

New vision for 'Wardens Day'

By Bill McColl

The Diocese of Newark is inviting the wardens, property managers and treasurers of all churches to attend a special program on the changing dynamics of managing church properties in the 21st century.

The Congregational Administration Conference on Oct. 13 at St. Elizabeth's in Ridgewood will focus on how administrative tasks are an important part of God's work in the world.

"Too often the church gets caught in the false dichotomy of management versus ministry," said Canon R. Carter Echols, who is helping organize the conference. "Effective administration is simply being the best possible stewards of all that God has given us."

It is important to remember that the word "administration" comes from the Latin "to minister or serve," said Echols, diocesan canon to the ordinary and diocesan congregational development director.

The idea for the conference came out of the diocese's traditional Warden's Day gathering last May, where, she said, "we had a very successful fellowship and information session" on property management.

The daylong gathering in October will offer four "tracks" titled Stewardship of Property, Legal Stewardship of Congregations, Stewardship of Personnel and Financial Stewardship. Each will be composed of three workshops that run for an hour and 15 minutes.

Among the instructors is Patrice Henderson, property chair for St. Andrew and Holy Communion in South Orange, who is giving a presentation called "Everything you wanted to know about space use." The information being provided is necessary for all churches today, she said.

"Once upon a time, a smile and a handshake was enough," she said. "Since we live in such a litigious society, it's become more important to have proper contracts. You don't want to put the church at risk."

Participants will really benefit by taking part in the conference, Henderson said. "It's shared resources, specifically for churches with limited resources. Once people know they are not alone, that takes a lot of the angst out."

One of those who know about the angst of administration is Pat Roth, senior warden at St. Luke's in Phillipsburg. For the past three years, Roth and other members of the congregation have had to handle many of those duties as St. Luke's searched for a new rector. "I did a lot of it as warden because I had to," she said. "I had a crash course."

Offering such information in the upcoming Congregational Administration Conference is a great idea, especially for churches in transition, Roth said. "I think that would be a fantastic session. There are probably so many other congregations in our shoes."

Roth said she clearly remembered the excitement generated by a short property-management discussion at the 2006 Wardens Day.

"There was a small part, which just wasn't enough," she said. "Everyone wanted to hear more."

Teaching lay members how to be church managers is a vital service that the diocese can offer, she said. "It's just as important as seminars on stewardship and trying to build your congregation."

For more information and to register for the Congregational Administration Conference, visit the diocesan website at www.dioceseofnewark.org or call 973-430-9900.

Bill McColl is a member of All Saints, Leonia.



Back to school

Heeding the call of Morris County's Office of Temporary Assistance, the parishioners of St. Gregory's, Parsippany, once again collected backpacks and school supplies for needy children. On Sept. 9, the congregation held its annual "Blessing of the backpacks," encouraging children to bring their own backpacks and lunchboxes to receive a special blessing for the new school year.

Consider joining a diocesan committee

Christians are called to serve in a variety of ways – perhaps as a member of a vestry, as a Sunday school teacher or youth group leader, as a Bible study facilitator, as a choir member or as a parish administrator.

Myriad positions on the diocesan level need people as well. In other words: Your diocese needs you!

Each year at this time, the Diocesan Nominations Committee seeks candidates for various elected offices. Service on a diocesan committee is ministry to the wider church and can be a fulfilling experience.

A qualified candidate is a communicant in good standing who for the previous year has been faithful in corporate worship (unless prevented for good cause) and in working, praying and giving for the spread of the kingdom of God. Qualified candidates also have completed or arranged to complete anti-racism training as approved by the bishop after consultation with the Mission to Dismantle Racism.

This year, the following committees are seeking candidates. Elections will be held at the 134th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Newark on Jan. 25-26 at the Hilton Hotel, Parsippany.

ACTS/VIM Board: 4 lay and 3 clergy members to attend 4 meetings a year and make 2 or 3 site visits to grant requesters.

Constitutions and Canons Committee: 10 members, lay or clergy, to review the diocesan *Constitutions and Canons* and recommend amendments and /or report on amendments proposed by others. This committee also reviews resolutions for canonical consistency and legality.

Diocesan Review Committee: 1 lay and 1 clergy member to oversee matters of clergy discipline under Title IV of the *Canons of the Episcopal Church*.

Ecclesiastical Court: 2 clergy and 1 lay member to serve as judges in the event of a trial of this court, which functions at the time of presentment and trial of a priest or deacon in the diocese as described in Canons 17 and 18.

General Convention Deputies and Alternates: 4 clergy deputies, 4 clergy alternates, 4 lay deputies and 4 lay alternates to represent the diocese at General Convention in July 2009.

Standing Committee: 1 clergy and 1 lay member for the Class of 2012. The committee is the bishop's council of advice and the ecclesiastical authority when no bishop is in charge. It also oversees the approval of leasing and sale decisions of parish properties; votes on ordination candidates; and votes to approve the election of bishops in other dioceses.

Trinity & St. Philip's Cathedral Chapter: 1 clergy and 1 lay member to assist with regulating, managing and administering temporal affairs of the cathedral.

Secretary of Convention: a communicant in good standing. The secretary of Convention also serves as a secretary of

See "Convention" page 7

Clergy Conference Set

Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori, Bishop Mark Beckwith and David Rynick, lead trainer for the House of Bishops Coaching Network, will lead the 2007 Diocesan Clergy Conference, which will focus on worship.

The conference will be held Oct. 29-31 at the Shawnee Inn in Shawnee, Pa.

Beckwith will discuss the intention of worship and its central place in our lives. On Oct. 30, Jefferts Schori will offer her wisdom and experience in this area. Rynick, who is a certified coach and for three years has trained veteran bishops to coach new bishops, will facilitate participants' interactions, speak about the spirituality of hospitality and explore with interested clergy the development of a coaching network among diocesan clergy.

Clergy can register online at <http://dioceseofnewark.org/Registrations/2007ClergyConference-Registration.htm>. Contact Canon R. Carter Echols for more information at 973-430-9907 or cechols@dioceseofnewark.org.



Jefferts Schori

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The Bishop's Message

Sitting at the kitchen table, contemplating God's abundance

One of the first stewardship sermons I ever heard was one that I didn't listen to. But my wife did.

It was 1982, and I was a newly married associate rector at St. Peter's, Morristown. In his sermon, the rector, David Hegg, talked about the discipline of proportionate giving, which involves adding up the amount of your charitable giving for the year, figuring out what percentage that number is of your total income and then making a conscious decision to increase that percentage each year—with a 10 percent tithe as a goal.

I didn't want to do that, and so I didn't pay attention. I figured that my decision to become a priest meant that I was entering into a vocation of giving, and so I shouldn't be pressed to give any more. Besides which, the financial sacrifice I made by choosing the ordained ministry—over some more-lucrative professions I also had considered, put me in a position of not being able to give much, if anything.

