



Highlights of diocesan news in printable format — June 12, 2024

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From the Bishop

What does summer Sabbath look like for you?

This is a transcript of a video message.

This is Bishop Hughes in the Diocese of Newark. It is the middle of June, and we are within touching distance of the end of the program year. But even if I didn't know the date, I could tell you we're near the end of the program year. Wherever I go, whomever I'm talking to, whether it's laity, deacons, priests or bishops, everyone I talk to is quick to share how tired they are. Tired because they have been working hard, whether their work is in the church or outside of the church. They've been working hard within the church. They've been working hard within their families. It's been a very full and a very good year. So I am not surprised at all that people are tired.

This year in our diocese has been wonderful in many ways. We've got people that have been working really hard at learning and spending time thinking about what it means to grow faith, whether it's your own or somebody else's faith, or the faith within your church. We have churches, both large and small, taking seriously the invitation to be in collaboration with each other, joining together to either learn something together, do ministry together, support each other, support and pray for each other in each other's ministries. We've got, as usual, large numbers of people who

were confirmed this year or received into the Episcopal Church. Ordinations carried on like they have all throughout pandemic, before and after. It has just been a full and wonderful year, full of all kinds of blessings and full of gatherings. Gathering the way in which we like to gather. This year is the first year since 2019 that all of our churches were able to do exactly what they had planned for Holy Week and Easter. That is something to celebrate. And we hit the end of this program year and we're tired.

It makes sense that people are tired, and the thing to do when you're tired is to take a rest. Last year, I declared the entire summer in our diocese to be a summer of Sabbath, and there were people who took that seriously, and there were people who ignored it, and people who were proud to tell me that they had taken no time off, and I can tell you they went into September tired. But this piece of taking Sabbath is not just about addressing the tiredness, it is about caring for ourselves and for each other in the way in which God wants us to care for ourselves. God has given us the gift of life, given us the gift of relationships and our intelligence and our experiences and all of the wonders that we are joyful about and the challenges in our life, and continues to walk with us. And God gave us all of those things, asking us to take care of them. That's what stewardship means. God expects us to be the steward of those things, including ourselves, including our own health and well being. So when I say, make sure you take some

Sabbath time, I don't necessarily mean just click off from everything. I mean take care of yourself.

What do you need during the Sabbath? Most of us still need to be around friends and family. Most of us still need to be around our community of faith. But how do we do that in ways that are less pressureful. Can we all get together for a potluck or a picnic, rather than having one person do all the planning? Can we read a book together or watch a movie together, rather than one person having to put a lesson plan together? How do we share together this time of relaxing with each other, rather than remaining in this kind of high pressure need to get the next program or the next event up and on its feet.

It is summer, and most of our schedules will be somewhat easier, and I invite you during this summer to review what Sabbath looks like for you. It is a spiritual practice like every other and I hope that in addition to thinking about how you spend your time, that you also think about nourishing yourself and allowing God to restore you. This is something we see Jesus do in the Gospels, every time he goes out for ministry, we see Jesus go back to a quiet place.

I am hoping your quiet place is full of blessings, that it's full of laughter and that it is full of rest, and that you come back in September restored and ready to serve God and God's people.

150th Anniversary

Events planned for the Diocese of Newark's 150th Celebration

By Nerissa Boccino and Jerry Racioppi

***Diocese of Newark: Yesterday, Today & Forever
Learning Our Past, Embracing Our Present and Inviting
You into Our Future***

Your Sesquicentennial Celebration Committee has been hard at work since last November planning events to mark 150 years serving northern New Jersey. We meet

monthly, mostly via Zoom, to talk about and make decisions regarding the many upcoming activities.

