



Ash Wednesday, March 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

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Jerusalem & Middle East travel and learning opportunities announced

Find information on the Episcopal Church's Good Friday Offering for Jerusalem and the Middle East on page 4.

Join Bishop Gayle E. Harris and a network of others engaged with ministry in Jerusalem and the Middle East for a special event, "Engaging Our Global Church: Palestinian Christians in Today's World," to be held on *Saturday, March 25, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.*, at the Church of Our Saviour (25 Monmouth Street) in Brookline. Special guests will be Wadie Far and Halim Shukair, both seminarians at Virginia Theological Seminary, who will share their experiences and perspectives. It will also be an occasion to learn more about the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and ministries in the diocese. All are welcome.

FOR INFORMATION: Marsha Searle, Office of the Bishop Suffragan (617-482-4826, ext. 445 or msearle@diomass.org).

Bishop Gayle E. Harris and the Rev. Debbie Phillips of Grace Church in Salem will lead a diocesan mission pilgrimage in Israel and Palestine, *Nov. 24-Dec. 6*, and they invite others to join them.

The mission pilgrimage will combine visits to holy sites, in Jerusalem, Bethlehem, the Jordan Valley, Nazareth, Galilee, Nablus and Ramallah, with opportunities to learn about active mission in the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem through its school, health-care and peacemaking ministries.

The group will meet three times before the trip for orientation and community building. The sign-up deadline is April 30. Estimated cost is \$4,100 per person (double occupancy), with all payments due by Oct. 1.

FOR INFORMATION: Marsha Searle, Office of the Bishop Suffragan (617-482-4826, ext. 445 or msearle@diomass.org).

Paddlers & pilgrims invited to join summer CT River journey

The Episcopal dioceses of New England, the New England Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the nonprofit Kairos Earth, along with other regional partners, are organizing a 40-day river "pilgrimage" along the length of the Connecticut River, *May 31-July 9*. River pilgrims are invited to join the trip for a day, several days, a week or the entire journey.

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New priest to be ordained this month

Prayers and presence are requested for the upcoming ordination to the priesthood of the Rev. Isaac Everett on *Friday, March 31, 6 p.m.*, at Trinity Church (Copley Square) in Boston.

FOR INFORMATION: Trinity Church, Boston (617-536-0944) or The Rev. Canon Edie Dolnikowski, Ordained Vocations (617-482-4826, ext. 514 or edie@diomass.org).

[Visit the Events calendar here.](#)

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Bishop Alan M. Gates plans to join the pilgrimage for a segment in early July.

Those interested in paddling along for three days or more need to complete an online application by May 22. The schedule, map, resources, registration information and sign-up for e-mail updates are all available [here](#).

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Jonathan Eden, Christ Church, Cambridge (617-876-0200 or jeden@cccbridge.org).

Registration is open for Clergy Conference

The annual diocesan Clergy Conference takes place *Monday-Wednesday, April 24-26* at the Ocean Edge Resort and Golf Club in Brewster. This year's guest presenter will be the Rev. Dr. William Brosend, Professor of New Testament and Preaching, School of Theology, University of the South. The conference registration deadline is April 2. Find more information and register online [here](#). *FOR INFORMATION: Laura Simons, Office of Convention and Council (617/482-4826, ext. 406 or lsimons@diomass.org).*

ECF strategic planning intro offered April 29

Diocesan congregational development staff and the Episcopal Church Foundation hope to launch a pilot program that focuses on an alternative way of thinking about strategic planning. The idea is that as parishes plan strategically, they need to be flexible and have the ability to change course quickly in response to changing circumstances. The hope is to gather several parish teams who are looking to challenge their congregations. By working together with the consultant, it would reduce overall costs for the Episcopal Church Foundation's services and encourage congregations with similar sets of issues to support and learn from one another as they do their work.

For those who would like to learn more, an introductory workshop with two representatives from the Episcopal Church Foundation, Donald Romanik, Director, and Erin Weber-Johnson, Strategic Planning Consultant, will be offered on *Saturday, April 29, 9:15 a.m.-3:15 p.m.*, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston. There is no cost for the workshop, and lunch will be provided.

