

newSpin.005

News with some Spin
Edited by Bill Lewellis
April 25, 2006

Welcome Happy Morning [From Bishop Paul]

Christ is risen! It is a joy for Diana and me to greet you and wish you every blessing as we celebrate the Lord's passing through death to life. May the power of Jesus' resurrection be yours every day. As we stood outside for the lighting of the new fire that begins the Great Vigil of Easter something different happened. For some reason the fire did not burst into flame as the flint was struck. Rather a very small blue flame began deep in the kindling and only gradually consumed the wood. It took a while, but the result was powerful. The fire that came had a steady power and as equal parts light and heat. One walked from the fire into the church with the impression that the fire would endure, and when the cold grey of dawn comes, there will be still be glowing embers to help welcome the sunlight. I pray that God will kindle a long-lasting, steadily-building flame of Jesus' new life in each of our hearts during these fifty days, and give us joy and strength for our common task. The Lord is risen indeed!

Diocesan Council will host two hearing on Policies for Protection of Children & Youth from Abuse

In response to a request made at Diocesan Convention in 2005, Diocesan Council will offer two hearings to discuss the Diocesan Policies for the Protection of Children & Youth from Abuse: On April 27 at St Luke's, Scranton, and on May 4 at the Cathedral Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem. Both from 7:30 to 9:00 pm. The hearings are open to all concerned members of the diocesan community, clergy and lay, to learn about the theological rationale for and history of child protection in the church as well as to dialogue about questions and concerns regarding the official policies. The archdeacon, members of diocesan council and Safeguarding God's Children's trainers will be present to answer questions. All interested members are encouraged to attend.

Carol Horton accepts call in Diocese of NJ

The Rev. Canon Carol Horton has accepted a call to serve as rector of St. Thomas Church, Alexandria, in the Diocese of New Jersey. She will begin her ministry there on June 1. We wish Carol many blessings as she begins a new ministry but will surely miss her especially with her participation on the COM and the Music and Liturgy Committee. Please remember Carol in your prayers as well as the people at St. Mark's, New Milford and Christ Church, Susquehanna. [Canon Jane Teter]

Take a look at our Diocesan Blog: www.typepad.com/diobeth_newspin

Diocese of Bethlehem

www.diobeth.typepad.com/diobeth_newspin

newSpin is an e-newsletter of information related to the Diocese of Bethlehem, the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion... with spin from the editor. It is published in this comprehensive form monthly. To receive updates online, one or more times weekly, send your email address to blewellis@diobeth.org. Ask for *newSpin*.

To let God into our lives means that they are never the same again.

Messages for Latecomers at the Manger
Bishop Paul Marshall's January 2006
column for daily newspapers

May 10 at Kirby House ECW Annual Meeting

Registration deadline is April 27

At this *Annual Meeting and Celebration of Women*, the ECW of the Diocese of Bethlehem will name Diana Marshall outstanding woman of the diocese. See [Download ecw_names_diana_marshall.pdf](#). Bishop Paul will preside and preach at Eucharist. Canon Charles Cesaretti will be the guest speaker, making two presentations on *Recovering from Bible Deficiency Anemia*. All are invited. You will find a brochure that includes a registration form at [Download ecw_annual_meeting_brochure.pdf](#). The form should be sent with payment of \$12 to Catherine Jeffery, ECW Treasurer., 1839 Ulster Road, Allentown, 18109. Telephone: 610-868-6682. If, for some reason, those direct links don't work for you, please go to http://diobeth.typepad.com/diobeth_newspin/2006/04/ecw_annual_meet.html.

May 12 – Movie and Pizza Night in Bethlehem and Scranton

On Friday, May 12 at 6 p.m. the Diocesan Children's Ministry Team is sponsoring a *Movie and Pizza Night* for families and kids, featuring the film *Narnia*. At two locations: Bethlehem (Cathedral) and Scranton (St. Luke's). This event is being held in preparation for this year's "Bishop's Day with Kids – The Lion, the Bishop and the Wardrobe." Registration deadline for Movie Night is May 1. Email Rosemary Kleintop at rkleintop@diobeth.org to attend. More info about Bishop's Day: www.bethlehemtreasurechest.org.

Regional Evangelism Training sessions

May 6, Pottsville, Kingston and Towanda. May 13, Hazleton. May 20, Whitehall and Hamlin. Find more information and registration forms [here](#).

A Church Asunder

Until a few days ago, this feature by Peter Boyer, published in the April 17 edition of The New Yorker magazine, was available only in hard copy. It is now online. Go to www.newyorker.com and type Boyer in the search box. The title of the feature is *A Church Asunder*. Also available there is *Faith Matters*, a Q/A interview with the author.

Salary comparison and calculator

Salary comparison tools allow you to evaluate a new job offer or see how your current job ranks with the average salary for similar jobs in your industry. Use the salary calculator to see a salary survey specific to your job. Use the cost of living calculator to help evaluate job offers and relocation.

Training for Eucharistic Visitors

A training sessions for Eucharistic Visitors will be held at Trinity, Mt. Pocono, May 6 (9 to 4). Find a registration form on our diocesan blog, www.diobeth.typepad.com/diobeth_newspin/. Go to the March archives. Deadline: May 1. Conducted by Dennis Ritter of Lutheran Congregational Services and Ed Erb, rector, St. John's, Hamlin. Scriptural/theological background and practical hands-on resources and experiences. Lunch and materials are included in the \$20 registration fee. Eucharistic Visitors are lay persons licensed by the bishop to take the Consecrated Elements in a timely manner following a Celebration of Holy Eucharist to members of the congregation who, by reason of illness or infirmity, were unable to be present at the Celebration.

Bottom Line in Healthcare

Tikkun, www.tikkun.org, and the *Network of Spiritual Progressives*, www.spiritualprogressives.org, are having a conference call for healthcare professionals this evening (Wednesday) at 6pm Pacific time, 9pm east coast time. Healthcare professionals interested in joining in a discussion about the platform for a Bottom Line in Healthcare, which will be further discussed at a conference in Washington DC May 17-20 and presented to Congress on May 18th, may email robyn@tikkun.org for the toll free call in number to take part in the beginning of this important work of creating a New Bottom Line of love and caring in healthcare. Somewhat like the Christian *Sojourners*, the Jewish *Tikkun* is both a magazine and a community. A great deal of info is available at www.tikkun.org or by googling Tikkun and/or "Michael Lerner."

