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

New Jersey

Letter from Bishop Council

Dear Friends in Christ,

I am writing to you on my first day back from a sabbatical leave. In my time away I have enjoyed physical exercise and adventure travel; time for prayer and study, for reflection and renewal; and a Christmas holiday season spent with family but without church responsibilities—the only one in 33 years of ordained ministry. I am enormously grateful to the Diocese of New Jersey for this extraordinary gift and privilege. I thank God for Bishop Romero and the diocesan staff and for all of the diocesan leaders who labored while I rested. I am blessed.

The great blessing of this time, however, is to feel again the joy and delight of being a bishop here and now in the Diocese of New Jersey. As grateful as I am for a sabbatical, I am all the more grateful to be your bishop and to feel ready and eager to engage our “Right Onward!” vision together even (especially) in the face of many daunting challenges. I love Jesus and I love Jersey and I love the work that lies before us. In a word that I learned while growing up among surfers near the beaches of Southern California, I am stoked.

According to my dictionary, the word stoked means, “to stir up and feed amply.” It seems clear enough that our beloved Church and all our people need to be stirred up and amply fed in order to be revived for our mission in the world. So, it strikes me as an amazing grace that, upon my return to this ministry, the first diocesan event is a rally where we may be stirred and stoked and strengthened for the living of our vision.

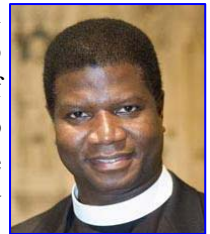
On **Saturday, January 31st, at 3:00 pm at Trinity Cathedral, 801 West State Street in Trenton** our Diocese will gather in a celebration of that vision. Our preacher will be **the Rt. Rev. Eugene T. Sutton**—the 14th Bishop of Maryland and a son of this Diocese. In a setting of beauty, with creative and imaginative liturgy well suited to the theme of mission we shall rally for Jesus and be stoked for His mission. Here, in the “bleak, mid-winter,” come and be warmed in the fire of the Holy Spirit.

Continued on page 2.

Right Onward
The Vision of the Diocese of New Jersey



We are inviting you to a Right Onward Worship dedicated for 31 January 2009 at 3 pm and being offered at Trinity Cathedral. Our preacher will be the Rt. Rev. Eugene T. Sutton who was elected the 14th Bishop of Maryland on 29 March 2008 and also served as assistant to the bishop in the Diocese of New Jersey among his many endeavors.



The Rt. Rev.
Eugene Sutton,
Bishop of
Maryland.

We are entering a second year of our Right Onward experience. For the previous twelve months, we have shared ideas and experiences of welcoming and including ministries. We are applying these experiences and insights as we move forward to celebrating a common vision as citizens of the Kingdom of God.

One of the primary items learned from a two-year listening process was a yearning for common worship—gatherings of the whole Body of our Diocese. Diocesan Convention liturgies are always a blessing even within the context of annual meeting format.

This service is something other. Our purpose is *to praise, to proclaim, to celebrate*, and this year, *to claim the Vision* which is ours by the gift of the Holy Spirit, by the victory of Christ and by the will of God.

We offer an occasion of worship with an expectation and essential enthusiasm that God is working His purpose out in our midst. Bring those who, when inspired, can pass that enthusiasm on to your local community of faith.

We believe this will be of such blessing that we will be calling round to invite each church’s clergy, wardens, musicians and others.

Spread the word with us.

Yours in Christ, *The Right Onward Committee*

Need to Know! Third week of January 2009

Letter from Councill, *continued from page 1*

I appeal to you, by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that every one of our 158 congregations send a deputation to attend this service. As a goal, let each church send at least a tithe of its average Sunday attendance. That is a challenge, but mission is challenging. We need a strong, empowering, joyous and uplifting rally so that we may be lifted up and encouraged. Come, let us rejoice and give thanks for the gift and challenge of doing mission together. We need the Spirit and we need each other. I will hope to see our Cathedral filled on the 31st.

In the name of Christ, let us go forth in peace and stoked with the fire of the Spirit. Right Onward!

The Rt. Rev. George E. Councill
XI Bishop of New Jersey

Lenten Quiet Day

On Saturday, 28 March 2009, the Church of the Holy Spirit in Lebanon is hosting a Lenten Quiet Day from 9 am to 4:15 pm. A Quiet Day is an opportunity to step away from the structure and work-a-day world of daily life and spend some uninterrupted time with God and friends.

