



Delaware Communion is an edition of Episcopal Life and has been in continuous publication since 1976.

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ON THE WEB

www.DioceesofDelaware.net

Convention's Coming: Save the Date!

The 223rd Convention of the Diocese of Delaware will take place April 11, 2008 at St. Philip's Episcopal Church in Laurel. For details, contact the diocese, 656-5441.

Diocesan Katrina Response Appreciated

There's a great article in the Diocese of Louisiana's quarterly *ChurchWork* magazine about what our diocese has been doing to support their continuing Katrina recovery efforts. While folks from many Delaware parishes have participated, special kudos go to Vicki Anthos and her team at Immanuel Church, Highlands for their continuing leadership. Go to the *Communion* page of DioceesofDelaware.net to find a link to the story.

And our work isn't done: Just a couple short months until the next mission trip! You can be part of this effort. The Diocese of Louisiana has asked us to consider helping them with two urgent needs: they are in particular need of financial support for medical care, and they need to replace lost funding for their Mobile Care Unit. You can make a donation to them directly at www.edola.org or you can also purchase one of the NOLA bracelets that Vicki and her team are selling to raise funds to respond to these needs.

DELAWARE Communion

Episcopal Life Edition

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PARISH LIFE DAY REFLECTIONS

Our Common Life: Parish Life Day 2007 *by Jen Mason, Editor*

We all know that a parish is not just the buildings we inhabit or even the clergy who lead us; rather a parish is the people who gather together in Christian community to worship and do God's work. But did you ever stop to think that something similar can be said of a diocese?

A diocese isn't just some business office of the church, and it isn't even the bishop who oversees it. A diocese isn't a "they" at all: a diocese is a group of parishes, bound together in love and service to God. And since those parishes are people, the diocese is as well. A diocese is always a "we."

For five years, the Diocese of Delaware has been convening to celebrate our common life in Parish Life Day, and we gathered again in 2007 on Saturday, November 17. The day is a mixture of worship, fellowship, and continuing Christian education, with a rich array of workshops offered from practical parish and family life concerns to mystical faith experiences. As one of the presenters, Glenn Holliman from the Episcopal Church Foundation in New York put it, "This day is great—it should be held up as a model for other dioceses around the country."

This year's event addressed every day issues, like how to navigate blending a family and how any sized parish can offer a highly-affordable way for parishioners to give electronically. Participants also had the option to participate in Bible study and to learn methods of contemplative prayer that were perfect for those who have a hard time just sitting still.

In addition to the workshops for adults, the day includes a program for children, and it was out of this program that a powerful metaphor emerged. The event closed with Evening Prayer, and the kids performed a drum circle as part of that worship. Kids from all around the diocese. Keeping time together. Their common rhythm connecting through the congregation. The Diocese of Delaware is indeed a "we."

To give a sense for what the day was like, reflections from the day's participants can be found on the back cover (Page D) and below.

A Morning with Stewardship

by the Rev. Jay Angerer, Good Shepherd, Glasgow

Stewardship. I really wasn't expecting much. In fact, with two young kids at home, I was hoping just to stay awake. What a shocker! I spent the morning discussing financial stewardship and giving practices in the Episcopal Church. Lead by Glen Holliman from the National Church, he blended facts, his many years of experience, and some simple strategy ideas to open a discussion of how financial stewardship practices can be more "focused" and less of a "blanket" approach.

He started brave: he asked for each church represented in the room to tell their "stats" (number of giving units, yearly income, and endowment). It got really quiet, as if we all had some dirty little secret. After all was on the table, he proceeded to describe the 10-80-10 rule of giving, three different categories of giving in the Episcopal Church (and likely the Christian Church as a whole).

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Parish Life Day 2007 had 135 participants and 32 exhibitors, with 28 churches in the diocese being represented. For more observations on Parish Life Day, see the back cover (Page D).

A DECADE OF PARTNERSHIP

2008 is a special anniversary year for the Diocese of Delaware—an anniversary that ends in a zero. In 2008 we mark ten years of partnership with our bishop, Wayne Wright. We all know that zeros and fives normally prompt us to step back, reflect, and take stock of what the years have meant to us and where we're going from here.

As part of this process, the Communion will celebrate and reflect on our decade of partnership with Bishop Wright with a series of articles from a variety of people who've been part of this journey.

