

Need to know!

Around the Diocese 4 Clergy Conference 3
Benedictine Ham & Oyster
Experience 2 Dinner 3
Bishops 4 Homecoming Sunday 3
Calendar 4 Magnetic Church 2

News of the people, parishes, and places of the Diocese of

New Jersey

Urban Ministry Revitalized

Cheryl Browne, St. Augustine's, Atlantic City

On 20 September 2008 the Urban Ministry had their first workshop in years. To say the workshop was productive is an understatement. With over 30 committed attendees from more than seven churches from around the state, the group gathered together to figure out what they can do to address the issues of the churches in the urban areas. Nell Braxton Gibson, Coordinator of the Episcopal Urban Caucus was guest speaker and facilitator of the workshop.



Some of the participants in the Urban Ministry workshop. Photo courtesy Cheryl Browne.

The group succeeded in crafting a working Mission Statement after a lengthy overview. The Mission Statement temporarily reads: "Share the gospel with all those who live and work in cities, by preaching, teaching, advocating and empowering in a spirit of inclusiveness."

The group discussed how systemic change is a major key in leading urban ministry, incorporating their new mission statement as central to the actions of the committee. As the dialog progressed the group discovered that many churches had the same community issues and needs, and was not dependent the location of their urban communities. Churches who ranged in size from 75 to 600 were able to connect due to the comparable liabilities present in their surrounding neighborhoods.

The Urban Ministry appointed specific duties to members of the caucus, proving that the meeting was fruitful and that the ministry is evolving on all levels. They agreed to meet more frequently in order to get the Ministry back in full operation again. The commitment level was very high. In all, it was an afternoon of discovery, learning, solidarity, and compassion for solving the issues that plague all urban community churches.

Some concerns highlighted for immediate attention were alcoholism, drug abuse, homelessness, mental illness, affordable housing, and hunger. For more information about their continuing work, please contact Annette Buchanan at annbuc2000@cs.com.

Red Wagon

Jarrett Kerbel, Executive Director, Crisis Ministry

When I came to my last church a meager food collection happened on the first Sunday of each month. By the end of worship a few cans of food would sit forlornly in the entryway—not exactly an image of God's abundant feast for all people! The church, however, was blessed with a sense of mission to the most vulnerable and a simple adjustment allowed the generosity to flow.

One Sunday, when the congregation arrived at worship a Radio Flyer red wagon stood in the entry to receive the donations. When it came time to bring the offering forward to the altar, to everyone's surprise the red wagon reappeared pulled by some children. The food for the hungry was, all of a sudden, part of our sacred act of thanksgiving to God.



The next month, the offerings overflowed the wagon. When the children brought it forward, a little girl took a can of green beans and put it on the altar where the bread and wine were waiting to be blessed. And there it stayed through the whole ceremony, a symbol that concern for the poor is at the heart of our sacred story.

Continued on page 2.

Resolutions for 2009 Convention

Paul Ambros, Committee on Resolutions

The Diocese of New Jersey Committee on Resolutions invites submission of proposed resolutions for consideration at next February's Diocesan Convention. Submit proposals on white 8-1/2 x 11 paper, typed and double-spaced, and containing at least two sections: 1) RESOLVED paragraph naming the desired action, and 2) FURTHER RESOLVED paragraph, as appropriate, providing for implementation of the resolution if adopted.

No "whereas" or other prefatory language can be used, so the proposals should begin with "Be it RESOLVED, That" Each resolution should be accompanied by a short explanatory statement by the proponent(s).

Resolutions may be proposed by any communicant of any congregation in the diocese, whether or not a Convention delegate, or by any member of the clergy serving or residing in the diocese, whether or not

Continued on page 2.

Need to Know! Third week of October 2008

Resolutions, *continued from page 1*

eligible to vote at Convention. Please include the proponents' identifying parish affiliations.

Forward proposals to the Chair of the Committee, Paul Ambos, c/o Paul Ambos, P.C., 110 Wall Street, 23rd Floor, New York, New York 10005-3836 (fax 212-514-5222) or by email at pambos@amboslaw.com.

