



Wednesday, March 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

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**Don't miss out on
"Mobilizing the Church:
From Dreaming to
Doing"**

Registration is still open for the Spring Learning Event on *Saturday, March 7, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.*, at Christ Church (1132 Highland Avenue) in Needham. Join with others for a day of learning and sharing about organizing as communities of faith in action. Get more information and register online [here](#).

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

**Budget hearings begin
March 10 with focus on
income and assessments**

The 2016 diocesan budgeting process is underway, and the Budget Committee invites participation and input through a series of open hearings scheduled this spring. Two separate hearings, one focusing on income and one on expenses, will be offered this year, along with two additional hearings at which representatives from strategic ministries will give their required request reports. All are invited and welcome to attend any of the four hearings.

Hearings will be held from 7 to 9 p.m.:

- *Tuesday, March 10*—Open hearing on income, Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston;
- *Wednesday, April 15*—Strategic Ministries Hearing, Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston;
- *Tuesday, May 5*—Strategic Ministries Hearing, Emmanuel Church (15 Newbury Street) in Boston; and
- *Thursday, May 7*—Open Hearing on Expenses, Emmanuel Church (15 Newbury Street) in Boston.

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

**General Convention
deputation to host forum**

The diocese's General Convention deputation will host an open forum on *Wednesday, May 6, 7-9 p.m.*, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston. All are welcome to come for learning and discussion about topics that will be taken up at the Episcopal Church's triennial General Convention, to be held this summer, June 25-July 3, in Salt Lake City. General Convention publications, including the proposed budget, the Report of the Task Force on the Study of Marriage and the Report of the Task Force to Reimagine the Church, are available at www.generalconvention.org.

FOR INFORMATION: Deputation co-chairs—The Rev. Thomas Brown (781-729-1922 or tbrown@3crowns.org) or Dr. Fredrica Harris Thompsett (ftthompsett21@aol.com).

Clergy Save-the-Date:

Diocesan Clergy Conference will be held *Monday-Wednesday, April 27-29* at the Ocean Edge Resort in Brewster. Registration information will be sent to clergy soon.

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

Bishop Alan M. Gates and Bishop Gayle E. Harris will preside at nine deanery Confirmation services in 2015 (eight in the spring, plus one in September). The schedule and deanery assignments for each is available [here](#).

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](#). Registration will close one week prior to each event (or when the event is full, whichever comes first).

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

Additionally, there is a retreat day scheduled for adults who will be confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church, to take place on *Saturday, April 11, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.*, at St. Gabriel's Church (124 Front Street) in Marion. This will be a day to reflect with other adults and explore this next step in a lifelong faith journey through conversations and spiritual practices. 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).

**Cathedral Church of St.
Paul: Upcoming events**

- **“Selma: A Conversation with Barbara Harris”** on *Wednesday, March 18, 6:30-8:30 p.m.*, at the Church of St. John the Evangelist (35 Bowdoin Street) in Boston: Bishop Barbara C. Harris will host a conversation sharing her reflections on the recent movie “Selma” and on her own experience as one who went to Selma to march following the events of “Bloody Sunday.” The program is suited to a multigenerational audience, and young people are especially welcome.

- **Holy Tuesday Service, with Blessing of Oils and Renewal of Vows** on *Tuesday, March 31, 11 a.m.*, at Emmanuel Church (15 Newbury Street) in Boston: Bishop Alan M. Gates will preach, and Bishop Gayle E. Harris will preside. Lunch and a special tour for clergy of the renovations at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul will follow the service. To reserve lunch, contact Ethel Crawford at 617-482-4826, ext. 221 or elc@diomass.org.

