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Diocesan community responds to Haiti earthquake

Though the convent of the Society of St. Margaret was destroyed in the devastating Jan. 12 earthquake in Haiti--along with the whole of the Diocese of Haiti's Holy Trinity Cathedral complex in Port-au-Prince--the three nuns there are alive, and their Boston sisters were finally able to speak with one of them by phone on Jan. 15 from a football field at College St. Pierre.



PHOTO: ECHO/American Red Cross
Haiti's capital, Port-au-Prince, photographed during a Red Cross-Red Crescent/ECHO aerial mission on Jan. 13

Jude Harmon, a postulant for ordination from the Diocese of Massachusetts currently serving in-country as an Episcopal Church Young Adult Service Corps volunteer, is also unhurt, and was at the U.S. Embassy in Port-au-Prince on Jan. 15 awaiting evacuation.

For countless others, the worrying and waiting for news of family members, friends and mission partners continues.

"Please know how much our prayers are needed," Bishop M. Thomas Shaw, SSJE wrote in a Jan. 13 e-mail to diocesan clergy and parish leadership. "An unfathomable catastrophe like this in a place that has already known so much hardship really does have us questioning God at the deepest levels of our faith. Yet we must know that God is more present to suffering than any of us could ever possibly be, and that as we are willing to take on the suffering of others, whether through our prayer, our donations or our service, we join God in God's compassionate presence," he wrote.

[Read more.](#)

Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori and Episcopal Relief and Development's president, Robert Radtke, discuss the situation in this [Jan. 13 video.](#)

Bishop Shaw asks that donations be sent to:

[The Society of St. Margaret](#), 17 Highland Park Street, Boston, MA 02119.

[Episcopal Relief and Development](#): Donate online at www.er-d.org or call 800-334-7626, ext. 5129. Donations also can be mailed to Episcopal Relief and Development, PO Box 7058, Merrifield, VA 22116-7058. (Please put "Haiti Fund" in the memo line of all checks.)

March 6 learning event focuses on discipleship

Registration is now open for the annual diocesan Spring Learning Event on March 6 at Boston University.

This year's theme of "Claiming Discipleship" will help participants explore how to live into their baptismal covenant: How do we turn to Christ in our lives? In our parishes? How do we teach and encourage others in their own journeys as they follow Jesus?



PHOTO: Leon A. Brathwaite II

[Click here](#) for the event page and registration link.

A series of "Epiphany Papers" is available on the diocesan Web site, [here](#), to help individuals and small groups prepare for the March 6 event.

Diocese ordains six new priests for the church

Bishop Bud Cederholm ordained six new priests for the Episcopal Church on Jan. 9 at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston.

Pictured with the Rev. Canon Mally Lloyd and Bishop Cederholm, they are, from left: The Rev. Maggie Arnold (Church of St. John the Evangelist in Duxbury); The Rev. Matthew Kruger (Trinity Church in Concord); The Rev. Kit Lonergan (St. James's Church in Cambridge); The



PHOTO: Anthony Pretti

The Rev. Canon Mally Lloyd, Canon to the Ordinary, (far left) and Bishop Bud

Rev. Viki Pretti (All Saints' Church in West Newbury); The Rev. Tina Rathbone (Cathedral Church of St. Paul and Ecclesia Ministries in Boston); and The Rev. Kate Cress (Church of Our Saviour in Somerset).

In her sermon during the service, Lloyd noted that the ordinands made up an unusual group, with none serving traditional first-year curacies: Arnold and Kruger are in Ph.D. programs; Lonergan and Rathbone are serving, respectively, in diocesan youth and cathedral street ministries; and Cress and Pretti have been serving as deacons in charge of congregations.

Lloyd charged them all with fully claiming their vocation: "Be a priest," she said. "Love the people."

Cederholm (far right) with the diocese's six newest priests, ordained on Jan. 9 at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston.



PHOTO: Robert Greiner

The Rev. Tina Rathbone ministers with homeless people through the Cathedral Church of St. Paul and Ecclesia Ministries, and members of her congregation made this chasuble for her in honor of her Jan. 9 ordination to the priesthood. She wore it with evident delight to celebrate her first Eucharist on Jan. 10 on Boston Common.