Seeking national election

Rick Cluett, interim dean at the Cathedral Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem, is seeking election nationally to the Trustees of the Church Pension Fund. The election will take place at the General Convention of the Episcopal Church in June. Rick has served for 14 years in parish ministry and 20 years as archdeacon of the Diocese of Bethlehem. His photo and resume are accessible at our [diocesan blog](#). He welcomes your support and your prayers, and, if elected, your wisdom in carrying out this ministry.

Regional Evangelism Training sessions

April 22, Reading (Registration deadline was April 17.). April 29, Mt. Pocono and Tunkhannock. (Registration deadline is April 24.) May 6, Pottsville, Kingston and Towanda. May 13, Hazleton. May 20, Whitehall and Hamlin. Find more information and registration forms [here](#). (Please note that the session originally scheduled for Hellertown on April 22 has been cancelled.)

Safe Harbor Celebration – May 7

Simultaneous diocesan-wide celebrations at Trinity, Bethlehem, and St. Luke's, Scranton, 4:00 pm, to conclude our *Cruising to Equity* campaign for children at risk. See www.diobeth.typepad.com/diobeth_newspin/2006/04/safe_harbor_cel.html.

The Christian Communities Gathering

Dr. Thomas Ferguson, the Episcopal Church's associate deputy for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations will present Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry: Are We Any Closer? at the May 24 Christian Gathering of Northeastern PA (an Ecumenical Dialogue Day) at Marywood University, Scranton, 9:00 to 3:30. The focus will be on the 1982 Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry document. The Christian Gathering is sponsored by the RC Diocese of Scranton. More information and a registration form may be downloaded at their website, www.dioceseofscranton.org, where you can also download the BEM document, or at www.diobeth.typepad.com/diobeth_newspin/2006/03/christian_gathe.html.

Religious Studies at Moravian

Something new at Moravian College. Adults will be able to earn a college degree in religious studies while attending class only in evenings and perhaps summers. Moravian College, through its evening division, the Comenius Center, now offers a major in Religious Studies. Adults may enroll for either a first or second bachelor's degree. For those interested in continuing on to seminary, there is an option for admission with advanced standing to Moravian Theological Seminary. For more information, please contact Dr. Clarke Chapman at 610-861-1410 or megcc01@moravian.edu.

Parent Support Group

The Parent Tree is a Parent Support Group in the PA Family Support Alliance network, a free resource for families in Easton. The group is facilitated by Denise Watkins Hamilton, an able group leader with experience working with women in the prison system, mentoring youth, the Center for Humanistic Change and Valley Youth House. Parents who need a place to talk about the challenges of parenting will get gentle, nonjudgmental help and referrals. The Parent Tree can help them gain skills and confidence as parents. Most parents attend anonymously, but attendance may be reported if social services need that. Please call Project Child to set that up. 610-419-4500 x 229. The group meets at Trinity Episcopal Church's Education Building, one half block east of Third Street on Spring Garden Street. It meets Mondays at 6:30 p.m. Refreshments are served, and there is usually child care. Parents do not need to pre-register.

General Convention, June 13-21 in Columbus

The Episcopal News Service continues to file a multi-part series of articles in advance of the 75th General Convention, which will meet June 13-21 in Columbus, Ohio. Articles are collected at www.episcopalchurch.org/3577_73355_ENG_HTM.htm.

Report of Special Commission

The Report to General Convention of the Special Commission on the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion is now posted at www.episcopalchurch.org/documents/SCECACReport.pdf.

Our General Convention deputation

There are two changes in our diocesan General Convention Deputation due to the resignation from the deputation of Rick Cluett who is currently serving as interim dean at the Cathedral. Jane Teter is now the chair and Andy Gerns becomes the fourth clerical deputy. The deputation now is: Jane Teter, Scott Allen, Nick Knisely and Andy Gerns serving as clerical deputies. Barbara Caum, Jan Charney, Hillary Raining, and Bill Cauller serving as lay deputies.

Pre General Convention hearings

The General Convention of the Episcopal Church will take place in Columbus, Ohio, June 13-21. Episcopal News Service has begun providing some background news and information. See www.episcopalchurch.org/ens. Diocese of Bethlehem deputies will offer two pre-convention hearings to introduce the issues before General Convention 2006: May 9 at St. Anne's, Trexlertown, and May 11 at Prince of Peace, Dallas. Both begin at 7:00 pm.

Prison ministries documentary

Copies of the Episcopal Church's new prison-ministries documentary, *Changing Lives*, www.episcopalchurch.org/3577_73273_ENG_HTM.htm, may be ordered from Episcopal Books & Resources, www.episcopalbookstore.org/wc.dll?main~bd, 800.903.5544. This is a free resource.

Profile of the Cathedral Church of the Nativity

Read the profile prepared by the search committee of the Cathedral, Bethlehem, at www.nativitycathedral.org. Click on "parish profile," low in the right column.

Free PDF Creator

Nick Knisely suggests that those of us who aren't using Macintosh's or Linux computers but who want to create PDF files for document distribution, might want to check out the free PDFCreator at <http://www.mrbass.org/freeware/pdfcreator/>. It will create a PDF (Portable Document File) in any application you use, including MS Publisher, by installing a "virtual printer" that you can "print" to from inside the application. Nick said they use this at Trinity to create PDF versions of their newsletter. If you're not up to speed on PDFs, go to www.answers.com and type *Portable Document Format* in the search window. Answers.com is my favorite online resource when I so often need more information than I have in my head.

Browse our blog

Browse our [diocesan blog](#) and consider how it might serve to publicize stories from your congregations. Talk with [Bill Lewellis](#) about it.

