

A message from Bishop Gayle E. Harris

Because we are a culture of individualism and congregationalism, we do not always realize that we have more power when we pull together to do the work of the Gospel. It is a truth that is not only countercultural but also Christ centered. Together our identity in the Gospel is upheld.

That is why I like so much "Together Now," the theme words for our diocese's campaign to raise \$20 million for the mission we share. Whether we are working to fund mission hubs through which congregations will become creative partners to

meet community needs; or joining with others in service as members of a global village; or caring for God's abundant creation in responsible and joyful stewardship; or investing in ministry with youth and young adults so that the church can be relevant to them and enriched by them; or transforming our cathedral church into a welcoming common place for worship, exchange and witness—in each and all of these initiatives we are answering the call together.

It's the call and mandate heard from the prophet Isaiah

and in Jesus' first sermon: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." (Luke 4:18-19) Together we must do it, and together we can do it.

I commend to you this campaign update and ask that you and your congregation take the opportunity to consider and commit to one of the several



options for participating.

Together we are enriched and equipped. Thanks be to God.

Our \$20-million campaign

\$2 million

Tithing for mission beyond our diocese

\$2 million

Caring for God's creation

\$4.5 million

Equipping congregations for strategic local mission

\$7.5 million

Raising up new generations in faith and service

\$4 million

Transforming our cathedral church

For more information about each of the campaign initiatives, please visit: <http://www.diomass.org/together-now-campaign>

Caring for God's creation: This is the time for Christian witness



Photo: Jonathan Sachs

First leaves in the meditation orchard planted last year at Grace Church in Norwood with a Simple Acts Grant.

Through the generosity of our individual donors and congregations through the Together Now campaign, the Diocese of Massachusetts is leading by example in attempting to work for justice and peace and in respecting the dignity of all people, through our care of God's creation. Psalm 8 declares the work of God's hand: the heavens above us, full with the sun, moon and stars, the earth close at hand, woods, rivers and seas, wind—all creatures that live are all God's work. We inhale and exhale. All of this is God's marvelous work.

Something precious has been given into our hands. We are called to loving care. We are called to tend, heal, nurture and share. This is what Jesus did and what he calls us to do now: Go and do, proclaim the story in word and deed. Even in stormy times and lean times, the seasons tell us that life and God's love

Continued inside

SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING NEW

Cathedral Church of St. Paul unveils a bold proposal

Following a national search and selection process involving members of the diocese and experts in contemporary art and sculpture, Philadelphia artist Donald Lipski was chosen in March to complete the pediment of the Cathedral Church of St. Paul—empty and unfinished since its builders ran out of money 190 years ago.

In the triangular plane over the church's columned porch—where the original plans called for a bas relief carving typical of Greek Revival buildings (in this case depicting St. Paul testifying before King Agrippa)—Lipski's proposal instead incorporates a sculptural cross-section of a nautilus shell against a Madonna-blue field, to be backlit at night.

The idea came to him right away, Lipski said, as he began to think about the cathedral church's mission as "a house

of prayer for all people."

"I wanted to find a symbol, an image, that would speak to everyone and be beautiful. The spiral came to mind really almost immediately because I started to think of the classical proportions of a Greek temple, based on the [mathematical] golden rectangle which yields the spiral," Lipski told a group of potential donors gathered at the cathedral church for a preview in late March.

"The spiral is the most ubiquitous shape in the universe. It's in the movement of subatomic particles and it's in the vastness of galaxies. So if you're thinking about God, or even if you don't believe in God, the spiral, I think, can still speak to people," Lipski said.

Cathedral dean Jep Streit said it was just that sort of public voice that the selection committee wanted

WE ARE DOING SOMETHING BOLD AND extraordinary with the front of our cathedral church because what God has given us to share with the world in Jesus Christ is bold and extraordinary.

—Bishop M. Thomas Shaw, SSJE

More: Read the full pediment project announcement and hear an interview with artist Donald Lipski at www.diomass.org.

for this architecturally important building—the first Greek Revival one in Boston—fronting the country's oldest public park.

A sculpture that can preach, in other words.

