



AUGUST 2009

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Pray, serve, reflect on Sept. 11 & 12

Sign up and join Bishop Tom Shaw and Bishop Bud Cederholm and others in diocesan community service projects on Sept. 11 and 12 in observance of President Obama's declaration of a National Day of Service:

Help out at the Helping Hands Food Pantry in Cambridge. Clean up trash along the Merrimac River. Get involved with environmental action in Roxbury. Fix up Boston church facilities in Dorchester and the South End so they're ready for service to neighborhood children and community members. Spread the good word about the St. Paul's Community Center in Brockton and outreach at St. Anne's Church in Lowell.



GRAPHIC: Episcopal Times

"We believe that our Sept. 11 and 12 days of reflection and action will powerfully express our baptismal commitments to fellowship, prayer, reconciliation, compassion and justice. We'd love to have many members of the diocese participate and shape the days of service," says Natalie Finstad. She is a member of the diocese's young adult intern programs, the organizers of this service effort.

Volunteers and donations are needed. Get more information and [sign up here](#) or contact Natalie at natalie@diomassintern.org.

Diocese remembers Bishop Coburn

The Rt. Rev. John Bowen Coburn, retired 13th bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, died on Aug. 8 at age 94. "As our friend, as our bishop and a bishop in the church of God, he leaves us with immeasurable blessings," the Rev. Cathy H. George said in her homily at the Aug. 14 funeral service at St. Anne's-in-the-Fields Church in Lincoln.

"Whether from his days as a priest out Route 2 in Amherst or the sophisticated bustling St. James on Fifth Avenue in Manhattan, or his ministry in the Bronx, whether as dean and president of then ETS or maybe his most significant moment--we'll leave that judgement to God--he shaped our church while president of the House of Deputies. When his persistent leadership crystallized in the moment he called for before the vote was taken to approve the ordination of women, he called for silence," George said. "God used him as a

courageous and prophetic voice long before silence, long before retreats and prayer were in vogue, beckoning us to find ourselves in that mystery, to become who we are hid in Christ and in God."

All are invited to join for a service of thanksgiving for Bishop Coburn's life and ministry, to be held on Saturday, Oct. 3 at 3 p.m. at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston.

Read more about Bishop Coburn's life and lasting contributions to the wider church, and post your own remembrance on our [tribute page](#).



PHOTO: Karsh Ottawa
The Rt. Rev. John B. Coburn

And read more about B-SAFE, below, to which contributions in Bishop Coburn's memory have been designated.

Episcopalians come together to take care of kids

More than 50 Episcopal churches made sure that six weeks of summer were safe and fun for 540 city children and their teen counselors at seven Episcopal church and school sites in Boston and Chelsea, all through [B-SAFE](#), the Bishop's Summer Academic Fun and Enrichment program coordinated by St. Stephen's Church in Boston's South End.



PHOTO: Courtesy of B-SAFE
A volunteer from All Saints Parish, Brookline reads with B-SAFE kids at St. Augustine's and St. Martin's Church in Roxbury.

They did it by making and serving lunches every weekday; organizing Friday field trips to farms, beaches, parks, movie theaters and museums; and by reading and spending time with the children. In the end, everyone got fed, literally and figuratively, according to the Rev. Liz Steinhauser, Director of Youth Programs at St. Stephen's Church.

"These partnerships are efforts and opportunities to bridge the gaps between adult and youth, urban and suburban, between people of different races and economic classes," she wrote in a recent [B-SAFE blog post](#). "B-SAFE partnerships are an opportunity to feed the hunger we all have to serve with compassion and be useful to others. It gives people a place to put their care, concern and love."

See for yourself in this [video](#) by Kathy Wittman, made during Bishop Tom Shaw's recent visit to B-SAFE sites this summer.

"Generous pastoral response" hearing follows General Convention action

About 45 people gathered at Emmanuel Church in Boston for an Aug. 13 hearing, called by the diocese's bishops as a first step toward developing diocesan policy in response to the resolution on same-gender marriage adopted at the Episcopal Church's recent General Convention.



Known as [C056](#), "Liturgies for Blessings," the resolution calls for the collection and development of "theological and liturgical resources" and gives bishops allowance to "provide generous pastoral response," particularly in states such as Massachusetts where same-gender marriage is legal.

Because the resolution's language is both precise and broad, bishops now are left to determine what it means in their local contexts and what implications any implementation might have for the wider church.

[Read the full story.](#)

The bishops shared their impressions of the General Convention in a July 24 letter, available [here](#). Diocesan coverage from the convention is posted [here](#).

Still burning: Among the online media stats reported by the Episcopal Church's communications office: Bishop Barbara. C. Harris's sermon at the July 10 General Convention Integrity Eucharist was the most-watched sermon on the church's [Media Hub](#), where it's still available in the on-demand section (see also "Where There's Smoke, There's Fire," [here](#)).

Parish history to hit the big screen (but only if you send us your photos)

The Diocese of Massachusetts will mark its 225th year during the annual Diocesan Convention, Nov. 6-7 at Trinity Church in Boston. Congregations are invited to contribute historical photos--favorites and ones depicting significant events in parish life--for big-screen display during the convention.



