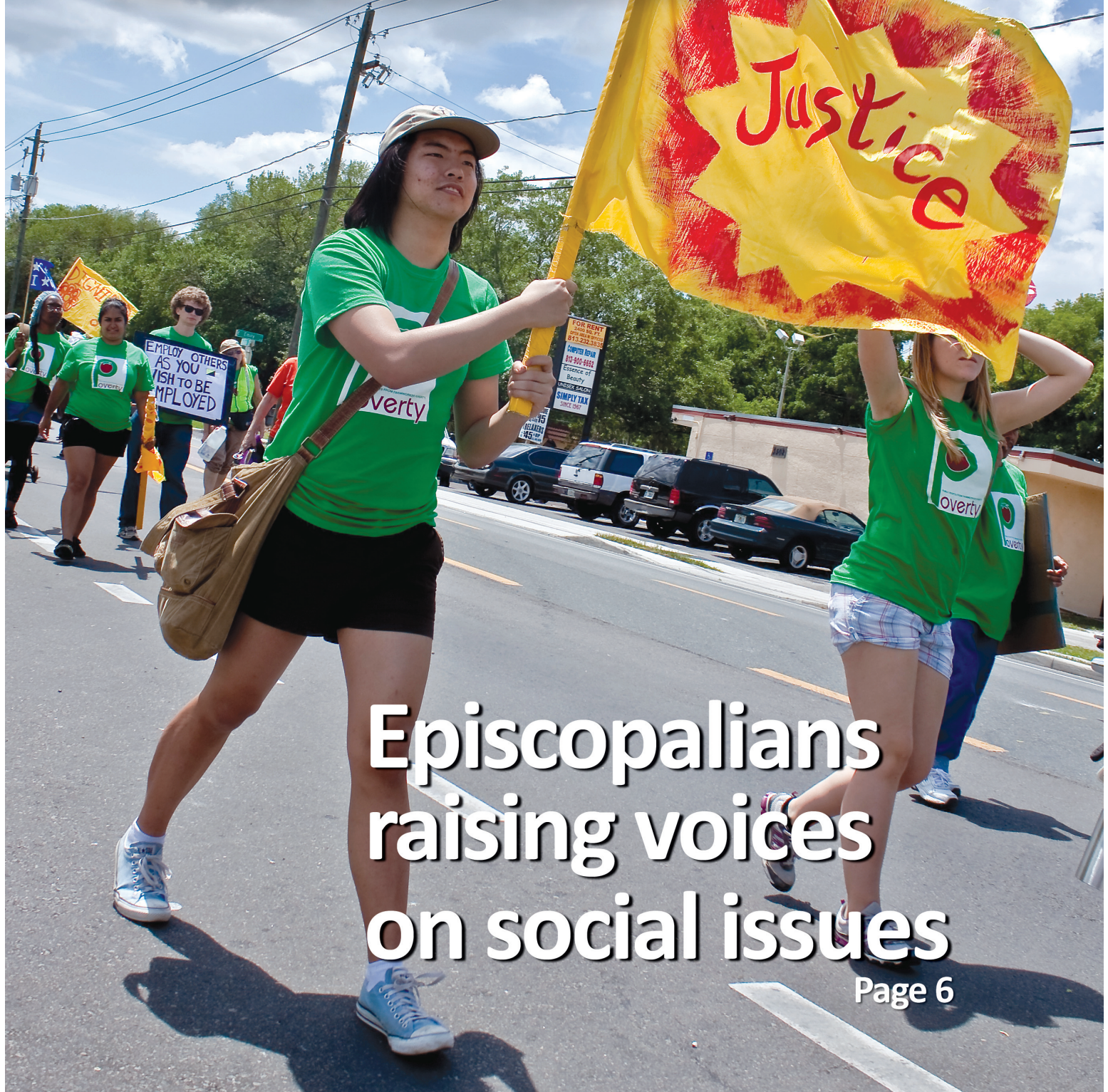


The Southern Cross

May/June 2010

A Publication of the Episcopal Diocese of Southwest Florida



Episcopalians raising voices on social issues

Page 6

The Southern Cross

A Publication of the Episcopal Diocese of Southwest Florida

The Episcopal Diocese of Southwest Florida is a community of 34,000 Christians in 11 counties serving 77 congregations, 13 schools and the DaySpring Conference Center. Established in 1969.

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The Rt. Rev. Dabney T. Smith

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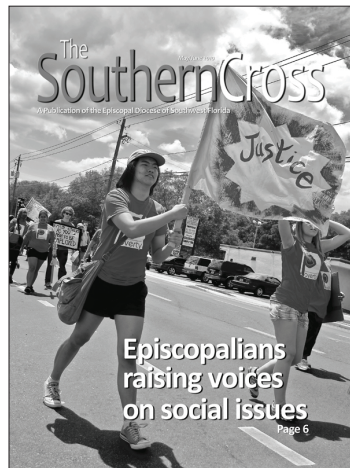
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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE



On the cover:

A marcher holds a sign during a protest walk April 16 in Tampa. The marchers were protesting tomato growers' treatment of farmworkers in Florida.

Photo by Jim DeLa

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College of Presbyters gets tips on thinking strategically

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Submission deadlines for upcoming issues:

July/August: June 1
September/October: August 1
November/December: October 1

Learning to be a good leader is an ongoing process

One of the areas of new learning for me in becoming bishop is in the understanding of my internal clock.

As priest and rector, my internal clock was directed by the church and school calendars in terms of program development, worship planning and administrative management.

As bishop I have discovered that my internal clock is primarily directed by diocesan convention. Much of the year is sequenced in preparation for the convention, and the next phase is directed by the vision and decisions of convention.

This is, of course, an oversimplification of reality, but I use it to illustrate the dynamic of context in planning. I have experienced a radical change in context and have had to develop new perspectives, new ways of thinking and new uses of time.

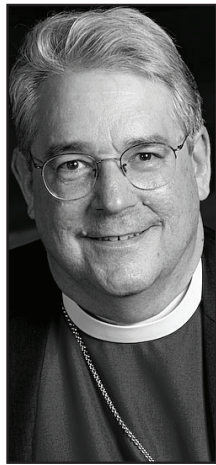
Planning on any level of church life requires an understanding of context. The Diocese of Southwest Florida has offered some particular resources for planning this year that are useful to note.

The deacons' retreat in January focused on "Mercy in Mission," facilitated by the Rev. Christopher Johnson, the Jubilee officer of the Episcopal Church. This was offered to better inform our deacons on outreach ministry in both congregational and cultural contexts.

This year's annual vestry retreat was led by our chief financial officer, Anne Vickers. Its focus was to give congregational leaders tools for wise and clear financial parish management.

Clearly each congregation lives in its own unique contextual reality, but the tools for purposeful and successful financial management are the same for all.

The priests of the diocese met in late April with the Rev. Dan Hotchkiss of the Alban Insti-



From the Bishop

The Rt. Rev. Dabney T. Smith

tute to review the basics of strategic thinking and planning. This is important so the priests may be better equipped to lead through the planning process, whether a congregation is facing a capital campaign, a building renovation, a re-evaluation of a particular ministry or shifting demographics

in its context.

Planning in a recognized and understood context is the only way that decisions can be reached that are clear-sighted, rational and beneficial.

It is important that the diocese and congregations continue to expend the energy and resources for leadership development so that good planning processes can be nurtured.

I encourage the leaders in our congregations, both lay leaders and clergy, to continue intentional leadership skill development. This may be done at vestry retreats, designated times during vestry meetings, parish forums, deanery meetings and other avenues.

This diocese has tremendous assets in terms of human resources. These human resources include business leaders, professors, communicators, retired clergy and leaders of neighboring congregations.

I encourage you to share the human resource wealth that is among us so as to make stronger and more leaders for, and within, the particular contexts in which we find ourselves.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Dabney T. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style and includes a small cross symbol at the beginning.

Priests get lesson in strategic planning

If you want to do strategic planning in your congregation, you must first plan how to do that planning. Then you need to talk with each other. A lot.

About 75 priests gathered at DaySpring Conference Center April 29 for the second annual College of Presbyters to hear the Rev. Dan Hotchkiss, a senior consultant with the Alban Institute, explain the theory behind the book, *Holy Conversations: Strategic Planning as Spiritual Practice for Congregations*.

