

CELEBRATING GOD'S ABUNDANCE

ABUNDANT *Times*

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FANNING THE FLAMES



FALL 2015



Delegates from St. James', Greenfield.

Diocesan Convention Puts Focus on 'Fanning the Flames' of Ministry

By Victoria Ix

On Nov. 7 over 300 lay and clergy delegates met at the Springfield Marriott for the 114th Diocesan Convention. It was a new venue for our gathering in the heart of the city of Springfield. Under the leadership of the Rev. William "Mac" Murray, Secretary of Convention, this year's agenda was packed with good news as well as the mandated business required by the Constitution and Canons. As always we are grateful to all the exhibitors who registered. The interaction and visibility of our ministry partners adds richness to the day.

For some, it was their first convention and for others one of many. This annual event could seem like a necessary evil—chock-full of have-tos, protocols and legalities. Nothing could have felt further from the truth. There was an

undeniable energy, an undercurrent of joy running beneath the ordered proceedings. Clearly, the Holy Spirit was in our midst.

This year's theme added something special to the mix, as well. By design the convention focused on emerging ministries that have successfully engaged people with the core values of the Gospel. Using video to tell the stories, delegates were able to see and hear how congregations and missioners are successfully reaching out. The work of evangelization has become surprisingly creative and asset-based. "What do people in our local community need?" "What gifts do we have that we can share?" By engaging these two questions, many congregations and missioners have begun non-traditional ministries that are rooted in compassion and give witness to God's love made known to us in Jesus.

• "Laundry Love" happens monthly

in Pittsfield, Worcester and Milford. The congregations involved literally take over a local laundromat for a few hours. They give out rolls of quarters and detergent to individuals and families who can't afford to wash all their clothes. Those who are under-employed, on public assistance or homeless, get a little help with something that is so important to well-being. The gospel of the day is the love of strangers for strangers while Jesus multiplies quarters.

• The Church of the Atonement, Westfield, took over the town's Farmer's Market. Now, farmers sell their produce, jams, cheeses, etc. on the front lawn of the church as local musicians play in the background. Now, this Farmer's Market takes WIC and offers families on assistance an extra five dollars' worth of fresh produce. It's not the Last Supper. It's more like the Loaves and the Fishes.

• Ever heard of "Messy Church?"



E. John White honored by Bishop Fisher for his service to the diocese, above. At right, top, the Rev. Tom Callard's convention "selfie"; below, information from the UTO, which is helping us fan the flames in Holyoke.

It started in the UK. Now, St. Andrew's, North Grafton and St. John's, Sutton are hosting "Messy Church" together. This alternative to traditional worship invites families to Sunday afternoon for Lectionary-based stories, crafts and common meal. Children hear the primal narratives while parents connect with one another and ask more grown-up questions about faith and family life. Is it Evensong? No way. But it may be just what young families need to start their spiritual journey.

- At St. Michael's-on-the-Heights in Worcester, a diaper ministry is changing the way this congregation engages the local community. Families on WIC can only use government funds for food. Being able to afford diapers has become something of a crisis for families. The church is now providing diapers, wipes and cream—the essentials to keep a baby's skin healthy and dry. Helping parents out of a soul-

crushing dilemma has become a way to welcome and to engage families. "I was naked, and you clothed me."

There were many more stories of community engagement, free community dinners, efforts to feed the hungry and help the homeless. We heard why young adults at Lawrence House Service Corps have committed to a year of Christian service. We heard about Episcopalians and Methodists sharing the Eucharist — making real the unity the churches are striving to attain. We heard about projects in the works like the Sober House at Reconciliation in Webster. What to do with an unused rectory? Why don't we house six men newly released from prison who want to stay in recovery? What about veterans? "Building Bridges" Veterans Initiative has been hard at work for a year now reaching out to men and women in Springfield, Northampton and Webster. Likewise, "Cathedral in the Night" has been

offering Sunday worship outside in Pittsfield for a new community of believers—some lonely, forgotten, homeless, poor or marginalized.

If you're interested in viewing the videos produced for convention, you can access our Vimeo channel on the homepage of the diocesan website or go directly to: vimeo.com/channels/diocesanconvention2015.

It wouldn't be convention without resolutions and elections. We've added sidebars on pages 4 and 5 that will fill you in on the official business of the day. All the reports made at convention will be consolidated into the Journal of Convention and added to the diocesan website. In the meantime if you'd like to read them, our special convention website will remain in place:

conventionwma.com. ■

Evangelizing via social media



There were many “firsts” at the 114th Convention, including the extensive use of video presentations. Bishop Fisher encouraged the delegates at the outset to make use of social media throughout the day. Folks were “tweeting” and “liking” like never before. In his Address to Convention, the Bishop emphasized the power of social media as a tool for evangelization. Given in the context of the Eucharist, the Bishop’s Address was an energetic exhortation that focused on God’s power to move us from death to life. Bishop Fisher encouraged us to be a source of hope and compassion for the world and made clear his intention to “double-down” on issues of social justice—racism, gun violence, climate change, poverty, addiction. You can read the

address in its entirety on pages 8-9.

The celebration of the Eucharist was especially vibrant—an encounter with the Risen Christ in Word and Sacrament. Thanks go to this year’s Chaplains—the Rev. Cricket Cooper, Robin Carlo and the Rev. Carolyn Jones. The procession of the banners, the blessing of the Prayer Shawls, the Prayers of the People and the naming of our beloved dead—these things are more than tradition. They remind us that we are connected in every Eucharist celebrated in the diocese—east to west. The convention Eucharist reconstitutes our unity—one body, many parts—and celebrates God’s abiding presence with us as we journey from the cross to new life again and again and again. This Great Thanksgiving celebrated in a hotel ballroom makes up in joyfulness what it lacks in atmosphere. Much love and prayer went into its planning. ■



E. John White, right, with his partner in stewardship ministry, Bruce Rockwell.

A very good steward

After 11 years of service, E. John White is retiring as Missioner for Legacy Stewardship. Bishop Fisher used our annual gathering as an opportunity to honor John’s gift to the Church in Western Massachusetts.

Legacy Stewardship is the allocation of funds to one’s congregation to be received after death. Leaving a legacy gift is a way of ensuring that your congregation will continue its ministry. It’s a way of giving back to the community of faith that has been your spiritual home.

Under John’s leadership, the Bishop’s Legacy Fellowship has grown to nearly 300 members. John’s passion for this work has been an inspiration to congregations and to the staff at 37 Chestnut St.

