucharist at the Cathedral of the Incarnation, followed by centering prayer. This gathering, with visitors, clergy and parishioners from throughout the diocese, now averages 40+ worshipers, is the closest thing I have to a “parish” community to pray with every week. I am frequently the celebrant and preacher, and lead most of the centering prayer sessions with teaching.

This particular Tuesday was especially busy: meeting with a priest to prepare for an upcoming parish visitation, meeting with a vestry about a new long-term strategy for growth and vitality, and finally attending a meeting in the evening of Jewish and African-American community leaders in the Baltimore area to address ethnic and religious tensions that have arisen in the past year. I was asked to work with a prominent local rabbi on a statement pledging more dialogue and peaceful resolutions to conflicts that may arise in the future.

Wednesday

Every Wednesday my workday begins with a gathering of the Pastoral Team, composed of the diocesan clergy staff, the two bishops' assistants, and our diocesan chaplain to clergy and their families. We pray through our confidential list of those suffering illnesses and other prayer concerns; and we always pray for our former bishops and spouses, the Anglican and diocesan cycles of prayer for dioceses and parishes, and we pray through the cycle of those receiving benefits from The Corporation for family survivors of clergy who have died.

After counseling in my office with a member of the clergy going through vocational distress, I then left for Washington, D.C., with 15 other national interreligious leaders for a briefing about the crisis in global aid to impoverished countries. I represented the Episcopal Church at this gathering. We met with several senators from both major parties who requested that we come to give our moral and ethical perspectives to their colleagues, as Congress is now debating whether to slash our present small commitment to hunger, health and antipoverty aid to the world's neediest countries. Polls show that most Americans believe that about 25 percent of our national budget goes to “foreign aid,” and they believe it should be only 10 percent. In reality, however, less than one percent – specifically, .006 percent – of our national budget goes to fund

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Frederick, an Episcopal- and Lutheran-supported day school. I led the chapel, and had a great time there playing my guitar and teaching the students a song. After a tour of the school, I spent the rest of the morning in scheduled appointments with individual clergy while I was in the area.

In the afternoon, I went to the Bishop Claggett Center to get updated on our *Campaign for Claggett* to build the new inn there that will complete the strategic vision for our diocesan conference center. I was blessed to have about an hour and a half free while there to take my own “contemplative walk” throughout the grounds; what lovely grounds, and such a wonderful resource that center is, if only more of us would use and support it!

That evening I attended and addressed another reception for potential donors to the Claggett campaign. I am very committed to this important effort, which is still in the “silent” phase; the campaign will be publicly launched throughout the diocese on Sunday, Jan. 29, our diocesan-wide Exchange Sunday when clergy will exchange their pulpits with others. Already in this preliminary phase, almost half of the \$5 million goal has been raised by clergy and lay leaders of the diocese.

Friday

A time of catching up in the office, reading some emails, making phone calls, and doing some work on Sunday’s sermon. It’s also a morning when staff can pop in for brief meet-

programs that feed the hungry, combat preventable diseases, and combat poverty around the world. Our ecumenical gathering of both conservative evangelical and progressive mainline leaders were unanimous in imploring our national leaders not to cut this funding that saves millions of lives every year.

Thursday

The day began with an early visit to the Trinity School of

ings with me, and for occasional meetings with our cathedral dean. On this Friday, I end my workday by paying a pastoral visit to a retired priest who is in a continuing care facility. I head home in the afternoon for a standing Friday night date with my wife, Sonya.

Saturday

Most of the day is taken up with the meeting of Diocesan Council (elected lay and clergy representatives) held this day at Claggett. Council serves as the chief representative body of the Diocese of Maryland between the annual Diocesan Conventions; it approves the diocesan budget, gives oversight to diocesan initiatives and programs. Following the council meeting in the afternoon, the canon to the ordinary and I have a scheduled confidential meeting with a priest about an important personal and vocational matter.

That evening, Sonya and I host a dinner for the bishop-elect of our neighboring diocese, the Rev. Maryann Budde, who will be consecrated bishop of the Diocese of Washington the following Saturday. We discuss ways in which our two dioceses can work more closely together on several programs and initiatives.

Sunday

My first Episcopal visitation to All Saints’ Church, Reisterstown, a traditional, energetic and spirit-filled parish! In the afternoon, I meet with a priest from another diocese who is a candidate for rector in one of our parishes.

Is this a typical week? Yes...even though the people and places change, the variety of duties and responsibilities rarely changes. Some weeks will involve one area of ministry more than others, but this week highlights the breadth of Episcopal ministry: spending time in parishes, meeting with clergy and lay leaders, attending to diocesan matters, dealing with conflicts and crises, being a civic leader in Baltimore and throughout Maryland, and representing the Episcopal Church in public policy matters of national and global importance. Spending time in each of these ministry areas – and tending to my own spiritual growth and time with my family – is sometimes a challenge, but ultimately very rewarding to me personally.

As your bishop, it is my pleasure to both serve you and to represent you in our shared ministry in Maryland and beyond!

“Wait, watch... be ready!”

Growing up in the Methodist Church I participated each and every New Year’s Eve in what was called a “watch night service.” The worship began around 10 in the evening, and consisted of scripture, prayers, singing, sharing and storytelling – all leading inexorably toward that magic moment of midnight when the trumpets would blare out the standard hymn for the occasion: “God of our fathers, whose almighty hand leads forth in beauty all the starry band...”



AND THEN IT WAS NEW YEAR’S, complete with a party and refreshments! Mind you, there was no champagne for my Methodist companions, but it didn’t matter. It had all been a sheer delight just to revel in the anticipation, just to experience the exquisite pain of waiting. No New Year’s Eve party I have ever attended since can touch that feeling of exhilaration. And it was all about the waiting!

Advent is like that – like a long watch in the night. Unless we keep the vigil, and embrace the waiting, how can we possibly be ready to welcome Christmas and all that follows it?

Indeed, all human living is an “Advent” of sorts. In some way or other we are always waiting. Sometimes our waiting is trivial, and frustrating. We wait in line; we wait in traffic; we wait for water to boil. At other times our waiting is serious. We wait for an acceptance letter. We wait for test results on the tumor

– is it benign or malignant? We wait at bedside, for our beloved to draw a final breath.

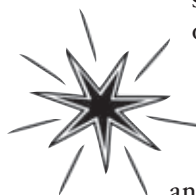
I think that’s why the season of Advent – a season sprung from waiting – seems so fresh and relevant every time it comes around. Advent reminds us that the people of God have been waiting for a very long time.

When Abraham and Sarah got news of a child in their old age, they waited. When Moses was called at the burning bush to free his captive people, he waited. And those he liberated from bondage in Egypt were sent into the wilderness, where they waited. When the people of Israel heard Isaiah’s promise that “the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped...and the ransomed of the Lord shall return...and sorrow and sighing shall flee away,” for centuries they waited to

see it come to pass.

And then there’s Mary, who is surprised by an angel with the unbelievable news of a Savior’s birth. And she waits! Like countless other faithful ones who trusted in God, Mary patiently waits for the fulfillment of the promise.

