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Please forward E-Matters to your fellow parishioners

Quick Links

[Diocese of Western Mass Bishop's Visitation Schedule The Episcopal Church](#)

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Quick Links

The 2012 Cycle of Prayer is now available on our website.

To download a PDF copy [open here](#)

Quick Links

The next issue of E-Matters will be sent on Thursday, February 9, 2012. Please email your information to William Coyne at wcoyne@diocesewma.org or Sue O'Hare at sohare@diocesewma.org by Wednesday, February 8th to be included in the February 9th edition. E-Matters is normally published on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month.

Wardens, Vestry and Leadership Gathering

SIGNS OF HOPE: Organic Stories from Mission Focused Congregations in Western Massachusetts
The Rev. Dr. Audrey Scanlan, Canon for Mission Collaboration, Diocese of Connecticut will be our plenary speaker

Saturday, March 10, 2012 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
American International College in Springfield, MA

The leaders in our diocese have long understood the importance of learning from one another. We have continued the format of this year's event to do our work in the context of Worshipful Work - we will sing, Dwell in the Word, reflect on congregational stories together, pray, learn and complete the day with Eucharist.

In this the sixteenth year of Bishop Scruton's consecration, our desire was to honor the Missional work we all have accomplished by the grace of God under his leadership. The principle we are following is this: congregations learn best from other congregations. There are rich stories among us! There will be something for everyone! We hope that you will bring a large group. We are certain that everyone who attends will go home with some new ideas, new relationships and new energy for ministry.

Below you will find a schedule for the day, a list of workshops and a registration form. Please return the registration form (one per congregation) along with a check for the registration fee by February 29th.

The Rev. Canon Audrey Scanlan is the Canon for Mission Collaboration in the Diocese of Connecticut. She holds an M.Div. from Yale Divinity School and a D.Min. from Hartford Seminary. Before starting her present position in 2011, she was rector of Church of Our Savior in Plainville CT and St. Gabriel's in East Berlin.

She has served as President of the Bishop's Fund for Children, Trustee of Litchfield Area Autism Association, Director of Operation Overflow Homeless Shelter. She is co-author of the book *Rhythms of Grace* and authored the article "What are you Serving?" published in the *Journal of Religion, Disability and Health*.

+ + +

To download a registration form for Wardens, Vestry and Leadership Gathering [open here](#)

For a description of the workshops offered [download here](#)

For a tentative schedule of the day [click here](#)

Lenten Bible Study

From: Bishop Scruton

As part of our commitment to joining with the Anglican Communion in doing a Lenten Bible study on our stewardship of God's creation, this resource might help a wider circle be aware of and take some little ordinary steps to act on this element of our vocation as followers of Jesus.

I encourage you to share this with your congregations and to join me in engaging it as part of your personal Lenten spiritual practice this year. +Gordon

To fellow Christians, Pastors, and Denominational Leaders,
Make Lent an opportunity to enter into a **spiritual discipline of fasting from carbon**.
Last year, over 6,000 people in every state and 14 countries participated in a daily invitation to fast from carbon as their Lenten discipline.
Initiated by the UCC in 2011, endorsed by Episcopalians in 2012 and promoted in countless places the world over, here's our hope:

If you're a pastor - [SIGN UP...](#) and:

- email this invitation to the people in your parish, tell them you'll be participating,

AND

- convene a weekly Lenten discussion focusing on the Carbon Fast. **MAKE THIS YOUR CHURCH'S LENTEN PROGRAM!**
- And if you're part of a local clergy association, email it to your colleagues, too.

If you are a denominational leader - [SIGN UP...](#) and:

- email this invitation to the pastors in your region, AND
- email this invitation to your regional colleagues who lead other denominations.

