



Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2017

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

“Our Stories Speak of God”: Spring Learning Event aims to inspire everywhere-evangelists

Find more information and register online by March 2 [here](#).

This year’s annual Spring Learning Event—*Saturday, March 4, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.*, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston—draws from the call in the diocese’s [new mission strategy](#) to “deepen our relationship with God and increase our capacity to speak of our faith.”

Titled “Our Stories Speak of God,” the event will feature as keynoter the Rev. Hershey Mallette Stephens, who will lead an interactive workshop in two parts: The first will help those gathered to learn about story, narrative and myth and how they function in faith and to consider what our stories say about who we are and how we understand God and the church. During part two, participants will engage their spiritual imaginations and learn how storytelling can redefine evangelism.

Stephens is on the staff at Trinity Church, Wall Street in New York City and has led several workshops for groups across the Episcopal Church, including the recent “Evangelism Matters” conference in Texas.

Everyone is invited to come share, learn and be inspired by the way our stories speak of the goodness of God in our time.

Find more information and register online by March 2 [here](#).
FOR INFORMATION: Amy Cook, Congregational Resources and Training (617-482-4826, ext. 645 or acook@diomass.org).

Get ready to go: The Epiphany Papers five-part study, “Recognizing God’s Story,” is a great way to prepare for the March 4 Learning Event, or can be used at any time of year. Find it [here](#).

New England football fans: Give by game time to support ER&D

Episcopal Church bishops in New England and Atlanta are rallying football fans in their dioceses—and beyond—to join in a charitable contest to see how much money they can raise for Episcopal Relief & Development by game time on Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 5, when the New England Patriots and the Atlanta Falcons will compete for this season’s championship.

Regardless of which team comes out on top in the game, the winner will be Episcopal Relief & Development and its efforts to heal a hurting world through its disaster relief, public health and economic development ministries.

Bishop Alan M. Gates invites everyone to participate: “Let’s harness our New England pride to advance toward the goal of compassion and health for all God’s children!”

Click [here](#) to join the challenge.

[Visit the Events calendar here.](#)

New deans, co-conveners announced

In a Jan. 17 e-mail announcement to deanery leaders, Bishop Alan M. Gates confirmed the following appointments of new deans: The Rev. Martha Hubbard, Rector of St. Paul's Church in Newburyport, to serve the Merrimack Valley Deanery, and the Rev. Clyde Elledge, Rector of St. Andrew's Church in Marblehead, to serve the North Shore Deanery. "Their commitment to their deaneries and respective communities, and their deep collegiality with their fellow clergy will be a blessing to us all," Gates said.

They succeed the Rev. Ennis Duffis, Rector of St. Anne's Church and Priest-in-Charge of St. John's Church in Lowell, who served as the Merrimack Valley dean for seven years, and the Rev. Jane Gould, Rector of St. Stephen's Church in Lynn, who served as the North Shore dean, also for seven years. "Their skillful guidance and pastoral presence as deans will be greatly missed," Gates said.

Additionally, co-conveners have been appointed for the Council of Deans, new leadership positions created to assist the bishops in assuring that the deans' gatherings and collective ministry will be directed toward those matters deemed most important to both deans and bishops. The new co-conveners are the Rev. Jeffrey Mello, Rector of St. Paul's Church in Brookline, of the Charles River Deanery and the Rev. Kate Malin, Rector of St. Anne's-in-the-Fields Church in Lincoln, of the Concord River Deanery.

Leadership reports, delegate certifications due by March 10

The 2017 Diocesan Convention will be a one-day event, held on *Saturday, Nov. 4* at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston.

Congregational Leadership Reports and Lay Delegate Certification Forms for 2017 have been mailed to all rectors or other priests in charge of congregations. The forms are pre-printed with the information currently in the diocesan database. Please update the information on these forms and return them to the Convention Office within 10 days of the congregation's annual meeting, as required by diocesan canons, but no later than the deadline of March 10.

FOR INFORMATION: Laura Simons, Office of Convention and Council (617/482-4826, ext. 406 or lsimons@diomass.org).

NOTES:

- The Massachusetts Chapter of the Union of Black Episcopalians (UBE) will have its **annual Absalom Jones Day worship celebration** on *Sunday, Feb. 12 at 4 p.m.* at St. Bartholomew's Church (239 Harvard Street) in Cambridge. The guest preacher will be the Rev. Canon Dr. Lynn A. Collins, the rector of the Church of St. John the Evangelist in Hempstead, N.Y., and UBE regional director. The presentation of Frederick Douglass Isaacs Jr. Lay Leadership Awards will take place during the service.