“Holy conversations” is Alban’s approach to strategic planning, Hotchkiss told *The Southern Cross*. It is based on the insight that before making plans to do things, congregations need to engage in discernment and dialogue around three core questions:

- Who are we?
- What has God called us to do or be?
- Who is our neighbor?

“Holy conversations is a way of planning based on questions rather than problems or challenges,” Hotchkiss told the clergy. “It’s the best way to engage people in real conversation.”

And conversation is holy because, at its best, it is about a people’s understanding of their identity as a faith community, their sense of purpose and their relationship with God, he said.

Participants heard how to build a



Photo by Jim DeLa

The Rev. Dan Hotchkiss speaks to priests at DaySpring Conference Center in Parrish.

planning team and design a strategy that incorporates modern organizational techniques and ancient methods of discerning God’s will in religious community. They also were given tips on how to choose

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Communicator earns awards

Diocesan Director of Communications Jim DeLa earned five awards for special achievement in church communications at the recent annual meeting of Episcopal Communicators in Salem, Mass., including one for news writing, three for photography and one for an audio slideshow.

In commenting on *The Southern Cross*, judges praised its graphic design and use of color. “Good breadth of coverage, both geographic and range of topics hold the readers’ attention,” judges said.

“The magazine appears to do an excellent job of reporting news around the diocese and communicates the impression of a busy, active and talented diocesan

community.”

DeLa swept the news photo category, winning first, second and third place, the top prize for the cover of the November/December 2009 issue, showing a thurifer during the opening Eucharist at the 2009 diocesan convention.

His news writing award was for the January/February cover story, “Doing church in a recession.” He also received a second-place award for an audio slideshow preview of the 2009 General Convention of The Episcopal Church, which was viewed nearly 1,500 times on YouTube.

DeLa has served the diocese since 1998.



Letters to the editor and Reflections essays to *The Southern Cross* are appreciated and encouraged.

We ask that letters be as concise as possible — with a 300-word suggested limit — and stay on one topic. Authors should include their full name, parish affiliation or city of residence. Anonymous letters will not be published.

All submissions are subject to editing to improve clarity and to fit in the available space for each issue.

Please send correspondence to:

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Or send letters by fax to (941) 556-0321; or by e-mail to jdela@episcopalswfl.org



Photo by Jim DeLa

Dan Headington of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Boca Grande shares his experiences at the April 17 vestry retreat at DaySpring Conference Center.

Vestries get quick course in financial management

A recent daylong workshop gave more than 200 members of vestries from across the diocese a better understanding of the financial side of church life.

Titled "Sharing our Strengths," the free retreat April 17 at DaySpring Conference Center covered the basics of parish finances, according to diocesan Chief Financial Officer Anne Vickers.

"Our objective was to cover the basics of church financial management," she said, concentrating on key concepts including understanding financial statements, management oversight of a vestry and budgeting.

Participants also had the option of a private meeting to discuss custom-designed endowment policy opportunities with Ken Quigley of the Episcopal Church Foundation.

"This was a good day," said Brian Trimble, senior warden at St. Giles Episcopal Church in Pinellas Park. It was

also particularly timely for his parish, which had a budget meeting scheduled the next day. "We got lots of information [now] that most people in the parish don't know," he said.

Toward the end of the conference, the clergy and lay leaders heard from some of their own, sharing local success stories, from how some congregations are now sharing resources to reduce costs, to other that have managed to climb out of debt.

Patricia Slaughter, senior warden of Church of the Ascension in Clearwater, was glad she came. "I thought it was very interesting," she said. "A lot of what I heard, it makes more sense to me today than it used to."

Fellow vestry member Mary Elizabeth Welpton thought the workshop was "terrific. Very understandable."

The date for next year's retreat has already been set for May 6-7, 2011.

In Brief

Province to experience 'Believe in a Miracle'

Women from the Diocese of Southwest Florida will take the popular "Believe in a Miracle" program to a larger audience June 7-9 at the Province IV Women's Conference at Kanuga Conferences in Hendersonville, N.C.

Jackie Robe of Hudson, Fla., is coordinating the event. The keynote speaker will be the Rev. Gigi Conner, the former canon missionary at St. Peter's Cathedral in St. Petersburg. Cost for the conference is \$290, based on double occupancy.

Participants may register by going to www.kanuga.org.

Guest speaker to preach about slowing down

Author and humorist the Rev. Terry Hershey will preach at 10 a.m. Sunday, May 16 at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Clearwater.

He will also give a presentation from 1-3 p.m. on the "Power of Pause," about the importance of slowing down to embrace the sacred moment. For more information about Hershey's writings, go to www.terryhershey.com.

For program information, call Margaret Perrone at (727) 736-1178.

Holy Trinity is located at 3200 North McMullen Booth Rd., across from Countryside Hospital.

St. George's to soon add Hispanic services

St. George's Episcopal Church in Bradenton held its first Spanish service, "La Santa Missa," on Easter Sunday with an attendance of 23. Seven Hispanic nations were represented. The Rev. Maggie Gat was the celebrant.

The parish's food pantry serves almost 400 families each month. St. George's also hosts weekly meetings of "El Grupo Serenidad," a Spanish-speaking chapter of Alcoholics Anonymous. The vestry is in

(Continued on page 8)



Photos by Jim DeLa

Nearly 1,500 people attended a rally April 19 at First United Methodist Church in Sarasota where they heard city and county officials promise to begin programs to spur new business growth and keep children in school.

Holding fast for justice

By Jim DeLa
Editor, The Southern Cross

Demanding justice in the world is not always an easy thing. But Episcopalians in Southwest Florida are publicly making their views known in a variety of ways, getting involved in social activism by working, shouting and, in some cases, marching in order to change the status quo.

It's a Christian's duty to work for social justice, they'll tell you. "We all gathered around the reality that the world that we live in is not as it's supposed to be," said the Rev. Doug Zimmerman, rector of St. Wilfred's Episcopal Church in Sarasota. "And if anybody's going to do anything about that, it should be Christians in the forefront to say 'we deserve better.'"

Zimmerman is a member of an interfaith group called SURE, Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity, which for the past decade has been working with local government to find solutions to social issues in Sarasota County such as drug abuse, affordable housing and education. SURE has sister organizations in Pinellas and Hillsborough counties that do similar work.

In a heavily scripted event before a packed house April 19 at First United Methodist Church, SURE leaders got promises from city officials to have plans in place by June to start a small business incubator in the Newtown sec-



Protesters marched through Tampa April 16 to try to convince the Publix supermarket chain to stop buying tomatoes from growers who they say exploit farmworkers.

tion of Sarasota, where unemployment rates are estimated to be as high as 26 percent.

The 1,500 people in attendance also heard the schools superintendent pledge to work with SURE to reduce suspension rates in several county school by implementing alternative programs that keep students in a learning environment while emphasizing accountability and restoration.

Building on success

In 2009, SURE championed two projects, a drug rehab unit inside the Sarasota County Jail and a day-care program for homeless families with young children.

The jail program was up and running within months. Called the Substance Abuse Recovery Pod, it can house up to 48 male and 32 female inmates who apply to participate. Inmates can stay in the unit for a few weeks to as long as 10 months, according to Capt. George Scott of the Sarasota County Sheriff's Department.

The program, administered by The Salvation Army, has been a success, Scott said. "Personally, I'm very happy

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Justice

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with the program,” he told *The Southern Cross*.

While the program has been in operation less than a year, the recidivism rate for inmates in the program has been cut roughly in half, he said. But there’s more to it than that, Scott said. “I wouldn’t just base success on recidivism rates,” he said. “The more we can keep the inmates productively occupied in the jail setting, our managing issues become easier.”

SURE’s work is not done once a program begins, Zimmerman explained, saying measuring success is important. “We keep our finger in all of these pots,” he said. “That’s something we’ve invested in. We’ve put our time, we’ve put our sweat, our people into this.”

Making noise

While the diocese has been involved for years in ministry to farmworkers in Immokalee, organized protests are uncommon.

But when the Coalition of Immokalee Workers staged a “Farmworker Freedom March,” April 16–19, Episcopalians were there.

