

Bishop's Day for Kids By Debra Kissinger

Narnia: The Lion, the Bishop and the Wardrobe

This year's Bishop's Day for Kids will be held on Wednesday, June 27, at the Cathedral Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem, from 10:15 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

New this year is the NARNIA bus. If you live in the northern part of our diocese, climb aboard the bus at Applebee's Restaurant, Viewmont Mall, exit 191 off I-81 in Scranton. The bus will leave at 8:30 a.m. Please sign up for the bus when you send in your registration. The bus will return approximately at 5:00 p.m.

Peter, Susan, Edmund and Lucy visited the land of Narnia and met the White Witch, Mr. Tumnus, the Beavers and Aslan. Now diocesan K through sixth graders are invited to walk through the wardrobe and visit Narnia at The Bishop's Day for Kids.

Shaped after C.S. Lewis' *Chronicles of Narnia* and the Disney movie release with the same name, the Bishop's Day for Kids is a chance for children around our diocese to gather together and learn some things about the Christian life and values.

All Sons of Adam and Daughters of Eve will be issued a passport upon passing through the wardrobe. Throughout the day they will explore such values as trust, loyalty, forgiveness, sacrifice, and more.

Participants will visit the Witch's Castle, the Ford of Beruna, and the Stone Table. Along the way they will play games, get their passports stamped, and learn more about the power of the Deep Magic and Aslan.

A Character Lunch will take place in the Beaver's Den and will feature some of the

most popular characters. Meet Mr. Tumnus and learn the Beaver's call. Will the White Witch hand out Turkish Delight? Be careful she doesn't turn you into a stone statue.

Family and friends are invited to stay for Morning Prayer after registration and to return for the closing Eucharist with Bishop Paul in the Great Hall of Cair Paravel at the end of the day.

Advance registration is required. Registration and medical forms are available at www.diobethkids.org or from your rector or church office. No costumes and no walk-in registrations. Each child who registers by May 31 will receive a T-shirt.

For more information, please call The Rev. Debra Kissinger, missionary to children and child advocate for the Diocese of Bethlehem, at 610-691-5655 x237.

**Bishop's Day
for Kids
The Lion,
the Bishop &
the Wardrobe**

Bus transportation for Kids in the North: Leave promptly at 8:30 from Applebee's Restaurant, Viewmont Mall, exit 191, off I-81 in Scranton. The bus will arrive back at the Viewmont Mall approximately 5:00. Sign up for the bus when you send in your registration. Both registration and medical forms are available from your rector or at DioBethKids.org.

**Register by May 31 to receive
your free Narnia T-Shirt**

Regional Evangelism Workshops By Andrew Gerns

The Evangelism Committee presents the second round of Regional Evangelism Workshops.

April 21 St. Gabriel's, Douglassville

April 28 Trinity, Pottsville

April 28 Trinity, Mt. Pocono

May 5 Grace, Kingston

May 5 Christ Church, Towanda

May 5 St. Stephen's, Whitehall

May 12 Montrose, St. Paul's

May 12 St. John's Hamlin

May 12 Holy Apostles, St. Clair

The Diocesan Convention of 2005 mandated that each parish identify at least two lay people to serve as evangelists for their parishes. During 2006, we held eight workshops around the diocese. About 90 people from 33 parishes took part. Our goal is to have representation from every parish and to bring useful evangelism training as close to each parish as possible.

Last year, every participating parish was asked to do at least two evangelism projects by Easter 2007, as simple as a renewed telephone message or as ambitious as a mass mailing program. The workshops are designed to be useful to every congregation whatever their size and circumstance.

Once again, we are asking each parish to send at least two lay people to serve as evangelists for their congregation, and we are asking those who took part in last year's workshop to come to this year's workshop and share their experience. People from parishes that are new to this process will be inspired by how much can be done to evangelize their communities and welcome newcomers and how small changes can make big differences.

Our 2007 training is based on Elizabeth Geitz' book, *Fireweed Evangelism*. Copies may be purchased (10% discount) from the Trinity Store at Trinity Episcopal Church, parish@trinityeaston.org.

Members of the Evangelism Commission will be the trainers for each session. Each workshop is on a Saturday and starts at 10 a.m. – lunch provided and noonday prayers included – and ends at 2 p.m.

Please contact Barbara Lewis at Diocesan House, barblewis@diobeth.org or 800-358-5655 x221, to sign up for the training. For more information, contact the Rev. Andrew Gerns, evangelism@trinityeaston.org, chair of the Evangelism Commission.

The Bishop is Coming!