Insight from the Night

Modern thinking causes us to believe that suffering is something we can get through, that it is a temporary condition we can get past. And our contemporary culture would have us believe that when we have made the journey past suffering, we will arrive at a place where there is only contentment and happiness. We think that when our temporary suffering passes, we will be restored. We have the belief that once Good Friday is over, the joy of Easter can begin. But the liturgies of the Triduum help us to understand, through our enactment of and participation in them, that the servant-hood of Maundy Thursday, the suffering of Good Friday, and the salvation of Easter all exist at the same time in the lives of people. And it is in the midst of suffering and by learning and practicing servant-hood and sacrifice that we find the kernels of hope for our lives and for our salvation. We know that it is in the midst of darkness that we see the first light of dawn, that it is in the midst of our worst suffering that we feel the stirrings of the Grace that brings new life. [Read *Day's Veil and Night's Light*, a summary by Elizabeth House of James Farwell's book, *This Is the Night*, at our diocesan blog, www.diobeth.typepad.com/diobeth_newspin/.

Fire in the City: A light burning into the darkness

Every year on the Saturday night before Easter Sunday, the members of Grace Episcopal Church, at the corner of Fifth and Linden streets, Allentown, gather around a blazing bonfire to light the paschal candle that leads them from the night's darkness into their church to celebrate the Great Vigil of Easter. The congregation knows that every year the paschal fire strikes fear into their neighbors. No matter that there is a permit. No matter that the fire marshal is standing next to the seven-foot-high flames. No matter the reassuring presence of a ladder truck. A fire in the city is an awesome and fear-provoking sight. It could jump its bounds. Read it all at our diocesan blog, www.diobeth.typepad.com/diobeth_newspin/.

The Suffering of God

"Christianity is the only world religion that confesses a God who suffers. It is not all that popular an idea, even among Christians. We prefer a God who prevents suffering, only that is not the God we have got. What the cross teaches us is that God's power is not the power to force human choices and end human pain. It is, instead, the power to pick up the shattered pieces and make something holy out of them—not from a distance but right close up." (Barbara Brown Taylor, *God in Pain*, p. 118 — Thanks to Scott Bader-Saye at the Peacemeal blog, <http://peacemealcommunity.blogspot.com/>, for this pointer.)

Gnostics in the Gnews The Gospel of Judas and Us

Read the Palm Sunday sermon by Andy Gerns, rector of Trinity, Easton, at <http://trinityeaston.blogspot.com/>.

'Gospel' sheds more light on early church than on Judas

Despite splashy headlines touting a potential exoneration of Christianity's most notorious villain, most experts say the newly published "Gospel of Judas" reveals far more about the pluralism of the second-century church than it does about the historical Judas Iscariot or his role in the death of Christ. In reality, the text "adds nothing" historically reliable to the picture of Judas in the New Testament, Passionist Fr. Donald Senior told *NCR*. Senior is a member of the scholarly advisory board assembled by *National Geographic* to publish the "Gospel of Judas," as well as president of the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. [Read it in the National Catholic Reporter, at <http://nationalcatholicreporter.org/update/bn041306a.htm>.]

Profile of the Cathedral Church of the Nativity

Read the profile prepared by the search committee of the Cathedral, Bethlehem, at www.nativitycathedral.org. Click on "parish profile," low in the right column.

The Smoking Gun We Carry

Read the Palm Sunday sermon by Scott Allen, rector of St. Elizabeth's, Schnecksville, at www.steschnecksville.org/sermons/Palm%20Sunday%202006.html and look at the photos of Palm Sunday in Schnecksville at www.steschnecksville.org/Photo%20Gallery%20Index%20and%20Pics/Palm%20Sunday%202006.html

New Easter Anthem will be sung in Easton

The Trinity, Easton, choir will sing an Easter anthem composed by an 18-year-old parishioner who is a music major at West Chester University. See Jan Charney's story in the April archives of our [diocesan blog](#).

Cathedral's Banners

Two banners hang outside the Cathedral, on the building. The designers hope these invite passers-by to check out the church. Having images of people lets others know that it is a community of relationship and reflects the diversity of the community, that this is a place they may feel welcomed. The main banner is 10' long and 4' tall. The smaller banner is attached to the main banner and will rotate by event and season. See the banners at http://diobeth.typepad.com/diobeth_newspin/2006/04/cathedrals_bann.html.

The Christian Communities Gathering

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Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry document. The Christian Gathering is sponsored by the RC Diocese of Scranton. More information and a registration form may be downloaded at their website, www.dioceseofscranton.org, where you can also download the BEM document, or at www.diobeth.typepad.com/diobeth_newspin/2006/03/christian_gathe.html.

Getting back to the real basics

"How do we get back to the basics of Christianity without getting buried in doctrine and dogma?" is the question an Ascension Day live webcast will explore when Trinity Church-St. Paul's Chapel in Manhattan presents *Here Comes Everybody!: Christian Community That Works*. At this point, I have no info beyond that. There will be a story on it in the next edition (May) of *Episcopal Life*.

Spirituality and Practice

You'll find some good stuff at the new Spirituality and Practice [website](#) and its Spiritual Literacy [blog](#).

Pray as you go

If you have 10/12 minutes right now, you won't regret clicking on [Pray As You Go](#) and today's date. It's an amazing prayer aid. You may listen to these splendid daily meditations on your computer or download them to your iPod or other mp3 player in order to pray as you go. Each session opens with a peal of bells and closes with questions aimed at prompting personal reflection. It's a British Jesuit Media Initiatives project.

Grace Montessori will become diocese's first Episcopal elementary school

Grace Montessori School, an outreach ministry of Grace Church, Allentown, will open its lower elementary program (for ages 6 – 9, traditionally grades 1 – 3) in September, becoming the first Episcopal elementary school in the Diocese of Bethlehem. Cathy Constantin-Reid, who founded the school in 1992, will serve as the first teacher for the elementary program. The school moved into its new state-of-the art facility in January 2005. The facility, located between 8th and 9th streets on Linden in the old Hess's Parking Garage, was renovated in part with funding from the state of Pennsylvania and in part with money provided by the Allentown Parking Authority, which owns the building, and local foundations. Enrollment in Grace's early childhood education program (preschool through kindergarten) increased from 78, just over a year ago, to 105 students. Under the leadership of its new director, Dr. Debika Demazumder, the new facility is expected to reach its capacity of 120 students, filling all four of its classrooms, by the fall. In order to increase the number of children Grace Montessori School is able to reach, and in order to provide scholarships to more inner city children, a fifth classroom will open in the administrative wing of Grace Church where the school was housed for the first 12 ½ years of its existence. The school awards scholarships to approximately 30 percent of its students, children of parents whose incomes would not otherwise allow for them to

provide this educational opportunity. Father Patrick Malloy, the church's rector, serves also as president of the board of Grace Montessori School.

