
F.Y.I.

WEDNESDAY, Dec. 3, 2008

NEWS and INFORMATION for the clergy and leadership of

The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts

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

(617) 482-4826, 482-5800 / (800) 696-6079 / FAX: (617) 482-8431

Don't miss these big occasions for celebrating a forward-moving church:

Cathedral to host presiding bishop for 20th anniversary celebration of Barbara C. Harris's consecration

Join the Episcopal Church's presiding bishop, the Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston on *Saturday, Feb. 28, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.*, to **commemorate and celebrate the 20th anniversary of the consecration of the Rt. Rev. Barbara C. Harris as the first female bishop in the Anglican Communion.** The celebration will include a program focusing on what this momentous change meant 20 years ago and how the church is changing now. A celebratory Eucharist will follow, with Presiding Bishop Jefferts Schori preaching and celebrating.

More details will be posted in the new year at www.diomass.org.

Brian McLaren, one of America's 25 most influential evangelicals, to keynote spring learning event

Brian McLaren, author of *A Generous Orthodoxy* and *The Secret Message of Jesus*, will be the featured speaker at the **spring diocesan learning event** on *Saturday, March 7* at Boston University.

McLaren is a noted international speaker and a leading voice in the emergent church movement, listed by *Time* as one of America's 25 most influential evangelicals. By special invitation of the archbishop of Canterbury, he addressed the assembled bishops at the most recent Lambeth Conference on the gifts of Anglicanism to meet the challenge of evangelism in the world today. McLaren has an avid following and this event will be open to the public, so members of the diocese will want to be ready to register at www.diomass.org early in the new year.

Join Phyllis Tickle and The Great Emergence:

The Massachusetts Episcopal Clergy Association and The Crossing at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul are cosponsoring an **event featuring author Phyllis Tickle** on *Thursday and Friday, March 26 and 27, 2009* (morning and afternoon sessions, followed by 6 p.m. worship on Thursday; morning session on Friday). The event is **open to clergy and lay leaders.** More event and registration information will be made available in the new year.

Tickle, an active leader in the Episcopal Church and a bridge builder between mainline and evangelical Christians, is the author of *The Great Emergence: How Christianity is Changing and Why*, in which she explores emerging shifts in the Christian landscape, along with lessons and opportunities for the church of the future.

Holy Land pilgrimage planned for June 2009

Bishop Gayle E. Harris and the Rev. Ted Gaiser will lead a *June 20-30, 2009, mission pilgrimage to Palestine and Israel*. Letters of application from those interested in participating, with initial deposits, are welcome through *Jan. 31, 2009*.

The pilgrimage supports the diocesan mission goal of every church being in partnership with another church or organization in the Anglican Communion, and will further develop relationships with the Christian community in the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. The pilgrimage will include mission projects and visits to places such as the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, the Western (Wailing) Wall, the Church of the Nativity, Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum, the Dome of the Rock and the Sea of Galilee.

Those interested in participating should submit a letter describing why they want to participate, how they hope to gain from the opportunity and how they anticipate sharing the experience with their faith community.

Anticipated expense for each participant is \$3,500. All participants are expected to make an initial deposit of \$600 with their letter of application by Jan. 31, 2009. Application letters and deposits should be mailed to: The Rev. Ted Gaiser, c/o Office of Bishop Suffragan Gayle E. Harris, Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, 138 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02111.

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Ted Gaiser (617/782-1577 or tgaiser@diomass.org); www.missiongoal.org.

Cathedral welcomes all to church this Advent and Christmas

The Cathedral Church of St. Paul's **annual Messiah Sing-Along** takes place on *Wednesday, Dec. 17, 12:15-1:15 p.m.* Solos will be sung by members of the Cathedral Scholars Choir, conducted by music director Edward A. Broms. Suggested donation is \$5.

All are welcome at **Advent and Christmas services at the cathedral church:**

- *Sunday, Dec. 21, 10 a.m.:* **Lessons and Carols for Advent and Christmas**, with hymns and anthems sung by the Cathedral Scholars Choir, Gospel Choir and congregation. Bishop Barbara C. Harris will preside.
- *Wednesday, Dec. 24, 8 p.m.:* **Festival Eucharist for Christmas Eve**, with pre-service seasonal music beginning at 7:30 p.m. Bishop Gayle E. Harris will preside.
- *Thursday, Dec. 25, 10 a.m.:* **Christmas Day Holy Eucharist**, with Dean Jep Streit preaching and Bishop M. Thomas Shaw, SSJE presiding.
- *Wednesday, Dec. 31:* **First Night**. Beginning at 12 noon, the cathedral and 21st Century Productions will present 13 hours of seasonal concerts and worship services. Evening worship will include Choral Evensong at 4 p.m. sung by MagnificatBoston, directed by Mark Engelhardt, and the Interfaith Midnight Peace Reconciliation Service at 11:45 p.m.

