



Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2016

NEWS and INFORMATION for the clergy and leadership of

The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts

138 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02111 / www.diomass.org

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**Explore “real church,
real mission” at Spring
Learning Event**

“Real Church, Real Mission,” the annual diocesan Spring Learning Event, will be held on *Saturday, March 5, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.*, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston. The day will feature “When God Left the Building,” a movie that looks at changes in society and their effect on traditional church attendance, as well as a presentation by keynote speaker Molly Phinney Baskette, the pastor at First Church Somerville, UCC, and author of *Real Good Church: How Our Church Came Back from the Dead, and Yours Can, Too*. The day also will include vibrant church practices as well as table discussions, hopeful stories and resources. Learn more and register online [here](#).

FOR INFORMATION: Amy Cook, Congregational Resources and Training (617-482-4826, ext. 645 or acook@diomass.org).

**Everyone’s voice needed
at mission strategy
forums**

Everyone’s voice is needed in the process underway to create a new mission strategy for the diocese. The series of open forums concludes this month, with the final sessions to take place on:

- *Saturday, Feb. 13, 3 p.m.*, at St. John’s Church (705 Hale Street) in Beverly Farms; and
- *Saturday, Feb. 27, 10 a.m.*, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston.

Online and phone surveys are also open through *Monday, Feb. 29*. Find the online survey [here](#), or give input via the toll-free phone survey by calling 855-208-5877.

Check www.diomass.org/new-mission-strategy for updates and more information.

FOR INFORMATION: Listening Process Design Team at diomasslistening@gmail.com; www.diomass.org/new-mission-strategy.

**Chapel stained glass to
be dedicated Feb. 21**

All are welcome at a special service to dedicate the newly installed stained glass window in the St. John the Evangelist Chapel at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston, to be held on *Sunday, Feb. 21 at 5:15 p.m.*, with Bishop Alan M. Gates presiding. A reception will follow at 6 p.m.

FOR INFORMATION: Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Boston (617-482-4826, ext. 221 or cathedral@diomass.org).

**New South Shore dean
appointed**

The Rev. Colette Wood, Rector of All Saints’ Church in Whitman, has been appointed dean of the South Shore Deanery, succeeding the Rev. Beth Wheatley-Dyson. The bishops express their gratitude to both for their leadership and willingness to serve.

DYC leads pre-Confirmation retreats for young people and mentors

The diocesan Office of Youth Ministry has scheduled three Friday-Saturday **Pre-Confirmation Retreats** to help prepare young people for Confirmation: *March 11-12* at St. Christopher's Church, Chatham; and *March 18-19* and *April 8-9*, both at the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center in Greenfield, N.H.

Confirmands and their mentors will gather to meet other young people and explore their call to Confirmation, its promise and challenge. The retreats are led by the members of the Diocesan Youth Council, and the groups will be joined by one of the bishops at each. Advance retreat registration is required. Register online, [here](#).

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. H. Mark Smith, Office of Youth Ministry (617-482-4826, ext. 215 or hmsmith@diomass.org).

B-SAFE partners gather in March for summer planning

B-SAFE summer program partners—new and returning—are invited to gather on *Sunday, March 6, 1-3 p.m.*, at the Church of the Redeemer (379 Hammond Street) in Chestnut Hill to begin planning for B-SAFE 2016. Lunch will be provided. Together with 55 partner congregations, B-SAFE provides a safe and learning-filled summer for more than 650 children and youth from low-income neighborhoods in Boston, Lower Roxbury, Dorchester, Mattapan and Chelsea.

FOR INFORMATION/TO RSVP: Betsy Walsh, B-SAFE partner organizer (781-249-6554 or betsy@ststephensbos.org).

Summer camp schedule announced

Summer camp registration is open at the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center in Greenfield, N.H. This year's five one-week sessions will each run from Sunday through Friday. The camp is also expanding its transportation options this summer to include bus routes with stops at St. Anne's Church in Lowell, Grace Church in Medford and Trinity Church in Bridgewater. On Fridays, these parishes will provide care and supervision to campers until 6 p.m. for the convenience of working parents. The camp is committed to sending every child to camp and offers a financial aid program to families in need of assistance. Detailed descriptions of summer camp programs, dates and rates are available at www.bchcenter.org/camp. For online registration click [here](#). Summer camp sessions for 2016 take place:

- Session 1: Sunday, June 26–Friday, July 1
- Session 2: Sunday, July 3–Friday, July 8
- Session 3: Sunday, July 10–Friday, July 15*
- Family Camp: Friday, July 15–Sunday, July 17
- Session 4: Sunday, July 17–Friday, July 22*
- Session 5: Sunday, July 24–Friday, July 29

*Two-week session offered for EDGE and Base campers during sessions 3 and 4.

