



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

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ON THE WEB

www.DiocesefofDelaware.net

Convention Coverage

"Partners in Ministry" is the theme for our convention this year, and for the next few editions, the *Communion* will focus on some of the key partnerships that enrich our life as a diocese. This month you'll find articles that reflect our partnerships in prison ministry, global mission, stewardship, Episcopal Church Women, and our emerging diocesan youth programs. Find the latest convention information on our website at www.DiocesefofDelaware.net, and find a list of nominees for this year's elections on Page F of this issue.

Reminder

Those without Internet access may obtain the *Communion's* Web-published stories from parish offices or from the editor via the bishop's office, 656-5441.

DELAWARE Episcopal Life Edition Communion

Episcopal Life Edition April 2008 Volume 19, No. 4

ONE BREAD, ONE BODY

A Story of Two Churches

by Betty Fleming, St. George's Chapel, Harbeson

In a busy, growing parish such as All Saints' Church & St. George's Chapel, raising additional funds for a new international effort beyond what is already going on could have seemed like mission impossible. But, Teri and Kathy Smith-Jones, members of St. George's Chapel in Harbeson, believe in thinking big and saw it as a challenge.

Working with the parish's Outreach Committee, Teri and Kathy reached out to their fellow parishioners to accomplish their goal, joining the ONE Campaign of The Episcopal Church to end poverty around the world. To do so, the women set a goal of helping to fulfill the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, or "MDG's," which the Episcopal Church voted to support at the last General Convention.

"After we did our research, we chose to help fund the efforts of Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) to provide clean drinking water for the people of San Lorenzo Province, Nicaragua," Teri said. "ERD's efforts involve the funding of a grant to El Porvenir, a non-profit organization that facilitates low-cost, self-help well projects in Central America."



The Rev. Max Wolf, Rector of All Saints' Church and St. George's Chapel, presents the proceeds from their "Water for the World" project to Wayne McKee, Diocesan ERD Coordinator, and his wife Barbara.

Under El Porvenir's program, villagers dig their own wells and provide the necessary construction labor. Contributions go to provide supplies and support. Wells are constructed using a basic and easily repairable rope and wheel system, and additional funding is used to construct wash stations and latrines, and to provide reforestation and education to ensure proper sanitation and to sustain the efforts.

Teri's and Kathy's proposal received unanimous vestry approval, with the vestry voting to donate the first \$1000.00 for project, dubbed "Water for the World," directly from parish outreach funds. Shortly thereafter, the Episcopal Church Women (ECW) of St. George's Chapel pledged to contribute the profits from their annual spaghetti dinner.

As fund-raising continued within the two congregations, parishioner, Ron Dotterer assumed leadership of activities at All Saints, and Jerry Sipes, an All Saints' parishioner and local innkeeper, began to solicit community support. Through Jerry's efforts, a number of local businesses contributed valuable prizes for a fund-raising raffle. Other efforts included the sale of reusable water bottles (decorated with a global logo and the "Water for the World" nickname) and a silent auction. Several generous individual contributions also had a big impact, and the project was further advanced when the members of both congregations staffed a display table at the Rehoboth Beach Convention Center during the annual public Christmas Show sponsored by the joint parish ECW chapters.

To ensure that this was an intergenerational effort, Teri and Kathy built a working model of a well, with pipe segments, rope, washers and a bicycle wheel, and used it as

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A DECADE OF PARTNERSHIP

Articles about the work of the Diocese of Delaware and the Rt. Rev. Wayne Wright

Breaking into Prison with the Diocese of Delaware

by Barbara Del Mastro, Executive Director, The Way Home

Like Bishop Wright, The Way Home is getting ready to celebrate our tenth year of service to ex-offenders in Delaware! Our program started formally in October 1998. During these years, we have taken many steps and faced many challenges. From a staff of one with just three participants on the case load, we have grown into our own independent organization after years of being gratefully sheltered under the wings of the Episcopal Diocese of Delaware and Bishop Wright. We remain an affiliate of the diocese, and we are so thankful for the

bishop and his staff for our strong, enduring connections with the Episcopal Church and for their ongoing support.

With the diocese's help, we now carry a caseload of at least 60 Way Home participants a year, and we help literally hundreds of walk-ins. Our staff of one has grown to a staff of four; and we have a wonderful board, lead by Fr. Max Wolf of All Saints' and St. George's, which includes Episcopalians from many congregations. And after years of having office space graciously provided by St. Paul's, Georgetown, we

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ON THE WEB:
The Solar System Project at St. Anne's Episcopal School and photographs from around the Diocese.



CONVENTION

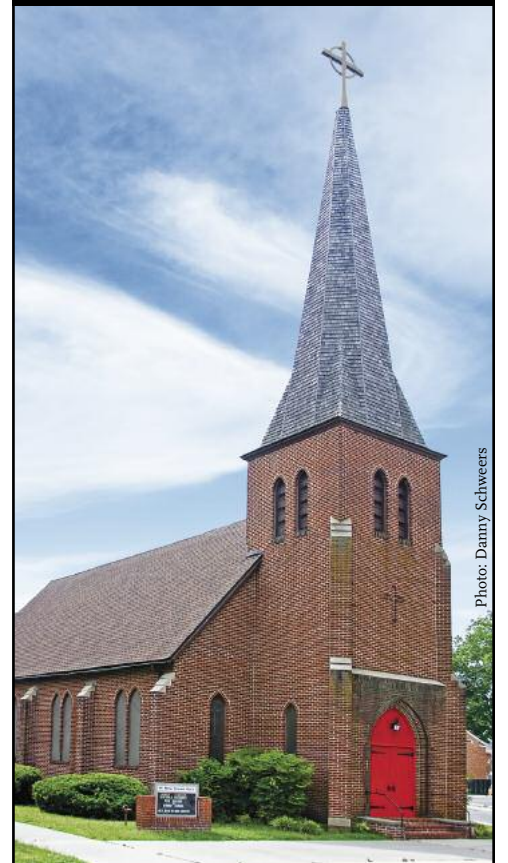


Photo: Danny Schweers

Saint Philip's Church Welcomes the Diocese for the 223rd Annual Convention

by the Rev. Rita Nelson, Rector

The Vestry, Wardens, and Clergy of Saint Philip's Church, Laurel, welcome you to the 223rd Diocesan Convention. This is a particularly important event in the life of St. Philip's, as it marks ten years ago that we hosted Bishop's Wright's first convention here. Therefore, we are pleased to gather together again with all of you.

Saint Philip's is a church of ministers, and we are particularly known for our lay ministry team approach to pastoral care. We are also a community of Christians who strive to accept all persons as they are, supporting them in hard times and sharing the joy and thanksgiving of good times. St. Philip's nurtures the growth of our faith through worship, study, and service, whereby each person recognizes and accepts the gifts of God and uses them to minister to the world in Christ's Holy name. Come join us on April 11 and 12 for Diocesan Convention and be our guests!

by Wayne P. Wright,
Bishop of Delaware



There is a particularly strong tendency, especially during Holy Week and the Easter season, to think that our worship is a kind of theatrical drama. We do, after all, have a grand procession into church on Palm Sunday. We wash feet on Maundy Thursday. We walk the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday. We sing joyous anthems and shout "Alleluia. Christ is risen" on Easter Sunday. There is drama aplenty in all of the special services. But, our worship gatherings do not simply reenact historic, past events in the hope of generating within ourselves contemporary spiritual emotions. As we worship during these centrally important holy days, we are participating in the deep mystery and the life-giving miracle of Jesus raised from the dead. What happened in the past is also happening today. Actual, past, historical events are made present and powerful in our lives now. We are not just remembering that Jesus entered Jerusalem in triumph; that he shared a last meal with his disciples, died, and rose from the tomb. Even though these things are past events, they are present now with the potential to empower and give meaning to modern lives.