Committee Members include:

- **Gail Barkley**, Trinity and St. Philip's Cathedral Newark / Florence Li Tim-Oi
- **Scott Bennett**, The Saviour Denville / Constance
- **Nerissa Boccino**, St. Peter's Morristown / Harriett Tubman [Co-Chair]
- **Bishop Hughes**, Diocese of Newark
- **John King**, Staff Liaison (St. Andrew Harrington Park) / Benedict of Nursia
- **Nina Nicholson**, Staff Liaison (St. George's Maplewood) / Evelyn Underhill
- **Cynthia McChesney**, Staff Liaison (Christ Short Hills) / Evelyn Underhill
- **Andy Olivo**, St. Elizabeth's Ridgewood / Benedict of Nursia
- **Jerry Racioppi**, Holy Spirit Verona / Florence Li Tim-Oi [Co-Chair]
- **Susan Rennie**, St. Peter's Morristown / Harriett Tubman
- **Diane Riley**, Grace Madison / Evelyn Underhill
- **Michele Simon**, St. Paul's Englewood / Augustine of Hippo
- **Cathie Studwell**, St. Bartholemew Hohokus / Benedict of Nursia

Here is information about each event:

BBQ at Cross Roads Camp & Retreat Center – Saturday, September 21 from 10 AM to 4 PM

The Cross Roads staff is excited to host members of the Diocese for a fun and festive BBQ. Activities will include family style cookout, arts & crafts, bouncy house, swimming pool, kickball, volleyball, archery, hiking, high ropes, as well as tours of the Cross Roads' facilities. To register, visit the 150th Celebration BBQ link on the diocesan website. The cost is \$20 per person, or \$60 for families with four or more people. Children under 5 eat free. Plan to carpool or schedule a bus from your Regional Ministry Network. You don't want to miss this event!

Diocesan Convention – Friday, November 8 and Saturday, November 9

The Diocesan anniversary is in November, and this year's Diocesan Convention will officially kick off the Sesquicentennial Celebration. Members of the 150th

Anniversary Committee are working on an Impact Project that will showcase the many accomplishments of our Diocese throughout its history in Northern New Jersey. We will also celebrate the work being done today and look forward to our future.

Speaker Series – January/February 2025

In place of the bishop's usual winter book study for 2025, there will be a speaker series with two sessions on Zoom and two sessions in-person (location TBD). The dates are all Tuesdays, January 21 and 28 plus February 4 and 11 from 7-8:30 PM. As more information becomes available, it will be added to the 150th Anniversary section of the diocesan website.

Concert – Friday, May 16, 2025 at 7 PM

Along with members of the 150th Celebration Committee, music ministers from within the Diocese are planning a concert to take place at a location TBD. It will include information about the diocese's past, present and future and an array of music. In addition, a hymn is being commissioned specifically for the Sesquicentennial Celebration and musician/composer Mark Miller of Drew University has been selected to compose this new piece of music that will be available for all congregations later this year.

Worship Service with new Presiding Bishop – Saturday, May 17, 2025 at 11 AM

To close out the "year of celebration," a worship service is being planned to take place at St. Peter's Morristown. The service will include Eucharist and the preacher and celebrant will be the newly elected Presiding Bishop, who will be chosen at The Episcopal Church's General Convention in Louisville, KY later this month

Pilgrimage – Summer 2025

Work is being done to plan an out-of-state multi-night pilgrimage during a summer month in 2025. As more information becomes available, it will be added to 150th Anniversary section of the Diocesan website.

Information will continue to be added at the 150th Anniversary section of the diocesan website. Check there for any updates. If you have any questions along the way, feel free to reach out to any members of the Committee, or co-chairs Nerissa Boccino (nboccino@gmail.com) or Father Jerry Racioppi (rector@holyspiritveorna.org).

150th Diocesan Convention

Convention Corner: An interview with Janelle Grant about youth at Convention

By Donna Caputo, Chairwoman of the Convention Arrangements Committee

Youth at Convention are always an exciting sight, but do you ever wonder what do they get to do there? Historically, youth have been involved as volunteer Pages assisting the Secretary of Convention, and as voting members as Youth Deputies. Of course, times change, and this year youth participation will look a little different. To help us better understand, we were able to get an exclusive interview with Janelle Grant (right), one of the Co-chairs of the Youth Commission, and a key planner for the new Youth Convo.

Janelle, as a Co-Chair for the Youth Commission, what are your dreams for youth at our Convention?

My vision for youth participation at Convention is to provide a more structured program that is insightful and essential. This approach will educate youth about the church's inner workings and empower youth to take an active role in the church's future. By inviting youth to the table and listening to their voices, we will foster a more inclusive and dynamic church community.