We begin with Elizabeth Masterson. Elizabeth served as a lay person on the Bishop Search Committee that brought Wayne Wright's name to convention. She was also the most recent person that he ordained to the priesthood.

The Measure of Love

by The Rev. Elizabeth Rust Masterson, St. Nicholas' Church, Newark



The Broadway musical *Rent* opens with a song about measuring time called *Seasons of Love*. It suggests all these ways of measuring time: "in daylights, in sunsets, in midnights, in cups of coffee, in inches, in miles, in laughter, in strife." Then it concludes that the best way is to measure "in love." Perhaps "measuring" the time Wayne has been Bishop of Delaware could be done just the same way—"in love."

When Rod Welles and Tempe Steen called a meeting of the Bishop Search Committee at Memorial House to organize our work, I stole a few lunchtime minutes to walk to the beach. Because I grew up in Sussex County and spent many summer days on the sand at Rehoboth Beach, the beach and the ocean represent joy for me. I love spending time at the beach!

So when we chose Wayne as Bishop of Delaware, I wanted him to love Delaware as much as I do. After I completed a small needlepoint of a scallop shell during the electing convention, I decided to give it to him. With it I wrote a haiku about the ocean called "Delaware Baptism" to introduce him to this place I love.

Step back for a moment, though, to the time when we interviewed the candidates for bishop. As I listened to their testimonies of faith, God began to stir my heart in a new way. My love for God now appeared to be drawing me toward ordained ministry. My response to this call meant an evolving relationship with Bishop Wayne. He became "the ecclesiastical authority" who, along with the Commission on Ministry and the Standing Committee, would determine

continued on next page (Page B)

BISHOP'S CALENDAR

January

1 Tuesday: New Year's Day, Bishop's Office Closed

3 Wednesday: Bishop's Day in Georgetown

6 Sunday: Morning Visitation, St. Peter's Church, Lewes

13 Sunday: Morning Visitation, St. Albans Church, Wilmington

15 Tuesday: Standing Committee, Christ Church Christiana Hundred, Greenville

16 Wednesday: Bishop's Group, Baltimore

17 Thursday: Trustees' Meeting, Cathedral Church of St. John, Wilmington

19 Saturday: Celebration of New Ministry, The Rev. Brad Hinton, St. David's Church, Wilmington

20 Sunday: Morning Visitation, Grace Church, Wilmington

20 Sunday: Evensong for Martin Luther King Jr., Cathedral Church of Saint John

21 Monday: Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday, Bishop's Office Closed

25 Friday: Church Publishing, New York

27 Monday: Morning Visitation, St. Anne's Church, Middletown

28 Monday-30 Wednesday: Clergy Retreat, Pendle Hill, Wallingford, PA

by Wayne P. Wright,
Bishop of Delaware

The days between Christmas and New Year have their own quiet spirit. The intense round of Christmas activities gently tapers off. Many businesses schedule extra time off for their employees. Some people travel to enjoy the company of families and friends. But, it is the middle of winter. Colder weather can make the roads unpredictable. Air travel isn't as dependable as it used to be. So, many decide to stay home knowing what a good time it will be to light a fire and read one of the new books received as a gift at Christmas. These are special days. They are another blessing of the season.

But even in such quiet moments there are nagging thoughts of unfinished business that begin to arise. The last page of the calendar is about to be torn off. The old year is about to end. It is time for taking account of things and completing long-postponed tasks. For some of us it may be as simple as updating the family address book or putting new batteries in the smoke alarm. For others it may be the harder work of reviewing life plans and putting things in order for the future. We all know how easy it is to procrastinate about doing this.

The Book of Common Prayer reminds each of us how important doing this kind of work can be. Turn to page 445 and read what it says: *"The Minister of the Congregation is directed to instruct the people, from time to time, about the duty of Christian parents to make prudent provision for the well-being of their families, and of all persons to make wills, while they are in good health, arranging for the disposal of their temporal goods, not neglecting, if they are able, to leave bequests for religious and charitable uses."*

Planning for the future is a fundamental duty. Making plans is a powerful way to bless the people and institutions we love the most. Preparing a will and making financial plans provides order and future



security for you and your loved ones. Include in your personal plans written advance directives about the levels of medical care you would like to receive during a serious illness. This lifts a potentially heavy burden off the shoulders of those closest to you. Making a specific bequest of money or property to your church is a way to leave a heritage of remarkable and enduring blessing.