But my wife Marilyn paid attention, and she dragged me to the kitchen table one night so that we could together figure out what we gave to God's work in the world (which included the church, our colleges and some fa-

vorite charities). It wasn't much—about one percent.

After some discussion, she eagerly—and I reluctantly—decided to increase our giving to two percent the next year. We also decided that our first financial decision each year would be how much we were going to give away, and that the tithe would be our goal.

That sermon, and the subsequent kitchen table discussion, served as catalysts for one of the seismic spiritual shifts in my life. When my wife and I increased our giving—and made it our primary financial decision, I found myself to be less resentful over what I didn't have (and wouldn't earn) and more grateful for what I was able to give freely. It was a move from scarcity to abundance—and as my family and I have continued to increase our giving level to the tithe, I have found myself less a hostage to economics (which by definition is the science of scarcity) and more available to the wonder of God's abundance.

This is the season of financial stewardship. As we get ready for the rather daunting task of asking parishioners to make financial pledges to fund the mission and ministry of the church, a strong case can be made for the church's need to receive.

Each of our parishes has visions and priorities, buildings and staff, programs and bills—all of which need our attention and support. Our substantial financial support. And as each of our parishes begins to engage in its annual end-of-the-year reality check—otherwise known as the creation of next year's budget—it has been my experience that a growing anxiety over scarcity often can overtake opportunity, and a congregation's need to receive can become an unpleasant process of exerting pressure for people to pony up.

But I think Christian stewardship really comes down to our need to give—not as an economic necessity, but as a spiritual discipline. It's a discipline that involves some arithmetic, discussion and debate at the kitchen table—and an opportunity to move more deeply into the abundance of the living God.

For more than 20 years, the Diocese of Newark has invited its congregations to consider their own stewardship as a discipline of needing to give by increasing their percentage of giving each year to the diocese—with a 25 percent tithe as a goal. Leaders gather at the vestry table, do the arithmetic—and pledge a percentage to the diocese by the first of December.

At the Diocesan Council table, a similar discussion is held. And for more than 20 years, the council has decided to pledge 25 percent of its income to the national church—as a discipline of its need to give. (That percentage was reduced in 2007, but with the expectation that, in future, it would be brought back up to the 25 percent level.)

This year, the diocesan Stewardship Commission has created a stewardship day for clergy (and other leaders who can attend) on Tuesday, Dec. 4, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., during which decisions made at the vestry table will be presented on the Lord's table and blessed as signs of our commitment to the liv-

ing Christ. The commission and I are organizing a day for learning about the spiritual discipline of giving—and how we can become, as individuals—and as parish and diocesan leaders—more faithful and efficient stewards of our abundance.

One of the pleasant surprises in my new role as bishop is the discovery of how committed parishioners and congregations have been to the discipline of giving. Several years ago, St. Paul's Church in Englewood received a sizable bequest from the estate of a long-time parishioner. The vestry tithed 10 percent of that gift to the diocese—for the purpose of supporting initiatives in congregational development.

Other congregations have responded in similar fashion over the years: All Saints, Hoboken; St. Peter's, Clifton; St. Agnes and St. Paul's, East Orange; Atonement, Fair Lawn; Christ Church, Teaneck; Grace Church, Westwood. And more and more people have joined a growing movement of faithful stewards—from every income level—who are making provisions in their wills to bequeath a portion of their estates (10, 25, sometimes 50 percent) to institutions, including their church, that are committed to doing God's work in the world.

Exercising our need to give—by freely sharing the money we have—is one critically important way that we can be co-creators of God's unfolding creation. Money directed to our most important commitments nourishes our souls—and our world.

I invite you to gather with God at the table. Peace,

Mark M. Beehew

Sentados a la mesa de la cocina, contemplando la abundancia de Dios

Translated by Rod Perez-Vega

Uno de los primeros sermones sobre mayordomía que oí, fue un sermón al que no le preste mucha atención. Pero mi esposa si lo hizo.

Fue en 1982, y yo era el recién casado párroco asociado en la Iglesia Episcopal de San Pedro en Morristown. En su sermón, el párroco, David Hegg, habló acerca de la disciplina de ofrenda proporcional, la cual implica calcular el monto total de donaciones a entes caritativos durante el transcurso de un año, calcular el porcentaje del total del ingreso anual que dicha cifra representa y luego tomar la decisión intencional de aumentar ese porcentaje cada año—teniendo el diez por ciento como meta.

Yo no quería hacer eso, así que no preste atención. Yo creía que mi decisión de convertirme en sacerdote significaba que había entrado a una vocación de entrega, así que, no debía ser presionado a dar más. Además, el sacrificio financiero que había realizado al escoger el ministerio del sacerdocio—por encima de otras profesiones más lucrativas que también había considerado—me ponía en una posición donde no podía dar mucho, si es que daba algo.

Pero mi esposa Marilyn preste atención, y una noche me haló hasta la mesa de la cocina para que juntos estimáramos lo que dábamos para el trabajo de Dios en el mundo (que incluía la iglesia, nuestras universidades y algunas de nuestras organizaciones caritativas favoritas). No era mucho—cerca del uno por ciento.

Después de conversar un rato, ella con pasión—y yo con renuencia—decidimos aumentar nuestras ofrendas a dos por ciento para el año siguiente. También decidimos que la primera decisión financiera que tomaríamos cada año sería cuanto íbamos a dar, y que el diezmo sería nuestra meta.

Aquel sermón, y la conversación a la mesa de la cocina que le siguió, sirvieron como catalizadores para uno los cambios sísmicos de mi vida espiritual. Cuando mi esposa y yo aumentamos nuestras ofrendas—y las convertimos en nuestra decisión financiera primordial, deje de sentir resentimiento por lo que no tenía (y lo que no iba a ganar) y comencé a dar gracias por lo que podía dar con mayor libertad. Fue un movimiento de la escasez a la abundancia—y a medida que mi familia y yo continuamos aumentando nuestro nivel de ofrendas hacia el diezmo, encontré que ya no era tanto un prisionero de la economía (la cual por definición es la ciencia de la escasez) y estaba más dispuesto a maravillarme en la abundancia de Dios.

Esta, es la temporada de mayordomía financiera. A medida que nos preparamos para la difícil tarea de pedirles a los miembros de nuestras parroquias que hagan compromisos financieros para financiar el ministerio y la misión de la iglesia, es posible presentar un caso claro y sólido a favor de la necesidad de recibir que tiene la iglesia.

Cada una de nuestras parroquias tiene visiones y prioridades, edificaciones y personal, programas y cuentas que pagar—todo esto requiere nuestra atención y sostén. Y, a medida que cada una de nuestras parroquias comienza a involucrarse en la tradicional—verificación de la realidad al fin del año—también conocido como la preparación del presupuesto para el año próximo—es mi experiencia, que el nerviosismo sobre la escasez de recursos abruma a las oportunidades, y la necesidad que tiene la parroquia de recibir se convierte en una desagradable presión para que la gente se manifieste financieramente o como se dice en algunos países “se bajen de la mula”.