This *Practical Guide for Bishops and Congregations* by Bishop Paul is the first new ceremonial guide for bishops in more than 25 years and the first book of its kind aimed at helping congregations prepare for a bishop's visit.

"This short book has a dual purpose and is aimed at two audiences," according to Church Publishing. "Through practical instruction and guidance, it equips bishops to minister effectively as the chief pastor in the diocese, while helping clergy and congregations reduce the eternal anxiety around the words, *The bishop is coming*."

"Realizing that ceremonial custom varies among dioceses and congregations, the author lays out some normative principles that should be followed in all liturgies at which the bishop presides or is present. His clear, engaging, and often humorous style will put the reader at ease when dealing with ceremonial material."

Contents: Preface; 1. Bearings: Each Congregation's "Usual Thing;" 2. Brief Survival Guides for the Bishop; 3. The Parish Visitation, with a note on Eucharists at which the bishop does not preside; 4. The Cathedral Ordination of Presbyters with the Reception of the Orders of one Previously Ordained. A brief note on the Ordination of Deacons; 5. Vows and Oils: Redefining the "Chrism Mass," with a note on Restoration to the Ministry; 6. Solemn Evensong; 7. Passages: Institutions, Weddings, and Funerals; 8. Through the Liturgical Year; 9. Sample Customaries and Documents; Select Bibliography. (6x9 Paperback, 128 pp, \$12.00)

Visit www.churchpublishing.org and search for "Marshall." Bishop Paul is the author of several CPI titles, including *Prayer Book Parallels*; *One Catholic and Apostolic: Samuel Seabury and the Early Episcopal Church*; and *Same-Sex Unions: Stories and Rites*.



My dear brother and bishop-elect Anthony Poggo

Grace to you and peace from God the Father in Jesus Christ! It is my privilege to write to you on behalf of the clergy and people of the Diocese of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, which I serve as bishop.

We all rejoice at your election as Bishop of Kajo-Keji and give thanks that God is providing our sisters and brothers with a strong and loving leader. We believe that God will work mightily through you to equip the saints for every good work.

All of us who have visited in Kajo-Keji have been deeply moved by the faith and determination of our sisters and brothers there. Some, and I think at this moment particularly of Mr. Jack Moulton and Dr. Randall Fegley, have years of experience that have helped the rest of us learn how we may effectively work with God's people in Sudan.

As you may know, we have advocated for you with our own government, and

will do all that we can to support and strengthen a just peace for the Sudanese people.

My wife, Diana, and I have wonderful memories of our visit in 2005 and look forward to a time when we may once again be with you and have the opportunity to meet your family.

It would be a great blessing to me if you and I were able to build a direct relationship so that we may effectively lead our people in joint ministry. I am wondering if there is a convenient way that we may soon speak by telephone so that I may offer greetings to you.

Otherwise, I would welcome as much opportunity as we may have to correspond electronically. At a mutually agreeable time, I would hope that we could meet in private to pray and discuss how we may best work together.

I know from my own experience that

many items, large and small, press upon a newly elected bishop as the consecration approaches. It is an exciting but also strenuous time, and I pray that God's Holy Spirit will bless and strengthen you through it all.

With your permission, I will add your email address to our listserver here so that you will be kept aware of what is happening in our life in Pennsylvania.

Please know that all of our churches will be praying for you by name from this Sunday onward, and that I will remember you each day in my own prayers. I very much look forward to our working together.

Faithfully yours,

Paul Marshall
Bishop, Diocese of Bethlehem

Born 1964 in Kajo-Keji, The Rev. Anthony Dangasuk Poggo is married to Jane Basa Namurye. They have three children: Grace, Faith and Joy. Ordained a priest,



1996, he has worked with ACROSS, a Christian aid and relief organization in Sudan, Kenya and Uganda, in several capacities, including coordinator, communication and publishing director, and, most recently, executive director. He has ministered since that time also as attached clergy to St. Luke's in Kenyatta (part of All Saints Cathedral in Nairobi, Kenya). He has a bachelor's degree in public administration and management, a master's degree in biblical studies, and an MBA. He is fluent in spoken and written English and Bari, fair in spoken Arabic and Kishwahili, and has a working knowledge of biblical Hebrew and Greek.

Planned Giving By Maureen Hipple

Why should I give to the church, especially after I'm dead?

Why should I give to the church, especially after I'm dead? Have you heard or asked that question? At Christ Church in Towanda we have come up with two reasons to become members of the Saint Matthew Society.

First, we are not really giving to "the church." We are giving to God from our love and devotion; we are giving so that Jesus' ministry will be continued.

Secondly, if we do not give, there might not be a building wherein to continue our worship in the future. If others before us had not given, there may not be a church standing now.