Keith Backhaus, a parishioner at St. Mark’s Episcopal Church in Venice, participated in the march. He’s been interested in the plight of farmworkers since attending a workshop on human trafficking. “I was so overwhelmed, I had to leave the workshop,” he recalled. “I just couldn’t believe it.

“It just bothers me when I go into a grocery store and think about the idea of ... buying a tomato that someone, who is a slave, picked it,” he said. “This is just wrong. I can’t sit there and say what I’m saying without trying to change how we, in this community, operate in the world.”

The march was aimed at Publix Super Markets, Inc., to pressure them to pay growers more for tomatoes, so growers can improve wages and working conditions of farmworkers.

These tactics have worked before, on fast-food giants McDonald’s and Yum! Brands, which owns Taco Bell. But the supermarket chain so far has resisted the pressure. “It’s a dispute between the farms and the farmworkers,” Publix representative Shannon Patten

said. “We just don’t get involved.”

Patten said Publix does not set the price of tomatoes and pays market value for its produce.

Jordan Buckley, a spokesman for the CIW, says he is appreciative of the support of churches in Florida. “We have people of faith coming together ... applying moral pressure on these retailers, asking them to be part of the solution” to farmworker poverty, and in the worst cases, slavery.

One marcher, Bert Perry of DeLand, is a member of the National Farm Workers Ministry, an interdenominational organization. She says her group’s goals are simple. “We do what we can to share our social and economic and political power with these folks.”

But do protests really work? “Oh yes, definitely,” she said. “I do think Publix will sign on eventually. It really is changing the way the general public looks at the food we eat.”

Backhaus agreed. “It forces people to be aware that there’s something going on, and if they’re interested at all, they need to find out more information.”

Mary Getz, the grassroots coordinator at the Episcopal Church Office of Government Relations in Washington, D.C., says Episcopalians, typically, are hesitant “to get out of their comfort zones to do social justice work,” and calls the work in Southwest Florida “exciting.”

“We see our call to social justice through two lenses, both as Episcopalians, though our baptismal covenant to strive for justice, peace and the dignity of all people, and to seek and serve Christ in all.

“But we also see it as a Gospel call and a Bible call ... It’s something we’re called to do, it’s something that Jesus did day in and day out, to speak up for those who didn’t have a voice and make change in the world around us.”

That’s often not easy, she said, “because our messages aren’t always the most popular when it comes to talking with members of Congress or other elected officials.”

While conceding having 1,500 people speaking with one voice can be persuasive to a politician, Fr. Zimmerman says that’s not the real point.

“You can call this political, but politics is not the base,” he said. “Justice is the base.”

In Brief

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the process of establishing regular Hispanic services.

St. George’s will also be blending this need with its second Hispanic Vacation Bible School in August.

Special day teaches students to go green

In conjunction with the 40th anniversary of Earth Day and the 40-year celebration at St. Stephen’s Episcopal School, the Bradenton school observed its first “Go Green to School Day” April 16.

Coinciding with the ongoing celebration of its new, “green” middle school building, which opened in January, and the school’s strong recycling program, the faculty challenged students and staff to reduce carbon emissions to and from school.

Families that live near St. Stephen’s were encouraged to walk or ride their bikes or carpool to school that day. Many students ride on school-provided bus transportation.

Older students were paired with younger students to discuss and celebrate their contributions at an all-school assembly.

Organ duo to perform in St. Petersburg

Iris and Carsten Lenz will be performing “Organ Music for 4 Hands and 4 Feet,” on Sunday, June 27 at 4 p.m. at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 1200 Snell Isle Blvd., in St. Petersburg.

The Carstens are from Wiesbaden, Germany, and will present original compositions spanning four centuries. A free-will offering will be taken.

Golf tourney to benefit community ministry

St. Wilfred’s Episcopal Church in Sarasota is having its annual golf tournament May 22 at Serenoa Golf Course. The money raised is used for ongoing ministries in the community.

Entry fee is \$65 per person which includes greens fees, carts,

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Committee mulls DaySpring's future

Panel charts return of diocesan office to conference center, building endowment

A committee appointed by Bishop Dabney Smith has been at work for the last few months figuring out how to effect major changes to the diocese's largest asset — DaySpring Conference Center in Parrish.

The DaySpring Development Steering Committee has four main objectives:

1. Returning the diocesan office to DaySpring;
2. Building a new worship space to seat at least 300 people;
3. Intentional program development at DaySpring; and
4. Development of an endowment fund for the center.

Committee chair Mike Kline says the group's top priority since January has been the relocation of the diocesan headquarters to DaySpring.

A written report recently issued by the committee indicate they've decided on a location for a new 5,000-square-foot office building on the extreme northwest corner of the 92-acre property, near the entrance on 25th Street East.

The committee has hired ZNS Engineering of Bradenton to conduct a feasibility study on that location. "We've got engineers working on things like permits, zoning, elevations, that kind of thing" Kline said.

The committee hopes to be able to bring the results of appraisals, architectural selection and recommendations to Diocesan Council by June of this year and to have the bidding process completed by Sept. 1. Kline says he thinks construction can be completed and the office moved by Sept. 1, 2011. Even if there are construction delays, Kline said the diocesan staff may move anyway. "We'd like to get the office moved there even if we don't have the building there yet," he said.

The diocesan office moved to an office park complex in Lakewood Ranch in 2003 after spending nearly six years in temporary quarters at DaySpring, occupying the Hull House and a construction trailer near the dock and canoe launch area on the Manatee River.

The committee estimates the cost of the project at between \$500,000 and \$750,000.

Other priorities

Kline said there has been little progress on the other three priorities since the committee was formed in January. The sub-committees looking at the new worship space and developing programs for DaySpring have yet to meet. Kline is hopeful an outside facilitator can be brought in to lead a brainstorming session to come up with ideas for new ministry at the conference center.

The committee has yet to tackle the issue of fundraising and the creation of an endowment fund. "DaySpring, somewhere down the road, if it's ever going to have total autonomy, needs its own funding. That's why we need an endowment," Kline said.

He also said the committee needs to look at the center's marketing efforts, or lack of them. "We've never marketed DaySpring very well," he said. It could start, he observed, by asking some simple questions. "What can DaySpring do for the diocese? What is it that the people in this diocese want DaySpring to do? Nobody has really identified that," he said.

The committee will meet next on May 4 at DaySpring.

— Jim DeLa

In Brief

(Continued from page 8)

golf, prizes and dinner.

For more information contact Gary Lawrence at (941) 377-4210, or visit www.stwilfred-sarasota.com.

St. Andrew's, Tampa earns historic designation

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in downtown Tampa has recently been listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Its distinctive architecture and collection of 50 stained glass windows, coupled with the contributions of St. Andrew's to the history of the city, combined to put the church on the national register. A dedication of a plaque was held April 25.



St. Andrew's Church in Tampa.

The Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center in Punta Gorda will be the venue for the 42nd Convention of the Diocese of Southwest Florida Oct. 8-9.



2010 diocesan convention set Oct. 8-9

The 2010 diocesan convention is six months away but critical deadlines are already approaching.

The convention, scheduled for Oct. 8-9 at the Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center in Punta Gorda, will once again offer a day of workshops and worship before the annual business meeting of the diocese. The theme for the 42nd annual convention is “Five Marks of Mission”:

- To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom;
- To teach, baptize and nurture new believers;
- To respond to human need by loving service;
- To seek to transform unjust structures of society;
- To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

The workshops offered on Friday, Oct. 8 will reflect topics related to the marks of mission. More details about convention will be forthcoming in the months leading up to October.

Elections:

Clergy and delegates will be electing

Get convention news online

Get up-to-date information concerning the 2010 diocesan convention between now and October by visiting www.episcopalswfl.org/diocesan_convention

18 people to serve on several governing bodies of the church, including the Standing Committee and Diocesan Council. The deputation to the 2012 General Convention of the Episcopal Church will also be elected this October.

Nominations need to be received at the diocesan office by Wednesday, July 7. Download a nomination form by visiting www.episcopalswfl.org/diocesan_convention. It is requested that nominees provide a photograph along with their biographical information.

The offices are:

Deputation to the 2012 General Convention of the Episcopal Church: Eight deputies will be elected, four clergy and four laypeople and alternates.

