



Wednesday, Feb. 4, 2015

NEWS and INFORMATION for the clergy and leadership of

The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts

138 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02111 / www.diomass.org

(617) 482-4826 / (617) 482-5800 / FAX: (617) 451-6446

**Gather a team and go:
Spring Learning Event is
March 7 in Needham**

Congregational developers know that growing congregations have effective clergy and lay partnerships in leadership, tell their faith stories and do projects that generate excitement. Community organizing promotes similar outcomes through the practices it teaches. This year's Spring Learning Event, "Mobilizing the Church: From Dreaming to Doing," invites congregations to join one another at this intersection of faith and action and be stirred by what the Bible says about social justice.

The Spring Learning Event, this year offered by the Diocese of Massachusetts and Episcopal City Mission, takes place on *Saturday, March 7, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.*, at Christ Church (1132 Highland Avenue) in Needham.

The day's program will include presentations by Alexie Torres-Flemming, an activist, community organizer, advocate and urban planner and the executive director of Access Strategies Fund, and Dr. Mark R. Warren, an associate professor of public policy and public affairs at the McCormack Graduate School at the University of Massachusetts, Boston. Bishop Alan M. Gates and Bishop Gayle E. Harris will offer their reflections as well.

The program will also include workshops on real-world skills led by skilled community organizers; opportunities for networking with others from the same geographic area who share passion for outreach and mission; and a panel of practitioners with a wealth of experience in community organizing.

Every congregation is encouraged to get a team together and go.

Registration is open online [here](#).

FOR INFORMATION: Amy Cook, Congregational Resources and Training (617-482-4826, ext. 645 or acook@diomass.org).

**Join B-PEACE in 2015
action plan and book
study**

The diocese's ongoing B-PEACE antiviolence campaign begins 2015 with an action plan focused on gun law reform, youth jobs and leadership training for teens—three areas where the church's participation can make a difference. Sign up for B-PEACE e-mail updates [here](#), or visit bpeaceforjorge.net for more information.

B-PEACE also is continuing its educational efforts, and is recommending the book *The New Jim Crow* by Michelle Alexander as a focus for group study and discussion in congregations, either in Lent or later in the year. Organizers hope that group study of the book in congregations can spark discussion and awareness about the connections between racism, poverty and violence. A study guide and other resources, including an online discussion forum that will open in Lent, are available [here](#).

FOR INFORMATION: Christine Duggan, B-PEACE lead organizer (857-540-5586 or christine@ststephensbos.org).

**Schedules set for 2015
Confirmations and
retreats for young
people and adults**

The bishops will preside at nine deanery Confirmation services in 2015 (eight in the spring, plus one in September). Locations are still being finalized, but the schedule and deanery assignments for each are available [here](#). Confirmation services are organized by the Office of the Bishop.

FOR INFORMATION: Diane Pound, Office of the Bishop (617-482-4826, ext. 407 or dpound@diomass.org).

To help prepare young people for Confirmation, the diocesan Office of Youth Ministry has scheduled three Friday-Saturday retreats:

- *March 13-14* at St. Christopher's Church (625 Main Street) in Chatham; and
- *March 20-21* and *March 27-28* at the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center in Greenfield, N.H.

Confirmands and their mentors gather at these overnight retreats to explore with each other the baptismal covenant, its promise and challenge. The Diocesan Youth Council leads the retreats, and the groups will be joined by one of the bishops at each.

Advance retreat registration is required, and can be done [here](#).

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. H. Mark Smith, Office of Youth Ministry (617-482-4826, ext. 215 or hmsmith@diomass.org).

Additionally, there are two retreat days scheduled for adults who will be confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church, to take place on these *Saturdays, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.*:

- [Feb. 28](#) at the Church of Our Redeemer (6 Meriam Street) in Lexington; and
- [April 11](#) at St. Gabriel's Church (124 Front Street) in Marion.

These will be days to reflect with other adults and explore this next step in a lifelong faith journey through conversations and spiritual practices. One of the bishops will be present for some time of conversation and reflection. Registration is required and can be done online by clicking on the date links above.

FOR INFORMATION: Amy Cook, Congregational Resources and Training (617-482-4826, ext. 645 or acook@diomass.org).

**Diocesan Convention
dates set**

**Updated leadership reports
and delegate certification
forms needed by March 6**

The dates for this year's Diocesan Convention have been set for *Friday-Saturday, Nov. 13-14*. The location is still to be determined.