Not easy

Kermit the Frog says it's not easy being green. And it's not easy being a priest. To be a priest today is hazardous and difficult duty. We are expected to know a lot, do a lot and to be all things to all people ... which is a mission impossible. But with God, all things are possible and, with much prayer and God's help we can prevail. We may not be successful by the world's standards, but we can be victorious in the name of the risen Lord. If we know the Lord has laid his hands upon us, we are expected to know many things. Let me lift up three. Know yourself ... Know God ... Know God's people ... Say with me: I know the Lord has laid his hand on me. I know the Lord has laid his hands on me..." And so, my friends, as we renew our ordination vows, know these things. Know yourself, know your God, know your people. And may the God who has given us the will to do these things also give us the power to perform them, for the life of Christ's body and the Church and the world. [Bishop Franklin Turner, at the Chrism Mass and Renewal of Ordination Vows, April 6, Cathedral Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem]

Unstuck

If you sent email to anyone of us at the *diobeth.org* domain earlier this week and have not received a reply, please resend those notes. The problem has been resolved.

Prison ministry at St. Paul's, Montrose

The Brothers of St. Andrew of St. Paul's, Montrose, has scheduled their first visit with men in the Susquehanna County Correctional Facility for April 27. A notice that will go up on the facility bulletin board lists the purposes of the visit as follows: to listen, encourage, inspire, guide, help; because we should; because prison sucks; because we care. The visiting ministers will be David Calby, Joe Welden, and Al Leigh.

Mileage rate for 2006

The business mileage rate for 2006 is 44.5 cents per mile for business miles driven. Mileage for medical or moving purposes is 18 cents per mile. Mileage driven in service of charitable organizations is 14 cents per mile. See www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=151226,00.html

Loneliness contributes to high blood pressure in older adults

New research shows that, in older adults, loneliness has joined obesity and lack of exercise as a potential risk factor for hypertension. Read it [here](#) (available online until April 27).

Action Alerts

The Action Alert center of the Pennsylvania Conference of Churches provides for opportunities to take action on specific bills in Harrisburg and Washington and issues of interest to the Council and the wider faith community. It includes 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. See it [here](#).

Funds for health ministry.

As diocesan liaison to National Episcopal Health Ministries, I am pleased to remind all parishes in the Diocese of Bethlehem, Funds are available for health ministry related education and educational materials for Diocese of Bethlehem congregations. Send your request on church letterhead to Diana Marshall, 333 Wyandotte Street, Bethlehem, PA 18015, who serves as diocesan liaison to National Episcopal Health Ministries.

Classified in West Pittston

As part of the stewardship program in West Pittston, Trinity parishioners are encouraged to match their resources with specific parish needs. The invitation is offered to the parish membership through the regular distribution of a handout designed to resemble a classified advertisement. Download excerpts at our [diocesan blog](#).

Easter Ads in Susquehanna County

St. Paul's in Montrose, St. Mark's in New Milford, and Christ Church in Susquehanna are running Easter advertisements in local papers. View them on our [diocesan blog](#).

Golf with St. Brigid's

St. Brigid's, Nazareth, will host their second annual Golf Outing on June 17 at the Cherry Valley Golf Course, Stroudsburg, with proceeds designated for the church building and maintenance fund. There's more info and a registration form at our [diocesan blog](#).

BACA at Redeemer

A parishioner at the Church of the Redeemer, Sayre, who started the Elmira Chapter of Bikers Against Child Abuse (BACA) in 2004, the first chapter in New York State, presented to church members the story of this organization of bikers that exists "to provide aid, comfort, safety and support for children that have been sexually, physically, and emotionally abused." Read the story [here](#).

ReligionLink

[ReligionLink](#) is a free service of the [Religion Newswriters Association](#). The current edition includes background on the ethics of immigration reform and an assessment of the first year of Pope Benedict XVI. You will find a wealth of good information at both links.

Da Vinci Code fiction

Having enjoyed The Da Vinci Code, I look forward to the movie ... though I'll probably wait until I can rent the DVD. Remembering that it is fiction, fiction, fiction, however, you might want to check [answers to questions raised by the novel](#).

Piecemeal to Peacemeal

Peacemeal, an Episcopal community emerging in the Scranton area, may have begun last September, Scott Bader-Saye reflects, “but that would exclude all the time spent preparing the ground... Scott says he was led “to imagine a church community that experimented with new patterns of worship, leadership and mission while responding at the same time to the end of Christendom, the rise of postmodern culture and the tendency of American churches to function as chaplains to the dominant social order.” He met with Bishop Paul Marshall and a few priests last summer to brainstorm about renewal and evangelism in the Diocese of Bethlehem. “The bold idea of trying to start a new community came from the bishop himself,” Scott says. “I was happy to run with it.” Read about it at www.diobeth.typepad.com/diobeth_newspin/2006/03/peiecemeal_to_pe.html.

St. Stephen’s W-B calls Dan Gunn

St. Stephen’s Pro-Cathedral, Wilkes-Barre, has called The Rev. Daniel Gunn to be their rector. Ordained in 2002 by Bishop Paul in the Diocese of Bethlehem, Dan has been the assistant at Christ Church, Bronxville, New York, where he directed children’s and youth activities. Dan and his wife, Ada, will move to the Wilkes-Barre area in May. His first Sunday at St. Stephen’s will be on Pentecost. Dan found a home in the Episcopal Church after being active in ministry for a number of years and serving as a prison chaplain and pastor in the Church of God. He worked also for two years as a hospital chaplain at St. Luke’s Hospital, Bethlehem, where he completed seven units of Clinical Pastoral Education. He also taught philosophy, ethics and Old Testament at the college level as an adjunct professor. He is a 1997 graduate of Lee University, with a bachelor’s degree in Bible and Theology, and a 1999 graduate from the Church of God Theological Seminary with the M. Div. degree. While completing his two-year CPE residency Dan also completed a Master of Arts degree in philosophy from West Chester University. Then he completed the Certificate of Anglican Studies at Berkeley Divinity School at Yale and graduated from Yale University Divinity School with the Master of Sacred Theology degree.