All of us in the church – like our forebears who waited eagerly for the fulfillment of God’s vision – are on an urgent journey through the night, desperately seeking some sign of hope, some peace in our time, some word of promise. Advent draws us into a spirituality of faithful waiting, marked by discernment, prayer, honest conversation, shared stories, and mutual ministry. It calls us to reflect, to take



stock, and to open our hearts and minds to the future God is preparing.

Thus the ancient Biblical message still speaks with power and relevance: “Keep awake!” “Wait, watch... be ready!” We may walk in darkness now, but before long we’ll see it. And we’ll see it together: a stable lamp; a star; a great light shining on us all; and a savior who is Christ the Lord.

Now that’s a promise worth waiting for.



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Ecumenism: What is meant, what is done and how?

BY BRUCE GEORGE

Webster's Dictionary relates this term to a movement from the 19th century that fosters "Christian unity throughout the world," particularly "through international interdenominational organizations" among Protestants.

MY GOAL IS TO PROMOTE ecumenism, i.e., unity among all Christian traditions (denominations) through understanding. But unity of what? Beliefs? Worship? Governance? Missions? Social activism?

Driven by common beliefs, there is inter-traditional unity regarding social activism on many issues, e.g., abortion, the death penalty, the environment, poverty, crime. Similarly with missions – different traditions often work together to reach out to the homeless and hungry, to seafarers, to prisoners, and to campus ministries.

Core Christian beliefs are settled, e.g., belief in the Trinity as summarized in the

Apostles' Creed and/or the Nicene Creed (though the *filioque* clause, indicating provenance of the Holy Spirit, still divides Christians). The Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper (or Holy Communion or the Eucharist) are universally recognized though interpretations and emphases vary. Other rites are practiced by most traditions, e.g., confirmation, holy matrimony, ordination, anointing of the sick, funerals, but are not recognized as sacraments by all traditions.

We often pray together. Joint prayer services are common on many occasions, e.g., national events, deaths of notables, natural

(see *Ecumenism*, page 27)



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No Sundays in Christmas?

BY THE RT. REV. JOE GOODWIN BURNETT

During this holy season of Advent, as together we prepare to go again in heart and mind to Bethlehem to celebrate the feast of our Lord's nativity, it is timely to be reminded that this is one of those occasional years in which, strictly speaking, there will be no "Sundays" in the 12 day season of Christmas!

"WHAT'S THAT?" SOME MAY SAY, "Did the Grinch steal Sunday from our Christmas season?" To which the Prayer Book responds, "No, the Calendar of the Church Year did that!"

I am amazed at what I continue to learn and relearn from the treasure trove that is our 1979 Book of Common Prayer. I'm also constantly mindful of how casual we can become in adhering to

what we claim to hold dear: the rubrics,

correct titles of days, and practices of observance

that are outlined in the section of our Prayer Book on pages 15-18 entitled

"The Calendar of the Church Year."

If you will read that section carefully you will see

that this is indeed one of those years in which there are no "Sundays" in the Christmas season.

I put "Sundays" in quotation marks because even though Dec. 25 and Jan. 1 are "Sundays" according to our secular calendars, this is one of those times when, liturgically speaking, these are not Sundays, because another liturgical feast has precedence.

On pages 15-16 of the Book of Common Prayer we read that both Christmas Day (Dec. 25), and the feast of the Holy Name (Jan. 1), are among the feasts that "take precedence of any other day or observance" –

including Sunday. So on Sunday, Dec. 25, we use the lessons and propers appointed for Christmas Day. On Sunday, Jan. 1, we use the lessons and propers appointed for the feast of the Holy Name.

Therefore this year we will not observe, as we usually do, "The First Sunday after Christmas Day," or "The Second Sunday after Christmas Day."

Instead, we will observe

"The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus

Christ:

Christmas

Day," and

"The Holy

Name of Our

Lord Jesus

Christ" (see BCP,

page 31).

Some may think of this as much ado

about nothing, but I beg to differ. I have

become so accustomed to and have been so spiritually sustained by living liturgically according to our Prayer Book calendar that even little things like this make a huge difference. In any event, I hope you will all take care to offer ample opportunities for your people to observe these major feasts, on the Eve, and/or on the Day, as your custom and traditions dictate.

And on behalf of all of us who serve you from the diocesan center, may I offer you wishes for a happy and holy Christmas season – Sundays or no Sundays!



Episcopal Service Corps Changing Lives

BY THE REV. JAN HAMILL

THE EPISCOPAL SERVICE CORPS believes that for young adults it is more important to ask “what will you be?” and “what are you becoming?” than “what are you doing next year?”

I came to ESC after realizing that I needed to make a change in my life. And I can think of no better way than combining that with a year of service while I think about my future and my relationship with God. — Janet

To help young adults answer these questions, a group of people from the diocese began conversations several years ago, at the same time that others around the Episcopal Church were also wondering how to do just that. Conversations converged and this August ESC-MD welcomed five young adults to Gilead House (formerly known as the rectory of St. Mark’s on-the-Hill, Pikesville.)

The national network of the Episcopal Service Corps now has 21 affiliated programs, 19 of which are up and running this fall, with two more planned for next fall. The active number is up from 12 just a year ago, thanks in large part to the movement of the Spirit through conversations Church-wide, and the generosity of start-up grants from Trinity Church, Wall Street, and the Fund for Theological Education. All the programs, including Maryland’s, are residential year-long volunteer programs for young adults. The interns are called together to build their own community as they live together, and to build community in nonprofit worksites where they volunteer.

The experience I have had so far with ESC-MD is amazing. I’m learning more about myself and my beliefs, I’m also learning so much about the city of Baltimore and what the city has to offer, and what the city will need to change in order to grow. I feel that being in ESC is slowly changing me in so many

ways into the person I am meant to be. — Jamie

The year is designed with an action/reflection model so that the young adults have ample opportunity to reflect on their work in the world and in their own house community.

Maryland’s Baltimore-based group is comprised of wonderful young women from Virginia, North Carolina, California and New York. Using mostly public transportation they commute to Remington, Poppleton, Hampden, Timonium, Johnston Square, and Morgan Park. Some have neighborhood specific ministries, others are more regional.

Jessica is coordinating *Spiritually Thirsty*, a weekly conversation for 20-30 year olds who want fellowship and prayer with others, and is working with Neighbor to Neighbor, a partnership among churches and organizations in central Baltimore County focused on reducing the

(see ESC, page 25)



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ESC Details

- Funding is largely through the fees from the worksites and through the Bishops’ Appeal.
- Furnishings for the house have been in-kind donations from parishes and individuals.
- Furnishing needs: area rugs and some large pans and pots for group cooking.

For information on the national programs see www.episcopalservicecorps.org. Check out the Gilead House blog: escmaryland.wordpress.com

Rain Gardens at St. Anne's Parish House

BY GINGER DELUCA

Anyone who has driven into Annapolis by way of Rowe Boulevard has been treated to the lovely and historic St. Anne's Parish, located in the middle of Church Circle. The church has occupied that location since before the Revolutionary War and the churchyard has been the final resting place of many generations of Annapolitans. As a result, someone from the Annapolis Historical Preservation Commission once said, "You can't put a shovel in the ground there without bringing up a bone or an artifact."