A great way to honor John is to consider making a legacy gift to your parish church. Giving is always a blessing and mirrors the constant graciousness of God in our lives. For more information about Bishop’s Legacy Fellowship, visit the diocesan website. ■

Legislative accomplishments

First reading of a Constitutional change (second reading and adoption at 2016 Convention) to eliminate the need for a written ballot for the election of Standing Committee members when the election is uncontested.

Reorganization of the Diocesan Council—Revision of the Canons and Rules of Order to move from Deaneries to Corridors and to codify the nominating and election processes to provide for Council representation from across the diocese.

Revision of the Canon associated with the length of term for the Church Attorney. ■



Maggie Sweeney manning the Creation Care exhibit.



The Rev. Laura Everett, executive director of the Massachusetts Council of Churches, is always a favorite speaker at convention.



Daughters of the King manning the exhibit table.

Election results

The Standing Committee:
Cristina Loy and the Rev. Carolyn Jones

The Diocesan Council:
The Rev. Jesse Abell, the Rev. Jose Reyes and John Cheek

Provincial Synod: The Rev. Nancy Webb Stroud and the Rev. Samuel J. Smith

The Chapter of Christ Church Cathedral:
Deborah Harmon Hines and the Rev. Lisa Green

Disciplinary Board: Beth Baldwin and the Rev. Dr. Janet Zimmerman

Youth make a night of it

Our youth missionary, the Rev. Hilary Bogert-Winkler, invited young Episcopalians to hang out at the cathedral overnight. The group of youth and adults camped out in the Kendrick Room in Christ Church Cathedral. There was official conversation about convention, but there was plenty of music, laughter and pizza! ■

The Bishop's Convention Address 2015

Just a few days ago I was at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., for the installation of Michael Curry as our new Presiding Bishop. I can't possibly express adequately the enthusiasm that is running through our Church. Michael is the first African-American Presiding Bishop and the first ever to be elected on the first ballot. He is dedicated to social justice AND to growing our church. He says he is now the CEO of the Episcopal Church—the Chief Evangelism Officer. Michael is inviting all of us to join the Jesus Movement—a mission to change this world from the nightmare it is for so many into the Dream God has for it. I'm still on a spiritual high from that liturgy at the National Cathedral so if I start talking too fast, tell me to slow down.

And I have a great love and admiration for our outgoing PB, Katharine Jefferts-Schori, whom many of you met three years ago around the corner at the Mass Mutual Center when I was ordained a bishop. I will always remember a sermon Katharine gave at General Convention this summer. She was preaching on the story in Mark's Gospel when Jesus is told a 12-year-old girl, the daughter of the synagogue leader, has died. Jesus immediately goes to the bedside of the girl, takes her by the hand and says, "Talitha cum," which means, "Little girl, get up!" Immediately the girl got up and began to walk.

As Katharine retold the story she reinterpreted "Talitha cum" to have Jesus shout: "Get up girl! You're not dead yet!" Katharine then applied that to the Episcopal Church. "Get up, Church, you're not dead yet!"

We have had turmoil within and an increasingly secular society without, but we are not dead yet. Not only are we "not dead," there are signs of abundant life, resurrected life.

Those signs of resurrection are here in Western Mass, and our future is bright IF... Brothers and Sisters, it is a big IF. IF we allow God to be God. The God we believe in, the God we meet in the Old and New Testaments, the God we meet in the person of Jesus, the God we experience in the Holy Spirit, is a God who is constantly creating, constantly imagining and reimagining, constantly moving through death into new life.

It can't get much clearer than the Book of Revelation. "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth... See, I am making all things new." Here's the good news. The newness is not just taking place in heaven. It's taking place here... on earth. "See the home of God is among mortals." This is not "fluffy spirituality." It is not abstract. "See the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them and they will be his peoples." And God is on a mission to wipe out all the "deathliness" and suffering of the world. You see, God is agreeing with Michael Curry! The Jesus Movement is on a mission to change the world from the nightmare it is for so many into the Dream God has for it.

Let's break away from Christianity for a moment and go east. I don't know a lot about Eastern spirituality directly. Maybe, someday. Most of what I know about it comes from the Roman Catholic monk Thomas Merton and the Franciscan Richard Rohr. Rohr tells us Buddhist wisdom says, "Thank God for impermanence. Thank God for constant change

because it sets us free. It sets us free from constantly being bound by that which is passing away." Buddhists acknowledge that "pain is inevitable, but suffering lies in clinging to that which has died."

There are some dimensions of our church that are dying. And we suffer when we cling to them. At one time they were new and part of God's plan. But now their mission is over and it is time to pass through death into the newness of resurrected life, into the life of God's endless creativity and imagination.

One of our churches closed this summer. Several others are closing or considering closing. These decisions are made prayerfully and with a willingness to look at reality. I am grateful to our senior staff—Steve, Pam and Rich—and to the leaders of these parishes who are doing the hard work of transition. And I am grateful to the neighboring parishes that are actively welcoming members of these churches into their faith communities and appreciate the gifts they bring. The buildings close, but the church continues. The Jesus Movement rolls in a new way.

Let's turn to some glimpses of God's newness among us. One of the highlights of my year was ordaining three new young priests and welcoming a fourth newly ordained from the great state of Idaho. They bring an energy, excitement and a fresh perspective. I remember doing that 35 years ago. And now I want to listen to them because there are certainly some things God is calling us to see that these old eyes are not seeing. To take advantage of their wisdom, and that of several young and dynamic lay people, I am

forming the “Young Leaders Council to the Bishop.” We will meet from time to time to see how we might be church for the 21st Century, which is already 15 percent over.

And I invite you to do the same. I’m blessed to look out at you—faithful and wise leaders of our churches. I encourage each one of you to seek out young people (under 50) in your parishes and start incorporating them into leadership, which may or may not look like a vestry. And, when they meet resistance, support them. Turn to those who say, “We never did it this way before,” and with love and kindness and respect, convey that we need to let God be God. Let God express imagination and creativity.

There is another expression we need to avoid. And we clergy are often the guiltiest of using it. When someone wants to try something new, we say, “Oh, we did that before... In 1987... It failed.” Maybe it was an idea ahead of its time. Maybe there is a new context. Maybe we aren’t hearing the idea correctly.

You see, people like me who remember when President Kennedy was shot, are desperately needed in our churches—more than ever. But one of our big jobs is mentoring. Inviting in the next generations to bring their own special gifts.

Let’s bring the Gospel to new places. Like laundromats. Do you know about the Laundry Love program? You will learn about them later today. We have at least three of them in Western Mass.