Many good things are happening today in Delaware's Episcopal churches because of gifts that our ancestors so thoughtfully made. I was a parish priest for almost twenty years before I became a bishop. I remember well how much it meant when my parish received a bequest.

There are many ways for you to make a gift to your church. Here are several of the most common examples. Remember that you should consult a professional advisor for legal, accounting, or tax advice.

Gifts of Cash - Gifts of cash are the most common charitable donations. Even those with modest resources can leave something to support the future ministry of the church. Every gift is needed and appreciated.

Gifts of Real Estate - For many of us, our home is our most valuable asset. This is especially true when a home has been owned for many years. We do not always realize how much real estate can appreciate in value. Through the years, many have left their homes, or a share of their homes value, to the church. This can be an expectedly significant resource to support future ministry. Think about it.

Gifts of Securities - These days most people have savings invested in stocks, bonds, and mutual funds. Their value can become an important gift to the church. There can also be potential tax savings from this type of gift. Your professional advisor can tell you more about these opportunities.

Gifts of Retirement Plan Assets - IRA's and other retirement plans usually require that we designate a specific beneficiary. In many cases it is possible to designate your

church as the whole or partial beneficiary of your retirement plan assets. Consult your advisor about how to properly designate your church as the beneficiary of your IRA or retirement plan.

Gifts of Life Insurance - There are several ways that you can make a gift of life insurance to the church. The easiest way may be to make your church the beneficiary of a life insurance policy. Again, consult with your advisor regarding the specifics.

As this calendar year comes to an end, don't procrastinate any longer. Taking the time today to think about the future will be time well spent. Preparing or updating your will and making financial plans does provide order and future security for you and your loved ones. It is also an opportunity to bless the church that you have loved and supported through the years.

Wayne

Forget the winter weather —it's VBS Workshop time again!

It's a tradition! In the midst of January weather, we gather to hear about the best in Vacation Bible School curricula, hosted by the Interfaith Resource Center. VBS 2008 Workshops will be held at St. Albans Church on Saturday January 19 from 9:30 a.m. to noon; at Wesley UMC on Wednesday, January 23 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.; and on Thursday, January 24 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Madeline Beall will be there ready to accept orders at discount for Cokesbury Value Days. The fee for the workshop is \$5 per person or \$10 for three. Details at www.InterfaithResourceCenter.com. Call 477-0910 to register.

Health Ministry Conference

The National Episcopal Health Ministries (NEHM) will hold its first annual conference, *Seasons of Health Ministry* at Kanuga Episcopal Retreat Center, March 27-29, 2008. The conference will feature keynote speaker Rev. Jean Denton, founder of NEHM and author of *Good is the Flesh: Body, Soul and Christian Faith*. There will be a variety of workshops offered throughout the conference to help you start, grow, and refresh health ministry/parish nursing. To learn more, visit www.episcopalhealthministries.org or call 317-253-1277 ext. 34. NEHM is a network of nurses, health ministers, chaplains, and laypeople who promote health and wellness in Episcopal congregations.

A DECADE OF PARTNERSHIP

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whether I would proceed in "the process" and be ordained. Caring concern and accountability constitute the two sides of the coin we call "love in Christ." I always knew I had this kind of support from my bishop as his sister in Christ.

On December 12, 2006, Bishop Wayne

ordained me to the priesthood at the parish where I had been called, St. Nicholas' in Newark. God's love, manifested in the power of the Spirit that evening, touched me and all who had come to support me. Joined in God's love now as colleagues, Bishop Wayne and I serve together in a way I never imagined as I stood on the beach that day in 1996.

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Communion/Episcopal Life address list update

Parishes: keep an eye out in January for your address lists from our printer, AFL. They'll send you a hard copy, and they'll give you the option of getting your list electronically as well. This is your chance to add and delete as need be. Help us continue to improve our communications and save resources by bringing your list up to date!

More Delaware Articles can be found on the back cover and inside back cover (pages C & D).