EFM at the Cathedral

The Cathedral Church of the Nativity hosts an Education for Ministry (EFM) seminar that meets Wednesdays, 9:30 to noon, from September through May, and is receiving registrations for new members to begin in September of 2006. The EFM seminar is a small group of six to twelve people. Through scripture study, prayer, and theological reflection, EFM groups move toward a new understanding of the fullness of God’s kingdom. For more information, please contact the Rev. Anne E. Kitch at the Cathedral 610-865-0727 or akitch@nativitycathedral.org.

TV Spots

Episcopal Church TV spots are accessible at

www.comeandgrow.org/tvspots.htm. See also New television ad debuts for Spring viewing at www.episcopalchurch.org/3577_73025_ENG_HTM.htm.

Spirituality and Practice

You may be interested in aspects of a new website begun by Fred and Mary Ann Brussat, www.spiritualityandpractice.com. Start on the homepage and click around, or get a quick tour of the features at [About SpiritualityandPractice.com](http://www.spiritualityandpractice.com).

Da Vinci Damage Control

According to a 3-17 WSJournal story, Sony Pictures has geared up a public-relations campaign to try to avert backlash from religious groups before its mid-May release of the movie adaptation of The Da Vinci Code. Sony sought short essays from some 45 Christian theologians and religious academics who were not shown the movie, but asked about their views about the premise of the book. Two websites were created for Sony, www.thedavincichallenge.com and www.thedavincialogues.com that include the essays and some basic info about the Bible. The site also notes where the book suggests conclusions that differ from mainstream Christian dogma.

The Race Street Run in Jim Thorpe

St. Mark’s and St. John’s in Jim Thorpe will sponsor a footrace on July 1. The “Race Street Run” will be a dual, 4 mile and 15 Kilometer race through the Jim Thorpe historic district and the surrounding countryside. The route includes Borough streets, an old railroad right-of-way, a state highway and a County park. The finish line will be in front of the church on Race Street. There will be medals for first, second and third place finishers, male and female, overall and in 13 age categories for both divisions of the race. The awards ceremony, refreshments and a random drawing will be held immediately following the race at the church. Applications are available on line at the parish website www.stmarkandjohn.org.

A Field Guide to Evangelicals and Their Habitat

Some of us may enjoy this: www.larknews.com/guide. If you’re not one, you’ll know when to stop reading. In any event, don’t miss the master list of who is going to hell. If you do enjoy the browse, go back to home base, www.larknews.com, where you will find much more.

Get the facts first

Get the facts first. You can distort them later. [Mark Twain]

A Gathering of Memories

This book by Charles Pinches, Ph.D., a parishioner at the Church of the Epiphany, Clarks Summit, and professor of theology and chair of the department of theology/religious studies at the University of Scranton, has been published by Brazos Press, www.brazospress.com. “In this deceptively profound book, writes Stanley Hauerwas of Duke Divinity

School, Charles Pinches, by directing our attention to the role of memory, helps us understand the interdependence of family, nation, and church. By doing so he offers a constructive way to acknowledge the significance of family and nation for our lives as Christians.” In a similar endorsement, author Marva Dawn writes: “This is a beautiful and powerful book – and one urgently needed in our forgetful times. With compelling stories and richly stimulating reflections on family, nation, and church as communities of embodied memories, Charles Pinches teaches us the wisdom, authority, and mystery of the act of remembering. Along the way, he offers persuasive insights into the relationship of the potency of sacrifice to memory, the ‘commandments’ of ritual memory, and the church as the trainer of memories. This volume is a superb gift to us all.”

Speaking of Faith

If you’ve not had the opportunity to listen to Speaking of Faith (American Public Media) on the radio, it is possible now to download mp3 files and/or transcripts of the week programs hosted by Krista Tippett, www.speakingoffaith.publicradio.org. It may be the best program about religion-related topics on the radio. Subscribe to the free SOF Podcast at <http://speakingoffaith.publicradio.org/podcast/podcasthelp.shtml>. Every Thursday you’ll be able to download an mp3 of the latest program to your computer — all for no charge.

Fundamentals of Parish/Faith Community Nursing Practice

Offered on Friday May 5, 2006 from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and Friday, May 19th, 2006 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. (both days are required to complete the course and received 12.6 PSNA contact hours) at Sacred Heart Hospital in Allentown. Tuition for both sessions is \$35. Full scholarships are available from the Diocese of Bethlehem for Parish Nurses, Clergy and Health Ministers serving parishes in the diocese. Please contact Diana Marshall, diocesan liaison to National Episcopal Health Ministries, at d.marsh@rcn.com for more information.

Trinity Institute presentations available

All the presentations from the recent Trinity Institute conference, *The Anatomy of Reconciliation: From Violence to Healing*, are available via video on demand at www.trinitywallstreet.org/institute/?webcast.

Vacation Bible School resources

Visit the Virginia Theological Seminary website for reviews of more than 20 Vacation Bible School resources. Included in the reviews are many of the latest curricula for 2006 along with old favorites. Go to www.vts.edu and click on the tab for Center for the Ministry of Teaching. On the opening page look for the VBS information where pdf files can be downloaded.

Hollywood translates The Da Vinci Code

The film adaptation of the astonishingly popular novel *The Da Vinci Code* by Dan Brown opens in theaters May 19. The film brings renewed scrutiny of the book’s unorthodox

view of Christian history and another round of debate about Hollywood’s handling of faith. See www.religionlink.org/tip_060313.php.

Church Marketing Sucks

In the event that you missed it last time... Many of us have and, I suspect, many more will enjoy listening to the Monster Truck Church Ad. It’s accessible at a blog that attempts to get us to think outside the box about church marketing. Church Marketing Sucks, www.churchmarketingsucks.com, includes the following self-description: Our mission is to frustrate, educate and motivate the church to communicate, with uncompromising clarity, the truth of Jesus Christ. Church Marketing Sucks is a part of the Center for Church Communication, a non-profit organization dedicated to helping the church matter. Listen to the Monster Truck Church Ad and Airline Liturgy at www.churchmarketingsucks.com/archives/2006/02/monster_truck_c.html.