THIS WAS NOT WELCOME NEWS to the members of the church's newly formed Environmental Ministry, who had a vision of installing beautiful rain gardens throughout the grounds to capture the hundreds of gallons of rainwater that now flow directly from our gutters onto the pavement of Church Circle, down Main Street and Duke of Gloucester Street and into Spa Creek.

Not to be deterred, this ministry came up with an alternative plan to install rain gardens in the much-less-historically-sensitive property that houses the parish house, located on Duke of Gloucester. This property includes an historic home that houses the church offices and a newer building that contains the parish hall, library, classrooms and St. Anne's Pre-school for the Arts.

As with the church, these buildings' downspouts emptied directly onto the sidewalks in front of the buildings and a small parking lot located in the back. As with the church, this water then ran down Duke of Gloucester, collecting oil and debris, and deposited it directly into the creek. Small strips of dirt and weeds bordered the parking lot and sidewalks on the side and back of the parish house while a sad strip of neglected bushes graced a planter in the front of the newer building. With the encouragement and help of the Spa Creek Conservancy, the Environmental Ministry decided to demonstrate that plantings in even small strips of dirt can slow the pollution of our creeks, rivers and the bay.

St. Anne's Environmental Ministry members and parish facilities team worked with Creek Conservancy, landscape experts and a contractor to bring this project to life. St. Anne's applied for and received two restoration grants from the Chesapeake Bay Trust

and began work on the project. A contractor dug swales, which were filled with a bioretention soil mix that filters the water within 24 hours. The gutters were then rerouted into the prepared swales. The rain water is absorbed into the ground.



Volunteers from the congregation held two planting parties in the spring and fall of 2010 to plant native flowers and grasses in the swales, creating aesthetically pleasing native wildlife habitat.

In the year since the first planting party, beautiful flowers and shrubs are blooming where there used to be weeds. Storm water runoff is estimated to have been reduced by 60-70 percent from an area of more than 90 percent impervious surface in this historic urban environment.

This church community has created a showcase project to demonstrate what can be done in small urban areas when groups come together to restore local (and potentially distant) waterways. Perhaps neighbors in the historic district of Annapolis will begin similar projects to mitigate the runoff from homes and businesses so that one day we will have an almost pollution-free Spa Creek.

Ginger DeLuca is the chair of the Environmental Ministry at St. Anne's Parish, Annapolis. A retired teacher, Virginia has lived in Annapolis for the past six years. vcdeluca@verizon.net.

Western Maryland Mission of Mercy

Two-Day Dental Clinic Serves Maryland's Rural Poor

BY THE REV. THERESA BRION AND SHARON TILLMAN

CONSIDER THESE TWO FACTS:

- In the state of Maryland, Allegany County is ranked first in total tooth loss, with 10.3 percent of residents having all their permanent teeth removed. (*MD Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey, 2006*)
- Allegany County is tied with Caroline County as the top county in Maryland for the number of residents who have not visited a dentist in five or more years, 15.8 percent of residents. (*MD Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey, 2006*)

Individuals in rural Western Maryland and surrounding areas (primarily the working poor, elderly, disabled or the uninsured) are often left without any dental care and with no choice but to deal with extreme pain, discomfort, and embarrassment. More than 20 percent of the population is considered to be in poverty. Conditions in nearby West Virginia are worse.

Only two dental clinics, one a nonprofit and the other a county health department facility, provide care to those in need in Western Maryland. But limited funding makes it impossible for them to help all those who request service.

It would take a miracle to provide dental services to those in need.

Enter Dr. Terry Dickenson, executive director of the Virginia Dental Association and founder of Mission of Mercy. Started in 2000, MOM dental clinics provide free oral health services to people who would otherwise have no access to dental care. The project has grown tremendously and clinics are now held in several states across the country.

The first Western Maryland Mission of

Mercy clinic was held in 2010; the first of its kind in the state. The two-day free dental clinic is now held annually in late October at the Allegany County Fairgrounds.

Each “pop-up” clinic is slightly different. This year the Western Maryland clinic featured stations with running water, improving medical waste handling and decreasing downtime for each chair, a first in any MOM clinic. Using portable equipment, volunteers created a 60+ chair dental clinic, complete with medical and dental triage, x-rays, instrument sterilization and medical waste disposal at the fairgrounds.

All work is done in full cooperation with the local health department and hospital, as well as the applicable state regulatory boards. The clinic operates on a first-come, first-served basis.

Patient treatments included cleanings, fillings, extractions, front-teeth root canals, denture repair, and some partial denture processing and fitting. Due to the volume of patients, time constraints and unique patient medical conditions, the clinic could not address every dental problem. The goal was to provide \$800,000 in services. In just two days, the Western Maryland Mission of Mercy dental clinic provided six times more care than existing agencies combined can supply in one year.

All dental services are provided by volunteers who are licensed and in good standing. Clinic volunteers include dentists, dental assistants, hygienists, dental students, oral surgeons, medical doctors, nurse practitioners, nurses, and community members. Upwards of 600 community volunteers are needed for this project to be successful.

One volunteer, Sharon Logsdon, is a member of St. George's Church, Mt. Savage, and a registered nurse. She said that her experience as a parish nurse helps her with the work she does at MOM, “In many ways it is the same thing I do every month at the church coffee hour.” Logsdon records medical history and medications, and does blood pressure and blood sugar checks at the clinic. “It was a great experience and I'm hoping to volunteer at the MOM in St. Mary's County in June of 2012.”

(see *Dental*, page 27)

2010 Western MD MOM Numbers:

- 812 people from seven states and 23 counties were served
- On average \$876.90 of free dental services per person were provided, not including medical screening and prescriptions
- A \$45,000 investment provided \$700,000 in dental services over a two-day period
- 626 people, including 85 dentists volunteered from across the state

You Can Walk Across the Diocese, Too!

BY THE REV. CANON SCOTT SLATER

Walking is a part of many Bible stories: from Adam and Eve's expulsion from Eden, to Abraham's sojourn to a new land, to the exodus from Egypt. God's chosen people spent much of their lives on the move. In Advent, we hear the story of Mary traveling to see her relative, Elizabeth, to share the news of her pregnancy. Then there is the story of Mary and Joseph traveling to Bethlehem for the census. The Gospel of Matthew then tells us of their flight to Egypt.

NOW, THE HOLY FAMILY may have had a donkey to help them on their journeys, but their feet were an important factor in their travels as well. In a modern world where cars are far more abundant than donkeys or horses, we rarely travel with our feet more than a mile beyond our home or workplace.

Beginning June 3, I will begin a walk across the diocese, more than 260 miles, from the western edge of the state, near St. Matthew's Church in Oakland to the southern tip of the diocese, near Middleham and St. Peter's Church just north of Solomons Island. The walk will be in four segments. The first major portion will be June 3-8 from Oakland to the Bishop Claggett Center. Then sometime during the summer I will complete a two-day leg from Claggett to Baltimore and a one-day walk from St. John's Church, Havre de Grace (our easternmost parish), to Baltimore. The final leg will be late September, a three-day sojourn from Baltimore to Solomons.