Burnam Elected to Guild of Scholars

by Joan Huber, Immanuel Church, Highlands, Wilmington

On November 10, 2007, Jack Warren Burnam, organist and choir director at Immanuel Church, Highlands, was elected to membership in the Guild of Scholars of the Episcopal Church at the Guild's annual meeting at General Theological Seminary in New York.



The Guild of Scholars of the Episcopal Church began in 1945 as an informal group of established scholars. Members are Episcopal laypersons who have distinguished themselves in scholarly publications and have been nominated for membership by others in the Guild. Deeply valuing a diversity of views, their aim is to be of service to the Church and to each other. They meet annually, grounding their time in worship and participating in seminar-style discussions and fellowship.

Jack's scholarly contributions include many published musical arrangements and original compositions; and his service to the Church is unflagging. Immanuel Highlands celebrates this occasion, as Jack brings honor to us all through this recognition of his accomplishments.

Learn a bit more at www.GuildofScholars.org.

New & Notable on the Web

by Danny Schweers, Website Editor

New Website for Trinity Parish: www.TrinityParishDE.org. More than a new design and an update of content, this is a new kind of website, one built so administrators can update it without having to use any special software other than an Internet browser. Using a grant from the Diocese of Delaware, Trinity is exploring this new product, which comes from the Digital Faith Community, an offshoot of the Episcopal Media Center in Atlanta.

More Resources on our website: www.DioceseofDelaware.net. If you explore the navigation on the diocesan website, you will find several new links and pages, part of an effort to make the website more useful to church leaders, church employees, and church members. The *Children, Youth and Families Page* lists many resources available for parents and teachers, while the *Ministries Page* chronicles 24 organizations active in the Diocese. There's also a new *Links Page* to national and global resources. Take a look! And, if there's something not there that should be, please let us know.

Caroline Godden Chosen for Major Community Award

by Maureen Lyons, Trinity Parish

Caroline Godden was awarded AIDS Delaware's Individual Partner of the Year 2007 award in ceremonies at the Hearts and Minds Screening Room at the Riverfront on Thursday, November 1. A member of Immanuel-on-the-Green, New Castle, she has raised over \$4,000.00 for the annual AIDS Walk Delaware for the last four years, making her one of the highest fundraisers in the event. In recognition of this tremendous effort, John Baker, Executive Director of AIDS Delaware, was delighted to recognize Ms. Godden's work before family, friends, and other fundraisers and corporations that actively support the work of the organization.

Surprised and delighted to be honored, Caroline commented, "I've been walking the AIDS Walk most of my life with my friends, my family, and my church community. When I was asked to take over the fundraising when I was 14, I was thrilled. I knew it would be a challenge, but I knew it was a very important cause. Many people still think of AIDS as a gay disease when in fact, it is a disease for everyone. We have to work hard to keep it in people's minds and not let up. Everyone must be safe; everyone must be tested and know their status!" Caroline also indicated she'd be back from college for the 2008 AIDS Walk.

Caroline Godden is the daughter of the Rev. Ed Godden and Drewry Nash Fennell. She is a senior at the Tower Hill School in Wilmington. AIDS Delaware is the state's oldest and largest AIDS service organization and works with the HIV/AIDS community.



John Baker, Executive Director, AIDS Delaware presents award to Caroline Godden.

Campus Ministry Represented at PHELT Gathering

by the Rev. Sarah Brockmann, St. Thomas's, Newark

Members of Episcopal Campus Ministry attended a week-end gathering of PHELT (Province Higher Education Leadership Team) at Peterkin Conference Centre in West Virginia on October 19-21. Ann Urinoski, ECM president, was a member of the design team for the event and helped to lead the group in a series of reflections on the Lord's Prayer. Christine Appleyard-Smith, a recent graduate of University of Delaware and current children's minister at Christ Church, Christiana Hundred, also served on the design team and led group discussions. First-time attendees were Van Brockmann and Beth Gehrman, as well as the Rev. Sarah Brockmann.

Colleges and Universities from all over the Province were represented, including Penn and University of Maryland, and the week-end was highlighted by worship, games, good food (including s'mores!), and a gnat-ridden game of Frisbee. At the conclusion of the week-end, new PHELT officers were chosen, and ECM was well represented as Ann Urinoski was elected President and Van Brockmann secretary. Well done!



Beth Gehrman (left) and Ann Urinoski.

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To see the latest events, go to our website's News page: www.DioceseofDelaware.net.

