



This Month's News

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Congregations reach out during hard times

Congregations in the diocese are reaching out in a variety of ways to support individuals and families who are struggling in these hard economic times.

"In these down economic times- and even when we as a parish have a deficit of about \$18,000- it is vital to keep focused outside ourselves, to continually reach out" the Rev. Beth Wheatley-Dyson, Priest-in-Charge at St. Andrew's Church in Hanover, reports. Her parish is starting a support group for the unemployed.

[Read more](#)



PHOTO: iStockphoto.com

Episcopal Church marks 20th anniversary of Barbara Harris's consecration

As the Episcopal Church prepares to mark the 20th anniversary of women in the episcopate, with a celebration on Feb. 28 at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston, Bishop Barbara C. Harris took time for an interview, and reflected on women's ordination, the controversies of the day in the Anglican Communion and why she still loves the church.

"There are times when the church exerts holy boldness



PHOTO: Susan Lerner

Presiding Bishop Jefferts Schori and

and imagines what God can do through the likes of us, or what the likes of us can do by the amazing grace of God," she says. The interview will appear the week of Feb. 23 at [Episcopal Life Online](#) and in the March issue of Episcopal Life.

All are invited to join the Episcopal Church's presiding bishop, the Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, for the Feb. 28 celebration. A 10 a.m.-12 p.m. program of video, guest speakers and conversation with Bishop Harris will focus on what this momentous change meant 20 years ago and how the church is changing now. (Sack lunches will be available for those who [register](#)). At 1 p.m. there will be a celebratory Eucharist, with three gospel choirs, Bishop Jefferts Schori preaching and Bishop Harris celebrating.

[Read more and register](#)

[Click here to learn about the live Webcast of the event](#)

Bishops invite diocesan community to Lenten common prayer

The bishops invite the diocesan community to join in common prayer during Lent on issues of national concern that they have identified: the environment, peace, health care, the economy, racism and the Holy Land. Beginning Ash Wednesday, Feb. 25, weekly prayers by the bishops and others, with resource lists, will be available via www.diomass.org for use by individuals, groups and congregations.

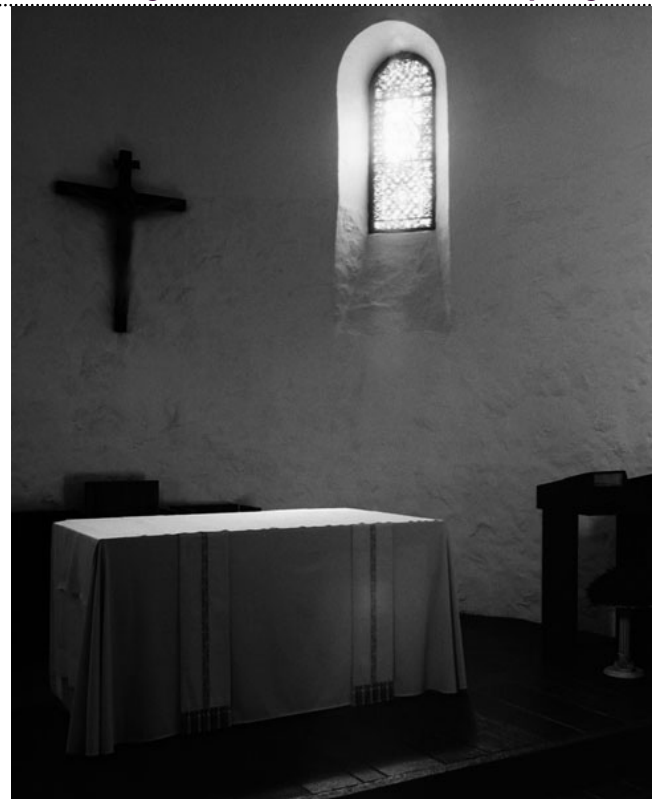


PHOTO: Deborah Scarff

Brian McLaren brings "Everything Must Change" message to diocesan spring learning event

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. His talks will focus on the urgency of proclaiming the Gospel and using the baptismal covenant as a framework for forming disciples.



Brian McLaren

During the program's extended lunch break, participants will be invited to visit one of three large groups for the opportunity to meet and talk with others already working in and broadening the fields of social action, worship and intentional communities. These breakout groups will provide the opportunity for learning new ideas and successful strategies, sharing stories of transformation and providing ways to bring back resources for individuals and parishes.