As we celebrate another Easter season our hope is not merely to read that Christ died and rose again. Our hope is that we ourselves will die and rise again. Christ's death and resurrection will become a reality in our own lives. This is a central theme of the Epistle to the Romans. St. Paul writes: "For if we have been united with Christ in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his."

Almost twenty-five years ago Dr. Paul Brand published a book entitled *In His Image*. Dr. Brand was nearing

the end of a distinguished career. He had practiced and taught medicine around the world, perhaps best known for his work at the U.S. Public Health Service Hospital in Carville, Louisiana. The Carville Hospital has long been a center for treating Hansen's disease – what the Bible calls leprosy.

The book *In His Image* is an extended meditation on the mystery of God's living presence even in the midst of human suffering. Dr. Brand begins by telling the story of a teaching mission he led to a medical college hospital in India. He was making rounds with a group of medical interns. The group stopped as one of the young doctors weighing the possibility of appendicitis began to examine a patient. Something caught Dr. Brand's eye. What was it, he wrote, the look on the intern's face or his eyebrow arching upward? "The intern's facial muscles contracted into an expression combining sympathy, inquisitiveness, and disarming warmth as he looked straight in the patient's face and asked questions. His very countenance coaxed the patient to relax, put aside awkwardness, and tell us the truth."

At that moment Dr. Brand was startled by a memory of someone from his past. The young medical intern seemed a dead ringer for a surgeon who had taught Dr. Brand years before in London. "That is the face of my old chief surgeon! What a coincidence – you have exactly the same expressions, yet you've never been to England. The two of you have never met." At first the young interns were quiet then one was bold enough to say, "We do not know your old chief surgeon. Dr. Brand, that was your expression the intern was wearing."

Later that evening alone in his office Dr. Brand thought back on his own days as a medical student. "I had thought that my old chief was teaching techniques of surgery and diagnostic procedures. But he had also imprinted his instincts, his expressions, even his kindly smile upon me." These very human traits were things that textbooks could not describe or computers calculate. But, they would be passed along from generation to generation in an unbroken human chain of compassion and healing. In a very real sense, Dr. Brand wrote, I was made in his image. Even though my old teacher had died many years earlier, he remained alive in the faces and gestures of medical students around the world.

The Bible says that each of us is made in God's image. This doesn't mean that we physically look like God. It means that in simple and large ways our lives reflect the meaning and purpose of God. When we say that Christ is risen, we also commit ourselves to live a risen life. "If you are raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on the things that are above . . ." (Colossians 3:1-2). Now, more than ever, the world needs disciples who seek to live in this way. This Easter season and in every season we pray for the grace to reflect God's living, loving image in all that we say and do.

continued from front cover (Page A)

have moved into our own offices. Bishop Wright recognized our work with his award in 2002, which followed the Governor's Award in 2001 for excellence in the care of prisoners, ex-offenders, and their families.

Recent statistics from the Criminal Justice Council of Delaware include some sobering facts that reveal the dire need for the diocese's support:

- Keeping one person in prison costs around \$29,300.00 per year. Our current costs for serving one Way Home Participant per year come in at around \$5,000.00.

- Delaware is ranked 11th highest in the nation in terms of long-term incarceration, with a rate of 488 persons per 100,000 residents incarcerated for one year or more in 2006.

- In Delaware, there are about 5,800 people in prison and another 1,400 in work release or probation programs, according to John Painter of the Department of Correction. This translates into about one of every 150 people in the state who are currently involved in the

Criminal Justice system.

- The average Delaware inmate has a sixth grade educational level.

- 47.5% of released offenders will return to prison within 3 years.

- In the U.S. today, one out of every 100 individuals are incarcerated, putting us at the top of all the nations in rates of incarcerating our own citizens, according to a recent report by the Pew Center on the States.

The reality is that released prisoners are still sent walking down the road with their few belongings in a plastic bag . . . and nowhere to go. And it is clear that vulnerable, at risk people – those on the fringe, who are growing up on the streets – are harming themselves and their communities and filling our prisons at an alarming rate.

Please continue to keep the people of The Way Home in your thoughts and deepest prayers as we face the challenges and celebrate the joys in this mysterious, miraculous ever-changing ministry each day.

To read about how The Way Home began, go to the next page (Page C).

May 29 – August 15

Camp 2008

for three- and four-year-olds

- Great "Field Trips"!
- Themed Weeks - including arts & crafts, cooking, nature & science fun!
- Fruit of the Spirit Chapel Series!
- Water Activities!
- Snacks Provided!
- Cool T-shirt included in registration fee!
- Full Day or Half Day!
- Pick the schedule that meets your family's needs!
- Registration Forms and more info can be found in the Day School Office!

New This Year:
Mad Science Week!

ST. DAVID'S DAY SCHOOL
2320 Grubb Road, Wilmington, DE 19810 • 475-3747
st_davids_day_school@verizon.net • www.stdavidsde.org

BISHOP'S CALENDAR APRIL

1 Tuesday – 2 Wednesday: Church Publishing Board Meeting, Harrisburg, PA

6 Sunday: Morning Visitation, Church of the Ascension, Claymont

7 Monday: Executive Committee, Bishop's Office

11 Friday: Bishop's Office Closed

11 Friday – 12 Saturday: 223rd Diocesan Convention, St. Philip's, Laurel

13 Sunday: Morning Visitation, Christ Church, Delaware City

14 Monday: day after Convention, Bishop's Office Closed

15 Tuesday: Standing Committee, St. Andrew's School, Middletown

20 Sunday: Morning Visitation, St. Mark's Church, Millsboro

22 Tuesday: Medical Trust Meeting, New York

23 Wednesday: Church Pension Fund Investment Committee, New York

27 Sunday: Morning Visitation, Trinity Parish, Wilmington

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Finding The Way Home

by Barbara Del Mastro, Executive Director, The Way Home

The story of The Way Home starts long before today. Allow me to take you back to some of our earliest beginnings...

In a small Episcopal church in Sussex County, St. Martha's of Bethany Beach, a marvelous story unfolded. It began in 1996, when the congregation welcomed the Reverend Jim Lewis and his enthusiastic wife Judy. They joined what was then a little mission church and changed many lives in a big way forever.

Before long, Jim was invited a few people to join him in a discipleship group. I was fortunate enough to be included in that group of eight. Under Jim's leadership, we set forth, while studying the Gospel of Mark, to explore the countryside around us – the human countryside. We found that we were living in a region filled with invisible people – filled with those who were somehow on the fringes of society; filled with many who were somehow wounded and suffering.

We walked, talked, prayed, listened to, and broke bread with our "invisible" brothers and sisters – those from communities stressed with drugs and violence, workers from large industrial plants, farmers struggling to make ends meet, those whose sexual orientation was somehow out of synch with society, and those who were invisibly tucked behind the walls of the prison. The words of scripture spoke to us in flesh and blood through these brothers and sisters made more and more visible by the day – words of justice and mercy, words of forgiveness and reconciliation, words of healing.