January

6 Sunday, 5:00 p.m.
Epiphany Choral Evensong, Christ Church, Christiana Hundred, Greenville. Christ Church Choir, William Owen, organist and choirmaster. Details: 655-3379.

13 Sunday, 4:00 p.m.
Evensong, Immanuel on the Green, New Castle. Choir of St. Andrew's School, Middletown; Gary Harney, organist and choirmaster. Details: 328-2413.

20 Sunday, 4:00 p.m.
Choral Evensong Commemorating Martin Luther King, Jr., Cathedral Church of Saint John, Wilmington. Cathedral Choir School of Delaware; Darryl Roland, Artistic Director. Details: 654-6279.

26 Saturday, 3:00-5:00 p.m.
Bayou Bingo! Immanuel Church, Highlands. Fundraiser for Katrina Mission Trip. Fun for the whole family! Details: Vicki Anthos at 731-0311 or 588-7607.

28 Monday - 30 Wednesday
Clergy Retreat, Pendle Hill, Wallingford, PA. Details: 656-5441.

February

3 Sunday, 4:00 p.m. **Choral Evensong for the Presentation of Christ, Christ Church, Christiana Hundred, Greenville.** Christ Church Choir, William Owen, organist and choirmaster. Details: 655-3379.

10 Sunday, 4:00 p.m.
Evensong, Immanuel on the Green, New Castle. St. Anne's School Choir, Middletown; Jo Harney, director. Details: 328-2413.

Youth Events

Details: the Rev. Sarah Brockmann at 443 553-0349 or imabiah@yahoo.com.

January 6, **Sunday Nite Live does Epiphany!** Church of the Ascension, Claymont

January 11-13, **Senior Wintercamp** (information sent Christmas week)

March 7-9, **Junior Wintercamp** (information sent in early February)

April 20, **Sunday Nite Live: Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Chamber of Azkaban Goblets in the Order of the Half-Blood Hallows.** St. Thomas's Parish, Newark



A Morning with Stewardship

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There are the people who **Give to God**. This group has the mentality of “what does God call me to give?” They average giving between 5–8+ percent of their annual income. He told us 10% of our congregation does this. He advised that the church was not good at thanking this group and a thank you note is necessary and suggested even having a dinner at the minister’s house as a group once a year.

There are the people who **Give to the Church**. This group has the mentality of “what does the church want?” They give between 3–5 percent of their income. They represent 80% of our congregations. Working with this group in teaching the practice of spiritual giving will help some move to the *Give to God* group, but it is a slow process that cannot be rushed.

The third group is the **marginal or non-givers**. They give less than 1 percent of their income and make up about 10% of our congregations. Glenn told us this group was spiritually immature and usually only grow through a conversion experience.

We ended with a discussion concerning clergy knowledge of individual giving. The clergy in the room had a wide range of answers. We ran out of time! It was one of the best ninety minutes I have spent talking about something so important to the Church.

Finding a Holy Place

By Dorothy Vuono,
Christ Church, Milford

Whenever I sign up for a workshop at Parish Life Day (PLD), I’m never really sure what to expect. As this was my third PLD, I can truly say I have never been disappointed in the workshops that I’ve chosen, and this year’s—both on spiritual direction—were no exception.

Upon entering the first classroom there was simply a candle in the center of the room. “Well,” I thought, skeptically, “this should be interesting.” And this feeling only grew when the presenter rang a small bell to call us together. But as time evolved, it is hard to describe how this classroom transformed into a Holy Place. How honored I felt to be part of this experience. As participants opened up and shared revelations, the work of the Holy Spirit was palpable among us.

I would highly recommend to everyone to seek formal spiritual direction, whether in one to one or group sessions. There is an amazing amount of grace that comes from these sessions, as it did for me at Parish Life Day.

My thanks to the organizers and presenters of these workshops who put a lot of effort into having Parish Life Days be memorable and valuable experiences.

Hands on Meditation

by Leah Rowe,
St. David’s, Wilmington

Hands are a very intriguing part of the human body. If you focus solely on them, it seems as if they have a mind of their own. Watching someone’s hands mold a piece of clay can be very meditative. This being my first time attending Parish Life Day, I decided to try the more artsy workshops: Praying in Color and Spirit Taking Form: Meditations with Clay. Since I was taking photographs as well,



I chose not to get my hands dirty but to focus on the hands of those around me and the way they melded with the clay to form the interesting pieces of art.