Pero yo creo que la mayordomía cristiana tiene que ver primordialmente con nuestra

necesidad de dar—no como una necesidad económica, sino más bien como una disciplina espiritual. Es una disciplina que requiere algo de aritmética, discusión y debate sentados a la mesa de la cocina—y es una oportunidad para explorar a más profundidad la abundancia del Dios vivo.

Por más de veinte años, la Diócesis de Newark ha invitado a las parroquias a considerar su propia mayordomía como una disciplina en la necesidad de dar, aumentando el porcentaje del monto que le dan a la diócesis cada año—con un diezmo del veinticinco por ciento como objetivo. Los líderes se sientan ante la mesa de la junta parroquial, hacen los cálculos—y, prometen un porcentaje de sus ingresos a la diócesis antes del primero de Diciembre.

Ante la mesa de la Junta Diocesana ocurre un proceso similar. Y por más de veinte años, la junta ha decidido prometer el veinticinco por ciento de sus ingresos a la iglesia nacional—como una muestra de su disciplina de en la necesidad de dar. (Ese porcentaje se redujo durante el presente año, pero con la expectativa de que en el futuro, sería llevado de nuevo al nivel del veinticinco por ciento.)

Este año la Comisión Diocesana de Mayordomía ha creado un día de mayordomía para el clero (y otros líderes que puedan asistir) el día Martes, 4 de Diciembre, de 10 a.m. a 2 p.m., durante el cual las decisiones tomadas por las Juntas Parroquiales serán presentadas ante la Mesa del Señor y bendecidas como símbolos de nuestro compromiso con el Cristo vivo. La comisión y yo estamos planificando un día para aprender sobre la disciplina espiritual de dar—y, como podemos convertirnos, como individuos—y como parroquias y líderes diocesanos—en mayordomos más fieles y eficaces de nuestra abundancia.

Una de las agradables sorpresas en mi

nuevo rol de obispo ha sido descubrir el grado de compromiso que tanto congregaciones como parroquias demuestran hacia la disciplina de dar. Hace unos cuantos años, la Iglesia de San Pablo en Englewood, recibió un fondo considerable del patrimonio de un antiguo miembro de la congregación. La Junta Parroquial comprometió el diez por ciento de esa donación a la diócesis—a ser utilizado para sostener iniciativas de desarrollo congregacional.

Durante los años otras congregaciones han actuado de forma similar: La Iglesia de Todos los Santos, en Hoboken; Iglesia de San Pedro en Clifton; Santa Agnes y San Pablo, East Orange; Iglesia de la Expiación, Fair Lawn; Iglesia de Cristo en Teaneck; Iglesia de Gracia, Westwood. Y cada vez más personas—de diferentes niveles de ingresos—se unen al creciente movimiento de fieles mayordomos comprometidos a hacer el trabajo de Dios en el mundo, que están haciendo disposiciones en sus testamentos para crear fondos benéficos (del diez, veinticinco y a veces hasta del cincuenta por ciento) de sus patrimonios para beneficiar a instituciones, incluyendo su iglesia.

Ejercitar nuestra necesidad de dar—compartiendo el dinero que tenemos de manera abierta—es una de las formas importantes y críticas en las que podemos convertirnos en agentes de la creación en expansión de Dios. El dinero que dedicamos a nuestros compromisos más importantes nutre nuestras almas—y nuestro mundo.

Los invito a sentarnos con Dios a la mesa. Paz,

Mark M. Beehew

House of Bishops debates primates' directive

By Jerry Hames

When Episcopal bishops gathered in New Orleans from Sept. 20-25, they faced a decision they knew would affect their church's relationship with the worldwide Anglican Communion for years to come.

It was yet another step in the tension-saturated communion that sometimes has descended into a war of words by polarizing factions in meetings and on the Internet since General Convention in 2003 approved the consecration of V. Gene Robinson, an openly gay bishop in the Diocese of New Hampshire.

At the top of the bishops' agenda was a directive issued by the primates of the Anglican Communion last February that the church stop consecrating openly gay and lesbian bishops and that it ban the blessing of same-gender unions or risk a diminished status in the Anglican Communion by being relegated to some kind of associate member without vote. The deadline the primates set was Sept. 30.

One year ago, members of the both the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Church of Canada voluntarily relinquished their right to voice and vote at the Anglican Consultative Council and sat among the observers at the council's meeting in Nottingham, England, as a temporary move to attempt to keep each

of the communion's 38 provinces at the table.

[Some gay unions have been blessed in the Canadian church, although it has no openly gay bishops.]

Meeting with Canterbury

Interviews in the weeks before the New Orleans meeting gave little indication as to what the bishops would decide. Bishop Mark Beckwith said he was reluctant to say anything before the meeting.

"We are looking forward to having the opportunity to engage with the archbishop of Canterbury on an open, honest and respectful level," he said.

It was the first time Archbishop Rowan Williams had met with any Episcopal decision-making body, although he has visited the United States for parish fund-raisers and most recently for a summer retreat.

One major hurdle for Episcopal bishops and church legislators is to explain the difference in their church's polity to others in the communion. Unlike bishops in more-hierarchical provinces — such as in African countries where the sole responsibility of electing new bishops resides with the House of Bishops — bishops here cannot legislate on behalf of the church. Authority is shared among

bishops, clergy and laity, both in the election of new bishops and at General Convention, where policy and church doctrine are debated and decided.

Last year, bishops and deputies at General Convention, acknowledging deep divisions within the church, as well as the communion, over the question of the full church participation of gays and lesbians, called upon dioceses to restrain from electing bishops "whose manner of life presents a challenge to the wider church."

General Convention also agreed to enter into a process to create with the communion's other provinces an "unequivocal common covenant" and expressed its commitment to interdependence in the Anglican Communion.

Diocesan responses

About 35 dioceses formally responded to questions in a study document to assist Episcopal bishops in preparing a response to the primates' demands. The bishops received copies of those responses when they met in New Orleans.

Alabama Bishop Henry Parsley, chair of the House of Bishops Theology Committee, which released a 15-page *Communion Matters: A Study Document for the Episcopal*

Church in June, said he did not want to say much about the content of dioceses' responses in advance.

But he said: "Across the board, [people] say the communion is enormously valuable to them for all kinds of reasons: shared ministry, catholicity, our Christian heritage, the apostolic succession and the English episcopate, diocesan companionships, multicultural diversity, all sorts of things."

"People [say] that one of the great gifts we have is that our tradition gives us a way to be different and yet share one table; to have diversity of views but worship together in the spirit of the Elizabethan Settlement [which] has given us a commitment to breadth and inclusivity, and unity in diversity that is a wonderful theme in our heritage. That seemed to resonate with people."

The House of Bishops was meeting as The Voice went to press. For more information, see the news links on the diocesan website at <http://www.dioceseofnewark.org/am/voxonline.shtml> or visit Episcopal Life Online at <http://www.episcopalchurch.org/elifelife/>.