Deadline: 15 January 2009. Formal hearings will be held on resolution proposals at Diocesan House, 808 West State Street, Trenton, on 21 February 2009 at 10:00 am, and further hearings may be scheduled during the Convention itself. Additional informal discussions may take place at pre-convention meetings, subject to availability of members of the Committee on Resolutions.

Red Wagon, *continued from page 1*

The Red Wagon and the can on the altar became part of the ritual in that community just as generosity became a defining trait of the congregation's culture. Giving food was firmly connected to our spirituality and our sacred space. Food donation was no longer just a nice thing to do in the entryway, but was lifted up as central to our identity as people of faith. The result was abundance.

I invite you to become a Red Wagon Congregation. Just let us know when you will make your monthly collection. If you are in the Trenton-Lawrenceville-Princeton corridor we will come pick it up in our van. At the Crisis Ministry we think of ourselves as an extension of your generosity, and we thank you. For more information visit www.thecrisisministry.org or phone 609-396-9355 (Trenton office) or 609-921-2135 (Princeton office).

Benedictine Experience at the Cathedral College

The Benedictine Experience is a time spent in community designed for those who wish to nurture and strengthen their daily lives through prayer and spiritual companionship. It is modeled after the balanced way of life set out by St. Benedict in his Rule, giving due attention to body, mind and spirit. Participants take part in an ordered day of prayer, study, work and leisure. The framework of each day is the Opus Dei—the daily corporate worship of God—Morning Prayer, the Eucharist, Evening Prayer and Compline to complete the day. The great Silence will be observed each evening after Compline and lesser silence during other specified periods. Sponsored by The Friends of St. Benedict and the Cathedral College Center for Prayer and Pilgrimage, this event is at Washington National Cathedral from 20 to 23 November 2008.

The Morning Sessions will be led by Sr. Donald, a Benedictine nun for over forty years, who will center on

the relevance of St. Benedict in addressing the challenges of today's world, specifically the challenges of living a contemplative life in today's world. The Evening Sessions will be led by Dr. Suella Henn, whose talks will focus on hospitality and reconciliation, and recognizing and appreciating beauty as a source of harmony and balance in the disparate circumstances of our daily lives. There will be time for discussion and in the afternoon for rest and study. The work of the hands is a vital part of the Benedictine way and participants will be encouraged to take part in work projects at the Cathedral College.

The Rule of St. Benedict comes from the undivided Church and transcends our divisions and is an important source of strength for Christian unity. It is hoped that participants will reflect a cross-section of Christians with a broad range of Christian experience. They encourage all people, young and old, active and retired, laity and clergy, to participate.

This Benedictine experience takes place in the Cathedral College, located on the grounds of the Washington National Cathedral. In keeping with the tradition of stability, participants should be present throughout the weekend.

The program begins early Thursday evening and ends after lunch on Sunday. The full fee of \$435.00 (double occupancy) includes the program, all meals and lodging. A limited number of single rooms are available for an additional \$145.00. The fee of \$330.00 for daytime participants includes the program and all meals. Final payment is due by 20 November.

For more information, contact the Friends of Saint Benedict, St. David's Parish, 5150 Macomb Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20016, or phone 202-363-8061 or by email at SaintBenedict@prospect-tech.com or visit their website at www.benedictfriend.org.

Magnetic Church Spotlight

Meyer Pincelli, St. Peter's Perth Amboy

I have to be truthful here. I only attended the Magnetic Church Conference because my Rector really pressed me to attend. I knew I could only attend Friday night's session, but he asked me to go anyway. Because I knew very little about the Magnetic Church, I had no expectations at all. Within minutes, Andrew Weeks had me totally engaged by his excitement and total commitment to help congregations to reach out to the "unchurched". When the session ended I found that I was truly sorry I couldn't attend the next day. Since I didn't have the benefit of participating in the entire workshop, my plan is to reach out to the Parishes in our area and explore the possibility of asking Mr. Weeks to do a workshop locally. I believe it will be well worth our effort.