Let’s bring the Gospel to new places like our streets. I didn’t walk those 175 miles for exercise. I did it to bring the faith out of the church building and into the places where people live and work. And it wasn’t me just bringing the faith, I received the faith. I was inspired by so many who are working for Jesus’ Mission

of Mercy, Compassion and Hope. Later we are going to hear about our urban mission to Worcester. I know many of our parishes have done the 20-minute walk north, south, east and west from their buildings and have re-imagined their ministry based on what they found. I might be wrong, but there might be more community outreach going on through our parishes than ever before. You will hear about a few of those parishes in videos later today.

One of the awesome blessings of my walk through the diocese was meeting with community leaders, including police captains and sheriffs at jails. I learned so much, including staggering facts about the heroin addiction that is crippling New England. Some of you are engaging community leaders in conversations about what churches can do. God bless you. This is Matthew 25 work for today’s world: “I was addicted and you cared.”

Let’s bring the Gospel to new people. Theologian Brian McLaren asks, “Why do denominations assign leaders to buildings when they should be sending them to populations?” In Western Mass, we are taking that question seriously. We are actively engaged in ministry with veterans, immigrants, Latino populations, to the addicted and the incarcerated. It does not look like traditional parish ministry, but it does look like God’s imagination at work.

How about bringing the Gospel to old places with new people? I’m thinking of our college campuses. There are 32 of them in Western Mass, with 130,000 students. Now some outstanding campus ministry is already going on, but not nearly enough. Some of you were around three and a half years ago, when I told this story in the “walkabouts” leading up to the election of a new bishop.

Or the “Hunger Games,” as my kids called them. When our youngest child Gracie was a freshman at Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pa., her spring break was just two weeks before Holy Week. When I was taking her back to school at the end of the break, she said, “Dad when will you or mom pick me up for Easter?” I said, “Oh honey, you have classes right through Good Friday, and you need to be back in class on Monday morning. You know your parents are both priests. There is no way we can drive to Carlisle and pick you up and drive you home on Good Friday and make that nine-hour round trip on Easter Sunday after services.” She was disappointed but understood. We kept driving, and when we stopped at a traffic light in Carlisle, she said “There’s the Episcopal Church... Where I will be sitting all by myself on Easter Sunday morning.”... We figured out a way to get her home for Easter.

Is there a college campus near you? How are you reaching out to those young people? Remember, most of them—the vast majority of them, unless like Gracie a P.K. (preacher’s kid), have been raised with no religious experience at all. They are not looking for a church to go to because they have probably never been in one. “Church? Hmm... I think when I was around 10 my cousin got married, and I was in this building with candles and windows with paintings in them.” But that might be to our advantage. College is all about learning new things, new experiences. It is about rebelling against your parents. What could be more radical, more “out-there” than discovering life in Christ? And I bet that discovering could come through

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Local Voices on the Significance of the First African-American Presiding Bishop



The Hon. Judith J. Phillips

Judith is an associate justice of the Franklin/Hampshire Juvenile Court in Massachusetts.

“I love the fact that I was raised in an Anglican Church in the West Indies. That only came about because of the Church’s participation and complicity in slavery and colonization. Yet, my love of God transcends that history. I am at peace to know that this Church, individually and collectively, can and has moved beyond our history and is embracing God’s vision for us on earth. If we can elect a Black bishop in such a hostile world, imagine what we can do if we set our minds to it? The election brings not only joy, but so much hope in how we move forward together locally and globally. We are truly blessed.” ■



Charles A. Wynder, Jr.

Chuck was named Missioner for Social Justice and Advocacy Engagement for the Episcopal Church in 2014. He continues that ministry as part of Presiding Bishop Curry’s staff.

“Bishop Curry’s expressed priorities of racial justice and reconciliation, evangelism and discipleship is resonating during a period when the dignity of Black lives has been questioned, immigrants face hostility and structural inequality is rising. It is for this reason that the significance of his election and installation is not lost on Black people of other denominations and faith traditions. This is an opportunity for transformation and renewal.” ■



Kevin A. Smallwood

Kevin is serving his second year at Lawrence House Service Corps. His ministry assignment is at Christ Church Cathedral.

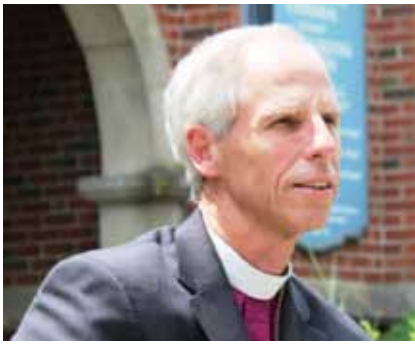
“Michael Curry is a man of faith and action. With this light of hope, I feel we can challenge unjust systems that continuously divide us by engaging the ‘Jesus Movement,’ a movement of inclusion at the table.” ■



Anglican News

The Most Rev. Michael Bruce Curry, 27th Presiding Bishop.





Bishop Doug Fisher

“Michael’s election is one more step in the ongoing journey of racial reconciliation. He frequently refers to Martin Luther King’s invitation to create “the beloved community.” As one writer put it, his election, like that of Barack Obama, is “another blow to the 400 years of Black slavery, legal segregation and institutional racism.” I would add that history is not restricted

to the southern United States. New England profited greatly from the slave trade, as did the Episcopal Church. Michael’s election as an African American continues the long journey away from our sinful history toward a new future.” ■

ADDRESS

FROM PAGE 7

service to the community because young people love to volunteer for worthy causes. We have an opportunity here, beloved of God, if we can tap into God’s imagination. Lawrence House is one such example and you will be hearing about that later on.

It is great to be a believer, a Christian, an Episcopalian in 2015, because the imagination and creativity of God has given us social media. The word “gospel” means “good news.” John’s Gospel tells us “in the beginning was the Word.” We are in the communications business, and God has given us more tools than ever before. Let’s use them! That stroll I took through Western Mass had 100 times more impact because Vicki Ix, the best communications director anywhere, got the word out on the website, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and traditional newspaper and TV outlets. I know, I know. I have the luxury of a full-time professional to do this work. I invite you to tap into God’s imagination to see how you might take advantage of social media

to proclaim good news. Someday we will all see Jesus face to face and we might say “Jesus, I know I promised in the Baptismal Covenant to proclaim the Good News in Christ, and I’m sorry I did not reach as many people as I hoped. And Jesus will say “But I gave you Facebook!”

