



## This Month's News

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## Support urged for Anglican Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza



PHOTO: Episcopal Life Online  
*Anglican Al Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza*

The Anglican Al Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza, stretched to its maximum during the best of times, is struggling to meet demands for medical care as the current military conflict in the region continues to take a heavy human toll, according to a [Jan. 8 statement](#) from the Rt. Rev. Suheil Dawani, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem.

In a Jan. 6 e-mail to diocesan clergy, Massachusetts' Bishop M. Thomas Shaw, SSJE and Bishop Gayle E. Harris urged support for Ahli Arab Hospital and prayers for peace.

"As we hear and read with deep dismay the news reports about Israel's ongoing military operation in Palestine's Gaza Strip in response to Hamas rocket fire into southern Israel," they wrote, "many of us are wondering what can be done to help alleviate the terrible suffering of innocent civilians caught in the midst of this violent political situation."

[Read more.](#)

## Two New England bishops to participate in inauguration events

Bishop Gene Robinson of the Diocese of New Hampshire will give the invocation at the opening event for President-elect Barack Obama's inauguration celebrations.



Robinson told [Episcopal New Service](#) that his participation in the Jan. 18 event at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., is "a wonderful opportunity for the Episcopal Church." Robinson was prominent among those who earlier criticized the president-elect's choice of the Rev. Rick Warren, a conservative evangelical, to deliver the invocation at the Jan. 20 swearing-in ceremony.

Retired Massachusetts bishop suffragan Barbara C. Harris will also be in D.C. for inauguration festivities. Harris is among 25 church leaders receiving a Keepers of the Flame Award during the [African American Church Inaugural Ball](#) on Jan. 18.

## Church prepares to celebrate 20th anniversary of Barbara Harris's historic consecration

Plan to join the Episcopal Church's presiding bishop, the Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, for the 20th anniversary celebration of the Rt. Rev. Barbara C. Harris's consecration as the first female bishop in the Anglican Communion. It takes place at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston on Saturday, Feb. 28, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

[Read more.](#)

*Call for stories*  
Bishop Harris said at the time



PHOTO: Susan Lerner

*Presiding Bishop Jefferts Schori and Bishop Barbara C. Harris at Harris's retirement in 2002.*

of her retirement in 2002 that the best moments of her episcopacy have been those spent baptizing, confirming and receiving people into the Episcopal Church. In her honor, the dean of the cathedral is calling for written remembrances, stories and reflections from those whom Harris has confirmed, received or ordained. Material, with contact information, may be e-mailed to [cpresler@diomass.org](mailto:cpresler@diomass.org).

## Innovative evangelical thinker to lead March 7 learning event

"We must begin again, as once our forebears did, to live not as culturally safe Christians, but as observant ones," author Phyllis Tickle writes in the foreword to Brian McLaren's latest book, *Finding Our Way Again: The Return of the Ancient Practices*. McLaren -- author, speaker, pastor and networker among innovative Christian leaders, thinkers and activists, and a leader in the emergent church movement -- will be the guest speaker at the diocesan spring learning event on March 7 at Boston University, and all are invited to join him for what promises to be a thought-provoking program of learning and conversation about carrying the Christian message and mission into today's world.



McLaren's recent writings have focused on the need for understanding Jesus' message to the world and how to live out that message as true disciples of Christ in a holistic, life-giving way. At this intersection of faith and life is a focus on ancient Christian practices and authentic worship. The emergent church movement's approach to meeting the deep spiritual needs of a younger population seeking engagement through relationships rather than institutions is particularly relevant for mainline churches whose attendance is flat lining.

[Bulletin inserts](#) presenting excerpts and study questions from McLaren's *Everything Must Change* are available to help individuals and groups prepare for the March 7 learning event. The event will also offer special workshops around the areas of liturgy and music, social justice and intentional living.

