

070511 newSpin
News with some Spin
Edited by Bill Lewellis

*The *newSpin* Blog: www.diobeth.typepad.com/diobeth_newspin

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Images for your use

Four Episcopal artists, commissioned by the Episcopal Church's Office of Communication's web department, have each created a set of 12 Christian symbols that have been placed on the church's website for use at no charge for non-commercial purposes. The symbols lend themselves readily to use on banners, posters, bulletin covers, postcard mailers, newsletters, study guides, Christian education curriculum materials, parish-produced devotionals, and church websites. The graphics are available [here](#) in both medium and high resolutions. The story is available [here](#).

People who show up

"The world is run by the people who show up, and the body of Christ is, as skeptical St. Thomas learned a week late, experienced by those who show up." [Bishop Paul recently sent this to our clergy. We share it [here](#).]

Tradition and History

"It's not that tradition is better than history, but instead it's somehow *more* than history. History engages our senses and intellect, while tradition enlivens them dynamically." [Read it all at the weekly letter/essay at [AnglicansOnline](#) for May 6]

Nothin' like a Dame

The author of the *Out of Nowhere* blog allows that Rodgers and Hammerstein didn't have Dame Julian of Norwich in mind when they wrote "There is nothin' like a dame," but references Terry Holmes' *What Is Anglicanism* to suggest she is "a prime example of what Holmes calls an Anglican consciousness. She had a demonstrated capacity to embrace and accept what our senses tell us even when that does not fit into neat categories." He cites also the ability of the Dame we commemorated on Tuesday, May 8, "to find the extraordinary in the ordinary, a way of seeing beyond the common sense reductions of the cynic who can only see the outer appearance." Read it all at [Dames](#) and at [More Julian](#).

When the Morning Call calls ...

A sermon by Pat Malloy, Easter 5C

Whenever the Morning Call contacts me, I know two things: We are about to get some good PR, and no matter what the article is about, it will refer to me as "the openly gay Father Patrick Malloy." Clearly, I don't hide the fact that I'm gay, so I'm not afraid of being "outed." What I am afraid of is that I will come to be seen as a one dimensional man, and people will think that my life is a continuous small-town episode of "Will and Grace." And so I hesitate to speak about the so-called gay issue except when I'm asked, and I certainly hesitate to speak of it from this pulpit. Those of you who have been here as long as I have know that in five years there have been not even a handful of Sundays when this was a focus of my preaching. [Read the rest of *Love Trumps Law: Homosexuality and the Bible* [here](#). Click on "sermons" in the left frame.]

Citizen McGinty

On May 9, Father Bill McGinty, rector of Good Shepherd and St. John's, Milford, was sworn in

as an American Citizen. "Maryann traveled with me [to Philadelphia]" he said. "She is delighted, but still had to add, 'There goes the neighborhood!'" Congratulations, Bill.

There's a Virginia Tech tragedy in Iraq every day

The same Monday that tragedy struck Virginia Tech, there were 50 reported deaths in Iraq. Among them were two university professors shot dead in Mosul, a university student shot dead in Baghdad, and a 17-year-old son of a policeman. This according to Iraqbodycount.org, which gets its numbers from "a comprehensive survey of online media reports from recognized sources." To state it crudely, there is a Virginia Tech tragedy in Iraq each and every day. Every day Iraqi families mourn the senseless waste of young lives and the slaughter of teachers, shopkeepers and police officers. Each day is the last day an Iraqi father will see his children, and a child her parents. And we cannot forget that coalition soldiers -- Americans, Britains, Poles, Italians and many other nationalities -- are among those dead. [From a column in the National Catholic Reporter, May 4, by staffer Dennis Coday]

Mother's Day Bulletin Insert

"Episcopal Life This Week" [bulletin inserts for parish leaflets and newsletters](#) are offered in full color and black/white formats on either a full 8.5" by 11" sheet or half of an 8.5" by 11" sheet double-sided. The most recent insert is one on Mother's Day, how it started as Mother's Peace Day in 1870 when activist Julia Ward Howe – underscoring the pain and suffering caused by the Civil War – urged women to come together in solidarity against warfare in all forms. President Woodrow Wilson's official 1912 declaration of Mother's Day dropped the word "Peace," ironically two years before the outbreak of World War I.

The Top 25 Web Hoaxes and Pranks

[These online spoofs and shams](#) have made the rounds on web sites and through e-mail. You may have believed one of them yourself.

St. Anne's, Trexlertown, seeks Administrative Assistant

The administrative assistant provides administrative support to the rector, priest associate, vestry, and parish team leaders. The position is approximately 30 hours a week, five 6-hour days, Monday through Friday. For an application form and full description of the position, salary, and benefits please contact the parish office at 610-398-3321 or email: administrator@stanneseiscopal.net.

Episcopal Migration Ministries

Seeks Communications Program Specialist

Find [here](#) a job announcement for the position of Communications Program Specialist at Episcopal Migration Ministries.

Action Alerts from the PA Council of Churches

The Council's [Action Alert center](#) provides for opportunities to take action on specific bills and issues of interest to the Council and the wider faith community both in Harrisburg and in Washington. Click on the issue of interest for brief background information, specific actions requested with appropriate contact information and suggested messages for legislators and other decision makers, theological and organizational rationale for action, and additional resources. For example, under "Economic Justice," click on "Support an increase in the Minimum Wage." To learn more about the Council's advocacy method and how you can be more effective in your personal advocacy efforts, see [Tips for Contacting Your Legislators and Decision Makers](#). For information on how to contact your legislators, see Advocacy Resources-[Contacting Your Public](#)

[Officials.](#)

Jubilate

Hymnody for Pentecost 2007 (May 27 to November 25), published by the Diocese of Bethlehem for our diocesan community and for free distribution to the world, [may be downloaded here](#) as an Acrobat or MSWord file. *Jubilate* is a service of our Liturgy and Music Commission, specifically Canon Cliff Carr who has been doing this for more than 20 years.

