
F.Y.I.

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 7, 2009

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

Gift cards collection & art show benefit Gulf Coast hurricane relief

Merchandise gift cards, in any amount from designated retailers, are being collected for distribution to people affected by hurricanes on the Gulf Coast who are in need and still trying to rebuild.

Gifts cards from Wal-Mart, Sears, Bed Bath and Beyond, Home Depot or Lowe's can be sent to: Gulf Coast Partnership, Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, 138 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02111.

Additionally, the diocesan Gulf Coast Partnership is organizing a **benefit art show titled "heArts Alive!"** for *March 27-28* (tentative location: Trinity Church, Boston) **with all proceeds to support the medical van operated by St. Anna's Church in New Orleans.** Artist and hurricane survivor Lori K. Gordon will travel to Boston to present her art at the show; other artists from around the diocese have also pledged donations of work in media of sculpture, painting, stained glass, iconography and photography, centering on the theme of resurrection and reclaiming broken pieces.

FOR INFORMATION: *The Rev. Michael Hamilton, Gulf Coast Partnership (617/482-4826, ext. 354); gulfcoast@diomass.org.*

New nonviolence network gathers this month

The Nonviolence Community of Practice, a **new diocesan network forming around the practice of nonviolence**, will meet for the first time on *Thursday, Jan. 22, 6-7:30 p.m.*, in the Lawrence Room at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston. This first gathering will help to identify interested persons and determine the future work of the community of practice, whether in advocacy, education or fostering the spirituality of nonviolence.

FOR INFORMATION: *The Rev. Canon Steven Bonsey, Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Boston (617/482-4826, ext. 204); sbonsey@diomass.org.*

Registration is now open for Ministry Discernment Conference

The **Ministry Discernment Conference** offered by the bishops and the Commission on Ministry will be held on *Saturday, Feb. 7, 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—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.

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NEXT F.Y.I.:

The submission deadline for the Feb. 4 issue is **Wednesday, Jan. 28 at noon.** Address e-mail submissions to tjs@diomass.org.

New diocesan and cathedral staff members welcomed

Three new members are being welcomed to the diocesan and cathedral staffs.

Donna Ashley is the director of congregational resources and training, a new position. She comes from Trinity Church in Boston by way of General Theological Seminary in New York where she received her MTS degree and was the director of admissions. Her prior work was in a variety of financial institutions. She will help implement the mission strategy goal to “provide practical resources for congregations in evangelism, stewardship and congregational development and Christian formation.” She begins her work Jan. 5 and can be reached at dashley@diomass.org.

Alice Claps will join the diocesan Treasurer’s Office as controller at the end of January. She is a member of the vestry at St. James’s Church in Groveland and is currently serving as the fiscal director at a community action program on the North Shore. She has spent her career in for-profit, public and nonprofit sectors. She has also been involved in community-based volunteer activities. Once established in the office, she can be reached at aclaps@diomass.org.

Chris Nourse is the new director of the Monday Lunch Program at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston. He is active with Ecclesia Ministries and common cathedral. He also worships at the cathedral church.

Share word of hard times resources via www.diomass.org

A “Hard Times Resources” page is being created on the diocesan Web site, www.diomass.org. Congregations of the diocese that are offering resources or sponsoring events, programs or services to assist people who are struggling are asked to **submit information to tjs@diomass.org** for consideration (program descriptions, dates and locations, contact information).

Offerings suitable for posting might include prayer or support groups for job seekers, volunteer transportation or carpooling arrangements or church-based community meals. A recent example: The Church of the Holy Nativity in South Weymouth organized in December a “Hard Times Forum,” which brought in representatives from city government, social services and community organizations to answer questions about issues ranging from how to get help paying heating bills to getting medical prescriptions filled for the elderly. Holy Nativity has also opened its upper hall as a warm gathering place for elders who need to turn down their heat at home during the daytime.

Holy Land pilgrimage planned for June 2009

Bishop Gayle Harris and the Rev. Ted Gaiser will lead a June 20-30 mission pilgrimage to Palestine and Israel; **letters of application with initial deposits, are welcome through Jan. 31** and 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.