Here is one last area for God’s creativity for this Convention address. I have not covered nearly all of them. That is the all-important area of social justice. I have been inspired by multitudes in this dimension of the Gospel, some famous and by some oh so grassroots. One of the famous ones is the theologian Walter Brueggemann who writes about our Revelation passage: “I saw a new Heaven and a new earth. For the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. The future is not a private, individualistic future. It is a new epoch in the history of the world.” Here is a key line for us church folk. “The church knows that the old earth cannot be sustained.” That’s right. I’ll add the old earth that burns fossil fuels without limit cannot be sustained. The old earth that does not allow refugees and immigrants to move away from war torn and gang-

infested and impoverished areas of the world cannot be sustained. The old earth where a gun culture in the U.S. is allowed to run wild cannot be sustained. The old earth where 1 percent of the population takes in the vast majority of the wealth cannot be sustained. The Church of the New Creation knows this. God knows this. The Pope, the Bishop of Rome, knows this and when he said it, he was called too political. The Episcopal Bishop of Western Massachusetts knows this and has been called too political. But friends, know this, the anti-casino bishop, trying to catch up with the imagination of the God of the prophets and Jesus, is going to double-down on social justice issues. Because I can’t honestly say I believe in the God of the Old and New Testaments if I do anything else.

There is a prayer we all say at the Easter Vigil, and we say it at ordinations, which means I got to pray it four times in the last six months. It speaks to our situation in the church and in the world, and expresses our never-ending hope in the promises of the living God.

“O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on you whole church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.”

The Jesus Movement rolls on. Amen. ■

Four Newly Ordained Priests, Serving God's People

Bishop Fisher ordained three new priests and welcomed a fourth from the Diocese of Ohio. The joy and energy they bring to the work of ministry is a gift to our diocese. Get to know each one below and keep them all in your prayers.



The Rev. Dave Woessner

A former professor of Philosophy, David decided to leave academia and pursue a calling to serve the Episcopal Church. Sponsored by All Saints', Worcester, he began the discernment process for Holy Orders in 2010. David was awarded the Master of Divinity from Harvard Divinity School. His ordination to the priesthood was on July 11, 2015 at St. Michael's-on-the-Heights in Worcester. Dave was called to St. Michael's as Deacon-in-Charge in February of 2014. He serves this community now as Priest-in-Charge. ■

*Bishop Fisher encourages the assembly to
"Greet your new priest!"*

The Rev. José Reyes Perez

José's vocation took root at Christ Church Cathedral, Springfield. After receiving a Bachelor of Arts in psychology, with a concentration in Latino Studies, from Williams, José went on to study at Virginia Theological Seminary. He was nominated by the faculty there to represent the seminary at the 2014 Preaching Excellence Program of the Episcopal Preaching Foundation. Ordained deacon in December 2014, José was awarded the Master of Divinity on May 21. His ordination to the priesthood was celebrated at All Saints', Worcester, on Sept. 12. The people of All Saints' have called José to serve as Associate Rector. He is working within and beyond the parish to help the Episcopal Church reach out to Latino/Hispanic families in Worcester who have yet to find a spiritual home. José has many gifts, not the least of which are his passion for mission, his love of music and his embrace of a Church that speaks many languages. ■



*The Rev. José Reyes is presented to the
congregation.*

The Rev. Sarah Dunn

The people of Grace, Amherst, have called the Rev. Sarah Dunn to serve as assistant priest. Sarah has served there since being made a transitional deacon in December 2014. Sarah's roots are in the South—Huntsville, Alabama. She came to the Commonwealth for her undergraduate work at Mount Holyoke College in 2007. Sarah was awarded the Master of Divinity from Berkeley Divinity School at Yale this past May. Her ordination to the Sacred Order of Priests was on Oct. 3. ■



The Rev. Sarah Dunn



The Rev. Joseph Farnes in his office at St. Stephen's, Pittsfield.

The Rev. Joseph Farnes

The people of St. Stephen's, Pittsfield, have called a new assistant—the Rev. Joseph Farnes. Joseph was awarded the Master of Divinity from the Seminary of the Southwest in Austin, Texas. His ordination took place in his home diocese of Idaho on June 21. Like the Rev. José Reyes, Joseph's ministry is being funded for three years by the "Fanning the Flames" initiative. In addition to his service at St. Stephen's, Joseph will minister beyond the church walls and engage the local communities of the Central Berkshires. As part of that effort, Joseph has begun *The Berkshire Episcopalian*, an e-newsletter for all the congregations in the Berkshires corridor. ■

Celebration of New Ministries

We've got plenty to celebrate in Western Mass. Thanks to the prayerful work in these congregations and the inspired leadership of our canons, five parishes have new leadership this fall. They have been to their first "Clergy Day," but they are still new to the neighborhood. We have been blessed!



The Rev. Greg Lisby
Rector, All Saints', Worcester

Greg is coming to Western Massachusetts from Ridgewood, N.J., where he has served as rector of Christ Church since 2010. His ministry has been creative, missional and especially attentive to the needs of young families. Greg's background prior to public ministry was in social work. He holds both a Bachelor's and a Master's degree in clinical social work. Greg received the Master of Divinity from The General Theological Seminary in New York City and is pursuing a Doctor of Ministry degree in preaching from the University of the South, Sewanee, Tenn. Greg and his spouse, the Rev. Timothy Burger, also an Episcopal priest, are raising two daughters, Leah and Miriam. ■



The Rev. Mary Frances Curns
Priest-in-Charge, All Saints', North Adams

Ordained a priest in 2005, Mary Frances served as assistant at Christ Church, New Bern, N.C., before becoming rector at St. Anne's in Jacksonville, N.C., in 2009. Her call to All Saints' puts her closer to extended family in central New York. ■



The Rev. Dave Woessner
Priest-in-Charge, St. Michael's-on-the-Heights

Read about Dave on pages 10–11.



The Rev. Samuel J. Smith
Priest-in-Charge, St. Paul's, Stockbridge

Sam comes to us from the Diocese of New York, where he has served as assistant at St. Michael's in Manhattan since 2013. Prior to that, Sam was the Director of Programs for Episcopal Charities of the Diocese of New York and assisting priest at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine. Sam has served as an interim priest and as communications director for a large, endowed parish in Indianapolis. Sam prepared for ministry at General Theological Seminary where he earned the Master of Divinity in 2009. Sam's gifts and experiences are varied and reveal a passion for mission and a love for the arts. He and his husband, Don Temples, arrived at St. Paul's in time to start work on Aug. 1, 2015. ■



The Rev. Timothy Burger

Priest-in-Charge, St. Luke's, Worcester

Tim is a Georgia native who most recently served as rector of All Saints' Episcopal Church in Glen Rock, N.J. Tim completed his undergraduate work at the University of Georgia. He received the Master of Divinity from The General Seminary of the Episcopal Church in 2005 and the Master of Sacred Theology in Historical Theology/Literature from Union Theological Seminary in 2014. In addition to serving as associate rector in the dioceses of Rhode Island and Pennsylvania, Tim was a lecturer in Old and New Testament, Ethics and Theology in RI's School for Ministry. Much of Tim's ministry has involved the integration of the arts and spirituality. Tim and his spouse, the Rev. Greg Lisby, have two daughters, Leah and Miriam. ■

New faces at the Cathedral

In our summer issue we announced that the Rev. Tom Callard would serve the cathedral as Priest-in-Charge for a period of three years. The celebration of his new ministry was filled with lively music and great joy! Now, two others have joined the cathedral staff.

