

060929 newSpin

News with some Spin
Edited by Bill Lewellis

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

The closing of St. Elizabeth's, Schnecksville

[From Bishop Paul] I was informed this morning (Wednesday, Sept 27) that at a recent meeting St. Elizabeth's in Schnecksville decided to end their continuation as a parish. Their priest, Fr. Scott Allen, and the parish have labored mightily and creatively over the last several years in an attempt to transform their parish life and offer a new experience to Schnecksville. That labor remains what it is, an offering and sacrifice to God. This is a time of grieving for them and for Fr. Allen, and those of you who know people connected to St. Elizabeth's may want to communicate your concern to them directly. I have asked Fr. Allen to share his thoughts with you online when there has been sufficient time to deal with the impact of the decision. We all owe the community at St. Elizabeth's our thanks for their efforts in recent years to blaze new trails and their devotion to Christ's mission. Faithfully. +Paul

William Shattuck Marshall, III

[From William Marshall, rector, St. Clement and St. Peter's, Wilkes-Barre] My son, William Shattuck Marshall, III passed through The Gates of Larger Life this morning after a 15 year battle with Adrenomyeloneuropathy, a genetic disorder that effects the myelin sheath of the central nervous system. He resided in Bay Shore Long Island with his wife Kristina and canine companion, Elsa. As of this writing, funeral arrangements have not been made but it will be on Long Island. I will keep you posted and ask for your prayers for him and for my family as we try to cope with the loss of our son. May his soul and the souls of the faithfully departed rest in Peace.

Primate of Canada at Grace, Kingston

Archbishop Andrew Hutchison, the Primate of Canada, will preside and preach at the 10:00am Eucharist at Grace Church, Kingston this Sunday. A reception will follow. Both events are open to people of the diocese. For more information, see the October 1 entry [here](#).

Congregational Development Grants for 2007

[From Canon Jane Teter] Applications have been sent to those churches currently receiving grants and a few who have requested them. If your congregation is considering applying for a grant, please let me know and I will send an application to you. The deadline to apply for a grant is December 1, 2006. If you have questions, please call me at 800-358-5655, ext 228 or send an e-mail message to jteter@diobeth.org.

Recent features, some with photos, on our diocesan blog

[Life is Tasty](#), our new diocesan youth website.

[Mt. Pocono's walk on MySpace](#), Trinity Episcopal Church in Mount Pocono, through the efforts of its webmaster Erik Gregory, has launched its own page on MySpace.com. Trinity is the first church in the Diocese of Bethlehem and one of only a handful of churches to do so across the nation.

[St. Brigid's boat floats ... halfway](#)

[St. Stephen's, Wilkes-Barre, celebrate new ministry](#)
[St. Thomas, Morgantown, raises funds for Kajo Keji and local food bank](#)
[Share the Bread Newsletter 2](#)

Might parishes be interested in this service?

I know of parishes that want parishioners to be able to download parish flyers, newsletters, brochures, letters, news stories – whatever – online, but whose parish websites do not support pdf files. As a service to parishes, I'd be happy to create a place on [our diocesan blog](#) from which that might be done. If you want to take advantage of that, here's one way it might work: 1. You would send me a pdf or word file of what you want to make available. 2. I would convert your document to a pdf, if it needs to be so converted. 3. I would then post it on the diocesan blog and provide a link. 4. You could then send an email note, with the link, to your parishioners who are online.

Thanks. [Bill](#)

Action Alerts

Increase Funding for priority Programs for Vulnerable Citizens

Action Alert available [here](#). At the site, click on "Support Increased Funding for Vulnerable Citizens" under "Economic Justice." [Thanks to Diana Marshall for this pointer.]

Support an Increase in the Minimum Wage in Washington

Action Alert available [here](#). At the site, click on "Support an Increase in the Minimum Wage" under "Economic Justice."

Bishop Paul out of email reach

Due to travel, Bishop Paul I will be out of email reach until about noon on Tuesday. "Pressing business," he said, "should be referred to a dry-cleaner or the Archdeacon, depending how you mean it."

Speaking of Faith: Faith Fired by Literature

Public radio's conversation about religion, meaning, ethics and ideas. Art, life, and religious faith converge in Paul Elie's unusual biography of the intersecting stories of four literary Americans of the 20th century: Trappist monk Thomas Merton, social activist Dorothy Day, and fiction writers Walker Percy and Flannery O'Connor. "Certain books, certain writers," Elie says, "reach us at the center of ourselves." [Faith Fired by Literature.](#)

Diocesan Life – October

The [October edition of Diocesan Life](#) is accessible at our blog..