Electronic submissions (by e-mail or on disc, so as not to jeopardize originals), with identifying caption information, will be received gladly through Oct. 5. E-mail photos to tjs@diomass.org, or mail discs to: Communications Office, Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, 138 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02111.

Thank you to our friends at St. Paul's Church in Bedford for these then-and-now photos of their building in 1958 and 2008.



Courtesy of St. Paul's Church in Bedford
St. Paul's Church being built in Bedford in 1958 (top), and St. Paul's Church today

Counting down to 350 and Oct. 24 Climate Action Day

Bishop Bud Cederholm asks the diocesan community to join him in observing an "International Day of Climate Action" on Saturday, Oct. 24, when events on town and city commons will be held to raise awareness and public advocacy toward reducing carbon emissions to slow global warming. "Go to www.350.org for more information about how Episcopal congregations can join ecumenical and interfaith groups in their communities in holding a powerful and prophetic event. What's needed is your leadership," he says.



Send an e-mail to Diane Pound (dianep@diomass.org) in Bishop Cederholm's office if you'd like to be added to an e-mail list for notification about local Oct. 24 plans and events.

Newslinks:

Demand up, donations down: St. Paul's Table at St. Paul's Church is among the Brockton food pantries and meal providers trying to meet continuing and increased need, according to this [Aug. 10 Brockton Enterprise story](#). Signing up for one of the [Sept. 11 & 12 service projects](#) at the top of this newsletter is one way to help.

B-SAFE, here, there, everywhere: Episcopal churches working together to take care of city kids is good news in a lot of places. Read about it above, and read about it in the [July 16 Dover Hometown Weekly](#) (worth a click just for the great photo), and in this [July 24 Needham Your Town boston.com post](#) by Heidi Fieldston. The *Chelsea Record* also featured B-SAFE at St. Luke's/San Lucas, though the link is no longer live.

Music to his ears: Mark Engelhardt's choir school for kids at Grace Church in Salem is featured in this [Aug. 5 Salem News story](#).

35 years of women's ordination: Barriers to progress still exist, according to this [July 29 Episcopal Life Online reflection](#) by Nancy Davidge, Director of Communications and Marketing at Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge.

Salem supports Hispanic ministry: The Episcopal Church's growing Hispanic ministry in Salem is making a new home at St. Peter's Church, this [July 7 Salem News story](#) reports. What it doesn't fully acknowledge is the leadership, sacrifice and support given by Grace Church, the ministry's founding site and first home.

Save this date - Sept. 26

The Diocese of Massachusetts will present Congregational Resource Day: "Discipleship: Being Formed and Sent in the Power of the Spirit into the Ministries of Our Daily Lives" on Saturday, Sept. 26, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m., at Bentley University in Waltham.

There will be workshops to help develop skills and give spiritual and practical help for joining God's mission in the world. Bring a team from your parish!



Online registration will open this month, and a flier is available for download [here](#).

Coming up

[Aug 21 & 28](#): Lobster Roll Lunch at Christ Church, Harwich Port, 11:30 a.m.

[Aug 21 & 28](#): Friday Night Grill at St. Christopher's Church, Chatham, 5 p.m.

[Aug 22](#): Safe Church Training, St. Gabriel's Church, Marion, 8:30 a.m.

[Aug 23](#): Middle East Peace discussion series at Church of the Messiah, Woods Hole, 5 p.m.

[Aug 23](#): Compline at St. Barnabas's Church, Falmouth, 8 p.m.

[Aug 26](#): Benefit concert for typhoon relief, Church of St. John the Evangelist, Boston, 7 p.m.

[Aug 24 & 31](#): Lobster on the Lawn at St. Barnabas's Church, Falmouth, 5 p.m.

[Aug 27](#): Cape and Islands Deanery offers "Ecological Awareness" with author Daniel Goleman, Grace Church, Vineyard Haven, 5 p.m.

[Aug 29](#): "Godly Play" Core Training, All Saints' Church, Belmont, 9 a.m.

[Aug 30](#): Joy Mass at St. Mary's Church, Barnstable, 10:30 a.m.

[Sep 1, 8, 15 & 22](#): Church of the Advent's Theology on Tap, M. J. O'Connor's Irish Pub, Boston, 7 p.m.

[Sep 11 & 12](#): "Pray, Serve, Reflect" Days of Service, at various sites. [Sign up to serve.](#)

[Sep 12](#): Diocesan Council, St. Mary's Church, Dorchester, 9 a.m.

[Sep 15](#): "HERvoices: Survivors of Contemporary Slavery" at Trinity Parish, Newton Centre, 7 p.m.

[Sep 16](#): Clergy Day, Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center, Greenfield, N.H., 9 a.m.

[Sep 19](#): Safe Church Training, Grace Church, Vineyard Haven, 8:30 a.m.

[Sep 19](#): Journey to Adulthood training, St. Andrew's Church, Wellesley (*note location change*), 9 a.m.

[Sep 21](#): International Peace Day Vigil, Trinity Church, Concord, 7 p.m.

[Sep 26](#): Congregational Resource Day, Bentley University, Waltham, 9 a.m.

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