Our journey took us through the prison gates, into the Chapel at the Sussex Correctional Institution, and into a Bible study circle that continues to this day – the "Breaking into Prison" Bible study. We learned much about faith, much about endurance, from our brothers striving to live a life of faith even within the prison walls.

This was the birthplace of The Way Home. We had been drawn to the "other side," a place that was on the other side of our fears and prejudice; a place that was unfamiliar, devoid of the "extra's" that filled our world beyond the walls; a place on the other side of our understanding, where the soil of life initially seemed so thin and colorless. To our astonishment, we found that we had stepped into a rich spiritual garden – one grounded in love, watered with study and prayer, and rooted in faith. None of us have been the same since.

We learned then, and continue to learn now, many things from our brothers and sisters behind the walls of the prisons. We took these new insights back to the little church in Bethany Beach, and prayed for guidance. The answer came right after Easter. In my heart these words formed out of the silence:

"Visit my children in prison. Minister to them there, and meet them at the gate as they are released. Walk together in peace. Learn from me and learn from each other. Greet your brothers and sisters with encouragement. Clothe them with hope."

The entire group was of one accord. We all felt led to somehow be of help to prisoners and to those leaving the prisons with no network of support.

The Way Home continues to meet men and women at the gates of the Sussex Correctional Institution, Crest South and the Work Release programs in Georgetown, and, to a lesser extent, at the gates of prisons statewide. Since our inception, we have served hundreds of ex-offenders. Our aim is to serve even more, with ever-improving case management services.

Bishop Wright is aware of the needs of these often forgotten people, and he has spoken out against the death penalty on more than one occasion. It is a challenge for the people of faith everywhere to grapple with the issues of forgiveness and reconciliation, of faith, and restoration, of healing of wounds too deep for words, in the flesh of



victim and offender alike.

I would like to close by offering the letter below from one of our Way Home participants, who is "doing things the right way" for the first time in a long time.

When the road before me looks cloudy, I have only to look back for a few moments to know that if we open our hearts and take hold of faith, even if only a pinch of faith, a power beyond us can move and breathe through the most frail and faint of heart. We are always more than we appear to be, even to ourselves. There are always more treasures to be uncovered in us, in those with whom we work, and in the world around us. The tattered and wounded of this world have the greatest advantage of all if they can resist the pull of bitterness – that of being softened and readied for grace. And wouldn't that be all of us?

Letter from a Way Home Participant

February 26, 2008

I come from a crime riddled, drug infested neighborhood on Wilmington's northeast side, where criminal activity is the norm. For more than 20 years, I had been part of the everyday hustle & bustle which is commonplace there. Alcohol, drugs, and crime, had totally engulfed my life. The desire to effectively mount an offensive against these problems would come and go. Some feeble attempts at abstaining from the lure of the streets would always begin with incarceration, the defining moment in my life. One such moment occurred in March 2007, in Sussex Correctional Institution.

As a result of that moment, and the realization of a possible lifetime in jail, on top of the 12 years I've already donated to the penal system, I decided not to return to Wilmington. Mind you, I didn't know a soul in Sussex County, had only the clothes on my back, and didn't have any money. I was not about to let that deter me in my quest for freedom, but I knew I needed a lot of aid. Speaking with other inmates, I came upon the name of a person and a program to contact in an attempt to get some support with the basic needs of life. I wrote the program, they came to the prison to interview me, and also met me the day of my release.

Eight months later, I have stable housing, I have seven months on my job, I'm in the midst of my second semester at Del-Tech, Georgetown Campus, in pursuit of a degree in human services, and most importantly, I haven't reoffended. I am constantly provided with encouragement and mentoring. I am never without a genuine, caring individual to speak with and who really desires to assist me in my transition to living a crime-free life. It isn't always easy, but someone that cares is always there for me.

The Way Home Program has helped change my life. Someone really does care!
Sincerely, Thomas A. Norris, Sr.

Images for the Church

by Paula Hartzell, Director, Interfaith Resource Center, Wilmington

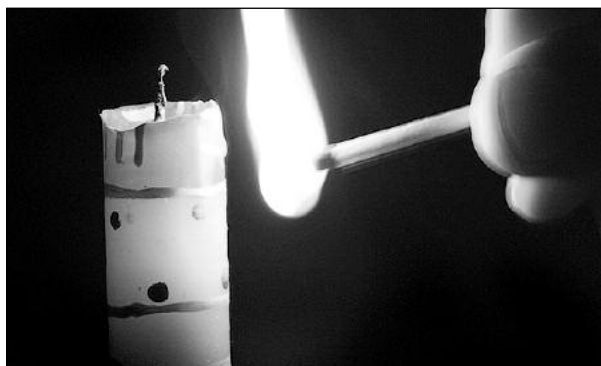


photo copyright © 2007 Danny Schweers, www.photoprayer.com

At a conference recently, I had the opportunity to speak with artists who create clip art for the church. One of them told of her frustration when lovingly, well-meaning Christians enthusiastically greet her with stories of how they are using her artwork from the Internet. They don't see it as stealing, but it is. Copyright is a complex topic with the bulk of its nuances built up from years of court cases. While most

churches are well versed in copyright issues for music, many are more challenged by other copyright issues.

In the case of images, the first thing to remember is that copyright extends to 75 years past the death of the artist. You need their permission, or their heirs, to use their artwork, even if they have created it as clip art. In general, that means purchasing clip art directly or making a single use payment to the

artist for permission to use the work. The IRC has many clip art resources in our collection, but use of them is restricted to preview.

Many older Christian artworks may be captured from the internet and used without copyright entanglements. Keep in mind that the photographer of the Sistine Chapel may own the copyright to the photo, but unless the photographer is referenced, the image may function in the public domain. Two basic rules to keep in mind, no matter how old the artwork is: always provide complete reference information somewhere in your publication and never use artwork for commercial ventures without copyright permission. Artists are far more likely to challenge your use if you are making money from the use of their image. If you have any questions, please contact us at 800 336-6152 or Resource.Ctr@dol.net.

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

April

13 Sunday, 4:00 p.m. **Evensong, Immanuel on the Green, New Castle.** Choir of Sts. Andrew and Matthew, Wilmington – David Christopher, director. Details: 328-2413.

13 Sunday, 7:30 p.m. **Delaware Compline Choir at St. Helena Church, Wilmington** (602 Philadelphia Pike). Details: 654-6279.

27 Sunday, 5:00 p.m. **Choral Evensong, St. Paul's Church, Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia** (22 E. Chestnut Hill Ave.). Cathedral Choir School of Delaware. Details: 654-6279.

May

3 Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. **Wilmington Garden Day, Wilmington.** See page E for details or go to www.WilmingtonGardenDay.org.

17 Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. **Day in Old New Castle, New Castle.** See page D for details, call 877 496-9498, or go to www.DayInOldNewCastle.org.

17 Saturday, 4:00 p.m. **Evensong, Immanuel on the Green, New Castle.** Immanuel's Choir of Women and Men. Details: 328-2413.

19-20 Monday – Tuesday **Spiritual Retreat, Franciscan Spiritual Center, Aston, PA.** Sponsored by the Spiritual Companions of the Diocese of Delaware and lead by the Rev. Carlyle Gill. Details: Barbara Tucker (571-9457, TuckerB15@comcast.net) or Phillip Stephens (656-5443 ext. 109, PStephens@DioceesofDelaware.net).