The 2015 Congregational Leadership Report (pink) and Lay Delegate Certification Form (blue), mailed to congregations in December, need to be updated and returned within 10 days of annual meetings, as required by diocesan canon, and no later than *March 6, 2015*.

FOR INFORMATION: Laura Simons, Canon to the Ordinary's Office (617/482-4826, ext. 406 or lsimons@diomass.org).

CHURCHWIDE:

- The Episcopal Church on Jan. 9 released an online **“Report to the Church 2015”** detailing mission and ministry achievements during the current triennium. The report is available [here](#).
- The Episcopal Church marks **World Mission Sunday** on *Feb. 15* to focus on the global impact of the baptismal covenant’s call to seek and serve Christ in all persons, and to raise awareness of the many ways in which the church participates in God’s mission around the world. Resources and more information are available [here](#).

NOTES:

- **B-SAFE summer program partners—new and returning**—are invited to gather on *Sunday, March 1, 1-3 p.m.*, at the Church of the Redeemer (379 Hammond Street) in Chestnut Hill to begin planning for B-SAFE 2015. Lunch will be provided. Together with 55 partner congregations, B-SAFE provides a safe and learning-filled summer for more than 600 children and youth in low-income neighborhoods.

FOR INFORMATION/RSVP: Betsy Walsh, B-SAFE partner organizer (781-249-6554 or betsy@ststephensbos.org).

- Young people from across the diocese are invited to gather *Friday-Saturday, April 3-4* at Trinity Church (Copley Square) in Boston for a **Good Friday overnight event** that will combine workshops, Taizé-inspired worship and conversation to explore the practice of compassionate witnessing and to consider how to make a difference toward transforming societal violence. Middle and high school youth and their mentors are welcome.

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. H. Mark Smith, Office of Youth Ministry (617-482-4826, ext. 215 or hmsmith@diomass.org).

- The Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center in Greenfield, N.H., is seeking **weekly visiting chaplains for the summer 2015 season**. The program’s goal is to meet young people where they are in their journeys with Christ or towards Christ, and the camp relies on visiting chaplains to guide campers and staff in this process. The main role of a visiting chaplain is to assist the head chaplain in camp worship and faith formation programs. Visiting chaplains help lead morning and evening worship, assist in “Faith Formation” (Bible study), join campers in some of their daily activities, provide pastoral care to staff members and serve as an active and visible member of the camp community. Visiting chaplains are needed for these camp sessions: *Sunday, June 28-Saturday, July 4; Sunday, July 5-Saturday, July 11; Sunday, July 12-Saturday, July 25th* (two-week session—chaplain may choose to work one or both weeks); and *Sunday, July 26-Saturday, Aug. 1*.

FOR INFORMATION: Alessia Doss, Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center (603-547-3400 or alessia@bchcenter.org).

TRAINING & LEARNING:

- **Diocesan Resource Day**, featuring a variety of workshops for church health and vitality, will be held on *Saturday, Oct. 3* at Bentley University in Waltham. Details are in the works. *FOR INFORMATION: Amy Cook, Congregational Resources and Training (617-482-4826, ext. 645 or acook@diomass.org).*

 - Those who work in the realm of Christian education with children, youth or adults are invited to a **Faith Formation Luncheon for Educators** on *Tuesday, Feb. 24, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.*, at Old North Church (193 Salem Street) in Boston—a time of sharing and learning together about some educational offerings for all ages, including a “Behind the Scenes” tour of Old North and a taste of its “Sacred Seats: Social Implications of Colonial Church Seating” program. There will be time for networking and sharing. The event is free and includes lunch from a North End restaurant. Space is limited; registration is required and can be done online [here](#). *FOR INFORMATION: Amy Cook, Congregational Resources and Training (617-482-4826, ext. 645 or acook@diomass.org).*

 - **Sustainable House of Worship (SHOW) workshops** help congregations learn how to reduce their energy use and cost and evaluate potential energy-saving projects and the purchase of necessary supplies and equipment. In order to apply for a Green Grant or Green Loan (see page 5), at least two members of the congregation must attend a SHOW. Upcoming workshops will take place on these *Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.*:
 - *Feb. 21* at All Saints’ Church (44 Park Avenue) in Whitman; and
 - *Feb. 28* at St. John’s Church (Roanoke Avenue and Revere Street) in Jamaica Plain.
 Registration information is available [here](#).
FOR INFORMATION: Esther Powell, Congregational Resources and Training (617-482-4826, ext. 421 or epowell@diomass.org).