Enrique Loyola

Lay Pastoral Assistant



Enrique Loyola is a psychologist who was trained for ministry in the ELCA. His primary ministry will be reaching out to the Hispanic/Latino members of the congregation. He will provide pastoral care and support to families, and welcome new members. Enrique will also preach and lead Christian Education programs.

The Rev. Joseph Pace

Assistant Priest



The Rev. Joseph Pace joined the cathedral staff in October 2015 as part-time assistant through Easter 2016. He comes to Springfield from the Diocese of Connecticut, where he served as rector of St. John's, West Hartford, from 1991-2013. A native of Tennessee, before coming to Connecticut he served there in churches in Jackson, Crossville and Nashville. He is a graduate of The

University of the South, Sewanee, Tenn.; the General Theological Seminary, New York City; and Hartford Seminary, Hartford, Conn., where he took a degree in Islamic Studies. He has traveled extensively in the Middle East, especially in Syria. ■

Interims Keep the Fire Burning

Interim ministry is a vital component in the health and life-cycle of many congregations. To serve in this capacity, a priest must be trained to assume leadership between rectors. Interims can help a congregation to shape its new vision for leadership all the while tending to a serious “to-do” list of important matters. Right now we have three interims serving in Western Mass. We want to introduce them to you and thank them for their service among us.



The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Wilburn
Trinity, Ware

Randy was ordained a Lutheran pastor in 1968 after completing his Master of Divinity at Luther Theological Seminary in St. Paul, Minn., and served in full-time ministry for 37 years. Since

2005, Randy has been accepting calls to interim for Lutheran, UCC and Episcopal churches including at Trinity, Lenox; Grace, Amherst; and St. Francis', Holden. Randy has studied and trained extensively. He has a Master of Arts in Sacred Theology from Southern Methodist University, a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Andover Newton Theological School and a certification in spiritual direction. Randy was in private practice as a marriage and family therapist for 16 years. ■





The Rev. Michael Bullock
St. Philip's, Easthampton



Michael and his wife came to Western Massachusetts after 35 years of full-time ministry in our Church. His experiences have been varied—a school chaplain in Connecticut, associate rector in Dedham, rector in New York and Columbia, S.C., and Canon to the Ordinary in the Diocese of Upper South Carolina.

Michael did his undergraduate work at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and received the Master of Divinity from Yale University's Berkeley Divinity School. He was ordained priest for the Diocese of North Carolina in 1979. "After three decades of ordained leadership," Michael reflects, "I still regard my priesthood as a gift and work to support others in the discovery of how they, in their own baptized lives, may continually represent the presence and hope of God-in-Christ in their midst." ■



The Rev. Eletha Buote-Greig
Nativity, Northborough



Eletha comes to us from the Diocese of Rhode Island, where she served from 2004 as rector of St. James', Woonsocket. After being awarded the Master of Divinity from Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, Eletha was ordained priest in 1986. She served as rector of St.

John's-St. Stephen's, Fall River—now Church of the Holy Spirit—from 1995 to 2004. Eletha also served as the Episcopal Chaplain at the University of Massachusetts, North Dartmouth. A trained spiritual director and mediator, Eletha is enlivened and enriched by her work with fiber arts—weaving and spinning, dyeing and quilting. She is also a member of the Society of the Companions of the Holy Cross. ■

A Great Website Fans the Flames of Ministry

By Victoria Ix

Ten years ago, most parishes contacted a local web designer to create a terrific new site for them. It took time, for the gathering of text and photos, and it took patience while the designer did his or her thing. The end result was beautiful and functional and just what the 21st century church required. But, sadly, that was 10 years ago.

Things have changed. The website that looked so good back then, now seems to be missing something—vibrancy, dynamism, color. The old sites don't work on an iPhone or tablet (in other words, they are not “responsive” sites), and they don't allow for the addition of video or sound files. The BIGGEST problem of all is that the person who designed it is no longer available. No one has the user name or password for the site—the “keys to the kingdom”—so updating the site with current information has become virtually impossible.

Here's the good news—you are not alone! In the last 18 months, I have worked with many congregations in exactly this spot. All of them have found creative ways to solve the aging website dilemma. My hope here is to outline the options and share some resources so that if your parish site needs an upgrade, you can start the process with confidence.



1. Jesus had it right. “Do not be afraid.” Web technology can feel really mysterious. I'm not a web designer, nor can I write code. But, I have found that the technology has become increasingly more user-friendly—especially in the last five years.

2. Should we farm it out or do it ourselves? This is the most important decision in the process. Both options have advantages. Hiring out means that you get a professional who will tailor all the 21st century “bells and whistles” to your specifications. What may hold you back is cost. If you have someone on vestry or a parish admin who is tech savvy, then rebuilding yourself makes sense. It's inexpensive and relatively easy to do. *The most important thing—whichever option you choose—is make sure you have access.* Having the user name and password for the site's dashboard is essential information. It's like having a set of church keys or the code for the alarm system. That info must stay in-house

3. Easy do-it-yourself platforms:

There are many to choose from, but I have my favorites. I know of parishes that have had a great experience with **SquareSpace**, **WIX** and **GoDaddy**. My go-to is **Weebly**. We use it for diocesan blogs and to set up ancillary sites like the one we created for convention. These platforms allow you to format the pages of your site with drag-and-drop architecture. You don't need to understand HTML to build a site with one of these. You just need to prepare your text and have proprietary photos.

There are web design companies that are looking for your business. **ChurchThemes.com** has WordPress templates designed just for faith-based organizations—priced for them, too. Then, there are companies that offer will do it all for you—design, hosting, and maintenance—like **Faith Connector** and **Digital Faith**, affordable and tailored to the





needs of a congregation.

4. Local professional? It's easy to find 100 web designers in Western Mass, but finding one that is affordable, one that understands the needs of a nonprofit, one that will also be there to help you maintain your site—that's a lot harder to do! I have met recently with local professionals, and here are two who seem eager for congregational business and who will stay with you for the long haul — **Web-Tactics** in Easthampton and **Montague WebWorks**.