31 Saturday – 1 Sunday **Cathedral Choir School of Delaware 125th Anniversary Celebration.** See ad at bottom of the back cover (Page H).

“The Oldest House and Garden Tour in America” has some new ideas

by Roy Sippel, Immanuel on the Green, New Castle

“A Day in Old New Castle,” the oldest house and garden tour in the country, will be held as always on the third Saturday of May (May 17, 2008). The tour, now in its 84th year, is hosted by Immanuel Episcopal Church on the Green, New Castle and features authentic houses dating from the eighteenth century. Unlike some historical sites, Old New Castle has not been restored, it has been lived-in continuously with the actual houses still standing and continuously occupied. Approximately one dozen homes and scores of gardens will be included on the tour this year.

There is however an innovation of import this year. Breaking with tradition, proceeds from tours, which have historically gone to church maintenance, will now be used to support a community beneficiary. This change was proposed by an Ad Hoc Church Committee charged with refreshing the program and defining the character of the event while developing a detailed work plan for the coming year. The concept was presented to Immanuel’s Vestry and unanimously approved.

This year’s beneficiary will be the Food Bank of Delaware’s “Backpack Program.” The Backpack Program provides children at-risk of hunger with nutritious, easy to prepare meals during weekends and out-of school times. Actual backpacks are stocked with child-friendly foods and distributed on Fridays or before vacation days.

Speaking of the changes to this year’s event, the Rev. Edward E. Godden, Rector, said, “Donating all of our proceeds to the Food Bank of Delaware’s



Photo: Nan Cuffirelli

Backpack Program is an important change to our event, and we are all excited to know that our work will directly benefit hungry kids in Delaware.” Matt Kinservik, chairman of the 2008 event, added, “A Day in Old New Castle has always been a wonderful opportunity to share our town with the broader community. Knowing that this year’s event will also serve a charitable purpose makes it all the more rewarding.”

A number of enhancement plans are being considered to augment the basic tours which run from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. These include new guided walking tours around various themes, and special group packages available to sister churches in Delaware.

Please mark your calendars for May 17, and plan to join the parishioners of Immanuel Episcopal Church on the Green and the residents of Old New Castle. Additional information and updates are available at www.DayInOldNewCastle.org and questions can be addressed to the Day in Old New Castle Committee chairman, Matt Kinservik at 454-9822 or at matthewk@udel.edu. Hope to see you there!

Youth Council Meets for First Time

by Jill Rowles, Council Representative, St. Barnabas, Wilmington

On Saturday, February 16, the first Youth Council meeting for the Diocese of Delaware was held at St. Anne’s Church in Middletown. 17 youth from all over the diocese gathered together to get to know each other and to plan and to vision for youth ministry in the diocese.

Our Youth Council is a group of teenagers from each parish in the diocese who plan, execute, and lead youth events and help support youth throughout the diocese. Bishop Wright asked the clergy and youth ministers to recommend youth from their churches to be a part of the Council. There are about 30 representatives at this time. (To be included, parishes are encouraged to contact Lynne Turner, LassLynne@gmail.com, or Jeff Ross, StPetersLewesRector@verizon.net.)

The beginning of the meeting was spent getting to know each other with fun games and ice breakers. A great time was had by all! The business meeting then began with a short introduction by the Rev. Jeff Ross and Lynne Turner, adult advisors for the group. Quickly, however, the adults moved out

of the room as the youth began their work together. Led by Jill Rowles, a senior in high school from St. Barnabas, the group soon became engaged in brainstorming ideas and plans for youth ministry.

Some ideas for diocesan events for the coming year are:

- Fall kick off event,
- Bishop’s Ball,
- Church lock in or lock out,
- Happening,
- Messy Olympics,
- Sunday Night Live,
- Nightwatch,
- Ski trip,
- Camp Arrowhead or Camp Barnes event, and
- Diocesan mission trips that could include a foreign trip or a group workcamp.

As a group they decided to elect leadership positions, create their own separate “Youth Paper,” have fundraisers when necessary, and work on ways to communicate such as postcard reminders, MySpace, Facebook, and the diocesan webpage.

The youth expect that the diocese will help with funding, a place to meet (maybe eventually a permanent location), transportation, and hiring of a diocesan youth staff member.

The first meeting was filled with great expectation, much energy and enthusiasm by all. The youth were very excited and looking forward to getting together again for their next meeting in March at Christ Church, Dover.



Diocesan youth initiated the first Youth Council, which met for the first time in February. See more pictures of the event on the Youth page of the diocesan website.

NATIONAL ECW ASKS ALL WOMEN: HELP RAISE FUNDS FOR...



“ECW Jericho House Project” in New Orleans

The National Episcopal Church Women (ECW) Board is asking all women throughout the nine provinces to come together and work as “the hands and feet of Christ” by raising funds to build a home for a family in the City of New Orleans. This national project emanates from the Social Justice Committee of the ECW, specifically from our Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) representative Mary Ann Ransom’s attendance at ERD’s latest meeting which was held in the Katrina-

affected areas of the Gulf Coast.

According to the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana’s website, “The Jericho Road Episcopal Housing Initiative is a faith based non-profit formed in response to the destruction caused by Hurricane Katrina. Jericho Road’s mission is to provide affordable housing to low income families and individuals in pre-existing neighborhoods in New Orleans.” During the project’s first phase, 150 homes will be developed or rehabbed in New Orleans’s Central City neighborhood. “The cost of a Jericho Road house is \$110,000.00,” said Bradford M. Powers, Executive Director of Jericho Road.

All Episcopal Church Women are encouraged to participate – as individuals, parishes, or dioceses. A generous \$500 donation was given by one of the National Board members to kick off

the project. If you wish to contribute to this fund or to find out more about this National ECW project, go to www.NationalECW.org and click on ECW Jericho House Project. You can also visit www.JerichoHousing.org to learn more about the initiative. Checks can be made payable to Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, with ECW Jericho House Project indicated in the memo, and mailed to Elizabeth Campbell, ECW National Treasurer, 12191 Nemo Road, Nemo, SD 57759.

**A Need Is Identified.
An Organization Is Engaged.
A Dream Is Realized.**
And this is just the beginning...
Come join us and be a part of this national ECW project!

Youth and adults from four parishes learn and pray about world hunger

by Sally Price, Youth Minister,
St. Thomas's Parish, Newark

On a stormy Friday, February 22, 24 young people and seven adult leaders (representing Church of the Ascension in Claymont, St. Thomas's in Newark, and Immanuel Highlands and Trinity Church in Wilmington) gathered at Trinity Church to participate in World Vision's 30 Hour Famine. Many of us had gathered sponsors to pledge towards our participation in the event, with the money going to help feed the hungry all over the world. But the 30 Hour Famine wasn't just about the money raised, it was also about awareness and learning how we can be the change in the world.

We had had our last food at lunch on Friday. Coming together at 7:00 p.m. that night, we shared experiences and lessons aimed at teaching us about poverty in the world.

We learned that 29,000 children die every day from poverty related diseases. We learned that a child dies every six seconds from malnutrition or hunger-related diseases. We participated in role-playing activities in which we took on the personas of children in Indonesia. Some kids were blind, some had lung ailments, some had injuries that affected their mobility, and some were afflicted with malaria. We played games that emphasized the difficulty of procuring food each day. We learned how randomly malaria can be transmitted by running a gauntlet with others who were designated as mosquitoes, "biting" anyone who got close enough. Later the ones who were infected with malaria were identified, and we learned that a simple mosquito net spread around someone's bed can prevent the disease. All these games helped us understand what it might be like to be a child living in Indonesia during this very difficult time. It opened our eyes to the effects and the hardship of poverty

and hunger worldwide.