 - The diocese’s Congregational Consultants are sponsoring **Congregational Business Practices Workshops** again this spring to give parish leadership—especially new parish leaders and treasurers—an exposure to the basics of good business practices in general, and Episcopal Church business practices in particular. The workshops will cover general business practices; compensation and benefits; compliance and reporting; bookkeeping and audits; and safeguarding of assets. The workshop will be offered on four *Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.*:
 - *Feb. 28* at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston;
 - *March 14* at St. Paul’s Church (127 Summer Street) in Lynnfield;
 - *March 21* at St. Peter’s Church (165 Main Street) in Buzzards Bay; and
 - *March 28* at St. Peter’s Church (320 Boston Post Road) in Weston.
 More information and online registration are available [here](#).
FOR INFORMATION: Chris Meyer, Congregational Consultants (617-482-4826, ext. 305 or cmeyer@diomass.org).
-

- **Safe Church Training** events will be offered on the following *Saturdays, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.*: Feb. 28 at Trinity Church (26 White Street) in Haverhill; and March 28 at St. John's Church (322 South Franklin Street) in Holbrook. Registration can be done online [here](#).

FOR INFORMATION: Esther Powell, Congregational Resources and Training (617-482-4826, ext. 421 or epowell@diomass.org).

- **Taste and See: Building Community through Faith-Based Food Programs:** This workshop for church and community groups engaged in providing community meals, food banks and other direct service ministries is designed to help teams imagine and develop realistic next steps for their programs and to provide support for moving in new directions. Participants will explore the cycle of mission, discuss with others the struggles and successes of their particular ministries and take part in experiential exercises designed to help them engage in conversation, shared work and mutual ministry with program participants. No experience is necessary. Taste and See will take place on *Saturday, March 14, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.*, at a Boston site still to be determined. This offering is a collaboration of the Mission Institute, the Cathedral Church of St. Paul and the Boston Harbor Deanery.

FOR INFORMATION: Liz Magill, The Mission Institute (lmagill@eds.edu); www.themissioninstitute.org.

- The Northeast Ecumenical Stewardship Council will present its 2015 conference, "**Stewardship in the Changing Church: Moving from Consumerism to Generosity**," *Friday-Saturday, April 17-18*, at the Holiday Inn in Boxborough. Speakers will include the Rt. Rev. Michael Curry, Bishop of the Diocese of North Carolina, and Ben Stroup, a consultant who helps church leaders balance ministry and money. Workshops, TED-like talks and worship will also be part of this conference. The Diocese of Massachusetts is among the sponsors. Registration information is available at www.nestewardship.org.

FOR INFORMATION: Amy Cook, Congregational Resources and Training (617-482-4826, ext. 645 or acook@diomass.org).

GRANTS & LOANS:

- The [Creation Care Initiative](#) **Green Improvement and Simple Acts grants will follow an earlier timeline for submission in 2015.** Applicants will have the opportunity to submit either a full application in mid-March, with awards for full applications announced on Earth Day (April 22), or a letter of intent in mid-March with an April 22 application deadline, and awards announced in early June. Applications and a letter of intent template are available [here](#).

See page 4 for dates of SHOW workshops, attendance at which is required of applicants.

FOR INFORMATION: Esther Powell, Congregational Resources and Training (617-482-4826, ext. 421 or greengrants@diomass.org).

- Applications are accepted monthly for **Mission Tithe Matching Grants**. There are separate applications available for youth mission trips and second-year grants for work with continuing mission partners. Concept papers and applications from congregations with previously approved concepts are due Feb. 15, and on a rolling basis by the 15th of each month thereafter. Staff assistance with congregational discernment and document preparation is available. Application materials are available [here](#). *FOR INFORMATION: Laura Walta, Global Mission (617-482-4826, ext. 422 or lwalta@diomass.org).*
- Applications for **2015 Deanery Grants** are available [here](#). The 2015 application for **Congregational Development Grants** will be available in mid-February and will be due on May 15. *FOR INFORMATION: Esther Powell, Congregational Resources and Training (617-482-4826, ext. 421 or epowell@diomass.org).*

DIOCESAN COUNCIL ACTIONS:

At its Jan. 23-24 retreat, the Diocesan Council:

Heard an Annual Fund update from development director Lynd Matt.

Heard a report from diocesan treasurer Jim Gammill.

Voted to endorse a policy for receiving and distributing bequests that generally directs unrestricted bequests to the general endowment fund and restricted bequests to fund accounts, existing or new, with the appropriate restrictions, and that, in the case of unrestricted bequests of \$50,000 or more, encourages reimbursement (not to exceed 10 percent of the bequest) to the diocesan budget entity that has funded recent or current diocesan development office operations.