FOR INFORMATION: Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center (603-547-3400 or camp@bchcenter.org); www.bchcenter.org.

CHURCHWIDE:

The Episcopal Church's Task Force on the Study of Marriage announced Jan. 22 that it has mapped out its work for the next triennium. The task force, at its recent first meeting, addressed its charge from [Resolution A037](#) from the 2015 General Convention, and has divided into four working groups that will:

- consult with and listen to people living some of the “changing trends and norms” that Resolution A037 asked the task force to examine;
- study and write short documents about marriage and other relationships using various disciplines, and solicit responses to them from a range of perspectives;
- monitor the impact of same-sex marriage upon congregations, the Episcopal Church and Anglican and ecumenical partners; and
- promote the use of the Dearly Beloved Toolkit (both text and PowerPoint slides available [here](#)) and essays for congregational and diocesan conversation, and monitor the ongoing discussion about the relationship between the church and the state in regard to weddings.

The full announcement is available [here](#). For current information and to offer input, visit the task force's [Facebook page](#).

NOTES:

- **Did you participate in “A New Awakening”?**: “A New Awakening: A Season of Prophetic Witness,” in progress since the beginning of October, is coming to an end, but there's still time to participate. The initiative's goal has been for 75 percent of congregations to hear at least one sermon on climate change during the season. Those who have preached are asked to fill in a brief online form, available [here](#), to help track participation alongside other New England dioceses and faith communities that have participated. More resources are available at www.climatewitness.org.

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Karen Montagno, Congregational Resources and Training (617-482-4826, ext. 413 or kmontagno@diomass.org).

- **Congregational Leadership Reports** (yellow) and **Lay Delegate Certification Forms** (pink) for 2016 have been mailed to all rectors and other priests in charge of congregations. The forms are pre-printed with the information currently in the diocesan database. Congregations are asked to **update the information on these forms and return them to the Convention Office** within 10 days of their annual meeting as required by diocesan canons but no later than the deadline of *Friday, March 11*.

FOR INFORMATION: Laura Simons, Office of Convention and Council (617/482-4826, ext. 406 or lsimons@diomass.org).

- The Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston has announced the return of its **Lenten Preaching Series**, this year focusing on racism and its impact on the church and society. The series will be offered on *Thursdays, beginning Feb. 18 through March 17*. A brief preaching service at 12 p.m. will be followed by conversation over a brown-bag lunch (lunches will also be available). Speakers will include Dean John P. Streit Jr. (Feb. 18), Bishop Alan M. Gates (Feb. 25), Olivia Hamilton (March 3), Byron Rushing (March 10) and Bishop Gayle E. Harris (Mar. 17). All are welcome.

FOR INFORMATION: Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Boston (617-482-4826, ext. 221 or cathedral@diomass.org).

- **Pre-Confirmation Retreats** will be offered on two Saturdays this spring **for adults** preparing to be confirmed or received in the Episcopal Church, each from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.: [Feb. 20](#) at St. Paul's Church (127 Summer Street) in Lynnfield and [April 2](#) at the Church of Our Saviour (120 Center Street) in Middleborough. Led by the Rev. Karen Montagno and Amy Cook, each retreat will explore this next step in a lifelong faith journey through conversations and spiritual practices. One of the bishops will be present for part of each day. Lunch is included; cost is \$10 per person. Click on the dates above to register online.

FOR INFORMATION: Amy Cook, Congregational Resources and Training (617-482-4826, ext. 645 or acook@diomass.org).

- A first-of-its-kind **Intercollegiate Lenten Retreat** for undergraduate and graduate students in Greater Boston will be held on *Saturday, Feb. 20, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.* at Emmanuel Church (15 Newbury Street) in Boston. Students will join one another for a day of prayer, conversation and creative reflection featuring sessions led by the Rev. Ed Cardoza, a spiritual director at Still Harbor. This day of Lenten exploration, led by area students and several Episcopal chaplaincies, will help retreatants reconnect with spirituality in their daily lives and re-center for service in the world. Advance registration is required, and can be done [here](#).

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. H. Mark Smith, Office of Youth Ministry (617-482-4826, ext. 215 or hmsmith@diomass.org).

- **“Small Church” Gathering:** Clergy and lay leaders are invited to a gathering on *Sunday, Feb. 28, 3-5 p.m.*, at Christ Church (12 Quincy Avenue) in Quincy for a time to share joys and challenges around work in small congregations. “Small” can be self-defined according to context—either by Sunday attendance or by less than full-time clergy hours. All are welcome to join with others for discussions on supporting small church ministry as well as planning ahead for resources that could be of help in the future, including topics for a diocesan Small Church Summit in May.