TO RESERVE A SPOT/FOR INFORMATION: Larry Civale, Congregational Development (617-482-4826, ext. 465 or lcivale@diomass.org).

NOTES:

- **Congregational Leadership Reports and Lay Delegate Certification Forms for 2017 are due by *March 10*.** Sent to all rectors or other priests in charge of congregations, the forms are pre-printed with the information currently in the diocesan database. Please return updated forms to the Convention Office 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).*
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- 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).

- **“Spiritual Resilience and Resistance in a Time of Climate Change”**: This retreat—offered on *Saturday, April 1, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.*, at Trinity Church (Copley Square) in Boston, will explore a framework for becoming healers filled with compassion, energy and hope, and will include presentations, guided meditation, silence and conversation. The retreat leader will be the Rev. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas, Ph.D., the missionary for creation care in the Diocese of Western Massachusetts and the Massachusetts Conference, United Church of Christ.

The retreat is free and open to all, especially young adults and college-age students. Register on Facebook [here](#). The retreat is co-sponsored by the Episcopal dioceses of Massachusetts and Western Massachusetts; the Massachusetts Conference, United Church of Christ; Massachusetts Interfaith Power & Light; and Massachusetts Interfaith Coalition for Climate Action.

- The **Diocesan Altar Guild will hold its annual meeting** and luncheon on *Saturday, April 29* at St. Christopher’s Church (625 Main Street) in Chatham. Registration begins at 10:30 a.m., followed by Eucharist at 11 a.m. The Rev. Sarah Lewis of St. Anne’s Church in Lowell will be the luncheon speaker and special guest. Lynn Hendricks, the president of the National Altar Guild Association, also will be in attendance.

RSVP/FOR INFORMATION: Diane Grondin, Diocesan Altar Guild (781-335-2198).

- A **Choir Festival** is being organized on *Saturday, June 3* at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston. Choir directors and organists are invited to participate in the planning.

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

- *June 22-25* are the dates for this year’s **Family Camp** at the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center in Greenfield, N.H. More information and online registration will be available soon.

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

CHURCHWIDE:

- **2x4 Fight for Refugees:** The Episcopal Public Policy Network's "2x4 Fight for Refugees" campaign continues, challenging Episcopalians to call national, state and local elected officials to voice opposition to the Trump administration's immigration policies. Find more information, including sign-up for Episcopal Public Policy Network updates, [here](#).

- Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry invites all congregations to participate in the Episcopal Church's **annual Good Friday Offering** for the benefit of ministries in the four dioceses of the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East.

Curry writes in his annual appeal: "You see a letter like this every year from your presiding bishop with a request to support the Good Friday Offering. Why? Because we walk the walk of Christ when we walk in solidarity with the Christians of the Middle East, who keep the faith in the very land Jesus called home. We walk the walk of Christ when we advocate for the voices of those who work fearlessly for peace in the midst of unrelenting violence. We walk the walk of Christ when we support ministries of healing, education, pastoral care and interfaith cooperation rooted in a deep desire for a future full of reconciliation and hope. The Good Friday Offering is our opportunity to add some of the substance of our lives to the substance of our prayers." (Read the full letter [here](#)).

Find Good Friday Offering information and materials to assist with planning and participation [here](#).

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Robert Edmunds, Episcopal Church Middle East Partnership (redmunds@episcopalchurch.org).

- Applications are now being accepted for a second round of **Episcopal Church grants for local faith-based projects focused on mitigating climate change and safeguarding the integrity of creation.** The Episcopal Church's Advisory Council for the Stewardship of Creation, enabled by the 2015 General Convention [Resolution A030](#), will make recommendations for grants up to \$10,000. Application information is available [here](#). The application deadline is March 31. The advisory council will make recommendations to the Episcopal Church's Executive Council for its May 2017 meeting, and final grant decisions will be made at that time. If funds allow, a third cycle of grantmaking will occur in the fall of 2017.

FOR INFORMATION: Chris Sikkema, Episcopal Church Justice and Advocacy Ministries (212-716-6055 or csikkema@episcopalchurch.org).

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).

