

060802 newSpin

News with some Spin
Edited by Bill Lewellis

*Diocesan Blog: www.diobeth.typepad.com/diobeth_newspin
(Bookmark it on your browser.)

Social Ministry Grant

The Social Ministries-Jubilee Committee of the Diocese of Bethlehem is accepting proposals for its annual Social Ministry Grant. Eligible applicants include all diocesan parishes and associate ministries. The amount of the award is \$1,000. Applications must be received at Diocesan House by September 18. A brochure contains detailed information about how to apply. Download it either as a publisher or pdf file at our [diocesan blog](http://www.diobeth.typepad.com/diobeth_newspin). Hard copy of the brochure has been mailed to rectors and priests-in-charge as well as to members and consultants of the Social Ministries-Jubilee Committee.

Conflict in the Middle East

There is an increasing humanitarian crisis in Lebanon as a result of the fighting. Read [here](#). Donate [here](#). Download a bulletin insert [here](#) for placement in service leaflets and newsletters.

Flood Relief for St. Mark's, New Milford

St. Mark's, New Milford, which sustained substantial damage to its three buildings, during the recent flooding, has received or will receive help from at least the following sources. The Church of the Epiphany, Clarks Summit, \$2,000. The Cathedral Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem, \$6,400. St. Paul's, Montrose, may have been the first parish to assist in various ways. St Paul's in Troy and St Francis of Assisi in Gulfbreeze, Florida, plan to offer relief. St. Stephen's, Wilkes-Barre, raised \$1,200 from last Friday's benefit Evensong sponsored by the Royal School of Church Music, King's College and St. Stephen's. Prince of Peace, Dallas, began last Sunday and will continue through August to take a second offering. Trinity Church, Easton, has sent a gift. Former Presiding Bishop Ed Browning and his wife, Patti, have pledged their support. (They owned a cottage nearby while Bishop Browning served as Presiding Bishop and attended St. Mark's when they were in New Milford.) Trinity Church, Mt. Pocono, has sent more than \$300. Whom have I missed? Those wishing to help may contact the wardens, [Jim Yeich](#) or [Wendy Keklak](#).

Debra Kissinger on sabbatical

Diocesan children's missionary and child advocate Debra Kissinger will be on sabbatical, August through October and vacation during November. Questions regarding Children's Ministries, Child Advocacy or the scheduling of Safeguarding God's Children: Rosemary Kleintop, rkleintop@diobeth.org. Questions regarding Safe Church practices and our Diocesan Policies for the Protection of Children and Youth from Abuse: Archdeacon Stringfellow, archdeacon@diobeth.org. Questions regarding Evangelism: Barbara Lewis, barblewis@diobeth.org, or Father Gerns, Father_Andy@trinityeaston.org. The website, AWE: Children's Ministries, www.bethlehemtreasurechest.org, will be updated by the end of this week.

Called by God to feed the hungry

"There is no hunger, no need that is of little concern to God. The desire of God's heart is that the hungry be filled with good things. And that we help provide the bread that is needed – in

whatever form. Do you believe that you are truly called by God to feed the hungry? *[From "Filled with Good Things," sermon of Rick Cluett, interim dean, Cathedral Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem, Sunday, July 30. Read it all at <http://nativitycathedral.blogspot.com/>.]*

Peach Festival/Yard Sale in Emmaus

The Second Annual Peach Festival and Yard Sale will be held at St. Margaret's Episcopal Church, Emmaus, August 19, from 9:00 am until 2:00 pm. Share with us, a fun day of peach pies and cobblers, ice cream, hot dogs, and drinks, as you browse through the yard sale tables around the church. Parishioners and neighbors will have tables of "gadgets" and "old things" for you to look at and buy. There will be a representative from Osborne Publications, www.ubah.com/BF18733, selling brand new children's books and Bible stories. Part of the proceeds from these books will go to the church. There will be a face painter for the children from 10 am to 1 pm. Her work is awesome! So bring the kids and come on down! Enjoy food, drink, and fellowship; and take some cobblers and pies home with you. *[Thanks to St. Margaret's webmaster, Mark Tillotson, for this item]*

Caring Connections

[Caring Connections](#), a program of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO), is a national consumer engagement initiative to improve care at the end of life, supported by a grant from The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Hypothermia in the elderly

Go [here](#) for useful information on hyperthermia in the elderly.