And while the proposed sculpture has nothing to do with silent stone figures from the biblical scene originally envisioned for the pediment, one might say it has everything to do with what Paul actually said that day before Agrippa as he appealed for freedom by preaching the story of his own conversion in Christ while journeying along the road to Damascus.

At the preview gathering, Lipski recounted a serendipitous encounter during his first visit to the cathedral church last November. "I went for a walk in the Boston Common to see what the cathedral looked like from a distance. And there was a woman who had made a spiral in the leaves, and she was walking back and forth as if in a labyrinth," he recalled. "I took this as almost a sign that my inspiration made sense right here, right now. We're all on a path, and like in a labyrinth, we spiral towards our own center and we spiral

out into the world, and the spiral really is a symbol for the spiritual journey."

Streit said it also has to do with invitation. "I'm mindful of Jesus' words to invite the disciples in the Gospels. He says: Come and see. And this exactly says that," Streit said of the sculpture.

The hope, he said, is for its installation to be finished this fall, in time for the Diocesan Convention hosted by the cathedral church Nov. 2-3.

The pediment project is the first part of the more extensive renovations to the Cathedral Church of St. Paul that will be made possible by \$4 million from the \$20-million diocesan Together Now fundraising campaign. Those plans include replacing the box pews with kneeler chairs around a central altar, so that the liturgical space will be adaptable for varied use; a glass-walled entrance and chapel area that will make the indoor life of the church more visible and inviting to the world outside; skylights to bring in natural light; energy-efficiency improvements to the heating system; and a new elevator to improve accessibility.

Renovations are scheduled to begin early in 2013.

—Tracy J. Sukraw

RIGHT: The unfinished pediment as it appears now



BELOW: Artist's rendering of the proposed pediment sculpture



SUCCESS!

CHURCH OF ST. AUGUSTINE AND ST. MARTIN, BOSTON



AS THEY BEGAN THEIR IN-PEW COLLECTION commitment Sunday, the members of the Church of St. Augustine and St. Martin in the Roxbury neighborhood of Boston found themselves a bit daunted by their \$23,000 goal for participation in the Together Now campaign. That nervousness soon turned to blazing joy when this small church discovered it was able to offer something bold to the effort: When the worship service ended, 28 commitments were received from 34 pledge cards, yielding \$26,740, with several parishioners still praying about how they will participate. Said the Rev. Evan Thayer, Priest-in-Charge: "I am humbled by the generosity of our parishioners and their willingness to support efforts beyond the walls of our parish. In a time of limited resources they have stepped up to the challenge given us and have proven their commitment to ministries in this diocese and around the world."

IN-PEW
COLLECTION

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, HANOVER



AS ONE OF THE OLDEST PARISHES IN the diocese, St. Andrew's Church in Hanover has 200 years of history on which to reflect—and some things just never change. "Vestry minutes from 100 years ago prove that we deal with the same issues in every generation: how to care for our worship home and how to grow," the Rev. Beth Wheatley-Dyson, Rector, said. Participation in a collaborative campaign allowed St. Andrew's Church to do both while providing the congregation with a new set of skills. Fundraising was outside of Wheatley-Dyson's comfort zone, but as the collaborative campaign continues with \$327,000 raised toward a \$400,000 goal, she and the congregation are not only becoming skilled fundraisers, they also are strengthening their bonds with each other and the wider church in unprecedented ways—and writing their own chapter of St. Andrew's history.

COLLABORATIVE
CAMPAIGN

Caring for God's creation (con't)

Continued from page 1 find a way. This is the story of the resurrection, and it is the covenant to which we are called.

It is those stories of Jesus' healing and resurrection that invite us to respond to the urgent times in our nation and in the world, especially when it comes to our stewardship of creation—of offering care and protection of all God has entrusted to our hands. Just as the prophets of old announced, we must answer the call. This is the time for Christian witness.

In his address to the 2010 Diocesan Convention, Bishop Bud Cederholm told the gathered: "We are God's partners, sometimes called God's stewards, and God is depending upon us to

maintain and heal this fragile earth, our island home."