Standing Committee: Two clergy and two laypersons. One clergy position is for a full three-year term, the other is to fill an unexpired term.

Diocesan Council: One clergy to be elected to fill an at-large seat for a two-year term.

University of the South Trustees: One clergy to be elected for a three-year term.

Diocesan Review Committee: One clergy and one layperson to be elected to three-year terms.

Ecclesiastical Court: One clergy and two laypersons to be elected for three-year terms.

Resolutions:

Any voting member of convention, a deanery convocation or committee of the diocese may submit a resolution to be considered at convention. Proposed resolutions must be received by the

(Continued on page 11)

Convention

(Continued from page 10)

diocesan office no later than Aug. 10, which is 60 days before the convention, in order for the Resolutions Committee to ensure resolutions comply with the diocesan constitution and canons. All resolutions approved by the committee must be posted on the diocesan web site not later than Sept. 9, or 30 days before convention.

Resolutions to be considered should be sent to the Diocesan office, 7313 Merchant Court, Sarasota, FL 34240 or by e-mail to jdela@episcopalswfl.org.

Fall convocation dates

Each deanery gathers its voting clergy and delegates in the fall to preview items to be considered at convention, including the proposed diocesan budget and any resolutions that may be submitted for debate. Each deanery will also elect its representation to Diocesan Council for the following two years.

The dates and locations for the fall convocations are:

Fort Myers/Naples deaneries: Tuesday, Aug. 31, 7 p.m. at St. Mary's, 9801 Bonita Beach Road in Bonita Springs.

Manasota/Venice deaneries: Wednesday, Sept. 1, 7 p.m. St. Mark's, 513 Nassau St. South in Venice.

Tampa/St. Petersburg/Clearwater deaneries: Thursday, Sept. 2, 7 p.m. at St. Mark's, 13312 Cain Road in Tampa.

Program to gather healing ministries

The Amazing Love Healing Ministry, led by the Rev. Sharon Lewis, is hosting an opportunity May 8 for those involved in healing ministry to get together for worship and hear the vision for the future of the Amazing Love Ministry.

The program, titled "A Healing Gathering Day," runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at DaySpring Conference Center in Parrish.

The cost is \$20 to cover lunch and materials.

Register online at www.amazinglovehealing.com or contact Donna Threet at (239) 369-9580.



Campers and staff who participated in the 2009 Camp Able were reunited in April for a weekend at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Marco Island.

Camp Able participants get reacquainted in Marco Island

On April 9–11, 10 campers and 30 staff from past Camp Able sessions were reunited at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Marco Island.

Camp Able provides a unique camping experience for persons with special needs. It is about being able to scuba dive, swim, climb ropes, create art projects and just have fun.

Held at DaySpring Conference Center, this year's camp session runs from July 19–24.

Arriving on Marco, they set up camp in the parish hall, library and classrooms. St. Mark's parishioners provided food—especially homemade cookies, a Camp Able staple—transportation and blow-up beds, cots and other sleeping paraphernalia for the weekend.

Parents of the campers were housed nearby and joined in the fun at the Eucharist on Sunday.

Friday evening was spent reacquainting and singing songs at a pizza

party. Saturday morning had everyone out on the Gulf and a nearby Everglades island. Campers returned to St. Mark's after a picnic and afternoon at the pool to experience a nature presentation and to prepare for their talent show.

The Rev. Kyle Bennett, founder and director of Camp Able, served as emcee for the show along with the talented camper Andy "The Parrot" Lents as his sidekick, assisted



by Phil Rogers

A summer session of Camp Able costs more than \$30,000 to pay for accommodations and programming for the campers, counselors and staff. Your tax-deductible gift of \$350 will sponsor a camper; \$100 will sponsor a counselor.

Visit the Camp Able website at www.campable.org to gain a full appreciation of how much unconditional love and joy is shared at the camp, to apply to the camp, and to become a counselor.



The Church of the Redeemer's Flower Committee goes all out at Easter.

FLOWER POWER



Photos by Jim DeLa

Flowers are as much a part of the worship experience at Church of the Redeemer as the music or liturgy.



Adison Elizalde adjusts an arrangement adorning a pillar in the nave of Church of the Redeemer in Sarasota.



Flower Flower

A cadre of volunteers in Sarasota mesh worship and beauty — where ordinary is never an option.



Dee Frye, left, and Adison Elizalde wrap flowers around a pillar in preparation for Easter Sunday services.

By Mary Catherine Coolidge

Since 1997, Julie Eisele, a parishioner at the Church of the Redeemer in Sarasota, has been coordinating efforts for the Flower Committee at the church.

Talk with Eisele for just a few moments, and it's clear she's passionate about not just creating beauty for all to enjoy, she's grateful for the talented committee members with whom she works. And most importantly, she is keenly aware of the impact the flower choices, colors and arrangements can have on the people who pass through Redeemer's church doors and sit in its pews.

"Somebody will be looking at the flowers, and something about a particular arrangement will strike them — the simplicity, the aliveness, even just the color, will move them," Eisele says. "They may be there for worship, for a funeral, for a wedding, even for a music event, but I know that at least once every week, the flowers we put out are going to touch someone's heart."

And because of that, Eisele and her committee of nearly 50 dedicated women are there for several hours, week in and week out, 52 weeks throughout the year.



Julie Eisele puts the finishing touches on an Easter arrangement at Church of the Redeemer in Sarasota.

(Continued on page 14)

Young adults invited to discernment weekend

Young adults of color have an opportunity to can examine their gifts and explore opportunities to serve God at a weekend Episcopal Church retreat, *Why Serve: Discerning God's Call*.

Geared for ages 18–30 from throughout The Episcopal Church, the three-day event is set for Thursday, June 3, to Sunday, June 6 at the School of Theology, University of the South, Sewanee, Tenn.

Seven ministry offices of The Episcopal Church have joined with the University of the South to present this innovative forum.

According to Jason Sierra, Episcopal Church Young Adult and Campus Ministries officer, “The Why Serve conference is a safe place to learn more about how your gifts might be used at various levels of the church, either as a lay or ordained minister.

“For young adults and especially young adults of color, we believe it is important that they engage in this discernment with peers whose experiences both challenge and reflect their own. Our tradition is wide, and this event demonstrates our commitment to helping all members fulfill their vocational call to community, to leadership, and to ministry, whatever that call may look like.”

The cost of the weekend is \$50, which includes meals, lodging, conference fees and ground transportation.

Why Serve Conference information is available at www.episcopalchurch.org/109462_120072_ENG_HTM.htm.

To register visit <http://events.signup4.com/whyserve2010>.

For more information contact Angie Cabanban at acabanban@episcopalchurch.org or (212) 716-6186.

Flower Power (Continued from page 13)

“You never know what the flowers will mean to someone, to a family who has lost a loved one, to a new member, to someone who has come to our church for spiritual sustenance,” Eisele explains. “That’s why we can’t do a slack job ever — every week is important.”

Of course, the women put in many extra hours and take extra special care during Easter and Christmas, but throughout the year they also make sure that flowers are in place for regular weekly worship, funerals, weddings, high holy days and other special events. The committee also is responsible for delivering flowers to parishioners who are in the hospital. One member of the committee, Marian Wallace, has been the single-handed designer of the powerfully elegant and simple Palm Sunday palm frond decorations for more than 20 years.

Some members of the Flower Committee, which is co-chaired by Patty Sullivan, are in their 70s and 80s and have been putting their hands to work with the flowers for more than a decade, according to Eisele, who herself has been part of the committee for 13 years. In fact, one member, Nancy Boyle, 80, has served on the committee

for 50 years and was responsible for this year’s High Altar arrangements. At the beginning of every year, Eisele sits down with a calendar and spends hours creating a comprehensive schedule for the six flower committee teams, factoring in as many dates for specific events as are known at that point, and creating a detailed listing of flowers needed — right down to the size, color, number of each variety, and on what dates they must be delivered to the church.

Eisele also credits two main vendors for the committee’s success, Robert Albritton of Albritton’s Nursery, and Jeff Gordon of Suncoast Florist. Eisele says she and the committee could not dream of doing what they do without these two top-notch flower specialists.