A group of teen and adult musicians called Leap of Faith from Church of the Ascension came to worship with us. They taught us some songs, including *We Shall Overcome*, *Seek Ye First*, and *Amazing Grace* (sung to the tune of *House of the Rising Sun*). We also had a special contemplative worship on Friday night before bed. There were stations placed around the chapel where we prayed for children living in poverty, where we asked for forgiveness for our sins, and where we thanked God for the blessings we have received. We also asked each other to help us through the famine, and we asked what we could do to help.

When we woke up Saturday morning the weight of this thing we were doing hit when we realized we weren't going to have breakfast. We were dragging! After morning prayers, we discussed our plans for the day. We made videos illustrating the 30 Hour Famine message, we created signs to take out to the street to get that message out to passersby. We garnered over \$50 just from passing motorists who supported our mission! The money we raised from these people and from our sponsors would help feed the children we had learned about, with just \$30.00 feeding a child for a month.

Our service project for the famine was to create an art wall in the Dining Hall at Trinity Parish. The youth decided to create and paint their own individual designs on the wall, with an end result that was amazing and very creative.

We broke our fast with Eucharist celebrated by Fr. Al Holland from Church of the Ascension. And we concluded with a delicious spaghetti dinner provided by parishioners from Church of the Ascension. It was an amazing weekend. We made new friends, grew closer together, grew closer to God, while we learned a lot about how we can make an impact in the world. The young people even decided to make this a year-round project for our youth groups. Two of the youth groups decided to sponsor a child, and we are planning fundraisers and awareness events throughout the year to continue what we have started here. Next year we would like to make the 30 Hour Famine a diocesan event. We were changed this weekend by what we learned and by what we experienced. We hope you will join us and "be the change" too.



Diocesan youth from Claymont, Newark, and Wilmington got in touch with their own hunger and the world's via the 30 Hour Famine.

Beautiful Gardens, Historic Homes



WILMINGTON GARDEN DAY, MAY 3, 2008

Who would have thought back in 1947 when a group of women from St. Andrews Episcopal Church decided to raise some money for a children's program at St. Matthews Church that it would be the big event it is now in 2008. The first year there were seven gardens to view and the women raised \$100.

What: The 61st Annual Wilmington Garden Day is a self-guided tour of 22 distinctive private homes and gardens. Featured properties range from city miniatures to country estates, and sites are clustered to facilitate travel and increase viewing time. The event benefits Wilmington's St. Michael's School and Nursery. This year a gala garden party on Thursday, May 1 for business sponsors and individual benefactors will kick off Garden Day.

Where: The greater Wilmington, Delaware area. Free parking throughout, with convenient loop shuttle service (also free) provided at two clusters to ease access.

When: Saturday May 3, 2008 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., rain or shine.

Ticket Prices: \$18 until May 2; \$20 on day of event. Children under 12 are admitted free if accompanied by an adult.

Buy Tickets Now:

Online at www.WilmingtonGardenDay.org. Credit cards accepted.

Or, mail a request plus a check made payable to Wilmington Garden Day to Wilmington Garden Day, c/o Tracy Lea-Dorsey, 1118 Crestover Road, Wilmington, DE 19810 (Tickets ordered before April 10 will be mailed; later orders must be picked up at Cathedral Church of St. John – see address below – on event day.)

Buy Tickets, April 1 through May 3 at selected vendors throughout the Wilmington, Delaware, region

Buy Tickets on May 3 at all Garden Day sites and at the Cathedral Church of Saint John, 10 Concord Avenue, Wilmington, DE 19802.

Garden Day supports St. Michael's School and Nursery's Tuition Assistance Program.

Founded in 1890, the school serves as a full-day nursery, pre-school, and kindergarten where more than 60 percent of the students receive financial support. Contributions from Wilmington Garden Day help St Michael's maintain its innovative curriculum and its firm belief that a lively mix of children of working parents from many backgrounds enriches its students, their families, and our whole community.

For details, visit the website:

www.WilmingtonGardenDay.org

Sponsors: Wilmington Garden Day is sponsored by four Episcopal churches: Saints Andrew and Matthew, Calvary-Hillcrest, Saint Barnabas, and the Cathedral Church of Saint John.



Famine participants kept their minds off grumbling stomachs by soliciting funds from passing motorists and creating an art wall at Trinity Parish.

Exploring God's Abundance

by Lisa F. Slinkard, Diocesan Stewardship Consultant and Director of Development, Cathedral Choir School

About two years ago Bishop Wright asked if I would be interested in working with a few churches on a pilot program to explore annual stewardship. The diocese had invited excellent speakers over the years to share their wisdom about stewardship with parishes in one-day workshops, but the bishop felt that having someone to work in consultation with the clergy and lay leaders over the course of a year would be beneficial. The opportunity interested me, and I said yes.

In preparation for this work, I had numerous conversations with my husband Kerry (who is a Presbyterian pastor) about how it would be different from my "day job" as the Director of Development for the Cathedral Choir School of Delaware. One of the main differences we discussed was the unique nature of stewardship in the church and how the focus should be on the peoples' need to give vs. the churches' need to receive funds. One of the similarities we discussed was the need for people to see their gifts make a difference by changing lives (and not just paying for the light bulbs, etc.). I also explored stewardship resources and found what I was looking for at The Episcopal Network for Stewardship. I encourage every congregation to join this organization.

In the spring of 2007 I was honored to begin working with the stewardship ministry teams of Grace Church in Brandywine Hundred, St. James in Millcreek, and the Cathedral Church of Saint John in Wilmington. Some of the first questions we grappled with were: What exactly is stewardship? Is it more than the annual fall commitment program? Why have some of the past approaches to stewardship not been so effective? What has worked? Why are there more people and energies devoted to finance in the congregation than to stewardship? Each church was in a different place in their stewardship development efforts, with its own unique history and approach to the topic.

One of the resources I found helpful in answering some of these questions was David M. Ponting's book *From Scarcity to Abundance*. (Rev. Ponting was the Director of Stewardship and Financial Development for the Anglican Diocese of Niagara.) Ponting stresses the need for parish stewardship development programs to "promote self-examination by individuals" and for the stewardship ministry teams to see their role as "becoming companions on the journey." The best stewardship development programs help individuals consider giving a percentage of their income and time to God in thanksgiving for all they have received. They help the vestry and other lay leaders

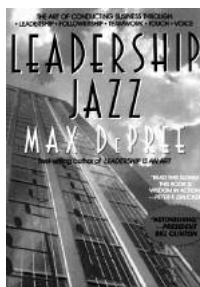


Lisa Slinkard

articulate their own stewardship journey and then encourage others in the church to do so.

We asked, "Where do we need to start? Who is the most open/ready for the good news?" We learned that giving patterns in the church follow a distinct pattern and can inform us on where we might best use our energies to develop stewardship. According to

The Episcopal Network for Stewardship (www.TENS.org), when looking at a church "statistically," "Leaders" make up . . . 20% of the congregation; give 80% of the money and 100% of the leadership. "Becomers" make up about 40% of the congregation; give 20% of the money and none of the leadership (yet). The attendance and giving patterns of "Casuals" and "On the Rolls" reflect only marginal involvement and giving. Stewardship development programs should support Leaders and encourage Becomers. Once we identify what Max DePree in his book *Leadership Jazz* calls the "health-givers" of the organization, the mentors, in other words, we need to nurture these relationships first.