Continued on page 3

Continued from page 2

• **“Make Your Mark!”** on *Saturday, May 2, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.*, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston: All in the diocese are invited to come and make their mark on the concrete slab that will be the foundation of the new floor that is part of the renovations underway at the cathedral church. There will be music and snacks, and dozens of Sharpie markers of all colors so that everyone, of all ages, can come and make a mark on their cathedral, give thanks for someone, note a favorite Bible verse or poem, or draw a picture of hope. All the markings will be permanent, but ultimately known only to God as they will be covered by granite floor tiles to be installed soon afterward. The new floor tiles will be inscribed with the names, dates and towns of the congregations of the diocese.

FOR INFORMATION: Cathedral Church of St. Paul (617-482-4826, ext. 221 or elc@diomass.org).

CHURCHWIDE:

● Since 1922 the Episcopal Church has collected a **Good Friday Offering** to support the work of the Gospel in the Holy Land through the ministries of healing, feeding and teaching throughout the Anglican/Episcopal Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East. More information and resource materials to assist congregational participation, including bulletin inserts and Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori’s Good Friday Offering letter, are available [here](#).

● The Episcopal Church, in partnership with the Diocese of Los Angeles, will present a **live 90-minute Webcast, “The Climate Change Crisis,”** on *Tuesday, March 24, at 2 p.m. Eastern*, at www.episcopalchurch.org. Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori will give a keynote address, followed by two 30-minute panels focusing on regional effects of climate change and climate change as a moral issue. Questions can be e-mailed in advance and during the Webcast to: publicaffairs@episcopalchurch.org. The forum will be available on demand following the live Webcast. More information is available [here](#).

NOTES:

- **Congregational Leadership Reports** (pink) and **Delegate Certification Forms** (blue), which were mailed to parishes in January, **are due** by *Friday, March 6*. Congregations that need another copy of either form may contact Laura Simons as below. *FOR INFORMATION: Laura Simons, Canon to the Ordinary's Office (617/482-4826, ext. 406 or lsimons@diomass.org).*

- Middle and high school youth and their mentors are invited to gather *Friday-Saturday, April 3-4* at Trinity Church (Copley Square) in Boston for a **Good Friday lock-in-style overnight event** that will combine workshops, Taize-inspired worship and conversation, exploring the practice of compassionate witnessing and to consider how to make a difference toward transforming societal violence. Cost is \$15 per person, with financial assistance available. Advance registration is required, [here](#); registration will close at noon on Monday, March 29 to allow for adequate preparation.

This event is being presented in partnership with the B-PEACE for Jorge antiviolence campaign.

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

- The **Diocesan Altar Guild** will hold its **annual meeting** on *Saturday, April 18, 11 a.m.*, at St. Andrew's Church (79 Denton Road) in Wellesley. The guest speaker will be the Rev. Samuel T. Lloyd III, Rector of Trinity Church in Boston. The program begins with Eucharist, followed by the luncheon program and a short business meeting. *FOR INFORMATION: Diane Grondin, Diocesan Altar Guild (781-335-2198 or dmgrondin@comcast.net).*

- The **Parish Historians Society Annual Meeting** takes place on *Saturday, April 25, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.*, at Christ Church (12 Quincy Avenue) in Quincy. All are welcome.

The program will explore two topics of local historical interest: crypts, cemeteries and other burial settings and how they came into use in New England; and the early Loyalists, with a focus on colonial Anglicans and parishes. The afternoon practicum topic is on conducting an oral history. Registration is requested by April 15.

FOR INFORMATION: Diane Grondin, Christ Church, Quincy (617-773-0310) or PHS_Exec@hotmail.com.

TRAINING & LEARNING:

- Episcopal Divinity School has announced that it will offer 20 **additional student scholarships** in the 2015-2016 academic year. Ten of them will be full-tuition scholarships for master's degree candidates, with five of those to be awarded to students of color. The remaining scholarships will be first-year scholarships with a school commitment to meet all financial need through aid in subsequent years. All applicants for EDS master's degree programs will be considered for the 20 new scholarships. Prospective students can apply online, or request more information, at www.eds.edu/admissions.