“What these lovely women do for Redeemer every week is simply outstanding,” says the Rev. Fredrick A. Robinson, rector of the Church of the Redeemer. “Their hard work is behind the scenes, but we are grateful for their dedication, and the stunning floral decorations which grace our church every week are constant visual reminders of the work and spirit of Jesus Christ, our Savior.”

— *Mary Catherine Coolidge is director of communications for Church of the Redeemer in Sarasota.*



Photo by Mary Catherine Coolidge

The doors to Church of the Redeemer were decorated for Palm Sunday.

Naples churches keep children's shelter on its feet in the Dominican Republic

By Tom Connolly

Desiring to breathe life into a companion diocese arrangement, a dozen Episcopalians from Naples visited the Dominican Republic in 2001.

They traveled around the country but knew their search for a meaningful connection was over when they arrived at a simple concrete block building in a poor neighborhood in San Francisco de Macros, where they met the children at the Albergue El Buen Samaritano.

"Our hearts were left in San Francisco," said Wendy Happney of St. Mark's, Marco Island. "We just fell in love with the children," agreed the Rev. Kathy Schillreff, rector of St. Monica's Church in Naples.

Ten years later the bond between the Shelter of the Good Samaritan, a two-hour ride north of the capital city Santo Domingo, and Naples is as strong as ever.

Fr. Napoleon Brito and his wife, Nely, founded the shelter in 1987 and looked after a handful of street children. Today there are 88 youngsters ranging in age from a few months to seven years who come to the shelter every day while their parents (often single mothers) either go to or look for work. If it weren't for the shelter, many of these kids would be out on the streets fending for themselves, without supervision.

Parishioners of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Akron, Ohio, erected a building in 1999, providing a major expansion. Like many mission projects, the building was put up as a one-time effort, leaving the local community to find the resources to hire staff and buy food for the kids. That's when the Naples Deanery stepped in.

Today we raise \$65,000 a year to run the Good Samaritan. The Naples Deanery is comprised of Sts. John, Mark, Mary, Monica and Paul, and Trinity-by-the-Cove Episcopal churches. A committee with representation from each church meets periodically to discuss progress at the shelter. No longer just a safe place, it has grown into a nurturing center where kids get two healthful meals a day, are taught basic hygiene and learn their



Photo courtesy of Tom Connolly

Dozens of children are cared for each day at the Albergue El Buen Samaritano. Churches in the Naples Deanery raise money each year to keep the ministry going.

ABCs.

The Rev. Hipolito Fernandez and his wife, Lilian, oversee the albergue, or shelter. Padre Hipolito talks about "home, health and future."

"Many of these children," he said, "are homeless, even though they live in a house. They feel loved here. They don't want to leave at the end of the day. A 40-year-old woman who works at the shelter says she had never experienced this kind of love while she was growing up. So the shelter is home. They get good, balanced meals in a clean, healthy environment. And education will help them to have a life—in the near future."

Education at the albergue is patterned on the program provided to migrant farm workers' children at Immokalee, where Ana Neuhauser is an early-childhood specialist. Ana was recruited to develop curriculum and to train teachers at the albergue by Bill Laimbeer, a parishioner at St. Mark's who also, until recently, served on the board of directors at the Redlands Christian Migrant Association. RCMA is a nonprofit, nonsectarian organization

dedicated to providing high quality child development services to farmworker families and other rural low-income families in centers, family day care homes, after-school dropout prevention programs and charter schools.

Neuhauser makes four or five trips a year to visit with teachers and encourage them to hone their skills. And the effort has paid off handsomely, Padre Hipolito says. The priest, whose church, Jesús Nazareno, is just off the main square in town, also runs a K-12 Episcopal school a few blocks from the church.

He can see a marked improvement in the academic skills of "graduates" of the shelter. Previously no one from that end of town where the albergue is located would be considered well enough prepared to attend this school. In fact, those from the poorest section of town, a barrio called St. Martin, are mostly looked down upon and are outcasts. But today children who attended the albergue fit right in, both academically and socially, with their peers

(Continued on page 16)

Dominican Republic

(Continued from page 15)

from the better parts of town.

Most of the money comes via individual parish outreach budgets, supplemented by the sales of sponsorships to individuals and other fund-raising efforts. The money is funneled through the Dominican Development Group, a unique mission organization within the Episcopal Church. DDG has one employee, Dr. Bob Stevens, and a board of directors of clergy and laity. Stevens' office, a space filled with memorabilia from his days as Planning and Development Officer for the Dominican Episcopal Church (1993-1997) and other mission work in Latin America, is at DaySpring Conference Center in Parrish.

Self-sufficiency is the eventual goal, but it will be a long while before that becomes a reality.

The bishop of the Diocese of the Dominican Republic is the Rt. Rev. Julio Holguin, who is from and still has family in San Francisco de Macoris. It was his first church following ordination to the priesthood, so he is well familiar with the town. As head pastor of all the mission churches in the country, plus two other albergues, a seminary and other programs, his is a full work schedule.

Recently the bishop interrupted his vacation in Sarasota to meet with three members of the Naples Deanery committee, the Rev. Schillreff, Al Diaz of St. Mark's and Tom Connolly of St. Paul's. Out of that meeting came a resolve to establish a support board comprised of civic and business leaders in San Francisco. Their job will be to assist Fr. Hipolito in administrative matters and to tell the albergue success story to the wider community. In time this board would assume responsibility for raising the funds for the operation and expansion of the albergue.

It's not all about the money. The relationship between Naples and San Francisco is more than monetary. It's about building community by establishing lasting friendships. This is facilitated by



A child at the shelter sponsored by churches in the Naples deanery.

visits to the DR, such as the five youth group missions in recent years, the several group work visits or the Christmas visit of 18 persons from St. Mark's. Fr. Hipolito, Lilian and their three children were hosted in Florida last summer so they could visit with their friends here as well as enjoy a vacation to Disney, thanks to the generosity of a Naples donor.

Then, finally, there is hope. Where there is poverty, and especially where there is extreme poverty such as in the neighborhood where the albergue sits, there is much injustice, crime and degradation. People lose hope and begin to prey on those weaker than themselves. Our involvement can lead to hope, and hope, as St. Paul says, never disappoints. There is hope that those who survive the barrio with the help of the albergue may one day return to take up leadership positions in the community with an eye toward improving conditions for their fellow citizens.

— Tom Connolly is a member of St. Paul's, Naples, and chairman of the Deanery Dominican Republic Committee.

Register now for diocesan summer camp fun

Youth will explore the summer at DaySpring Conference Center with a theme taken from the Gospel of Matthew: "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God."

According to a brochure being distributed about the summer camp program, the camps' mission is to "lift up and encourage one another in the name of Christ, to make a lasting memory and experience for the youth of our diocese, and to enable them to go out into the world and make a difference in their families, church and community."

The camp schedule is:

Elementary Summer Camp. June 13-18 for rising 3rd-to-5th-graders. Registration fee is \$375. This camp will be led by Bishop Dabney and Mary Ellen Smith, along with the Rev. Doug Scharf.

Camp Staff Training. June 19-20 at DaySpring.

Youth Summer Camp. June 20-25 for rising 6th-to-8th-graders. Registration fee is \$375. This camp will be led by the Very Rev. Stephen Morris and his wife, Jane, along with the Revs. Thomas Ader and Sarah Kerr.

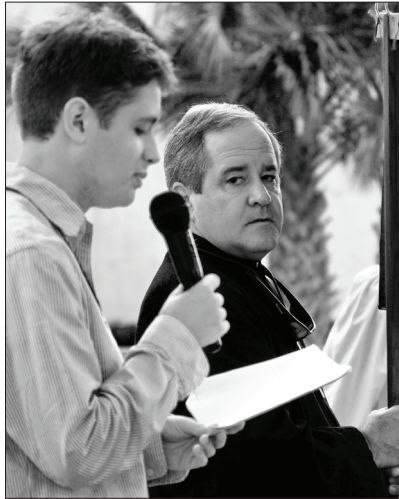
Camp Able. July 19-23 for youth with special needs. This camp is free to participants. The camp director is the Rev. Kyle Bennett.

For information about elementary and youth camp, contact Michelle Mercurio at (941) 556-0315, ext. 274 or mmercurio@episcopalswfl.org.