My first reaction upon entering the art room was that the stools we were to sit on were in a circle, making it easier for the participants to interact with one another. The leader of the activity was a very nice, soft spoken woman. She brought a sense of calmness to the group which helped to focus everyone and to instill a relaxed atmosphere. The participants were a very lively bunch. Everyone was so friendly and so engaging. The age group ranged from a 12 year old to some funny retired women who I enjoyed watching work with the clay.

Because of the way the room was set up, I found myself watching the emotions on people’s faces as they molded the clay. Some were happy, others sad. Some seemed angry and some seemed contemplative. Though I enjoyed watching the emotion on the faces of the participants, I paid more attention to the emotion that was expressed in the individual’s hands. I do not know if this is due to the fact that I had a camera in my hands, but I remember taking the camera away from my face and just staring at all these different hands forming all these fascinating creations. Sitting there, watching everyone, I felt a great sense of peace. For once my mind was not racing 60 miles an hour. I love the fact that I did not have to be physically touching the clay to get something out of the workshop. It was a great experience.

A Useful and Uplifting Day

by Jeff Jackson, St. Martha’s,
Bethany Beach

I was asked how I might best describe Parish Life Day. After a moment’s thought, I came up with a “pleasant and uplifting experience,” which it most certainly was. Parish Life Day was my first excursion beyond the limits of my home parish, St. Martha’s of Bethany Beach. I’ve been a reasonably active parishioner, serving as church treasurer for the last five years and a member of several committees in our growing parish but never anything at a higher level. I was extremely pleased with the result of my effort.

The event was delightfully low-key. I walked into a large room filled with booths representing various vendors and diocesan activities. A blue-grass/country combo provided background gospel music. People were milling about amiably, chatting with folks from the diocese and other parishes in the state. Bishop Wright was an active member of the crowd, and I was delighted to be able to spend a moment with him, making mostly small talk, but getting acquainted. In the few minutes before the opening service, I was able to make several contacts which would be useful to me as treasurer.

The service itself was a combination of prayer, country-style music, and a brief message from the bishop. Short, sweet, and enjoyable. Then it was on to the first round of workshops. The offerings at both the morning and afternoon sessions ranged from the highly practical (how to raise more money) to the eclectic (different ways to pray). There was something for everyone. And as the group reconvened and informally reported back to one another, it was clear that most of the sessions were excellent.

Lunch: surprisingly tasty, especially considering the fare many such meetings offer! Then, after the afternoon workshops, the closing prayer service. We were on our way home by mid-afternoon.

Considering how difficult it usually is to tear a whole Saturday out of my life, I felt that the time was rewarding and useful. I don’t even begrudge the burning of the \$3 per gallon gasoline to get me to and from Bethany Beach! If I can, I’ll do it again next year.

Save the Date! Locate Alumni! It’s Time to Celebrate the Cathedral Choir’s 125th Anniversary!

In 2008, the Cathedral Choir School and the Cathedral Choir will celebrate 125 years of making beautiful music.

An anniversary celebration is planned for Saturday, May 31 and Sunday, June 1 at the Cathedral Church of Saint John. Alumni of the choir, their family and friends, former deans and choirmasters, and members of the diocese are all invited.

Among the many festivities, a Saturday concert and evensong is planned featuring anthems composed and conducted by former choirmasters Herb Tinney and Ray Urwin. Alumni will also sing Gardner’s *Evening Hymn*.

To make sure that everyone has the chance to be part of the celebration, the Office of Alumni Relations is gathering names and contact information of alumni. Contact Lisa Slinkard (at lslinkard@cathedralchoirschoolde.org or 654-6279, ext. 2) if:

- you sang in the choir and are not currently on the Cathedral Choir School mailing list;
- you know the whereabouts of other alumni and would be willing to contact them; or
- you have pictures and remembrances of the choir you would like to share.

For details and to register for the event, please go to www.CathedralChoirSchoolDE.org.



Parish Life Day 2008

Saturday, November 22
St. Anne’s Episcopal School
Middletown, Delaware

For details, call Cynde Bimbi,
656-5443, ext. 106.