

Diocese to hold one-day convention in Parsippany

By Sharon Sheridan

The diocese will hold its 135th annual convention on Jan. 31 at the Hilton Hotel in Parsippany, beginning with an 8:30 a.m. Eucharist. Besides the regular business sessions, the event will include remarks by Anglican Observer at the United Nations Hellen Grace Akwii-Wangusa, workshops and a voluntary “hunger banquet.”

In a departure from previous years, the convention will last only one day to cut costs during the current economic downturn.

In conducting business, “We’re just going to have to be a little bit more efficient,” said Bishop Mark Beckwith. The opportunities for informal conversation and networking, however, may be more limited with a one-day convention, he said. “We are ... looking at opportunities of restoring a day-and-a-half convention that’s not so financially onerous on individuals and congregations.”

The themes of innovation, impact and imagination will play out in various ways, Beckwith said. “My hope is that, as we

continue to grow in our understanding as the body of Christ, we can be clear about the impact we each have as individuals and as congregations and as a diocese in a world that I think increasingly needs our witness.”

The diocese will introduce a covenant between the diocese and congregations to help all churches assess their strengths and weaknesses and ways to build their ministries.

“We’ve kind of informally been doing this,” R. Carter Echols, canon to the ordinary and congregational development director, said as she prepared to leave for her new job with Bread for the World in Washington, D.C. During her years in the diocese, she worked with individual congregations on building their ministry capacity.

The covenant would ask churches to commit to assessing themselves as a normal part of church life, using tools that provide a more technical analysis of congregational health as well as examining ministry capac-

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Marilyn Lehren photo

O holy night

Chelsea Greene performs Ode to Joy during the Young People’s Prelude at the Christmas Eve Mass for children at St. Andrew and Holy Communion in South Orange. See pages 6-7 for more photos highlighting Advent and Christmas activities around the diocese.

Task force investigates the plight of immigrants

“When foreigners reside among you in your land, do not mistreat them. The foreigners residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt.” – Leviticus 19:33,34

By Dana Longstreet

Immigrants are a substantial presence in the United States; more than two million live in New Jersey alone. They come from all over: Asia, Africa, Central America, South America, most of them looking for a better way to make a living than they can find in their own countries. Many work jobs other people refuse to do – housecleaning, yard work, babysitting, factory work – and, like most U.S. citizens, spend their money on basics like groceries, utilities, rent and clothing.

Yet they face obstacles most of us will never know.

“Immigrants in New Jersey without valid identification deal with all kinds of setbacks on a daily basis: the inability to drive because they don’t have licenses; the lack of bank accounts to keep their money safe; significant language barriers; no health insurance,” said Laura Russell, chair of the Diocese of Newark’s Immigration Task Force. “They are afraid to go to the police if they are the victims of crime; they are refused assistance by government agencies; they are frequently taken advantage of by employers.”

The Immigration Task Force was convened at the 2008 Diocesan Convention to explore ways in which members of the diocese, as the living body of Christ, could learn more about the issue and create effective ministries to address immigrants’ needs. The diocese embodies the baptismal covenant through its core values, two of which are radical hospitality and justice/nonviolence.

The 2008 resolution asked the bishop to appoint a task force of individuals who would study the issue of immigration in the diocese and develop a strategy to implement the principles regarding immigration found in *The Alien Among You*, a report on immigrants’

needs and the church’s response, presented at the 75th General Convention.

After several months of research and working sessions, the task force identified issues in New Jersey as well as available resources and organizations that work on behalf of immigrants in the state. That work helped to shape a plan of action to educate and inform parishes within the diocese about immigration issues so they can better assist immigrants in their areas.

The task force has submitted a resolution to be allowed to continue its work throughout 2009 and report on its progress to the next Diocesan Convention. If the resolution passes at the Jan. 31 convention, the task force plans to sponsor an informational symposium in early 2009 covering the history of immigrants in New Jersey as well as their current issues and needs, Russell said.

“It’s important to put a ‘face’ on immigrants in our area: where they come from and why, what obstacles they overcome on a daily basis and what they contribute socio-economically to our geographic infrastructure,” she said.

Then the task force hopes to organize an outreach program where diocesan members can meet their neighbors to establish relationships and begin to determine what each individual parish can do to help. The task force also may start work on a new ministry within the diocese that would offer advice, services and information to immigrants, Russell said.

Anyone in the diocese is welcome to participate on the task force. For more information, contact Laura Russell at 917-696-7305 or LARussell@legal-aid.org.

Dana Longstreet attends St. Stephen’s, Millburn.



Summit Red Cross Executive Director and Calvary Church member Christy Hodde, at center of photo with the Red Cross symbol on her back, coordinates efforts at the fire scene on Walnut Street.

Calvary shelters Summit fire victims

By Sharon Sheridan

When fire erupted at a three-story duplex on Walnut Street in Summit the afternoon of Dec. 8, it left more than 30 people – many of them Mexican immigrants – homeless in freezing weather.

“There were babies,” recounted Mary Schaeen, communications manager of the Summit Red Cross chapter. “There were a couple of pregnant women. Many people didn’t have shoes and coats. So there was a lot of distress.”

The crisis launched a major volunteer effort among members of the religious and wider community in Summit and beyond, including Episcopalians from several congregations.

Initially, the Red Cross brought those displaced into its chapter house. But they needed shelter for the night. “Calvary Episcopal Church graciously offered to allow us to set up a Red Cross shelter in their facility,” Schaeen said.

Had shelter not been found in Summit, St. Paul’s in Chatham stood ready to help, said St. Paul’s parishioner Bill Schatzabel, who helped at the site. A Red Cross volunteer since 2005, he’s a Disaster Action Team member and a health and safety instructor.

He and other volunteers toured Calvary’s facilities with Rector Chris Brdlik and his wife and chose the basement church-

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The Bishop's Message

Building a home, sharing a vision

We build the home together.

That was the basic theme of Rabbi Jonathan Sacks' presentation to the Lambeth Conference this past summer. His wisdom, passion and clarity transformed the conference from a gathering of tired and confused bishops and spouses to a community of opportunity and hope.

The Home We Build Together is also the title of his most recent book. In it, he outlines his perspective on the evolution of religion in the West, starting with the image of a country house – in which the owner invites new people in, but as guests, and with the clear expectation that anyone coming into the community will conform to the culture and practices of the lord of the manor. Over time, Rabbi Sacks says, the Western religious institution has evolved into the image of a hotel – in which different groups retain their identity and practice and can claim their own rooms, but there is no ownership and no opportunity for the creating of community.

His third image is both his challenge and his vision: of building a home together in which everyone's gifts are sought, honored – and used. "Home" suggests that people care about belonging. "Build" indicates that

we focus on responsibilities, not just rights; contributions, not just claims. And "together" means integration, not segregation or isolation. (Page 23, *The Home We Build Together*, 2007, Continuum Press, London)

I am much taken with Rabbi Sacks' invitation to create new communities of faith; and I increasingly see my role as the chief steward of a remarkable opportunity to build communities of faith together, drawing on our rich history, witness and tradition – as a diocese and as a denomination. The financial



Michael J. Christensen photo

Solidarity Sunday

Members of the Diocese of Newark were among 500 faith-based activists, community leaders, politicians and others who participated in a Solidarity Sunday March for Hope and Peace from City Hall to a rally in Lincoln Park in Newark on a rainy Nov. 30.

chaos of the past few months has, at times, felt like an all-out attack on the gates of hope; but in faith we will shore them up, and with faith we will dare to stand with the living Christ at the gates – inviting people into a more abiding life of blessing and freedom.

It also has become increasingly clear to me that the primary mission of the bishop's office (which includes everyone working at Episcopal House in Newark) is to support congregations. As I see it, the vision is of the diocese and congregations working together in order to build and/or rebuild and/or celebrate the 110 unique communities of faith in our midst.

That will be the major focus of our work at our upcoming one-day Diocesan Convention. Besides the canonically required tasks of worshipping together, ratifying a budget, electing leaders, voting on resolutions and hearing from the bishop in the Annual Address, we will present the following initiatives:

- A covenant between diocese and congregations – with the specific intent of providing guidance from resource teams when things are going well in the life of a congregation, and guidance from different resource teams when things aren't going so well. This covenant will be introduced at convention, but we will provide several opportunities during the first half of 2009 for individuals and congregations to respond, to edit – and to add to and subtract from it – so that by the end of June there will be a shared sense that we are building our life together.

- I will be introducing the idea of a diocese-wide capital campaign. This will be what the Alban Institute (which is a congregational think tank based in Washington, D.C.) calls the "planning to plan" stage.

We will explore what resources we will need to support congregations – and the feasibility of such an endeavor in these financially troubled times. I am clear that we will need, at the very least, funds to train and support resource teams to work with congregations.

- For the past year, many of our clergy have been participating in a peer-coaching network. David Rynick, who has been the trainer/facilitator for clergy coaching (and who has served as the trainer/facilitator of the House of Bishops' coaching network for the past four years) has agreed to introduce a wardens peer-coaching network in the diocese. He and I have set aside Saturday, March 7, for an introduction and training day. More information will be available by convention.

- The Commission on Ministry has a canonical responsibility to recommend to the bishop candidates for ordination to the priesthood. For the past year, the COM has been engaged in an intensive self study of its mission and its work. There has been a growing sentiment within the group that discernment should involve people at all levels of ministry – priest, deacon and lay. The COM's suggestion – and my hope – is that we can develop a rhythm of disciplined discernment in the diocese, offering opportunities for anyone and everyone to explore the next chapter in their relationship with the living Christ. It may be a bit unwieldy, at least administratively, to expand the Commission on Ministry to 45 people (thus giving equal weight to lay ministry, diaconal ministry and priestly ministry), but the intent is to send the message that all levels of ministry are critically important – and need attention and care.

My prayerful hope is that these and other opportunities and responsibilities will convey the reality – and the vision – that we are all in this together. With the living Christ.

Peace,

+ Mark M. Beehew

Construyendo un hogar, compartiendo una visión

Nosotros construimos un hogar juntos.

Este fue el tema básico de la presentación del Rabino Jonathan Sacks en la Conferencia Lambeth este pasado verano. Su sabiduría, pasión y claridad transformaron la conferencia de una reunión de cansados y confundidos obispos y sus esposas y esposos a una comunidad de oportunidad y esperanza.

El Hogar que Construimos Juntos es también el título de su más reciente libro.

En él, él puntualiza su perspectiva sobre la evolución de la religión en el Oeste, empezando con la imagen de una casa de campo – en la cual el dueño invita a nueva gente a entrar, pero como invitados, y con una clara expectativa de que cada uno viniendo a la comunidad se adaptara a la cultura y practicas del dueño del lugar.

Con el tiempo, Rabino Sacks nos dice, las instituciones religiosas del Oeste se han convertido en la imagen de un hotel – en el cual grupos diferentes mantienen su identidad y practicas y pueden pedir sus respectivas habitaciones, pero no hay propiedad ni oportunidad para crear una comunidad.

Su tercera imagen son su desafío y su visión: de construir un hogar juntos en el cual los dones de cada uno son buscados, reconocidos - y usados. "Hogar" nos sugiere que las personas tengan el deseo de pertenecer. "Construir" nos indica que nos enfoquemos en responsabilidades, no solamente en derechos; contribuciones, no solo reclamos. Y "juntos" significa integración, no segregación o aislamiento (Pagina 23, *El Hogar que Construimos Juntos*, 2007, Continuum Press, London). Yo estoy sorprendido con la invitación del Rabino Sacks para crear nuevas comunidades de fe; y yo me veo incrementado mi rol como conductor de una oportunidad grandiosa para construir juntos comunidades de fe, beneficiándonos de nuestra rica historia, testimonios y tradición – como una diócesis y como una denominación.