Are these dates on your calendar?

May 11: The Baltimore Consort at Trinity, Bethlehem. **May 12:** Dinner Dance and Auction at the Cathedral. **May 15:** Clergy Day. **May 17-19:** Benedictine Spirituality Retreat at Mary Immaculate Center. **May 19:** Stewardship / Evangelism Workshop in West Pittston. **May 20:** Bishop's Appreciation Reception at the Lehigh Country Club. **June 2:** Memorial Service for Margaret Merrell in Susquehanna. **June 2:** Safeguarding God's Children in Reading. **June 10:** Clergy/Spouse Dinner in Scranton. **June 15-16:** Ministry of Money Retreat at Kirkridge for clergy couples. **June 16:** St. Brigid's Golf Outing. **June 27:** Bishop's Day with Children at the Cathedral. **Sept. 15:** Bishop's School begins. *Information on most of these events has been posted below.*

May 11

Musicke's Silver Sound, Friday, May 11, 7:30 pm

Four members of the [Baltimore Consort](#) (Mary Anne Ballard, viola da gamba, Mindy Rosenfeld, flutes, Ronn McFarlane, lutes, and Danielle Svonavec, soprano) will perform Bach's Flute Sonata in C major, Irish and Scottish tunes, songs from the age of Shakespeare, Baroque arias, and more at Trinity, Bethlehem, 44 E. Market St. Free admission. Everyone welcome. (The Baltimore Consort is the same group that will perform – all members – at the Bach Festival, both Saturday mornings.) The musicians will stay around following the concert for an informal reception. Included will be some foods made with Renaissance recipes, and an opportunity to purchase the Consort's CDs.

May 12

Dinner Dance & Auction

To support Cathedral Choir Tour to Dublin, \$25. Saturday, May 12, Sayre Hall, Cathedral Church of the Nativity. Live Band, Treasure Chest, Gift Bags. Dining & Silent Auction - 6:30 pm. Live Auction - 8:00 pm. Dancing and Desserts - 8:30 pm. Call 610-865-0727.

May 17-19

Benedictine Spirituality Retreat

Mary Immaculate Center, Northampton. Sponsored by Trinity Bethlehem and Trinity Mt. Pocono. [More info here.](#)

May 19

Stewardship/Evangelism Workshop

[Download the brochure](#) for the Stewardship/Evangelism workshop to be held Saturday, May 19, at Trinity, West Pittston. **Deadline to register is May 15.** Get your team of stewardship and evangelism people together as soon as possible. Cost is \$15 per attendee, maximum per parish \$50.00 for four or more. Make checks payable to Diocese of Bethlehem—
Stewardship/Evangelism Workshop. Send to Diocesan House. Direct questions to [Dan Charney](#).

May 20

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. 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. This year's celebration event will be held at the Lehigh Country Club, and will feature food, drink and special music. The Bishop sincerely hopes that all current St. Matthew Society members will plan to join him and each other 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.

June 2

The Rev. Margaret Merrell

A Memorial Service for the Rev. Margaret Merrell, a priest of the Diocese of Bethlehem who died on April 16, will be held on Saturday, June 2, beginning at 11:00 a.m. at Christ Church, Susquehanna. Margaret served as rector of Susquehanna Country Ministry (Christ Church, Susquehanna and St. Mark's, New Milford) from 1979 to the mid '90s. She was the first woman to serve as a rector in the Diocese of Bethlehem. [Read more here.](#)

June 2

Safeguarding God's Children

An Educational Program for Preventing Child Abuse

Training Dates (9:30 a.m.—3:30 p.m.) **June 2**, Christ Church, Reading (Register by 5-25). **November 3**, – 2 locations -- Cathedral, Bethlehem and St. Stephen's, Wilkes-Barre (Register by 10-23). Visit www.diobethkids.org for more information.

June 16

St. Brigid's Golf Outing

Cherry Valley Golf Course, Stroudsburg. Download info [here](#).

June 27

Bishop's Day with Children

Register today for the Bishop's Day with Children, *Narnia – The Lion, the Bishop and the Wardrobe* to be held Wednesday, June 27 at the Cathedral, Bethlehem. Open to kids, kindergarten to grade six. Register by May 31 to get a free Narnia T-Shirt. Bus to event available in Scranton. Forms and more info available at www.diobethkids.org. And read Bishop Paul's note about [people who show up](#).

Prom and Graduation: Tips for Parents

As we approach prom and graduation season, the specter of alcohol-related crashes and deaths looms over our families. Find tips for parents facing this high-risk season on the Recovery Page of our diocesan website.

Back issues

Find recent back editions of this *newSpin* newsletter: [070507](#), [070503](#), [070425](#), [070416](#), [070328](#), [070324](#), [070318](#)

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Published four to eight times monthly, the newSpin newsletter is intended especially for 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. Any interested parishioner may be added to the list. Send your email address to blewellis@diobeth.org. Thanks.]

Bill Lewellis, Communication Minister/Editor (1986), Canon Theologian (1998)
Diocese of Bethlehem, 333 Wyandotte St., Bethlehem, PA 18015 www.diobeth.org
(Cell) 610-216-2726 (W)610-691-5655 x229 (H)610-820-7673 blewellis@diobeth.org
Be attentive. Be intelligent. Be reasonable. Be responsible.
Be in Love. And, if necessary, change. --Bernard Lonergan