Jerry Hames is former editor of Episcopal Life. He lives in the Diocese of New Jersey.

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Williams elected UBE president

By Sharon Sheridan

The Very Rev. C. David Williams says he was surprised when the Union of Black Episcopalians elected him for a three-year term as president at its annual meeting and conference in Houston in July. But it comes at a good time for him as a veteran of the civil rights era, with shades of those days reappearing in American society, he says, citing a recent racially charged conflict among students in Jena, La., as an example.

In an organization somewhat "settled in its ways," he says, his job is "to kind of shake them up and let them see that the race is not won." Anyone believing the country is fully integrated should look at Jena, he says. "They ought to take a look at what's happening with the economic structure of this nation and who's suffering the most."

"The other most important thing for me as president is to help the national church see that partnership, true partnership with the Union of Black Episcopalians, is a necessary thing," says Williams, dean and rector of Trinity and St. Philip's Cathedral in Newark. "I think we make excellent partners, and I think it's time for the church to recognize that."

"We are assaulted, not only from within, but from without in terms of the politics of the Anglican Communion," he says. "I'm presenting a voice ... that can be heard clearly about where we stand as black people in the church on certain issues. They're now accepting the voices of people [who] are outsiders, like Archbishop Peter Akinola in Africa. ... Not all African-Americans feel as he does, and that voice has to be heard."

Williams says he was buoyed by the presence at the convention of Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori and House of Deputies President Bonnie Anderson, both of whom urged UBE members to "speak through our own voices."

"And, by golly, I intend to speak," he says.

Williams succeeds the Rev. Nelson Pinder, who increased UBE membership, added chapters and began a partnership with the Episcopal Church Foundation to assist and empower UBE to develop financial, informational and leadership resources for its mission and ministry. UBE assists ECF in connecting with multicultural Episcopal congregations and in developing leadership resource tools.



Time capsule

St. John's Memorial Episcopal Church, Ramsey, concluded its year-long centennial commemoration by creating a time capsule. It included mementoes such as photographs from recent events, letters from church school students, a book of the church's history documented by Doris Latham, music by the organist and choir, some of the Quilters Guild's handiwork and samples from last year's Holiday Fair. Pictured with the capsule, scheduled for reopening in 25 years, are Ron Roshong and celebration co-leaders Emily and Jeff Kittross.

Bishop to facilitate retreat

By Anne Agostin

To prepare for the quiet anticipation of Advent, laity and clergy are invited to participate in a retreat facilitated by Bishop Mark Beckwith from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Nov. 3 at Christ Church, Pompton Plains.

The diocesan Christian Formation Commission is sponsoring the event, *Everyday Christians – When Sunday Isn't Enough*, to make people aware that spirituality and spiritual development are an integral part of our ongoing formation as Christians, said the Rev. Ronnie Stout-Kopp, event co-chair and associate at Church of the Good Shepard, Midland Park.

"Soul work is absolutely essential to our Christian journey," she said, adding she hoped people would leave the retreat more grounded and centered coming into Advent.

Retreats are an important practice of removing oneself from the everyday patterns of life and becoming quiet in order to make oneself available to the movement of the Spirit, said the Rev. Laurie Matarazzo, event co-chair and assistant at Calvary Church, Summit.

Beckwith frequently partakes in quiet retreats as part of his own spiritual practice.

"The Nov. 3rd retreat day provides the Christian Formation Commission an oppor-

tunity to support individual and corporate spiritual practices, and to showcase a variety of those practices – verbal, physical, aesthetic and silent – for people's benefit and learning," he said. "Centering in and on the Divine Mystery is not only holy work, but healthy living – not just for ourselves, but for others as well."

The day will include talks by Beckwith about his own spiritual practices and stories of Advent. Kathy Coffey of Church of the Atonement, Fair Lawn, will talk about Taize and what it means to her. She also will lead participants in several chants.

There will be opportunities throughout the day for silent, contemplative retreat and meditation, with space available for conducting meaningful conversation for any participants who are less comfortable with silence. Two priests will be available for those seeking one-on-one conversation with clergy.

Breakfast and lunch will be served, and the day will end with a Eucharist.

A donation of \$15 per participant is requested. Reservations will be limited. For more information and to register, contact Kitty Kawecki at 973-430-9902 or kkawecki@dioceseofnewark.org.

Anne Agostin is a member of St. Peter's, Morristown.

Serving our neighbors

For some members of the diocese, summer vacation meant more than family excursions or fun in the sun. It provided an opportunity to serve others through mission trips around the country and abroad. On these pages, and on the diocesan website at <http://www.dioceseofnewark.org/am/voxonline.shtml>, we highlight reflections and photographs from some of this year's mission experiences. These trips include:

Visiting Belize. Twenty-one people younger than 18 and 14 adults trekked to a remote mountain village near the Guatemalan border to build a playground for the young children there and to refurbish and paint the community center. The playground was designed by an architect who attends St. Paul's, Chatham, which has been sending toys, clothing and first-aid supplies to the village for two years. Barbara Conroy, St. Paul's parish nurse, and several of her assistants also held a wellness clinic in the community center and visited the homes of 10 elderly people unable to make the short journey to the clinic.

Visiting India. On Aug. 4, more than 1,000 people gathered for the dedication of the new St. Peter's English Medium School building in Kothapallimitta, India, a village about three hours outside of Chennai (formerly called Madras). Those gathered included companions from the United States: five people from St. Alban's, Oakland, and eight from St. Peter's, Morristown. Along with the local

church in Kothapallimitta, these churches helped to conceive and build this primary school. The school provides education for those children previously known as "untouchables," who otherwise would not be afforded an education. Also attending the ceremony were the bishop of Madras, the state minister of law and education, local clergy, government officials and other dignitaries.

Visiting Panama. Diocesan Youth Missioner Kaileen Alston led four youth from four congregations and one parish youth minister to visit our companion diocese of Panama.

Visiting Western New York. Senior high youth group members from Christ Episcopal Church in Bloomfield/Glen Ridge traveled in July to Perry, N.Y., where they combined with local youth from several rural churches. The group included the Rev. Anne Koehler, Pamela Anazodo, Michael Anazodo, Janel Ramirez, MeKenya Ramirez, Rita Taste, Eddy Ndichie, Emeka Ndichie, Adaobi Ndichie and Aurelia Good.

The group volunteered with VIVE INC., a nonprofit organization in Buffalo dedicated to helping refugees seeking protection in Canada or the United States, by providing child care, helping make and serve meals, and cleaning hallways, dormitories and the outside of the building. In Rochester, the volunteers organized supplies, checked products for

safety and loaded pallets of food at the Food Bank International warehouse. Group members also helped a local church run a community family carnival, visited residents in a nursing home, toured a dairy farm, learned about rural poverty and why it isn't very different from city poverty, and assisted a local church with a yard sale.

Visiting West Virginia. The youth group of St. Mary's, Belvidere, traveled to Hedgesville, W.Va., in June on a trip sponsored through Team Effort and supported by the church's outreach program. The youth tackled outdoor cleanup at a youth home and at the homes of people in need of support.