**Presiding bishop to lead
20th anniversary
celebration of Barbara
Harris's consecration**

Join the Episcopal Church's presiding bishop, the Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul 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.

Event details will be posted at www.diomass.org.

In Bishop Harris's honor, cathedral dean Jep Streit is calling for **written remembrances, stories and reflections from those whom Harris has confirmed, received or ordained**. Material, with contact information, should be e-mailed by *Feb. 1* to cpresler@diomass.org.

**Emergent church and
evangelism leader
Brian McLaren keynotes
March learning event**

The **diocesan spring learning event** takes place on *Saturday, March 7* at the Sherman Union at Boston University. Guest speaker Brian 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. McLaren has an avid following and this event will be open to the public; more details and online registration will be posted at www.diomass.org as they become available.

A series of bulletin inserts, suitable for use during Epiphany, has been produced to help individuals and groups prepare for the diocesan spring learning event. The inserts present excerpts and study questions from McLaren's book, *Everything Must Change*. The bulletin inserts have been sent to all congregations and are also posted at www.diomass.org (see March 7 on the diocesan events calendar, or visit the "Document Library" under "Inside the Diocese").

FOR INFORMATION: Amy Cook, Resource Center (617/482-4826, ext. 645); acook@diomass.org

**Author Phyllis Tickle to
discuss The Great
Emergence**

Author and Episcopal Church leader Phyllis Tickle will lead an event for clergy and lay leaders based on her new book, *The Great Emergence: How Christianity is Changing and Why*, on *Thursday, March 26* at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston. **(Please note the change from the two-day program announced elsewhere.)** The event is cosponsored by the Massachusetts Episcopal Clergy Association and The Crossing.

Tickle will explore emerging shifts in the Christian landscape and lessons and opportunities for the mainline liturgical church. The day will begin with lunch, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., for Episcopal clergy, seminarians and postulants and candidates for Holy Orders. The public is welcome to attend Tickle's keynote and practical discussions from 2 to 6 p.m. and worship from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

FOR INFORMATION/REGISTRATION: www.mecaclergy.org and www.thecrossingboston.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.

■ Congregational Leadership Report and Lay Delegate Certification forms have been mailed to all rectors or other priests in charge of congregations. The forms were preprinted with the information currently held in the diocesan database. **Updated forms should be returned to the Office of Convention and Council within 10 days of annual meetings**, as required by diocesan canon.

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

■ The **Senior High Retreat**—"One Great Show: The Setlist of Your Life"—for youth in grades 9-12, is coming up: *Friday-Sunday, Feb. 6-8* at the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center in Greenfield, N.H. The weekend is an opportunity for high school Episcopalians from around the diocese to meet each other, worship, hear a live band, play games and perhaps even enjoy some snow. The cost is \$115 per person, with scholarships available, as well as transportation, for a small fee, from the Cape and South Shore. Online registration is at www.diomassyouth.org (click on "Calendar").

FOR INFORMATION: Kit Lonergan, Youth Ministry (617/482-4826, ext. 215); klonergan@diomass.org.

■ Last summer, St. Stephen's Church in Boston sponsored B-SAFE (Bishop's Summer Academic and Fun Enrichment), which served 530 at-risk youth at six sites in Boston and Chelsea, with the support of 50 Episcopal partner churches and more than 700 volunteers. **B-SAFE seeks new partners for summer 2009.** An orientation meeting for new and returning partners will be held on *Sunday, March 15, 1-3 p.m.* (with lunch included), at the Church of the Redeemer (379 Hammond Street) in Chestnut Hill.

FOR INFORMATION: Jane Tierney (617/262-9070, ext. 13); jltier@aol.com.

Ministry Discernment Conference *continued from page 1*

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. It is strongly encouraged that inquirers bring their spouses or partners.