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Monrelle Williams, St. Cyprian's Church, Roxbury (617-874-7383).

- The **Pre-Lenten Retreat for diocesan clergy** will be held *Tuesday, Feb. 21, beginning at 3:30 p.m., through Thursday, Feb. 23, ending at 12 p.m.*, at the Notre Dame Spirituality Center in Ipswich. The retreat presenter will be the Rev. Dr. Roger Ferlo, President of Bexley Seabury Seminary Federation. Register [here](#). *FOR INFORMATION: Marsha Searle, Office of the Bishop Suffragan (617-482-4826, ext. 445 or msearle@diomass.org).*

- B-SAFE summer program partners—new and returning—are invited to gather on *Sunday, March 5, 1-3 p.m.*, at the Church of the Redeemer (379 Hammond Street) in Chestnut Hill to begin **planning for B-SAFE 2017**. Lunch will be provided. Together with 55 partner congregations, B-SAFE provides a safe and learning-filled summer for more than 650 children and youth from low-income neighborhoods in Boston, Lower Roxbury, Dorchester, Mattapan and Chelsea. *FOR INFORMATION/TO RSVP: Betsy Walsh, B-SAFE partner organizer (781-249-6554 or betsy@ssyboston.org).*

- Diocesan and churchwide resources are available for congregations taking up **ministry with refugees**. A diocesan tip sheet on refugee resettlement ministry is available [here](#). Churches participating in ministry with refugees can apply for Mission Tithe Matching Grants. Find grant application information [here](#).
 Additionally, Episcopal Migration Ministries and the Episcopal Church's Office of Government Relations are broadcasting an educational webinar, "The Episcopal Church Welcomes Refugees," on *Wednesday, Feb. 1 at 4 p.m.* (register [here](#)), which will be available on demand after broadcast.

- **Does your church have an elevator and/or chair lift?** The proper maintenance of elevators and chair lifts, their annual inspection by a licensed elevator inspection company and the inspection and permitting by the Board of Elevator Regulations is Massachusetts law, and churches are not exempt. Failure to meet these requirements can lead to significant fines. Churches with an elevator and/or chair lift are urged to:
 - Confirm that the church has a contract with a licensed elevator inspection/repair firm for an annual inspection.
 - Confirm that the church's permit is affixed so that it can be seen and is located in or near the elevator or chair lift.
 - Working with the elevator inspection firm, ensure that the permit is current, be aware of its expiration date and apply for reinspection 60 days before the expiration date. Keep a record of the reinspection request as proof that the church filed for such within the legal time frame, as it is possible that the actual reinspection could fall outside of the 60-day window.*FOR INFORMATION: Jim Woodworth, Facilities Management, Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Boston (617-482-4826, ext. 230 or jwoodworth@diomass.org).*

CHURCHWIDE:

- **Church planting advisory group calls for coaches:** General Convention 2015 [Resolution D005](#) called for and funded a network of leaders to learn together how best to support new ministry developers in the Episcopal Church. Lay and ordained persons who have successfully started at least one new ministry in the Episcopal Church are encouraged to apply online, [here](#). The Episcopal Church will provide training and support to qualified persons interested in joining this network of support to nurture entrepreneurial work. Read the full announcement [here](#).

- The blog **Evangelism Initiatives**, available [here](#), provides an array of evangelism and welcoming resources for Episcopalians, including a hospitality audit, neighborhood prayer walk kits, links to parish marketing tools and community organizing tips. Additionally, videos of workshops and plenary sessions from the November 2016 “Evangelism Matters” conference, along with handouts and additional resources, are available on demand [here](#) and [here](#).

Upcoming youth ministry events:

Questions about these events may be directed to the Rev. H. Mark Smith (617/482-4826, ext. 215 or hmsmith@diomass.org).

- The Office of Youth Ministry is accepting applications until Feb. 15 for the **national Episcopal Youth Event (EYE)**, July 10-14. Hundreds of young people will gather at the University of Central Oklahoma for this triennial event for young people in grades 9-12 and their adult mentors. Some fundraising by participants will be required to cover travel costs. There are a limited number of registrations allowed from each diocese. The online application is available [here](#).