Also in June, ten youth and three adults from Grace, Madison, volunteered at the Almost Heaven Habitat for Humanity work group in Franklin, W.Va.

Visiting Virginia. Three adults and seven youth from St. Peter's, Essex Fells, rehabilitated homes in Virginia through Group Work Camps.

Earlier in the year, diocesan members volunteered on two mission trips to New Orleans. The Rev. Joanne O'Neill, deacon at Church of the Atonement in Tenafly, participated in a mission trip involving 19 deacons from around the country in helping to rebuild the city. And ten teens and four adult leaders from Calvary, Summit, helped with post-Hurricane Katrina cleanup in April.



Above, children celebrate the opening of their new primary school in Kothapallimitta, India. Right, a youth from St. Mary's, Belvidere, helps out in West Virginia.



Above, youth group members from Christ Church in Bloomfield/Glen Ridge visit Western New York.

Fascinating sights, new friends in India

By Alessandro Taormina

I traveled to India waiting and watching for incredible things. When I finally arrived, I was not disappointed.

India holds many unique and extraordinary sights, sounds and experiences. We first arrived in Delhi, where your first impression is chaos. Driving consists of primarily honking to tell the car, or auto rickshaw, to get out of your way. Driving this way seemed insane, but as I traveled deeper and deeper into India, I found that it also was very effective.

Money drives everything and everyone, creating very aggressive "wallas" and, for that matter, beggars. These people make up the bulk of India within the cities, so if you are white and walking in India, expect to deny many inquiries for charity and patronage.

Diverse species of animals, from goats to monkeys, roamed the streets and the rooftops. As our car drove from place to place, we saw herds of water buffalo, goats and cows stroll by with herders at the front and back.

Agra was our first destination of choice,

and this housed the jewel of India, the Taj Mahal. The solid-white marble memorial of love recently was elected the No. 1 wonder of the world, and its tremendous beauty can only be understood in person.

Next up was Jaipur, which is a very Westernized city. Overall this is my favorite city from India that I experienced, partially because of the organization, but also because we received the best massages of our lives.

We then returned to Delhi as our last destination before heading south to the school, and there we experienced the bazaars, which seemed like they were taken directly out of *Aladdin*. Haggling was the norm, and there you could buy anything that fit into your hand. But remember, always undercut the *walla* by one quarter of what he wants. And then ignore his whining. (It always works — just ask my traveling companion, Danielle.)

We then traveled to South India, where we primarily remained around Chennai, visiting the Rev. Ernest Selvadurai with his church and family. We met many wonderful friends in South

India and found how nice it is to have friends in a foreign country. The hospitality is amazing in India, and you never leave a friend's house without a stuffed stomach.

The culmination of our trip was visiting St. Peter's English Secondary School. As the honored guests of the school for our companionship, we got a sneak peek at the beautiful school before it was publicly unveiled.

It is a beautiful thing, and it will be a great place for many children to receive a fantastic education. It looked so fantastic that we dubbed it the "St. Peter's Mahal."

The name definitely fit, especially with decorative lights on at night. Our only hope is that the children who go there can use this school as a stepping stone towards success for Kothapallimitta and for themselves in the world.

Overall, India was a wonderful place, and I definitely would like to go back there again.

Alessandro Taormina is a member of St. Peter's, Morristown, and a junior at the College of New Jersey.



Left, well, Belvidere, in In

Panama reflections: Stretching our boundaries and spreading our wings

By Kaileen T. Alston

Summer is a time for growth and adventure. So, in the spirit of broadening our horizons, I led a group of four youth, Lily Byerly (All Saints', Leonia), Janelle Grant (St. Paul's, Paterson), Helen Hoxie (St. Stephen's, Millburn) and Ashlee Saro (House of Prayer, Newark), and one other youth minister (Tim Wong of St. Paul's, Chatham) on a trip to our companion diocese of Panama.

We departed from Newark Airport with great anticipation and varying levels of Spanish proficiency. But we returned as a strengthened community with Panamanian slang and memories and relationships to last a lifetime.

When we arrived in Panama, we were almost overwhelmed by the cadre of 20 or so young people and adults who welcomed us at the airport. They received us like family who had been eagerly anticipated. From then on, we laughed and learned with our new friends. The youth and adults who spoke English readily translated for us, and we quickly became more comfortable speaking *en español*.

We spent part of our visit at a program called *Raíces* (Spanish for "Roots") at the di-

ocesan camp in Santa Clara. In true Episcopal fashion, the retreat had three foci: religion, culture and tradition. The youth and adults explored the ways in which these aspects influence our lives through discussion, arts and crafts, dance, music and Bible study.

Bishop Julio Murray Thompson was present for the entire four-day camp session. He led a workshop on the first night and enjoyed fellowship with the youth. Other clergy and lay adults also were instrumental in nurturing the youth's leadership skills and spiritual depth. Like our diocesan youth ministry, theirs is clearly a fun, dynamic and supportive community.

I was so proud of how eager our youth were to learn from and share with our companions. We all began to understand Spanish more. Helen's athletic prowess and fun-loving nature were on full display when the group played good, old-fashioned camp games.

Very quickly, nerves turned to laughter and new names became easier to pronounce. Our group developed strategies to cope with the intense heat and humidity, and Lily emerged as our defender against insects at camp.

Tim developed a wonderful friendship with a young man named Eric from the Diocese of El Salvador. Interestingly, Tim doesn't speak Spanish, and Eric only had been studying English for four months. Nevertheless, they enunciated and gestured their way through meals and walks across the camp and were often seen laughing appreciatively at each others' efforts.

On our last full day in Panama, their diocesan youth director, Reyito, and some of the Panamanian youth took us to the Panama Canal and a shopping mall. Janelle especially enjoyed being able to engage in the age-old Jersey pastime of shopping, and by then Ashlee was cracking jokes in *Spanglish*.

I'm sure youth from our diocese will visit Panama again soon. They'll laugh, sweat, explore and grow just as we did. In the meantime, I thank God for our companion relationship and the opportunities that we had to weave our bonds tighter. Until we meet again, I wish for our Panamanian *la bendición de Dios* (God's blessing).

Kaileen T. Alston is diocesan youth missionary.

Clockwise from left, the new St. Peter's English Secondary School in India; having fun in Belize; and testing the controls at the Panama Canal museum.



a boy receives a wellness checkup in Belize. Right, trying out transportation via camel in India.



Children in Belize "throw a brick" for the Diocese of Newark in the "Brick City" of Newark and, right, 1-month-old Vivien undergoes her wellness visit at the clinic in Belize. Vivien's mother and brother Gideon, 2, are in the background.



Left, missionaries from the Diocese of Newark dance with friends on their last evening in Panama.



Playing, praying and problem-solving in Belize

By Elizabeth Kaeton

We've been doing Summer Youth Mission Trips for four years at St. Paul's. From all reports, this trip to Belize was very, very different. With 21 people younger than 18 years old, it was one of the largest groups. It was the first time, however, so many adults also made the journey: 14, to be exact.

