

070208 newSpin

News with some Spin
Edited by Bill Lewellis

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

Jean Snyder, R.I.P.

“Jean was one of the best,” wrote Scott Allen on February 2, the day Jean died. “She was always there on many fronts – as a Spiritual Companion, a Social Justice Advocate and indomitable friend. A more loyal and caring friend one could not hope for. She was always there for me throughout my 18-year friendship with Jean... Her picnics for the Jubilee Committee in Zion Grove in the 90's when they had goats and ol "Toge" their faithful big dog were great – especially when the local fire company came to fill their above-ground pool! .She was always offering hospitality on the physical as well as the psychological level. And she was not shy about sharing her opinions too! A mother in the best sense of the word, she raised her own children and gathered others in need of one! The sadness I feel is only assuaged by the knowledge that she is with the Lord she loved and served and will be waiting for the rest of us with a wonderful smile, twinkling (and somewhat mischievous) blue eyes and arms outstretched for one of her big hugs.” Jean and Eric (The Rev. Eric Snyder) were married for 54 years. Read the obituary [here](#). Download Rick Cluett’s sermon [here](#).

Diocesan Training for Ministry Conference

At St. Stephen's, Wilkes-Barre on Saturday, March 3. [The brochure](#) includes a description of workshops, a map and a registration form to complete and return by regular mail before February 22. The workshops will be: (1) Wardens/Vestry, (2) Lay Eucharistic Ministers and Visitors, (3) Planned Giving, (4) Planning and Preaching Holy Week and Easter, (5) Treasurers, (6) AWE .. Kids. Hard copy will be sent to parishes.

Mission Trip to Kajo Keji

After a journey of some 15,000 miles, four representatives of the Diocese of Bethlehem have returned safely from their mission trip to Kajo Keji in southern Sudan. They spent five full days in meetings with representatives of the Diocese of Kajo Keji and its various ministries. They immersed themselves in the life of that diocese. See a few stories and photos [here](#).

Propellers on gravel, a two-room airport and a subsistence economy

[Story and photos by Archdeacon Howard J. Stringfellow] The intermediate and second stage of the journey to Kajo-Keji ends when the propeller plane jauntily and deftly settles on the gravel runway in Moyo. Rolling hills, brush, and mango trees dominate a landscape featuring but two buildings: a half-destroyed brick structure, on the other side of the runway, whose roof can only be imagined, and the two-room airport whose materials include no brick but concrete, wood, and plaster. The brick structure perhaps remains from a time before one of the recent wars, and the wood and concrete structure perhaps stands as its less expensive replacement, even less enduring. One room at the airport serves as an open air passenger lounge and for the sale of tickets and sodas (from the same attendant), and the other room, with only a table, gives security personnel in para-military dress a place to open and to examine luggage flying back to Kampala. [Read it all here](#).

epiScope

A wonderful new blog about the Episcopal Church. [Don't miss it](#). It also includes links to many other Episcopal-related blogs that look left, center and right.

A few Shrove Tuesday Pancake Suppers, Feb. 20

Cathedral, Bethlehem: 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. with pancakes, eggs and sausage in the Sayre Hall Dining Room. **St. Andrew's, Bethlehem/Allentown:** 1900 Pennsylvania Ave. (near Catasauqua Rd.), will serve a traditional pancake supper from 5 to 7 p.m. \$5 for adults, \$2.50 for children 11 and younger. Proceeds will support the ministry and outreach of the parish's Youth Group. Phone 610 865-3603 for reservations. Visit www.standrewsbethlehem.org for more information. **Grace, Allentown:** 5th and Linden Streets, 4:30 pm to 7:00 pm. \$6 for adults, and \$3.50 for children ages 6-12. Children ages 5 and under are free. Takeouts are available. Make reservations by calling 610-435-0782 or pay at the door. **Others? Send the info.**

Jubilate

Hymnody for Lent and Easter 2007 (Ash Wednesday, Feb. 21, to Easter 7C, May 20), published by the Diocese of Bethlehem for our diocesan community and for free distribution to the world, may be downloaded below as an Acrobat or MSWord file. *Jubilate* is a service of our Liturgy and Music Commission, specifically Canon Cliff Carr who has been doing this for some 20 years. Once distributed in hard copy, *Jubilate* is available only [by electronic download, available at our diocesan blog](#).

Diocesan Life. February

The [February issue of Diocesan Life](#) is available at our diocesan blog.

The EcuAdvocate

Download the [Pennsylvania Council of Churches' advocacy newsletter](#). It contains in-depth information about priority issues before the Council and updates on issues as they happen. Updates by topic are designed to keep constituents informed about the status of specific issues on an ongoing basis.

