

NEWS WITH SPIN

News from Kajo Keji by Randall Fegley

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Mothers' Union provides leadership

Civil war greatly affected Sudanese women. Many are displaced. Poverty, illness and hunger are the rule. The infrastructure is either non-existent or very basic. With tens of thousands of males fighting, dead or missing, women often suffer in isolation. But they have also emerged in important positions.

At the forefront of this leadership is the Mothers' Union, a worldwide Anglican organization with branches in 21 Sudanese dioceses.

Concerned with all aspects of family life, their activities have included clearly spiritual and pastoral activities, such as Tuesday prayer meetings, evangelistic mis-



Grace Tomor, the inspiration behind the Bethlehem Tailors Training Centre.

sions, home fellowships and visits to prisons, hospitals and orphanages. In African versions of the same mutual assistance church people offer everywhere, they grow crops, visit sick and distressed families, and help mothers take care of their families.

In Kajo Keji, and elsewhere, however, the Mothers' Union goes far beyond the

roles women's organizations have in churches in the western world.

It has been a major force in local education and economic development. In Sudan, they have run workshops and seminars on leadership, skills training, conflict resolution, reconciliation and the Millennium Development Goals.

Six years ago, the Mothers' Union started literacy programs in Juba, Khartoum and Renk. Today some 1,800 learners receive instruction in Nuer, Dinka, Bari, Moru, Arabic and English.

Going further, local chapters organized classes on handicrafts and income-generating activities. Kajo Keji's Mothers' Union has helped orphanages in exile in Uganda and at home in Sudan. Through donations and our ECW's craft sales, our diocese has enabled them to overcome deficiencies in funding, education and facilities.

Elsewhere groups are making jewelry, hiring out cups, plates, etc. for weddings and other events, undertaking chicken projects and agricultural schemes.

In 2000, Mrs. Grace Basa Tomor of the Diocese of Kajo Keji spearheaded the creation of a centre to train women in tailoring and knitting.

Since March 2001 the centre has expanded from 20 to 45 trainees, working on two dozen sewing machines. Our diocese has strongly supported this project, first in exile and now in its nearly completed workshop near Gore Senior Secondary School near Kajo Keji town.

Particularly after Bishop Paul and Diana Marshall's 2005 visit, contributions from



Construction on the Bethlehem Tailors Training Centre



The leaders of Kajo Keji's Mothers' Union (left to right): President Joyce Jokudu Lomugun, Susan Sokale Yose, Secretary Rejoice Modong Lokwat and Magret Meling

our diocese purchased more sewing machines and paid for construction. As a result the project has been named the Bethlehem Tailors Training Centre (BTTC).

The women are now planning to hire a tutor, provide lunches for trainees and staff, and build *tukuls* (local conical-roofed dwellings) to accommodate trainees coming from distant villages.

This is one of many projects developed by the women of Kajo Keji. Next month I will feature another. If you are interested

in having a ECW/Mothers' Union craft sale at your church, contact Marlene Hartshorne, mhartshorne@netcarrier.com.

Professor of history and political science at Penn State's Berks Campus and a member of our diocesan World Mission Committee, Dr. Randall Fegley of Christ Church, Reading, recently returned from Africa where he did college research in Rwanda and spent some time in Kajo Keji in southern Sudan. Randall has been a leader in our diocesan initiative with the people of our partnership diocese of Kajo Keji in the Episcopal Church of the Sudan.

God bless Africa: Guide her leaders. Guard her people. Give her peace.

William Shattuck Marshall, III

William Shattuck Marshall, III, son of the Rev. William S. Marshall, Jr., rector of St. Clement and St. Peter's, Wilkes-Barre, died on September 29 after a 15-year battle with Adrenomyeloneuropathy, a genetic disorder that effects the myelin sheath of the central nervous system. He resided in Bay Shore, Long Island, with his wife Kristina. May his soul and the souls of the faithfully departed rest in Peace.

The closing of St. Elizabeth's Church in Schnecksville

[From Bishop Paul] I was informed this morning (Wednesday, Sept 27) that at a recent meeting St. Elizabeth's in Schnecksville decided to end their continuation as a parish. Their priest, Fr. Scott Allen, and the parish have labored mightily and creatively over the last several years in an attempt to transform their parish life and offer a new experience to Schnecksville. That labor remains what it is, an offering and sacrifice to God. This is a time of grieving for them and for Fr. Allen, and those of you who know people connected to St. Elizabeth's may want to communicate your concern to them directly. I have asked Fr. Allen to share his thoughts with you online when there has been sufficient time to deal with the impact of the decision. We all owe the community at St. Elizabeth's our thanks for their efforts in recent years to blaze new trails and their devotion to Christ's mission.

Jubilate

Hymnody for Pentecost 21 (Proper 25-B, Oct. 29) to Epiphany Last (Feb. 18), published by the Diocese of Bethlehem for our diocesan community and for free distribution to the world, is available. Download it from the October archives our diocesan blog.* *Jubilate* is a service of our Liturgy and Music Commission, specifically Canon Cliff Carr who has been doing this for some 20 years. Once distributed in hard copy, *Jubilate* is available only by electronic download.

Grace, Allentown, receives Lilly Grant to support sabbatical

The Lilly Endowment has awarded \$44,555 to Grace Church, Allentown, to enable its rector to take a three-month sabbatical. Father Patrick Malloy will seek to explore his artistic interests in an effort to revitalize his imagination and his spiritual life. He sees this opportunity as a springboard into an ongoing program of practical art study and an evolving leadership role in the development of the Allentown Arts District of which Grace Church is becoming an integral part, especially through its partnership with its neighbor The Baum School of Art." Lilly invites congregations and ministers across the country to apply for a grant up to \$45,000. Congregations must submit the grant request for the benefit of their pastors. The 123 grants conferred this year represent 19 denominations and 37 states plus the District of Columbia. See the news release from the church on the October archives of our diocesan blog.*

News and features accessible from our diocesan blog*

Life is Tasty, our new diocesan youth website.

Mt. Pocono's walk on MySpace, Trinity Church in Mount Pocono, through the efforts of its webmaster Erik Gregory, has launched its own page on MySpace.com. Trinity is the first church in the Diocese of Bethlehem and one of only a handful of churches to do so across the nation.

St. Brigid's boat floats ... halfway

St. Stephen's, Wilkes-Barre, celebrates new ministry

St. Thomas, Morgantown, raises funds for Kajo Keji and local food bank

Diocesan Calendar

Calendar of Local Events

Share the Bread Newsletter

Convention photos and stories

Bishop Paul's address to convention

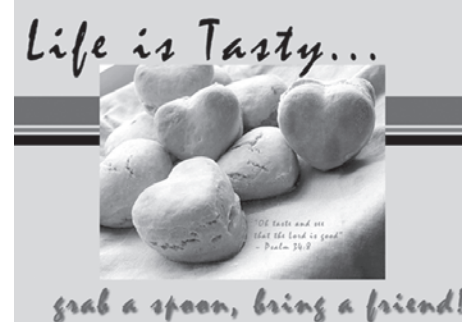
Bishop's Paul's sermon at convention

Diocesan Life

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Bishop's Day
with Youth
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U2 Eucharist**

go to www.lifeistasty.org
for more details, or see the
December *Diocesan Life*

*Our diocesan blog

www.diobeth.typepad.com/diobeth_newspin