FOR INFORMATION/TO RSVP: Amy Cook, Congregational Resources and Training (617-482-4826, ext. 645 or acook@diomass.org).

- Young people from across the diocese are invited to gather *Friday-Saturday, March 25-26* at Trinity Church (Copley Square) in Boston for a **Good Friday Overnight** event that will begin with a shared dinner and end after a simple breakfast. In between, the group will work with New York City-based performance artist Tony LoPresti to explore the meaning and power of the Passion narrative using the physical self, personal experiences and imagination. The lock-in style overnight will include Friday night worship in the darkened sanctuary and a Saturday morning reflection on the impact of the story on our lives and world today. Middle and high school youth and their mentors are welcome. Registration is required and can be done online, [here](#).

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. H. Mark Smith, Office of Youth Ministry (617-482-4826, ext. 215 or hmsmith@diomass.org).

- A **Global Mission Summit**, “Our Mission Journey: Sharing Our Present, Imagining Our Future,” will be held on *Saturday, April 9, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.*, at St. Peter’s Church (320 Boston Post Road) in Weston. The keynote speaker will be the Rev. Titus Presler, author of *Going Global with God*. Registration will open soon.

FOR INFORMATION: Laura Walta, Global Mission (617-482-4826, ext. 422 or lwalta@diomass.org).

TRAINING & LEARNING:

- Annual **Congregational Business Practices workshops** are offered by the diocese’s Congregational Consultants to educate parish leaders on the basics of parish business operations. They are ideal for new vestry members, wardens and, especially, treasurers, as well as the clergy. The workshop is given on four *Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.*: [Feb. 13](#) at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston; [Feb. 20](#) at St. Peter’s Church (320 Boston Post Road) in Weston; [Feb. 27](#) at St. Mary’s Church (3055 Main Street) in Barnstable; and [March 12](#) at St. Paul’s Church (127 Summer Street) in Lynnfield. Click on the dates above to register online.

FOR INFORMATION: Chris Meyer, Congregational Consultants (617-527-2739 or cmeyer@diomass.org).

- **Safe Church Training** will be offered on *Saturday, Feb. 20, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.*, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston. This is a six-hour training session designed to increase awareness regarding sexual misconduct and abuse of power; outline steps toward preventing abuse; offer ways to intervene when misconduct occurs; and equip anyone in a position of parish leadership with ways of healing and rebuilding the body of Christ. Doors open at 8 a.m. for check-in and light refreshments; participants bring their own lunch. Find more information and register online, [here](#).

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Additionally, two **Clergy Safe Church Refresher Trainings** have been scheduled for 2016: [Tuesday, May 24](#), 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m., at All Saints' Church (121 North Main Street) in Attleboro (click on the date to register) and *Saturday, Oct. 8*, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m., at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston (registration information will be forthcoming). It is expected that all clergy canonically resident or licensed in the Diocese of Massachusetts will attend a Safe Church Training once every three years. The diocese is committed to healthy church environments and needs the shared wisdom and experience of everyone to make them so.

FOR INFORMATION: Matt Roias, Safe Church Training (617-482-4826, ext. 416 or mroias@diomass.org).

● **Contemplative Practice and Wisdom Christianity Series:**

“Sing a New and Ancient Song: Sacred Chant and the Emergent Psalter” on *Saturday, Feb. 20*, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m., at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston will be the first in a series of workshops presenting the renewal of contemplative spiritual practices and the recovery of a way of faith rooted in inward and outward transformation. The workshop will be led by Isaac Everett, Minister of Liturgical Arts at The Crossing, and the Rev. Steven Bonsey, Advisor for Contemplative Practice with the Leadership Development Initiative (LDI). It will offer a mix of presentation and participation, for people engaged or interested in contemplative spiritual practices and/or liturgical renewal and for those interested in ancient-modern or emergent church. No prior experience or musical knowledge required. Discounted tickets are available in advance. Register online [here](#).

Other workshops in the series include: *April 16*—Centering Prayer and the Divine Indwelling with Bill Sheehan; *April 23*—Sacred Chant and the Beloved Community with Ana Hernandez; and *April 30*—The Wisdom Way of Knowing with Cynthia Bourgeault. The series is sponsored by LDI, The Crossing, the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, the Diocese of Massachusetts and Contemplative Outreach of Boston.

FOR INFORMATION: Lydia Strand, Leadership Development Initiative (lydia@lditeam.org).