- 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 registration is required 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 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 an open mic at the overnight. Find more details and register online [here](#).
- The **Diocesan Acolyte Festival** is *Saturday, May 20, 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m.*, at the First Evangelical Lutheran Church (900 Main Street) in Brockton. Acolyte teams of all ages are invited to take part in this day of workshops, a shared meal and a festival Eucharist with Bishop Alan M. Gates. Participants will meet other acolytes and worship leaders from around eastern Massachusetts, grow deeper into the role of acolyte and participate in a festive procession featuring crosses, banners, torches, flags and streamers from many congregations. Register online [here](#).
- **Eucharistic Visitor Training** is scheduled on *Saturday, March 11, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.*, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston. Register online [here](#). 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).
- The final **Congregational Business Practices Workshop** in this spring's series, sponsored by the diocese's Congregational Consultants, takes place on *Saturday, March 11, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.*, at St. Peter's Church (165 Main Street) in Buzzards Bay. Register online [here](#).

The workshop is especially helpful to new parish leaders and treasurers and will cover general business practices; compensation and benefits; compliance and reporting; bookkeeping and audits; and safeguarding of assets.

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

TRAINING & LEARNING:

- **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.* Find more information and 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 Foxborough. 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](#).

- A **Safe Church Training Refresher for clergy** will be offered on *Tuesday, May 23, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.*, at Christ Church (12 Quincy Avenue) in Quincy. There is no fee for the workshop, and coffee, continental breakfast and lunch will be provided. Pre-registration is a must and can be done online [here](#).

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.

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

GRANTS & LOANS:

- Applications for **2017 Deanery Grants** (Sending Serving and House of Mercy grants) are now available [here](#). They are due by Oct. 16.
- Applications for **2017 Congregational Development Grants** are now available [here](#). They are due on May 15.
FOR INFORMATION: Lauren Zook, Grants Administration (617-482-4826, ext. 306 or lzook@diomass.org).

DIOCESAN COUNCIL ACTIONS:

At its Feb. 23 meeting, the Diocesan Council:

Heard a report from the mission hub program director, Jin Min Lee, and voted to accept the Mission Hub Implementation Committee's recommendation of a three-tiered hub budget cut system to close a \$1.6-million funding gap: 70 percent of requested maximum for original requests of \$1 million; 75 percent of requested maximum for original requests of \$750,000; or 80 percent of requested maximum for original requests of less than \$750,000.

Heard a proposal from Bishop Alan M. Gates for an appeals process to the three-tiered budget cut system.

Heard a proposal from creation care advocates for funding green grants in 2017.

Heard a report from the Mission Strategy Implementation Organizing Team's co-chair Win Treese and an update about a proposed evaluation process for diocesan budget items.

Heard a report from the treasurer, Lisa Garcia, which included an update from the Assessment Formula Review Committee, preliminary financial results for 2016 and a summary of parishes that are in arrears on their 2016 assessments.

Voted to instruct the Assessment Formula Review Committee to construct proposals for new assessment formulas for 2018 which will result in a 10 percent net decrease in aggregate assessments received, to be reviewed at the March and April Diocesan Council meetings.

Next Diocesan Council Meeting: *Thursday, March 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: [sexton](#) at All Saints' Church of the North Shore in Danvers; [music director](#) at St. John's Church in Jamaica Plain; [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; and [director of parish programs](#) at Trinity Church in Stoughton.

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:

CAMBRIDGE, St. Peter's Church
COHASSET, St. Stephen's Church
DUXBURY, Church of St. John the Evangelist
FALMOUTH, St. Barnabas's Church
HANOVER, St. Andrew's Church
MEDFORD, Grace Church
VINEYARD HAVEN, Grace Church
WALTHAM, Christ 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
NEEDHAM, Christ Church: Family and Youth Ministry Curate

CLERGY CHANGES:

The Rev. John McGinn has been appointed bridge priest at St. Stephen's Church in Cohasset starting on March 1.

NEXT fyi:

fyi is published the first Wednesday of each month. The deadline for the April 5 issue is **Wednesday, March 29 at noon**. E-mail submissions to tjs@diomass.org.