AND FOR ALL WHO MAY PARTICIPATE:

For hundreds of years, Ash Wednesday (February 22, 2012) marks the beginning of a time when Christians engage in spiritual disciplines involving repentance, fasting, prayer, study and works of love. Living as we are at a time when our actions - along with the actions of only a few generations - have threatened creation as we know it by the excessive burning of fossil fuel, it is fitting to engage in a spiritual discipline of fasting from carbon.

[Click here to join us as we commit to fasting from carbon during Lent.](#)

Here's how it works:

Beginning Ash Wednesday and throughout Lent, participants will receive a daily email with the day's suggested carbon-reducing activity. When possible, this will include a quantitative measure of the carbon reduction resulting from the activity.

Make this your congregation's Lenten activity:

Organize an opportunity within your congregation for members to meet each week during Lent to discuss their own experience with this fast, AND specifically to discuss the weekly themes which focus on **how the church can engage this issue**.

Please forward this invitation - to others in your congregation and to other pastors.

Yes... we are on Facebook! Beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 22, each day's activity will be cumulatively posted on this page. [Click here to go to the Facebook page.](#)

Let's make protecting God's creation by reducing our carbon footprint as fundamental a spiritual discipline as prayer.

The Rev. Dr. Jim Antal * Conference Minister and President * Massachusetts Conference, UCC

The Rev. Dr. Chuck Barnes * Conference Minister * Rhode Island Conference, UCC

The Rev. Dr. Lynn Bujnak * Conference Minister * Vermont Conference, UCC

The Rev. David Gaewski * Conference Minister * Maine Conference, UCC

The Rev. Gary Schulte * Conference Minister * New Hampshire Conference, UCC

The Rev. Chuck Wildman * Interim Conference Minister * Connecticut Conference, UCC

An initiative of the New England Regional Environmental Ministries, United Church of Christ

ENDORSED BY:

The Bishops of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts:

The Rt. Rev. M. Thomas Shaw, SSJE, Bishop

The Rt. Rev. Gayle E. Harris, Bishop Suffragan

The Rt. Rev. Roy (Bud) Cederholm, Jr., Bishop Suffragan, Retired

The Rt. Rev. Gordon P. Scruton, Bishop Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts

Energy Stewardship Survey

Please participate in a short 5 minute survey to gather information about reducing congregational energy use

At the 2009 General Convention, the Episcopal Church adopted the Genesis Covenant encouraging congregations to significantly reduce energy use as stewards of God's Creation. Several Province 1 (New England Dioceses) have adopted the Covenant and many churches are developing a ministry of energy stewardship. Additionally, the Province hired an Energy Stewardship Minister, the Rev. Stephanie Johnson (revstephaniejohnson@gmail.com) to coordinate resources. This survey is being conducted to learn about congregational energy reduction projects, while offering churches, which may be interested in beginning this ministry, information and ideas about how to start this work. Anyone interested in congregational energy use is encouraged to respond particularly rectors, Environmental Stewardship Committee Chairs and Building & Grounds Committee chairs. The survey will remain open until February 28th. Thanks so much! Here's the link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Province1energystewardship>

Diocesan Archives Project

Did you know that in 1931 Bishop Thomas Davies made a donation to Springfield Hospital

(now Baystate Medical Center) of the dismantled Chapel that was part of the Episcopal Diocesan House on Worthington Street, Springfield? Read more here: <http://www.diocesewma.org/from-the-diocesan-archives/>

Staff Position Open

Please share this with anyone you know who may be interested and qualified.

Communications Coordinator/Missioner

The Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts, Springfield, MA

Applicants should send their resume and salary requirements to edwma.job@gmail.com.

Please include a cover letter stating why you feel this is a good fit for you. A copy of the job description is available at www.diocesewma.org/joblisting.html

Free Red Book Advertising

Free advertising/marketing on the web via the Red Book (Episcopal Church Annual)

Do you want a free place to advertise on the web? Always wanted to be sure that more people than your vestry members knew what your mission statement was?

