



This Month's News

Episcopal churches take peace to the playground

Vineyard Haven feels connection with oil spill victims

'Keep it up,' Khazei tells Episcopal City Mission

Esperanza girls celebrate second graduating class

New deacons ordained on June 5

Degree recipients honored at EDS commencement

Bishop Barbara Harris recuperates after stroke

Worship on the beach

NewsNotes

Coming up

Also Coming up

Quick Links...

diomass.org

[The Episcopal Church](#)

[The Anglican Communion](#)

Join Our Mailing List!

Episcopal churches take peace to the playground

In the wake of the recent Boston street violence that left four young people dead in a month, St. Stephen's Church in the city's South End is taking its witness for peace to the playground.

Every Tuesday at 5 p.m. through mid-August, St. Stephen's will hold a prayer service at the O'Day Playground. It's just steps from the church and is the site of frequent gang activity and occasional violence, according to the Rev. Liz Steinhauser, director of youth programs at the church.

"Imagine being seven years old and not being able to play in the playground you can see from your bedroom window," she told the [South End News](#) last week.

The first prayer vigil at the playground on June 8 launched this summer's B-SAFE program run by St. Stephen's at six Episcopal church and school sites in the South End, Dorchester, Roxbury and Chelsea. Hundreds of Episcopalians from more than 50 outlying parishes come in to make lunches, read books with children and organize field trips. As a result, some 430 children and youth are safer for six weeks each summer, and about 90 teens get counselor training and summer jobs.

Over at [St. Mary's Church in Dorchester](#), a new playground awaits the congregation's children, 30 more children served by the church's childcare center and 60 B-SAFE kids, thanks to the volunteer efforts of many, including members of St. Anne's-in-the-Fields Church in Lincoln, Grace Church in Newton and St. Stephen's.

"We believe that giving these children a safe place to play will go a long way towards teaching them that their lives are precious, and we hope that this



PHOTO: Kathryn Kendrick

St. Stephen's Church in Boston held the first of its weekly summer prayer vigils at neighboring O'Day Playground on June 8.

will empower them to resist the lies of other forces around them, like gang violence, that treat life so flippantly," explains diocesan Micah Project intern Mac Stewart.

He says the playground is the first phase in a larger project to renovate the entire backyard at St. Mary's and install a basketball half-court. Donations are still needed to finish the job.

"We know that a simple playground can't solve all the problems of poverty and violence in many of our neighborhoods, but it is our hope that having a safe place for these children to play will contribute to a culture in our community that points lives in the right direction," Stewart says.

Kids want to make safe choices, Steinhauser says of the value of church programs like B-SAFE. "When you invest in young people, violence goes down."

Learn more about [B-SAFE](#) and how to get involved.

Donations designated for the playground at St. Mary's can be sent to St. Mary's Church, 14 Cushing Avenue, Dorchester, MA 02125.

Vineyard Haven feels connection with oil spill victims

The ongoing environmental and economic effects of the Gulf Coast oil spill that began in April weigh heavily on the hearts of many, especially those who live near and work on the water.

[Grace Church in Vineyard Haven](#) collected \$500 through a special offering on June 13 to help Gulf Coast fishing families, with plans to make it an ongoing campaign, reports the Rev. Robert Hensley, Grace Church's rector. He's invited neighboring Cape and islands parishes to do the same.

"The fragility of the livelihood of the fishermen in the affected area, combined with the environmental devastation, resonates deeply with the residents of the islands, and several members of my parish are commercial fishermen. Our youth in particular are deeply concerned," he wrote in an e-mail to colleagues.

Grace Church is sending its contributions to [Episcopal Community Services of the Diocese of Louisiana](#). That agency, with help from [Episcopal Relief and Development](#), will assist affected families in Terrebonne Parish with grocery, gas and utility expenses.

In a [Huffington Post piece](#) on May 26, the Episcopal Church's presiding bishop, Katharine Jefferts Schori, wrote that a lesson from the oil spill is that we are all connected, saying: "Our collective sins are being visited on those who have had little or no part in them."

The piece is available as a bulletin insert [here](#).

'Keep it up,' Khazei tells Episcopal City Mission

Episcopal City Mission (ECM) supporters heard a call to "big citizenship" from Alan Khazei and celebrated the past year's social justice work, including CORI reform and British Petroleum disinvestment, during the organization's annual meeting on June 8.

The dinner event at Boston University showcases programs and organizations funded through ECM's grants programs. It also brings together parish delegates and supporters from across the diocese to learn about its work. This year about 230 people attended.



PHOTO: Tracy J. Sukraw
Keynoter Alan Khazei (center) congratulated members of the diocesan young adult intern programs and their directors for their commitment to community service.

ECM's annual social justice awards went to Frank Butler of Trinity Church in Topsfield; the Rev. Deborah Little Wyman, founder of Ecclesia Ministries and Common Cathedral in Boston; Anne Shumway of St. James's Church in Cambridge; and Diane Casey Lee of the Cape Cod Council of Churches.

[Read more.](#)

Esperanza girls celebrate second graduating class

[Esperanza Academy](#), the tuition-free girls' middle school at Grace Church in Lawrence, will celebrate on June 16 when the 18-member class of 2010 graduates--the second class to graduate from the school and the first to have studied at Esperanza all four years, from fifth to eighth grade.