This day is organized around meditations on the meaning of the Latin word **AVE** as in the interpretation of its constituent letters: **A**—acceptance, **V**—vulnerability; **E**—expectation. There will be opportunities for corporate and private worship; times of silence for personal prayer, reflection and meditation; reading and journaling; and the use of the Labyrinth Walk. Several clergy will be available for anyone who desires to meet with them for the Office of Reconciliation. Silence will be observed throughout the day except at certain times of meditation reflections. Coffee and a light fare will be provided on arrival and a light lunch will be served at mid day.

There is no charge for the Quiet Day, but any free-will contribution would be appreciated. Space is limited and attendance will be restricted to the first thirty-five (35) persons who register. The event is open to the larger community of the Diocese of New Jersey.

Leaders: The Venerable Canon Andrew M. France, Archdeacon of the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania; The Rev John A. Rollins, Retired Priest of the Diocese of Newark; L. E. “Jim” Keller, Church of the Holy Spirit, Lebanon. For more information and registration, contact Jim Keller at 908-713-0724 or jim.keller36@comcast.net.

2009 Lenten Resource: A Spiritual Journey

The Rev. Suzanne E. Watson

The Spiritual Journey Lenten Resource, produced by the Rev. Terry Martin, Program Officer for Evangelism, The Episcopal Church Center, is intended to assist congregations and their leaders deepen their walk with Christ. The study invites participants to view their lives as a spiritual journey. We do not travel alone, however. We are joined by companions along the way. As together we begin this journey, we are also assured that Christ is in our midst.

How do we encounter God, made known to us through Jesus Christ, in our day to day lives? How can we increase our awareness of God’s presence among us? Those are the primary questions this study will attempt to address. This resource will assist us in opening our eyes to even more ways that God is revealed to us.

One effective “eye-opener” for many people is the power of stories. We each have our own story to tell. For the purposes of this spiritual journey, we will be looking more closely at our own stories, specifically seeking out how we perceive God moving with us each step of the way. As we share personal stories of our spiritual journey, as we offer a witness to God’s presence among us, the ability for us all to glimpse God moving among us is greatly increased. Creating space for the sharing of these sacred stories is one of the purposes of this resource.

To assist us in persevering along the way, essential tools for this journey will be recommended; prayer, study and action. These three tools are time-tested methods for keeping ourselves spiritually healthy, not only for our own sake, but for the sake of those with whom we travel, and those we may encounter along the way. Reflections intended to expand our understanding of these tools, and how we might utilize them, are provided in this resource.

Encouraged by the stories we have heard and equipped with the tools necessary for this journey, our awareness of God’s presence among us will increase. It is then that we will be ready to invite others to join us on this journey. It is then that we will be prepared to fulfill the mission of the Church, “to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ.”

On 23 January, this resource will be made available at: www.episcopalchurch.org/growth_50962_ENG_HTM.htm. A limited number of printed copies will also be made available. For more information, please contact the Rev. Terry Martin at tmartin@episcopalchurch.org or 212-716-6284.

Analyzing and Understanding Systemic Racism

To all Brothers and Sisters in Christ of the Diocese of New Jersey:

You are invited to attend a two and a half day workshop on Anti-Racism analysis and organizing. This workshop, facilitated by *Crossroads Anti-Racism Training and Organizing*, is designed to develop skills to continue to help our diocese seriously examine racism as it exists in our lives, including in our church life. Issues of racism and the task of dismantling racism will be viewed from spiritual, ethical, political and social perspectives. There will be opportunities for worship, conversations about history, and sharing our experience with others. The goal is to equip participants to plan actions within your parish or convocation and to begin to combat racism within institutions and society.

This training is the first step in the series of anti-racism trainings offered by the Diocese. If you have previously been to this part of the training, you are still welcome to attend. If you have not been to Crossroads anti-racism training, this is the next step.

This training, offered in Spanish and English, is an important part of individual commitment to the ongoing work of anti-racism in our Diocese. We believe that by developing both a shared vision and a common skill set for analyzing and organizing, we can grow together and more effectively engage in anti-racism work. Work to address racism in the Diocese of New Jersey is ongoing. Our task is to oppose this sin of racism and seek a new vision where:

The Diocese of New Jersey is recognized as a part of the Body of Christ because its congregations joyfully celebrate their anti-racist, multicultural, embodiment of Christ's love. The Diocese provides intentional leadership in dismantling racism in the wider community by modeling the sharing of power and mutual respect, among all people, at all levels of diocesan life. Its mission, structures, policies and practices are used to perpetuate an anti-racist identity. The Diocese's anti-racist way of living together through its values of justice and equality is seen as a model of change and a sign of hope.