What is the difference between Anglicanism and Roman Catholicism?

An essay by Bishop Pierre Whalon, <http://anglicansonline.org/resources/essays/whalon/AngRC-diffEng.html>

RC and Anglican: a brief historical overview

An essay by Bishop Pierre Whalon, <http://anglicansonline.org/resources/essays/whalon/AngRC-histEng.html>

Dealing with Conflict as Anglicans

“The Anglican focus on maintaining the unity of the church has created a big house, one with room for all sorts of people. Some of us have taken our theological cues from Rome (or from Medieval Western Catholicism), some from Geneva. There’s nothing wrong with including both. But it’s not the Anglo-Catholics or the Puritans or their later heirs, the Evangelicals, who have held the Anglican Church together. In fact, they’ve been the primary sources of schism and fragmentation. What’s held us together is the classic Anglican concern for maintaining the life and conversation of the faithful community.” The entire presentation by L. William Countryman may be downloaded at <http://thewitness.org/generalconvention03/Conflict.pdf>.

This welcome asks only that you extend to all...

We look to the life and teachings of Jesus Christ for our model of community and acknowledge both the simplicity and complexity of that challenge. We welcome Episcopalians, Christians from other traditions, and members of other faiths. We welcome seekers and skeptics, agnostics and atheists. We welcome the hopeful, the despondent, the ambivalent and the indifferent. We welcome all ages and abilities, classes and cultures, races, genders, and sexual orientations. We welcome everyone to participate in our worship and in our community, without insisting that any person become like any one of us in order to be accepted. The Church of the Messiah asks only that you

extend to all the same welcome articulated here. [The Welcome statement on the web site of the Episcopal Church of the Messiah in Baltimore, www.messiahbaltimore.org.]

E3: Experience Empower Educate (General Convention)

E3 is an educational opportunity for high school students in 10-12 grades to learn about how the Episcopal Church works, enjoy the General Convention experience, and take the opportunity to offer a student's opinion on issues facing our church. When? June 15-19, check-in June 15 from 2:00-6:00 pm; end with worship on June 18. It costs \$75 per person, covering program, materials, General Convention visitor badge, t-shirt, ground transportation and some meals. Where? At the Convention Center and other Columbus venues. Visit the E3 website, <http://www.dsoyouth.org/e3/index.html>. If interested, speak with Diocese of Bethlehem youth missionary Demery Bader-Saye, dbader-saye@diobeth.org. Some funding is available to assist those who wish to attend.

Young Adult Festival (General Convention)

June 12-19. Connect with other young adults from across the Episcopal Church. Read about it at http://www.episcopalchurch.org/49662_68209_ENG_HTM.htm. If interested, speak with Diocese of Bethlehem youth missionary Demery Bader-Saye, dbader-saye@diobeth.org. Some funding is available to assist those who wish to attend.

Short-term Domestic Internship Programs for Young Adults (SIP)

Read about them at http://www.episcopalchurch.org/49662_59841_ENG_HTM.htm and http://www.episcopalchurch.org/49662_51236_ENG_HTM.htm.

Young Adult Service Corps

YASC was once known as Episcopal Youth Corps. Dozens of young adults have taken the opportunity to work alongside other Anglicans all over the world. Check it out at http://www.episcopalchurch.org/49662_51248_ENG_HTM.htm

Jubilate

Hymnody for Lent/Easter 2006, published by the Diocese of Bethlehem for our diocesan community and for free distribution to the world, may be downloaded as an Acrobat or MSWord file, whichever works best for you, at http://diobeth.typepad.com/diobeth_newspin/. The current edition includes, in addition to suggestions of hymns appropriate for the season and the readings, "Liturgical Aids to Help Us Keep a Faithful Lent." *Jubilate* is a service of our Liturgy and Music Commission, specifically Canon Cliff Carr who has been doing this for some 20 years. If you want to be notified whenever *Jubilate* is available electronically for a new season, please send your email address to blewellis@diobeth.org.

My Faith, My Life

This book by Jenifer Gamber, a parishioner at the Cathedral Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem, will be published by Morehouse Publishing in June. See <http://www.morehousegroup.com/books/music/ItemView.asp?bookID=13718>. "My interests in this lie squarely in wanting to provide young people in the Episcopal Church the tools to embrace their full place within the Church," Jenifer says. "When I began working with Canon Kitch on confirmation three years ago it became clear that there were few resources available to help teens understand the language of our church, its worship, history, sacraments, and approach to the Bible. There are a number of wonderful relational-based curricula, which is the basis of our faith, but no guide for navigating the institution the Church."

One of the distinctive features of the book is that it is written for teens themselves. The chapters cover baptism, belief, bible, history, worship, prayer, sacraments, church governance, and gifts for ministry. At least five congregations around our diocesan community will be using Jenifer's manuscript for their confirmation classes. Write to JeniferCGamer@rcn.com for more information. The publisher's pre-publicity calls *My Faith, My Life* "the essential handbook for teens in the Episcopal Church – an excellent resource for confirmation classes, youth study groups and high school Christian education programs."

Congregational Resources

The Congregational Resources Guide, www.congregationalresources.org, is a free online guide to excellent resources on topics that matter most to congregations. Offered as a gift by Lilly Endowment, it draws on the expertise of the Alban Institute, the Indianapolis Center for Congregations and other specialists. Expect to find good, useful information. One of my favorites among the many, many good resources is "How to Minister Effectively in Family, Pastoral, Program and Corporate-Sized Churches" by Roy Oswald, www.congregationalresources.org/article0132.asp.

Leaving the rudeness

The Church Times, founded in 1863, has become the world's leading Anglican weekly newspaper. It has always been independent of the Church of England hierarchy. It was a family concern until 1989, when ownership passed to Hymns Ancient & Modern, a Christian charitable trust. The Church Times was started to campaign for Anglo-Catholic principles, which it did with vigour and rudeness. But in the 1940s and '50s the paper began the move to broaden its outlook and coverage. It now attempts to provide balanced and fair reporting of events and opinions across the whole range of Anglican affairs. The rudeness we now leave to our readers. [From the ID of The Church Times as it appears on its web site]

Dropping Knowledge

Can asking questions improve the world? What's your question? Dropping Knowledge, www.droppingknowledge.org, is an international effort to promote the practice of asking questions. Why questions? Because of their power to challenge fundamentalism and hopelessness and accelerate action-driven solutions. An independent, web-based platform for multiple viewpoints, Dropping Knowledge produces daily question ads, films, a magazine and the Table of Free Voices event. If you have broadband, don't miss the film at www.droppingknowledge.org/home.html.

