

## **060918 newSpin**

News with some Spin  
Edited by Bill Lewellis

\*Diocesan Blog: [www.diobeth.typepad.com/diobeth\\_newspin](http://www.diobeth.typepad.com/diobeth_newspin)  
(Bookmark it on your browser.)

### **On Stumbling Blocks and Unconditional Love**

The Rev. John R. Francis is rector of Christ Church, Reading. This past July, in Philadelphia, John's daughter and two friends were violently attacked and robbed by three armed men. John's reflection on that trauma is in the form of a letter to the parishioners of Christ Church published in the September edition of the parish newsletter. Download John's reflection at our [diocesan blog](#).

### **The Spirit of God stirs still over the chaos**

"This neighborhood is full of people living in chaos. The other day as I walked to work down Linden Street from 10th to 5th, at 10:00 in the morning, a bar room was open for business between 8th and 7th, and every stool had someone sitting on it." [Read Patrick Malloy's sermon](#) from the dedication of the elementary program of Grace Montessori School

### **Local Events/Celebrations/Fund Raisers**

[Updated today](#) at our diocesan blog. If you don't see your event here, please send info to [Bill Lewellis](#).

### **Diocesan Calendar of Events**

Here's an updated version of our [diocesan calendar](#).

### **Diocesan Convention, October 13-14**

[Download a recent letter from Archdeacon Howard Stringfellow](#) that covered convention registration, hotel rooms, the banquet at the nearby Masonic Temple, child care, the convention preprint and pre-convention meetings on October 3 at Epiphany Church in Clarks Summit; on Thursday, October 5, at Christ Church in Reading; and on Tuesday, October 10, at St. Anne's Church in Trelxertown..

### **Video: Will you not listen?**

Those working with youth may be interested in this Power Point presentation developed by Jenifer Gamber for her Rite 13 class at the Cathedral Church of the Nativity, to play during their first gathering to establish their room as Holy Ground. Through song and imagery, the youth are invited to remember that God has made them with ears to hear and lips to speak, so listen to what God has to say and tell what you hear. The video ends with an image of a burning bush and instructions to "take off you shoes, you are on Holy Ground." This presentation is particularly suited for the Journey to Adulthood program, but can be used any prayer setting with either youth or adults. Download the presentation at [www.myfaithmylife.org](http://www.myfaithmylife.org). Click on "Tools."

### **Study of the Gospel of Luke at Mediator**

The Rev. Maria Tjeltveit will lead *Good News for All: The Gospel of Luke* on Thursday evenings, 7:30-9:00, in the library, beginning October 5. This 14-week course will be offered in two segments, October 5-November 30 (skipping Thanksgiving) and January 11-February 15. The

Gospel of Luke is a rich gospel, with poetry, parables, emphasizing the role of women and the nature of forgiveness, with good news for all. It is the only gospel that gives us a glimpse of Jesus before he began his public ministry. This study, part of the *Kerygma* series, with experiential learning, requires a workbook for each participant and about an hour of preparation time a week. Cost of the workbook is \$20. Register by phone, 610-434-0155, or email, [mediatorec@verizon.net](mailto:mediatorec@verizon.net).

### ***Speaking of Faith***

Public radio's conversation about religion, meaning, ethics and ideas. See/hear [Conservative Politics and Moderate Religion](#) featuring John Danforth.

### **The Justice of Healing**

"When do we receive healing? Where does healing come from? How is it related to justice? What does a Syrophenician woman have to do with Jesus? What do people in the Middle East have to do with us? We have marked the anniversary of 9/11 for five years. We return again to a time, a place of remembrance. Consciously or unconsciously we revisit a time of horror and tragedy and terrorism. It is hard to enter those waters again. But as I contemplate this anniversary I find I am compelled to take stock in terms of healing. Where has there been healing over the past five years, and where has there been none? Where has there been justice, and where has there been none? Healing and justice, justice and peace." Visit our diocesan blog to download the [sermon given by Canon Anne Kitch](#), September 10, at the Cathedral Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem.

### **Jesus the Rude?**

"Ever have a conversation where no matter what you said and how you said it, you were likely to put your foot in your mouth? Well, here is a conversation ripe for disaster, this conversation between the Gentile woman and Jesus! Taboos and prohibitions abound. ... This was a meeting that could have gone so bad in so many ways. Real conversation is not easy, especially across cultures. But what does Jesus expect? He has come into Gentile territory." Read the [sermon by Andrews Gerns](#), rector of Trinity Church, Easton at Andy's blog.

### **The church in Africa.**

Read a [Christianity Today article](#) referred to us by Connie Fegley.