Parishes and parishioners will assist with

logistics along the way. Parishioners are also invited to walk a portion of the route. Or any member of the diocese can sign up to "virtually" walk the length of the diocese by logging their individual mileage throughout 2012.

Wouldn't it be great to get many people walking the length of our diocese?

I have been asked by a number of people, "Why?" I am doing this walk for three main reasons: To promote health and wellness, to promote the unity of our diocese, and to promote the Action priority of the Horizons 2015 initiative that lets others in our state and local communities that the Diocese of Maryland is "on the move."

Follow my progress or sign up as a virtual walker, at episcopalmaryland.org/walkdiocese/.

The Rev. Scott Slater is the canon to the ordinary for the Diocese of Maryland, sslater@episcopalmaryland.org.



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The Good News of Advent: An Invitation

BY THE REV. DR. JOSEPH S. PAGANO

We are all searching for something or someone. Not just the small things like our house keys or a parking space, but also bigger things, deeper things, people, places, and relationships that we hope will fulfill us, bring us joy, grant us peace. Many people are searching for a job, but also more than a job, for the sense of purpose and value and security the hoped for job will bring.

MANY PEOPLE ARE SEARCHING for wisdom, but also more than just an education, for the sense of truth and goodness and direction that we hope real wisdom will bring.

Many people are searching for relationships, but also more than Mr. or Mrs. Right, for the sense of fulfillment and flourishing we hope loving and being loved will bring. We are all searching for something or someone.

But experience teaches us that that something or someone is elusive. We photograph the perfect sunset, but when we look at the pictures later it looks rather ordinary. The excitement of a new career settles into the hum drum of a job. The first flush of a new relationship turns into coordinating schedules and dates. Even when we find what we think we are looking for, we may find the experience quite exquisite but also leaving us unsatisfied.

That is why spiritual writers tell us that what we are all searching for, whether we realize it or not, is God. The longed for thing or person who will ultimately fulfill us, bring us joy, and grant us peace is God. Everything else, even the exquisitely true and good and beautiful things of this life, will leave us unsatisfied at some level. Life is transient and we continue our search for true fulfillment and flourishing and love.

Advent is the season in the church year when try to reflect on who or what we are truly searching for. It is a time to meditate and pray about what it is that will fulfill our hearts' desires.

The good news of Advent is that God is also searching for us. The story of Advent is not a story of a God waiting to see if we human beings will finally figure it out and find God. The story of Advent is that God comes to us, and better yet, that God has already found us.

We may feel like we are always looking for something or someone, but the good news of Advent is that God has already come to us, is coming to us, and will keep coming to us. In our searching and seeking, we often fail to see that the gift has already been given, the gift of God with us, the gift of Emmanuel.

At its deepest level, then, Advent is an invitation to give up our search and let ourselves be found by the God who came among us as child, by the God who comes into our hearts, by the God who will meet us in every future. In the search, in the finding, in the daily living of our lives, we have already been found and loved by the God who is with us always and to the end of the ages.

The Rev. Dr. Joseph S. Pagano is the assistant rector of St. Anne's Parish, Annapolis, jpagano@stannes-annapolis.org.

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Martin Luther King Jr. Day

In Service to Others

BY THE REV. CANON ANGELA SHEPHERD

HAVE YOU EVER WANTED to reach out and make a difference? Perhaps you have noticed opportunities to help with a project in your congregation or community. Your initial reaction may have been, “Wow, I can do that! I can volunteer to take canned goods to the homeless shelter every Saturday morning.” Or, “Working with others to build a Habitat home is cool!” But somehow other commitments got in the way and good intentions got lost.

That can change! Jan. 16 will mark the 18th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service. Between now and then congregations are encouraged to select a service project for that day or over the weekend that will impact local communities. Some groups have gathered to paint a room at a homeless shelter or public school, picked up trash in vacant lots, collected food for a pantry, or visited a children’s hospital. The list is endless.

Many congregations are already doing a number of wonderful things to bring the light of Christ into the world. This is a way to bring attention to those endeavors or take on something new. It could be the kick-off for a long- or short-term project. The ideas are limitless and the choice is yours.

Please email your MLK Day of Service project to abarnier@episcopalmaryland.org. We will post your activity on the Mission and Outreach webpage. That way others in your community may see what you are doing. This is a simple process and is in line with our Horizons 2015 Action priority: By 2015, the diocese will be an agent for transformational change in the State of Maryland and local communities and be recognized as such.

Remember Those in Need

January, February and March tend to be months that food banks and pantries run low. Remember, the same families you helped at Thanksgiving and Christmas are most likely in need throughout the year.

Lent 2012: Diocesan Food Stamp Challenge

A single person on food stamps receives \$30 a week for food. Shop on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22, and begin the challenge to live on a \$30 grocery budget between Feb. 23 and 29. This is one way to stand in solidarity and gain empathy for the poor and marginalized. Further details will be available through the *Parish Emailing* and at EpiscopalMaryland.org

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

Mission & Outreach Resources

“God never intended for one group of people to live in superfluous inordinate wealth, while others live in abject deadening poverty. God intends for all of his children to have the basic necessities of life, and he has left in this universe ‘enough and to spare’ for that purpose.” — Martin Luther King Jr.

Websites for Youth Study:

- Serving Others: Possibilities for Volunteering; thethoughtfulchristian.com
- Thriving Communities: Working Together to Move from Poverty to Prosperity; everyday-democracy.org

Resources for Adult Study:

- Ehlig, Bill and Payne, Ruby. *What Every Church Member Should Know About Poverty*. Highlands, TX: Aha! Process, Inc, 1999. Includes discussion questions.
- Wallis, Jim and *Sojourners*. *Justice for the Poor*. Six Sessions: DVD and book, Zondervan, 2010. Available in the Resource Center.

Strange Advice for a Hectic Season

BY THE REV. CANON DAN WEBSTER

Slow down. Quiet. It's Advent! Sounds odd. Here we are the month before Christmas and someone is actually telling us to be quiet and slow down?

MY FIRST INTRODUCTION to this message came 20 years ago at St. Columba's Church in Northwest Washington. I was in the choir there. We sat in the west transept in full view

of most of the congregation. We had to listen to sermons. My interest was piqued when the sermon was all about slowing down and being quiet during one of the most hectic seasons of the year.

This Advent poster, which ChurchPublishing.org offers, was created by Susan Elliott when she was communications director at St. Columba's. The artwork is by the Rev. Jay Sidebotham, former associate there. It's a clever way to observe the season and perfect for Sunday school students to color inside the lines and learn something about Advent.

But the message was born nearly 10 years before that when a parishioner on the communications team printed copies. They were posted around the church campus and folks could take them home. There were stories like that of a customer at a nearby Riggs Bank branch spying the sign posted at a teller's win-

dow. The ensuing conversation introduced parishioners who didn't know each other.

Imagine if you posted this little sign in your cubicle or on your office bulletin board. What conversations could come from that? Yes, I'm celebrating Advent. I'm trying to get ready for

Christmas in a different way.

