

071117 newSpin

News with some Spin

Edited by Bill Lewellis

The *newSpin newsletter*, published three to six times monthly, is intended especially for clergy, members of diocesan commissions or committees, wardens, vestry members, anyone who has leadership responsibility for ministry in a congregation. Any interested parishioner may be added to the list. Send your email address to Bill Lewellis. The newsletter may be found also on the *newSpin blog*. **Bookmark the [newSpin blog](#) on your browser.**

The Celebration of New Ministry

of the Cathedral Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem, with their new dean and rector, The Very Rev. Tony Pompa, will take place on Sunday, November 18, 5:00 p.m., at the Cathedral.

Mission trip to Kajo Keji

Since 2000, eleven missionaries from the Diocese of Bethlehem have visited our brothers and sisters of the southern Sudan Diocese of Kajo Keji. Some have made the journey several times. Another trip is being planned for January.

Jo Trepagnier, Father Earl Trygar and Char Horst intend to make this journey. Trepagnier, a member of the Cathedral Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem, visited Kajo Keji last year. Trygar is rector of St. Mark's Church, Moscow. Horst is development director for the Diocese of Bethlehem.

"The team has a limited brief," Bishop Paul wrote recently to Bishop Anthony Poggo of Kajo Keji. "Their main purpose takes its cue from our Lord's Incarnation: their goal is to be with as many people as possible to let them know that their sisters and brothers in Bethlehem know about them, care about them, and want to know their story. This was the great teaching we had from Bishop Manasseh about the importance of letting people know that they are noticed.

"There are some (comparatively) minor tasks they will address along the way. They are, if possible, interested in learning what kind of hands-on ministry people from the US may profitably do on the ground in Kajo-Keji, short- and long-term. Of particular interest is what youth may do on short-term visits. You had mentioned the possibility of high school and college-age students who have the requisite skills to help with computer use. The team will be eager to know what else can be done by young people with other skill sets."

This will be the sixth mission trip made by representatives of the Diocese of Bethlehem to our sisters and brothers in Kajo Keji. Others were in 2000, 2002, 2005, and two in 2007.

New Hope reaches 75% of goal

[By Charlie Barebo] Our Diocesan Convention marked the coming of age of the *New Hope* Campaign and our relationship with our companion Diocese of Kajo Keji. To date we have received approximately \$2,700,000 in pledges, 75% of our goal. And pledges have come in from only 6.5% of the families in our Diocese. {Read it all [here](#).}

New Hope Youth Announcement

Much of the money raised in the *New Hope* campaign will fund primary schools in Kajo Keji. The youth of our diocese have decided to aid our fellow youth in the Sudan. We plan to raise \$7,000 by June of 2008. All of the money we raise will fund educational programs and schools that directly benefit the youth of Sudan. To meet this goal, many of us will have to make personal sacrifices, and we ask that each youth in our diocese strives toward a \$50 donation. Half of our goal will come from donations, and the remaining part will come from funds raised at Christophany, a youth retreat for 6-12 graders in the

spring. Our small sacrifice will have a large impact on the lives of our fellow youth in the Sudan. Youth may pledge by talking to the New Hope youth representative at your parish or by sending a check or money order, made payable to "The Diocese of Bethlehem", with a notation of "New Hope Youth", to: Diocesan House, Attn: New Hope Youth, 333 Wyandotte St., Bethlehem, PA 18015

Mama Christina

Bishop Anthony of Kajo Keji informed Bishop Paul yesterday that Mama Christina, the wife of Bishop Manasseh, retired Bishop of Kajo Keji, died in Kajo-Keji Hospital. Please pray for lease for Bishop Manasseh, the family and the people of Kajo-Keji at this time of loss.

Jubilate

Hymnody for First Advent 2007 to Last Epiphany 2008 (Dec. 2 to Feb. 3), published by the Diocese of Bethlehem for our diocesan community and for free distribution to the world, may be [downloaded here](#) as an pdf or word file. *Jubilate* is a service of our Liturgy and Music Commission, specifically Canon Cliff Carr who has been doing this for 30 years.

Author Author

These are a few of our friends in the Diocese of Bethlehem whose books have appeared in print. I suspect many of them would welcome invitations to speak about their books or their experiences.

Scott Bader-Saye: [Following Jesus in a Culture of Fear](#); [The Politics of Election](#).