- Young people from across Massachusetts are invited to join the **Youth Jobs Coalition Rally** on *Thursday, Feb. 23* to advocate a state budget that invests in youth. The group will gather at 11 a.m. at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston for a training session co-sponsored by the diocese’s B-PEACE for Jorge campaign, followed by a rally at Old South Church in Copley Square and a march across Boston Common to the State House. RSVP online [here](#).

- There will be two Friday-Saturday **pre-Confirmation retreats:** *March 17-18 and April 7-8* at the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center in Greenfield, N.H. Confirmands and their mentors will gather to meet other young people and explore their call to Confirmation, its promise and challenge. The retreats are led by members of the Diocesan Youth Council, who will facilitate small groups and give reflections on their own spiritual journeys. Advance retreat registration is required. Register online [here](#).

- A **Good Friday Overnight** is scheduled for *Friday-Saturday, April 14-15* at Trinity Church (Copley Square) in Boston. Join young people from across the diocese to experience the practice

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of compassionate witness through creative expression. Attendees will participate in poetry workshops and performance activities, and will create new written work, individually and in groups, that speaks to their experiences and reflects on the meaning of Christ's crucifixion and resurrection for the world around us today. Youth will be invited to share their poems and stories at a mini-open mic at the overnight. Find more details and register online [here](#).

TRAINING & LEARNING:

- **Spiritual care for those with Alzheimer's and dementia:**

Workshops are available for congregations to help them learn how to support and provide specialized care to families and people in their midst who are living with Alzheimer's and dementia. Workshops are available in a two-hour format that includes stories of this ministry and why it matters, along with practical tips, tools and ideas for congregational engagement, or a four-hour format for becoming a "Dementia Friendly Congregation."

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Colette Wood, All Saints' Church, Whitman (617-922-9664 or colettewood@comcast.net).

- Advance materials are available for leading **SSJE's Lenten study, "Five Marks of Love, Living Life Marked as Christ's Own,"** beginning *Sunday, Feb. 26*: Visit www.ssje.org/5marksofloveresources to sign up to access the facilitator guides and a complete set of resources, including advance video, and to get regular updates. Each week of this six-week series will explore the Anglican Five Marks of Mission through videos, questions and exercises. The series is designed for use by individuals or small groups, and the facilitator guides are designed for first-time group leaders as well as those who are more experienced. The adult guide also contains alternate ideas and tips for using this offering with young adult groups.

- The diocese's Congregational Consultants are sponsoring **Congregational Business Practices Workshops** again this year 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. 4](#) at St. Peter's Church (320 Boston Post Road) in Weston;
- [Feb. 11](#) at St. Paul's Church (127 Summer Street) in Lynnfield;
- [Feb. 25](#) at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston; and
- [March 11](#) at St. Peter's Church (165 Main Street) in Buzzards Bay.

Click on the dates above to register and find more information.

FOR INFORMATION: Chris Meyer, Congregational Consultants (617-482-4826, ext. 305 or cmeyer@diomass.org).

- **Eucharistic Visitor Training** is scheduled on two upcoming Saturdays, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.: [Feb. 18](#) at the Church of the Holy Spirit (204 Monument Road) in Orleans and [March 11](#) at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston. Click on the date links above to register online. Eucharistic visitors are lay people who have been trained to give the Holy Eucharist to those who are unable to attend church services. This training provides the needed licensing to be a eucharistic visitor in the Diocese of Massachusetts.

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

- **Training led by the diocesan Antiracism Ministry Team**, offering participants opportunities to share experiences, reflect on current issues and develop tools for change, will next be offered at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston on: *Friday, March 10, 5-8:45 p.m., and Saturday, March 11, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.* Register online [here](#).

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Karen Montagno, Congregational Resources and Training (617-482-4826, ext. 413 or kmontagno@diomass.org).

- Two **retreat days will be offered for adults wishing to be confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church**, or for those just seeking to understand the Episcopal Church better. Led by the Rev. Karen Montagno and Amy Cook, each retreat will explore, through conversations, presentations and spiritual practices, a lifelong faith journey in the Episcopal tradition. One of the bishops will join part of each day for conversation and reflection. The retreats will be offered on these Saturdays, each 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.: [March 18](#) at St. Mark's Church (116 South Street) in Foxborough and [April 8](#) at Trinity Church (131 West Emerson Street) in Melrose. Click on the dates above to register and find more information.