For information about Camp Able, contact St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Marco Island, at (239) 394-7242 or visit www.campable.org.



Photos by Jim DeLa



Diocese observes Holy Week

Congregations throughout Southwest Florida observed Holy Week with public events. Many churches participated in the traditional Stations of the Cross in downtown areas on Good Friday, including the Church of the Good Shepherd in Dunedin (top photo) and St. Peter's Cathedral in St. Petersburg (center photo).

The week culminated with Easter Sunday with many sunrise services, such as the interfaith celebration attended by several hundred people, including parishioners at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, on the beach near the Boca Grande lighthouse (photo below).



Haiti's bishop: 'Stand up and walk'

Episcopal News Service

Gathering April 6-7 for an earthquake-postponed annual synod, the leadership of the Episcopal Diocese of Haiti heard its bishop's call to "stand up and walk."

"According to our theme for this year's synod, 'Ayiti Leve Kanpe Pou ou Mache,' 'Haiti, Stand Up and Walk,' Haiti needs all of its sons and daughters to work in solidarity to rebuild, to get Haiti back to its feet," Bishop Jean Zaché Duracin told the gathering at Bon Sauveur in Cange. "In this spirit, we gather as a community, as a church, to pray together and to build up a team to not only work for the church, not only to rebuild our church but to rebuild our country."

Speaking to the synod on Tuesday of Easter Week, Duracin reminded participants that "we believe in the resurrection."

"Since we believe in the resurrection

of Jesus Christ, we believe in the resurrection of all of us and of Haiti," he said.

The diocese's 113th synod had been scheduled to meet Jan. 25-26, but the Jan. 12 magnitude-7 earthquake interrupted those plans. The quake destroyed much of the diocese's infrastructure and a highlight of the meeting in Cange was the ingathering of more than \$6,600 in offerings made in part by the diocese's congregations on Easter Sunday for the rebuilding of Holy Trinity Cathedral in Port-au-Prince.

Calling the collection "a symbolic offering to rebuild Holy Trinity Cathedral," Duracin said, "We will begin at the cathedral, but we want the whole diocese rebuilt. We are making the effort. We know that ours is not enough and we are counting on our partners. But with faith in God, we will rebuild."

The ingathering occurred during the convention's nearly three-hour Eucharist.

The service began as several hundred people, including almost all of the diocesan clergy and lay delegates, four choirs and one band, marched through the Bon Sauveur compound housing Partners in Health's Zanmi Lasante project and into the church. Among those watching the procession were Zanmi Lasante patients and staff.

Also during the synod, participants learned about an offer from Church Pension Group and CREDO to provide clergy and lay leaders of the diocese with a wellness and respite program designed to assist them in their spiritual and emotional recovery from the trauma they suffered during and since the earthquake.

Duracin, who approved the plan, said in his address that "as Paul said in 2 Corinthians 4:1-10, when he talks about being beaten but not defeated — that is true for us as well. We have been hurt and beaten but we are not destroyed."



Episcopal Relief & Development

Healing a hurting world

Episcopal Relief & Development is an effective, reliable and vital ministry of the Episcopal Church in communities around the world. Episcopal Relief & Development provides emergency assistance in times of disaster, rebuilds devastated communities after the immediate crisis is over and offers long-term solutions to help people sustain safer, healthier and more productive lives.

To make a contribution, donate to the Disaster Relief Fund online at www.er-d.org or call (800) 334-7626, ext. 5129. Gifts can be mailed to: Episcopal Relief & Development, c/o Disaster Relief Fund, PO Box 7058, Merrifield, VA 22116-7058.

Diocesan ERD Coordinators:

Northern Deaneries:
Maureen Belote (727) 736-6466
genimo@verizon.net

Southern Deaneries:
Jody Tiffany (239) 262-3434
jodybob@earthlink.net

ERD committed to recovery effort

Because of its longstanding partnership with the Episcopal Diocese of Haiti, Episcopal Relief & Development was immediately able to answer the call for a humanitarian response, longer-term recovery and development assistance after the January earthquake.

Initial efforts involved organizing food and medical supply shipments for diocesan distribution, conducting air drops to isolated rural communities, and providing satellite telephones and solar-powered chargers to aid in communication and coordination.

In the weeks that followed, ERD turned its attention to areas not reached by other international relief organizations. The hard-hit mountainous region between Leogane and Jacmel, closer to the earthquake's epicenter, has been a main concern for relief. Efforts include providing food and medicine, water filters, sending out mobile clinics to care for the injured, and construction of permanent latrines in the camps.

The Haitian people, despite their personal hardship and suffering, are working tirelessly in recovery efforts. With financial, material, technical and

staff support from Episcopal Relief & Development, they are directing where and what type of aid is needed the most.

Sacrificial support for Episcopal Relief & Development and the Diocese of Haiti from the church is one of the most remarkable and gratifying aspects of the Haitian relief effort. Anglican dioceses and churches in Brazil, Bermuda, Canada, El Salvador, Honduras, Hong Kong, Japan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Taiwan all gave generously. Congregants in churches across the U.S. have responded generously despite the current economic situation. Nine 4x4 pickup trucks donated by the Diocese of Virginia have proven critical in getting food and other aid to hard-to-reach areas in the mountains.

The sights of Episcopal Relief & Development reach beyond the immediate desperately-needed relief from one of the worst natural disasters in human history, to ensure Haiti's redevelopment and that its people are given the tools and resources they need to thrive.



Photos by Jim DeLa

Students at St. John's Episcopal Parish Day School in Tampa show pencil boxes they stuffed to send to Haitian students.

Love fits in a pencil box

A table in the back of Susan Eaton's pre-kindergarten class was loaded with things most 4-5-year-olds find irresistible: note pads, glue sticks, crayons, pencils, pens and erasers.

Students eagerly lined up to fill brightly colored pencil boxes with the supplies. They each added a hand-drawn note of love and support before closing the boxes and packing them up in cartons bound for Haiti.



Ralph Latortue

It was all part of a service day March 12 at St. John's Episcopal Parish Day School in Tampa, where students did their part to help the youngest victims of the January earthquake.

With the help of the school's newly formed Dad's Club, children put together supplies for the half-million children in and around Port-au-Prince whose schools were destroyed.

Ralph Latortue, the Haitian consul general based in Miami, was a special guest at St. John's to receive the gifts on behalf of his country. He was invited by Ian Sweeney, consul general for the Consulate General of Antigua and Barbuda, whose daughter attends St. John's School.

"Each one of you can be proud of yourselves," Latortue told the students. "Not only you, but your dads and your moms. Each one of these donations will help one child to be able to go to school. There are so many of them that are in need of just a pencil and a piece of paper."

The school supplies are an important gift to the Haitian students, he said. Latortue estimated that 500 schools had been destroyed in the capital. He said St. John's was setting "an example for all the children across the world."

All 220 students at St. John's several campuses were involved in service activities, from local clean-up projects, to collecting supplies for U.S. soldiers stationed in Afghanistan.

"Projects like these have great ripple effects," said Bishop Dabney Smith, who



The school's Dad's Club helped students fill the boxes with school supplies.

was on hand for the event. "in order to encourage your children to be a help to people in need."

While in Tampa, Latortue also visited the warehouse for the Hillsborough Education Foundation's Teaching Tools program, which had eight pallets of school supplies to donate for Haiti.

—Jim DeLa

Seminary may sell property to pay bills

The executive committee of General Theological Seminary's board of trustees said April 19 that the school may have to sell some of its property to raise enough money in order to pay its bills after mid-November.

The Rev. Canon Denis O'Pray, chair of the trustees, said in a news release that the committee considered merger or collaboration with other entities, as well as the likelihood of "immediate philanthropy," before coming to the conclusion that selling property was the "most reasonable source" of money. He did not say what property might be sold.

The news followed a more general warning about the school's financial future issued by the entire board after a March 29 meeting when it said it needed cash to service its debt and pay for the 2010-2011 school year. O'Pray told faculty, students and administrative staff that day that the seminary needed between \$2 million and \$4 million, seminary spokesman Bruce Parker said at the time.

Douglas consecrated bishop of Connecticut

In a service featuring participants from all over the world, the Rev. Dr. Ian T. Douglas was ordained and consecrated April 17 as the 15th bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut.