Los caos financieros de los pocos meses pasados han sido sentidos, en algunos tiempos, como un ataque en los

portones de la esperanza; pero en fe nosotros los detendremos de pie juntos con el Cristo vivo en los portones – invitando a la gente a una vida de bendiciones y de libertad. También se me hace mayormente claro que la misión primaria de un obispo (que incluye a cada uno trabajando en la Casa Episcopal de Newark) es apoyar las congregaciones. Como puede verse, la visión de la diócesis y las congregaciones trabajando juntos para construir y/o reconstruir y/o celebrar las 110 comunidades de fe entre nosotros.

Este será el principal enfoque de nuestro trabajo en nuestra próxima Convención Diocesana de un día. Aparte de las actividades canónicas requeridas de adorar juntos, ratificar el presupuesto, elegir líderes, votar por resoluciones y escuchar el Mensaje Anual del obispo, nosotros presentaremos las siguientes iniciativas:

- Un convenio entre la diócesis y las congregaciones – con el intento específico de proveer guía de parte de los grupos de recursos cuando las cosas estén yendo bien en la vida de las congregaciones, y guía de los diferentes grupos cuando las cosas no están marchando bien. Este convenio será introducido en la convención, pero nosotros proveeremos algunas oportunidades durante la primera mitad del 2009 para individuos y congregaciones para que respondan, editen – y le agreguen y le quiten de él – así para el final de Junio habrá un idea de lo que estamos construyendo juntos.

- Yo voy a introducir la idea de una campaña pro-fondos en toda la diócesis. Esto es lo que el Instituto Alban (este es un grupo investigador de congregaciones de Washington, D.C.) llama la etapa de "planificar el plan". Nosotros exploraremos que recursos serán necesarios para apoyar las congregaciones – y la viabilidad en estos proyectos en estos tiempos de problemas financieros. Yo estoy claro que necesitaremos, por lo menos, fondos para entrenar y apoyar a los grupos de recursos para trabajar con las congregaciones.

- Por el pasado año, muchos de nuestros cleros han

participado en un equipo de entrenadores con otros cleros. David Rynick, quien ha sido el entrenador/facilitador para guiar cleros (y quien ha servido como el entrenador/facilitador de la Casa de Obispos del equipo de guías por los pasados cuatro años) ha aceptado introducir a los Guardianes a una sesión de guía para Guardianes en la diócesis. El y yo hemos apartado el Sábado, Marzo 7, para su introducción y un día de entrenamiento. Habrá más información disponible en la convención.

- La Comisión de Ministerio (COM) tiene la responsabilidad canónica de recomendar al Obispo los candidatos para la ordenación al sacerdocio. Por el pasado año, la COM ha pasado involucrada en un intenso auto estudio de su misión y su trabajo. Ha habido en el grupo un sentimiento creciente que el discernimiento debería involucrar gente a todos los niveles en el ministerio – sacerdotes, diáconos y laicos. La sugerencia de COM – y mi esperanza – es que nosotros desarrollemos un ritmo de disciplina para discernimiento en la diócesis, ofreciendo oportunidades para cualquiera y todos a explorar el próximo capitulo en su relación con el Cristo vivo. Será talvez un poco impracticco, por lo menos administrativamente, expandir la Comisión de Ministerio a 45 personas (así dándole un peso igual al ministerio de laicos, diáconos, y sacerdotes), pero la intención es mandar el mensaje a todos los niveles que los ministerios son críticamente importantes – y necesitan atención y cuidado.

Mi esperanza es que estas y otras oportunidades y responsabilidades van a expresar la realidad – y la visión – que todos nosotros estamos juntos en esto. Con el Cristo vivo.

Paz,

+ Mark M. Beehew

Translated by Miguel Hernández of the Commission on Hispanic/Latino Ministry.

Diocesan Convention to consider 16 resolutions

Deputies to the 135th annual convention will consider resolutions urging the repeal of “defense of marriage” statutes, addressing the rules for consenting to episcopal elections, recommending additions to *Lesser Feasts and Fasts* and condemning torture.

All told, the Resolutions Committee reviewed 16 resolutions submitted for consideration by the deputies. It placed 12 on the Consent Calendar as not requiring full debate. A Consent Calendar resolution will not be subject to amendment or debate, although the sponsor may speak to it for one minute. A resolution can be removed from the Consent Calendar with the agreement of any three congregations. The secretary of convention must receive exclusion requests before the start of the first business session in writing, signed by at least two lay deputies from each of three congregations and at least three clergy listed on the roll of clergy entitled to vote in the convention.

The full texts of the resolutions are posted on the diocesan website at www.dioceseof-newark.org/convention/resolutions.html.

“Defense of Marriage” Statutes – petitions General Convention to urge Congress and states to repeal “defense of marriage” statutes and constitutional amendments.

Consents to Episcopal Elections – asks General Convention to affirm that standing committees and bishops with jurisdiction are bound only by the rules set forth in the canons when considering con-

sents to the ordination of any candidate to the episcopate.

Social Responsibility in Proxy Voting – encourages congregations to set up their proxy voting procedures using the guidelines of the Episcopal Church as set forth on the Episcopal Investments website (www.episcopalinvestments.org/).

Recording of Marriages and Civil Unions – calls for recording civil unions in parish registers in a manner identical to the recording of marriages.

Celebrating the Creation Season – commends to dioceses and congregations the celebration of a liturgical Creation cycle of at least four weeks. (Consent Calendar)

Support for Those Studying for Ordained Ministry – encourages the Episcopal Church budget committee to underwrite the mounting costs of theological education. (Consent Calendar)

Honoring Thurgood Marshall as a Saint of the Church – petitions the 2009 General Convention to add the late Thurgood Marshall, the first African-American Supreme Court justice, to *Lesser Feasts and Fasts*. (Consent Calendar)

The Lambeth Conference – expresses appreciation for the participation and work of Bishop Mark Beckwith at last summer’s worldwide conference of bishops. (Consent Calendar)

Marriage Canons to Reflect Civil Law – seeks for the Episcopal Church to modify its canons to reflect the gender neutrality reflected in the laws of states permitting equality in marriage rights. (Consent Calendar)

Nondiscrimination in Employment – supports the principles of nondiscrimination based on personal characteristics. (Consent Calendar)

Condemnation of Torture – condemns the use of torture and the practice of extraordinary rendition (sending prisoners to other countries in which it is not illegal to use torture). (Consent Calendar)

The Earth Charter – endorses the Earth Charter and encourages the diocese, congregations and individuals to implement its principles. (Consent Calendar)

Human Trafficking – recognizes that human trafficking is modern-day slavery and exists all over the world, including in New Jersey, and advocates assistance to those victimized. (Consent Calendar)

Feast of St. Andronicus and Junia – petitions General Convention to add to the calendar on a trial-use basis the feast day for Saints Andronicus and Junia, apostles, mentioned in Romans 16:7. (Consent Calendar)

Restorative Justice Sunday – requests a diocesan proclamation for a Restorative Justice Sunday and petitions General Convention for the Sunday’s annual observance in November. (Consent Calendar)

Death Penalty – commends the New Jersey Legislature and the governor for abolishing the death penalty. (Consent Calendar)



Joseph Bodine photo

Absalom Jones service

A drummer and liturgical dancers helped lead the 2008 celebration of the life and ministry of the Rev. Absalom Jones, the first African-American ordained a priest in the Episcopal Church. This year, the annual commemoration will begin at 3 p.m. Feb. 8 at Trinity & St. Philip’s Cathedral in Newark. Bishop Mark Beckwith will preside, and the Rev. Renee Hill, theologian and pastor, will be the guest preacher. The cathedral’s new dean and priest-in-charge, the Rev. Susan Keller, also will participate. The Liberation in Truth Gospel Choir will join choirs from congregations around the diocese to lead the celebration, which will include African drumming and liturgical dancers. Arrival time is 2:30 p.m. for any clergy who wish to vest (white or festive stole) and participate in the procession.

Cathedral dean emphasizes working as a community

By Liz Keill

Feb. 8 will mark a day of welcome for the Rev. Susan Keller, the new dean and priest-in-charge at Trinity & St. Philip’s Cathedral in Newark. A 3 p.m. service at the cathedral also will celebrate the life and ministry of the Rev. Absalom Jones, the first African-American ordained priest in the Episcopal Church.

Keller arrives after a six-year term as rector of St. Mary Magdalene Church in Silver Spring, Md. Amidst post-Christmas sorting and packing, Keller took time for an interview with *The Voice*.

“I was born and bred in Detroit, Michigan,” she said, “so urban life is in my blood.” She is well aware, she said, of the challenges in cities such as Newark, especially in these difficult economic times.

“We all need financial seminars,” she said. “Although my focus will be at the cathedral in Newark, the staff carries a concern for the whole diocesan community.”

Her initial goal, she said, is to listen. “I care about good foundations and have a real concern for community life. I’m here to listen to people’s hopes and dreams, to help them appreciate what God has given each of us and to build on those gifts. We need to extend the gospel of love, mercy and justice.”

“I’m not a one-woman show,” Keller emphasized. “I see the community working together with our gifts and energy, facing concerns of today.”

Trinity & St. Philip’s Cathedral, she has learned, has a rich history. “It’s contributed to the life and well-being of the city and the region,” she said.

As more people opt for urban over suburban life, she said, “There’s a renewed sense of vitality.”

“People are choosing to live in cities,” she said, adding that Newark, for one, is gradually attracting a strong economic core. “I’m looking forward to the opportunity for mission and ministry with the congregation and the community.”

“She’s a gifted leader,” said Bishop Mark Beckwith, noting she has worked on a diocesan staff and in different congregations,

and “has a real sense of what it means to be the body of Christ.”

“We’re honored to have her as part of our life here in the diocese,” he said, “and the cathedral is very excited.”

Before her time at St. Mary Magdalen, Keller worked at St. Francis Episcopal Church in Virginia Beach. She also has engaged in campus ministry at the University of Maryland and became involved in the Women’s Leadership Program. A highlight of that experience was a meeting in India.

Keller came to Washington, D.C., as an undergraduate and was, for a time, in the communications business. But even when she worked in the secular world, she said, people came to her with pastoral concerns.

As a teenager, she recalled, she had spiritual leanings. She thought about becoming a nun, until she learned that you couldn’t get married or have children. “But I wanted to serve God. The desire was there to make a difference.”

She started questioning and asking, “What’s this theological business?” Her rector told her she should pursue that path. One thing led to another.

“I had my call to ordained ministry when my children were in middle and high school,” she said. She attended Howard University School of Divinity in Washington, D.C. Ultimately, she was ordained at Washington National Cathedral.

“I’ve always been an Episcopalian,” Keller said. When she’s with a gathering, she likes to ask people if they were raised as Episcopalians. “That group is usually small,” she said.

But those who came later are “making a choice,” she said, and she is curious about what led them to this particular denomination.

When not engaged in her various church activities, Keller said, “I’m an avid knitter. It’s creative and relaxing.” She also likes mystery novels, walks in the park and swimming.

Keller and her husband have two adult daughters – “but no grandchildren yet,” she added.

Liz Keill attends St. Peter’s, Morristown.

The VOICE

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About The Voice

The Voice (ISSN-02272) is the official periodical of the Diocese of Newark of the Episcopal Church, U.S.A. Member Episcopal News Service and Episcopal Communicators.