5. What should our priorities be as we plan the new, improved parish website?

- Welcoming
- Simple
- Beautiful
- Family-centered (as it applies to your parish)
- Links to diocese and larger Church
- Informative
- Proprietary images that reflect a community of faith
- Photo releases for minors

There is nothing like a great website

There is nothing like a great website as a tool for evangelization. Take a look around and see what some of our congregations have been up to.

as a tool for evangelization. Take a look around and see what some of our congregations have been up to. You'll see that many have created sites for the first time and some have remodeled.

The Diocesan Website: You may have noticed that our site won't work on your iPhone or tablet. We will be converting to a responsive template to rectify that. The site will look very much the same, but you will be able to use it from every device. Since we have the hood up, we're making some things a bit simpler, too. Our current site will go down Dec. 31 and reappear on New Year's Day at the same address. We'll remind you again as we get closer to the conversion. We hope you'll let us know if we misplaced something or if you have trouble navigating the new template.

Need help? I've worked with lots of folks and would be happy to help you navigate some of these options. Call, email or invite me to a meeting. I'd be happy to help your webmaster here at Diocesan House. ■

Vicki is Communications Director / Missioner for the diocese. You can reach her at: communications@diocesewma.org or 413.737.4786,

10 Parish Websites to Visit

These ten sites are not the only great websites in our diocese, but they each have something of what I describe as essential in the 21st century Church. They indicate a vibrant life of faith in a particular community. Some were built by professionals. One was built by a small parish team in less than two weeks. Some make use of social media and others have video.

Have a look and see what you like about them.

- allsaintsw.org
- www.southwickchurch.com
- graceberkshires.org
- stjohnsnorthampton.org
- www.stlukeslanesboro.org
- www.gracechurchamherst.org
- allsaintsallwelcome.org
- www.st-andrews-longmeadow.org
- www.christchurchfitchburg.org
- standrewsgrafton.org



Look for the Red Shirts!

By **Barbara Newton**

Our first venture out in service was “Cathedral in the Night” in Northampton. This was eye-opening for all of us. After a short outdoor service, we served food to the hungry provided by Trinity and others. We had conversations with many who attended. It was uplifting, and we realized it could be any of us in the shoes of the homeless. This was the beginning of what we knew we had to do. No more talking about it. This event showed us how easy and how important it is to reach out.

After a lot of thought and planning, we decided we needed to reach out to our immediate community. We began with our first annual Trinity Block Party. This gave us a sense of togetherness—doing something fun and necessary at the same time. The Trinity Episcopal red T-shirt was the result of a conversation we had about visibility in the community. As a congregation we voted on the design. We stood out from the crowd, making it easier for all of us there who were making it happen, to see each other and to communicate better.

We continue to wear the T-shirts at



The Rev. Randy Wilburn, seated, and members of Trinity, Ware, doing God's work in red.

all of the events we attend. Our Mission group has started a sandwich/soup mission to feed the hungry. We went to our local pool with sandwiches, drinks, chips, watermelon and cookies. This will continue when the pool opens again for the summer next year.

Every third Tuesday of the month, we serve sandwiches, etc. locally at a site where the Western Mass Food Bank provides produce to all who come. This fall, we will start to serve hot soup, chili and chowder to those waiting in the produce line in the afternoon. In the evening at our church there will also be the same for those locally in need of a hot meal.

In our mission research we found partners in the town with the focus of helping others. We are helping to fill some voids in our community. At a Drug Awareness Vigil, we had a table with our banner and brochures to show our support. We are planning to provide space for counseling to parents and those affected by opioid use.

With great motivation from our interim pastor, the Rev. Randy Wilburn, we now have a way to show our presence as we engage people in service. Wherever we go we will be wearing our Red T-shirts! ■

Barbara Newton is a member of Trinity, Ware.

A Daughter of the King at Triennial and the 78th General Convention

By Mariana Bauman

Summer of 2015 was an exceptionally busy one for Episcopal Church folks! There was General Convention, of course, and the Episcopal Church Women (ECW) Triennial, which occurs at the same time as the General Convention. Then there was the Triennial of the Order of the Daughters of the King (DOK), which traditionally is held before the General Convention and in the same city or region.

This year, the DOK Triennial 2015 was held at the Zermatt Resort in Midway, Utah, about an hour from Salt Lake City. On June 19 through 23, over 500 women met in this beautiful mountain area to pray, worship, sing, attend workshops and hold a short business meeting. “Shining the Light of Christ” was the theme, and we were all led to ponder how we can do this by our two keynote speakers, Canon Andrew White (the “Vicar of Baghdad”) and the Rev. Becca Stevens, founder of the Thistle Farms Ministry.

Canon White spoke about his ministry in the Middle East, working for reconciliation in many areas. (He created a Foundation for this purpose—the Foundation for Relief and Reconciliation in the Middle East.) He spoke of how the light of Christ is still shining through his Iraqi parishioners, now living in exile and abject poverty in northern Iraq and Jordan, and how it truly is necessary to love and pray for one’s enemies.



Mariana, left, manning the DOK exhibit table at GC78.

Becca Stevens works with women who have been trafficked and/or enslaved by addictions. They are in varied stages of healing and recovery. She worked to create a ministry that not only helped women to escape their lives of prostitution and addictions, but to be able to support themselves with jobs and become part of a healthy community. Their motto is “Love Heals,” and she is convinced that the love of God working through us is the most powerful tool for healing for those who have been so damaged by abuse and exploitation.

All of this was powerful and inspiring for us all. International Daughters from 16 different countries were especially moved as some come from countries where being a Christian is a dangerous life and others from areas where poverty equals exploitation for many women.

Leaving the clean air of the mountains and the wonderful joy of the music and fellowship of our Triennial was not easy. However, my job, as a member of National Council continued as part of a team in the

DOK booth at General Convention.

The Exhibition Hall is an important part of this gathering of our Church. There are tables for exhibitors such as Church Pension Fund, Forward Movement, University of Sewanee (and their Education for Ministry program) and Washington National Cathedral. Smaller exhibitors included the Seaman’s Institute, Religious Orders and vendors of liturgical art and of course, the Order of the Daughters of the King!

By our presence, we were able to shine the Light of Christ by sharing the spiritual discipline of our Order to anyone interested. This year, from June 24 through 30, we were there to speak to anyone who came to the booth about the Order and we spoke to a lot of people! We met people from around the world, Asia, Africa, Europe and Latin America. We spoke with Deputies and Bishops, visitors and vendors, clergy and lay people and too many, many who knew little or nothing about the DOK. We enjoyed meeting those from Native American congregations and those who came from Episcopal monastic communities. We were able to have intense conversations with women interested in the Order and those who had once been DOK and were now wondering about returning. We especially were moved by women whose mothers or grandmothers had been Daughters and hearing how important the Order was to them.