An Action Alert from the Pennsylvania Council of Churches:

Contact Senators Specter and Santorum to support a fair increase in the minimum wage without giving away billions in estate tax cuts Details are available [here](#) ... click on "Minimum Wage" under "Economic Justice."

My Faith My Life

Jenifer Gamber, a parishioner at the Cathedral Church of the Nativity, wrote My Faith My Life for teens as a confirmation preparation book. It seems that adults as well have taken to it. See more at our [diocesan blog](#) and at [Jenifer's website](#).

GC Deputies' reflections

Bill Cauller

Recent stories from Episcopal News Service

[Via Media USA calls realignment efforts 'stumbling-block' to Episcopalians ...](#)

[Network meeting opens with challenge to Canterbury ...](#)

[CampuSource reunites with Episcopal Church Foundation to increase resources ...](#)

[Global Mission Event: Common mission, MDGs, ONE Campaign upheld as key to ending global poverty](#)

Children's Sabbath

Download Ten Steps for a Successful Children's Sabbath and an order form for the 2006 Children's Sabbath manual [here](#).

Walk a Mile in Their Shoes

[Walk a Mile in their Shoes](#) is an advocacy and prayer vigil project sponsored by AWE: Children's

Ministries that invites congregations throughout the Diocese of Bethlehem to join in a Sabbath Season of Prayer and Action for Children. It begins with the observance of the National Children's Sabbath (sponsored by the Children's Defense Fund, Washington, D.C.) and the Diocesan ECW's collection of Undies for Children at Risk at our Diocesan Convention. In the months that follow Diocesan Convention, congregations throughout the Diocese are invited to unite in witness for children through prayer, education, worship and action using this Walk a Mile in their Shoes guide below for suggestions. Following this simple Walk a Mile in their Shoes guide will challenge you take off your slippers and really try on children's shoes for size. You will likely find that the services afforded them don't fit their soles or feed their souls.

Christian Educators' Retreat

Here's a [brochure for the Christian Educators' Retreat](#) which will take place at Kirby House, March 23-24.

Speaking of Faith

Public radio's conversation about religion, meaning, ethics, and ideas. Free podcasts available. [When I posted this in an earlier newSpin, the links were faulty. I've tried to correct that below.]

[Evolution and Wonder – Understanding Charles Darwin](#): Afresh and thought-provoking look at Darwin's life and ideas. He did not argue against God but against a simple understanding of the world, its beauty, its brutality, and its unfolding creation. [The Tragedy of the Believer – a Conversation with Elie Wiesel](#): Exploring the literary and religious journey that unfolded after Night, his memoir of the Holocaust that has climbed to bestseller lists five decades after its publication. Hear passages of his varied writings of the last 50 years. Explore his thoughts on God and evil, youth in Jerusalem and Berlin, and prayer after the Holocaust. [Obedience and Action](#): In over 50 years as a Benedictine nun, Joan Chittister has emerged as a powerful and at times uncomfortable voice in Roman Catholicism and in global politics. If women were ordained in the Catholic Church in our lifetime, some say, she should be the first woman bishop. [The Spirituality of Addiction and Recovery](#): Alcoholics Anonymous co-founder Bill Wilson once said that the program he helped create is "utter simplicity which encases a complete mystery." This program explores the spiritual aspects of addiction and recovery with Susan Cheever, who's written a biography of Bill Wilson. Also, Lakota teacher and healer, Basil Brave Heart, describes how, in his own life and in native communities, the 12 Steps find resonance in indigenous spiritual practices.

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[*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