A Gospel of Intolerance

It's no secret that the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion are engaged in a bitter internal struggle over the role of gay and lesbian people within the church. But despite this struggle, the leaders of our global communion of 77 million members have consistently reiterated their pastoral concern for gays and lesbians. Meeting last February, the primates who lead our 38 member provinces issued a unanimous statement that said in part: "The victimization or diminishment of human beings whose affections happen to be ordered towards people of the same sex is anathema to us." We now have reason to doubt those words. [From the beginning of an op-ed by Bishop John Chane of the Diocese of Washington, published February 26 in The Washington Post, http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/02/24/AR2006022401801_pf.html.]

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Your library card may be a ticket to cyberspace resources

The barcode number on my library card gives me access to a wealth of web resources for which I'd otherwise have to pay. The POWER Library (Pennsylvania Online World of Power Resources), a service of Pennsylvania's public libraries, school libraries and the State Library, allows a card holders to access thousands of full text periodical articles, newspapers, a major encyclopedia, plus photographs, pictures, charts, maps, reference materials for young people and more. You will find materials of interest in most subject areas for all age groups from young children to adults. Public libraries are eligible to join the POWER Library if they participate in the Access Pennsylvania statewide card program. Public elementary school libraries are eligible to join the POWER Library program if their high or middle school libraries are on the Access Pennsylvania database. Public school libraries are eligible to join if their public school district has at least one school library on the Access Pennsylvania database. Private school libraries are eligible to join if they are on the Access Pennsylvania database.

Building a parish web site

Beyond some very general advice, congregations are basically on their own when it comes to building a web site. Unfortunately, we do not have sufficient staff at Diocesan House to assist in this endeavor. If you want a free site, you might check out www.forministry.com, a ministry of the American Bible Society. This is not ideal, but it can get you online quickly. They use a stock content management solution and give you a cumbersome web address, but it will get you a presence on the web... and the price is right. Someone with a little web savvy can easily navigate and establish a parish site from there. Customized solutions will, of course, be somewhat expensive. Some parishes have gotten practical help and helpful advice from people in their congregations. Good info on developing a web site is provided by the folks at AnglicansOnline, <http://anglican.org/domain/index.html>, by United Methodist Communications, <http://www.umcom.org/webtips/>, by the Presbyterian Church USA, <http://www.pcusa.org/pcnet/chweb.htm> and by the Hartford Institute for Religion Research, http://hrr.hartsem.edu/cong/cong_designing_church_sites.html.

Pew Research Center

The Pew Research Center's redesigned portal site, www.pewresearch.org, features never-before-published findings and analysis – released each week through an email newsletter, <http://visitor.constantcontact.com/email.jsp?m=1101176124369>, as well as through headlines from the six projects that make up the Center: (1) Pew Research Center for the People & the Press; (2) Stateline.org; (3) Pew Internet & American Life Project; (4) Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life; (5) Pew Hispanic Center; and (6) Pew Global Attitudes Project. The Center is a nonpartisan "fact tank" that provides information on the issues, attitudes and trends shaping America and the world. It does so by conducting public opinion polling and

social science research; by reporting news and analyzing news coverage; and by holding forums and briefings. It does not take positions on policy issues. Located in Washington, D.C., the Center is a subsidiary of The Pew Charitable Trusts.

Have you planned a gift for ministry?

Please go to www.diobeth.typepad.com/diobeth_newspin/ to download a page of people (by parish) who have designated gifts by way of wills, trusts, life insurance policies or retirement accounts to provide resources for future ministry in their parishes. If you have planned a gift for ministry, let it be known. Send your name to blewellis@diobeth.org. If you choose to remain anonymous, your name will be held in confidence. (The last time I mentioned this I had not yet uploaded the file to make it accessible at that link. I have corrected that. Please take a look at that and... do let it be known if you have planned a gift for ministry. Thanks.)

Spiritually Literate Films

Go to your favorite video rental store prepared. At www.spiritualityhealth.com/newsh/items/moviereview/item_10205.html#10%20Most, browse through Frederic and Mary Ann Brussat's reviews of their picks for "the most spiritually literate films" of 2005: *The Ten Most Spiritually Literate Films*, *The Ten Most Spiritually Literate Foreign Language Films*, *The Ten Most Spiritually Literate Documentaries*, *Ten More Spiritually Literate Films*. Their reviews of recent DVD releases are accessible at www.spiritualityhealth.com/newsh/items/blank/item_9651.html before making your choices at your favorite video store. And, if you want to read the case for and against each of the five films nominated by BeliefNet as best spiritual film of 2005: *Cinderella Man*, *Walk the Line*, *The Chronicles of Narnia*, *Brokeback Mountain* and *Junebug*.

Basically a relationship

"Being Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction." [From the first encyclical of Pope Benedict XVI, *Deus Caritas Est*, http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/encyclicals/documents/hf_ben-xvi_enc_20051225_deus-caritas-est_en.html.]

Obituaries

If you need to track down a death notice or obituary, you might try www.legacy.com or www.BlogofDeath.com.

Meeting God: Living an Everyday Faith

On Saturday, July 1, Bishop Paul and the Diocese of Bethlehem will host a gathering at the Fatima Renewal Center in Dalton, near Clarks Summit. As the title suggests, this will be a day of discovering God in the ordinary events of our lives. We will begin at 8:30 with registration, assemble for prayer, share a meal, attend a variety of talks and discussions throughout the day, and conclude with the Eucharist. This day will be a wonderful opportunity to share some quality time with folks from the diocese in a beautiful place with no other goal than to create a space for God to move in our midst. The cost is \$25 per person. Some

scholarships are available. Overnight accommodations may be available on Friday evening for a nominal cost. For further information, please contact the Rev. Peter Pearson, pearson@nb.net, or call him at 215-848-2642.