Serving at this booth was a joy and a privilege and the Lord willing, I will be back GC2018! ■



Sally Allen and Jean Ryan staff the Bement-Waterfield exhibit at Diocesan convention. Above, Miss Mary Bement.

2015 Bement-Waterfield Grant Recipients

Bement-Waterfield Educational Grants help young people who are active in the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts. These awards represent an investment by the Church in its young people. The goal of the Committee is to provide some support to as many of the applicants as possible. The maximum award at this time is \$1,500. Grants may be used at accredited training and technical institutions as well as for undergraduate study at two- and four-year accredited colleges.

The Bement-Waterfield Grants are made possible in part by income from a generous bequest by the late Miss Mary Bement many years ago. In 1998, William S. Waterfield, Jr. left a bequest to the Diocese to provide additional funds for educational grants. Waterfield was a lifelong member of St. John's, Worcester.

We are pleased to share the names of those who were given a monetary grant to help defray the expenses of post-secondary education. Recipients applied and interviewed with members of the Bement-Waterfield Grants Team.

Information about the grant may be found on the diocesan website under "Parish and Clergy Resources." This year's application season has begun. The deadline for 2016 grants is March 15, 2016. ■

The following are the 2015 grant recipients:

Erik Abdow, Grace, Amherst; **Jessica Abdow**, Grace, Amherst; **Isabelle Allen**, St. John's, Northampton; **Russell Allen**, St. John's Northampton; **Jacob Beman**, Atonement, Westfield; **Kenneth Black**, St. Stephen's, Pittsfield; **Kyle Buma**, Trinity, Whitinsville; **Alissa Burian**, Epiphany, Wilbraham; **Emily Butynski**, St. James, Greenfield; **Sam Buzzell**, Christ Memorial, North Brookfield; **Tannelle Ciempa**, All Saints, North Adams; **Travis Ciempa**, All Saints, North Adams; **Trevor Ciempa**, All Saints, N. Adams; **Rachel Cogswell**, St. Helena's Chapel, Lenox; **Julia Decker**, St. Mark's, East Longmeadow; **Naomi Desilets**, Nativity, Northboro; **Mary Edwards**, St. Marks, East Longmeadow; **Ambar Garcia**, Christ Church Cathedral, Springfield; **Perla Garcia**, Christ Church Cathedral, Springfield; **Mariel Lutz**, St. John's, Northampton; **Andrew Macfarlane**, St. Stephen's, Pittsfield; **Allison McCarthy**, Christ Church Cathedral, Springfield; **Azhane Mitchell**, St. Peter's, Springfield; **Abigail Moon**, St. Stephen's, Springfield; **Benjamin Parent**, Atonement, Westfield; **James Pickett**, Christ Church, Rochdale; **Julia Pringle-Wallace**, St. Stephen's, Pittsfield; **Angela Rossi**, St. Matthew's, Worcester; **Kelly Rourke**, St. Andrew's, North Grafton; **Marissa Sarna-McCarthy**, St. Philip's, Easthampton; **Mary Steger**, Atonement, Westfield; **William Steger**, Atonement, Westfield; **Lauren Wallace**, Atonement, Westfield; **Ryan Wallace**, Atonement, Westfield; **Matthew Walsh**, Atonement, Westfield; and **Isabella Whitehead**, St. Mark's, East Longmeadow. ■

Stewardship: Everything we *do* after we say, “*we believe*”

By Bruce A. Rockwell

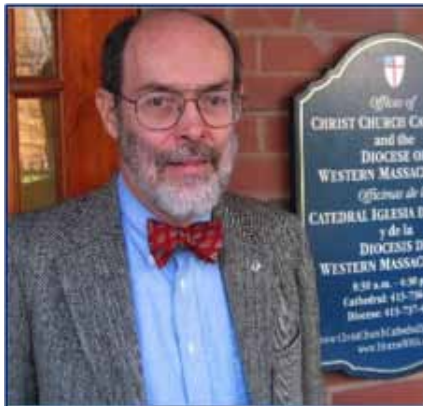
Having recently observed **Thanksgiving Day**, and the time when many congregations receive the financial commitments (offerings of thanksgiving) that will support the ministry and mission of the church in the coming year, I recently asked stewardship leaders, both lay and ordained, what they were doing in their congregations to form stewards and to increase generosity.

Many congregations pointed to their use of the God the Giver series, provided by The Episcopal Network for Stewardship, which raises people’s stewardship awareness. Each week’s bulletin insert offers a reflection on that Sunday’s Gospel along with three questions for consideration.

A few parishes created gratitude trees. Members of the congregation were invited to write their thanksgivings to hang on the trees. At **St. John’s, Williamstown**, people placed their thanksgivings on paper apples that then appeared on the tree. At **St. Mark’s, East Longmeadow**, it was leaves.

Many congregations invited members of the parish to offer reflections. In some it was to offer personal responses to the reflection questions found in the bulletin inserts. In others it was to reflect on the ways in which God has gifted them and on the ways in which they were grateful.

A growing number of congregations send personal handwritten notes to express gratitude to members, for both pledges of



Bruce Rockwell

financial support and other gifts members offer.

In some congregations stories are recorded on video. The results can be shown in church and placed on the parish website. In other congregations, stories are read aloud during the worship service, placed on the parish website or distributed in email messages sent to members.

St. Andrew’s, Longmeadow, celebrates the formal ending of the stewardship financial commitment process with a blessing of the pledges on a Give Thanks Sunday. Following the service the congregation enjoys a traditional Thanksgiving dinner. Parishioners bake the turkeys and provide all of the fixings and side dishes to support a festive offering.

Some of the stewardship leaders spoke about the things they do year-round to support stewardship formation:

- Stewardship ministry teams meet year-round, not just in the fall;
- Creative stewardship preaching year-round;

A growing number of congregations send personal handwritten notes to express gratitude to members, for both pledges of financial support and other gifts members offer.

- Attendance at the New England Ecumenical Stewardship Event that this year featured now Presiding Bishop Michael Curry as a keynoter;

- Annual continuing education reading books that support the concept of stewardship as a journey grounded in gratitude, revealed in prayer and lived in faith.