Online registration at www.diomass.org is necessary and will be open through Jan. 23 (not Jan. 29 as previously announced). Cost is \$20 per person and includes registration, materials, morning coffee and bagels and lunch. Checks payable to the Diocese of Massachusetts, designated "Discernment," can be mailed to Richard Vanderlippe, Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, 138 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02111, to be received no later than Jan. 19 (not Jan. 29 as previously announced). 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.

■ **Safe Church Training host sites are being organized for 2009**, and requests for consideration are welcome. Training site requirements are available at www.rvan.org/Safe-Church.htm (click on "Hosting a Training Event" at page left).

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

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

■ The diocesan Congregational Business Consultants will offer **workshops on business practices and parish audits** on these upcoming *Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.*: **Feb. 28** at Trinity Church (131 West Emerson Street) in Melrose; **March 21** at the Parish of St. Paul (1135 Walnut Street) in Newton Highlands; and **March 28** at St. Mary's Church (3055 Main Street) in Barnstable.

The workshops are aimed at treasurers, especially new ones, but will be of interest to all clergy and lay members with church business responsibilities. Organizers hope congregations will send teams. A nominal fee will apply; registration details will soon be made available.

FOR INFORMATION: Beth Dixon, Congregational Business Consultants (781/910-7103); beth.dixon1@verizon.net.

■ The annual **Absalom Jones Lecture at Episcopal Divinity School** (99 Brattle Street) in Cambridge will be presented this year by the Rev. Dr. Wilda Gafney, Associate Professor of Hebrew and Hebrew Scripture at Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, on *Wednesday, Feb. 18, 7 p.m.* She will also preach at the school's Absalom Jones Eucharist on *Thursday, Feb. 19 at 8:30 a.m.* Both take place in St. John's Memorial Chapel on campus. A reception will follow both the lecture and service.

FOR INFORMATION: Episcopal Divinity School, Cambridge (www.eds.edu).

JOB POSTINGS:

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

Among the jobs currently posted on the diocesan Web site are: **professional child care provider** at Christ Church in Cambridge; Sunday morning **infant care provider** at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Reading; **organist** at St. Gabriel's Church in Marion; **music minister** at Christ Church in Harwich Port; and **administrative assistant** at the Parish of the Epiphany in Winchester.

F.Y.I. is online at www.diomass.org (News/Events/Media → Publications).
Sign up for monthly "E-news" at www.diomass.org (Quick Links → Subscribe to E-News).

DIOCESAN COUNCIL ACTIONS:

At its Dec. 4, 2008, meeting, the Diocesan Council:

- Voted to accept the draft financial statements for the year ending Dec. 31, 2007, as presented by the Audit Committee.
- Received a report from the Treasurer's Office.
- Voted to award grants to be paid from the accumulated income from House of Mercy agency funds to the Church of St. John the Evangelist in Boston for its Neighborhood Action program; St. Paul's Church in Brockton for its St. Paul's Community Center; and St. Paul's Church in Peabody for its St. Paul's Preschool.
- Voted to allow St. John's Church in Saugus to change its deanery designation from the North Shore Deanery to the Mystic Valley Deanery.
- Voted to approve 2009 diocesan staff clergy housing allowances.

Next Diocesan Council Meeting: *Friday-Saturday, Jan. 23-24* at the Barbara C. Harris Center in Greenfield, N.H.

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

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. Canon Cynthia Hubbard (617/482-4826, ext. 400 or chubbard@diomass.org).

CHURCHES INITIATING PROCESS:

PLYMOUTH, Christ Church
SOMERSET, Church of Our Saviour

CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:

AYER, St. Andrew's Church
SAUGUS, St. John's Church
HALIFAX, St. David's Church

CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:

LINCOLN, St. Anne's-in-the-Fields Church
NEWTONVILLE, St. John'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
OSTERVILLE, St. Peter's Church
ROCKLAND, Trinity Church
TAUNTON, St. Thomas's Church

CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:

WINCHESTER, Parish of the Epiphany

OTHER POSITIONS:

PLYMOUTH, Christ Church: interim assistant. Contact: The Rev. Dr. Ted Cole Jr., Interim Priest, tcole@christchurchplymouth.org.
