

071111 newSpin
News with some Spin
Edited by Bill Lewellis

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

Victoria Lala Leach

Victoria Lala Leach, 88, died November 2, 2007, in St. Luke's Hospital, Fountain Hill. Born April 8, 1919, in Punta Arenas, Chile, she was educated in Chile and in England. During World War II, she worked for the British Navy and British Security Coordination in Valparaiso, Chile. She married Edward P. Leach, a mining engineer working in Chile for Bethlehem Steel Corp. They came to the United States in 1954 where her husband continued his career with Bethlehem Steel, and Lala raised seven children. She proudly became a United States citizen in 1979. [Go [here](#) to download the obituary and remarks Bishop Paul made about Lala last year at the Cathedral, as well as the Bishop's sermon at the funeral.]

Mama Christina

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

Bishop Paul's All Souls Day Sermon

There is but one fundamental truth for Christians: in Christ we are tied to God and each other in a way that the circumstances of time and space cannot defeat ... Because all life in Christ is essentially one, to engage in prayer for the dead in the words and music of this liturgy is to gently heal our past...and calmly embrace our future. [Read it all [here](#).]

The Celebration of New Ministry

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

The homeless veteran

Veterans make up a disproportionate share of the nations homeless population. Nearly 500,000 were homeless in 2006. While vets make up only 11 percent of the civilian population, one quarter of all homeless people (26%) are veterans. Read this [commentary by Andy Gerns](#).

Soup for the Troops

Every month [Stone Soup Studios](#), 301 Broadway, Bethlehem, sends a shipment of *Simple Soups* overseas to say "We are thinking of you." *Stone Soup* is operated by "two seasoned artisans and one creative business lady," all women of the cathedral. You can help them support our service men and women by purchasing a bag of gourmet dehydrated soup for \$7.95 that will be included in the next shipment. Or, if you have a loved one overseas, provide their names and Stone Soup women will send the packets directly to the units of your loved ones. Read about it [here](#).

And, on December 9 at [Stone Soup Studios](#), from noon until 4:00, you will be able to **meet Barbara Crafton** at a special signing of her new book, *Mary and Her Miracle: The Christmas*

Story Retold. Barbara's book tells Mary's story of the Christmas journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem with gentle humor, lively imagination and a sense of wonder. Each chapter is beautifully illustrated by acclaimed portrait artist Dianne Robbins.

[In Remembrance](#)

Honoring American service members lost in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Episcopal Peace Fellowship

Does war ever bring us closer to God's kingdom? Work for peace and justice? [Episcopal Peace Fellowship](#) is a national organization with local chapters across the United States. While affiliated with the Episcopal Church in America, EPF is an independent entity striving to work for peace and justice in our communities, our church, and the world.

No Military Action against Iran without Congressional Approval

Read the Action Alert from the Episcopal Public Policy Network [here](#). [Thanks to Diana Marshall for this pointer.]

Winnie Romeril in Mexico

Winnie Romeril, daughter of Bob and Gwendolyn-Jane Romeril, is a US Red Cross worker who was sent down to Mexico to assist the Mexican Red Cross in a town near the Yucatan Peninsula where there has been a major flooding problem. Here the [direct link to the NPR audio](#), 4 ½ minutes, in which Winnie gets a lot of airtime. An amazing person, Winnie was once a leader in our diocesan youth group and an active participant in the Puerto Rico/Bethlehem Summer Exchange in 1984. Bob and Gwendolyn-Jane have asked for our prayers for the safety of Winnie and all those in peril.

Good News from the Northern Tier

The eleven parishes of the Northern Tier of our diocese want to share with our sisters and brothers the good news that we are experiencing. This is an outgrowth of our *Under One Roof* Assembly. Download the good news [here](#). When you have a short article to include in Good News from the Northern Tier, send it, with pictures, if possible, to [Father Charles Cesaretti](#).

Diocesan Life.December

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

2000 in 90 Minutes

"Two thousand children across the world have died since I began speaking here today," Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori said, 90 minutes into her talk at the convention of the Diocese of Vermont. Read more [here](#).

The Seven Deadly Habits of Truly Miserable People

Punishing, complaining, blaming, threatening, nagging, criticizing, and bribing. Unless you have a couple of crossed wires or a genetic glitch in your brain cells, most of the emotional turmoil you experience is directly traceable to the fact that you've learned to try to control those around you through these seven deadly habits. Unfortunately, a lot of us use the seven deadlies without even realizing it. Read it all [here](#). [Thanks to Diana Marshall for this pointer.]