Homecoming Sunday

St. Elizabeth's Church, Elizabeth

On Sunday, 28 September 2008, St. Elizabeth's Church in the City of Elizabeth held its first "Homecoming Sunday." Throughout the day there was an overflowing of joy and enthusiasm. Many members who had been away for a while returned, and there were numerous visitors, including family, friends, members of neighboring churches, and people from as far away as Barbados. It was also an opportunity for the parish family to meet the new rector, the Rev. Andy Moore and his wife Natalie.

As part of the worship service, there was an ingathering of the "GIVE US THE CHANGE" appeal, which was a collection in response to the Episcopal Church Relief

Fund Appeal to assist the people of Haiti who are suffering due to the recent hurricanes. Church members were challenged throughout the month of September to gather loose coins from their home and cars. The coins were presented in a specially designed "tricked out" vehicle which was rolled down the aisle for the members and visitors to throw their change in. What a success! Over \$750 was collected.



The specially decorated collection cart. Photo courtesy Veronica Funderberk.

Immediately following the Homecoming Celebration, there was a pot lunch brunch. During the brunch, parish groups and organizations had the opportunity to share information about their various Ministries with all those present. It was truly a St. Elizabeth's Homecoming. Thanks to all who came out on this memorable day.

Clergy Conference Kaleidoscope

Lee Powers, Canon to the Ordinary

The Rev. Eric Law, Executive Director of the Kaleidoscope Institute, was the presenter at the Clergy Conference in Point Pleasant on 5-7 October 2008. Bishop Romero invited Law to help us engage, and learn how to overcome the challenges of becoming a truly multicultural church. The Kaleidoscope Institute offers training programs that can run up to six days for religious, non-profit and for-profit organizations who are seeking to fully engage the entire diversity of humanity in our country.

Law shared his own "Who Am I?" video that made us realize how we form impressions about a person we meet before we even get to know them. Most often those impressions are wrong, and we do not come close to knowing the whole person. It is only through interaction

and dialogue that we can truly know one another. Law then gave us tools for entering into such dialogue. A seemingly fairly homogeneous group (almost all Episcopal clergy from one Diocese) soon began to discover how different we were, and how much we did not really know about each other.

Sitting in groups of about eight people per table, we broke from our usual comfortable gatherings and shared deeply from our lives and family heritage. Many of the barriers that sometimes keep people apart began to melt away. It was a joyous adventure for some, filled with smiles and laughter, and a painful journey for others with some tears and anger. One thing we came to understand is that we have a long way to go in living into the Lord's vision of the kingdom of God. With Law's help, we took some important first steps.

81st Ham & Oyster Dinner

Lenore Rowbotham, St. Thomas, Glassboro

St. Thomas Church in Glassboro is hosting their 81st "Election Day Supper." Parishioners bake and slice 25 whole hams and fry 61 gallons of oysters and bake 120 pies from scratch. All of this is in preparation for the 500 sit-down guests and 500 take-out dinners they will serve.



Getting ready to make apple pie. Photo courtesy Lenore Rowbotham.

This dinner exemplifies the spirit of hospitality and community that Christians are called into. The apples for the apple pies are donated by farmer Bud Rutter of Pleasant Valley Farm. Farmer Bob Muth gives bushels of his award-winning organic red and green peppers, while farmer Rick Hymer donates crates of cabbage, both of which are needed for the pepper hash. Without the generosity of these farmers, this dinner would not be possible.

In August, parishioners got together to make up all of the pie dough (220 balls), which was then triple-bagged and frozen until baking day. At least 100 church members work together to make this dinner possible. Some work since 5 am for the three days prior to get ready. The youth also help each year with preparation and serving the dinners. This dinner not only provides fellowship and common purpose for the church members, but also opens their hospitality to their community, with the added bonus of raising money for their church.