"In the last four years, these girls have grown into confident, competent, connected young women. Because of their dedication and commitment, and with the support of the Esperanza



PHOTO: Courtesy of Esperanza Academy
Esperanza Academy's Class of 2010

community, they are on the path to success. They have truly blossomed here on Garden Street and we are proud to send them into the world," head of school Laurie Bottiger said in a prepared release.

All 18 girls will enroll as ninth graders at local private and public high schools in the fall, and the class as a whole received more than \$300,000 in high school scholarships.



PHOTO: Courtesy of Esperanza Academy Graduate Rayza C. receives her Book of Common Prayer from the Rev. Jeffrey Gill, Rector of Christ Church in Andover, and the Rev. Joel Almono, Priest-in-Charge at Grace Church in Lawrence, during the school's baccalaureate on June 13.

New deacons ordained on June 5

Bishop Gayle E. Harris ordained six new deacons--five transitional and one vocational--on June 5 at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston.

They are, pictured from left: The Rev. Daniel MacDonald (serving at All Saints' Church in South Burlington, Vt.); The Rev. Edwin Johnson (St. James's Church in Cambridge); The Rev. Jeremi Colvin (Church of the Holy Spirit in Fall River); The Rev. Michael Melendez (vocational deacon, Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston); The Rev. Sarah Randall, SSM (Society of St. Margaret); and The Rev. Matthew Venuti (Church of the Nativity in Dothan, Ala.).



PHOTO: Bradley A. MacDonald

Degree recipients honored at EDS commencement

The Very Rev. Dr. Katherine Hancock Ragsdale, President and Dean, conferred 25 degrees and one certificate during Episcopal Divinity School's commencement ceremony at First Church in Cambridge on May 20. Honorary degree recipients were the Rt. Rev. Ian T. Douglas, Bishop of the Diocese of Connecticut; the Hon. E. Denise Simmons, Cambridge City Councilor; and Dr. Marshall Louis Ganz, Lecturer in Public Policy at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, who gave the commencement address. Read more and watch the Webcast [here](#).



PHOTO: Courtesy of Episcopal Divinity School

Bishop Barbara Harris recuperates after stroke

After a fall two weeks ago, Bishop Barbara C. Harris spent a weekend in the hospital, where evaluation determined that she had had a stroke. She is mobile and now recuperating at a rehabilitation facility. She is reported to be gaining strength each day and hopes to return home soon. In the meantime, good wishes and words of encouragement may be sent to her in care of the Office of the Bishop, Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, 138 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02111.

Worship on the beach

Children in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Program at [St. Peter's Church in Beverly](#) enjoyed Morning Prayer at Dane Street Beach, just a few blocks from the church, on a recent sunny day. The children in the program's atrium for ages 9 to 12 take a field trip to worship on the beach at the end of every church school year.



PHOTO: Deborah Gardner Walker

NewsNotes

A little rain, a lot of pride: The Rev. Stephanie Spellers of The Crossing congregation at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul was featured in the *Boston Globe's* [photo coverage](#) of the June 12 Pride Parade. The accompanying story is [here](#).

A radio response: Bishop Bud Cederholm was a June 10 guest on WBUR's "[Radio Boston](#)," on the topic of Anglican Church of North America activity in Amesbury.

The real agenda: Bishop Gayle E. Harris gave the invocation at the Boston City Council meeting on June 9, a day when the chambers were unusually full due to contentious contract negotiations with the city's firefighters. She found an agenda item everyone could agree on and lightened the mood with an intercession on behalf of the Boston Celtics for the NBA championship.



Mural magic: Rockland high school students jazz up a blank wall at Trinity Church and get connected in the process, this June 3 *Rockland Standard* [article](#) reports.

Still a house of prayer for all people: The Very Rev. John P. Streit Jr. and Professor Mawdudur Rahman were guests on WGBH radio's "[The Callie Crossley Show](#)" on May 27, describing the relationship between the Cathedral Church of St. Paul and the Muslims who pray there on Fridays as "religion at its best." (Under "Audio" on the show's page, scroll down and click on May 27; the segment begins 21:00 into the show).

Coming up

E-news takes its annual vacation in July. Watch for the next E-news on Aug. 16.

Resource Day, Saturday, Sept. 25:

Save this date for the annual diocesan day of workshops and networking for parish teams, held at Bentley University in Waltham. Registration will open in August.

Also Coming up

[Jun 16](#): Contemplative Eucharist, Bethany House of Prayer, Arlington, 7 p.m.

[Jun 18](#): North Carolina Choristers Concert, St. John's Church, Gloucester, 7 p.m.

[Jun 19](#): Sevenglory Concert, St. Barnabas's Church, Falmouth, 6 p.m.

[Jun 22](#): Open Meeting on Title IV Changes, Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Boston, 9 a.m. Join the meeting via the Web [here](#).

[Jun 24-27](#): Family Camp: "Friended by God", Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center in Greenfield, N.H., 1 p.m.

[Jun 27-Aug 7](#): Summer Camp in session at the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center, Greenfield, N.H.

[Jul 4-11](#): Youth Leadership Academy Week, Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center, Greenfield, N.H.

[Jul 17](#): St. Margaret's Day, St. Margaret's Convent, Boston, 10 a.m.

[Jul 25](#): St. Anne's Day, Order of St. Anne-Bethany, Arlington, 4 p.m.