A Charitable Gift Annuity: A gift that gives back

Planning a gift to one's parish is a personal expression of faith and support. Sometimes our individual financial situations, however, can hinder our best intentions. This is why many parishioners who want to act generously but also need income for themselves have been delighted to be able to give through a charitable gift annuity, an irrevocable gift to your parish in exchange for guaranteed payments to you and/or another person for life. The fixed payment amount is based on your age at the time of the gift, and will never vary or cease in your lifetime. In fact, the older the donor, the larger the rate of the income payment!

In addition to receiving an immediate income tax deduction for making the gift, a portion of each income payment is tax-free, thus effectively increasing your rate of return. After death, the remaining balance of your gift will be transferred to your parish to be used as you direct. To find out more about charitable gift annuities or other gift options, and to obtain an illustration of how this gift plan can benefit both you and your parish, please contact Char Horst, diocesan missionary for development, at chorst@diobeth.org or 610.683.8625.

Walk a Mile

Brochures and Participation Guides to run *Walk a Mile* in your congregation are available at www.diobethkids.org. Each guide contains everything necessary for a parish to establish *Mile*

Markers including suggestion to help learn about children's needs, what to collect to fill shoe rack, and who to call in your community to donate collected items. Information about the diocesan *Walk a Mile* walk-a-thon will be available in the very near future. If you have questions about the Walk a Mile Campaign or the Walk-a-Thon itself, please contact [Debra Kissinger](#) or [Lee Anne Allison](#).

Father Ben Lentz retires

The Church of the Redeemer held a retirement celebration, January 21, for the Reverend Benjamin Lee Lentz. Ordained for 30 years, Father Lentz had been rector there for the past 16 years. More than 100 members of the Redeemer family came to wish Father Lentz and his family (Andrea and Theo) best wishes in starting the next phase of their lives. Offering best wishes and stories were the Reverend Mary Kisner, Gretchen Rentschler, the Reverend Hazel Hunt and Rebecca Fiorello. Father Lentz was presented with a retirement gift from friends and parish members. "You are a splendid colleague, a team player, and one who has always had the welfare of the most vulnerable at heart," Bishop Paul wrote to Father Lentz. "You have been willing to take risks for the sake of Christ's little ones, and that is what Sayre will, I think, most remember you for. Additionally, your ability to build bridges with members of other faiths is simply phenomenal, and to my knowledge unparalleled in our area." Read Bishop Paul's letter [here](#).

A free website for your church

[ForMinistry](#) gives you everything you need to get your church website up and running, and you don't have to be a computer techie. Their tools allow you to edit and add online anytime, anywhere. The *ForMinistry* system lists the following qualities: "easier to use, preset menus and one-page editing, multiple layouts, unlimited content, and more great add-ons." It's worth a look if your church has been wondering how to set up a website. My recollection is that this internet ministry of the American Bible Society began with a handsome Lilly Endowment grant and continues through private contributions.

Birds of a Feather Fight Together

Birds of a feather -- we struggle most with the ones we love the most. We care more about their regard than about the regard of others. They have more power to hurt us than others have. So we'd best be careful. Try to say what we mean and not something else, and always understand that what someone else heard may not be what we thought we said. Not assume we understand each other just because we are called by the same name." Read all of Barbara Crafton's *eMo* at [the Geranium Farm](#).

Episcopal Churchwomen Annual Meeting

The diocesan Episcopal Churchwomen invite all to their annual spring meeting at Kirby House, Mountaintop, May 9. Bishop Paul will present the program, Women of the Bible. A fee of \$12 includes registration, refreshments, lunch and program. Registration deadline: April 22. No registrations accepted after that date. Submit names of each person attending. Checks payable to Diocesan ECW. Mail to Catherine Jeffery, 1839 Ulster Road, Allentown, PA. Phone: 610-868-6682.

Bishop's Day with Youth

Three cheers for those who developed the youth day at Camelback this past Saturday. This was the first time that youth from St. Paul's, Montrose, have participated in a diocesan event, and they had a wonderful time! They were all aglow on Sunday, especially about the worship service. Demery, kudos to you and all who planned the event, and worked hard to make it a success. It

was a winner! There is no joy like a group of teens excited and energized about a church event! We are all in your debt. Count us in for the next event. [Charles Cesaretti]

Daylight Saving Time

Begins a lot earlier than usual this year, March 11, and ends later, Nov. 4.