[Read more and register.](#)

## Winter issue of *Episcopal Times* focuses on practicing citizenship

Bishop Gayle E. Harris on the Christian's oath of allegiance; peace pilgrims pray with their feet; energy summitters take a virtual pilgrimage to the boiler room; Joyce Caggiano on faith and finance, or, in her words, the rubber and the road; Massachusetts' bishops reflect on Lambeth 2008; and "Stand Up and Make a Difference," a last word on witnessing from Bishop Shaw.

[Read it here.](#)



## Join New England college students on retreat

Know a New England college student looking for a weekend of rest, fellowship and celebration? The New England dioceses that make up Province I of the Episcopal Church are offering a retreat for college students, "Who am I? Who is God? Two Questions or One?" led by Brother Timothy Solverson, SSJE. It takes place Friday through Sunday, Feb. 20-22 at the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center in Greenfield, N.H. Cost is \$40 per student. Sign up by e-mailing the Episcopal chaplain at MIT, Amy McCreath at [mccreath@mit.edu](mailto:mccreath@mit.edu), with name, school affiliation and phone number. The event's on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=44041060597>.

## Coming up

[Jan 15](#): Martin Luther King Day Observance, St. Paul's Church, Newburyport, 7 p.m.

[Jan 17](#): Safe Church Training, Church of Our Saviour, Somerset, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

[Jan 20](#): Church of the Advent's Theology on Tap, Cheers Bar, Boston, 7 p.m.

[Jan 21-23](#): Trinity Institute "Radical Abundance" national theological conference, with viewing sites at [Christ Church, Andover](#) and [St. Paul's Church, Brockton](#) (post-conference site hosted by [chaplaincy at MIT, Cambridge](#))

[Jan 22](#): Nonviolence Community of Practice, Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Boston, 6 p.m.

[Jan 22](#): A Faith Community Summit on Homelessness, St. Andrew's Church, Framingham, 6 p.m.

[Jan 23-24](#): Diocesan Council Retreat, Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center, Greenfield, N.H.

[Jan 25](#): Coltrane at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Boston, 10 a.m.

[Jan 27](#): Christian Formation Community of Practice, Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Boston, 9:30 a.m.

[Jan 27](#): Church of the Advent's Theology on Tap, Cheers Bar, Boston, 7 p.m.

[Jan 31](#): Safe Church Training, Christ Church, Cambridge, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

[Jan 31](#): "Ground of Your Own Choosing: Winning Strategies for Finding and Creating Work," St. Peter's Church, Weston, 9 a.m.

[Feb 3](#): Refreshment Day, Bethany House of Prayer, Arlington, 9 a.m.

[Feb 3](#): Church of the Advent's Theology on Tap, Cheers Bar, Boston, 7 p.m.

[Feb 3](#): Coltrane at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Boston, 7:30 p.m.

[Feb 6-8](#): Senior High Retreat, Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center, Greenfield, N.H.

[Feb 6](#): Province I "Fear Factor" Seminar, St. Paul's Church, Concord, N.H., 10 a.m., and Cathedral of St. John, Providence, RI, 6 p.m.

[Feb 6](#): Coltrane at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Boston, 7:30 p.m.

[Feb 7](#): 2009 Ministry Discernment Conference, Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Boston, 8:30 a.m. [Register by Jan. 23.](#)

[Feb 7](#): Province I "Fear Factor" Seminar, St. David's Church Agawam, Feeding Hills, 10 a.m.

[Feb 8](#): Massachusetts Chapter of the Union of Black Episcopalians annual Absalom Jones service, St. Bartholomew's Church, Cambridge, 4 p.m.

[Feb 10-12](#): Clergy Pre-Lenten Retreat, Notre Dame Mission Center, Ipswich

[Feb 10](#): Coltrane at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Boston, 7:30 p.m.

[Feb. 18](#): Absalom Jones Lecture featuring the Rev. Dr. Wilda Gafney, Episcopal Divinity School, Cambridge, 7 p.m.

[Feb. 20-21](#): CityReach overnight service learning program for high school youth and up on homelessness, Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Boston

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