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

- The Diocese of Massachusetts is a sponsor for the Northeast Ecumenical Stewardship Council Conference, **“Embracing Stewardship: How to Put Stewardship at the Heart of Your Congregation’s Life,”** Friday-Saturday, March 24-25 at the Regency Hotel and Conference Center in Boxborough (formerly Holiday Inn Boxborough). This two-day conference on stewardship for clergy and lay leaders aims, through presentations and workshops, to help strengthen a congregation’s stewardship ministry. The keynoters for this event are Charles R. (Chick) Lane and Grace Duddy Pomroy, authors of *Embracing Stewardship: How to Put Stewardship at the Heart of Your Congregation’s Life*. Register online [here](#).

DIOCESAN COUNCIL ACTIONS:

At its Jan. 20 meeting while on retreat at the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center in Greenfield, N.H., the Diocesan Council voted to affirm the nominations of the following people to the Executive Committee for one-year terms: The Rev. Rebecca Black, The Rev. Karen Coleman, Carol Friar, Lisa Garcia, Connie Melahoures, The Rev. Tom Mousin and The Rev. Debbie Phillips.

Next Diocesan Council Meeting: *Thursday, Feb. 23, 5:30-8:30 p.m.*, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston.

FOR INFORMATION: Laura Simons, Office of Convention and Council (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: [interim organist-choir director](#) at St. Dunstan's Church in Dover; [director of children's ministries](#) at St. Andrew's Church in Framingham; [director of youth ministries](#) at St. Mark's Church in Southborough; [sexton](#) at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Watertown; [managing director](#) of Episcopal City Mission; [parish administrator](#) at St. John's Church in Jamaica Plain; [director of parish programs](#) at Trinity Church in Stoughton; [director of youth and family ministries](#) at St. Peter's Church in Weston; [welcome center head cashier](#) at Trinity Church in Boston; and [parish administrator](#) at St. Mary's Church in Barnstable.

CLERGY SEARCH & CALL REPORT:

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:

FALMOUTH, St. Barnabas's Church
VINEYARD HAVEN, Grace Church

CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:

None at this time.

CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:

FRANKLIN, St. John's Church

CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES:

CONCORD, Trinity Church

CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:

None at this time.

OTHER OPEN POSITIONS:

BEVERLY FARMS, St. John's Church: Associate Rector
CHESTNUT HILL, Church of the Redeemer: Priest for Children,
Youth and Family Ministries
NEEDHAM, Christ Church: Family and Youth Ministry Curate

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*Continued from page 7***CLERGY CHANGES:**

The Rev. Katharine Black completed her tenure as canon for liturgies at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston as of Jan. 8.

The Rev. Paul Bresnahan has been appointed bridge priest at Trinity Church in Canton starting Jan. 18.

The Rev. Dr. Christian Brocato has been called as rector of St. Mark's Church in Grand Rapids, Mich. His last Sunday as rector of St. Peter's Church in Cambridge is Feb. 12.

The Rev. Margot Critchfield is retiring as rector of St. Stephen's Church in Cohasset. Her last Sunday there is Feb. 26.

The Rev. Marya DeCarlen has been called as rector of All Saints' Church of the North Shore in Danvers after serving there as priest-in-charge for three years.

The Rev. Noah Evans has been called as rector of St. Paul's Church, Mt. Lebanon in the Diocese of Pittsburgh. His last Sunday as rector of Grace Church in Medford is March 5.

The Rev. Louise Forrest has been appointed interim priest at St. Barnabas's Church in Falmouth starting Jan. 17.

The Rev. Nancy Gossling begins her appointment as acting dean of the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston on Feb. 20, succeeding the Very Rev. John P. Streit Jr. upon his retirement.

The Rev. Cynthia Hubbard has been appointed bridge priest at Grace Church in Vineyard Haven starting Dec. 1.

The Rev. Sara Irwin is resigning as rector of Christ Church in Waltham as of March 5 and will be moving to the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

The Rev. Richard Loring has been appointed bridge priest at St. Andrew's Church in Hanover starting Jan. 8.

The Rev. Roy Tripp has been called to South Carolina. His last Sunday as rector of the Church of St. John the Evangelist in Duxbury is Feb. 26.

The Rev. Mary Scott Wagner has been appointed bridge priest at St. John's Church in Saugus starting Feb. 1.

NEXT fyi:

fyi is published the first Wednesday of each month. The deadline for the March 1 issue is **Wednesday, Feb. 22 at noon**. E-mail submissions to tjs@diomass.org.