THE CREATION CARE INITIATIVE

The Creation Care Initiative (first known as the Green Grants Initiative when it was launched in 2010) exists to encourage, challenge and support all the congregations of the diocese as they carry out their responsibility to care for God's creation. Three separate programs find their home under the umbrella of this initiative:

1. Simple Acts Grants

Simple Acts Grants of \$500 to \$1,000 support congregational activities and programs that focus on the environment and conservation, teaching environmentally responsible

practices. Examples include gardening projects that benefit local food pantries or that reclaim and beautify public spaces; advocacy or awareness efforts; or congregations coming together for bulk purchasing of earth-friendly supplies. Simple Acts grow out of gratitude for the blessings of God's creation. They may cost very little or nothing, and they may yield proceeds that can be offered back to the Creation Care Initiative.

2. Green Improvement Grants

Green Improvement Grants, in amounts up to \$10,000, assist congregations in funding energy efficiency improvements to their facilities, such as lighting

and window upgrades, weatherization, on-demand hot water systems and replacement of old, inefficient boilers or furnaces. The goals are to assess the energy usage of our church buildings and to explore and act on ways to reduce our carbon footprint. Woven into the fabric of the initiative is the desire to teach environmentally responsible practices that are carried from church into people's homes, schools and places of work.

3. Green Loans

Green Loans, a program currently under development, will help congregations make substantial energy-efficient changes to their buildings.

—Karen B. Montagno

GRACE CHURCH, MEDFORD



IN EARLY 2010, THE LEADERSHIP OF Grace Church in Medford voted to move forward with a capital campaign to address significant building needs that had been deferred for a number of years. Their historic building needed urgent work on the tower, which was showing severe structural deficiencies, and water damage in the sanctuary was worsening rapidly.

“The immediacy of our needs meant that we needed to move faster than a diocesan collaborative campaign would have allowed. Additionally, Grace Church had already begun work with a fundraising consultant who seemed to fit well into the identity of our congregation, and we decided to tithe from the money we raised to the diocesan comprehensive campaign,” the Rev. Noah Evans, Rector, said. When the final gifts were counted, \$625,000 was pledged for Grace Church’s local needs, allowing it to offer \$62,500 to the diocesan campaign. “We’ve benefited from diocesan resources over the last few years. This is one way we can help make those resources available to other congregations throughout our diocesan community,” Evans said.

PARISH-RUN
CAMPAIGN TITHE

ST. PAUL’S CHURCH, DEDHAM



WHILE DISCERNING THE BEST WAY TO participate in the Together Now campaign, St. Paul’s Church in Dedham received a planned gift from the estate of a beloved former priest. The Rev. Rudolph Roell was the rector of St. Paul’s from 1947 until 1973, and before he died in 2008, he provided for an unrestricted bequest that resulted in a significant infusion to the parish’s endowment. St. Paul’s decided to offer \$50,000 of this legacy gift to the diocesan campaign. Said the current rector, the Rev. Michael Hodges: “It seemed like the perfect way to honor Rudy, who was a great lover of the Episcopal Church and the diocese, and who would certainly want St. Paul’s to participate fully in this effort. The work of the Holy Spirit seems evident in the beautiful collision of Rudy’s good stewardship for the future with the far-reaching vision of this campaign.”

PARISH PLEDGE

TOGETHER NOW MAKES NEW GREEN GRANTS POSSIBLE

In May, 16 congregations of the diocese were awarded a combined total of about \$154,000 in Green Improvement Grants. These grants represent the first disbursements of funds from the Together Now campaign’s \$2-million Caring for God’s Creation initiative. They will help congregations—from Acton and Andover to Gloucester and Lowell to Wakefield and Waltham—make

lighting and appliance conversions, replace windows, install insulation and improve inefficient heating systems. An additional \$4,000 was awarded in Simple Acts Grants for projects that include a vacation garden school at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Watertown and a recycling project by the Episcopal Boston Chinese Ministry. These grants and those that follow will allow congregations to dream about how their church buildings and spaces speak to their community and can reflect the glorious beauty and bounty of God—and then take real, practical steps to bring those dreams into being.