Finally, one parish, St. James’, Greenfield, sponsors a neighborhood block party, which this year attracted over 600 people and started when the stewardship ministry team took the lead from the bishop’s neighborhood walk suggestion back in 2013. Their goal is to support St James’ mission, which is to reach out to children and their caregivers. After all, stewardship is everything we do after we say, “we believe.” ■

Bruce is Assistant to the Bishop for Stewardship and Interim Missioner for Legacy Stewardship.

Treasures from the Archives

Snapshots of 2005 Convention

By Karen Warren

Were you part of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts 10 years ago? If not, or can't remember back that far, here is a refresher, from the Archives.

Under the leadership of the Rt. Rev. Gordon P. Scruton, the 104th Convention of the Diocese of Western Massachusetts took place on Oct. 28 and 29, 2005, and was held for the first time at the Sheraton, Springfield.

What did the Diocese look like 10 years ago? Here's a peek into the past:

Highlights of the Special Orders of the day from Convention include:

- Health Missioner Janice Ford asked parishes to consider a health ministry. She reported the diocese having 17 parishes with active parish nurses and stressed a return to healing through an emphasis on wholeness—the integration of body, mind and spirit.
- Re-visioning—A new initiative was introduced with the goal of spending two years in a process of prayer and discernment, to re-imagine our diocese and re-invent our ways of living and working together—to be faithful in living out the mission of Christ.
- In an effort to reach out to war-torn Liberia and support the Episcopal Diocese of Liberia, the Diocesan Liberian Task Force requested that the diocese raise \$25,000 to purchase a new truck that would enable Father John Edgar Freeman to visit his



Our diocesan magazine 10 years ago.

Bishop Payne concluded with “stewardship is about joy and growing love, and a journey toward a kind of peace that the world cannot give.”

parishioners in the rugged Grand Cape Mount region.

- The Very Rev. James Munroe, Chair of the Bement Board, shared highlights from the year 2005 at Bement Camp and Conference Center. Acting Director Todd Zern had been expected to present this topic in person, but he was called out of town due to a death in the family. Via video, a new format for

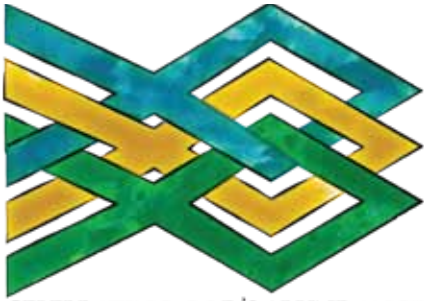
Convention in 2005, Zern presented a “virtual tour” that included a tour of a new bridge, the addition of two yurts, updates to Recreation Hall and the conversion of Davies House into two apartments.

In addition to the above-listed Special Orders, Meghan Lynch, Chair of the Committee on New Parishes and Missions, presented an update on the Southwick Community Episcopal Church, which began in 2005. A video presentation revealed a “more casual attitude, log cabin atmosphere, contemporary music, and high-tech presentation of the Prayer Book”—making Southwick a very special place.

Following the conclusion of business on the first day of Convention, a banquet was held at the Sheraton. Bishop Margaret Payne of the Lutheran Synod of New England was guest speaker at the banquet, speaking on Stewardship. Her remarks included that she learned “we are God’s gifts, and we can choose to give that gift—in whatever form—to the world.”

Other remarks included “...it is God who has given everything to us; we are called...to be generous in our giving to God’s work in the world.” Bishop Payne concluded with “stewardship is about joy and growing love, and a journey toward a kind of peace that the world cannot give. Wherever you are in this journey, I invite you to discover fully for yourself what kind of present you are that God wants to give to the world.” ■

Karen Warren is Diocesan Archivist.



CELEBRATING GOD'S ABUNDANCE

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AT DIOCESAN HOUSE

The Rt. Rev. Douglas J. Fisher, Bishop of the Diocese of Western Massachusetts
The Rev. Pamela J. Mott, Canon to the Ordinary
The Rev. Dr. Richard M. Simpson, Canon to the Ordinary
Steven P. Abdow, Canon for Mission Resources

MISSIONERS

Bruce Rockwell, Assistant to the Bishop for Stewardship
The Rev. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas, Missioner for Creation Care
Victoria Ix, Communications Director/Missioner
The Rev. Hilary Bogert-Winkler, Youth Missioner
The Rev. Jennifer Gregg, Missioner for Servant leadership
The Rev. Meredyth Ward, Urban Missioner for Worcester
Robin Carlo, Missioner for Spiritual Formation

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ON THE COVER. DIOCESAN YOUTH AT CONVENTION: THE REV. AUDREY CRONIN AND THE REV. BEATRICE KAYIGWA; CONVENTION DELEGATES MAKE THEIR WAY TO LUNCH.

From the Editor

Tell me a story



Victoria Ix

Remember when you were little and you crawled into a grown-up lap and begged, “Tell me a story?” For me it was either *Eloise* (who

lived at the Plaza) or *Come Over to My House*.

We tell stories to little ones so they can imagine, explore and learn our language. God, the wisdom woman, wired us for stories. We learn best if there’s a story attached.

Jesus, the Word made flesh, made God known to us by telling great stories. His story of love and death and life unending, has become *the* story—the overarching narrative, the lens through which we process love and loss.

All subsequent stories are set against the pattern of Christ. Our stories, then, are “little gospels” — the gospel according to St. Philip’s, Easthampton, or St. Luke’s, Worcester, or Trinity, Lenox. Telling our stories builds up the Body of Christ and teaches us the language of the Kingdom—mercy, compassion and hope.

The stories told at convention were wonderful, but there are many more stories that need telling. I am happy to review articles for this publication from any congregation—big or small. I’m certain there are stories of witness and solidarity. There are stories about community engagement, and service to the homeless Jesus. Our young people



I’m certain there are stories of witness and solidarity.

are doing things—great things—and we all need to hear about them and from them.

So please, tell me a story. ■

Vicki is the Editor of Abundant Times. The deadline for the winter issue is February 1, 2016. Please send your story ideas or submissions to communications@diocesewma.org.

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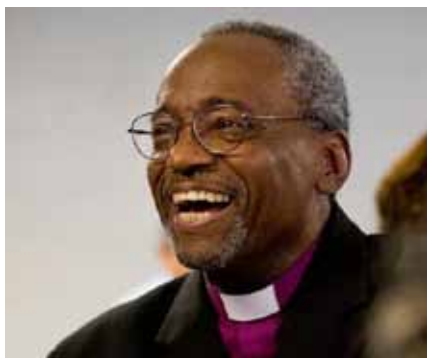
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CONVENTION 2015

PARISH WEBSITES



The Church makes history.

Pages 8, 9



Full convention coverage.

Pages 2-5



How's your parish's online presence?

Pages 16, 17

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