Douglas, 51, was the Angus Dun Professor of Mission and World Christianity at Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, Mass., when he was elected Oct. 24. He succeeds Bishop Andrew Smith, and his election marked the first time in the diocese's 224-year history that a priest from outside of the diocese has been elected bishop.

An estimated 2,100 attended the ordination and consecration, the diocese said. Anglican Archbishop Emeritus of Cape Town Desmond Tutu preached and Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori was the chief consecrator. Diocese of North Carolina Bishop Michael B. Curry and Diocese of Northern Indiana Bishop Edward S. Little were co-consecrators.

(Continued on page 21)



Photo by Mary Frances Schjonberg

Duke Divinity School Christian spirituality professor Lauren Winner, standing, Kris Opat and other participants in the Preaching Jesus conference listen April 19 as former Presiding Bishop Frank Griswold poses a question after Winner's presentation during the conference's opening session at the Kanuga Conference Center outside Hendersonville, N.C.

Preachers asked to consider their effect on the church

Episcopal News Service

Two preachers from different generations called participants in the Preaching Jesus conference to consider the profound effects that preaching can and should have on them and on their listeners.

Lauren Winner, an assistant professor of Christian spirituality at Duke Divinity School and author of a number of books including *Girl Meets God*, told the participants during an opening presentation April 19 at Kanuga Conferences in North Carolina that sermon preparation "can be and is and actually should be a vital part of the spiritual lives of those of us who preach."

The Rev. Martin Smith, author and senior associate rector at St. Columba's Episcopal Church in Washington, D.C., said in the first of his two sessions that preaching is much like spiritual direction, in which people are invited to prayerfully consider who they want Jesus to be for them and who Jesus wants to be for them. The questions, he said, echo Jesus' inquiry

of blind Bartimeus, "What do you want me to do for you?"

Preaching Jesus, believed to be the first-ever national Episcopal Church preaching conference, attracted about 115 clergy and seminarians, including some from other denominations.

The April 19-22 gathering featured a mix of lectures, small preaching groups, worship and fellowship. The preaching groups, led by faculty of the foundation's annual Preaching Excellence Program, allowed participants to offer their sermons for feedback and critique.

Winner, who is a postulant for Holy Orders in the Diocese of Virginia, said she preaches about once a month, which she acknowledged was different from "having to preach" every week.

She said that many priests act as if preaching is "just something else to do on the to-do list" rather than a privilege, "a life-or-death matter" and "one of the ways that we become known by Jesus and come to know Jesus."

In Brief

(Continued from page 20)

S.C. parish settles longstanding lawsuit

Breakaway members of All Saints' Episcopal Church in Waccamaw in Pawleys Island, S.C., and those who wished to remain in the Episcopal Church have negotiated an end to what had been one of the Episcopal Church's longest-running property disputes.

The members of the parish who remained members of the Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina petitioned the U.S. Supreme Court to review a September 2009 state Supreme Court ruling that overturned a lower court decision that said the majority of the parish members were entitled to retain the parish's property after they left the Episcopal Church and the diocese in 2003 to affiliate with the Anglican Mission in the Americas.

The Rev. Terrell Glen, rector of the AMiA-affiliated parish known as All Saints Church, said the vestry had offered All Saints' Episcopal Church \$375,000 "to assist in their future ministry in our community."

Episcopalians who have historic ties to All Saints will also be allowed to use the appropriate buildings in the event of funerals, weddings and other pastoral

Strategic planning

(Continued from page 4)

a planning process in a size and shape that fits a particular congregation. There should be a good deal of time spend "planning to plan," as Hotchkiss put it. "There's no template that will work with every congregation."

He said the things that matter most about planning are:

- Wise choices about the size and scope of the plan;
- Broad ownership of the plan; and
- A thorough process, with a lot of meetings, discussions and preliminary reports. "If the final vote on your strategic plan is an anticlimax, that's good," he said.

He also counseled the clergy gathered to have the persistence to see the plan through and to be willing to empower the people who will be responsible for implementing the plan.

occasions in accordance with the same guidelines and policies that are followed by our own members," Glen said.

Haitian survivor camp gets VIP visitors

First lady Michelle Obama and Jill Biden, the wife of Vice President Joe Biden, visited a Port-au-Prince earthquake survivor settlement run April 13 by the Episcopal Diocese of Haiti.

The two women walked to College Ste. Pierre, a wrecked diocesan high school, as part of their one-day surprise tour of the Haitian capital.

U.S. Embassy personnel said Obama and Biden visited the site because they wanted to see an actual survivor camp where Haitians were helping Haitians recover in the quake's aftermath.

Obama and Biden were greeted by head of school the Rev. Lucas Rigal; Joseph Harry Anglade, College Ste. Pierre academic director; and the Rev. Canon Oge Beauvoir, dean of the diocese's nearby seminary and executive director of its Bureau of Anglican Education of Haiti.

Southern Ohio begins same-sex blessings

The Diocese of Southern Ohio began blessing same-sex unions with two April ceremonies.

Michael Harbin, 56, and Warren MacPherson, 59, exchanged vows April 10 at St. Stephen's Church in Columbus. The next day, Lynn and Peg, two social workers who asked that their last names not be used, exchanged vows in Cincinnati.

Bishop Thomas E. Breidenthal announced in November that he intended to lift a pre-existing ban on the blessing of same-gender unions after Easter.

Breidenthal also announced formation of a task force of people with differing views about same-gender unions. The task force's role was to collaborate with him in development of a theological rationale, policy, trial liturgy and educational resources. Those materials were posted on the diocesan website.

Same-gender couples are not able to marry legally in Ohio, and Breidenthal said the new policy is not an attempt to circumvent the law.

Utah announces slate of nominees for bishop

The Episcopal Diocese of Utah has chosen four priests to stand for election as its next bishop.

The candidates are:

- The Rev. Canon Michael Barlowe, 54, canon for congregational ministries, Episcopal Diocese of California;
- The Rev. Canon Juan Andrés Quevedo-Bosch, 54, rector, Church of the Redeemer, Episcopal Diocese of Long Island;
- The Rev. Canon Scott B. Hayashi, 56, canon to the ordinary, Episcopal Diocese of Chicago; and
- The Rev. Canon Mary C.M. Sulerud, 59, canon for deployment and vocational ministries, Episcopal Diocese of Washington, D.C.

Barlowe, an openly gay partnered priest, has also been a candidate in episcopal elections in the dioceses of California and Newark.

According to the diocesan timeline, a special meeting of diocesan convention will be convened May 22 to elect the next bishop, with consecration tentatively planned for Nov. 6 with Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori officiating.

Church calls for immigration reform

In response to the passage of an Arizona state law that will make it illegal for undocumented immigrants to be in Arizona and that will require people suspected of being illegal to show proof of legal status, the Episcopal Church Office of Government Relations, based in Washington, D.C., has issued a call for comprehensive immigration reform.

"The passage in Arizona of the toughest anti-immigrant law in the country demonstrates the need for action at the federal level," the statement said.

In an open letter, Bishop Kirk Smith of Arizona expressed that "today is a sad day in the struggle to see all God's people treated in a humane and compassionate manner (...). With the Governor's signing of SB 1070, it seems that for now the advocates of fear and hatred have won over those of charity and love. Arizona claims to be a Golden Rule State. We have not lived up to that claim."

Books

***Love God, Heal Earth*, by the Rev. Canon Sally G. Bingham, from St. Lynn's Press, 227 pages, paperback, c. 2009, \$17.99**

Foremost religious leaders from diverse faith communities respond to the most controversial question of our time: Can we save the earth?

The answer could hinge on the phenomenon of the fast-growing interfaith religious environmental movement. The author makes the case for environmental stewardship that cuts across old divisions of faith and politics. She presents 20 fellow religious leaders and eminent scholars (from rabbis to evangelicals to Catholics, Muslims and Buddhists), each contributing an original essay with personal stories of awakening to the urgent need for environmental awareness and action.

***Another Brush with God — Further Conversations about Icons*, by Peter Pearson, from Church Publishing, Inc., 130 pages, paperback, c. 2009, \$28.**

This is the sequel to *A Brush with God*, presenting for advanced beginners, and intermediate and advanced level iconographers, greater detail and instructions for creating entirely new icons. One major feature of the book is full-page format sketches that artists can use as the basis of their own icons—this is a rare and much-requested resource.