Praise God for our forefathers and foremothers. We have been given many blessings from them including our lives, faith, parish family and, yes, even our church

building, as well as the freedom to worship as we choose.

As a parish and vestry, we decided some ten years ago, slowly but surely, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to refurbish our building from top to bottom. We did this because we felt a responsibility both to past and future generations. Everyone in the parish has helped in this effort. We pulled together with God's help and supported each other emotionally, physically, spiritually and monetarily. Most importantly, we prayed and prayed and prayed and then we prayed a little more. God was gracious.

As we worked on our church building the planned gifts/bequests came rolling in. At times, the gifts came after we had decided to go ahead with "the project."

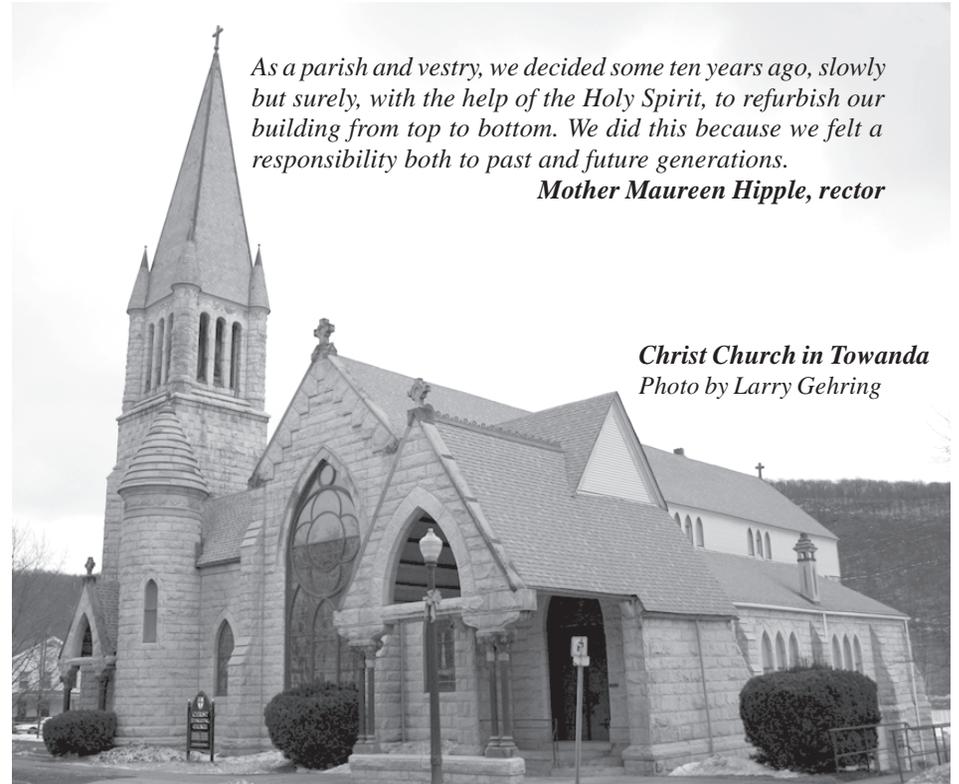
Proceeding without finances was daunting but we kept putting one foot in front of another ... always with prayer, working together and allowing God to lead the way.

While I was writing this article, we received another gift. Thank You Jesus. In the past ten years we have roofed, chemically cleaned and pointed the building, repaired the flashing and the belfry, painted and renovated the interior, and restored our largest stained-glass window, the prettiest in the diocese. Should I say I have a bias on this matter? But it's true [she said, with a smile].

Our window was donated in loving memory of Ulysses Mercur, a former Chief Justice of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The window was made in England by Cox and Sons and was shipped to the church when construction was completed in 1889.

We have accomplished many more repairs during the past several years. Praise God. Our church was in seriously hazardous condition but with God's help and the generosity of many parishioners, past and present, the building is now in good repair.

In fact, after some projects had been started/accomplished, several parishioners began to give towards many others. One



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Mother Maureen Hipple, rector

*Christ Church in Towanda
Photo by Larry Gehring*



*Photo by
Larry Gehring*

*The Mercur Window, Christ Church, Towanda
[See it in full color at the newSpin blog.]*

benefactor remarked, "Do I have to wait until I die to give some money to our church?"

Christ Church in Towanda is blessed by God and her generous and faithful parishioners.

We could never have done all of these repairs without God's help or the planned gifts. Some of the gifts have been in excess of \$100,000. The first was given by Frances Hall. We have received gifts of all sizes: large, medium and small. Each gift, no matter the amount, is valued and cherished.