FOR INFORMATION: Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street), Boston (617/482-5800); cathedral@diomass.org.

NOTES:

Please share the contents of *F.Y.I.* with your parish leadership and congregation through your parish bulletin, announcements, newsletters and Web sites. The contacts listed in *F.Y.I.* welcome your inquiries for more information.

■ The **diocesan and cathedral offices will be closed** beginning *Wednesday, Dec. 24*, reopening for regular office hours on *Friday, Jan. 2, 2009*. Regular Sunday services at the cathedral church and the Monday Lunch Program will take place as usual.

■ The **Ministry Discernment Conference** offered by the bishops and the Commission on Ministry will be held on *Saturday, Feb. 7, 2009, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.*, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston. (The snow date is Feb. 14, 2009—check www.diomass.org for notice.) The day is intended to provide an in-depth look at the 2009 Ministry Discernment Handbook and to give potential applicants to the ordination process an opportunity to explore their sense of call and whether that call is to ordained ministry or committed lay ministry.

Persons considering ordained ministry are required to attend the conference, along with their sponsoring priest and at least one member of their congregation's discernment committee. Discernment committees are chosen by the sponsoring priest and should be named before the conference so that as many members as possible may attend. One member of the committee must be a member of the vestry. It is strongly encouraged that inquirers bring their spouses or partners to the conference.

Online registration at www.diomass.org—open from Dec. 29, 2008, through Jan. 29, 2009—is necessary. Cost per person is \$20 and includes registration, materials, morning coffee and bagels and lunch. Each person attending must register separately. Checks payable to the Diocese of Massachusetts, designated Discernment, can be mailed to the Office for Ordained Vocations, Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, 138 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02111, to be received no later than Jan. 29, 2009, or paid in person the day of the conference. (Where this presents a hardship, some financial assistance is available.)

FOR INFORMATION: Judith Lidberg, Staff Officer for Ordained Vocations (617/482-4826, ext. 494); jlidberg@diomass.org.

■ The **Christian Formation Community of Practice**, a gathering of those working in education and formation in the diocese, will meet with Bishop Bud Cederholm on *Tuesday, Jan. 27, 2009, 9:30-11:30 a.m.*, at the diocesan offices (138 Tremont Street) in Boston. The group will be discussing the "Christian Formation Charter" to come before the Episcopal Church's General Convention in July 2009. A copy of the charter is available by contacting Amy Cook at 617/482-4826, ext. 645 or acook@diomass.org.

The Christian Formation Community of Practice is open to any leader in the diocese, clergy or lay, who is working in a parish and has Christian formation as a primary ministry focus.

FOR INFORMATION: Becky Taylor, All Saints Parish, Brookline (617/738-1810 or reled@allsaintsbrookline.org).

■ **Safe Church Training** sessions have been scheduled on these upcoming Saturdays in 2009, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.:

- Jan. 17 at the Church of Our Saviour (2112 County Street) in Somerset;
- Jan. 31 at Christ Church (Zero Garden Street) in Cambridge; and
- March 7 at St. John's Church (95 Deerfield Avenue) in Westwood. Cost is \$40 per person; some scholarship support is available. Registration is required 14 days prior to the training date and can be done online via www.diomass.org (click on "Inside the Diocese," then see "Training & Learning Opportunities").

These six-hour training sessions are designed to increase awareness regarding sexual misconduct and abuse of power; to outline steps toward preventing abuse; to offer guidelines for intervention when misconduct occurs; and to equip those in leadership positions with ways of healing and rebuilding the body of Christ. The training is required of all clergy and diocesan employees. It is also intended for wardens and other parish officers, vestry members, eucharistic and pastoral visitors, youth leaders, confirmation sponsors, retreat chaperones, acolyte leaders, choir directors, church school teachers, volunteers working in congregations on a regular basis and all employees of congregations.

FOR INFORMATION: Dick Vanderlippe, Safe Church Training coordinator (978/263-1895); rvan@aol.com.