We have all experienced the old stewardship models. There is the "Numbers" approach that says, "If everyone would just raise their pledge by \$___ next year, then we will be fine." There is also the "Aren't You Ashamed of Yourself" approach that criticizes people about how they spend their money outside of the church. Then there is the "Cry Poor" approach that tells us if we do not give more, we will experience severe cutbacks. These approaches do not challenge people spiritually. A more positive/hopeful approach says we give because that is the one way we have of directly expressing our thanksgiving to God for the gifts we have received. We ask people to respond to God's grace, rather than the needs of the church.

The Episcopal Network for Stewardship uses the formula: Education + Commitment Program = Stewardship Development Program. This means you have the fall commitment program, but you also have year-round stewardship education to be effective. Vestry members need to be involved. Each participating vestry spent retreat time to develop a Stewardship Statement that served as an invitation to the congregation to join in.

This year I am working with three more churches: St. Anne's in Middletown, Christ Church in Dover and St. Peter's in Smyrna. We are spending more time together as a group so that we can be "companions on the journey" for one another and learn more from each other through the process. I hope that every congregation will take this time. Being a steward is a permanent job that God has given us.

Offices to be Filled at the 223rd Convention

The following is a list of the nominees to serve on diocesan committees and to serve as delegates and alternatives to the national convention. The election will take place at the 223rd Diocesan Convention in Laurel on Friday & Saturday, April 11 & 12.

STANDING COMMITTEE

Responsibility: Matters of the clergy and ecclesiastical authority.

Nominees:

1 Clergy for a four-year term:

- The Reverend Earl D. Beshears, St. Paul's, Georgetown

1 Clergy for a two-year term

- The Reverend J. R. Keith Hudson, Calvary, Hillcrest, Wilmington

1 Lay for a four-year term

- Ms. Lorraine Bozman, All Saints, Delmar
- Mr. Donald Matthews, St. Peter's, Lewes

TRUSTEES

Responsibility: Custodian and trustee of the property and funds, and fiscal agent of the diocese. Provides financial, custodial, trust, and investment services for the diocese and its institutions.

Nominees:

1 Lay or Clergy for a six-year term

- Mr. Ronald Truitt, St. Anne's, Middletown

1 Lay or Clergy for a four-year term

- Mr. Steve Boyden, Christ Church Christiana Hundred, Wilmington

DIOCESAN COUNCIL

Responsibility: Program and budget for the work and mission of the diocese.

Nominees:

2 Clergy for a three-year term

- The Reverend John Angerer, Good Shepherd, Glasgow
- The Reverend Robert Broesler, St. Barnabas, Wilmington
- The Reverend Sarah Brockmann, St. Thomas's, Newark
- The Reverend Canon Mark Harris, St. Peter's, Lewes

2 Lay-at-Large for a three-year term

- Mrs. Elizabeth Bayley, St. Peter's, Lewes
- Mrs. Jennifer Donten, Good Shepherd, Glasgow
- Mrs. Judy Shackelford, Good Shepherd, Glasgow
- Ms. Libby Stevenson, St. Paul's, Georgetown

1 Lay Area II for a three-year term

- Ms. WillElla Jackson, St. Peter's, Smyrna
- Mr. Ronald Taylor, St. Anne's, Middletown

1 Lay Area V for a three-year term

- Sister Andrea Ita Davis, St. Albans, Wilmington
- Mrs. Elizabeth FitzPatrick, Church of the Ascension, Claymont
- Mr. Stephen A. Leishman, St. David's, Wilmington

CONSTITUTION AND CANONS

Responsibility: All matters relating to the Constitution and Canons of the diocese.

Nominee:

1 Lay for a five-year term

- Mr. Carl N. Kunz, III, St. Barnabas, Wilmington

TRIAL COURT

Responsibility: Adjudication of ecclesiastical matters.

Nominee: 1 Clergy for a five-year term

- The Reverend Canon Carl Kunz, Jr., St. Andrew's School, Middletown

GENERAL CONVENTION DELEGATES

Nominees:

4 Clergy Delegates and 4 Clergy Alternates

- The Reverend Robert Broesler, St. Barnabas, Wilmington
- The Reverend Celeste O. Cox, Christ Church, Dover
- The Reverend Edward E. Godden, Immanuel on the Green, New Castle
- The Reverend Canon Mark Harris, St. Peter's, Lewes
- The Reverend Bradley Hinton, St. David's, Wilmington
- The Reverend Canon Thomas A. Kerr, Jr.
- The Reverend Ruth Lawson Kirk, Christ Church Christiana Hundred, Wilmington
- The Reverend Rita Nelson, St. Philip's, Laurel
- The Reverend Max Wolf, All Saints' Church & St. George's Chapel, Rehoboth Beach & Harbeson
- The Reverend Anna Waid, Grace Church, Wilmington

4 Lay Delegates and 4 Alternates:

- Mr. Walter Cheatham, The Episcopal Church of Sts. Andrew and Matthew, Wilmington
- Mr. William S. Hitch, Sr., St. Philip's, Laurel
- Mr. Donald Hobson, Immanuel Church, Highlands, Wilmington
- Ms. Sandra Ross Johnson, The Episcopal Church of Sts. Andrew and Matthew, Wilmington
- Ms. Deborah Layton, Cathedral Church of St. John, Wilmington
- Ms. Maureen Lyons, Trinity Parish, Wilmington
- Mrs. Patricia A. Malcolm, Christ Church, Dover
- Ms. Susan Phillips, All Saint's, Rehoboth Beach
- Ms. Cecily Sawyer-Harmon, Cathedral Church of St. John, Wilmington
- Ms. Diane Sparks, Christ Church Christiana Hundred, Wilmington

More On-Line

Photographs and short biographies of these nominees can be found on our website: www.DiocesefDelaware.net.

A Story of Two Churches

continued from Page A

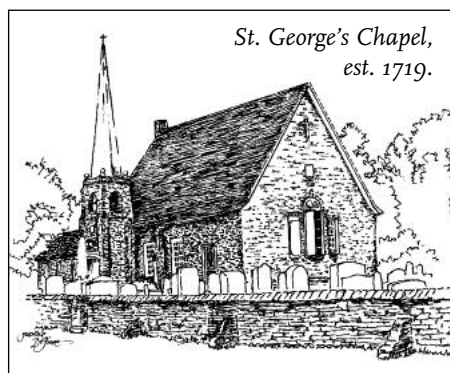
a teaching tool for the Sunday school children. The children then undertook a fund-raising coin drive by coloring pictures of the globe on empty disposable water bottles and distributing the bottles to parishioners with instructions to deposit a coin whenever they used water at home.

At this year's parish Epiphany Evening, a check for \$7,585.53 (25% more than the original goal) was presented to Wayne McKee, Diocesan ERD representative. "We had wonderful support," Teri said. "This parish works together."

Becoming One

St. George's Chapel became a partner of The Episcopal Parish of All Saints' in January, 1980, just before the retirement of the longtime rector the Rev. Richard Bailey. St. George's Chapel (founded in 1719) was a Diocesan Mission and could have been reassigned to another parish or closed due to dwindling membership. A merger was worked out which gave the chapel a good deal of independence and representation on the vestry in Rehoboth Beach, with a Chapel Committee for home affairs and control over its own finances. New bylaws were drawn up and presented to the diocese. In January, 1980, with the consent of the Diocesan Convention, The Episcopal Parish of All Saints' Church and St. George's Chapel was formed.