We hope that you will consider spending two and a half days with us to deepen your engagement in dismantling racism in our diocese. Please prayerfully consider joining us on 12-14 February.

If you have questions about the training or the anti-racism work of our diocese, please feel free to contact: the Rev. Terrence W. Rosheuvel at 732-747-1039.

Note: Tuition, course materials, overnight lodging and all meals are provided at no cost to participants. Participants may choose to "commute" and not stay overnight. Full participation in all workshop sessions and meals is required, so that the group can share the full, common experience.

Date: 12-14 February 2009. **Location:** Ocean Grove Conference Center, Ocean Grove, New Jersey. To register, contact Sarah Paige at 609-394-5281 ext. 10 or spaige@newjersey.anglican.org. **Registration deadline:** 5 February 2008.

International Sunday Celebration

St. Barnabas Episcopal Church will have its annual "International Sunday" celebration on Sunday, 8 February, with services at 8:30 and 10:30 am. The liturgy will be drawn from Anglican Prayer Books from around the world, the music will be especially diverse, and the coffee hour following the 10:30 service will include appetizers and desserts brought in by members of the church, which includes people who were born in 24 countries on five continents. All are welcome.

St. Barnabas Church in Monmouth Junction is located at 142 Sand Hill Road, one mile from Rte. 27 and ½ mile from Rte. 1. Ample parking is available. For more information, please call 732-297-4607 or log onto www.stbarnabas-sbnj.org.



Passion & Purpose: The Heart of Christian Formation, held on 17 January, had some 90 participants from around the diocese. Photo courtesy Dot Cellini.

Acolyte Festival

Falling on Valentine's Day, 14 February 2009, the theme of this Year's Diocesan Acolyte Festival is love. Come prepared for a day celebrating the love of our Lord working in our lives as we serve Him joyfully at the altar.

A Celebration of the Holy Eucharist in the Cathedral will close the day. Be sure to bring all of your vestments, processional crosses, torches, banners, thuribles, kites, or whatever else you use in a service. Bring stands if you have them. Parents and other guests are invited to join us for the service, which will begin at 2 pm.

An opportunity to serve as acolytes in the liturgy will be offered to 16 young people attending the festival. Several other young people will be given the chance to serve as ushers or readers. The training/preparation session for the service will take place during the afternoon workshop session. Names of those selected will be announced just after lunch.

The day begins at 9:30 am and will run to about 3:30 p.m. Participants will be able to attend a morning and an afternoon workshop.

Registration: complete the form found on the website: <http://newjersey.anglican.org/MI/Spring2009/AcolyteFestBrochure2009.pdf>. Please be sure to include the age and the top *three* workshop choices for each participant.



Dr. Victoria Garvey (right) leading an afternoon workshop on 17 January about Adult Christian Formation. Photo courtesy Dot Cellini.



Cost: \$25 per person in advance (\$30 at the door). Lunch, morning refreshments, and an event t-shirt are included in the price. **For additional information:** contact Fr. Steve Wisner at 732-681-1863; or Fr. Mark Chattin at 856-858-0491.

Calendar: 22 January to 4 February 2009

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

22 January Finance & Budget Meeting, 9:30 am § Companion Diocese Committee, 1 pm § Diocesan Investment Trust, 2:30 pm § Standing Committee, 5 pm

23 January Bishop's Ball, Trinity Cathedral, 8 pm

27 January Hispanic Commission, 7 pm

28 January Staff Meeting, 10 am § Committee on the Diaconate, 3 pm

31 January Living the Vision, Trinity Cathedral, 3 pm

3 February Pre-Convention Hearing, Long Branch, St. James', 7 pm

4 February Committee on Priesthood, noon § Deputies to General Convention, 6 pm

5 February Fresh Start, 9:45 am § Interims and Transition Consultants, 3 pm § Cross Cultural Ministry, 5 pm § Pre-Convention Hearing, Haddonfield, Grace Church, 7 pm

6-8 February Deacons Retreat, Stella Maris

Bishops: Where and when

25 January, Sunday Hamilton, St. Matthias' Church, 9 am: Visitation, Bishop Romero

1 February, Sunday Matawan, Trinity Church, 8 & 10 am: Visitation, Bishop Council § Bernardsville, St. Bernard's Church, 3 pm: Celebration of New Ministry, Bishop Council

Next issue

First week of February 2009 (published on Wednesday, 4 February)

Questions?

Contact Debbie Crall, by phone 609 394-5281 extension 20 or by email dcralld@newjersey.anglican.org.