You have a unique perspective of Convention since you were an active youth participant. Please share your experience with us.

I had the pleasure of attending Diocesan Convention as both a Youth Deputy and a Youth Page. I would say it was a unique experience being able to compare the two roles. Both had different, but important responsibilities.

What do you feel has been lacking at Convention for youth?

A youth program outside of youth serving as Pages and Deputies has been lacking, along with the opportunity for youth to learn and grow.

How do you feel about the role of Youth Pages no longer being needed?

I understand there was no longer a need for Youth Pages due to advancement in technology with electronic voting. However, youth no longer have the opportunity to observe business sessions and learn about the business aspects of church.

How will the new Youth Convo fulfill these issues?

Youth Convo gives youth the opportunity to learn about Diocesan Convention, ask questions, and discuss the issues. There will also be time for them to socialize with their peers. They will experience stewardship of time and talent.

What are you most excited about with Youth Convo?

I'm excited for the youth to gain a new experience of church governance, structure and process, while also building relationships and lasting friendships with their peers. I'm excited for them to learn that there is much more to church than sitting in the pews on Sunday mornings or acolyting.

What is the one thing you wish you could personally tell the youth about the program?

Come with an open mind, ready to learn and have fun in an exciting way!

What is the most important part for parents to understand?

It is designed to give the youth agency and leadership experience. This is also a way for them to continue their spiritual journey through networking with other youth and diocesan leadership.

Now let's talk about the elite eight youth who get to represent their Regional Ministry Networks as Youth Deputies. How do you feel about this important role?

I love the idea of the role of Regional Ministry Networks Youth Deputies, but I also love the idea of congregations bringing youth to Diocesan Convention. This is a way for more youth to be able to attend and participate in Convention.

What would you say to youth about running for this position?

Although it is a lot of work, don't let that deter you from applying. Convention is fun and you will gain a lot of experience and knowledge that can be applied to other circumstances. You get to meet other youth in the diocese. Also, it looks good on your college applications! It is great leadership experience!

Since Youth Deputies will have the opportunity to attend the Youth Convo also, please share what you want all the youth to take home from this year's Youth Convo?

I want the youth to have a better understanding of Diocesan Convention. I want this to be another opportunity for their spiritual journey. I hope that the youth will come to experience the joy that comes from giving service.

Thank you so much for taking the time for this interview. Is there anything else you would like to share?

My biggest hope is that this year's Convo will serve as a pilot that moves us towards annual Youth Convos at future Diocesan Conventions. The youth will have opportunities to share their experiences and make suggestions for the future, by participating in feedback sessions. They will have a voice in the creation and implementation of more enriching activities for future Conventions.

81st General Convention

General Convention preview

By Nina Nicholson, Director of Communications

More than two dozen members of the Diocese of Newark will attend the 81st General Convention of The Episcopal Church taking place June 23-28 in Louisville, KY – the first normal-scale gathering since the Covid-19 pandemic forced a postponed and greatly scaled-down 80th General Convention in 2022.

The governing body of The Episcopal Church, General Convention usually meets every three years as a bicameral legislature that includes the House of Deputies and the House of Bishops.

Key business and events

The election of the 28th Presiding Bishop for a nine-year term that begins Nov. 1 when he or she succeeds Presiding Bishop Michael Curry. The House of Bishops will vote on Wednesday, June 26; the election becomes official once the House of Deputies votes to ratify it. The five candidates for Presiding Bishop are:

- **Bishop J. Scott Barker**
Diocese of Nebraska, Province VI
- **Bishop Daniel G. P. Gutiérrez**
Diocese of Pennsylvania, Province III
- **Bishop DeDe Duncan-Probe**
Diocese of Central New York, Province II
- **Bishop Sean Rowe**
Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania,
Province III and Diocese of Western New York,
Province II
- **Bishop Robert Wright**
Diocese of Atlanta, Province IV

A contested election for President of the House of Deputies. While typically an incumbent President does not face challengers for re-election, the current Vice President, the Rev. Rachel Taber-Hamilton, is challenging President Julia Ayala Harris. Since Taber-Hamilton's announcement, several other candidates have also announced for either President or Vice President.