 - Is your congregation enriched by one or more geeks? Is there someone who helps your church with social media or online tools? What has been your experience with online tools, good or bad? Where are the areas you need to grow? The Mission Institute is starting a conversation about **sharing resources that strengthen collaboration and community building** within and across congregations, and is especially looking for people with experience with Google Apps for Nonprofits to join the conversation.
FOR INFORMATION: Jakira Gibbs, The Mission Institute (j.gibbs22@gmail.com); www.themissioninstitute.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. No experience is necessary. Taste and See will take place on *Saturday, March 14, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.*, at the Church of St. John the Evangelist (35 Bowdoin Street) in Boston. 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 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 workshop will be offered on these *Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.*:
 - *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).
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- **Eucharistic Visitor Training** will be offered on two upcoming *Saturdays, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.: March 28* at All Saints' Church (121 North Main Street) in Attleboro and *April 18* at St. Mark's Church (75 Cold Spring Road) in Westford. Registration information is available online [here](#).
FOR INFORMATION: Connie Melahoures, Eucharistic Visitor Training coordinator (508-746-3805 or conmel@aol.com).

 - **Safe Church Training** events will be offered on the following *Saturdays, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.: March 28* at St. John's Church (322 South Franklin Street) in Holbrook and *April 11* at St. Anne's Church (8 Kirk Street) in Lowell. Registration can be done online [here](#).
FOR INFORMATION: Esther Powell, Congregational Resources and Training (617-482-4826, ext. 421 or epowell@diomass.org).

 - The annual **Safe Church Refresher Training for diocesan clergy** will be held on *Tuesday, May 26, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m.*, at Christ Church (12 Quincy Avenue) in Quincy. It is expected that all clergy canonically resident or licensed in the Diocese of Massachusetts will attend a Safe Church Training once every three years. The diocese is committed to healthy church environments and needs the shared wisdom and experience of everyone to make them so. There is no fee for the training; coffee, continental breakfast and lunch will be provided. Register online [here](#).
FOR INFORMATION: Esther Powell, Congregational Resources and Training (617-482-4826, ext. 421 or epowell@diomass.org).

 - The Church of the Redeemer in Chestnut Hill and the Diocese of Massachusetts are sponsoring a **Core Godly Play Training and an Advanced Godly Play Training**, *Friday-Sunday, April 10-12*. Due to a grant from the diocese, these two trainings can be offered at a significantly reduced price: \$110 for those who register early and \$175 for those who register less than four weeks from the date of the event. Visit www.godlyplayfoundation.org to register.
FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Cheryl Minor, All Saints' Church, Belmont (617-484-2228 or revcminor@aol.com).

 - The 2015 **"Buildings for a New Tomorrow" symposium** will be held *Monday-Wednesday, April 13-15* in Raleigh, N.C. This annual ecumenical event is sponsored by the Episcopal Church Building Fund and is designed to help congregational leaders alter their thinking about church buildings and grounds. Come to enrich the conversation and make valuable connections. Registration deadline is April 1. For more information, visit www.ecbf.org.
FOR INFORMATION: Steve Pierce, Congragational Resources and Training (617-482-4826, ext. 501 or spierce@diomass.org).
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- 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).

- The **“Beyond Walls” spiritual writing seminar**, held July 12-18 at Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio, is a week-long intensive for those engaged in writing for the spiritual life, and it offers a week of writing practice, inspiration and spiritual refreshment on a beautiful college campus. Participants produce new work every day under the guidance of writing professionals, finding their voices and messages in diverse forms and media. Small-group seminars, solo writing time and inspirational presentations are part of each day’s program. More information is available [here](#).

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](#).

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 March 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 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 Feb. 26 meeting, the Diocesan Council:

Heard a report from the Audit Committee chair, Jim Woodward, and voted to approve the audit of the 2013 financial statements of the Protestant Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts as prepared by McGladrey LLP and dated Feb. 13, 2015.

Heard a report from the treasurer, Jim Gammill, which included a summary of the 2014 financials and a reminder of the March 10 budget hearing focusing on income and assessments.