Thirty-five people were deeply engaged in service to the community of San Antonio, a remote village nestled among rolling hills of forests lush with mahogany, ancient Mayan ruins and deep, mysterious stalactite caves near the Guatemalan border. We built a playground, painted a community center and held a Wellness and Dental Clinic.

We were challenged to be creatively adaptive when our American drills burned out under the hard Belizean mahogany wood. The careful American architectural plans for the playground had to be adapted, necessitating young men and women, boys and girls, North

and Central Americans to problem-solve together.

The state doctor assigned to San Antonio was delayed by emergencies in Belize City, so we concentrated our efforts on prevention and early intervention. The clinic was packed every day with people, which gave rise to the opportunity for some of our kids to learn how to take blood pressures, check temperatures and pulses, and treat what seemed like an epidemic of warts. Together with some of our young people, we visited the sick and dying in their homes.

We also made time to play "American football" every day at 3 p.m. with the young village boys. In short, we formed community with each other and with the community of San Antonio, sharing experiences that will shape and form and forever change the way we view the world — each other's and God's.

The Rev. Elizabeth Kaeton is rector of St. Paul's, Chatham.



Home builders

Teen teens and three adult leaders from Grace, Madison, loaded hammers and sunblock into two vans and headed for West Virginia to build homes for Habitat for Humanity. They packed their lunches every night, worshiped together twice daily and learned the finer points of spreading concrete in the pouring rain. They also donated \$1,500 they raised through a car wash, pasta dinner and coffee sales to help give four families new homes.

Diocesan roundup

Interim canon appointed

The Rev. Denise Haines has joined the diocesan staff as interim canon for mission and ministry.

Haines was assistant rector and priest-in-charge of St. Paul's, Chatham, from 1977-83 and diocesan canon for mission and ministry from 1983-89, serving as deployment officer and working with urban churches and clergy. She retired two years ago after 16 years working in hospital chaplaincy and as a clinical pastoral education supervisor, most recently as director of education and community outreach at HealthCare Chaplaincy in New York.

Haines' responsibilities include being the staff person for Fresh Start, the Clergy Compensation Commission and Jersey City Area Ministry and providing senior staff support for property management. She shares the clergy and congregation transition process with Canon R. Carter Echols and will supervise some staff.

Initially, Haines will work three-quarters time, said Bishop Mark Beckwith in announcing her appointment. "The plan is to have her work with us until the end of June 2008 – at which time I will have greater clarity as to what a permanent position will involve."

"Denise brings a wealth of wisdom and experience to this interim position," he said. "She will offer valuable insight and unique gifts to our life during this period of transition."

Pebble in My Shoe tickets

Tickets are available for the New Jersey debut of *A Pebble in My Shoe: The Life and Times of John Shelby Spong* and a reception following the performance at the Bickford Theater at the Morris Museum in Morris Township at 3 p.m. Nov. 10.

Written and directed by Colin Cox, the show is based on Spong's autobiography *Here I Stand: My Struggle for a Christianity of Integrity, Love and Equality*. It stars Stephan Wolfert, Dawn Stern and Mike Peebler.

Will & Company first produced the show at the Los Angeles Theatre Center as part of EdgeFest 2005. Since then, it has toured nationwide and was the 2006 GLAAD award nominee for outstanding theater in Los Angeles. Friends of Jack Spong is sponsoring the New Jersey performance.

"I am grateful that several leaders in the diocese have taken the initiative to bring the production of *A Pebble in My Shoe* to the Diocese of Newark," said Bishop Mark Beckwith, honorary chair of the event. "Nov. 11 will be a wonderful opportunity to honor the witness and legacy of our eighth bishop—the Rt. Rev. John Shelby Spong—who continues to share his wisdom and passion to the wider church and beyond."

Tickets cost \$35 and are available through the theater box office, 973-971-3706. For more information, contact Pauline Wang at 973-267-6886, ext. 102, or pfw888@gmail.com.

Girls at Risk conference

State of Emergency: Our Girls at Risk, a conference sponsored by the Women's Commission, Episcopal Church Women and Youth Ministries, has been postponed until the spring of 2008.

This is a follow-up to the commission's *Killing Us Softly* video presentation (which reviews the images of women in advertising) and follows commission members' viewing of the exhibit and photography book *Girl Culture*. The book depicts today's societal trends emphasizing appearance, sex and clothes as the most important components of a young girl's life.

Conference planners hope to inspire participants to use the speakers' insights on health, education and violence to provide more wholesome outlets for girls in their congregations and communities. The Beijing Circle

process will be used for both learning in greater depth about the subjects and determining appropriate actions for specific locations.

The \$25 fee will cover conference costs, coffee and pastries, lunch and a copy of the Beijing Circles manual. For more information, contact Martha Gardner at mgardner25@att.net, Ellen Sloan at sloan@gts.edu, Pat Yankus at pyankus43@msn.net or Marge Christie at mrg713@optonline.net.

Grants deadline Oct. 12

Oct. 12 is the deadline for applications for grants from Episcopal Response to AIDS, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to support, foster and financially enable HIV/AIDS ministries affiliated with Episcopal faith communities in the greater New York area. ERA is staffed by a volunteer board of directors, all of whom belong to Episcopal parishes from the dioceses of Newark, Long Island and New York. ERA anticipates awarding up to \$30,000 for 2008. Guidelines for grant proposals and applications can be downloaded at www.erany.org.

Special-needs worship

Christ Church, Budd Lake, has inaugurated All God's Children, a nondenominational Christian worship service designed to appeal to children of all ages, with a particular welcome for those with autism, PDD-NOS, ADHD, ADD, Down syndrome or other developmental or physical challenges.

A brief fellowship session following each service offers parents a chance to share information. The services will be held the first Sunday of each month from 9-9:30 a.m. at the wheelchair-accessible church.

For details, call 973-347-1866 or e-mail rbonker@post.harvard.edu.

Selected for pilot project

Eight congregations in the Diocese of Newark were among 30 nationwide selected to participate in the Where Two or Three Are Gathered pilot project of the Office of Congregational Development at the Episcopal Church Center in New York. This project offers information and training to smaller congregations interested in growing by adding a new worship service.

Those selected from the diocese were: Trinity, Bayonne; Christ Church, Budd Lake; Holy Trinity, Hillsdale; St. John's, Union City; St. Luke's, Hawarth; St. Luke's, Hope; Incarnation, Jersey City; and Holy Spirit, Verona. St. John's, Elizabeth, in the Diocese of New Jersey also was invited.

Historic church receives grant

The 100-year-old Church of the Epiphany, Orange, recently received a \$37,000 grant from New Jersey Historic Trust. The church is working with architects Eric Holtermann & Margaret Newman of Holt · Morgan · Russell Architects to place Epiphany on the National Register of Historic Places and to develop a master rehabilitation plan that will be a vestry resource and strategy map for future capital-improvement projects.