Photo: Gretchen Umholtz

The Rev. Moses Sowale of Grace Chapel, the Episcopal ministry housed at First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Brockton, helps plant a garden of native flowers to beautify a busy city corner on the church’s property. The garden received a Simple Acts Grant last year.

Digging deep to seed the ground for the future



“It’s really about responding to God’s graciousness.” This is how Roberta Schnoor, the senior warden at All Saints Parish in Brookline, describes the experience of conducting a collaborative campaign in her parish.

“When our rector brought the notion of conducting a campaign in partnership with the diocese to the vestry, it also seemed like a great way for us to begin to seed the ground for our future at All Saints. The vestry found the diocesan goals to be very exciting. They feel like a strong bid to make our church relevant to the world,” Roberta said. Her husband, Bill, co-chaired the collaborative campaign and notes that being part of something larger than their parish added an important dimension to the campaign. “This campaign is all about collaboration. The mutual dependence of the diocese

and the parishes makes for a richer experience of shared risk and shared reward,” Bill said.

The rector of All Saints, the Rev. David Killian, announced his retirement just before the start of the campaign. While launching a campaign at such a significant transition point in the life of a congregation might at first glance seem ill-advised, the leadership of the parish chose to see it as an opportunity to honor their beloved priest and, at the same time, plan for the future. As Roberta explained: “We’re going into discernment in the coming months. We’re not

sure where we’re going to sense God’s call leading us at the end of that process. We know that banking some of the money we raise is an investment. It will give us flexibility to respond to that call. Additionally, we expect that having this ‘future fund’ will be attractive to candidates as we move towards calling our next rector.”

As the All Saints Parish collaborative campaign has come to a successful conclusion, raising \$1.4 million, (\$200,000 more than its goal, and offering more than \$435,000 to the diocesan comprehensive campaign) Bill looks back at the experience of asking parishioners to consider extraordinarily generous gifts—gifts that might well mean that they sacrifice in other areas. “We simply asked people to prayerfully reflect on God’s generosity in their lives. And as leaders in the parish, Roberta and I felt the need to respond in a way that really required us to dig deep and offer a gift that seemed reflective of how we strive to conduct our stewardship.” Bill also observed that one of the best aspects of the campaign was the campaign visits which provided a chance for parishioners to talk about their hopes and dreams for the parish and the larger church. “While we are thrilled with the final dollar total of the campaign,

the richest part of the experience so far has been the numerous conversations among parishioners about what matters to us.”

Bill and Roberta also responded to Bishop Shaw’s request to make a leadership gift directly to the diocesan campaign. Roberta notes: “We strongly support the vision of the diocesan leadership in encouraging parishes to collaborate, especially around successful outreach programs. In all of the diocesan campaign initiatives, there’s a drive to connect parishes to one another, encouraging all of us to consider how interwoven we are as Episcopalians and as Christians. This is a plan that we are very enthusiastic about supporting.”

As they consider the future of All Saints and the diocese, Bill and Roberta offer thanks both to God and to their fellow parishioners who helped the parish campaign exceed its goal. Roberta remarks: “The way the Spirit has found its way into our congregation even as we say goodbye to David is truly remarkable. That we would ever raise this much money in these times means that people are feeling inspired by the vision that undergirds this effort. We’re so proud to be part of a church that is moving with hope and energy into the future.”

—Lynd Matt

TOGETHER NOW CAMPAIGN

TOGETHER NOW CAMPAIGN GOAL

Amount raised from leadership gifts

\$20,000,000

Diocesan share from collaborative campaigns

\$9,754,260

Parish pledges to date

\$2,618,864

Amount raised to date from in-pew collections

\$145,625

Gifts to diocesan campaign from independently run parish campaigns

\$330,765

\$312,500

Total amount raised to date

\$13,162,014

Total amount raised in parish collaborative campaigns
30% of this amount is offered to the overall diocesan goal, while 70% stays in the congregations

\$8,706,546

Total number of gifts to Together Now

1,168

Average gift to in-pew collections

\$1,005

Average gift to parish collaborative campaigns

\$11,878

Average parish pledge

\$18,203

Statistics as of 6-8-12



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