Quiet Day in Whitehall with Bishop Parsons

Bishop Donald J. Parsons is coming to St. Stephen's, Whitehall! Bishop Parsons is Visiting Professor of New Testament at Nashotah House Seminary. He visited St. Stephen's three years ago in March 2004. This year, on March 17, he will lead a Lenten Quiet Day. The day will begin with Holy Eucharist at 9:30 followed by coffee. At 10:30, he will give a brief address, after which participants go to a quiet place to spend time alone in prayer and contemplation. A quiet lunch at noon is provided. Bishop Parsons will give addresses again at 12:30 and at 2:00. He will be available throughout the day to receive confession from anyone who chooses to do so. The day ends with Evening Prayer at about 2:45. The Lenten Quiet Day is open to anyone in the Diocese. Please bring a pen and notepad and join us for this day of renewal. Please contact our church office at 610 435-3901 to register. There is no charge, but a freewill offering can be made to the church, with a notation that it is for Bishop Parsons.

Redeemer, Sayre, members visit local mosque

Preceded by visits from Drs. Muhammad Wattoo and Ibrahim Ahmed at the Church of the Redeemer for programs on Islam and a hadj by Dr. Wattoo, members of the Church of the Redeemer, on Sunday January 28, led by the Rev. Benjamin Lentz, were invited to observe and/or participate in evening prayers being held by the Islamic congregation of the Sayre Mosque. Dr. Wattoo explained Islamic beliefs and their prayers. At sunset, Dr. Amhed, Imam for the congregation, led the gathering by chanting in Arabic the evening prayers. Following prayers, Father Lentz offered a dialogue on the similarities between Christianity and Islam. Some 60 people not of the Islamic faith were in attendance. The consensus was that Islamic beliefs and our perceptions of our Muslim neighbors are very different than what is presented in the media today. After prayers and dialogue, everyone enjoyed a mid-Eastern meal at the nearby Nagy Restaurant. [Terri House, of the Church of the Redeemer]

MDG bulletin inserts

ENS and Episcopal Life have put together a series of ten bulletin inserts on the Millennium Development Goals in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

Episcopal Relief and Development's 2007 Lenten Devotional Series

Now available [here](#). Take a look. This year's edition is titled *ESSENTIALS: Lenten meditations on necessity and abundance*. It is designed to help parishioners prepare themselves spiritually for Easter by focusing on the world around us, God's impact and how together we are making a difference. All materials are free. A minimal shipping and handling charge is applied to all orders.

Make peace with your past

Your life may depend on it. Ten ways to rewrite your life story: 1. Reframe the past. 2. Break the shackles of shame. 3. Release the pain. 4. Stop the slow acid drip of regret. 5. Move from grief to gain. 6. Practice acceptance. 7. Cultivate gratitude. 8. Break the habit of blame. 9. Find inner peace. 10. Create a satisfying future. Read the entire article from Prevention magazine [here](#). [Thanks to Diana Marshall for this pointer.]

Save the World in an Ordinary Way

I feel the ambivalence mounting. Most Christians in Pennsylvania are about to start their annual tune-up, Lent. Some are thinking about what they will give up; some, about what they will take on. Some are thinking about going on a diet and getting religious credit for it. Others think it is silly and will ignore it. The concept of six weeks of focus on what one values most – deliberately pushing distractions aside – is useful, even for those who consider themselves “spiritual but not religious,” as the personal ads put it. For those just beginning to think about a constructive springtime for their interior life, I mention a few possibilities that involve the saving of the world in a very ordinary sense. [[Download and read Bishop Paul’s February column](#) for secular newspaper. Usually different from his column in *Diocesan Life*, the column is sent monthly to newspapers throughout the 14 counties of our diocese. It is published by The Morning Call, Allentown, on the first Saturday of every month. The combined circulation of papers that publish the column regularly is about 400,000. More than 110 columns have been published over the past ten years.

Christian Educators Retreat

Salt of the Earth/Light for the World, with Sharon Ely Pearson, March 23-24, at Kirby House, Mountaintop. Get more info and a registration form for this retreat for Christian educators, Sunday school teachers, youth workers and adult formation leaders at www.diobethkids.org. Sponsored by AWE: Children’s Ministries.

Resources for kids, families and educators

Lent thru Pentecost [Faith in the Home](#) packets and [AWESome News for Christian Educators](#).

U2charist in Dallas

Prince of Peace, Dallas will host a U2charist on Saturday, February 17 to coincide with World Mission Sunday. The service will begin at 6:00 pm. Tickets are free and are available now by contacting Jennifer Martin in the church office (princeofpeace@epix.net). Information on the MDGs, and the ONE campaign as well as Goodies and Giveaways will be available after the service.