Ten ways to reach the 20s-30s generation

Go to www.trinitywallstreet.org/resources/article.php?id=643. A twenty-something polled her friends. Here's one: "No one type of worship suits all young adults any more than one type fits other groups in the church. Don't assume that we need "alternative" worship services. Many of us are drawn to the Episcopal Church by the mystery and sanctuary that traditional liturgies offer."

Diocesan podcasting

If you have a way to record on cassette with reasonable fidelity anything you think would be of interest to others – sermons, of course, come to mind – I would be happy to help you share that with the world through the magic of podcasting. Think iPod + broadcasting. Podcasting is a method of publishing files to the Internet in such a way that users can subscribe to a feed and receive new files automatically by subscription, usually at no cost. Once downloaded to your computer, they may be listened to at the computer or transferred to an MP3 player. If you supply the recorded audio cassette, I'll upload it and make it available to all.

Cruise for Cathedral Choir, June 11-17

The choir of the Cathedral Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem, is trying to raise money for their trip to sing "in residence" at Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, in July of 2007. They plan to conduct the usual fundraisers, but one important one with a deadline for deposits is the cruise to the Bahamas. Depart from New York City, June 11. Return June 17. The Norwegian Spirit calls at Pt. Canaveral, Nassau, Great Stirrup Cay, Eight restaurants, Eleven lounges, Theatre, Casino, Spa. Contact Canon Russell Jackson for further information and rates Cathedral Office: 610-865-0727, ex. 15, or RJackson@nativitycathedral.org.

NCC launches online professional journal

The National Council of Churches Faith and Order Commission has launched an online professional journal. See <http://www.councilofchurches.org/>.

Seasonal Children's Ministries Resources

AWE: Children's Ministries seasonal resources will no longer be delivered via the US Postal Service. Two new resources are now available and downloadable from our website. AWESome News: Lent to Pentecost 2006 for Christian Educator's and Clergy is available at www.bethlehemtreasurechest.org/PDF/AWESomeNewsJan06.pdf. The Faith Formation in the Home Family Packet: Lent to Pentecost 2006 for distribution to families is available at www.bethlehemtreasurechest.org/PDF/FFHLentToPentecost06.pdf.

A few links you might want to click...

- (1) The new user-friendly website of the Episcopal Church, www.episcopalchurch.org.
- (2) The Witness magazine, www.thewitness.org, an on-line magazine that dates from 1917 as a progressive voice in the church. You may read articles online at www.thewitness.org/contents.php and subscribe to a free email newsletter to receive original news on issues of faith and conscience published weekly. Each newsletter features writers from around the world who provide theological reflection, editorial insight, and journalistic analysis on a wide range of justice and peace issues affecting the church and society.
- (3) **H.E.L.P.** the Hurricane Emergency Links Portal, www.episcopalchurch.org/3577_64712_ENG_HTM.htm.
- (4) **Speaking of Faith**, <http://speakingoffaith.publicradio.org>
- (5) **Resources for American Christianity**, www.resourcingchristianity.org. To read a helpful newsletter, move your cursor over "Resources," then "Newsletters," and click on "InSites into American Religion."
- (6) **The Revealer**, www.therevealer.org, a daily review of religion in the news and the news about religion, a publication of the New York University Department of Journalism and New York University's Center for Religion and Media... "not so much nonpartisan as polypartisan — interested in all sides, disdainful of dualistic arguments, and enamored of free speech as a first principle."
- (7) **Thinking Anglicans**, www.thinkinganglicans.org.uk/
- (8) **ReligionLink**, linking journalists to sources and ideas for reporting today's hottest news, www.religionlink.org. See also www.religionheadlines.org.
- (9) **The Dallas Morning News** has a better than average Saturday religion section, www.dallasnews.com/religion/?18.
- (10) **Columbia Newsblaster**, a system to automatically track the day's news. There are no human editors involved — everything you see on the main page is generated automatically, drawing on the sources listed on the left side of the screen. Every night, the system crawls a series of Web sites, downloads articles, groups them together into "clusters" about the same topic, and summarizes each cluster. The end result is a Web page that gives you a sense of what the major stories of the day are, so you don't have to visit the pages of dozens of publications, <http://www1.cs.columbia.edu/nlp/newsblaster/>,
- (11) **The Alban Institute**, a wealth of resources for congregations at <http://www.alban.org/>.
- (12) **Trinity Church, NYC**, www.trinitywallstreet.org/.
- (13) **FaithStreams**, www.faithstreams.com.
- (14) **AnglicansOnline**, <http://anglicansonline.org/>.
- (15) Biographies of the Saints, <http://elvis.rowan.edu/%7Ekilroy/JEK/home.html>.

(16) **Books of Common Prayer**, <http://www.justus.anglican.org/resources/bcp/>.

(17) **Come and Grow**, learn about the Episcopal Church, www.comeandgrow.org.

(18) **The Daily Office**, <http://www.missionstclare.com/>

(19) **Tributes to fallen soldiers**, Legacy.com includes a section of tributes created by friends and families of our fallen men and women in Afghanistan and Iraq. It puts a face on our losses, www.legacy.com

Bishop's Days... Four in July

Mark your calendar for one or another of four Bishop's Days during July: with adults at Fatima Renewal Center, Dalton, July 1; with youth, July 15; with kids at the Cathedral, Bethlehem, July 22; and with kids at St. Luke's, Scranton, July 29.

Vestry Papers

It's a newsletter for vestries, wardens and clergy (six issues annually) designed to provide vestries with information that is spiritually grounded with practical illustrations and resources to assist them in their leadership. It is published by Cornerstone, \$35.00 for six issues, mailed in packages of 15 copies per issue. \$25 for electronic version. Published in January, March, May, July, September and November. Subscribe online at <http://www.episcopalfoundation.org/research/subscript.html>. Read archived issues, 1998 through 2004, at http://www.episcopalfoundation.org/research/vpapers_archive.html.

The new website of the Episcopal Church

There's a wonderful look and feel at the new user-friendly website of the Episcopal Church. Spend some time there. Go to www.episcopalchurch.org.

[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. Thanks.]

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