Dennis Berk: [Zambian Journal: Cross-Cultural Encounters with Christ](#)

Jan Cheripko: [Brother Bartholomew and the Apple Grove](#); [Rat](#); [Imitate the Tiger](#); [Sun Moon Stars Rain](#); [Get Ready to Play Tee Ball](#); [Caesar Rodney's Ride: The Story of an American Patriot](#); [Voices of the River: Adventures on the Delaware](#).

Randall Fegley: [The Golden Spurs of Kortrijk: How the Knights of France Fell to the Footsoldiers of Flanders in 1302](#); [Congo](#); [Rwanda](#); [Coming to Terms with the Muslim World](#); [Eritrea](#).

Jenifer Gamber: (Visit her [website](#)) [My Faith, My Life: A Teen's Guide to the Episcopal Church](#)

Anne Kitch: [What We Do in Lent](#); [Taking the Plunge](#); [What We Do in Advent An Anglican Kids' Activity Book](#); [What We Do in Church: An Anglican Child's Activity Book](#); [Bless this Day](#); [Anglican Family Prayer Book](#).

Patrick Malloy: [Celebrating the Eucharist](#)

Bishop Paul Marshall: [The Bishop is Coming](#); [One, Catholic and Apostolic: Samuel Seabury and the Early Episcopal Church](#); [How Do We Read the Bible Today? \(Video\)](#); [Same-Sex Unions](#); [Leaps and Boundaries: The Prayer Book in the 21st Century](#); [Preaching for the Church Today](#), [The Voice of a Stranger: On the Lay Origins of Anglican Liturgics](#); [Anglican Liturgy in America: Prayer Book Parallels](#).

Ron and Char Molrine: [Encountering Christ: An Intergenerational Faith Experience](#)

Peter Pearson: [Brush With God](#)

Charles Pinches: [A Gathering of Memories: Family, Nation and Church in a Forgetful World](#); [Theology and Action: After Theory in Christian Ethics](#); [Christians Among the Virtues: Theological Conversations with Ancient and Modern Ethics](#) (written with Stanley Hauerwas)

Linda Rogers: [Munchie Math](#); [Semiotics and Disability: Interrogating Categories of Difference](#); [Geographic Literacy Through Children's Literature](#).

William V. Rowe: [From Ghetto to Emancipation: Historical and contemporary reconsideration of the Jewish community](#).

Philip Secor: [Richard Hooker Prophet of Anglicanism](#); [The Wisdom of Richard Hooker](#); [Richard Hooker and the Via Media](#); [Richard Hooker on Anglican Faith and Worship](#).

Suzanne Fisher Staples: (Suzanne Harley, visit her [website](#)) [The House of Djinn](#); [Under the Persimmon Tree](#); [The Green Dog](#); [Shiva's Fire](#); [Dangerous Skies](#); [Daughter of the Wind](#); [Haveli](#); and [Shabanu, Daughter of the Wind](#).

Gene Witiak: [True Confessions of a Veterinarian: An Unconditional Love Story](#)

Whom have I missed? Please [email me](#) with a few clues.

Diocesan Life.December

Download it [here](#). Find the Calendar and the Cycles of Prayer on page A7.

What We Do in Lent: A Child's Activity Book

Canon Anne Kitch's latest book: *What We Do in Lent*. It's a child's activity book, designed and illustrated by Dorothy Thompson Perez. More info [here](#). Anne is canon for Christian education at our Cathedral. She is the author of many books for children and their families. See above, at "Author Author."

My Faith, My Life

This is a [website](#) created by Jenifer Gamber, a member of the Cathedral Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem. It includes resources for parents, mentors and youth leaders who serve as guides along the journey. Teenagers enrolled in or adults leading confirmation classes in the Episcopal Church will find many resources. The website is a companion to Jenifer's book, [My Faith, My Life: A Teen's Guide to the Episcopal Church](#), available from [Morehouse Publishing](#). Jenifer is available to sign books and give workshops on a variety of topics for both youth and adults who mentor youth. [Email her](#) if you are interested.

Telling stories of God

Image journal (Fall) asked writers, artists and musicians, "Why believe in God?" Respondents avoided rational arguments. Most told stories.