That little sign can create evangelism opportunities. Preparing for the birth of Jesus is what this season is all about. We can do it in many ways. Following the multi-media Advent calendar on the diocesan website, EpiscopalMaryland.org, is just one way.

Being a faithful follower of Jesus often demands that we challenge the predominant culture. Advent is one way that we can quietly, slowly, challenge

the mayhem of shopping and parties and so many expectations on our time.

We can invite our friends to walk a different journey up to Christmas. Maybe we can even invite them to prepare their hearts for a new birth of Jesus in their own lives. It just may be the best gift you'll ever give someone.

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



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Sharing Resources, Forming Christians

By RANDI HICKS ROWE, MISSIONER FOR CHRISTIAN FORMATION AND DIRECTOR, RESOURCE CENTER

THE CHRISTIAN FORMATION webpage has a new look and additional resources to help parishes in their formation ministry. These resources are categorized by age (adult, children, and youth) and season. The new page also includes professional resources for formation ministers such as social media guidelines and suggestions on assessing space/teacher needs for church schools. An interactive blog, *Standing In-Formation*, will discuss Christian formation topics and feature posts from members of the Christian Formation Council. Please feel free to comment on what you read and share your knowledge and best practices.

Improvements and additions to the webpage will be ongoing as part of an overall plan by the Diocesan Christian Formation Council and Diocesan Resource Center to foster the ministry of Christian formation through the sharing of resources and best practices. As part of the plan, the website will continue to add best practices and resources, helpful links and other online tools.

For example, the webpage will post handouts from programs presented at the Christian Formation Festival, bibliographies, links to curriculum samples, and names of experts throughout the diocese who are willing to help your parish with specific formation challenges. As the Horizons 2015 visiting teams compile lists of best practices, those related to Christian formation will appear on this webpage, as well as the diocese's wiki page, WikEpalian, now under construction.

A list of books, DVDs and videos available from the Resource Center will be posted in a user-friendly and real-time format so that users from outside Baltimore will find it easier to borrow these items in between visits of the ResourceMobile. Over the longer term, we hope the website will provide or partner with other groups to link videos of Christian formation programs offered in one parish to other parishes in the diocese so they can be shown again or simultaneously.

The Christian Formation Council also has begun an outreach program designed to facilitate the mutual support and one-on-one sharing of best practices among formation ministers.

The CFC is sponsoring informal gatherings of formation ministers (lay, ordained, volunteer or paid) in different geographic areas of the diocese. The first of these, "Coffee, Croissants and Colleagues," was held in Baltimore in October; others will be scheduled in different locations in the next few months. Look for future dates in the *Parish Emailing* e-newsletter and on the webpage.

I am interested in hearing from formation ministers about these changes and other ideas for how the CFC and Resource Center can better support your ministry in the parish. The new webpage is EpiscopalMaryland.org/cf/. My email is rhicksrowe@episcopalmaryland.org.



Randi Hicks Rowe

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Introducing the Inn at Claggett

BY JOE KERNER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, BISHOP CLAGGETT CENTER

THE 2001 SPECIAL CONVENTION approved the construction of a modern conference and retreat facility at the Bishop Claggett Center near Frederick. In 2007 Phase I for a dining/meeting complex became operational. The good news is the Claggett Center can now host larger groups, including the 2011 annual Clergy Conference. The bad news is that the majority of clergy commuted from home or local hotels because of the lack of adequate adult housing at Claggett.

The Claggett Board of Trustees is striving to address this imbalance. Working with the architectural firm of Zivic & Hurdle, the board has prepared a wonderful conceptual design for a 63-room, 83-bed facility. This mixture of 43 single and 20 double rooms is predicated on feedback from our guest groups that naturally prefer single rooms. However, all beds will be queen size so that the single rooms could be used as double rooms for family or couples retreats.

Because guest registration will take place in a different building, the Inn at Claggett will not need a registration facility. However, if there's one thing we've learned over the past decade, it is that we can never have too much social space for informal gatherings. So the design includes a sizable social area including a

fireplace, and two first-floor meeting rooms. Two landscaped "outdoor rooms" that can be used for fair-weather gatherings will be directly adjacent to the social space.



The inn will be situated across the courtyard from Monocacy Hall, the meeting facility, and will connect with Sugarloaf Dining Hall. The ground floor of all three buildings will be on the same level making the entire complex fully accessible. The inn will include an elevator so that all, regardless of their physical limitations, can stay throughout the building.

Please take a few minutes and review the conceptual drawings for the new building and should you have any questions I can be reached at jkerner@bishopclaggett.org.

Come to this place of beauty and community for a day or overnight retreat. Mark your calendars and register for the following programs:

Jan. 13-15

Women's Retreat

Walking in the Light of God's Love

Coordinator: Barbara De Lorenzo

A weekend of learning and discussing how God shares his love for us while we navigate times of stress, uncertainty and daily activities.

Jan. 20-22

Women's Retreat

PASSAGES: The Joy of Becoming

Coordinator: The Rev. Michelle Doran

Speakers: Becky Fisher and the Rev. Anne Weatherholt

Includes Eucharist Sunday morning

Feb. 10-12

Men's Retreat

Journey to the Cross

Reflections on the life of Dietrich Bonhoeffer and what it means for your life today.

Speaker: The Rt. Rev. Joe Goodwin Burnett, assistant bishop of Maryland

Music: Al Todd and members of the Third Sunday Band, St. Margaret's Church, Annapolis.

For information, flyers and on-line registration bishopclaggett.org/programs.php.

Youth Ministry News and Updates

BY THE REV. CANON WES WUBBENHORST

Change of Date: Junior High Night Watch

The Junior High Night Watch in New York City has been moved to Feb. 11-12. The Convention of the Diocese of New York got snowed out in October and moved its date to Jan. 14-15, the original date for this event.

Happening #5

Feb. 24-26 – A truly incredible weekend for Senior High youth. A spiritual retreat for youth planned and led by youth, at the Bishop Claggett Center. Not to be missed. Check out the website for more info and application.

Honduran Missions

These trips to Honduras are now open and we have some great options available:


- Villanueva: July 13-20 20 openings
- Talanga July 20 -27 15 openings
- Talanga July 27-Aug. 3 15 openings
- Muchilena Aug. 4-11 45 openings

Please check the website for more details and application.

The Rev. Wes Wubbenhorst
 Canon for Youth Ministry and
 Province III Youth Coordinator
 410-467-1399 :: 800-443-1399
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In Thanksgiving and Recognition

A Service for Members of the Crozier Society and All Saints' Legacy Society

BY THE REV. CHARLES CLOUGHEN JR.

The name “All Saints’ Legacy Society” honors all those who make up the communion of saints. In New Testament times, “saints” referred to all the members of the Christian church who most clearly witnessed to Christ. These “friends of God” were heroic examples to all the saints of the meaning of the Christian faith, hope and love. With these noble examples in mind, those members of the All Saints’ Legacy Society offer their gifts to build up the church so that future generations might “know” or “share” the Body of Christ.

MEMBERS OF THE DIOCESAN All Saints’ Legacy Society and the Crozier Society were thanked and recognized Oct. 23 for their financial commitment to Maryland Episcopal entities at the Cathedral of the Incarnation, Baltimore.