A Tribute to Bishop Manasseh

Bishop Manasseh Binyi Dawidi steps down as Bishop of the Diocese of Kajo Keji in southern Sudan at a time when his diocese has formed significant bonds within the Anglican Communion, finally able to establish itself in its homeland. Like Moses, Manasseh has led his people through the wilderness. "They tell me that the war has driven the lions out of your tall grass to safety in other countries," Bishop Paul Marshall preached during a January 2005 mission trip when invited to ordain 34 deacons and three priests, "But I tell you that there is still one lion in Kajo Keji. He is your bishop." [Download the story with photos at our diocesan blog.](#)

Diocesan ECW raised \$20,000 for Kajo Keji ministries

Since October 2004, our diocesan Episcopal Churchwomen have raised some \$20,000 through their sale of crafts made by the Mothers’ Union of the Diocese of Kajo Keji in southern Sudan. That includes a recent transfer of \$5,706, according to the diocesan World Mission committee. All proceeds, not simply the profit, support the Mothers’ Union ministry with orphans and widows as well as their vocational education projects such as sewing classes that include dress making and embroidery. Hefty postal costs have been offset by additional contributions. The Mothers’ Union is the counterpart to ECW in many parts of the Anglican Communion. The artistic renderings have been shown at diocesan conventions, parish forums and fall and holiday craft shows. They include finely woven baskets of millet, palm leaves and split bamboo (all renewable sources, ecologically speaking) and small carved pieces. The ECW board encourages

parishes to schedule a craft show. Fellowship gatherings after services or forums, parish women's meetings: all are great places to present showings. For further information or scheduling, contact Catherine Jeffery at 610-868-6682.

Fundamentals of Parish/Faith Community Nursing Practice

Two sessions offered at Sacred Heart Hospital, 421 Chew St. in Allentown, on Mondays, Feb. 26 and March 5, 2007 from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Both sessions must be completed to receive 12.6 PSNA contact hours. Sponsored by Sacred Heart Hospital and Moravian College, this program is designed to provide the learner with the necessary knowledge and tools to initiate a health ministry/parish nurse program in a congregation. Tuition is \$40 for both sessions which includes breakfast, lunch, learning materials and the book *Parish Nurse*. (Diocese of Bethlehem participants are eligible for scholarships--contact Diana Marshall--d.marsh@rcn.com.) Registration closes February 15 and is limited to 28 participants. Contact Nicole Rodriguez, 610-663-3141 or nrodrigu@shh.org for details and/or a brochure/registration form.

The Real Falls Church

This is the latest of several editorials in the weekly Falls Church News-Press, outlining here, more in an earlier editorial, the tiny City of Falls Church's history of being bullied by the church.

Chaplain's Forum at Lehigh University

February 20, Maginnes 102, 4:10 pm. *Trial by Church*, a talk and discussion with the Rev. Beth Stroud, an ordained United Methodist pastor who lost her clergy credentials in a 2004 church trial. She was found guilty of "practices declared by the United Methodist Church to be incompatible with Christian teaching" because she acknowledged living in a committed relationship with another woman.

Congress.org

Diana Marshall points us to this website.

Congresspedia

Its website says it is the "citizen's encyclopedia on Congress" that anyone can edit, a not-for-profit, collaborative project of the [Center for Media and Democracy](#) and the [Sunlight Foundation](#). It is overseen by an editor to help ensure fairness and accuracy. Congresspedia is part of [SourceWatch](#), a [wiki-based](#) website documenting the people, organizations and issues shaping the public agenda. It carries all of the liabilities that citizen-generated and edited wikis do, so check everything.

Watching America

Rob McMahon points us to this website for views of America from all over the world.

Sharing stories of spirituality

The Washington Post is inviting readers to share their stories of spirituality (400 words or less) – "a time of crisis that tested your faith, the person who most influenced your beliefs, or a life-changing event that shaped your spiritual identity. When has your faith helped you forge a connection with a stranger? How did you worship when you were a child?" You may read a few of the stories [here](#).

*Diocesan Blog: www.diobeth.typepad.com/diobeth_newspin

(Bookmark it on your browser.)

[*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.]

Bill Lewellis, Communication Minister/Editor (1986), Canon Theologian (1998)

Diocese of Bethlehem, 333 Wyandotte St., Bethlehem, PA 18015 www.diobeth.org

(Cell) 610-216-2726 (W)610-691-5655 x229 (H)610-820-7673 blewellis@diobeth.org

Be attentive. Be intelligent. Be reasonable. Be responsible.

Be in Love. And, if necessary, change. --Bernard Lonergan