Healing ministry workshop

St. George's in Maplewood will host a day of reflection, learning and prayer in healing traditions on Oct. 20. The day will include a keynote address and workshops and prayer groups led by people experienced in various prayer traditions – from Christian anointing and laying on of hands to therapeutic touch and reiki. Workshops will be offered on prayer styles and on starting a healing ministry in churches.

Snacks will be provided, but attendees are encouraged to bring their own lunches. Indi-

See "Roundup" page 7



Save the date... Saturday, November 10, 2007
9 am – 3 pm

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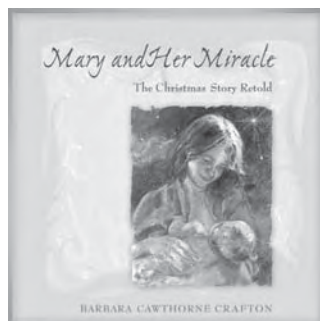
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Don't let *The Voice* go silent!

In each issue, *The Voice* reports on the news and ministries of our diocese. We chronicle the actions of convention, church leaders and diocesan committees and commissions. We spread the word about the many activities of our congregations, large and small, and their faithful members. We provide a forum for listening to diverse voices across the diocese.

In short, our mission is to give voice to the voices of the Diocese of Newark.

But *The Voice* needs your support. With rising printing costs and continued diocesan budget challenges, contributions from readers can help ensure that we continue to publish on a regular basis.

If you value *The Voice* as an important resource, make your voice heard. Please make a contribution in the envelope provided, or send a check payable to *The Voice* to Episcopal Diocese of Newark, attn.: *The Voice*, 31 Mulberry St., Newark, NJ 07102.



Mission crew

Volunteers from St. Peter's, Essex Fells, helped rehabilitate homes in Virginia this summer.

Clergy comings and goings

The summer brought the Rev. **J. Barrington Bates** as rector for Annunciation, Oradell, from Church of the Ascension in New York and transitional deacons **Nick Lannon** from Trinity Episcopal School for Ministry as assistant at Grace Van Vorst, Jersey City, and **Nathanael David LeRud** and **Megan Sanders**, both from General Theological Seminary, as curate at Christ Church in Ridgewood and assistant at St. Peter's, Essex Fells, respectively.

Three congregations welcomed interim clergy over the summer. The Rev. **Diane Rhodes** went to St. Andrew's, Harrington Park. St. Peter's, Morristown, welcomed the Rev. **Robert Shearer** from the Diocese of New Jersey. And the Rev. **C. Leslie Smith**

returned to the diocese after 18 years to serve at Christ Church, Short Hills.

The Rev. **Edgar Gutierrez-Duarte** left St. Paul's, Paterson, to become rector of St. Luke/San Lucas, Chelsea, in the Diocese of Massachusetts. The Rev. **Eric Hinds** left St. Peter's, Mountain Lakes, to become rector of St. Matthew's Church, San Mateo, Calif. The Rev. **Jill McNish** became priest-in-charge at Trinity Church, Swedesboro. The Rev. **Allison Read**'s last Sunday as priest associate at Christ Church, Short Hills, was June 24.

This fall, The Rev. **E. Michael Allen** becomes rector at Epiphany, Allendale, after serving in several parishes in the Diocese of New York. The Rev. **Christopher Bishop**, a

recent graduate of the Lutheran Seminary in Philadelphia and the Virginia Theological Seminary, becomes the new associate and chaplain to the day school at All Saints', Hoboken. The Rev. **Susan Butler** becomes the interim priest at St. Peter's, Mountain Lakes, having just finished at Epiphany, Allendale.

The Rev. **Michael Gerhardt** has accepted a new full-time position as chaplain resident at Westchester Medical Center in Valhalla, N.Y., and the Rev. **Kendra McIntosh** is coming from the Diocese of New York to serve as rector of St. Thomas, Lyndhurst.

The Rev. **Tom Mathews** leaves Grace, Madison, to become rector at St. Luke's,

Phillipsburg. The Rev. **Thomas Murphy**, a recent graduate of General Theological Seminary, becomes curate at Grace, Madison. The Rev. **Margaret Otterburn** returns to the diocese from Minnesota to serve as rector at Messiah in Chester. And the Rev. **Willie Smith** is rector at Trinity, Cliffside Park, after serving two years as the congregation's priest-in-charge.

The Rev. **Richard Anderson** has been called to serve as the interim priest for St. Andrew's, Lincoln Park, in addition to serving as interim for Church of the Transfiguration, Towaco. In August, the vestries of the two congregations unanimously voted to yoke their ministries.

SHORT COURSES

January 2008 ♦ All Are Welcome

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JANUARY 7 - 11

Contemplative Practice & Religious Reflection in Buddhism and Christianity

The Rev. Dr. James Jones

Learn the theory and practice of Christian and Buddhist meditations and spiritual disciplines and how they could be integrated to enhance our Christian life and theology.

JANUARY 14 - 18

Temple of the Spirit: the Body & Prayer

The Rev. Nancy Roth

Experience the integration of body and spirit which can enrich our Christian faith through physical spiritual exercises, reflections on scripture, theology and personal experience.

JANUARY 21 - 25

Imagination of the Medieval Church: Art, Poetry & Spirituality 500 - 1500

The Rev. Dr. Clair McPherson

Explore medieval spirituality through the theology, poetry, visual arts & architecture of the Middle Ages, with insights from St. Gregory, St. Anselm, St. Bernard & Peter Abelard.

Roundup

Continued from page 6

viduals may attend the whole day or part of it as their time allows. A \$10 donation is requested. RSVPs are encouraged but not required.

For more information, call 973-762-1319 or visit www.stgeorges-maplewood.org.

Interfaith programs offered

An Interfaith Women's Tea sponsored by Interweave and the Ecumenical and Inter-religious Commission will be held at the rectory of Atonement, Tenafly, from 3-5 p.m. Oct. 28. A Christian-Muslim Forum will be held at 7 p.m. Oct. 29 at the Islamic Center of Passaic, featuring speakers the Rev. Bob Morris of Interweave and Imam Hendi, Muslim chaplain at Georgetown University. For information on either event, contact the Rev. Lynne Bleich Weber at lynne.weber@verizon.net or 201-568-1763.

U2charist to aid school

St. Luke's, Montclair, will host a U2charist at 7 p.m. Oct. 27 to benefit the *Hogar de Niñas*

(Girls' School) founded 75 years ago by the Episcopal Church in response to the growing number of children orphaned during the building of the Panama Canal. The Episcopal Diocese of Panama runs the school, which houses 22 girls, ages 8 to 16, who have no parents or come from families that cannot care for them. About half are Kuna, the indigenous people of the island. Without such schools, many girls fall into prostitution, which is legal in Panama.

St. Luke's; Christ Church, Bloomfield/Glen Ridge; Grace, Nutley; St. James', Upper Montclair; and St. John's, Montclair, are sponsoring this service. For information, call 973-744-0270.