### **West Point thesis challenges military's gay policy, wins award**

Read the AP story and the thesis [here](#).

### **FaithStreams and Faith&Values Media**

[FaithStreams](#) is a service of [Faith & Values Media](#), a not-for-profit 501c(3) corporation that uses television, the Internet and other media to promote the vitality of religious experience in everyday life and to give expression to religious diversity. Its member association is made up of denominations, organizations and individuals, who represent Christian, Jewish and Muslim groups in the United States. Together, these groups represent more than 200,000 congregations with 120 million congregants.

Faith & Values Media presents its award-winning television programming on the [Hallmark Channel](#) cable network and through streaming video on FaithStreams.com. Faith & Values Media also works through its wholly owned subsidiaries: Lightworks Enterprises, Inc.

### **Sermons preached by teens**

When have you been given a drink when you were thirsty? When have you offered drink to the thirsty? Hear the stories that Kurt Stegelmann shared on Youth Sunday at St. Luke's Parish in

Darien, CT about hospitality in his high school math class and lessons learned at a Navajo reservation. [Read his sermon](#) at Jenifer Gamber's MyFaithMyLife website. What stories are your teens telling? Are they invited to tell what have they seen and heard? Sermons preached by teens is a regular feature at [www.myfaithmylife.org](http://www.myfaithmylife.org). If you have recently heard a good sermon by a teen, encourage them to submit it to [JeniferGamber@myfaithmylife.org](mailto:JeniferGamber@myfaithmylife.org).

### **Family Day, A Day to Eat Dinner With Your Children**

The Recovery Commission is encouraging parishes to participate in the Family Day, sponsored by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University. In cooperation with the Commission, Bishop Paul has proclaimed Monday, September 25, as the diocesan community's *Family Day, A Day to Eat Dinner With Your Children*. This is a national effort to promote parental engagement as a simple, effective way to reduce youth substance abuse risk and to raise healthier children. A child who reaches age 21 without using drugs, smoking cigarettes or abusing alcohol is virtually certain *never* to do so. Research shows that the more often children eat dinner with their families, the less likely they are to smoke, drink, or use illegal drugs. Materials and ideas for this day can be downloaded at [www.CASAFamilyDay.org](http://www.CASAFamilyDay.org). Announcements could be made in a bulletin insert or in e-mail mailings. We encourage parishes to participate in creative ways and to recognize persons who indicate they are going to participate in the program. Please contact John Miller, [mlr1959@aol.com](mailto:mlr1959@aol.com), or Donna Jean Kiessling, [djkiessling@dejazzd.com](mailto:djkiessling@dejazzd.com), members of the Recovery Commission, so we know your parish is joining this national effort. If you wish to publish the Bishop's Family Day proclamation in parish mailings and/or bulletins, you may download it [from our diocesan blog](#).

### **Parish Newsletters**

[September parish newsletters](#) from Allentown (Grace), Athens, Bethlehem (Cathedral and Trinity), Douglassville, Easton, Emmaus, Hellertown, Mt. Pocono, Nazareth, Scranton (Good Shepherd), and Trexlertown are accessible via our diocesan blog.

### **Stories from Episcopal News Service**

Accessible at [www.episcopalchurch.org/ens](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/ens)

### **God'sPolitics blog**

*Sojourners* and *BeliefNet* have partnered to launch a "God'sPolitics" blog from "Jim Wallis and friends." They have assembled writers and commentators on progressive faith and politics such as Brian McLaren, Amy Sullivan, Noel Castellanos, Robert Franklin, Diana Butler Bass, Obery Hendricks, Sister Helen Prejean, Ron Sider, Tony Campolo and others still being added. See [www.Godspolitics.com](http://www.Godspolitics.com).

### **All Saints [Pasadena], IRS on collision course**

Church officials hint they may defy summons. Read the story at [Pasadena Star-News](#).

### **Continuing Ed events at Moravian Seminary**

Visit [www.moravianseminary.edu/conted](http://www.moravianseminary.edu/conted).

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[*newSpin* is intended especially for leaders in our diocesan community... clergy, elected or appointed members of diocesan commissions or committees, wardens, vestry members anyone who has leadership responsibility for a specific ministry in a congregation, e.g., evangelism, communication, social advocacy

and outreach, stewardship, child advocacy, children and youth, financial administration...The goal is for all of us to have easy access to the same information. Any interested parishioner may be added to the list at their request. If your colleagues or interested parishioners are not receiving newSpin, please ask them to send their email address to [blewellis@diobeth.org](mailto:blewellis@diobeth.org). Thanks.]

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Be attentive. Be intelligent. Be reasonable. Be responsible.  
Be in Love. And, if necessary, change. --Bernard Lonergan