General Convention will consider at least 20 resolutions proposing amendments to Title IV, the canons of the church covering clergy disciplinary matters. Title IV has been a source of increased controversy over the past year, including concerns about confidentiality and allegations of excessive deference to bishops.

Who is attending, and what will they be doing?

Bishop Carlye Hughes will represent our diocese in the House of Bishops. She serves on Legislative Committee #5 - Racial Truth-Telling, Reckoning & Healing, and is its secretary.

Four deputies and the first alternate from both the Clergy and Lay orders will represent our diocese in the House of Deputies:

- **The Rev. George E. Dredden III**, Trinity & St. Philip's Cathedral, Newark. He serves on

Legislative Committee #7 - Social Justice & United States Policy.

- **The Rev. Grant Mansfield**, St. George's, Maplewood. He serves on Legislative Committee #9 - Evangelism & the Future Church.
- **The Rev. Cynthia Black**, retired. She serves on Legislative Committee #10 - Prayer Book, Liturgy & Music.
- **The Rev. Anne E. Kitch**, St. Luke's, Phillipsburg. She is the chair of Legislative Committee #3 - Governance & Structure.
- **The Rev. Dr. Elaine Ellis Thomas**, All Saints, Hoboken (first clergy alternate).
- **Janelle Grant**, St. Paul's, Paterson.
- **Laura A. Russell**, All Saints, Hoboken. She serves on Legislative Committee #18 - Title IV: Disciplinary Canons.
- **Paula Cappel**, St. Andrew & Holy Communion, South Orange.
- **Jewels Quelly**, St. James', Hackettstown.
- **Rhonda Lutz**, Church of the Saviour, Denville (first lay alternate).

As previously reported, **Meredith McKeever** of Grace, Madison will attend as a member of the Official Youth Presence representing Province II, with seat and voice in the House of Deputies.

Supporting our deputation in Louisville will be diocesan staff members:

- **Canon Andrew Wright**, Canon to the Ordinary.
- **Canon Margaret. A. Peckham Clark**, Canon for Congregational Life.
- **Nina Nicholson**, Director of Communications & Technology.
- **Chloe Caprice**, Executive Assistant to Bishop Hughes.

While only the first alternates in each order are required to attend, also attending from the elected deputation due to other responsibilities will be:

- **The Rev. Diana L. Wilcox**, Christ Church, Bloomfield/Glen Ridge (third clergy alternate), as a member of the Executive Council Committee on Corporate Social Responsibility (CCSR). She will also serve as media assistant to Nina Nicholson.

- **The Rev. Lynne Bleich Weber**, Atonement, Tenafly (fourth clergy alternate), as President of Episcopal Diocesan Ecumenical and Interreligious Officers and a member of the Task Force on Creation Care and Environmental Racism.

Eight high school students from our diocese will visit General Convention chaperoned by **Chris Whitaker**, the **Rev. Asa Coulson** and the **Rev. Carrie Cabush**. Along with meeting with the Bishop and Deputies, attending the opening Revival and other worship services, and learning more about The Episcopal Church, our youth contingent will join with other youth from around the country for a three-day program on advocacy skills by Bishops United Against Gun Violence.

Diocesan Announcements

Relocation of diocesan headquarters: Status update June 2024

Work permits have been obtained and demolition work is being completed at the former St. Peter's, Livingston. Diocesan staff anticipate moving into the new headquarters building around the end of this year.

Introducing a streamlined version of the diocesan seal

By Nina Nicholson, Director of Communications

After working alone for 94 years, our diocesan seal now has a partner to help carry the load. Meet the streamlined version of the diocesan seal!

Our original diocesan seal, adopted at the 1930 Diocesan Convention, will remain in use as the official seal, engraved on the Bishop's ring and stamped in wax on official documents.

The idea for a streamlined version originally came about because of the difficulty of having the official seal, with its intense detail, embroidered on clothing. The streamlined seal includes all the required elements of the official seal, but in a lighter, more modern form. It also uses the same colors of blue, gold, and red.

Diocesan staff members Nina Nicholson, John King, Cynthia McChesney, and Jane Jubilee worked with graphic designer Libby Clarke to develop the new design.