Around the Diocese

A Distant Gaze: Stars and Other Far-Out Places An exhibition of pastels and mixed media by Janice R. Moore sponsored by The Episcopal Church and Visual Arts in the Diocese of New Jersey. The viewer is transported to heavenly realms, both natural and imagined. Moore, a Philadelphia artist, creates skyscapes from the serene to the spectacular. Side by side with these naturalistic works are atmospheric abstracts, providing a harmonious contrast. Moore has exhibited widely in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and New York. Meet the artist and enjoy refreshments at the opening reception in Synod Hall, Trinity Cathedral on Sunday, 19 October from 3-5 pm. The exhibit runs until 28 November.



“Weightless” by Janice R. Moore.

Diocesan Altar

Guild Annual Meeting is on Monday, 20 October 2008 at Trinity Cathedral in Trenton. The meeting opens with the Eucharist at 10 am celebrated by Bishop Romero. Following the Eucharist, refreshments and a short business meeting will be held in Synod Hall.

Talking to Teenagers About Sex The Youth Ministry of the Diocese of New Jersey is sponsoring a workshop for adults on 29 October from 6:30 to 9 pm. Janice Thomas, Nurse Practitioner and Episcopalian from Sewanee, TN is the speaker. This workshop will address sexuality from both a health/physiological perspective and a spiritual/theological perspective. The event includes dinner and there is no cost. To register, contact the Diocesan Youth Ministry Office at 609-394-5281 by 22 October, or register online at newjerseyyouth.org.

Advent at Diocesan House For Advent, the staff at Diocesan House is trying something new with decorations in order to reflect the liturgical season. We want to put up several Jesse trees around our facilities, with the ornaments coming from all of the churches in our diocese, especially as gifts from the children of the diocese. All instructions and patterns will be available from our website shortly. More about this project soon!

Coming Next Week: Special Lambeth Reflections Edition of *Need to Know*

Calendar: 15 October to 8 November

All meetings are at Diocesan House, unless noted. Find out more here: <http://newjersey.anglican.org/calendar.html>

15 October Sexual Misconduct Awareness Training, 9 am § Trustees of Church Property, 9:45 am § Woodbury/Camden Fall Convocation Meeting, Holy Trinity, Wenonah, 7 pm

16 October Diocesan Investment Trust, 2:30 pm § Standing Committee, 5 pm

18 October Youth TLC Day, Evergreens, 9 am § Commission on Ministry to the Disabled, St. Peter's, Freehold, 11 am § ECW Honored Women's Lunch, Quality Inn, Maple Shade, noon

21 October Deans Meeting, 11 am § Diocesan Council, noon § Right Onward Visioning Committee, 5 pm

23 October Companion Diocese Committee, 1 pm

23-25 October Anti-Racism I.T., Ocean Grove

25 October Radical Welcome: Practical New Tools & Ideas, Trinity Cathedral, 9 am § Youth, 10 am § Theological Ethics, Guild Room, Trinity Cathedral, 10 am

27 October Deputies to General Convention, 6 pm

28 October Council of Churches, 5 pm § Hispanic Commission, 7 pm

29 October Diocesan Staff Meeting § Committee on the Diaconate, 3 pm § Nominating Committee, 5:45 pm § Youth Adult Ministry Workshop, 6:30 pm

2 November Invite a Friend Sunday § Youth, 3 pm

5 November Committee on Priesthood, Chairs, 10 am

6 November Interims & Transition Consultants, 10 am § People of the Story, 10 am

8 November Sexual Misconduct Awareness Training, Holy Trinity, Wenonah, 9 am § Parish Audit Training Program Planning, 10 am § Anti Racism Team, 10 am § Theological Ethics, Trinity Cathedral, 10 am

Bishops: Where and when

19 October, Sunday Rocky Hill, Trinity Church, 10 am: Visitation, Bishop Romero

26 October, Sunday Trenton, Cristo Rey, 10 am: Visitation, Bishop Romero

Next Issue First week of November 2008 (published on Wednesday, 5 November)

Questions? Contact Debbie Crall, at 609 394-5281 ext. 20 or by email dcrall@newjersey.anglican.org.