Punx Wingate, an All Saints' parishioner, has a copy of The Rev. Bailey's sermon on March 16, 1980 at a joint service. In it, he says, "I am pleased, as well, with the whole year because we have succeeded with the legal marriage of both congregations, and we are now one parish." Fr. Bailey retired, after 30 years in the parish, in 1981. He had led the huge undertaking of restoring St. George's Chapel to its original colonial interior in 1966-67, bringing new life to the building. Many years later, in 2003-2004, the parish simultaneously built a new parish



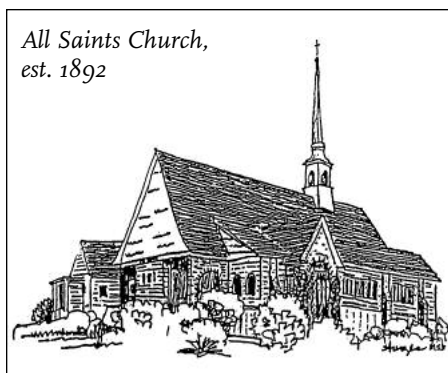
hall at St. George's Chapel and expanded the All Saints' parish hall in Rehoboth Beach with Bishop Wayne Wright's encouragement and a diocesan challenge grant loan from the Advance and Development Fund. The diocesan loan has been repaid in advance, with congregations from both church and chapel contributing to each other's projects.

St. George's Chapel treasurer Al Johnson says, "The retirement of over \$500,000 of debt for the parish hall in three years with a \$70,000 challenge grant from the diocese is amazing. This was over and above the operating pledges. The enthusiasm for our little chapel is remarkable." St. George's Chapel has tripled its membership in the last seven years.

Currently, there are 300 members at All Saints' Church and 146 members at St. George's Chapel, both growing significantly. "We are blessed that parishioners invite neighbors to come experience our worship and hospitality," said The Rev. Max Wolf, parish rector. "Their evangelism is truly effective. We are committed to our simple plan of loving everyone who walks through the door, that they may better know God's love."

There are Sunday Schools at both church and chapel. And, on Sundays, coffee hours (and full breakfast at All Saints' Church) are held in conjunction with services.

Now, as of 2004, the parish vestry consists of an equal number of All Saints' and St. George's Chapel members. Both churches participate in raising money for mission through the parish Thrift Shop, the parish Antiques Show, Christmas Shop and other means. The latter two activities take place at the Rehoboth



Beach Convention Center and parish members spend many hours throughout the year preparing for each event.

The parish's four ECW chapters (lead by a single board) and other volunteers do the work for the Christmas Shop and parish Antiques Show, dividing up the proceeds and determining which charities will benefit.

Both All Saints' Church and St. George's Chapel have their own adult choirs and children's choirs. There is also a combined choir and bell choir for feast days and other special occasions. The choirs combine under one music director for rehearsals and special occasions such as the fall Jazz Mass.

The two churches share the cost of the rector's salary, as well as that of Associate Priest, The Rev. Christopher Moore and two part-time clergy associates, The Rev. Canon P. Simon Mein and The Rev. Harry N. Collins. They also share in office salaries and expenses. The parish office is in Rehoboth Beach at All Saints' Church. There is an office in the St. George's Chapel parish hall for the associate priest and treasurer.

"Ours is a different model of parish ministry," said Fr. Wolf. "By combining the gifts and dreams of two congregations, there is a wideness to our ministries and a richness to our lives that we could not accomplish separately. Together the sum is much greater than the parts. Together we are more fully the Body of Christ in this place."

For more information, go to the parish web sites:

www.StGeorgesChapel.org or

www.AllSaintsRehoboth.org.

The combined parish office phone number is 227-7202.

The Call

What inspired Teri and Kathy to pursue the Water for the World project at All Saints' and St. George's? Both women felt especially tuned to international mission needs, having been individual donors to Episcopal Relief and Development and having received their public policy alerts for years. They were both particularly inspired by the ONE Campaign, and they wondered if their parish could take on a project to become a ONE Congregation.

As Teri put it, "There were all kinds of wonderful mission projects happening through our parish, but we didn't really have something focused internationally. All we did was bring this idea to the Outreach Committee, and the people of the parish took the idea and ran with it from there. This project was never something that we did on our own. People like Jerry Sipes and Ron Dotterer are the ones who made it a reality."

To learn more about the ONE and the ONE Episcopalian Campaigns to end extreme poverty around the world and achieve the Millennium Development Goals go to www.ONE.org or www.EpiscopalChurch.org/ONE.



Kathy and Teri Smith-Jones and Jan Bendrick (l-r) at the annual spaghetti supper at St. George's Chapel. The ECW donated the proceeds from this event to Water for the World.

Support St. Anne's Episcopal School!

The Auction Committee at St. Anne's Episcopal School is seeking items for its May 3 Auction Gala, An Evening on Broadway.

The Auction Gala features both silent and live auctions, with all of the monies raised supporting the school's Annual Fund. The Annual Fund provides critical support for financial aid, technical upgrades, books for the library, teachers' salaries, professional development, and so much more.

Donations of items such as estate jewelry, art, theater tickets, or unique services, like landscaping, portraits, etc., would be greatly appreciated and will go a long way toward supporting our wonderful school! All items need to be at St. Anne's by Monday, April 21.

Please consider donating.

For more information, contact Lisa Chase, Director of Marketing and Development, St. Anne's Episcopal School, at LChase@SaintAnnesSchool.org or 378-3179, ext. 347.

Thank you for your consideration!

Help Wanted:

Organist/Music Director: *St. James, Newport.* Part time position. Rogers 905B 3-manual digital organ, with midi capabilities and PS-300S sequencer and also a new digital Yamaha Clavinova piano. Immediate responsibilities include liturgical music and assisting with children's music program. In the future, help to recruit and direct an adult choir. St. James also has chimes and bells to enhance the music program. Send resume to 2 S. Augustine Street, Newport, DE 19804; phone/fax, 994-2029; or e-mail, StJamesNew@juno.com.

Part-time Parish Administrator: *St. David's, Wilmington.* Position requires strong interpersonal skills, an ability to work with a diverse population, proven ability to manage multiple tasks, a self-starter, and experience in a church or non-profit environment. Excellent computer skills with Microsoft, QuickBooks, and church software. 15-20 hours a week, Monday through Friday. Send resume to 2320 Grubb Road, Wilmington, DE 19810, fax to 529-1135, or email to StDavidsChurchOffice@verizon.net.

Pray for our parishes in transition: St. Thomas's Parish, Newark; St. Anne's, Middletown; and four churches in Wilmington: Trinity Parish; Immanuel Church, Highlands; the Church of Saints Andrew and Matthew; and St. Albans.

Delaware Digest

Make sure that the editor is receiving your parish's or organization's newsletter! Write to Editor@DioceseofDelaware.net or call the bishop's office for the correct mailing address.

Sussex

St. Martha's, Bethany Beach recently hosted Beverly Allison, the American Director of Our Little Roses, an orphanage and school for girls in Honduras that is supported by the parish's Outreach Committee. Ms. Allison spoke at both services, and parishioners are sending additional funds to support the girls.