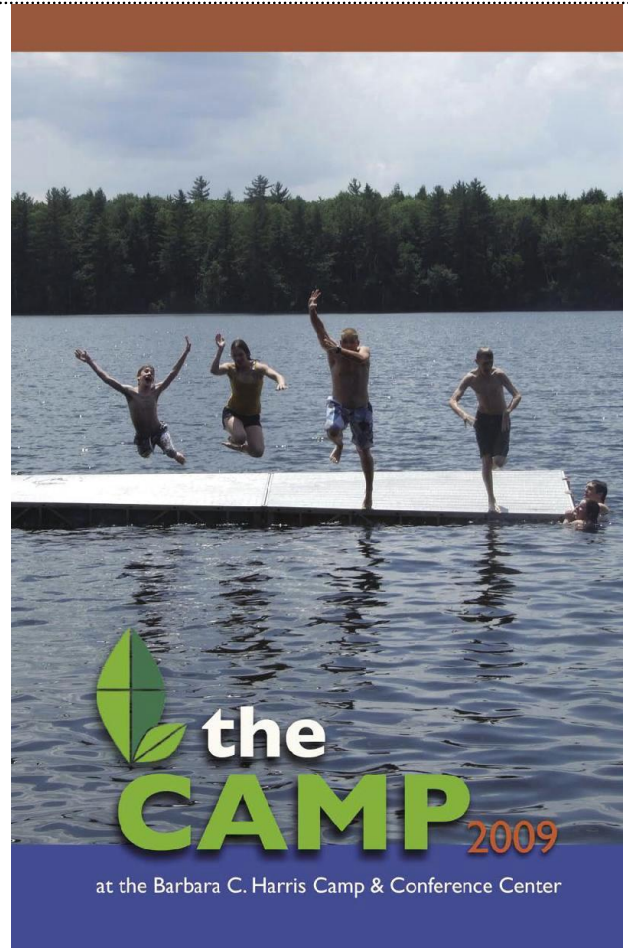
This event will be Webcast due to a generous grant from the Province I Christian Formation Network. Those interested in hosting a Webcast viewing site should contact Amy Cook (acook@diomass.org or 617-482-4826, ext. 645).

[For more information and registration](#)

It's not too early to think about summer

Summer camp, that is. Registration is already underway at the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center in Greenfield, N.H. Summer camp brochures and registration materials are available at church or by contacting the camp. Financial aid is available to ensure that any child who wishes to attend may do so. For more information contact the camp at 603-547-3400, or www.bchcenter.org.

[Register online](#)



Old North Church hopes to come up tails

The U.S. Mint is launching a new series of quarters featuring national landmarks on the "tails" side. Governor Deval Patrick has set up an online poll to determine which Massachusetts sites might be nominated, and the Episcopal Church's own Old North Church in Boston is one of the landmarks under consideration. Anyone wanting to vote early and often (but before Feb. 26) [can do it here](#).

Coming up

[Feb 20-22](#): Province I College Students Retreat, Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center, Greenfield, N.H.

[Feb 20](#): "Building the Blessed Community" Film Series, All Saints Parish, Brookline, 7:30 p.m.

[Feb 22](#): Choral Evensong, Church of the Redeemer, Chestnut Hill, 5 p.m.

[Feb 22](#): Beautiful Music for Organ and Strings, St. John's Church, Gloucester, 5 p.m.

[Feb 23](#): Discussion program with Naim Ateek, Church of the Good Shepherd, Watertown, 7:15 p.m.

[Feb 24](#): Introduction to Centering Prayer, Bethany House of Prayer, Arlington, 7 p.m.

[Feb 25](#): Ash Wednesday at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Boston, 8 a.m., 12 p.m., 6 p.m.

[Feb 28](#): Business Practices and Parish Audits Workshop, Trinity Church, Melrose, 9 a.m.

[Feb 28](#): 20th Anniversary Celebration of Barbara C. Harris's Consecration, Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Boston, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

[Mar 1](#): Spring Market, Church of the Redeemer, Chestnut Hill, 11:30 a.m.

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

[Mar 3](#): Employment support group, St. Andrew's Church, Hanover, 9 a.m.

[Mar 6](#): "Building the Blessed Community" Film Series, All Saints Parish, Brookline, 7:30 p.m.

[Mar 7](#): Safe Church Training, St. John's Church, Westwood, 8:30 a.m.

[Mar 7](#): Diocesan Learning Event with Brian McLaren, Boston University, 9:30 a.m.

[Mar 7](#): World Day of Prayer, St. Andrew's Church, Framingham, 11 a.m.

[Mar 7](#): Hunger Awareness & Action for Kids - Work Day at Overlook Farm, 12 p.m.

[Mar 7](#): Early St. Patrick's Day Celebration, Church of the Holy Nativity, South Weymouth, 6 p.m.

[Mar 10](#): Employment support group, St. Andrew's Church, Hanover, 9 a.m.

[Mar 10](#): Introduction to Centering Prayer, Bethany House of Prayer, Arlington, 7 p.m.

[Mar 11](#): Green Gathering, Bethany House of Prayer, Arlington, 6 p.m.

[Mar 12](#): Poetry As Prayer, Bethany House of Prayer, Arlington, 7 p.m.

[Mar 14](#): Organ recital by Douglas Bruce, Trinity Church, Haverhill, 4p. m. [Mar 14](#): Lenten Day of Prayer, St. Margaret's Convent, Boston, 9:30 a.m.

[Mar 15](#): B-SAFE Orientation for new and returning partner churches, Church of the Redeemer, Chestnut Hill, 1 p.m.

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