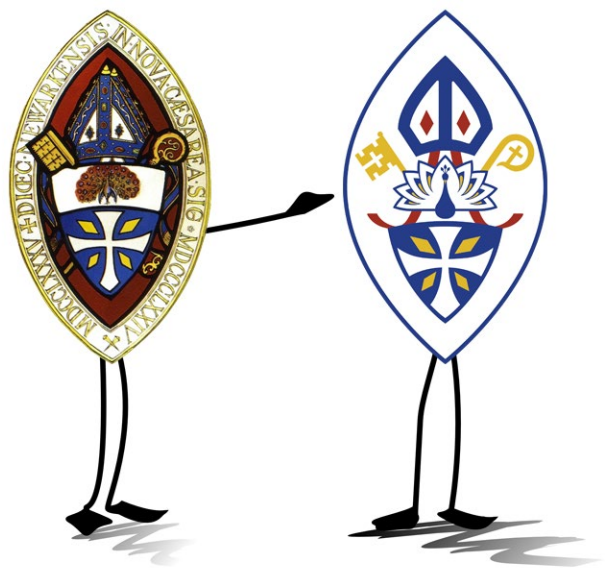
Look for the streamlined seal to appear in the future on the aforementioned clothing, diocesan "swag," and other non-official uses.

What are the required elements of our diocesan seal?

The bishop's miter with crozier and key – these are standard elements of Episcopal diocesan seals.

The peacock – a symbol of resurrection.

A shield with cross patée and fusils in saltire – now we're starting to get into both heraldry and the history of New Jersey and the Episcopal Church. The committee that designed our diocesan seal took the cross patée (a cross with arms that narrow at the center and flare outwards towards the ends) from the arms of John, Lord Berkeley, and the fusils (the four diamond shapes) from the arms of Sir George Carteret. Why these two gentlemen? Because they were the founders of the British colony that would eventually become the state of New Jersey. The committee arranged the fusils "in saltire" (in an X shape) as a nod to the flag of Scotland, the country whose bishops consecrated Samuel Seabury as the first American Episcopal bishop.



Book recommendations for Pride month

When our clergy were asked, “What is your top recommendation for a book written by or about LGBTQIA+ people, or covering topics related to LGBTQIA+ visibility and justice,” they came up with this eclectic list.

Non-fiction

Queer Virtue: What LGBTQ People Know About Life and Love and How it Can Revitalize Christianity – The Rev. Elizabeth M. Edman

Letters from Samaria: The Prose & Poetry of Louie Crew Clay 1974-2014 – Max Niedzwiecki, ed.

Coming Out as Sacrament – Chris Glaser

FORWARD! Thoughts of a Trans Woman on the Christian Journey – Lynn Elizabeth Walker

Beyond Magenta: Transgender and Nonbinary Teens Speak Out – Susan Kuklin

God, Gospel and Gender: A Queer Bible Study for Teens – Margie Baker

This is my body: Hearing the theology of transgender Christians – edited by Christina Beardsley and Michelle O’Brien

Fiction

On Earth We’re Briefly Gorgeous – Ocean Vuong

Edinburgh – Alexander Chee

A Little Life – Hanya Yanagihara

Wrath Goddess Sing: A Novel – Maya Dean



Diocese of Newark

YESTERDAY, TODAY & FOREVER

SERVING NORTHERN NEW JERSEY SINCE 1874

Mark your calendar for these exciting 150th Anniversary events planned for the 2024-2025 program year!

Note: Times for 2025 events are tentative

Saturday, September 21, 2024 • 10 AM - 4 PM

Kickoff BBQ at Cross Roads Camp

Friday & Saturday, November 8-9, 2024

150th Diocesan Convention

Tuesday, January 21 & 28, 2025 • 7-8:30 PM

Speaker Series, via Zoom

Tuesday, February 4 & 11, 2025 • 7-8:30 PM

Speaker Series continued, in-person

Friday, May 16, 2025 • 7 PM

Concert

Saturday, May 17, 2025 • 11 AM

Worship Service with the new Presiding Bishop

Summer 2025

Pilgrimage to the American South

Find out more at dioceseofnewark.org/150th-anniversary