Voted, in respect to a recent bequest, to direct 10 percent of the bequest or \$200,000, whichever is lesser, to the unrestricted bishop's discretionary fund account and the remainder, without restriction, to the general endowment fund of the diocese.

Voted to establish three new reserve accounts for property maintenance (\$650,000), capital equipment (\$150,000) and future bishop elections (\$250,000).

Voted to establish a new reserve endowment fund, and to fund it with \$1,050,000 from the general endowment fund, and to commend that future annual budgets replenish these reserves as circumstances warrant.

Voted to re-elect to the Executive Committee Claudette Hunt, the Rev. Joe Robinson, Connie Melahoures and Chris Trahan, and to elect to the Executive Committee the Rev. Tom Mousin, the Rev. Rebecca Black, Matt Harper-Nixon and Carol Friar.

Continued on page 7

Continued from page 6

Voted to elect to the Financial Advisory Committee Chris Meyer and the Rev. Barbara Williamson.

Voted to re-elect to the Budget Committee the Rev. Matthew Cadwell and Ellen Sheehy, and to elect to the Budget Committee the Rev. Barbara Williamson.

Heard an update about pending applications for funds from the proceeds from the sale of closed churches and decided that no new applications will be accepted at present due to limited funds.

Voted to allocate an additional \$20,000 to All Saints' Church in Whitman to support its half-time rector, with \$10,000 allocated for 2016 and \$10,000 for 2017.

Heard an update about the construction project at St. Luke's-San Lucas Church in Chelsea.

Next Diocesan Council Meeting: *Thursday, Feb. 26, 5:30-8:30 p.m.*, at Trinity Church (Copley Square) in Boston.

FOR INFORMATION: Laura Simons, Canon to the Ordinary's Office (617/482-4826, ext. 406 or lsimons@diomass.org).

JOB POSTINGS:

Go to www.diomass.org
(Resources for Congregations & Clergy > [Employment](#)).

Among the jobs currently posted on the diocesan Web site: [One Family program manager](#) at All Saints' Church in Attleboro; [middle school principal](#) at Esperanza Academy in Lawrence; two positions, [temporary church administrator](#) and [music director](#), at All Saints' Church of the North Shore in Danvers; [director of finance](#) at Christ Church in Andover; [director of children, youth and family ministries](#) at the Church of the Redeemer in Chestnut Hill; [assistant director](#) of the Life Together young adult fellowship program; [executive director](#) of Metrowest Mission Hub/ProGente Connections; [youth mission coordinator](#) of the Plymouth, Cape and Islands Mission Hub; [caretaker](#) at St. John's Church in Arlington; [sexton](#) at the Church of Our Saviour in Milton; [organist](#) at All Saints' Church in Belmont; and [Sunday maintenance custodian](#) at Christ Church in Cambridge.

PARISH SEARCH & CALL REPORT

Go to www.diomass.org for details (Resources for Congregations & Clergy > Congregation & Clergy Support > [Clergy Deployment/Transition Ministry](#)).

Communication regarding deployment and parish transitions should be directed to the Rev. Dr. Jean Baptiste Ntagengwa (617/482-4826, ext. 400 or jbntagengwa@diomass.org).

CHURCHES INITIATING PROCESS:

DOVER, St. Dunstan's Church
WABAN, Church of the Good Shepherd

CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:

NORTH BILLERICA, St. Anne's Church

CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:

DEDHAM, St. Paul's Church
SANDWICH, St. John's Church
SOUTH YARMOUTH, St. David's Church
SWANSEA, Christ Church

CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES:

JAMAICA PLAIN, St. John's Church
LYNNFIELD, St. Paul's Church
NANTUCKET, St. Paul's Church

CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:

None at this time.

CLERGY CHANGES:

The Rev. Elise Feyerherm has been appointed as priest-in-charge at Trinity Church in Wrentham starting Feb. 15.
The Rev. Louise Forrest has been appointed as interim priest at St. Anne's Church in North Billerica starting Jan. 1.
The Rev. Jennifer Phillips has been called as rector of St. John's Church in Westwood starting Feb. 22.
The Rev. Noble F. Scheepers has been called as rector of Trinity Church in Marshfield starting Feb. 18.

NEXT fyi:

fyi is published the first Wednesday of each month. The submission deadline for the March 4 issue is **Wednesday, Feb. 25 at noon**. E-mail submissions to tjs@diomass.org.