Voted to amend the 2015 supplemental budget by increasing projected Annual Fund revenue from \$326,000 to \$376,000; and approved a one-time Annual Fund grant of \$50,000 to St. Stephen's Church in Boston for kitchen renovations.

Voted to authorize the South Shore Mission Hub leadership team to spend up to \$5,000 on hub-related expenses incurred before the March 26 Diocesan Council meeting.

Voted to allocate \$150,000 from the proceeds from the sale of closed churches to Grace Church in New Bedford for capital improvements, in the form of a matching grant requiring the parish to raise \$150,000 in new donations for the capital improvements by Dec. 31, 2017. Any amount of the grant not matched by then will convert to a loan from the diocese to the parish with an interest rate equal to the prevailing Stokes Fund loan rate.

Voted to allocate \$50,000 from the proceeds from the sale of closed churches to St. Andrew's Church in New Bedford for capital improvements.

Omitted from the February 2015 FYI report on actions taken at Diocesan Council's Jan. 23-24 retreat: Voted to site a South Shore Mission Hub, pending review of its budget at the February Budget Committee meeting.

Next Diocesan Council Meeting: *Thursday, March 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).

The MARKETPLACE:

- Looking for a book study on the ongoing strife in Palestine? The Thursday Breakfast Group at St. Mary's Church in Barnstable recently studied *A Palestinian Christian Cry for Reconciliation* by the Rev. Dr. Naim Stifan Ateek, an Anglican priest and founder of the Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center in Jerusalem. The group accidentally double-ordered the books and is not able to return them. **Fifteen copies are available.** The church would love to negotiate a price and send them to a good home.

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Dr. Libby Gibson, St. Mary's Church, Barnstable (508-362-3977 or libbygibson@gmail.com).

JOB POSTINGS:

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

Among the jobs currently posted on the diocesan Web site: [interim administrative assistant](#) at St. Paul's Church in Dedham; [middle school principal](#) at Esperanza Academy in Lawrence; three positions, [sexton](#), [temporary church administrator](#) and [music director](#), at All Saints' Church of the North Shore in Danvers; [director of youth ministry](#) for South Shore Mission Hub; [director of Christian formation](#) at Trinity Church in Concord; [One Family program manager](#) at All Saints' Church in Attleboro; [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 Life Together; [executive director](#) of Metrowest Mission Hub/ProGente Connections; and [youth mission coordinator](#) of the Plymouth, Cape and Islands Mission Hub.

**PARISH SEARCH
& CALL REPORT**

Go to www.diomass.org for
details (Resources for Congrega-
tions & Clergy > Congregation &
Clergy Support > [Clergy Deploy-
ment/Transition Ministry](#)).

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

CHURCHES INITIATING PROCESS:

WABAN, Church of the Good Shepherd

CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:

DOVER, St. Dunstan's Church
NORTH BILLERICA, St. Anne's Church
WESTON, St. Peter's Church (pilot search project)

CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:

SANDWICH, St. John's Church

CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES:

DEDHAM, St. Paul's Church
JAMAICA PLAIN, St. John's Church
LYNNFIELD, St. Paul's Church
NANTUCKET, St. Paul's Church
SOUTH YARMOUTH, St. David's Church
SWANSEA, Christ Church

OTHER POSITIONS OPEN TO CLERGY:

CAMBRIDGE, St. James's Church: [Assistant Rector for Church
School and Family Ministry](#).
WELLESLEY, St. Andrew's Church: [Assistant/Associate Rector](#).

CLERGY CHANGES:

The Rev. Sam Rodman, in addition to completing his duties as project manager for campaign initiatives in 2015, will serve half-time on the congregational development team on the diocesan staff.

The Rev. Tim Rogers has been appointed as the priest-in-charge at St. John's Church in Holbrook starting March 1.

NEXT *fyi*:

fyi is published the first Wednesday of each month. The submission deadline for the April 1 issue is **Wednesday, March 25 at noon**. E-mail submissions to tjs@diomass.org.