Meet Barbara Crafton

On December 9 at [Stone Soup Studios](#), 301 Broadway, Bethlehem, from noon until 4:00, you will be able to **meet** Barbara Crafton at a special signing of her new book, *Mary and Her Miracle: The Christmas Story Retold*. Barbara's book tells Mary's story of the Christmas journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem with gentle humor, lively imagination and a sense of wonder. Each chapter is beautifully illustrated by acclaimed portrait artist Dianne Robbins. *Stone Soup* is operated by "two seasoned artisans and one creative business lady," all women of the cathedral.

Winter Craft Show at St. Stephen's, Whitehall

The 24th annual winter craft show at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Whitehall, PA, will take place on Friday, November 30, from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday, December 1 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sixty-one crafters, including ten new exhibitors, will present their handicrafts.

Crafts for sale include Pysanky (Ukrainian eggs), hand painted items, stained glass, jewelry, writing pens of exotic woods, and soaps and lotions from goat's milk. There will be a wide selection of home baked cookies (Christmas and otherwise), Pack #39 Cub Scouts popcorn and baked goods, and Junior Youth Group homemade candies.

Delicious hot food will be offered, including turkey and pork barbeque, turkey potpie, vegetable soup, hot Pierogies, French fries, halushkie, hot dogs and hamburgers. Take home frozen Pierogies by the dozen will be available.

Santa will make a special appearance on Friday night from 5-6 p.m. and on Saturday from noon to 1 p.m. A raffle for a hand made queen size "Herringbone" quilt and a raffle of craft articles will take place.

St. Stephen's is located on Mechanicsville Road near MacArthur road, next to Whitehall Senior High School. Parking is free and there is no admission charge.

Bishop's Day with Youth in NYC

In New York City. January 25-26, 2008. For 6-12 graders. An overnight of fun, discovery and worship at *Nightwatch*, a program of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine which includes singing, games, exploration of the beautifully restored historic cathedral, time with Bishop Paul, a chance to be with other diocesan youth and to meet youth from other places and different denominations, and a candlelight meditation and midnight Eucharist. And on Saturday, lunch in Times Square at the Hard Rock Café. More info [here](#).

Women's Retreat

Women from the Diocese of Bethlehem are invited to join with the women of Nativity, Bethlehem, "as we celebrate others, celebrate ourselves and celebrate God" in a Women's Retreat, Feb. 29 to March 2, at Hillside Inn Resort & Conference Center, East Stroudsburg. The guest for the weekend will be Elsa Bakkum, M.Div., an EfM mentor trainer, professional organist, and creative retreat leader from Yorktown, VA. Registration for the weekend is \$190. This includes program, lodging, all meals, linens, activities and full use of the facilities. To receive a registration form, [email](mailto:Janet.Kolepp@dioceseofbethlehem.org) Janet Kolepp (484-241-1252). Registration deadline is December 1.

Advent Quiet Day

Saturday, Dec. 1, 9:00 to 3:00, at Trinity Church, Bethlehem (44 East Market Street, 18018). Leader: Canon Gwendolyn-Jane Romeril. Theme is *Mary: Surrender, Wait, Act*. Sponsored by the Daughters of the King. Bring your own box lunch, a bible and journal. Teach and coffee provided. To register, send name, phone and parish to Trinity, Bethlehem. Make check for \$5.00, payable to "Trinity Church." Write "DOK" on the memo line.

Two Advent calendars online

Trinity Wall Street puts a multimedia spin on an old-fashioned tradition with the launch of its online Advent Calendar, *Getting Ready: An Advent Calendar of Hope*. Beginning December 2, visit [here](#) to explore the essential Advent themes of hope, peace, love, and joy via a virtual calendar that each day reveals a message of inspiration, a call to action, and links to related resources. Using the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as the backbone of the calendar, many of the "doors" will open to reveal opportunities for sustaining the environment, supporting relief organizations, and volunteering individual talents.

The fourth annual online Advent calendar of the **Diocese of Washington** will be available on December 1. Look for it [here](#). Beneath each "window" in the calendar, visitors will find a photograph of one of the figures from the annual crèche exhibit at Washington National Cathedral and links to a daily meditation, a daily carol (courtesy of the [choir](#) of Trinity Church Wall Street) and a giving opportunity (many of them culled from Episcopal Relief and Development's annual [Gifts for Life Catalog](#). Visit the [2004](#), [2005](#) and [2006](#) calendars.