If you visit <http://www.theredbook.org/>, you can log in with the same log-in (UEID Number) that you used to file your Parochial Report online. There you can update your service schedule and also include your parish mission statement.

People who are travelling or thinking of moving to a different area of the country often search for an Episcopal Church before heading out. They may find your church and your unique/special ministries online via the Red Book website.

The "Special Ministries" that your congregation has could be updated at the start of the year.. On the "Special Ministries" page you can check boxes if you have Bible Study, Daughters of the King, Parish Nurse, Deaf/Sign Language Services, and non-English worship to name just a few. Here's a [PDF document](#) showing the "Special Ministries".

Pastoral Staff Deadline

The deadline for the April issue of Pastoral Staff, the next issue that will be published, is March 9. To submit an item, email Janice Beetle Godleski at beetlepress@charter.net.

2012 Summer Camp Offering

2012 Summer Camp Offering in Pascoag, Rhode Island

The Episcopal Conference Center [www.eccri.org] in Pascoag, RI has a great facility and wonderful summer programs at affordable prices.

Visit the website and see the schedules, programs and pictures of the facilities and grounds.

John F. Redman would be willing to talk with anyone interested in sharing the news of ECC with parishioners in the Diocese of Western Massachusetts & get some of brochures into your hands for distribution.

John F. Redman

ECC Exec. Comm.

(508) 384 -3674

johnfredman@comcast.net

Congregational Development Conference

April 15-17, 2012

The Conference Center at the Maritime Institute
Linthicum Heights, MD (Baltimore)

Speakers Committed to Date

Mr. Steve Pierce, FCBA

Coordinator for Congregational Support, Diocese of Massachusetts

Mergers and Closings

When is liquefying church assets the best solution? The Diocese of Massachusetts has literally written the book on how to address the pastoral, practical, and legal issues without having a heart attack or breaking hearts.

Dr. Kirk Hadaway

Officer for Congregational Research, Episcopal Church Center

Updated hard data on Episcopal membership trends.

Diocese of Iowa Panel

New Income and New Relevance to the Community

Parishes report on their Recasting of Building Assets process and results

More Speakers Announced Soon!

If your congregation wishes to send a team to this congregational development gathering, please contact Archdeacon Coyne.

Clerav News

Clergy Milestones

The Rev. Lindsay Marie Hills (All Saints' Worcester) was ordained to the Priesthood on January 14, 2012 at the Philadelphia Cathedral in PA.

The Rev. Robert Roy Williams was ordained to the Priesthood on January 21, 2012 at St. John's Episcopal Church in Millville, MA.

Consultant for Creative and Innovative Ministry

The Bishop has appointed the Rev. Hannah Anderson as adjunct member of the Diocesan Staff as a Consultant for Creative and Innovative Ministry.

She continues to serve as the Rector at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Pittsfield, MA. Read more about Hannah and her workshops on our [Diocesan Staff](#) page or at her own [website](#).

Consecration of the Rev. Canon Andrew Dietsche

On Saturday, March 10, the Rev. Canon Andrew Dietsche, former Rector of Good Shepherd, West Springfield, will be consecrated as the Bishop of New York. The Church of the Good Shepherd is planning to hire a bus for this significant event and would like to invite other folks within the Diocesan family to join us.

If you are interested, please send a \$20 deposit (total cost will be approximately \$40 per person), payable to the Church of the Good Shepherd, to us at 214 Elm Street in West Springfield. Should you have questions, please call the Church Office at 734-1976.

News from our Missioners

A Note from Peter Prewandowski - Missionary in Tanzania

To my friends in the Diocese of Western Mass,

Greetings in the Lord.

I have some important news to share with you. After talking with Bishop Scruton, and several people in the diocese, I have made the decision not to return to Tanzania at this time. Be assured, that I am physically healthy and my faith is strong. While this turn of events came as a surprise to me, I have come to believe this is what God wants me to do at this time in my journey.