B-SAFE is thinking summer and wants you to, too

The folks at B-SAFE remind us that it is not too early to start thinking about summer.

The [Bishop's Summer Academic and Fun Enrichment program](#) is gearing up to provide another safe, structured and learning-filled summer for Boston's at-risk youth, and they need partners for 2010. Thanks to the support of 51 Episcopal partner congregations in this diocese and more than 850 volunteers, B-SAFE served 530 children and youth last year.



PHOTO: Courtesy of B-SAFE

A Brookline volunteer reads with B-SAFE kids at St. Augustine's and St. Martin's Church in Roxbury last summer.

Watch a video by Kathy Wittman about B-SAFE [here](#).

An orientation for new and returning partners will be held on Sunday, March 21, 1-3 p.m., (lunch provided) at the Church of the Redeemer (379 Hammond Street) in Chestnut Hill. Anyone planning to come may RSVP or direct questions to Jane Tierney at jltier@aol.com or 617-262-9070, ext. 13.

Parish Circuit

Cambridge comes to St. Peter's on MLK Day: [St. Peter's Church](#) (838 Massachusetts Avenue) in Cambridge is again hosting the Cambridge Peace Commission's annual Martin Luther King Day Commemoration on Jan. 18. It starts with a community gathering at 11:30 a.m. outside Cambridge City Hall (795 Massachusetts Avenue), followed by a celebration at 12:30 p.m. inside St. Peter's Church.

"I am very pleased that St. Peter's will host Cambridge's Martin Luther King Day celebration after a prolonged hiatus due to our lack of accessibility," the Rev. Francois Trottier, St. Peter's rector, says. "Now that the church is accessible to all we are delighted to once again be the venue for this important event. I also feel it is good that this event take place in a house of worship because so much of the Rev. Dr. King's life was fostered and nurtured in churches not unlike St. Peter's."

Thanksgiving in Epiphanytide: [Grace Church in Salem](#) uses its annual

service of Lessons and Carols for Epiphanytide as an occasion to thank its partner community service organizations, who send representatives to read the nine lessons. This year the service took place on Jan. 10, and the Northeast Animal Shelter and the welfare services organization VOCES were among those invited.



PHOTO: Courtesy of Grace Church, Salem
Choir school members with director Mark Englehardt and rector Deborah Phillips

"This is the third year that we are doing our lessons and carols service as a gesture to the community. It was [rector] Deb Phillips's idea, and has been really successful because it gets people into the church that would otherwise never have set foot in," lay associate and parish musician Mark Englehardt explains.

The service is also a showcase for Grach Church's choirs, especially its growing children's choir school, which this year has 18 singers.

St. Michael's likes to salsa: We didn't know this about our friends at [St.](#)

[Michael's Church](#) (26 Pleasant Street) in Marblehead, but it turns out it's true, and they're inviting everyone to join them at their Latino Festival dinner-and-dancing event, this year on Feb. 6, in the parish hall. There are salsa dancing lessons with a professional instructor at 6 p.m., followed at 7 p.m. by dinner (slow-roasted pork, spicy slaw, rice and beans, flan) and dancing. Tickets are \$20, with proceeds going to two good causes: the [Esperanza Academy](#) for girls at Grace Church in Lawrence and Haiti earthquake relief. RSVP and direct questions to Renee Conly at weconly@comcast.net or Deirdre Robbins at deirdre.robbins@comcast.net.

Newslinks

New ways to tell the Gospel story: The presiding bishop mentions the diocese's Relational Evangelists in her Jan. 4 column, [here](#).

To build or not to build: St. James's Church in Cambridge is engaged in a worthy struggle to be both good steward and good neighbor in the face of some opposition to housing development plans for its property, according to this Dec. 31 *Boston Globe* [story](#).

A homeless problem 2,000 years old: *Boston Herald* columnist Peter Gelzinis shines a spotlight on it in his [coverage](#) of the Dec. 21 memorial service held at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston for the 120 homeless persons who died on Boston streets in 2009.