Alternative gift fair planned

St. Stephen's in Millburn will host an Alternative Gift Fair from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Oct. 13. Individuals from local, national and international charitable organizations will represent health, environment, children, poverty and homelessness programs. Shoppers can make donations to the charities in people's names as gifts.

For more information, contact Deacon Lynn Czarniecki at czarniecki@optonline.net.

Convention

Continued from page 1

Diocesan Council, gives notice of all conventions, takes minutes of convention proceedings, preserves convention journals and records, attests to the public acts of the convention and performs other services as prescribed by the canons or the convention.

Treasurer & Assistant Treasurer: communicants in good standing to submit a statement of diocesan accounts to each annual convention. The assistant performs duties as assigned by the treasurer.

Additional nomination information and forms are available at

www.dioceseofnewark.org/convention or by contacting Nominations Committee Chair Naomi Horsky at 973-827-5085 or horskyn@wpunj.edu; Vice Chair Issie Cherevko at issiecher@yahoo.com; or Secretary of Convention Michael Francaviglia at 973-430-9919 or mfrancaviglia@dioceseofnewark.org.

The committee seeks diversity in the slates of candidates with regard to race, age (16+), gender, sexual orientation, physical disabilities, economic backgrounds and theological viewpoints.

To register, please contact James Murphy at murphy@gts.edu or by phone at 888-487-5649 x461. Housing available at the Desmond Tutu Center.

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The
General
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Developing urban opportunities and hope

By Jim Murphy

While mainstream media often reflect a negative view of life in Newark and other urban areas, diocesan organizations such as Episcopal Community Development work diligently to improve the lives of the people who live there.

"ECD is yet another remarkably creative and effective ministry in the Diocese of Newark," said Bishop Mark Beckwith. "When I was rector of Christ Church, Hackensack (1985-1993), [diocesan Treasurer] John Zinn brought together a group of clergy and laypeople to create an entity that would respond to the needs of low-income housing. Using funds that had long before been designated for redevelopment, we launched Episcopal Community Development.

"I don't think any of us could have imagined the impact that ECD has had over the past 15 years. Well over 100 owner-occupied units have been built, which have not only provided opportunities for ownership for families, but the building projects have served as catalysts for the transformation of neighborhoods. The quality of support provided by the staff of ECD to prospective clients and residents of ECD units is well-recognized."

ECD's stated mission is "to provide community development in disadvantaged communities throughout the seven northern counties of New Jersey through technical assistance, housing-development services, direct housing construction, neighborhood planning and targeted youth development."

Founded in 1991 in response to the Episcopal Church's mandate for a unique and localized response to the call for economic justice, ECD initially focused on developing and coordinating affordable rental housing. Toward that end, it supported various local initiatives in Paterson, Jersey City and Newark.

Starting with the Samaritan Project, which rehabilitated three city-owned houses in Newark in 1997, the organization has focused on promoting home ownership and revitalizing neighborhoods through building and renovating properties for low-income buyers. More recently, ECD also has sought to

provide support and guidance for community development and planning for housing, recreation and common facilities to serve all constituencies, including those with special needs.

ECD can contribute to an urban community's "holistic solution by looking beyond just its buildings and fences," explained Executive Director Gerard Haizel.

While city bureaucracies once presented roadblocks for projects, in recent years ECD has been able to work more effectively with local government officials, who see the long-term benefits for their communities, Haizel said. Today, the ministry's greatest challenge is acquiring properties because of the increased speculative real estate boom in Newark, according to Haizel and ECD Director of Development Jackie Ross. They also cited ongoing difficulty in securing the funds to continue operating throughout their housing projects. It can take up to two years from property acquisition through pre-development to the simultaneous construction and search for a buyer.

One of ECD's most successful programs is the First-time Homebuyer Education Program, which is available free to anyone interested.

After ECD began focusing on encouraging the purchase of homes in the late 1990s, it became apparent that many buyers required guidance and training as they prepared to buy a home, Ross said. Directed by Patricia Hawkins, the education program offers classes covering topics such as understanding and maintaining budgets (before and after a home purchase), the basics of mortgages, credit and insurance, preventative maintenance and legal issues.

Hawkins' efforts also helped ECD to become a HUD certified-counseling agency in 2006. Over the past seven years, ECD has trained more than 500 individuals. Among homebuyers who went through the program and also bought an ECD property, there have been no foreclosures, noted Hawkins.

Other ECD endeavors include a mobile lead-testing and education program symbolized by the character of *Leadie*



ECD rehabilitated this house in partnership with YouthBuild Newark in 2006.

Eddie and the program YouthBuild.

Founded in 2003, YouthBuild was the first program of its kind in Newark. Working primarily with young men re-entering society after incarceration or probation, it trains youths ages 16 to 24 in the many skills of the construction industry.

YouthBuild now is an independent ministry, but ECD maintains a close relationship with the organization and its graduates. Many participants receive their on-the-job training in ECD projects.

To learn more about ECD's programs or how to get involved in its ministries, contact Gerard Haizel at 973-430-9986.

Jim Murphy is a member of St. Peter's, Morristown.



Batter up!

Bishop Jack Croneberger took the mound for a "no-rules-allowed" softball game on Aug. 24, when the softball field in his name was dedicated at Cross Roads Camp and Retreat Center.

Nov. 6 hearing on proposed canon

The Role Clarification Task Force will hold a hearing Nov. 6 to present a draft of a proposed canon on the role of the diocesan Trustees of the Episcopal Fund and Diocesan Properties and to receive feedback before the draft is presented to the Committee on Constitutions and Canons for action at the 2008 diocesan convention. All are welcome at the hearing, which begins at 7:30 p.m. at Church of the Saviour, Denville.

Bishop Mark Beckwith appointed the task force in response to a 2007 convention resolution. The task force is composed of representatives from various diocesan entities with shared leadership responsibility for the diocese, including Beckwith; the Rev. Elizabeth Kaeton and Patrice Henderson from the Standing Committee; the Rev. Beverly Huck, former Standing Committee member; Carol Taylor and the Rev. Paul Olsson from Diocesan Council; John Garde and Carlotta Budd from the trustees; Howard Mackey from the Diocesan Invest-

ment Trust; and Chancellor Diane Sammons.

Led by outside facilitator Del Glover, the task force reviewed the structure and governance work of groups represented; heard ways members would like to see the groups collaborate with the Bishop's Office; discussed the by-laws, national and local canons, and state statutes that empower these groups; and analyzed where these documents are silent on a particular subject, raising questions about the diocesan practice. Members also shared historical information about the diocese and discussed conflicts between groups, Olsson reports. "To date, the RCTF meetings can be credited with educating members of the team on diocesan history and protocols, and bringing into the dialogue the DIT, which traditionally had no regular working relationship with the other groups."

The draft will be available for review before Nov. 6 at <http://www.dioceseofnewark.org/am/voxonline.shtml>.