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www.dioceseofnewark.org/vox.html

POSTMASTER:

Please send address changes to:

The Voice Circulation Office
Printed Communications Services
75A Lackawanna Ave.
Parsippany, NJ 07054

Periodicals postage paid at Newark, NJ, and additional mailing offices.

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Diocese of Newark - 2009 Congregation Pledges by Percentage as of Jan. 12		2008	2009
Church	Town	Percent Pledged	Percent Pledged
St. Elizabeth's Church	Ridgewood	23.00	23.00
Grace Church	Nutley NJ	22.50	22.50
Grace Church	Madison	20.75	20.75
St. Peter's Church	Essex Fells	19.00	19.00
St. David's Church	Kinnelon	19.00	19.00
St. George's Church	Maplewood	16.60	17.10
All Saints' Parish	Hoboken	16.50	17.00
Christ Church	Newton	16.00	16.50
St. Mary's Church	Belvidere	16.00	16.00
St. Mary's Church	Sparta	15.60	15.80
St. John's Memorial Church	Ramsey	14.00	15.50
St. Agnes' Church	Little Falls	15.30	15.30
Church of The Saviour	Denville	15.50	15.00
Church of the Redeemer	Morristown	15.00	15.00
Church of the Atonement	Tenafly	15.00	15.00
St. Paul's Church	Montvale	14.80	14.80
St. Paul's Church	Chatham	20.00	14.00
St. Alban's Episcopal Church	Oakland	14.00	14.00
Christ Church	Harrison	13.40	13.50
Christ Church	Ridgewood	17.25	13.50
Calvary Church	Summit	14.00	13.10
St. John's Church	Boonton	13.00	13.00
St. Luke's Church	Haworth	12.60	12.60
Grace Church	Westwood	16.75	12.50
Church of Our Saviour	Secaucus	12.40	12.40
Grace Church Van Vorst	Jersey City	12.00	12.00
St. Andrew's Church	Lincoln Park	12.00	12.00
St. Peter's Church	Livingston	12.00	12.00
Church of the Messiah	Chester	11.80	11.90
Church of the Incarnation	Jersey City	11.75	11.75
St. James' Church	Hackettstown	11.25	11.50
All Saints' Church	Leonia	11.25	11.25
All Saints' Church	Glen Rock	11.00	11.00
St. Bartholomew's Church	Ho-Ho-Kus	11.00	11.00
St. Andrew's Church	Harrington Park	10.50	10.75
St. Luke's Church	Phillipsburg	10.50	10.50
St. Paul's Church	Paterson	10.00	10.50
Trinity Church	Kearny	10.05	10.06
St. Paul's Church	Jersey City	15.25	10.00
St. Stephen's Church	Millburn	13.00	10.00
Trinity Church	Bayonne	10.00	10.00
Christ Church	Bloomfield/Glen Ridge	10.00	10.00
St. Agnes' & St. Paul's Church	East Orange	10.00	10.00
St. Paul's Church	Englewood	10.00	10.00
St. Paul's Church	Morris Plains	10.00	10.00
St. Peter's Church	Morristown	10.00	10.00
St. Peter's Church	Mount Arlington	10.00	10.00
St. Peter's Church	Mountain Lakes	10.00	10.00
Grace Church	Newark	10.00	10.00
St. James' Church	Ridgefield	10.00	10.00
St. Dunstan's Church	Succasunna	10.00	10.00
Christ Church	Totowa	10.00	10.00
Grace Church	Union City	10.00	10.00
St. Michael's Church	Wayne	10.00	10.00
St. Paul's & Resurrection	Wood-Ridge	10.00	10.00
Church of the Atonement	Fair Lawn	9.00	10.00
Christ Church	Short Hills	21.00	10.00
St. Thomas' Church	Vernon	12.50	10.00
St. Gabriel's Church	Milton	10.00	10.00
Church of the Good Shepherd	Fort Lee	9.50	9.50
Calvary Church	Bayonne	9.00	9.50
St. Gregory's Church	Parsippany	3.00	9.50
St. Martin's Church	Maywood	9.05	9.10
Church of the Transfiguration	Towaco	9.00	9.00
Church of the Holy Spirit	Verona	9.00	9.00
Holy Trinity Church	West Orange	8.75	8.75
Holy Trinity Church	Hillsdale	8.70	8.70
St. John's Church	Passaic	9.00	8.70
Trinity Church	Cliffside Park	8.00	8.25
St. Peter's Korean Church	North Bergen	8.66	8.00
Church of the Annunciation	Oradell	8.00	8.00
Church of the Holy Communion	Paterson	8.00	8.00
Christ Church	Teaneck	8.00	8.00
St. Peter's Church	Washington	8.00	8.00
St. Matthew's Church	Paramus	7.00	7.80
St. Thomas' Church	Lyndhurst	7.75	7.75
St. Andrew's Church	Newark	7.50	7.50
Church of the Good Shepherd	Midland Park	7.00	7.00
Church of the Holy Innocents	West Orange	10.00	6.70
Church of the Good Shepherd	Wantage	6.50	6.50
House Of Prayer	Newark	6.00	6.20
St. John the Divine Church	Hasbrouck Heights	12.80	6.00
All Saints' Church (1)	Bergenfield	9.50	6.00
St. Peter's Church	Clifton	7.00	6.00
St. Anthony of Padua	Hackensack	6.70	6.00
Christ Church	Hackensack	6.00	6.00
St. Cyprian's Church	Hackensack	5.00	6.00
St. Luke's Church	Hope	6.00	6.00
All Saints' Church	Millington	6.00	6.00
St. John's Church	Union City	6.00	6.00
Church of the Epiphany	Orange	11.00	5.10
St. Mark's Church	Teaneck	6.00	5.00
Christ Church	Budd Lake	5.00	5.00
Christ Church	East Orange	5.00	5.00
Church of the Holy Communion	Norwood	5.00	5.00
Church of the Epiphany	Allendale	9.50	4.00
St. John's Church	Montclair	5.80	4.00
St. Clement's Church	Hawthorne	3.70	3.80
Good Shepherd	Ringwood	N/A	3.50
Christ Church	Pompton Lakes	12.50	3.00
St. James' Church	Upper Montclair	10.00	2.00
St. Andrew & Holy Communion	South Orange	18.00	18.00
Christ Church (1)	Belleville	15.00	
Grace Church	Rutherford	12.50	
St. Mark's Church (1)	Mendham	10.00	
St. Barnabas' Church	Newark	10.00	
Trinity & St. Philip's Cathedral	Newark	10.00	
St. John's Church	Dover	8.20	
St. Luke's Church	Montclair	6.90	
St. Paul's Church	North Arlington	6.00	

(1) Note: These congregations are in consultation with the bishop's office about their finances.

This annual report is required under convention resolution to inform the diocese about congregational pledges. It was prepared by the finance office under the direction of Richard Graham, diocesan CFO and treasurer of convention.

\$2.65 million budget proposed

By Sharon Sheridan

Diocesan Convention deputies will vote on a proposed balanced 2009 budget of \$2.65 million in projected income and expenses.

Prepared amidst an ongoing global economic crisis, the budget projects pledge income – accounting for about 85 percent of the diocese's revenue – at 10 percent lower than in 2008, when convention approved a \$2.9 million budget. It also projects a 10 percent decrease in endowment income. An additional \$90,000 will come from other income sources, including an unrestricted trustees' fund and contributions from organizations using diocesan services, said Richard Graham, diocesan CFO and treasurer of convention.

The proposed budget cuts domestic outreach spending from 7 percent to 3 percent; eliminates allocations for new program support, Episcopal Community Development, the New Jersey Council of Churches and Episcopal House cleaning services; and halves the allocation for Cross Roads. It cuts no staff but freezes salaries and removes the allocation for a part-time assistant bishop originally included in the 2008 budget.

The proposed budget maintains the diocesan pledge to the Episcopal Church at the 21 percent the diocese ultimately committed to for 2008, Graham said. The original goal for 2008 was 22 percent, with a planned 1 percent rise each year until the diocese reached its former percentage of 25 percent, he explained.

Creating the budget and making the necessary cuts was a challenge, said Bishop Mark Beckwith. "The good news is, we had

a lot of different people from across the diocese, representing different constituencies and different entities in the diocese, as part of the budget process. So there was a lot of give and take and push and pull done in a good and respectful way. And it was hard, because resources are less available."

The diocese entered 2009 with a significant deficit from 2008, with \$380,000 in budgeted congregational pledges still owed, Graham said. While the diocese asks congregations to pay 1/12 of their pledges each month, that doesn't always happen, he said.

"We're still owed about \$180,000 that we know are unpaid pledges for '07," he noted. "We don't collect everything that we anticipate."

In preparing the 2009 budget, the diocese asked departments to keep their budget requests at or below the 2008 level. The good news, Graham said, is that "by and large folks have been pretty good about staying on budget."

The diocese will continue to monitor the budget as the year – and the wider economic situation – progress.

The diocese inaugurated a more detailed budget format in 2008, allowing for better tracking of expenses by department. "This upcoming year, we're going to have comparative data because we now have a detailed chart of accounts that will be in place for 2008-2009," Graham said. The Diocesan Council Budget Committee has grown, he said. "They're looking to be much more active in terms of monitoring the budget going forward."

Task force stressed education

By Bob Masiello

The Diocesan Civil Union Task Force, launched in 2007, continued to work on ways the Diocese of Newark best can support and assist same-gender couples in committed relationships. The task force's focus is three-fold: 1) developing ways for the church publicly to support and bless the sacred commitment of same-gender couples; 2) helping same-gender couples to claim civil-union benefits; and 3) educating clergy and congregations about the meaning, value and underpinnings of civil unions.

During 2008, the task force focused on information and education, said the Rev. Phillip D. Wilson, co-chair and rector of Redeemer, Morristown. Its Pastoral and Liturgical Committee produced a resource guide for those seeking civil unions and clergy wishing to officiate at them. The Education Committee published a booklet, *Frequently Asked Questions about Civil Unions in New Jersey*, and issued a brochure addressing practical and pastoral questions and concerns revolving around civil unions.

"We are seeking information from each

parish about the numbers of committed same-sex couples who have civil unions, so the diocese can record them as marriages," Wilson noted.

Diocesan Council renewed the task force's commission for 2009, said the Rev. Joseph A. Harmon, task force co-chair and priest-in-charge of Incarnation, Jersey City. The task force plans a clergy practicum on March 5 at St. Agnes Church, Little Falls. It will continue to monitor developments concerning marriage equality in New Jersey and to make recommendations to the bishop and diocese if state marriage laws change.

"Although marriage equality for gay and lesbian couples is not universally embraced, it is a very real and exciting possibility this year in New Jersey," Harmon said. "Marriage equality is a justice issue to which this diocese has had a longstanding commitment. We look forward to recommending how the bishop and diocese may best prepare for and implement marriage equality when it becomes civil law."

Bob Masiello attends St. Peter's, Clifton.

Canonical changes advised

At this year's Diocesan Convention, the Constitution and Canons Committee will present amendments to revise three diocesan canons: Canon 2, Voting and Elections; Canon 4, the Commission on Ministry; and Canon 8, District Convocations. The full report can be found on the diocesan website at www.dioceseofnewark.org/convention/constitutionandcanonsreport.pdf.

The amendment to Canon 2, Section 3, would eliminate the Hare Preferential Ballot system and replace it with a majority system of balloting to simplify elections and provide quicker ballot results. The Rules of Order Committee also recommends this canonical change.

