

Once again, I spent a year delighting in being the first person to read the stories presented in *Pastoral Staff*.

It truly does excite me to read about the good mission and service work going on in the Diocese. The Diocesan-sponsored events, such as the Wardens and Vestry gatherings and Convention, always impress me with the quality and quantity of material and the energy and passion in the presentations. But I also love to read the stories about projects quietly going on in our midst.

The Church Without Walls in Springfield, a ministry for the homeless, is admirable. The work ongoing due to the Diocesan grants is innovative. Mission and service done by young people across the Diocese, such as the creation of Gideon's Garden in the Berkshires – a project to grow and harvest food for the needy – is heartwarming. And I also personally loved reading stories about the ministry for women, especially the story about three generations of women celebrating together at the altar of St Stephen's, Pittsfield, last winter, and Susan Howland's report to Convention this fall on the history of women in the church.

I very much appreciate the very close window I have on the Diocesan world.

While this year was not the best one economically – for the Diocese or the country – I think the Diocesan staff did a marvelous job making cuts that trimmed mission and service projects without damaging the effectiveness or the vehicle for the message. The publication of *Pastoral Staff*, for instance, dropped from six issues per year to five. Next year, it will drop again to four issues, which are published quarterly. But the stories are still being told.

So, please, keep in touch with the *Pastoral Staff*. Tell your stories, and smile in knowing that I will be proud of your work when I read about it, as will our thousands of readers when the magazine arrives in their mailboxes. Feel free to send me stories and photos to beetlepress@charter.net. Anyone with questions can also call me at (413) 374-6239.

Let's wow each other with what we can accomplish in 2010 in God's name.

- **Janice Beetle,**
Editor, *Pastoral Staff*