I want to thank you all so much for the wonderful friendship and support you have given me over the years. I have been blessed by your wisdom, insight, and humor, as well as lots and lots of great American food. You are all such an inspiration.

This is by no means good-bye to Africa because I am sure I will be back in several years, even if it is only to visit. I already miss Tanzania so much. It too has been such a blessing and such an important part of my life; I know I will never forget it.

Please know that funds given to me for my work in Tanzania will be sent to continue to support the important work of the Canon Andrea Mwaka School where I served.

Do keep the beautiful country of Tanzania in your prayers now and again. The word of God continues to be preached and lives continue to be changed for Him, in that part of His vineyard.

I would appreciate your continuing prayers as I seek to be faithful to this next chapter of God's call in my life. I look forward to serving God with you here in the mission field of Western Massachusetts.

Your brother in Christ,

Peter

Global Mission Conference

2012 Global Episcopal Mission Conference

May 3-5, 2012 Ivoryton, CT

Sponsored by the Global Episcopal Mission Network & the Episcopal Church Center

Thank you for your interest in global mission as, together, we respond to our baptismal covenant. Final registration for the 2012 Global Episcopal Mission Conference will open

covenant. Event registration for the 2012 Global Episcopal Mission Conference will open soon. For more information about GEMN, see our website at www.gemn.org
In Christ,
The Global Episcopal Mission Team

From the Christian Formation Missioner

**5th annual
confirmation retreat weekend**

Join teens from around the diocese for games, food, learning and fun. Every year this event gets better and better; even the teens are talking about how much fun it is!!!

Friday March 2nd 7pm overnight until Saturday March 3rd at 3pm.

Cost is \$25/ person. Please plan on bringing at least one chaperone for your group and two if your group is larger. Chaperone cost is \$20 and chaperones will be utilized in programming.

St. Francis Episcopal Church 70 Highland St. Holden, Ma. 01520

Please register with Jill Williams at jwilliams@diocesewma.org or at 413 531 3263. Registration information is number of attendees and any food concerns or allergies.

REGISTRATION IS DUE BY FEB. 24th

Christian Formation Missioner:

The Rev. Jill Williams
jwilliams@diocesewma.org

Around our Parishes

St. Mark's, East Longmeadow to Sponsor Tornado Recovery Weekend

In a continuing effort to respond to the needs in the Springfield area following the June 1st tornado St. Mark's in East Longmeadow will once again host a recovery weekend on February 19th & 20th over the Presidents Day Weekend. We will invite those interested to come on Friday night 2/18 so that our work project can begin at 9AM on the 19th. Meals, beginning with supper on Friday evening will be provided. Anyone wishing to stay overnight at the church will be accommodated. We have upgraded our facility to make it a more accommodating environment for overnight guests.

The application form for the Presidents' Day Tornado Mission Weekend is now available online at PDF st marks presidents day mission http://sstPDFstmarksma.org/pdfs/Mission_Presidents_Day.pdf

SIGN UP SOON!

For additional details please contact either Linda Taupier at (413) 525-4679 or the church office at (413) 525-6341.

Haiti Appeal

The people of Haiti are still recovering from the devastation from the earthquake of January 2010. The Episcopal Church continues to provide vital services to those affected by the earthquake. To donate, please click on the following link:

Save the Date...

February 9 - Bishop's Winter Clergy Day, Good Shepherd, W. Spfld, 9a.m. - 3 p.m.
February 15 - Trustee's Annual Meeting, Springfield Sheraton, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
February 19,20 - Tornado Recovery Weekend, meet at St. Mark's, East Longmeadow
April 3 - Clergy Renewal of Vows, Christ Church Cathedral, 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
April 28 - New Wardens & Treasurers Gathering, St. Andrew's, Longmeadow
April 29 - Bishop's Annual Appreciation Concert & Dinner, Christ Church Cathedral 4:00 p.m.