The amendment to Canon 4, Section 1, would increase the membership of the Com-

mission on Ministry to allow it to fulfill its canonical responsibilities relating to the "present and future opportunities and needs for the ministry of all baptized persons," whether lay, diaconal or priestly. In recent years, the commission and subcommittees have included up to 38 people. This change would allow the commission to include up to 45 people (composed of equal numbers of clergy and laity).

The proposed amendments to Canon 8, Section 2, address two issues relating to membership of the districts. The amendments seek to make it clear that canonically resident nonparochial or retired clergy resident in a particular district shall be members of the district convocation; and seek to reflect the current practice in the election of laity from congregations as district representatives.

Fire

Continued from page 1

school rooms to shelter the fire victims. "It was warm. It was dry. There were rugs on the floor. It was just a nice place."

The agency set up cots and provided blankets, towels and toiletries. Calvary runs a weekday feeding program, so it was easy to increase the number of seats for breakfast the next morning, said Brdlik. Since that program generally serves adults, however,



A fire in a Summit duplex displaced more than 30 people in early December.

"we had to quickly stock in some appropriate food for the little ones," he said. "Diapers came from somewhere. As people heard about it, things started showing up."

Calvary member Suzanne Morris, center director of Interweave—based at Calvary and part of the Summit Interfaith Council—helped coordinate relief efforts among the various houses of worship. "It couldn't have happened without Calvary's hospitality in terms of offering what they had so that they other systems could really get moving," she said. "It was a major effort to get clothing and food and transportation."

Over the next few days, the community rallied to get families fed, children to school, adults to work, more permanent housing. Two families moved into the interfaith homeless network, with housing secured by the Central Presbyterian Church, said Barb Chestnut, Red Cross response director. Temple Sinai assisted others. The interdenominational Christ Church provided space for mothers with small children to stay

during the day. The YMCA offered showers and busing. The Junior League provided clothing. Various people translated, including Chestnut's husband, Michael Flynn, organist at St. Gregory's in Parsippany and for Spanish Masses at St. John's, Dover. Grace, Madison, provided furniture.

"People bought new clothes," Chestnut said. "People bought toys to replace the children's Christmas toys. ... It's just been an amazing experience."

"Within the Calvary congregation," said church member and Red Cross Executive Director Christy Hodde, "we had spontaneous volunteers. We've been trying to talk to Calvary for years to formalize our partnership, and I think this was a wonderful testimonial to the congregation's good humanitarian feelings toward people in general. People arrived with Port-a-cribs. They came to sort clothes. Lots of spontaneous volunteers within the congregation who were not Red Cross-trained showed up and folded in[to] the whole effort."

Calvary provided shelter for three days, with the last people moving out as the church prepared to host 60 to 70 seniors for a Christmas luncheon that day, and prepared to host an ordination days later.

"They could have stayed longer. It wasn't getting in the way," Brdlik said. "We were happy to do it. We've indicated that we want to be the permanent place for them to call on when they need this again."

Chestnut said she would love to see other Episcopal churches in the diocese sign partnership agreements with their Red Cross chapters to help during disasters. "This is what the Episcopal Church is about, in my experience, and I really think it would fit with the mission of my experience at St. Gregory's and other Episcopal churches."

Schatzabel said his rector, the Rev. Elizabeth Kaeton, helped him realize that his volunteer work was a ministry. "She said ... This is a wonderful ministry, people helping people. What can be better than that?"



Parading their faith

St. John's Memorial Episcopal Church in Ramsey created a replica of the church for a float in the Ramsey centennial parade. Ron Roshong coordinated the church's participation, while Richie Wells and Esvin Valdez designed and completed the initial construction. Many other church members spackled, sanded and painted the float. Parishioners of all ages participated in the parade. The St. John's banner led the way, followed by marchers in turn-of-the-20th-century outfits, two antique cars and the float. A Dixieland band completed St. John's parade team.

Convention

Continued from page 1

ity areas, she explained. For its part, the diocese—including the governing bodies as well as the bishop's office—would commit to offering resources to support congregations in expanding their ministry capacities.

"It's trying to build on this goal that we've had for a bunch of years for all congregations to vibrant, life-giving faith communities," she said. "To do that, you have to be willing to look at yourself. Part of this is self-assessment. For everybody, there are things we can do to increase our capacity for ministry."

This reflects the diocesan vision, examining how individual congregations are living into the gates of hope and providing a mutual tool to help them get there, she said.

And the final form of that covenantal tool will be determined through conversation, as individuals and congregations respond to and propose changes during the first half of 2009.

"There's just a huge commitment to dialogue," Echols said.

Beckwith agreed. "Part of our hope is really to have people engage in conversation about it, which will start after convention," he said.

"The work of the diocese is really to support congregations in defining their mission and their purpose," he said, "and we want to be as supportive as we can and offer the resources that we can and get clear about what our relationship is with each other. Hence [the] notion of a covenant. Our real desire is to have people weigh in on it, to look at it to see what works for them and what doesn't, and to come up with something ultimately that people really can own and claim as theirs."

Deputies will hear reports from the reparations, immigration, civil unions and role clarification task forces and the Commission on Ministry. During the lunch break,

deputies can attend the hunger banquet or hearings or workshops on various topics.

Apostles House Outreach and Education Coordinator Diane Riley, who has led hunger banquets with some congregations in the diocese, will moderate the banquet, which up to 75 people may attend. Akwii-Wangusa also will participate.

The meal will give people an experience of the world's reality concerning food issues and the chance to "debrief" the experience, Beckwith said.

Ankwii-Wangusa also will address the convention during the afternoon. She will discuss the U.N. Millennium Development Goals and how the diocese can engage with them and help build a better world, Beckwith said. "She is kind of the icon of that in the Anglican Communion."

Youth at convention will participate in the banquet, as well as serve as deputies, pages, ushers, liturgy participants and greeters.

Lunchtime hearings will address the budget, resolutions, the clergy compensation report and the Constitution and Canons Committee report. Workshops will be held on congregational planned-giving programs and capital campaigns; responsible sexuality for young adults; tools for church growth to equip members for the work of ministry; opportunities for diaconal ministry and the new *Lay Resource Manual*; the Earth Charter; and pastoral and practical matters concerning civil unions.

The offering from the convention Eucharist will support the ministries of North Porch Women and Infant Centers and of Apostles' House, which provides comprehensive social services to homeless and at-risk families and individuals in the Newark area. Nonperishable food and toiletries also will be collected at convention for pantries in the diocese.

More information about the convention is available at www.dioceseofnewark.org/convention.html or by calling 973-430-9900.

Diocesan Roundup

Interim canon named

Following the departure of R. Carter Echols as canon to the ordinary and congregational development director, the Rev. Denise G. Haines will return to Episcopal House as interim canon through mid-2009. She served in a similar capacity from October 2007 to July 2008 during preparations to bring the Rev. Gregory Jacobs, canon for mission and ministry, onto the senior staff.

Haines will work with Jacobs on clergy and church transitions, facilitate leadership training, help preparations for administration and mission days and serve as liaison for senior ministries. She also will help the bishop and senior staff design the optimum role and level of responsibility for the next permanent canon.

Help the homeless

The Men of Trinity will hold a Superbowl Party for the Homeless at Cathedral House in Newark on Feb. 1. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.; kickoff is at 6:30 p.m. For details, call Rodney Thomas at 973-930-2383 or the office of Trinity & St. Philip's Cathedral at 973-622-3505.

Benefit cruise

Travelers can take a cruise to Bermuda while benefiting the House of the Good Shepherd continuing-care retirement community. The community, in association with Mainly Meetings Travel LLC of Englewood Cliffs, has scheduled a cruise on Royal Caribbean's Explorer of the Seas for May 23-28, beginning in Bayonne and including a two-day stop in Kings Wharf, Bermuda. Special rates are available for a limited time, with a portion of proceeds to benefit the House's Shepherd's Fund. For details, e-mail Linda@MainlyMeetingsTravel.com or call 201-568-2146.

Corrections

In the December 2008 *Voice*, author Philip Read's parish was misidentified. He is a member of Grace, Nutley.

In that same issue, the article on the Newark School of Theology should have noted that its students include the diocese's vocational deacons who have studied at its diaconal educational program.

Announcing...

Singsation!

A solo competition for boys who love to sing

Saturday, February 7, 4:00pm

Meet new friends · Get professional feedback · Have fun

Win Best Buy gift cards, voice lessons and a free week of summer camp



To enter contact Brian Harlow
973.538.0555 x18 or bharlow@stpetersmorrissetown.org
St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 70 Maple Ave, Morristown, NJ

ADVENT TO CHRISTMAS



Victoria Beall photo

For more than 20 years, Bill McColl has brought the fourth-century bishop St. Nicholas to life on the Sunday closest to St. Nicholas' feast day at All Saints, Leonia.



Sharon Sheridan photo

Danielle Baker assists with the greening of the church at St. Peter's, Morristown.



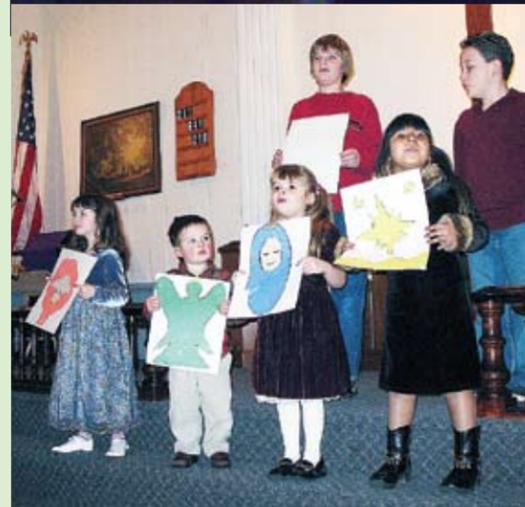
Marilyn Lehren photo

Anna Gomez lights the Advent wreath at St. Andrew and Holy Communion, South Orange.



D. Field photo

Above, members of the North Jersey Philharmonic sing at a Festival of Lessons and Carols at Newark's Trinity & St. Philip's Cathedral.



Left, St. James' Intergenerational Bell Choir, St. James' Players and St. James' Children's Choir of Hackettstown participated in the community's annual Christmas Through the Arts.



Church school youngsters at Atonement, Tenafly, wrapped gifts to be delivered to the Paterson Men's Shelter.



James Freeman, the Rev. Rob Rhodes and Mary Sunden with some of the gifts donated by Grace, Westwood, to the Apostles' House adopt-a-family Christmas program.



Eileen Videtti photo

Above, the Feast of St. Nicholas was celebrated a day early at Christ Hospital, Jersey City, in conjunction with the annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony. Dressed as Santa Claus, Deacon Erik Soldwedel distributed toys to patients and later served at the hospital's daily Eucharist.

Third-graders celebrate Christmas Challenge

Third-graders at All Saints Episcopal Day School, Hoboken, participate in an annual Christmas Challenge, designed to help children spread the spirit of Christmas throughout the school by shopping for a huge Christmas tree for the parish hall and to guide them through the process of how to select a gift for someone. Students carefully wrap the gifts and create cards for one another, participate in a family-style feast together and exchange their gifts. Head of School Jill Singleton says that, many years after participating, students report that they still remember the gifts they received. Here, one of this year's participants describes the experience.

By Livia Scura

The Christmas Challenge is when you split up into two teams. One team goes with Rev. Bishop, and the other one is with Ms. Bell. After that we buy one gift for each person on the other team. And they buy one for us.