■ "Radical Abundance: A Theology of Sustainability" is the topic of this year's **Trinity Institute national theological conference**, offering keynote speeches by leading theologians and grassroots activists, engaging discussion groups and connections with others who care about this issue (see www.trinitywallstreet.org/institute).

There will be **three partner sites in this diocese**; the registration fee at all sites is \$30:

- *Wednesday-Friday, Jan. 21-23, 2009*, at Christ Church (33 Central Street) in Andover, where participants can watch the live broadcast and participate in small groups on site.

FOR INFORMATION/TO REGISTER: James Dodson (978/683-7268); jmontyd@comcast.net.

- *Wednesday-Friday, Jan. 21-23, 2009*, live broadcast at St. Paul's Church (80 Pleasant Street) in Brockton. Register by e-mail to stpauls@stpaulsbrockton.org.

- *Friday-Saturday, Jan. 30-31, 2009*, at MIT in Cambridge, where participants can watch a distillation of the presentations and participate in small groups on site.

FOR INFORMATION/TO REGISTER: Christina English (cenglish@mit.edu).

PARISH to PARISH:

■ The diocesan-supported ministry partnership of St. Mary's and St. Mark's churches in Dorchester has a number of needs:

- for worship: stoles and/or chasubles in beautiful condition;
- for the youth group: a foosball and/or Ping-Pong table in great condition;
- for fellowship: a name tag set or system and a new sturdy picnic table; and
- for facilities: two snowblowers in great working condition; youth community service hours; skilled laborers willing to donate time or the time of an apprentice (carpenters, painters, plumbers, electricians and roofers); financial contributions toward custodial services, snow shoveling, carpet removal and installation, dumpsters, piano and organ tuning and office supplies.

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Cathy George (cathygeorge@gmail.com) or The Rev. Eric Hillegas (eric.hillegas@gmail.com).

DIOCESAN COUNCIL ACTIONS:

Next Diocesan Council meetings: *Thursday, Dec. 4, 5:30-8:30 p.m.* in Sproat Hall at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston; and *Friday-Saturday, Jan. 23-24, 2009,* at the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center in Greenfield, N.H.

FOR INFORMATION: Lois Murphey, Office of Convention and Council (617/482-4826, ext. 406); loism@diomass.org.

JOB POSTINGS:

Go to www.diomass.org
(Quick Links → Employment).

Among the jobs currently posted on the diocesan Web site are: **organist** at St. Gabriel's Church in Marion; **music minister** at Christ Church in Harwich Port; **administrative assistant** at the Parish of the Epiphany in Winchester; **interim music director-organist** at St. Mark's Church in Foxboro; and **church school director** at St. Paul's Church in Newton Highlands.

PARISH SEARCH & CALL REPORT:

For detailed information go to www.diomass.org (Inside the Diocese → Parish and Clergy Support).

Communication regarding deployment and parish transitions should be directed to the Rev. Cynthia Hubbard (617/482-4826, ext. 400 or chubbard@diomass.org).

CHURCHES INITIATING PROCESS:

PLYMOUTH, Christ Church

CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:

AYER, St. Andrew's Church
LINCOLN, St. Anne's-in-the-Fields Church
SAUGUS, St. John's Church

CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:

NEWTONVILLE, St. John's Church
TAUNTON, St. Thomas's Church
SOUTH YARMOUTH, St. David's Church

CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES:

BROOKLINE, St. Paul's Church
EDGARTOWN, St. Andrew's Church
HINGHAM, Church of St. John the Evangelist
ORLEANS, Church of the Holy Spirit
ROCKLAND, Trinity Church

CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:

FALMOUTH, St. Barnabas's Church
OSTERVILLE, St. Peter's Church
WINCHESTER, Parish of the Epiphany

OTHER OPEN POSITIONS:

BOSTON, Trinity Church: associate rector for outreach and justice ministries (full description at www.diomass.org; see "Clergy Deployment/Transition Ministry" under "Inside the Diocese"). Contact: The Rev. Pamela L. Foster (pfoster@trinitychurchboston.org).

With this F.Y.I.:

NEXT F.Y.I.:

- ✓ Refugee Immigration Ministry "Resources for Congregations" flier.

Please note that the submission deadline for the January issue of *F.Y.I.* is earlier than usual because of the holidays: The deadline for the Jan. 7, 2009, issue is **Wednesday, Dec. 17 at noon.**

Please address e-mail submissions to tjs@diomass.org.

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