From all of the gifts given, we have been enabled to continue in worshipping God, sharing Jesus' word, and caring for others through our outreach in his name. This is what we, as Christians, are to be about and we are blessed because of this. You will be blessed in many ways too and so will your parish when your members join the St. Matthew Society and give a planned gift.

The Rev. Maureen Hipple is rector of Christ Church, Towanda, and a member of the St. Matthew Society, the planned giving ministry of the Diocese of Bethlehem.

Bishop's Appreciation Reception

Bishop Paul will greet members of the St. Matthew Society as they gather on Sunday, May 20, for a special reception to honor and celebrate their generosity to the Church. This year's celebration event will be held at the Lehigh Country Club (2:00 to 5:00 p.m.), and will feature food, drink and special music.

The St. Matthew Society was founded in 2001 to recognize and thank all those who have planned a gift to their parishes in the Diocese of Bethlehem.

The Bishop sincerely hopes that all current St. Matthew Society members will plan to join him and one another at this special gathering.

For information about enrolling in the St. Matthew Society, and/or to learn more about the stewardship of planned giving, please contact Char Horst, missioner for development, at chorst@diobeth.org or 610-683-8625.

Stewardship By Dan Charney

Attend any or all of three stewardship events to learn how to grow a healthy church

Just as the heart rate, body temperature, and respiration are vital signs of the health of an individual, the church too has vital signs that help describe its health: average Sunday attendance and average annual giving. Ideally, the health of a parish is good when the average Sunday attendance and average annual giving are increasing each year.

Evangelism and stewardship can be equated to these terms; together they are a measure of the congregation's spiritual growth.

What can be done to improve or maintain the health of a church? The diocesan stewardship commission has planned three exciting events to help congregations design action plans to address these critical issues.

The first of these is the Stewardship/Evangelism workshop, May 19 at Trinity Church, West Pittston. Tom Gossen, Executive Director of The Episcopal Network for Stewardship will provide a day

full of highly practical and effective techniques to improve your year-round Stewardship and Evangelism. Churches obtain optimum workshop benefit by sending a team composed of stewardship and evangelism people and vestry members.

The second event is an overnight retreat on June 15/16 for clergy and partners at Kirkridge Conference Center in Bangor. The Rev. Kirk Alan Kubicek, rector of Saint Peter's Episcopal Church, Ellicott City, MD, will keynote this event, reflecting on how our personal attitudes and behaviors about money, stewardship of self (self-care), and daily prayer and study can influence the attitudes and behaviors of the parishioners we tend and teach. Time will be provided for fellowship, study, reflection, quiet, and conversation. Details and registration forms have been sent to all clergy.

Our third event for this season is the

Annual Kirby-Smith Workshop on Stewardship, *How to Make It Work in Your Church*. This event will feature a cast of national leaders on Stewardship, including The Rev. Dr. Gary Nicolosi, one of the founding fathers of the Diocese of Bethlehem's earliest Stewardship Education Program. This will take place on June 18/19 at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center in Hershey, PA.

The fee for this conference is \$385 per person when registered before April 30. Included in the cost are the conference fee, materials, breakfast, lunch, and lodging. Our diocesan stewardship commission is offering a scholarship of \$100 for any person attending this conference.

For details on these events, visit our diocesan website, DioBeth.org (click on ministries, then stewardship commission) or contact Dan Charney, stewardship missioner for our diocese, DanCharney@aol.com, 610-837-4613.

Canon Lexa Shallcross

Canon Lexa Shallcross, rector of St. Margaret's, Emmaus, is one of three nominees for bishop of the Diocese of North-western PA. The electing convention will take place on May 19.

PA State Pastors' Conference

November 12-14, at the Hilton Harrisburg. *Being Christian in a Hi-Tech Culture*. Canon Lexa Shallcross, canonlexa@enter.net, is on the planning committee. More information at the website of the PA Council of Churches, www.pachurches.org. Click on "Events" in the left column.

A Brush with God Icon Painting Retreat

Christians from the East, for centuries, have prayed with brushes and colors as they created icons. Father Peter Pearson, master iconographer, teacher, and author (a canonically resident priest of our diocese and rector in New Hope) will lead an icon workshop for beginners at the Fatima Center in Dalton from May 20-25. Each participant will create an icon as they follow the step by step process of prayer and painting. The experience is open to experienced artists as well as those who have no experience. All that is required is the willingness to try. The cost of the retreat is \$500 which covers room, board, supplies and instruction. For further information, call Father Pearson, 412-848-2642.

The newSpin blog: www.diobeth.typepad.com/diobeth_newspin