New day, new start: With respect for his new flock's "commitment to evangelicalism within the Episcopal Church" and a carrier pigeon named Lovey-Dovey in hand, the Rev. Patrick Gray joins the continuing congregation at Christ Church in Hamilton as its new priest-in-charge. Read the Dec. 21 *Hamilton-Wenham Chronicle* feature [here](#).

Don't miss these upcoming opportunities

Registration is open through Jan. 22 for the annual **Ministry Discernment Conference on Feb. 6**. Anyone considering ordained ministry must attend, along with sponsoring priests and discernment committee members. Sign up [here](#).

Trinity Institute at MIT: The Episcopal ministry at MIT in Cambridge will host a local gathering site for the Feb. 5 and 6 Trinity Institute conference, this year on "Building an Ethical Economy." More information is [here](#).

Celebrate Absalom Jones: The Massachusetts Chapter of the Union of Black Episcopalians invites the diocese to celebrate the life and legacy of the Episcopal Church's first black priest, at its annual service on Feb. 14, 4 p.m. at St. Cyprian's Church (1073 Tremont Street) in Roxbury. The service will feature lay leadership awards, music by the late Horace Boyer (editor of the *Lift Every Voice and Sing* hymnal) and preaching by Episcopal Divinity School seminarian Randy Calendar.

[Episcopal Divinity School's](#) Absalom Jones Eucharist takes place on Feb. 8 in St. John's Memorial Chapel on campus. Trustee Robert Steele will preach and the Rev. Canon Edward W. Rodman will serve as celebrant.

Workshops on business practices and audits for clergy, wardens, vestry members and treasurers are coming up on Feb. 27 and March 13 and 20. Sign up [here](#).

Stewardship Seminar: The Rev. Angela Emerson, stewardship development minister for the Diocese of Vermont, will lead a session on April 10, 9 a.m.- 1 p.m., at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston. Check the www.diomass.org events calendar for sign-up information.

Also Coming Up

[Jan 18:](#) Evensong in memory of Haiti earthquake victims, Parish of the Messiah, Auburndale, 7:30 p.m.

[Jan 19:](#) "Spirit: Garden Inspiration" Lecture with Dan Peterson, Trinity Church, Boston, 7 p.m.

[Jan 20:](#) Contemplative Epiphany Eucharist, Bethany House of Prayer, Arlington, 7 p.m.

[Jan 22-23:](#) Diocesan Council Overnight Retreat, Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center, Greenfield, NH

[Jan 30:](#) Worship Learning Party, Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Boston, 9:30 a.m.

[Feb 2:](#) Refreshment Day, Bethany House of Prayer, Arlington, 9 a.m.

[Feb 2-4:](#) Pre-Lenten Retreat for Diocesan Clergy, Notre Dame Mission Center, Ipswich

[Feb 5 & 6:](#) Trinity Institute viewing at MIT, Cambridge

[Feb 5-7:](#) Senior High School Youth Retreat, Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center, Greenfield, N.H.

[Feb 6:](#) Ministry Discernment Conference, Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Boston, 8:30 a.m. **Sign up by Jan. 22** [here](#).

[Feb 6:](#) Epiphanytide Retreat, The Order of St. Anne-Bethany, Arlington, 1 p.m.

[Feb 6:](#) Latino Festival, St. Michael's Church, Marblehead, 6 p.m.

[Feb 10](#): Green Gathering, Bethany House of Prayer, Arlington, 6 p.m.

[Feb 14](#): UBE Absalom Jones Service, St. Cyprian's Church, Roxbury, 4 p.m.

[Feb 19-21](#): College Student Retreat, Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center, Greenfield, N.H.

[Feb 25](#): Safe Church Training, Church of the Advent, Boston, 8:30 a.m.

[Feb 25](#): Diocesan Council, Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Boston, 5:30 p.m.

[Feb 26](#): Cursillo Renewal Weekend, Marist House, Framingham, 6 p.m.

[Feb 27 & March 17 & 20](#): Congregational Business Practices and Audit Workshops , various locations, 9 a.m. Sign up [here](#).