Recasting the debate about secularism

"I have long admired Charles Taylor and have read most of what he has written and always found

him helpful,” [writes Robert Bellah](#) on The Immanent Frame, a blog on secularism, religion and the public sphere. “Yet for me, *A Secular Age* is his breakthrough book – one of the most important books to be written in my lifetime. Taylor succeeds in no less than recasting the entire debate about secularism.” Taylor is professor of law and philosophy at Northwestern University. “Among his more interesting arguments,” writes Chuck Blanchard [on Episcopal Café](#), “is that Christianity itself is responsible for the rise of secularism.”

This is a call ...

A “Sunday before New Consecration Sunday” talk by Joe Jackloski, a member of Grace Church, Kingston. Read it [here](#).

New Hope

New Hope Campaign commitments now stand at approximately \$2.7 million toward our \$3.6 million goal. Among the *New Hope*-related articles written or re-written (or placed) with local and national publications are the following: (1) *Life changing relationship* appears in the November issue of the national edition of *Episcopal Life*. It is available [here](#). There will be another *New Hope*-related story, as a sidebar of the cover story, in the December issue of *Episcopal Life*. (2) *Giving Hope* was published on pages 18-19 in the current issue, November 11, of *The Living Church*. (3) The Morning Call, October 14, carried a story, *A Reason to Unite*, on the front local page of its Sunday edition. Read it [here](#). (4) The Morning Call, October 19, published an op-ed. Read it [here](#). (5) [Episcopalians for Global Reconciliation](#) has linked to several *New Hope*-related stories on its EGR newsletter.

Bishop’s Day with Youth in NYC

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

Seven Seasonal Welcome Posters and a Postcard Program for Christmas and Easter

Jenifer Gamber and Richard Woodyatt have put together a program for printing and distributing a series of seven seasonal welcome poster throughout the liturgical year: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter and Pentecost. There will be two posters for the Pentecost season – one sent out in May at the beginning of the season and one in late August to make the beginning of the school year activities. All posters are printed on a heavy 80# Gloss Cover Stock and have a finished size of 11x17 inches (\$35 for basic subscription plus \$28 for mailing, to receive all seven posters). They will be shipped flat via first class mail in a protective mailer and timed to arrive about a week before they are needed. There will also be a program of coordinating postcards for Christmas, Easter and the beginning of the school year, similar to last year's program. Pdf files describing all of this and how to participate may be downloaded [here](#).

Celebrating the Eucharist

In this first new Eucharistic customary in nearly 20 years (subtitle: *A Practical Ceremonial Guide for Clergy and Other Liturgical Ministers*), Father Malloy, liturgical scholar and rector of Grace Church, Allentown, presents a clear, illustrated guide for the presider and other leaders of the liturgy, contemporary in approach but based on ancient and classic principles of celebration. Download more information [here](#).

On economics, the pope is no right-winger

A new encyclical by Pope Benedict, anticipated in the next few months, “promises to be a provocative contribution to the debate on globalization and its social consequences,” according to a recent [Religion News Service story](#). “Though he adamantly rejects attempts to associate Catholic teaching with Marxism, the pope has signaled he supports intervention to temper market forces and redress economic inequality. ‘The crises of hunger and the environment testify, with increasing evidence, that the logic of profit, if it prevails, increases inequality between rich and poor and a ruinous exploitation of the planet,’ he said in September. He also contrasted the ‘logic of profit’ with a ‘logic of sharing and solidarity,’ which he said can lead to ‘fair and sustainable development.’ In 2000, Benedict bemoaned the ‘distortion of relationships between the First and the Third World,’ which he denounced as violating the ‘principle of the universal distribution of goods.’ He added that ‘legal structures have to be found’ to remedy the situation.” [Read it all [here](#).]

The Pittsburgh schism

[From the beginning of an op-ed in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, November 11, by conservative activist [Jerry Bowyer](#), an Episcopal vestryman, a financial journalist and the chairman of Bowyer Media.] My wife is a reader at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in McKeesport. This means that she sometimes leads the people in prayer, including a prayer "for Katharine, our presiding bishop; Robert and Henry, our bishops; and Jay, our priest." These are our leaders. ... This past summer, Bishop Duncan instructed my wife and hundreds of other readers in the diocese to omit the prayer for Katharine ... It appeared at the time that omitting the prayer for Katharine was a steppingstone to where the bishop was really trying to take us -- outside of the Episcopal Church. [Read it all [here](#).]