Then, a couple of days later, we have a huge feast. When the feast is over, we open our gifts. And we say good things about the person who is opening the gift. Everyone has a different gift. You only do it when you are in the third grade.

I love the Christmas Challenge!



Grace Luzcando's face lights up with joy as she open a gift chosen just for her.



Doris McFadden photo

Left, Karen McCormick walks the Cookie Walk at St. Peter's, Washington. Newlyweds Kelsey and Jim Goodwin add snickerdoodles and spritz cookies to her decorated tins.

Reflection: A personalized crèche

By Mark Wright

Close to Christmas 2007, I picked up two reproductions of Cycladic figurines from Greek prehistory. No one actually knows their function in ancient times, but they sometimes are referred to as “votive figures.” Most of the faces look upward as if they could be saying, “I look up to you, I offer myself, I am here to serve.”

Years ago, I donated a Neopolitan-style crèche in memory of my departed students. Something clicked on Christmas Eve, and I visualized “votive” figures of our congregation at the manger, witnessing and also saying, “Here I am, I offer myself.” Over the course of about a month, I photographed about 50 members of the congregation, burned the images to a disc that I passed on to Carol Haefele, who reproduced them on foam-core board at the same proportion as the crèche figures. With a sabre saw, I cut out each profile and attached a small wooden base to each.

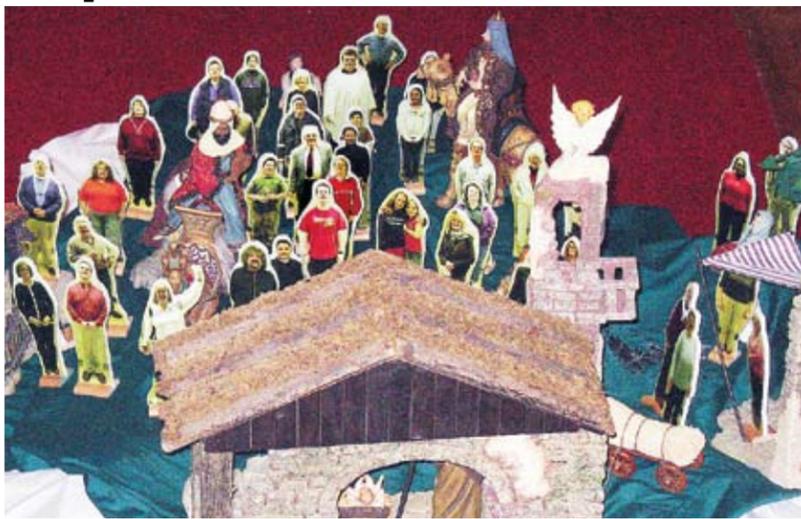
When I looked over the figures taking shape around me, at first I laughed, but it was also moving. Before me was the congregational family of St. John’s:

Some with the gift of faith;
others who make a gift of their

works,
those who float on dreams and fall,
those who never rise and wait to
be buffeted by life,
those who embrace,
others who condemn,
in jeans,
in furs,
who reply to disease with joy and
fear,
who interrupt a sermon with a
correction
or a whoop
or feed and rock their babies,
who sing, and clap, and kneel and
laugh,

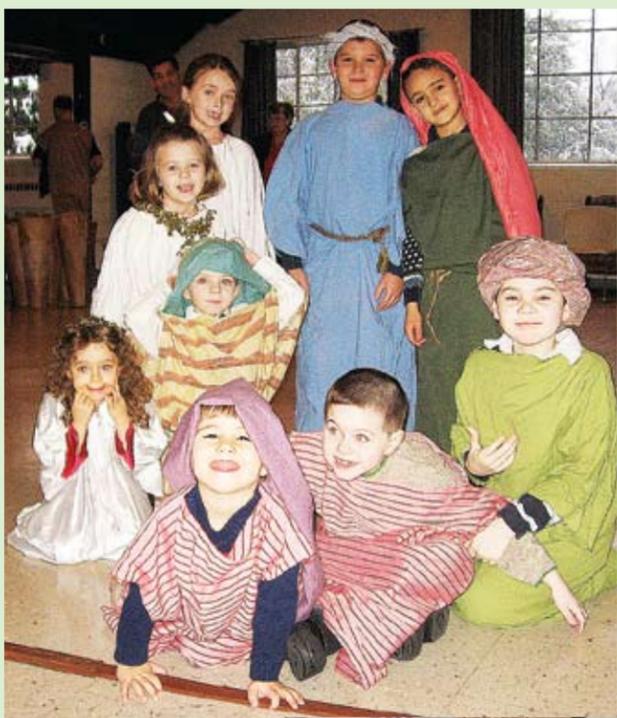
dig, prune, plaster, mow, plumb,
rewire, console, sew, complain,
bake,
join hands in prayer,
and hug
and assemble weekly around a
table to be fed.
And,
poised, yearly around the crib,
we little votive figures,
wonder at the miracle of a birth.

Mark Wright is a retired English teacher and organist/choir director St. John the Divine, Hasbrouck Heights.



Carol Haefele photo

Images of congregation members at St. John the Divine, Hasbrouck Heights, appeared in a crèche at the church this year.



Andrew Fowler photo

Above, angels, shepherds and innkeepers gather before the Christmas pageant at St. Andrew's, Harrington Park.



Laura Johnston photo

Right, angel Emma O'Brien in the pageant at Atone-ment, Tenafly.



Nina Nicholson photo

Tim McPhillips portrays Joseph, Elena Helming portrays Mary, and Lily Myers portrays the baby Jesus at the Christmas pageant at St. George's, Maplewood.



The “mitten tree” at St. Gregory's, Parsippany, is decorated with hand-knit sweaters. Mittens, hats and donations of baby items for North Porch in Dover round out the picture.

Bereavement ministries Blue Christmas services reach out to grieving

By Jabez L. Van Cleef

During the recent Advent season, several parishes in the Diocese of Newark planned “Blue Christmas” services. These events serve the spiritual needs of people who have suffered any kind of loss – death, divorce, loss of physical capability, termination of employment – and who feel “out of synch” with the general march towards a cheerful Christmas celebration.

“Blue” services started to appear about five years ago as a reaction to the relentless materialism and commercialization of the Christmas holiday season. The Rev. Beverly Huck at Church of the Saviour in Denville and the Rev. Elizabeth Kaeton of St. Paul's in Chatham were early advocates of this effort to reach an undiscovered community of people searching for a more introspective meaning in the midst of premature celebration.

“People came from a distance to attend this year's service,” Kaeton said. “We held it on a Saturday evening, Dec. 20, and there were about 45 attendees. More of them were feeling an economic dislocation than in past years. After the service, there was a kind of spontaneous gathering in the sanctuary, where people were having cathartic conversations and sharing their experiences.”

Scheduling such services on a Saturday will make them more attractive to people who are unchurched, or arriving from other denominations, she observed. “Another very important factor is music. A sensitivity to the value of sadness, for its own sake, can be communicated very effectively by the selection of music and the way it is integrated with the liturgy.”

In response to parishioner interest, the Rev. Margaret Otterburn at Church of the Messiah in Chester held that parish's first Blue Christmas service this year. “Christmas is such a difficult time for some people, who find that they need some quiet and space for reflection before it arrives,” she said. “We invited the members of the congregation to light candles for people and things they had lost; and together, we found comfort in singing *In the Bleak Midwinter*.”

Ongoing ministries

Moving beyond the Christmas season, several ministries provide support throughout the year.

At St. Peter's in Morristown, the Stephen Ministry provides intensive training to parishioner-counselors who then meet one-on-one (in most cases, weekly) to help individuals cope with problems relating to hospitalization, declining health, disability, terminal illness, death of a loved one and other grieving-related issues.

“The Stephen Ministry program has been popular both with those who give and those who receive care,” said Newly Preziosi, one of the counselors, or Stephen ministers. “I feel as if I have gained more from my encounters than many of the people I've tried to help.”

“Blue” services and the form of personal outreach represented by Stephen Ministries are part of a trend towards a more forthright attitude regarding death and other sources of grieving, said Bonnie Magnuson, a parishioner at Calvary Church in Summit. Her husband died several years ago, and she was unsatisfied with grief-counseling sessions she had attended. Two years ago, she and the Rev. Chris Carroll from St. George's in Maplewood persuaded the Rev. Elizabeth Ostuni, a deacon at Good Shepherd in Wantage, to conduct training for facilitators who might want to direct a more meaningful bereavement-services program.

Carroll and volunteer Sue Hirner, both Licensed Clinical Social Workers, completed the training and subsequently held eight-week counseling programs during 2008, at St. George's in May and at Calvary in September.

“We don't have a curriculum,” Magnuson said. “We don't impose attendance requirements. We are simply trying to facilitate a natural process where people can say what they need to say, and hear what they need to hear, in an atmosphere of safety.”

The grieving ministry has served about a dozen people so far, Carroll said. In 2009, the series of group meetings at Calvary will resume on Feb. 4, and at St. George's on Sept. 2. Meetings will be held on the first and third Wednesdays of each month during the day. Both parishes will encourage public attendance by placing announcements in local newspapers; for specific times, contact Calvary Church at 908-277-1814 or St. George's at 973-762-1319.

Jabez L. Van Cleef attends Grace, Madison.

CANDIDATES FOR DIOCESAN OFFICE

General requirements for diocesan offices: No person shall be eligible for election to any office at convention, nor shall any person elected by districts or appointed to serve on Diocesan Council or other diocesan standing committees, commissions or boards accede to that office unless

that person shall have first completed or arranged for the completion of anti-racism training as approved by the bishop after consultation with the Mission to Dismantle Racism. (*Diocesan Canon 2(6.)*)

Communicant in good standing: All communicants of this

church who for the previous year have been faithful in corporate worship, unless for good cause prevented, and have been faithful in working, praying and giving for the spread of the kingdom of God, are to be considered communicants in good standing. (*National Church Canons, I.17.3*)

ACTS/VIM BOARD (13 members)

Class of 2012 elect 1 clergy/2 lay members Class of 2010 elect 1 clergy member

LAY:

Pamela DeLuca

Christ Church, Bloomfield/Glen Ridge



A professional fund raiser involved with many Episcopal churches with an understanding of successful church programming. My skills will be an asset.

Aubrey Thompson

Christ Church, Teaneck



Church experience includes service as clerk of the vestry, junior and senior warden and chair of the Building and Grounds Committee. On the diocesan level, I served two terms on the Ward Herbert Board, the last as its chair. I also served as secretary to the Transition Committee for the election of our present bishop.

Jim VanLeuven

Grace Church, Madison



Helping congregations to build their ministries and community outreach programs would be a challenging way to serve the church. I appreciate ACTS/VIM's scope of work after having worked in varying mission, parish and diocesan assignments in the dioceses of Spokane and Oregon. As a journalist, sociologist and retired professor, I want to help groups present well-considered and complete proposals.

CLERGY:

Robert Criste-Troutman

St. Peter's, Washington



I would like to serve where I feel I can make a difference in the ministry that happens in the diocese. ACTS/VIM has made great strides in shaping the types of outreach ministry and programs that make up our corporate life, and I would like to be a part of the decision process.

Margaret Otterburn

Messiah, Chester



For many years I have been a recipient of ACTS/VIM, receiving grants that have funded "my" outreach programs. I feel it is time to give back and to support it. ACTS/VIM plays such an important role in the life of a fledgling project. As an asset, I have experience in grant writing, having been in a grant-funded position.