Artistic Renderings from Kajo Keji

[Check the venues](#) where our diocesan Episcopal Church Women (ECW) will display and sell new artistic renderings from the Diocese of Kajo Keji in Southern Sudan: finely woven baskets of millet, palm leaves and split bamboo (all renewable sources, ecologically speaking) and small carved pieces. The diocesan ECW sends *all* proceeds, not simply the profit, to the Diocese of Kajo Keji to benefit their orphans and widows as well as the vocational education projects of the Mothers Union such as sewing classes that include dress making and embroidery. The Mothers Union is the counterpart to ECW in many parts of the Anglican Communion. More info: [Laura Chegwidan](#). To add your church's event at which Sudanese crafts can be shown, please contact Catherine Jeffery at 610-868-6682.

The Keiskamma Altarpiece

The Keiskamma Altarpiece is a parable for our own day, rupturing expectations of liturgical

space, ecclesial art forms, the roll call of saints, and the faces of Christ. But it is precisely the tension between what is expected and what is actually found -- this astonishing testament to divine presence in circumstances that might otherwise be ignored -- that allows some believers to see God, Christ, and suffering humanity anew and more clearly. Such is the power of art that reimagines old forms to speak grace. [Read more here.](#)

Jesus Camp

Jesus Camp is a new documentary opening today in major metropolitan areas. "[I can't recommend it strongly enough,](#)" says [Jeff Sharlet of The Revealer](#). "*Jesus Camp* turns out to be perhaps the best work of journalism -- or art -- dealing with contemporary Christian conservatism ... It's a movie about the Christian Right and that movement's political ambitions, but it's also a story about kids and what they believe and how they absorb the beliefs of the adults around them. *Jesus Camp* transcends its moment even as it reports on it with precision."

Are all your parishioners receiving *Diocesan Life*?

All parishioners should be receiving *Diocesan Life* by snail mail, monthly, at no cost to the recipient. The mailing list is kept current by parish offices. Though parish lists in use are sent annually to parish offices for wholesale revision, anyone (parish offices or individuals) may indicate additions, deletions and changes to the list by sending those to elife@aflwebprinting.com. In doing this, please indicate that these are revisions to the list for "the Diocesan Life edition of Episcopal Life." Changes, if they are few, may be called in to 800-374-9510. Email, however, is preferable. Revisions may be sent also by snail mail to: Episcopal Life Circulation Department, PO BOX 2050, Voorhees, NJ 08043-8000. Parish offices that would like to work on the list at this time, rather than waiting for the annual snail mail copy, may request an Excel copy of their current list from [Bill Lewellis](#).

Local Events/Celebrations/Fund Raisers

[Updated today](#) at our diocesan blog. If you don't see your event here, please send info to [Bill Lewellis](#).

Diocesan Calendar of Events

Here's an updated version of our [diocesan calendar](#).

Diocesan Convention, October 13-14

Proposed resolutions, persons nominated for diocesan offices and committees, the convention schedule, as well as a letter from Archdeacon Stringfellow that covered convention registration, hotel rooms, the banquet at the nearby Masonic Temple, child care, the convention preprint and pre-convention meetings (October 3 at Epiphany Church in Clarks Summit; on Thursday, October 5, at Christ Church in Reading; and on Tuesday, October 10, at St. Anne's Church in Trexlertown) may be downloaded from [our diocesan blog](#).

Youth presence at Diocesan Convention

[From Demery Bader-Saye, diocesan youth missionary] Youth who are interested in attending Diocesan Convention, October 13-14, as visitors may want to thumb a ride with the delegates from their parishes. The Cathedral is providing a (limited) number of host homes for youth. We will have a special activity for youth after the banquet on Friday night. Otherwise, we will be present -- connecting with the youth and adult delegates and visitors to Convention -- just soaking up what it looks like, sounds like, feels like to be part of the Episcopal process. Download [invitation and forms here](#). Please [contact Demery](#) with any questions.

Happening #16

November 10-12. Download [info](#) and [forms](#).

At St. Andrew's

St. Andrew's Church, 1900 Pennsylvania Ave. (just off Catasauqua Rd.), Allentown, will host a *Fall Fun Night for Kids* on Friday, October 13, from 6-9 p.m. Crafts, games, snacks, and a not-so-scary Halloween movie are included. Free. Register by calling the church office at 610 865-3603. See www.standrewsbethlehem.org for more information. Bring a friend. The public is welcome! Also, there are still openings in St. Andrew's nursery school's afternoon classes. See www.standrewsbethlehem.org for contact information.