The All Saints’ Legacy Society is an honorary society created to commend and graciously thank those who have made a financial commitment in their estate plans, or to an endowment fund, to further the ministry of their local congregation, Bishop Claggett Center, Diocese of Maryland or other Maryland Episcopal institution.

ASLS also provides an opportunity for donors to give witness to their stewardship by providing for the future life and ministry of the entity they support. Their witness encourages others to leave a legacy, too. There are nearly 239 households from 41 parishes who are now members of ASLS.

The Crozier Society of the Bishops’ Appeal honors those who have made generous gifts of \$1,000 or more to the 16 ministries of the

Bishops’ Appeal.

Bishop Sutton presented the members of ASLS with a gold and white lapel pin, and members of the Crozier Society received a crozier lapel pin, in recognition of their commitment to the future of the Church.



If you have remembered your church, Bishop Claggett Center, Diocese of Maryland, or a Maryland Episcopal institution in your estate plans and will, and would like to become a member of the diocesan All Saints’ Legacy Society, please contact the Rev. Charles Cloughen Jr., director of planned giving, stewardship and development, and he will enroll you.

All members of our diocese are encouraged to support the Bishops’ Appeal. Gifts can be made to: Bishops’ Appeal, Episcopal Diocese of Maryland, Diocese of Maryland, 4 East University Parkway, Baltimore, MD 21218 or online at EpiscopalMaryland.org.

Bishop Burnett offered this prayer of thanksgiving:

Throughout the ages God has called, formed and sent God’s people to love and serve the world in and through the Church of Jesus Christ. We give thanks to God this day for the faithful servants who have made provision for the continued support of God’s mission through their planned gifts, as well as their special annual gifts to the Bishops’ Appeal. With gratitude for all those who are gathered here, and those who are not able to be present, we join in heart and mind to recognize and bless these members of the All Saints’ Legacy Society and the Crozier Society of the Bishops’ Appeal, for their commitment and generosity. *Amen*

INTEGRITY/BALTIMORE meets the third Friday of the month (except December and August) at the Cathedral of the Incarnation, 4 E. University Parkway, Baltimore. Eucharist is at 7 p.m. in the Peace Chapel followed by potluck supper, conversation and fellowship until 9 p.m.

Winter/Spring celebrants/preachers:

- Jan. 20 - The Rev. Adrien Dawson, rector, St. Mark's-on-the-Hill, Pikesville
- Feb. 17 - The Rev. Sara Shisler, asst. rector, Cathedral of the Incarnation, Baltimore
- March 16 - The Rev. Ann Boyd, rector, St. John's Parish, Hagerstown
- April 20 - The Rev. Kristofer Lindh-Payne, asst. rector, Epiphany Church, Dulaney Valley

Save the Date!

April Art Auction Benefits Camp

An Art Auction to benefit Camp Amazing Grace for children of prisoners is scheduled for Saturday, April 28, at the Diocesan Center in the Peabody and Chapter Rooms. Marlin Auctions will offer framed art that may be previewed from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., followed by the auction. Hors d'oeuvres, desserts, wine and other beverages will be served. Admission is \$15.



For information, contact Maria Robinson-Conaway at 410-523-0191 or mrobinsonconaway321@hotmail.com — *Val Hymes*



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PHOTO: CINDY MONTJOY

Early this summer, Gid and Cindy Montjoy participated in Chick-fil-A's summer vacation photo contest. They took a small, stuffed "Eat Mor Chikin" cow on vacation with them and to an unusual setting. All the submitted photos were judged in several categories. Cindy's winning photo was in the "Most Maryland Moo" category. The cow sits on the mantel of a fireplace in Government House. Behind him are several important colonists getting ready to attend Washington's resignation as commander-in-chief. The Montjoys won Chick-fil-A sandwiches for a year.


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Grimes Is New Director of St. Anne's Preschool for the Arts

BY CAROLYN SULLIVAN



Carrie Grimes

CARRIE GRIMES is the new director of the Preschool for the Arts at St. Anne's Parish, Annapolis. She brings to the position a wealth of educational experience, including acting as an educational consultant to the San Francisco Consortium of Independent Schools, and serving as director of admissions for St. Mark's School in San Rafael, Calif. She has a Master of Arts

degree from New York University's School of Education and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Pennsylvania.

Originally from Annapolis, Carrie is cochair of the Severn School Executive Alumni Council, the Naval Academy Primary School Parents Association, and St. Anne's Parish of Annapolis.

For more information, please contact Carolyn Sullivan, PR People, at prpeople@comcast.net

Celebration Grove

BY RITA HINKEL AND DAVID CARROLL

DURING HIS OCT. 2 VISITATION with St. Mary's Church, Woodlawn, Bishop Sutton led the congregation in planting a white oak tree to kick off the creation of the church's "Celebration Grove." This space symbolizes the congregation's continuing commitment to the preservation of God's creation and active engagement in environmental sustainability.

The tree, dedicated to the memory of Archie and Gibby Carroll, and Marie and Orval Sappington, is a first step in the establishment of a Celebration Grove on vacant property located on the south side of Dogwood Road. This project is in partnership with the regional watershed association, Blue Water Baltimore, which owns a native plant material nursery and works with homeowners, non-profits, communities and businesses.

The Celebration Grove is reserved for planting native trees and shrubs in honor of family and friends. Donations to cover the costs of purchasing the plant material, site preparation and watering will be accepted. Members sincerely hope their efforts will serve as a model for other churches, businesses



Bishop Sutton turns the first shovel with Christie Sappington, David Carroll, the Rev. Barbara Seras and young parishioners.

and organizations that also have open, under-utilized property that would be ideal for planting instead of mowing. Trees and shrubs are the most cost effective way to improve water and air quality for streams and the Chesapeake Bay, providing habitat and better management of energy costs.

For further information, email st.marys.woodlawn@verizon.net, or visit stmaryschurchwoodlawn.org or find us on Facebook at St. Mary Church.

Block Party Draws Hundreds to Lafayette Square Park

BY ALLISON ROBINSON

ON A SUPERB SUMMER DAY in July, more than 300 people gathered in Lafayette Square Park in West Baltimore for food, fun and fellowship. A block party, sponsored by the Church Without Walls Ministry and St. James' Academy, a free after-school tutorial and cultural enrichment program located at St. James' Church, Lafayette Square, was held for residents in the neighboring West Baltimore communities of Harlem Park, Sandtown-Winchester and Upton.

The objectives of the block party were to engage youth and families in a safe and fun environment; promote the services of the SJA and establish networks with CWWM; and to connect parents and families with resources to meet their health needs. Several vendors, including Amerigroup Community Care, Maryland Department of Human Resources and Constituent Services and Baltimore Reads

were present to meet the social and health needs of the community residents. Additionally, the St. James' Outreach Committee set up a booth and gave away clothing, shoes, baby items and household supplies to anyone who wanted them.

Entertainment included a DJ, moon bounce and games; as well as a fire engine and school bus to teach kids fire prevention and school bus safety. Free beverages and food were provided and grilled by the men of the St. James' chapter of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew. Ed Boston, a member of the group, said "it was their way of giving back to the community."