CONSTITUTION AND CANONS COMMITTEE (10 members and the Chancellor and Vice Chancellor)

Elect 10 members (lay or clergy) must be a deputy to the convention at which elected.

Ms. Sheila T. Barcus

St. Andrew's, Newark



I am committed to the betterment of the Episcopal Church and would like to offer my organizational skills to this process.

Mr. Thomas Bisdale

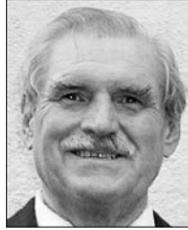
Grace Church, Westwood



I have served my parish as warden, vestry member and treasurer and the diocese as convention delegate and on the Ecclesiastical Court and Constitution and Canons Committee. The experience gained from these positions, working with the chancellor on other legal issues affecting the diocese and 25 years of practicing law inform my contribution to the work of the committee.

Mr. T. Donald Cairns

St. Clement's, Hawthorne



I would like to continue to serve on the Constitution and Canons Committee. I am an active layman at St. Clement's, Hawthorne. Convention deputy, choir member, LEM (eucharistic minister), "Bishop's bunch" Cursillo, past warden and vestryperson, a member of the Christian Formation Commission and Board of Cross Roads Outdoor Ministries. I am a retired high school business teacher.

Ms. Marge Christie

Christ Church, Ridgewood



The orderliness of the governance of the Episcopal Church has a special appeal for me. That orderliness is maintained by its Constitution and Canons and is found throughout the church's dioceses, each of which has its own constitution and canons. It would be an honor to serve for another year on our committee.

The Rev. John A. Donnelly

St. Michael's, Wayne



During a time of schism, theological conservatives should be included in the governance of the diocese. (Experience: co-rector, St. Michael's, Wayne, 1991 - Now. Prior parish ministry experience, 1981-1991. Current activities: Constitution & Canons Committee, Convention Nominating Committee, chaplain, Wayne Police Dept. chaplain, Order of St. Luke of North Jersey, hospice chaplain.)

Mr. John Garde

St. Thomas', Lyndhurst



As a trustee of the diocese and vice chancellor, I look forward to continuing to serve on the committee in this time of change and reassessment of our diocesan structure.

The Rev. Joseph A. Harmon

Incarnation, Jersey City



It has been an honor to serve on the Committee on Constitution and Canons for the past two years. My experience as an attorney and priest provide insight into the important operations of the Constitution and Canons in our diocesan life. I would be pleased to continue to offer my time, talent and energy to the work of this committee.

Mr. George Mackey

St. Elizabeth's, Ridgewood



Former vestryman, long-time convention deputy, lay assessor, sometime trial attorney for the diocese, Province II Appeals Court judge and member of Nominations and Constitution and Canons committees: I bring this breadth of experience to the committee. My support of our Bishop Mark Beckwith and Chancellor Diane Sammons in their important work is a privilege and joy.

The Rev. Paul Olsson

St. Paul's, Morris Plains



I appreciate our Anglican heritage of doing things "decently and in order." My experience serving on Diocesan Council, as a district convener, member of the Role Clarification Task Force and Commission on Ministry have given me a wide perspective of the needs of the diocese and how it works. I'd like to bring this knowledge and perspective to the committee.

The Rev. Dean Weber

All Saints', Leonia



I would enjoy continuing to serve on this committee with its essential function of shaping faith and ministry in the Diocese of Newark through the appropriate exercise of canon law.

DIOCESAN REVIEW COMMITTEE (7 members: 4 clergy, 3 lay)

Class of 2013 elect 1 clergy member Class of 2012 elect 1 lay member Class of 2010 elect 1 clergy member

LAY:

Naomi Horsky

St. Gabriel's, Milton/Oak Ridge



Having served for six years, I bring experience and sound judgment to matters brought before the committee. We serve an important role in the diocese when reviewing complaints made against clergy in conjunction with the bishop and Ecclesiastical Court. It has been a privilege to serve the diocese in this capacity.

Jacqueline L. King

Christ Church, East Orange



I have experience with conflict resolution through my position of managing a nationwide program for the railroad, and also as a participant of our Labor/Management Review Committee.

CLERGY:

Thomas Mathews Jr.

St. Luke's, Phillipsburg



After serving one term already, I would like to continue to serve in the important work of reviewing formal complaints against clergy. Our committee works as an initial review and as a counsel to the bishop in responding to these often difficult cases. I am honored to serve the diocese.

Christine L. McCloud

St. George's Church, Maplewood



Many years as a social-services administrator has allowed me to gain valuable experiences in human resources management and with various conflict-resolution processes. I would consider it an honor to share both my professional and ordained experiences as a deacon to this committee.

Elizabeth Searle

Christ Church, Ridgewood



Having served for the past year on this committee, my gifts and skills appear to be a good fit for the work. A lawyer before I was a priest, I was also part of the task force responsible for developing diocesan policy and protocol for dealing with allegations of clergy misconduct in New York. I am delighted to commit to an additional term.

GENERAL CONVENTION FOURTH LAY ALTERNATE Term: July 8, 2009, until the opening of General Convention in 2012

Elect 1 lay alternate (The General Convention will be held in Anaheim, Calif., July 8-17, 2009)

LAY:

George Hayman

Grace Church, Madison



I look forward to representing the diocese again as I did in 1997, 2000 and 2003.

Sidney King

Incarnation, Jersey City



I had the pleasure and great honor of representing this great diocese as an alternate deputy to the past three General Conventions; that provided an insight in its workings. I have also served on several boards within this diocese and am aware of the major issues facing the Episcopal Church today. I believe I can represent you well if elected.

John Niles

All Saints', Hoboken



My 2006 reparations resolution and 2007 amendments to the Constitution and Canons show my commitment to working with others on many issues. As a lay deputy to the 2009 General Convention, I would apply these principles in support of justice-based legislation for the Episcopal Church. My relevant experience: vestry/warden '99-'06/'00-'06, Diocesan Convention deputy '01-'07, Commission on Ministry '01-'09.

Michael F. Rehill

Grace, Westwood



My 18 years of service as vice chancellor and chancellor of the Diocese of Newark, as a seven-time deputy to General Convention, and as president of Province II have prepared me to represent this diocese at General Convention. This is a time of crisis in our church, and there is a need for knowledge and experience in our deputation.

Mary E. Sunden

Grace, Westwood



Shared governance is a treasure, and participation an honor – especially on behalf of a diocese with such an active, vocal history at General Convention as Newark has. I would be honored to be part of that history and would strive to engage the lessons learned through parish, district and diocesan service.

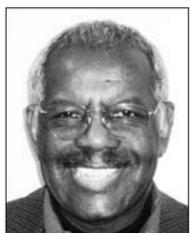
THE STANDING COMMITTEE (8 members)

Class of 2013 elect 1 clergy/1 lay members Class of 2010 elect 1 clergy member

LAY:

Robert Simmons

Christ Church, East Orange



Served one term on Standing Committee and seeking election. Desiring to share experience from service in other volunteer areas, both diocesan and congregational: Diocesan Council, Ward J. Herbert Fund, warden, property chair and treasurer. Retired corporate executive, now working in parish administration.

CLERGY:

William Guthrie

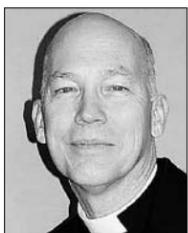
Christ Church, East Orange



Having served 16 years at Christ Church in East Orange and on the Companion Diocese Committee, the Nominations Committee and the Widows & Orphans Fund, I believe I am well-qualified to represent the clergy and laity of this diocese on the Standing Committee. I seek your moral support, and I humbly ask for your vote.

J. Carr Holland

Grace Church, Newark



I would be pleased to continue on the Standing Committee. Offer 32 years of ordained experience, served six congregations, three as rector. Other service includes: chair of Commission on Ministry, member eight years; vice president, Board of Directors, House of the Good Shepherd; Cathedral Chapter; Stewardship Commission; Diocesan Council; Co-convenor of District 4; congregational consultant. I listen, am evenhanded, compassionate, prayerfully reflective.

John J. Negrotto

St. Paul's, Jersey City



Willing and qualified to serve on the Standing Committee as a seasoned, energetic, inclusive and experience collegial partner, as we move from transition to the "Gates of Hope."

SECRETARY OF CONVENTION

One nomination necessary.

Mr. Michael Francaviglia

St. George's, Maplewood



TREASURER & ASSISTANT TREASURER

One nomination necessary for each office.

Mr. Richard B.H. Graham

Christ Church, Ridgewood



Mr. Laurence G. Taber

Grace Church, Madison



ECCLESIASTICAL COURT (7 members: 4 clergy, 3 lay)

Class of 2013 elect 1 clergy member Class of 2012 elect 1 lay/1 clergy members

LAY:

James R. Greene

Grace Church, Madison



I am a practicing attorney in Morristown. I have served on the Ecclesiastical Court for three years, the past one as presiding judge. I would be honored to continue to serve the diocese in this regard.

CLERGY:

Mark Lewis

Church of Our Saviour, Secaucus



With nearly 20 years of experience in this diocese, I believe I have a sound sense of the way things work here. Also, the canons of the church are one of my interests.

Sandye A. Wilson

St. Andrew & Holy Communion, South Orange



Since I care passionately about justice and would hope that the court would never have to be called into session, I offer myself to serve as a fair and compassionate person who will listen both with the heart and honor for the canons.

TRINITY & ST. PHILIP'S CATHEDRAL CHAPTER (18 members)

Class of 2012 elect 1 clergy/1 lay members

LAY:

Sidney King

Incarnation, Jersey City



I want to continue serving on the Chapter of Trinity & St. Philip's Cathedral as the cathedral goes through this interim period. Using knowledge gained from serving on various diocesan bodies including Diocesan Council, ACTS/VIM, Ward J. Herbert Fund and others; parish offices including senior warden and president of other organizations in the community. I can be of assistance to them.

CLERGY:

Peter Jackson

St. John's, Montclair



If given the honor to serve on the Cathedral Chapter, I believe that I would bring to that office my experience as a Episcopalian for many years, as well as my experience in administration and management, and advocacy, and help in formulating a clear vision for the future direction of the cathedral.

Thomas Murphy

Grace Church, Madison



I served on the vestry of my home parish, St. Paul's, Jersey City. Later, served as seminarian at House of Prayer. As curate of Grace, Madison, I have worked to bring urban and suburban churches together in ministry. I bring an understanding of urban life and an eagerness to serve our cathedral during this exciting and hopeful time of transition.

Chaplains to provide prayer and focus at convention

By Cathie Studwell

Four chaplains will help set the tone during business sessions at the 135th annual Diocesan Convention.

The Revs. Diana Clark, rector of St. John's Church in Montclair, Laurie Matarazzo, Robert Morris, director of Interweave, and Willie Smith, rector of Trinity Church in Cliffside Park, will be building upon the work that began in 2008 when the Rev. Mpho Tutu, executive director of the Tutu Institute for Prayer and Pilgrimage in Virginia and daughter of retired South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu, served as convention chaplain.

The chaplains' focus at convention will be to frame the business meetings in prayer. At each transition point during the day, a chaplain will lead prayers for the work to be done and for those present.

"The work of the chaplains will help keep Jesus Christ at the center of all the deliberations throughout the day," Matarazzo said. The chaplains will seek to

remind those in attendance that Jesus is the midst of all of the issues that will be discussed and, as those discussions take place, to help to keep people aware of the love God has for everyone. The chaplains also will be available to respond to any pastoral-care concerns that arise during the day.