● The Diocese of Massachusetts is sponsoring a **Godly Play training** opportunity *Thursday-Saturday, March 17-19*, at St. Stephen's Church (16 Highland Avenue) in Cohasset. A Core Godly Play Training for beginners and an Advanced Godly Play Training for experienced teachers will take place simultaneously. Scholarships for participants from the Diocese of Massachusetts are available. For information and to register, visit www.godlyplayfoundation.org.

GRANTS & LOANS:

- Applications for **2016 Green Improvement and Simple Acts Grants** will be available on Feb. 15. *This is the final year for these grants.* Applicants for Green Improvement Grants will have the opportunity to submit either a full application on March 15 for awards announced on April 22 (Earth Day), or a letter of intent on March 15 with an April 22 application deadline for awards announced in early June. Simple Acts applications are accepted on a rolling basis.

Applications for **2016 Deanery Grants (Sending Serving and House of Mercy Grants)** will be available on Feb. 15. They are due by Oct. 17.

Applications for **2016 Congregational Development Grants** will be available on Feb. 15. They are due on May 16.

More information is available on the diocesan Web site, [here](#).
FOR INFORMATION: Lauren Zook, Congregational Resources and Training (617-482-4826, ext. 306 or lzook@diomass.org).

DIOCESAN COUNCIL ACTIONS:

At its annual retreat on Jan. 22-23 at the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center in Greenfield, N.H., the Diocesan Council:

Heard an update from the Diocesan Mission Strategy Listening Process Design Team.

Heard a report from the diocesan treasurer, Lisa Garcia.

Voted to reappoint all current Executive Committee members with the exception of Matt Harper-Nixon, who concluded his term in December. The council thanked him for his service over the past year.

Voted to thank Jim Gammill, past treasurer, for his service on the Executive Committee.

Heard a report from the mission hub director, Jin Min Lee, on second-round budget approvals for the mission hubs.

Heard an update from the director of development, Lynd Matt, on the collaborative campaign aspect of the mission hub fundraising initiative.

Brainstormed future Diocesan Council agenda items and priorities.

Voted to elect the Rev. Meghan Sweeney as chair of the Mission Strategy Design Team for phase two of the process.

Heard an update on the Annual Fund from the director of development, Lynd Matt.

Heard an update from the chief business officer, Gerry Sullivan, on the former St. Luke's and St. Margaret's property in Allston.

Next Diocesan Council Meeting: *Thursday, Feb. 25, 5:30-8:30 p.m.*, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston.

FOR INFORMATION: Laura Simons, Office of Convention and Council (617/482-4826, ext. 406 or lsimons@diomass.org).

JOB POSTINGS:

Go to www.diomass.org
(Resources for Congregations &
Clergy > [Employment](#)).

Among the jobs currently posted on the diocesan Web site: [executive director](#) of Life Together; [summer camp head chaplain](#) at the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center; [organist and choir director](#) at St. Andrew's Church in Edgartown; [youth minister](#) at the Parish of the Epiphany in Winchester; [interim minister of music](#) at St. John's Church in Jamaica Plain; [minister of music](#) at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Reading; [director of major gifts](#) at St. Stephen's Church in Boston; [music director](#) at Christ Church in Plymouth; [church administrator](#) at Grace Church in New Bedford; [organist](#) at the Church of St. Augustine and St. Martin in Boston; [Sunday school coordinator](#) at the Church of Our Saviour in Arlington; [music director](#) at All Saints' Church of the North Shore in Danvers; and [communications specialist](#) at St. Stephen's Church in Cohasset.

CLERGY SEARCH & CALL REPORT:

Go to www.diomass.org for
details (Resources for Congrega-
tions & Clergy > Congregation &
Clergy Support > [Clergy Deploy-
ment/Transition Ministry](#)).

Communication regarding
deployment and parish trans-
itions should be directed to
the Rev. Dr. Jean Baptiste
Ntagengwa (617/482-4826,
ext. 400 or [jbntagengwa@
diomass.org](mailto:jbntagengwa@diomass.org)).

CHURCHES INITIATING PROCESS:

None at this time.

CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:

None at this time.

CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:

None at this time.

CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES:

None at this time.

CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:

DOVER, St. Dunstan's Church
NORTH BILLERICA, St. Anne's Church
SOUTH YARMOUTH, St. David's Church
WABAN, Church of the Good Shepherd
WESTON, St. Peter's Church (pilot search project)

CLERGY CHANGES:

The Rev. Dr. Thomas C. Ferguson has been called as rector of St. John's Church in Sandwich starting on April 10.
The Rev. Joseph Mumita has been appointed as bridge priest at Grace Church in Everett.

NEXT *fyi*:

fyi is published the first Wednesday of each month. The submission deadline for the March 2 issue is **Wednesday, Feb. 24 at noon**. E-mail submissions to tjs@diomass.org.