CWWM is a partnership of seven sister churches in the Lafayette Square community that has organized several community events, including six health fairs prior to this year's block party.

Fighting Malaria: Nets for Life

By the Rev. Tony Hollis

As I write, Linda and I are preparing for a fall trip. It is one of those things on our bucket list, a trip that will take us to Cambodia, Viet Nam and Thailand. We checked in with our doctor, and have been given shots for various things and guidance on how to avoid malaria. It is all very easy, very simple for us. It is not so for most people in the world, especially in areas where malaria-carrying mosquitoes are everywhere and drugs are scarce. For many, a visit to the doctor is an unheard of luxury.

The Episcopal Church, along with other faith communities, works to combat the problem through Episcopal Relief and Development in partnership with "Nets for Life" (netsforlifeafrica.org). It does so much to help. For as little as \$12, Nets for Life provides insecticide-treated mosquito nets and the needed training in their use to areas where malaria-carrying mosquitoes are prevalent, and where one can come down with a fatal form of malaria quite easily.

The nets are distributed through church groups operating in remote areas, and are used at night to keep the mosquitoes away when they are active. They are designed to last five years, but in reality usually only last two or three years. The goal this year is to raise \$5 million through ER-D's campaign. To date \$2.2 million has been raised.

Each diocese has an ER-D coordinator to build awareness of the various international programs it is involved in, including Nets for Life. Please join us. Our goal is to build awareness about the disease and how it can be prevented.

Visit inspirationfund.org for resources for your parish. Contact either the Rev. Tony Hollis or the Rev. Linda Hollis, Episcopal Relief and Development diocesan coordinators, at saintpeter@comcast.net or linda_hollis@comcast.net, respectively, with any questions or to arrange for a parish visit.

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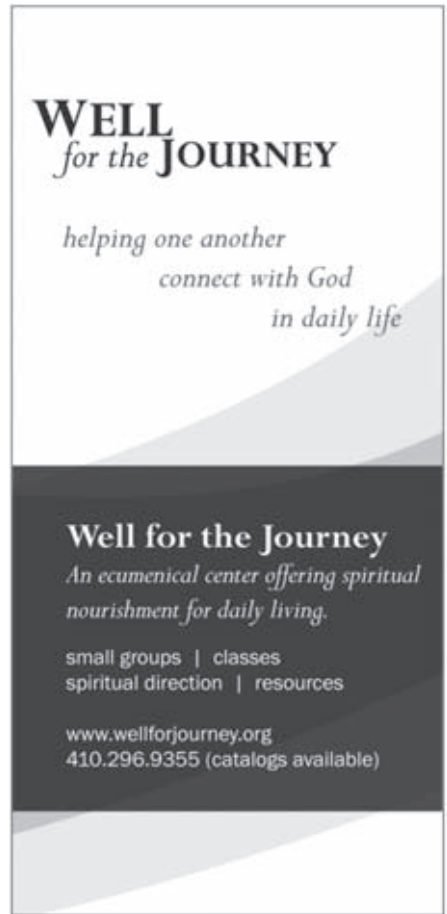
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Grace Church, Elkridge

*100th Anniversary of the Consecration
of Grace's Historic Stone Church*

THE CONVENTION OF THE DIOCESE OF MARYLAND admitted Grace Church, Elk Ridge Landing, to full status as a parish in 1845. The congregation actually had its beginning in 1841, when the Rev. Robert Piggot began preaching to a small congregation on Sunday afternoons in various local homes. Between 1855 and 1909, Grace Church had three fires. After the third in 1909, the vestry decided to build the new church building of stone with a slate roof away from the railroad tracks to avoid the sparks from passing locomotives.

The 100th anniversary of the consecration of Grace's historic stone church was commemorated Oct. 9 with a festival Eucharist at the church, which is located in historic Elkridge. Following the service, festivities continued at the parish hall where members and friends enjoyed a catered brunch. Also featured was a display of significant documents, photos, and memorabilia, as well as a timeline that all were invited to sign. In addition to current parishioners, their families and guests, relocated members attended from Georgia, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and both the Eastern and Western shores of Maryland. A year-long series of events is planned to continue the anniversary year, including a craft show, bake sale, and spaghetti supper in November, and a spring tea. GraceElkridge.org



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Family Fun Day for Children of Prisoners

By Val Hymes

The first of the year-round Camp Amazing Grace activities took place Saturday, Nov. 12, at a Family and Friends' Fun Day at the Bishop Claggett Center. Seven families and as many staff members from Camp Amazing Grace spent the day tossing a football, holding an "amazing race," pushing pumpkins with their heads, dunking for apples, competing in a doughnut eating contest and roasting hotdogs on a campfire. Some also made the trek to the gravesite where the original plantation family and at least one of its slaves were buried.

"It was a fun day," said Jan Bahner, who served as camp nurse in August and is a member of St. Thomas' Church, Towson. "The weather was magnificent. The kids and their families seemed to enjoy the day. It was a great time for family bonding and renewing summer friendships." There will be other mid-year activities, said Maria Robinson-Conaway, executive director. The 2012 camp will be held Aug. 13-17 at the Claggett Center.

Volunteers interested in this ministry to children of prisoners are invited to the next meeting Saturday, Jan. 28, 10 a.m. to noon, at the Diocesan Center. For more information, contact Maria at 410-523-0191, or mrobinson-conaway321@hotmail.com



PHOTO: JAN BAHNER

Camp Amazing Grace children and their families enjoy their first year-round activity at a Friends and Family Fun Day led by the "powered up" counselors at the Claggett Center in November.

(ESC, cont'd from pg. 9) incidence of homelessness. Zenobia's ministry is as a Remington community builder. Jamie works with the House of Ruth. Janet is on the staff at the St. Frances Academy Community Center and is, among other things, coordinating a Martin Luther King Day job fair.

I [volunteer as parent-community liaison intern] at Excel Academy at Francis M. Wood High School, an alternative school for students all across Baltimore who want to succeed, but have had trouble doing such at their previous institutions ... As a graduate from Howard University, a historically black university, I find it extremely important for high school students who vastly don't consider college to see people like them being successful in a university setting created just for them. — Dana

Conversations have begun to imagine such a house in Western Maryland, possibly opening as early as fall 2013. At least two young adults from the diocese are currently in ESC programs in other cities. If you are or know a young adult who is interested, the interns would be happy to give encouragement. Applications open in December for summer/fall 2012.

This year has been a great growing experience so far. Through my work at Epiphany [Church, Timonium,] I have gotten to see how a parish functions day to day. I feel like I am making a positive impact on the people of Baltimore. — Jessica

The Rev. Jan Hamill is the director, ESC-MD, escmaryland@gmail.com.

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Look for the Light in the Darkness

An Advent Reflection

BY THE REV. DR. JOSEPH S. PAGANO

In the soaring opening words of John's Gospel, we hear this great truth: "What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."