St. Andrew's raised \$4,400 for Bethlehem CROP Walk

St. Andrew's. Allentown/Bethlehem, recently raised \$4,400 for the Bethlehem CROP Walk. This marks the 20th year that St. Andrew's has participated in the Walk. Twenty seven members walked this year. Over \$21,000 was raised by Bethlehem churches in last year's Walk. The organizers hope to raise even more this year. Church World Service (CWS) returns a quarter of the funds to each community to aid the shelters, soup kitchens and food banks. The remainder of the money aids refugees, fights hunger, and responds to disaster relief worldwide. See

www.churchworldservice.org for more information. Contact Matt Pizsel at 610 691-2321 for information about Bethlehem's Walk.

Religion and Violence: Untangling the Roots of Conflict

This is [Trinity Institute's 38th National Theological Conference](#), January 21-23 at Trinity Church in NYC. A panel of prominent Christian, Jewish, and Muslim theologians (James Carroll, James Cone, Susannah Heschel and Tariq Ramadan) will explore the deeply rooted, seemingly inexorable union of religion and violence, illuminating the resources within each tradition for living together in peace, without losing the unique identities of each faith. Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori will preach at the opening Eucharist. You may attend in New York, participate via webcast at a partner site or view the presentations online at your computer. Locally, the conference will be held via telecast at [Zion Lutheran Church](#), Old Zionsville, PA. For more information, email the church at zions@ptd.net.

Trinity News magazine

The magazine of Trinity Wall Street. [Find it online and request free hard copy subscriptions](#) of current and past issues for yourself or your parish group. Recent issues include: Religion and Violence, Transformation, Sabbath Wisdom, Stewardship, Wilderness, Eschatology, and Reconciliation.

Video Reflections

The video blog at the [Episcopal Café](#) features brief meditations and short documentary films, including a [profile of Dietrich Bonhoeffer](#) narrated by Bill Myers; Active Waiting, author Sue Monk Kidd talking about “threshold moments” in our spiritual growth; [Forgiveness in the Extreme](#), theologian Miroslav Volf talking about the death of his five-year-old brother, and how his parents came to forgive the man who was responsible; [Dakota: A Spiritual Geography](#), a profile of Kathleen Norris; [Faith Beyond Resentment](#), an interview with the Rev. James Alison; [Meaning and Misunderstanding](#), on how we understand death though an understanding of the Resurrection eludes us; [The Divine Embrace](#), a reflection by Archbishop Desmond Tutu; and more.

Support the Gulf Coast Housing Recovery Act

The Episcopal Public Policy Network (EPPN) is calling on Episcopalians to contact their Senators and urge them to support legislation S. 1668, the Gulf Coast Housing Recovery Act of 2007. More info [here](#).

Growing Episcopal congregations

[By John B. Chilton] What do we know about how or why Episcopal congregations grow? We can start by asking which congregations are growing and what are their characteristics. I say “start” because correlation does not prove causation. For example, congregations with parenting programs are likely to be growing. But is this because congregations with parenting programs attract newcomers, or is it because congregations with young growing families adopt these programs? Read it all [here](#).

Impact of bishop's suspension

[An op-ed in the Philadelphia Inquirer, by Elizabeth Eisenstadt Evans] Episcopalians in the Diocese of Pennsylvania and elsewhere have spent the past couple of years engaged in overt and behind-the-scenes conflict focused on the contentious figure of our diocesan bishop, Charles E. Bennison Jr. But for any healing to happen in this divided and disenchanting judiciary, we are going to have to turn the analytical lens on ourselves. Read it all [here](#).

Trial begins in clash over Virginia church property

[Washington Post](#): Tens of millions of dollars of Virginia real estate are at stake in a trial that began yesterday in Fairfax County Circuit Court, where priests, members of bitterly divided churches and lawyers filled the pews. It is one of the largest property disputes in Episcopal Church history.

Souls at stake in elections, say Roman Catholic bishops

[From [Episcopal Café](#)] Roman Catholic bishops have been providing guidance to their flock on political issues for ages, and for the past thirty-odd years they've even explicitly sounded off about various matters at stake in the voting booth. But this year, the bishops have taken it further by addressing how what voters tick on their ballot ties in with their salvation, according to an article in today's Chicago Tribune. But what those issues are may surprise you ... Read it all [here](#).

Diocesan Convention

Find detailed information [here](#).

Back issues

Find recent back editions of this *newSpin* newsletter: [071111](#), [071102](#), [071029](#), [071023](#), [071010](#), [070927](#).

* **Bookmark the [newSpin Blog](#) on your browser.**

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