***A Paradise Built in Hell — The Extraordinary Communities that Arise in Disaster*, by Rebecca Solnit, from Penguin Group, 353 pages, hardcover, c. 2009, \$27.95.**

Why is it that in the aftermath of a disaster — whether man-made or natural — people suddenly become altruistic, resourceful and brave? What makes the newfound communities and purpose many find in the ruins and crises after disaster so joyous? And what does this joy reveal about ordinarily unmet social desires and possibilities?

Award-winning author Rebecca Solnit explores these phenomena, looking at major calamities from the 1906

earthquake in San Francisco through Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans. She examines how disaster throws people into a temporary utopia of changed states of mind and social possibilities, as well as looking at the cost of the widespread myths and rarer real cases of social deterioration during crisis.

***Letters to My Daughter*, by Maya Angelou, from Random House, Inc., 166 pages, hardcover, c. 2008, \$25.**

For a world of devoted readers, a much-awaited new volume of absorbing stories and inspirational wisdom from one of our best-loved writers.

Dedicated to the daughter she never had but sees all around her, *Letter to My Daughter* reveals Maya Angelou's path to living well and living a life with meaning. Told in her own inimitable style, this book transcends genres and categories: guidebook, memoir, poetry and pure delight.

Here in short, spellbinding essays are glimpses of the tumultuous life that led Angelou to an exalted place in American letters and taught her lessons in compassion and fortitude.

Whether she is recalling such lost friends as Coretta Scott King and Ossie Davis, extolling honesty, decrying vulgarity, or simply singing the praises of a meal of red rice, Maya Angelou writes from the heart to millions of women she considers her extended family.

"I gave birth to one child, a son, but I have thousands of daughters.

"You are Black and White, Jewish and Muslim, Asian, Spanish speaking, Native Americans and Aleut. You are fat and thin and pretty and plain, gay and straight, educated and unlettered, and I am speaking to you all. Here is my offering to you."

***Why Is God Laughing? The Path to Joy and Spiritual Optimism*, by Deepak Chopra, foreword by Mike Myers, paperback, 192 pages, c. 2009. \$12.**

In this refreshing new take on spirituality, best-selling author Deepak Chopra uses a fictional tale of a comedian and his unlikely mentor to show us a path back to

hope, joy and even enlightenment — with a lot of laughter along the way.

After his father's death, Mickey Fellows, a successful L.A. comedian, meets a mysterious stranger named Francisco, who changes his life forever. The two begin an ongoing discussion about the true nature of being. Reluctantly at first, Mickey accepts the stranger's help and starts to explore his own life in an effort to answer the riddles Francisco poses. Mickey starts to look at those aspects of himself that he has hidden behind a wall of wisecracks all his life.

Eventually Mickey realizes that authentic humor opens him up to the power of spirit — allowing him to finally make real connections with people.

***The Green Bible NRSV*, edited by Michael Maudlin, with a foreword by Archbishop Desmond Tutu, 1312 pages, softcover, c. 2008. \$29.95.**

The Green Bible will equip and encourage people to see God's vision for creation and help them engage in the work of healing and sustaining the environment. This first Bible of its kind will include the following distinctive features:

With more than 860 references to the earth in the Bible, compared to 500 references to heaven, the Bible carries a powerful message for the earth.

Verses or passages that speak to God's care for creation and the environment are highlighted in green. An introduction to reading the Old and New Testaments through a "green" lens is provided, including what Jesus had to say about the environment. It also includes a green topical Bible index, personal Green Bible Trail study guides, and an appendix with information on further reading, how to get involved and practical steps to take.

It is printed on recycled paper, using soy-based ink with a cotton/linen cover.

—To order any of these books, go to *Episcopal Books and Resources*, online at www.episcopalbookstore.org, or call (800) 903-5544 — or visit your local *Episcopal bookseller*.

Calendar

Special Events

Golf Tournament. May 22, at Serenoa Golf Course sponsored by the Men of Aim (Action-Integrity-Maturity), to benefit ongoing community ministries of St. Wilfred's Church in Sarasota. Cost is \$65 per person (includes greens fees, carts, golf prizes and dinner). Contact Gary Lawrence at (941) 377-4210 or call St. Wilfred's at (941) 924-7436 or visit www.stwilfred-sarasota.com.

Vocation Information Day. May 22, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church, 906 S. Orleans Ave., Tampa. To assist all those interested in the development of their ministry, whether lay person, deacon or priest. Attendance at the gathering does not require the permission of your rector or vicar, nor does such attendance imply the approval of the Commission for admittance to the ordination process. Contact Tana Sembiante at tsembiante@episcopalswfl.org or (941) 556-0315, ext. 271.

Training/Workshops/Retreats

Healing Gathering Day. May 8, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the new pavilion at DaySpring Conference Center in Parrish. Sponsored by the Amazing Love Healing Ministry and led by Pastor Sharon Lewis. A \$20 donation is sought to cover lunch and materials. To register, visit www.amazinglovehealing.com.

Safeguarding God's Children Training. May 8, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. with lunch provided at All Souls Episcopal Church, 14640 N. Cleveland Ave., in North Fort Myers. Check-in starts at 9:30 a.m. To register contact the church office at (239) 997-7685 or e-mail allsoulsep@aol.com.

Cursillo #119. June 10-13, 2010. Contact Anna Haeffner at anna@haeffner.net or (941) 322-4093.

Happening #64. Sept. 17-19 at DaySpring Conference Center in Parrish. Participants: 9-10th graders. Registration fee: \$140. Contact Michelle Mercurio at (941) 556-0315, ext. 274 or mmercurio@episcopalswfl.org

Cursillo #120. Sept. 30 to Oct. 3. Contact Anna Haeffner at anna@haeffner.net or (941) 322-4093.

New Beginnings #48. Oct. 22-24, at DaySpring Conference Center in Parrish. Participants: 6-8th graders. Team: 9-12th graders. Registration fee: \$140. Contact Michelle Mercurio at (941) 556-0315, ext. 274 or mmercurio@episcopalswfl.org

2010 Summer Camp Dates

Camp Staff Training. June 12-13 at DaySpring Conference Center in Parrish. Contact Michelle Mercurio at (941) 556-0315, ext. 274 or mmercurio@episcopalswfl.org

Elementary Summer Camp. June 13-18 at DaySpring Conference Center in Parrish for rising 3rd-5th graders. Registration fee is \$375. Contact Michelle Mercurio at (941) 556-0315, ext. 274 or mmercurio@episcopalswfl.org

Camp Staff Training. June 19-20 at DaySpring Conference Center in Parrish. Contact Michelle Mercurio at (941) 556-0315, ext. 274 or mmercurio@episcopalswfl.org

Youth Summer Camp. June 20-25 at DaySpring Conference Center in Parrish for rising 6th-8th graders. Registration fee is \$375. Contact Michelle Mercurio at (941) 556-0315, ext. 274 or mmercurio@episcopalswfl.org

Camp Able. July 19-23 at DaySpring Conference Center in Parrish. For youth with special needs. Contact Michelle Mercurio at (941) 556-0315, ext. 274 or mmercurio@episcopalswfl.org

Meetings

Commission on Ministry Meeting. May 11, at 1 p.m. at Diocesan House, 7313 Merchant Court, Sarasota. Regularly scheduled meeting. Contact: The Rev. Mike Branscombe at mikeb@churchofascension.org.

Standing Committee meeting. May 18, at 10 a.m. at the diocesan office, 7313 Merchant Court, Sarasota. Regularly scheduled meeting of the committee. Contact: Karen Patterson at oakley42@msn.com.

Diocesan Council meeting. May 22, at 9 a.m. at DaySpring Conference Center in Parrish. Regularly scheduled meeting of the council. Contact the diocesan office at (941) 556-0315.

If your group or congregation is planning an upcoming event of interest to the rest of the diocese, please send the information to:

The Southern Cross Calendar
7313 Merchant Court
Sarasota, FL 34240

or e-mail it to jdela@episcopalswfl.org
The diocesan events calendar is also available on our
web site:

www.episcopalswfl.org