Religion journalism on the web

“If you follow religion news on the Web, you may already know about the *Dallas Morning News*' excellent [blog](#) (although you may not know that blogger Sam Hodges is the author of the hilarious novel [B-4](#)),” writes my colleague and virtual friend Jim Naughton, editor of [Episcopal Café](#).

Episcopal Café

[EpiscopalCafe.com](#), a most worthwhile blogsite sponsored by the Diocese of Washington in partnership with the Episcopal Church and Visual Arts, is a collaborative effort by more than two dozen [writers and editors](#), including Trinity Easton rector Andy Gerns. Episcopal Cafe includes [The Lead](#), news on events in the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion, [Daily Episcopalian](#), commentary on events in the Church and the Communion as well as articles on theology, peace and justice initiatives and popular culture, and [Speaking to the Soul](#), sermons, reflections, multimedia meditations and excerpts from books on spirituality. Most of the art on the Café is provided by [The Episcopal Church and Visual Arts](#). The [Art Blog](#) offers additional information, and sometimes a brief meditation, on each piece.

Fast Facts

Helpful [facts and a glossary of terms](#).

Women's Retreat

Women from the Diocese of Bethlehem are invited to join with the women of Nativity,

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

Advent Quiet Day

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

News, Commentary, Information

To keep up with Episcopal Church news and commentary, to track how our church is faring in news coverage across the country, even around the world, and to find useful info about the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion, you may find the following resources helpful: (1) [Episcopal Life Online](#) offers the most up-to-date info about the news, people, life and mission of the Episcopal Church. Updated daily, even hourly. (2) [epiScope](#), a news blog of the Episcopal Church’s Communication Office, features the latest stories in the media about the Episcopal Church plus links to resources and comment from insiders. It provides us with the capacity to see ourselves as others see us. Updated daily. (3) [Episcopal Café](#) includes four blog sites. "The Lead," is devoted to breaking news about the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion. "Daily Episcopalian" is a blog of commentary. "Speaking to the Soul" features reflections, multimedia meditations, and excerpts from books on spirituality. The "Art Blog" comes from the Episcopal Church in the Visual Arts (ECVA). Read more about Episcopal Cafe [here](#). (4) [Anglicans Online](#), a comprehensive site for news, info, commentary and archives, updated weekly, usually late Sunday evenings. (5) [NewsLine](#), serving media representatives reporting on the mission and ministries of the Episcopal Church. Links to statistics, bios, photos, background information, and other resources. NewsLine is a service of the Communication Office at the Episcopal Church Center. (6) [InfoLine](#), located at the Episcopal Church Center. InfoLine can help you make connections to churchwide ministries, events and activities. Got a question? Ask it by email or by phone. InfoLine staff members will do their best to answer your questions.

Include your newcomers

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 to be kept current by parish offices. Though hard copy of the current list is sent annually to parish offices for wholesale updating – parish offices should have received one during May – anyone (parish offices or individuals) may indicate additions, deletions and changes to the list at any time by sending those to elife@aflwebprinting.com. In doing this, please indicate that your list revisions are for “the Diocesan Life edition of Episcopal Life.” Your 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 receive an electronic list, for easy correction online, may request an Excel copy of their current list from [Bill Lewellis](#).

Boar’s Head Festival

Some 180 people from five participating Episcopal churches in Berks County will be in costume for the second annual Madrigal Boar's Head Festival at Christ Church, Fifth and Court, Reading. Presentations at 1:00 and 4:00. Funds raised will benefit the Wig Room of the American Cancer Society, providing wigs for male and female cancer patients. Cost per wig is \$30. Participating parishes: St. Alban's, Sinking Spring; St. Gabriel's, Douglassville; St. Mary's, Reading; St. Thomas, Morgantown and Christ Church, Reading. More information: Kathy Kreitz, director/producer, 610-374-8269 ext 224.

Posing God and religion questions to cultural eminences

Do you believe in God? What will happen to you at death? Do you pray? Do you think religious believers are deluded? Many people would hesitate to raise these questions at dinner. Antonio Monda, on the other hand, has been posing them for several years to cultural eminences. *Do You Believe? Conversations on God and Religion*, just published by Vintage as a paperback original, includes 18 interviews. [[Read Peter Steinfelds' column about it here.](#)]

Episcopal Life Bulletin Inserts

November 18 will take a look at the Thanksgiving holiday. Episcopal Life Bulletin Inserts, in color and black/white formats on either a full 8.5" by 11" sheet or half of an 8.5" by 11" sheet double-sided. Available for download [here](#). If it has not yet been uploaded, check in a day or two.

Diocesan Convention

Find detailed information [here](#).

Back issues

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

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

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