Presiding Bishop Investiture, November 4, to be webcast live

The Episcopal Church's Office of Communication, in collaboration with the Washington National Cathedral, will webcast the investiture service of Presiding Bishop Elect Katherine Jefferts Schori. The service, scheduled for November 4, will be carried live beginning at 11 a.m. (Eastern Time) and continuing through the liturgy's conclusion, expected around 1:15 p.m. The webcast will have a direct link on the Episcopal Church homepage, <http://www.episcopalchurch.org>, that will go live shortly before the service begins. It will be available in Windows Media Player and Real Player formats in both high bandwidth and low bandwidth options as well as an audio only version. The service will be recorded from a satellite production truck onsite that will uplink to a satellite as well, to provide live coverage opportunities to all media. Interested parties with a tuneable satellite receiver will also be able to watch the service in this way. Coordinates will be announced when they become available. Providing commentary will be the Rev. Jan Nunley, deputy for communication at the Episcopal Church Center, and the Rev. David Crabtree, a deacon and television news anchor at WRAL-TV in Raleigh/Durham, North Carolina.

John Allen on Tutu the "Rabble-Rouser"

John Allen, author of the authorized biography of Archbishop Desmond Tutu *Rabble-Rouser for Peace*, visited Trinity WallStreet's studio for a discussion on the Archbishop's life and work. Desmond Tutu was the leading Church figure in the struggle against apartheid, and remains perhaps the Anglican world's most beloved and best-known figure. Allen, Tutu's longtime press secretary, is an authority on Tutu's life. [Watch the video](#) to learn where Tutu's passion for justice comes from, how he grew as a leader, and other insights you won't hear elsewhere. Also featured is a compilation of Desmond Tutu video that you may [watch here](#).

Colleges innovate to engage religious diversity

Students are settling into campus life at colleges and universities across the country, bringing with them a vast array of spiritual beliefs. Administrators, educators and campus groups are creating new programs and spaces in [an effort to engage religious diversity in positive ways](#).

The pope and Islam

See [ReligionLink's guide to covering Catholic-Muslim and Christian-Muslim relations](#) during the aftermath of Pope Benedict's remarks.

[Christianity For The Rest of Us](#)

By Diana Butler Bass

Sky Lake Ecumenical Scripture Institute

Earl Trygar, rector, St. Mark's, Moscow sent a [brochure for the Sky Lake Ecumenical Scripture Institute](#) with this endorsement: "I have attended this event before and have enjoyed it, It is part

education, part retreat. So far at least 5 of our clergy are attending. At the one I attended last year it was comprised of mostly lay persons. It is a beautiful setting and the fellowship is wonderful. Addison Wright is very interesting and the sessions are very interactive. Check out the bio in the brochure Please pass this on to all."

The IRS Works in Mysterious Ways

[From a Los Angeles Times column by Steve Lopez] Pastor William Turner Jr. is a robust man with an unshakable set of beliefs, and he's never been shy about sharing them with the congregation of his New Revelation Missionary Baptist Church in Pasadena. He has preached against same-sex marriage, stem cell research and abortion. And he has proudly boasted to President Bush about converting 80% of his congregation from Democrat to Republican. "I salute and support you President Bush and will work untiringly for your reelection," Turner wrote to the president in February 2004, telling him he had done the same for former California Gov. Pete Wilson. Turner also wrote to fellow African American clergymen in support of Bush in 2004, saying that "any gay, homosexual, lesbian and/or immoral act is an abomination against God." Roughly two miles away from Turner's church is All Saints Episcopal Church, which has a radically different political bent. The same year Turner took up Bush's cause, the Rev. George Regas delivered a guest sermon at All Saints involving a mock debate between Bush, John Kerry and Jesus. In the debate, Jesus said that Bush's preemptive strike on Iraq "has led to disaster." So which of these two churches is under investigation by the Internal Revenue Service for taking sides in political contests? Read the rest [here](#).

Emerging model: A visit to Jacob's Well

By Jason Byassee is currently accessible at the [Christian Century](#) website.

Parish Newsletters

[Current parish newsletters](#) are accessible via our diocesan blog. To have your newsletter published on our blog, send a pdf file to [Bill Lewellis](#).

Stories from Episcopal News Service

[Presiding Bishop reflects on Camp Allen, Kigali meetings ... More objections voiced to Kigali communiqué ...](#) All ENS stories are accessible at www.episcopalchurch.org/ens

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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