The chaplains' work will not end when the convention is over. They work throughout the year with Bishop Mark Beckwith to support diocesan clergy and their families. This includes working with clergy and congregations during clergy transitions and providing prayer and counseling support in times of personal challenges, if requested.

Smith said he considered it an honor to be asked to serve in this ministry. "Pastoral care to clergy and their families helps to keep the whole system healthy," he said. "It helps work toward a more vibrant diocesan family."

Cathie Studwell attends St. John the Divine, Hasbrouck Heights.

Anglican women at U.N. Commission to explore shared responsibilities between genders

By Marge Christie

This year's annual meeting of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women poses a particularly interesting theme: *The equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS*. Sometimes one sees malaria added, which is quite appropriate since, according to Bill Gates, it is a far more devastating disease worldwide. Regardless, what makes the theme interesting for me is the contemplation of equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men!

This will be my eighth year of involvement in the UNCSW, having started as the lone specifically identified Anglican in 2002. Since then, the organizing and planning group known as Anglican Women's Empowerment was established – initially under the aegis of the Women's Office and the Anglican Observer's Office, both located at the Episcopal Church Center in New York. This year, AWE is more or less on its own – with just minor assistance from the two offices. It elected Pat Yankus and Jamel Shimpfky as co-chairs, and individual AWE members are taking on increasing responsibilities for planning as well as shepherding our Anglican sisters from around the world.

I anticipate that much will be learned during the first two weeks in March, when the commission is in session. At this writing, we anticipate the presence of some 60 Anglican women, joining with several thousand of their global sisters from other nongovernmental observers in teaching and

learning how to change the dynamics of providing care for family members incapable of caring for themselves.

Statistics indicate that, in the Nordic countries, they've figured out how to get a handle on sharing responsibilities, a major indicator being the percentage of women in their parliaments. In Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark and Iceland, close to 50 percent of parliament members are women. A culture that understands the importance of women in governmental structures surely understands the importance of men in family structures.

By way of comparison, in the United States the percentage of women in Congress is a mere 17. With the exception of Rwanda (which reorganized its entire governance after the genocide there), the sub-Saharan Africa percentage is equally low.

When asked how they achieved parity in their parliaments, the countries that have done so said they used quotas and/or assigned seating, thereby creating both equality and responsibility-sharing by fiat. The United States opposes quotas and thus relegates the achievement of equality in membership to the so-called "experience" gained by starting at the bottom in municipal government and slowly moving up to national involvement.

So where does this all leave me? First, I think that in the United States we have exactly the opposite condition of what I ascribed to the Nordic countries. Our younger generation of families has really figured out shared family responsibilities, and many of their parents have tended to

learn from them.

But we haven't learned how to measure the value of life experience as compared to that learned in the "back rooms" of politics. I cite Caroline Kennedy as a prime example; the list of her accomplishments is impressive, not the least being her influence on the quality of education in the New York City school system. Education is one of Barack Obama's major issues to be addressed, and here's someone who could play an important role in the Senate as the dialogue and debate

begin, but all one hears is that she hasn't played the politics game and that she's parlaying her name recognition! Oh well, perhaps by the time you read this, she will be the junior senator from New York, hard at work trying to change the culture of shared responsibility between women and men.

Marge Christie attends Christ Church, Ridgewood. Other delegates and AWE members from the Diocese of Newark are Pat Yankus, Maylin Biggadike, Martha Gardner and Inez Saley.

Obituaries

The Rev. **Robert Frank Kirchgessner**, 92, died on Dec. 28 at the Kensington Care Center in Aurora, Ohio.

Born in Jersey City, he was ordained a deacon in November 1948 and ordained a priest in the Diocese of East Carolina in June 1949. He served as priest-in-charge at three churches in North Carolina before returning to New Jersey to serve at Church of the Ascension in Bogota from 1951 to 1962, the last five years as rector. From 1962 to 1984, he was rector of Trinity Church in Paterson, where he served on the Board of Education, the Board of the Boys and Girls Clubs and on the County Board of Social Services. After moving to Point Pleasant Beach, he assisted at All Saints' Church in Bay Head from 1985 to 2000. He also was priest-in-charge at St. Andrew's-by-the-Sea in Allenhurst for 14 summers.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Juanita, along with his son, Robert Jr., of Rockaway, and daughter, Lynn Wiss, of

Chagrin Falls, Ohio. He was predeceased by his son, Barry.

The Rev. **Christine Constantinos Tremaine** died Nov. 18 from complications related to her 15-year battle with cancer.

She was ordained a priest in the Diocese of Newark in May 1983. She served as associate at St. James' in Upper Montclair and later as interim at Transfiguration in Towaco. In the fall of 1999, she started interim ministry at Holy Trinity in West Orange and served there until July 2002, when she moved to Gainesville, Fla. Before she left Holy Trinity, the parish dedicated "Christine's Kitchen" in her honor. She returned to the diocese in 2006 and became priest-in-charge at Holy Trinity, where she was serving at the time of her death.

She is survived by her mother, Patricia, sister, Wendy, sons, Michael and David, and brother, Peter.



Beal Moore, Chief Engineer, retired. Fellow, American Society of Mechanical Engineers International.



Millie Eppedio, retired banker. Formerly from New York, relocated to be closer to children in Basking Ridge.



Bob Peterson, born in Mt. Arlington, NJ. Retired Conductor, New Jersey Transit.

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New York, NY 10019
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90th anniversary

Youth visit Seamen's Church Institute

In November, the youth group from St. Matthew's, Paramus, visited the Seamen's Church Institute in Port Newark, where the church's deacon, the Rev. Jacques Girard, is a port chaplain. Twenty-two St. Matthew's parishioners also visited the port earlier in the fall. Parishes interested in arranging visits can contact Girard at 201-262-5286. Here, participant Shawn Herrick, 15, describes his visit.

This was an incredible experience.

A small group of people went on this trip to the Seamen's Church Institute in Port Newark. No matter how many things you saw there, it was always an incredible sight. There were cars rolling off of ships and lots of shipping containers being moved from place to place. The cranes were the biggest things that I have ever seen.

They say that if you sit on it, drive on it, use it, play with it and sometimes eat it, it has come through this port. Every minute we spent driving around that port was priceless: the view and all of those cool machines that they use for transporting things and for the machine they use for liquids; the giant ships that come into the port come with so many containers that I am very surprised that they can even float. No matter how many times you see that port, you always see and learn something new about it.

I feel really bad for the sailors on the ships. They have

to be away from their families on holidays and birthdays. But Seamen's does a really good thing for those sailors. They give those sailors a good time off the ship, and they give them phones so they can call their families.

The tour of the port shows you that it isn't all fun and games – it is all hard work. There is a huge process involved for the shipping of the containers. There are two different kinds of containers: a 40-foot container and a 20-foot container.

The containers in that port are stacked in rows as far as the eye can see. Hundreds and hundreds of containers come in and go out of the port every day.

And there are so many cars in that port. There were thousands of them. You would look to your left and see hundreds of cars, then look to your right and see hundreds more. Almost any car you could dream of having was there.

There was also a huge recycling plant there. If we saw the inside, there would be cardboard beyond our wildest dreams.

That shipyard even had Belgian blocks. They used to be used for ballast in ships. Then they stopped using blocks, and they started using water. They also had salt piles the size of a small mountain.

Some parts of the port looked like a scrap-metal yard. They had old scrap metal and aluminum. There was a huge



Enormous cranes lift containers, one by one, off of ships arriving at the Port of New York and New Jersey. The port is one of the most advanced on the East Coast and one of the busiest in North America.

spice factory that you see there. On hot days, you can smell all of the spices that come in.

That tour would be a little kid's dream, to be able to see huge cranes and front loaders and giant magnets. Any person young or young at heart would greatly enjoy a great trip like this. This was not my first time going, but it was just as exciting as my first trip going to the port.

Prune budget without slicing off funds for wider church

By Lynne A. Grifo

The Quaker teacher Thomas Kelly, speaking about the practice of simplicity, said, "Prune and trim we must, but not with ruthless haste and ready pruning knife, until we have reflected upon the tree we trim, the environment it lives in and the sap of life which feeds it."

At a meeting in November called by Bishop Mark Beckwith to discuss the status of the diocesan budget, several clergy and lay leaders expressed sobering concern about their congregations' budget shortfalls. When the bishop described the diocesan intention to regularly direct a portion of income to our pledge to the churchwide budget, despite a growing funding gap, one person questioned the prudence of doing so.

"Why should we fund the national bureaucracy when we are so strapped locally?" he asked.

My hand shot up, and I observed that the budget of the Episcopal Church at large funds much, much more than the staff at 815 Second Ave. in New York (which, in any case, is not a bureaucracy in the pejorative sense of the word).

But few people know that. I came to understand that my parish was part of a larger denomination when, as a seminarian, I had an internship at the Episcopal Church Center, "815," where the staffs of the pre-

siding bishop and the General Convention Office are based. (There are regional offices around the country as well.) I learned much more about the larger church when I went to work for the Office for Ministry Development in 1999.

In 2006, a task force on the churchwide budget wrote: "Who are we? We are not 'the national church,' but an international church made up of 110 dioceses and one convocation [in Europe], with a presence in at least 15 nations. ... Where does the money go ... our commitment to funding the budget of [the Episcopal Church] hinges on three fundamental understandings: our commitments extend beyond the shores of the U.S.; Jesus commands us to 'do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do ...'; and, we are a hierarchical church which groups congregations into larger structures."

"Pooling resources within our structures enables us to do the greater things that Jesus talks about," the report said. "Local congregations often lack the resources for all they feel called to do. Grouping together into dioceses can foster larger ministries such as regional feeding programs ... When dioceses group together as the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society [the official name of the church], we are able to support churchwide ministries and the work of the Anglican Communion."

The person in the pew doesn't often have the opportunity to witness how dollars from his or her pledge move like lifeblood through the church's structures to assist people in need thousands of miles away. When Bishop Jean Zache Duracin came to 815 to brief the staff on the remarkable, essential and life-saving work of the Diocese of Haiti, I was moved to tears. In the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere, where an estimated 80 percent of the population lives in abject poverty, the diocese sustains a system of good schools and hospitals – and sustains hope. Twelve overseas dioceses, including Haiti, were budgeted to receive \$6.07 million in the Episcopal Church's 2007-2009 budget.

I bristle when I hear the word bureaucracy used to describe either the churchwide or the diocesan staff role because it is a description that is far from accurate. Sure, any office handles a certain amount of paperwork. But the staff at the church center and in our diocesan office are resource people who offer their expertise and broader perspective to those of us who minister locally.

When I arrived in the diocese at the beginning of October, I visited the Bishop Anand Resource Center and brought back – at no cost to my congregation – an adult-education video series and loads of material from which I could craft a confirmation-class curriculum. Kitty Kaweck, the center's di-

rector, participates in a network of resource directors across the church who share ideas and insights. That network (and several others) is served by Jeffri Harre, staff person for children's formation at 815. Jeffri spends his days responding to requests for guidance from educators so that we can effectively pass the faith to the next generations.

Lastly, how could the Episcopal Church have a voice in the critical issues of our day if our presiding bishop did not have a budget enabling her to participate in meetings around the United States and the world, meetings like the Lambeth Conference of bishops, the Anglican Consultative Council, an interfaith conference on global climate change, or with chaplains at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, where she also spoke with soldiers who lost limbs or suffered traumatic brain injuries in combat?

So, prune we must in these days of financial upheaval, but I pray that, when we prune, we will do so with a clearer understanding of the beauty and breadth of the life-giving tree that is the Episcopal Church.