MARCUS BORG HAS WRITTEN that light shining in the darkness is the central image in the stories of Christ's birth. Think of the star shining in the night sky leading the wise men to the infant Jesus. Think of the shepherds keeping watch over their flocks by night when the glory of the Lord shone all around them. Think of the heavenly multitude filling the night sky singing "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

Light and darkness

The interplay between these forces seems to define so much of human life. The symbol of darkness is associated with things like blindness, gloom, despair, confusion, danger and death. As Edgar Allan Poe writes, "deep into that darkness peering, long I stood there, wondering, fearing, doubting, dreaming dreams no mortal ever dared to dream before."

On the other hand, the symbol of light is associated with things like sight, hope, finding one's way, safety, warmth and life. As Martin Luther King Jr. writes, "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that." Isn't much of human life found in the interplay of light and darkness?

Theodore Parker Ferris spoke of this interplay of light and darkness in human life. He said, "There are times when the visibility is high. . . There are times when you can see clearly everything that lies ahead of you. There are times when your way is plain. You know exactly what you want to be and where you want to live. You know exactly what you think

and what you don't think, what you believe and don't believe. Those times of visibility are wonderful. Then the fog comes. It may come down upon you largely from the world around you as it is coming down upon many people today, the fog of prejudice and hate, of despair and disenchantment, of violence and doubt. This fog is so thick that it is often difficult to see anything clearly. Or, it may rise up from you, yourself. It may come out of your own condition or mood. You can brew your own fog out of the breath of something that has gone wrong in your own life. Whatever it is, it rises up and blinds you to everything around you. Then you need some fixed point to steer by."

Sometimes we need a fixed point to steer by. Sometimes in the midst of the shadows and fog of human existence we need a pole star. Sometimes in the midst of the rising chaos and the crashing turmoil of our world, we need the beacon of a lighthouse.

During Advent we prepare for the birth of the One who is our fixed point to steer by. In a world that is still plagued by violence, there is one who came to give us peace, the heaven-born Prince of Peace. In a world that is marked by death and the fear of death, Christ came to give us life and to give it abundantly. In a world where incivility and hatred seem to be the rule, Jesus taught us to love God and to love our neighbor. In a world still living in shadows and fog, there is One who is perfect light.

What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it!

The Rev. Dr. Joseph S. Pagano is the assistant rector of St. Anne's Parish, Annapolis, jpagano@stannes-annapolis.org

(Ecumenism, cont'd from pg. 7) disasters and calamities, and even for unity. But we seldom worship together.

I offer a distinction between prayer and worship. In “prayer,” from the Latin, meaning “to entreat,” we approach and address God “in praise and adoration, confession, thanksgiving, supplication and intercession.” “Worship,” from the Old English “worth-ship,” means something of value as in something sacred, i.e., due sacrifice. In a religious sense, sacrifice is “something of value offered as an act of worship or devotion to God.” We worship in the sacrifice of the Lord’s Supper, the Eucharist. (Quotes from *Westminster Dictionary of Theological Terms*)

If we work together for social issues and missions and we share core beliefs and pray together, why not worship together? Some traditions allow it, but others proscribe such efforts.

Proscription relates to the issue of authority and governance. Different traditions have widely varying approaches to governance. For some “hierarchy” goes no higher than the local congregation. For others, governance is vested in a representative assembly and/or a central authority to which allegiance may be defined by tradition or constitutional adherence or both.

It is my belief that unity of governance will not be seriously considered until there is unity of worship. As such, worship is where modern ecumenism must focus.

Unity of worship is realized in the shared celebration of the Eucharist, i.e., in “being in communion.” There may be other ways for some traditions to promote unity, but in those traditions in which the Eucharist is central, a

joint or shared Eucharist becomes the pinnacle of unified worship. This may be complemented with reciprocal recognition of each tradition’s Holy Orders.

The Episcopal Church is “in communion” with churches within the Anglican Communion, e.g., with the Anglican Church of Canada and the Anglican Church of Southern Africa, as well as with:

- The Old Catholic Churches of the Union of Utrecht
- The Philippine Independent Church
- Mar Thoma Syrian Church of Malabar, India
- The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
- The Moravian Church

The accord reached between the Episcopal Church and the Old Catholics defines full communion as:

...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.

This is the first of a four-part series on Ecumenism. In future articles I will describe how these accords evolved and what they should mean to us today.

Bruce George is a student at the Ecumenical Institute of Theology in Baltimore and a member of Church of St. Andrew the Fisherman, Mayo. Ecumenism is his master’s thesis topic, bfjegeorge@comcast.net.

(Dental, cont'd from pg. 11) This year, Western Maryland MOM was awarded \$20,000 by Tom’s of Maine as part of its third annual “50 States for Good” program. “The winning grassroots projects, as voted on by the public, all demonstrate the impact smaller-sized non-profits can make in our communities,” noted company officials in a recent press release.

Because of accessibility, collaborations, and comprehensive services to the patients, the Western Maryland Mission of Mercy has just been awarded the honor of Public Health Hero of the Year, given by the Allegany County Health Department.

If there is any question as to how MOM is related to the work of the Church, it can be

summed up in the words of one local dental hygienist who said after volunteering in 2010, “I always wanted to travel out of the country to do mission work...but after this event I realized I do not have to leave the country – I am needed right here. I will do whatever I can to help.”

Save the Date!

Diocesan Ministry Fair

(Formerly the Christian Formation Festival)

Date: Sat., Oct. 27, 2012

Be Still and Know that I Am God

An Introductory Workshop on Centering Prayer

BISHOP EUGENE TAYLOR SUTTON will lead a centering prayer workshop, exploring interior silence as prayer on Saturday, Feb. 25, at Church of the Ascension, Westminster. The workshop will begin with registration and a light breakfast at 8:30 a.m. and will last until 3 p.m.

Those who attend the workshop are encouraged to participate in six follow-up sessions, which will continue both the teaching and the practice of Centering Prayer. Facilitators from Contemplative Outreach of Metropolitan Washington will lead these sessions. The follow-up sessions will take place on Saturdays (March 3-April 7) from 10-11:30 a.m. at Church of the Ascension.

“The deepest hunger of our lives is for communion with the living God,” said Bishop Sutton. “And yet in our daily busy lives, and with the constant demands upon our time, space for God, and for the spiritual journey have become a hope, not a reality. How do we find rest for our souls, bread for the journey of life?”

“In this Quiet Day you will reflect on the nature of prayer as relationship with God, and explore the levels of relationship that you can grow into. You will learn and practice centering prayer as a way of contemplation—being guided by the Spirit beyond thoughts, words and emotions. And you will rest in the interior silence which is the root of all prayer,” he added.

Workshop registration will close on Wednesday, Feb. 22.. Late registration will be accepted if space is available. Registration forms are available at ascension-westminster.com/news.html.

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Cosponsored by Contemplative Outreach of Metropolitan Washington and Church of the Ascension, Westminster

Please bring a bag lunch; drinks will be provided.

People of all faiths are invited to attend.

A donation of \$25 is requested; scholarship help is available.

Please make checks payable to Church of the Ascension with “Centering Prayer Workshop” written on the memo line. Please submit registration form and check to:

The Church of the Ascension
Attn: Centering Prayer Workshop
23 North Court St.
Westminster, MD 21157

Please contact Mary Jo Boylan at mjvp@comcast.net or 410-848-1035 with any questions.

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