Bishop Wright visited All Saints' Church, Rehoboth Beach, in March, where, in addition to confirming and receiving parishioners, he also blessed a new stained glass window. The window, which is located behind the altar, depicts Jesus calming the storm; it was given by the family of J. Reese White, Jr. and Margaret F. White. Visit the *Communion* page of our website to see photographs of this event.

The Rev. Jackie Lynn, the Executive Director of the Episcopal Peace Fellowship, preached and led a workshop on non-violence at St. Paul's, Georgetown, in March. Participants from around Delaware and Maryland's eastern shore attended the event.

New Castle

An extraordinary body of needlework at St. Barnabas, Wilmington, is featured in an article on *Episcopal Life Online*. Visit www.DioceseofDelaware.net to read all about the beautiful works of love lead by Ceeanne Brosi.

The people of Christ Church Christiana Hundred, Greenville, exceeded their goal for their capital campaign, *Returning God's Bounty*, garnering over

\$4.1 million in pledges for a range of capital projects. They are now working to raise additional monies to fund an endowment for ongoing capital needs.

Five J2A seniors of Grace Church, Wilmington, went on a mission trip to Belize in March with their leader Sandy Poplos. They worked through *Praying Pelicans Missions* to help with youth sports camps and assist in repairing and building homes for impoverished families (some of whom were hurricane victims).

The Episcopal Church of Sts. Andrew and Matthew, Wilmington, offered its auditorium for a Friendship House program to accommodate the homeless on nights when the city declares a Code Purple Alert (any time the actual or wind-chill temperature is 15 degrees or below). The parish also provided one of six teams to serve warm soup and sandwiches to the guests.

A team of teens from St. Thomas' Parish, Newark, is starting a new praise team ministry called *Branchin' Out*. They're practicing on Tuesday nights and will make their debut on Pentecost. Linda Roberson and Sylvia Berta are lending their leadership to the effort.

Ministry Partners

The Interfaith Resource Center has been awarded a \$2,500.00 grant from The Barnabas Fund of St. Albans Church, Wilmington to replace selected items of their VHS collection with DVDs.

A link has been added to the Ministries Listing on our website, www.DioceseofDelaware.net, for Habitat for Humanity of New Castle County (www.HabitatNCC.org). The Habitat website is chock full of all kinds of resources, including links to see what's new at the ReStore and an easy, detailed volunteer registration process, where you can see what building projects and dates still need volunteers. You can also sign up to receive their newsletter, *Habitat Happenings*.



Judi Gregory (right) lights up when she describes her first visit to Sudan. In this photograph, she is telling the Adult Education class at Saints Andrew & Matthew about the astounding differences between war-torn Sudan and peaceful, prosperous Uganda.

Seeds of Change Bear New Ministry for Judi Gregory

by Jen Mason, editor

"I'm sure you'll grow out of this," said Judi Gregory's daughter, Kathryn. But it didn't exactly work out that way. Growth happened, but it was an unexpected corner of Judi that grew – and now she's off on the spiritual adventure of a lifetime.

In December 2006, Judith Gregory, Diocesan Business Manager, participated in a lay Credo experience. Credo is a program of spiritual renewal that is sponsored by the Church Pension Fund. Most clergy participate at least once in their careers, and in recent years the Pension Fund has expanded the program to include lay employees as well. The question in the Credo retreat started out for Judi as "Where do I want to go with my ministry?" But then it grew legs. The participants jokingly talked about "BHAGs" – big, hairy, audacious goals. Judi had never given herself the chance to think like that. Suddenly a seed was planted.

The seed wasn't huge – it didn't seem big or hairy at all. Judi just wanted to explore her options for service within the wider Episcopal Church. It grew a bit to make her wonder if she was here, serving in the Diocese of Delaware, as a path to doing something more. Mission work never, ever entered her mind. She was a CPA, for goodness sake!

And then, just over a year ago, her significant other, Jim, died. Grief took over and these bigger picture wonderings faded to the background . . . sort of . . . as death also has that sometimes annoying, sometimes helpful habit of letting us know that now is the only time that matters. And so, as the days and weeks passed, Judi's sense of urgency for hearing what life was calling her to in the now grew and grew.

When she visited the Episcopal Church Center in August of 2007, she made a side trip to visit David Copley, Mission Personnel Officer, to get a little more information on what it meant to become a missionary. The implications were daunting – especially for Judi as a single woman. Plus there was the whole reality of her background – the CPAness; it wasn't like she could go visit somewhere and offer medical or agricultural aid. And that's when David Copley lit up, "I need a CPA! They've been asking for one for two years!"

The "they" turned out to be the Episcopal Church of the Sudan, and Judi's first thought was, "Don't they need anything more in the Sudan than a CPA?" But as the country rebuilds from war, things that we'd take for granted, like being able to convert their financial management from manual to computer-based, are exactly what they need.

So Judi entered into her own sort of discernment process. She talked with her family; she talked with her "three wise men," Mark Harris, Lloyd Casson, and Rod Welles; and she prayed – a lot. At the end of this process she met with several officials at the Church Center and tentatively asked, "Is this a go?" When the answer was "yes," she describes knowing that every bit of color left her face, her knees grew weak, and she wept. The only answer to that was more prayer, and then it was time to talk with Bishop Wright and to plan for her sabbatical.

With the bishop's enthusiastic blessing, Judi visited the Sudan in February, beginning to iron out the details of her living arrangements and to coordinate the details of her work. "It's going to be a big change, but now that I've been there, I can already see ways that I can fit into the culture," she said. Judi will split her time from May to the end of August between Juba, Khartoum, and Kampala, Uganda.

Her next big challenge is raising the necessary funds to support herself there for four months. But Judi isn't worried about that: "I know that I was not in charge of this process. Every obstacle that I threw in front of it, as I attempted to slow or to stop it, was simply removed. There is no question in my heart that I am merely an instrument, and that is very comforting. Things like the money will simply work out, with God's continuing help."

For Judi, this experience has come full circle from her days in the pews at the Episcopal Church of Sts. Andrew & Matthew, where she was steeped in a deep sense of personal ministry borne of her baptismal covenant. "It's just not possible to go to Sts. Andrew & Matthew and not know that you, as a lay person, are lifted up first as a minister of the Gospel," she said.

See pictures of Judi's journey and follow her story in the months ahead by visiting the link to her blog on our website, www.DioceseofDelaware.net.

125th Anniversary Events Cathedral Choir School of Delaware, May 31–June 1

- 31 Sat., 5:00 p.m., *Festal Evensong*
- 31 Sat., 7:30 p.m., *Delaware Composite Choir*
- 1 Sun., 10:30 a.m., *Choral Eucharist Service*

All events take place at the Cathedral Church of Saint John, Wilmington and are free and open to the public. Details: 654-6279 or www.CathedralChoirSchoolDE.org.



St. Andrew's Choir Sings at Washington National Cathedral

On a very blustery first Sunday in Lent, the Choir of St. Andrew's School joined choral groups from five other Mid-Atlantic Episcopal Schools Association upper schools to celebrate Evensong at the Washington National Cathedral. The choirs were directed by Michael McCarthy, Director of Music for the Washington National Cathedral. The Association holds this event annually to bring together Episcopal schools from the mid-Atlantic regions to foster a spirit of Episcopal community, as well as provide an opportunity for schools to experience and be a part of the Washington National Cathedral. By all accounts, it was a remarkable service!