The Rev. Lynne A. Grifo is interim rector at All Saints' Church, Glen Rock, and former interim program director at the Episcopal Church Foundation. Previously, she was associate coordinator for ministry development at the Episcopal Church Center in New York.

Clergy comings and goings

Since the last issue of the *Voice*, Bishop Mark Beckwith ordained to the priesthood the Rev. **Brent Bates** at Calvary, Summit, and **Sister Eleanor Francis** at the Convent of St. John Baptist, Mendham, on Dec. 13 and the Rev. **Lisa Green** at Christ Church, Short Hills, on Dec. 20. The Rev. **Scott Holcombe** began service as rector of Christ Church on Dec. 7. Holcombe and his wife La Nora come to the diocese from St. Stephen's Church in Lakeland, Fla.

The Rev. **Susan S. Keller** was called as dean and priest-in-charge of Trinity & St. Philip's Cathedral, Newark, effective Jan. 1. She most recently served as the rector of St. Mary Magdalene Church in the Diocese of Washington. In her 17 years of ordained ministry, she has served as planner, facilitator and trainer for national church and diocesan organizations, including the Office of Black Ministries and Fresh Start, as well as Jubilee officer and a member of the Standing Committee in the Diocese of Southern Virginia. Her first Sunday at the cathedral will be Feb. 8.

Also starting in February, the Revs. **Adele and Charles Hatfield** will be co-rectors of St. Peter's, Mountain Lakes. A music teacher before ordination, Adele has been serving at Iona Hope in Ft. Myers, Fla., while Chuck, formerly a newspaper circulation manager, has been serving at St. Monica's in Naples, Fla.

The Rev. **Charles Arlin** announced his retirement as rector of Church of the Good Shepherd in Midland Park, effective Feb. 1. Previously, he served at All Saints', Bergenfield, in churches in the Dioceses of New Jersey and New York and as a military chaplain. Arlin hopes to serve as an interim priest after his retirement.

EpiscopalLife MEDIA • Staff Writer

The staff writer is required to research issues, interview subjects, write and edit for all sections of Episcopal Life and Episcopal Life Online. The ideal candidate is an accomplished writer and has copy editing experience. The staff writer will be expected to report, write original copy, edit copy from diocesan publications and news services, maintain a monthly schedule of assignments and meet all deadlines. Participation in editorial planning meetings is required.

A Bachelor of Arts degree in communications, journalism or a related field required along with a minimum of two years' experience on a newspaper or news magazine, or related field. The successful candidate must have knowledge of the Episcopal Church. Computer literacy is required as well as the ability to write clearly, meet deadlines; competency to explain complex or specialized issues to readers is necessary. Knowledge of Spanish and/or French is preferred along with the ability to write for readers in different media (monthly print, daily e-mail, online bulletins and quarterly periodicals).

Applications will be accepted through January 30. Salary is commensurate with experience and includes a generous benefits package. EOE, m/f/d/v encouraged to apply. To apply, submit a cover letter, salary requirement and a resume to eccjobs@episcopal-church.org and indicate in the subject line "Staff Writer" Please, no telephone inquiries. Qualified applicants will be contacted. This position is based in New York City.

Fund to mark a century of 'calls'

By Denise G. Haines

The Bishop's Church Extension Fund has begun its 100th year of financially supporting congregations and diocesan projects. To date, 427 grants have funded mission and ministry across the diocese.

Bishop Edwin Lines, third bishop of the Diocese of Newark, established the fund in 1910 with an eye toward buying land and building new mission churches. But, over the years, building emergencies increasingly took prominence over new development.

Fund members are people who pledge \$25 to \$250 for each of five annual "calls," or churches and projects that the bishop designates as recipients. Between 1910 and 1932, the BCEF funded at least 45 new churches, parish houses and rectories. The Great Depression cast its shadow throughout the 1930s, when most grants were assigned to pay mortgages and debts. Throughout the 1940s, an improved economy aided expansion, so grants once again were committed to land acquisition and new buildings. Aging facilities also needed grants for repairs and replacement.

This pattern of support for both new mission buildings and repairing deteriorating plants continued into the 1970s, when the movement to relate churches to the neighborhoods that surround them arose. White flight from the cities led urban churches especially to request funds for social programs and

ministry in their neighborhoods.

By the 1980s, this social movement was in full flower. Many grants went for innovative ministry: after-school and summer programs for urban children; ministry to Hispanics, Asians, the deaf, shoppers at Willowbrook Mall and the homeless. As fewer individual churches were able to mount significant social programs and new ministries, there were increased numbers of diocesan grants for new work: the Oasis, diocesan youth ministry, new uses for closed church buildings such as a theater and arts program in Orange.

Parallel to these signs of vibrant ministry, including three new or revived churches, was the evidence of membership decline and expensive building maintenance. Most grants in the last 30 years have gone to keep church doors open, the heat on and structures safe.

Not all hopes and dreams funded by BCEF lasted. Recipient churches in Dumont, Cedar Grove, Woodcliff, Byrum, Bogota, Garfield, West Milford, Irvington, Delaware, Vailsburg, Weequahic, Wortendyke, West New York and Coyttsville are no more. Any number of social programs flourished for a time and then died.

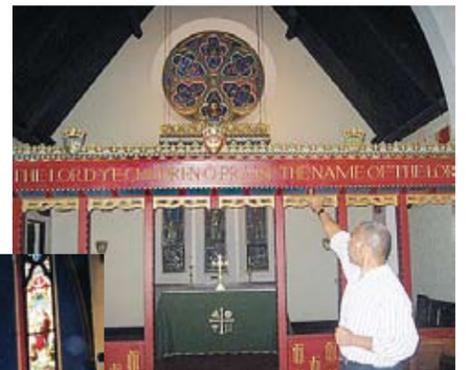
Bishop Mark Beckwith, current custodian of the fund, remembers when he was rector of Christ Church, Hackensack,

and the BCEF came to the church's rescue when the heating system failed and there was no budget for a new boiler. Designee of the fourth call of 2008, Trinity Church, Cliffside Park, is removing its rose window, in imminent danger of being blown out of its frame, for safe-keeping.

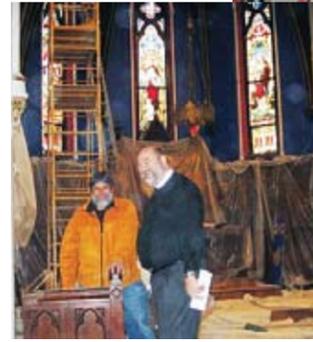
The fifth call will help Christ Church, Hackensack, fund unanticipated but necessary repairs that arose during long-planned renovations already underway.

Pre-Christmas renovations were finished just in time, the Rev. William Parnell, rector, reported, "though we still had a construction crew hammering away in the chancel the night before Christmas Eve and a crew of parishioners cleaning at the opposite end of the church and making their way toward the altar. The finishing touch was done by the children of the parish at the 4:30 p.m. first Eucharist of Christmas, when they served as the most important construction crew of all by 'building' the creche and making sure that we created a place for Jesus."

Beckwith will help the congregation celebrate the completed renovations at a Solemn



Above, the Rev. Willie Smith shows the window being removed at Trinity, Cliffside Park. At left, the Rev. William Parnell, standing on the right, examines the progress of renovations at Christ Church, Hackensack.



Evensong at the church on Feb. 2.

In recognition of the diocese's place as part of a wider communion, Bishop Beckwith designated a new lunch program at an Episcopal school in Haiti as his third call in 2008.

As a part of its centennial celebration, the BCEF is seeking new members. Currently, 125 members contribute a combined \$7,500 per call. The fund's goal of \$10,000 per call requires another 30 members. Those interested can visit the diocesan website at www.dioceseofnewark.org/bcef to read more about the fund and to join.

The Rev. Denise G. Haines is administrator of the Bishop's Church Extension Fund.

Canon Echols reflects on her time in Newark

By Sharon Sheridan

Canon R. Carter Echols believes in making connections.

Since arriving as canon for congregational development in May 2002, she has seen huge movement in the diocese "towards a much greater sense of collegiality," she said, "collegiality among clergy and of shared partnership between clergy and laity and in ... connections between congregations, both as districts but also just as congregations with shared self-interests."

There's a growing wardens community, fostered by diocesan wardens days, she said. And clergy conferences and conversations and now clergy coaching have increased clergy collegiality – something both former Bishop Jack Croneberger and Bishop Mark Beckwith value highly, she said.

Overall, there's a much greater sense of "we're in it together" – the bishop's office, congregations, other diocesan entities – she said. The diocese "feels like a far less 'siloed' place. When I arrived, it felt much more like there were lots more lone rangers."

Echols, who also served as canon to the ordinary, recently left the Diocese of Newark to return to Washington, D.C., where she will help forge new connections across the nation through her new job at the ecumenical Bread for the World – and continue her connections there with family and friends from as far back as third grade.

"It's a great adventure," she said. "Bread for the World is Christians who organize people to speak to government about ending hunger." Local congregations do much of the work, assisted by regional organizers. "I'm going to be the person in the main office on Capitol Hill that tries to



Aubrey Thompson photo
Canon R. Carter Echols

support the regional coordinators and coordinate the strategies for work with those congregations. It's doing things like developing liturgies and educational resources."

Through congregations' work with Bread toward ending hunger, she said, "our hope is that we can help congregations have a deeper sense of their own mission and ministry and purpose."

"The thing that motivates me is: How are we all agents of the reign of God?" she said. "And so I believe ending hunger is a key element of being an agent in the reign of God."

In her work in the Newark diocese, she similarly worked with congregations to help them assess and develop their capacities for ministry.

"Protestant churches are on a journey right now because we were so subsidized by society. Being a Christian was what you did as part of American culture," she said. "I believe we have made incredible progress towards asking the real question, which to my mind is: Why are we in business? And then: How can we do this business of the reign of God as well as we can?"

In the diocese, she said, "we have moved a long way toward a basic principle of that, which is that there is no one way to do it. There's a sense that each congregation has their own spiritual journey they need to go on. Each has their own discernment they need to make."

Individuals also must discern their own call to ministry, and how their ministries connect with those of others, according to Echols.

"We're at an interesting time in the life of the church in that one of the things we really need to do is get clear about the unique ministry of the ordained, the unique ministry of

the nonordained, and how we can far less anxiously share the majority of ministry, which can be done by either the ordained or the nonordained," she said.

"I've had the privilege of working for multiple bishops in three different dioceses – Massachusetts, Washington and Newark – and I have had the privilege as a lay person of carrying the title of canon, which often is one that is [held] by a priest," she continued. "Before I began working so much for the institution, I was very clear that I as a lay person ... could help a lot more people claim their ministry by claiming mine."

People subsequently have told her that hearing her preach and exercise her voice as a lay person made them realize they could do the same, she said.

In her diocesan work, Echols said, she is proud of her work with Diocesan Council's Congregational Vitality work group and in helping create the Commission on Ministry's new resource for lay discernment. "A lot of my heart is in that document."

"I am grateful that people invited me into their personal journeys or their congregational journeys, and I feel like I have been able to support them," she added. "That's probably the most important thing."

Echols is "a wonderful colleague and a good friend," Beckwith said, recounting how she helped him in his journey as a new bishop.

"I went through a lot of transition coming here," he said. Located in an office across the hall, "she helped make a home for me, and she helped me discover and claim my gift and my voice."

"She's done that for hundreds of people across the diocese, individuals and congregations – helped them find their place and helped them find their voice, and I am kind of ... one key example of that."