

071121 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.**

The General Thanksgiving

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.
[Book of Common Prayer, p101]

Today we remember tomorrow

In our eucharistic remembrance, always and everywhere giving thanks, gently healing our past and calmly embracing our future, we remember tomorrow. Read the reflection by Bill Lewellis [here](#).

Giving thanks through food

Trinity Soup Kitchen and New Bethany Ministries

[The Express-Times, Nov. 21, [Read it all here](#).] Cooking for a large crowd can be a daunting task, especially during the holiday season. Knowing how much food to prepare, where to set the tableware and how to keep everything warm are just a few of the many things to consider as a host or hostess.

Volunteers at the Trinity Episcopal Church Soup Kitchen on East Market Street in Bethlehem have experience when it comes to planning and preparing the traditional, family-style Thanksgiving dinner for a substantial number of guests.

"We say grace and have tons of volunteers who serve turkey and side dishes," says the Rev. Elizabeth Miller, deacon/coordinator of the soup kitchen. Dinner is served noon to 1 p.m. at no charge. The Thanksgiving menu ranges from green-bean casserole to pumpkin pie topped with whipped cream.

"We really try to have everything you would have in your own home," says Miller.

The kitchen crew began roasting turkeys Monday and will have cooked a total of 18 by Thanksgiving Day. On average, 150 people will be served, in addition to the volunteers who stay for cleanup.

The courageous efforts of children

[Wardance](#) is a documentary about children from northern Uganda (the area where Sudanese were in exile until recently) who have been abducted or terrorized by the notorious Lord's Resistance Army. A group from a school in one of the camps is able to make it to the finals in Uganda's annual singing competition in Kampala. Click on "About the Film." Watch the [seven-minute theatrical trailer](#). The film will play at the Ritz in Philadelphia on November 30. And there's more info [here](#).

Mixtures in Gibbsville

The homepage of the [AnglicansOnline website](#) consists of an essay by the editors, a new one posted every Sunday evening. This week's essay caught my eye for several reasons, one of which was the mention of Gibbsville, novelist John O'Hara's name for Pottsville, the region of my childhood. The essay focused on mixtures prohibited in the Jewish scriptures and "an unlawful mixture of sorts in the [Pottsville] town square ... the crèche-and-war-monument caught us off guard." [Read it all and see the pictures [here](#).]

Episcopal Life Focus

The November video edition of *Episcopal Life Focus*, featuring news from Executive Council and the Gathering in Jamestown, sponsored by Native American Ministries, is available [here](#).

Advent Poster

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. [The Advent poster may be seen here](#). 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. 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](#).

Diocesan Life.December

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

40 years

Last Sunday was the 40th anniversary of Canon George Loeffler's ordination as a deacon. Well known throughout our diocese from many Sunday visits to congregations as Bishop Paul's chaplain, George was born in South Orange, NJ, where he lived until attending Lehigh University. He received a degree in physics, then joined Bell Telephone Laboratories as a member of technical staff. While designing components for unusually high-reliability use (the first transoceanic telephone cables, communications satellites, and underwater fixed naval sonar systems), he deprived the Labs of one of their chemical researchers, Barbara Bowen, by marrying her; they have two daughters, Ann and Carol. George was ordained in the Diocese of Newark in 1967 after his rector recognized George's diaconal tendencies and recommended that he "go for it." Newark lost him immediately afterward when Bell transferred him to the Allentown Labs.

Prayer Book resources

There's a wonderful page of Prayer Book resources [here](#).

Coats for Community in the Northern Tier

[From Chares Cesaretti] Christ Church, Forest City; St. Mark's, New Milford; and, St. Paul's, Montrose, have joined in hosting *Coats for Community*, which provides free coats, sweaters, and blankets to our neighbors. Working with the American Legion in Montrose, which gathers and distributes the winter necessities, the three parishes will open their parish houses for the distribution which will take place in December, January, and February -- each parish taking one of the months for the two-day long outreach. We have a great deal for which we are thankful in the Northern Tier, especially our growing partnership. We thank our bishop and diocese for the support, encouragement, and prayers. A blessed Thanksgiving Weekend to you all.

Revocation of license

[From Bishop Paul] Please note that the license of the Rev. Leona Irsch to officiate in this diocese is revoked. She may not preach, lead worship or administer the sacraments.

Episcopal Life Bulletin Insert

The November 25 bulletin insert notes ONE Sunday, a day of prayer and action for MDGs. The insert also includes information from the National Episcopal AIDS Coalition as AIDS Day nears on December 2. 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. View it [here](#).

Cultural diversity in ordination process

A new resource examines cultural diversity in the ordination process. Read about it [here](#).

Diocesan House

Diocesan House will be closed on Thanksgiving and Friday. We will be back on Monday at 8:30 a.m.

Meet Barbara Crafton

On December 9 at [Stone Soup Studios](#), 301 Broadway, Bethlehem, 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. *Stone Soup* is operated by "two seasoned artisans and one creative business lady," all women of the cathedral.

Winter Craft Show at St. Stephen's, Whitehall

The 24th annual winter craft show at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Whitehall, PA, will take place on Friday, November 30, from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday, December 1 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sixty-one crafters, including ten new exhibitors, will present their handicrafts.

Crafts for sale include Pysanky (Ukrainian eggs), hand painted items, stained glass, jewelry, writing pens of exotic woods, and soaps and lotions from goat's milk. There will be a wide selection of home baked cookies (Christmas and otherwise), Pack #39 Cub Scouts popcorn and baked goods, and Junior Youth Group homemade candies.

Delicious hot food will be offered, including turkey and pork barbeque, turkey potpie, vegetable soup, hot Pierogies, French fries, halushkie, hot dogs and hamburgers. Take home

frozen Pierogies by the dozen will be available.

Santa will make a special appearance on Friday night from 5-6 p.m. and on Saturday from noon to 1 p.m. A raffle for a hand made queen size "Herringbone" quilt and a raffle of craft articles will take place.

St. Stephen's is located on Mechanicsville Road near MacArthur road, next to Whitehall Senior High School. Parking is free and there is no admission charge.

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](#).

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](mailto:Janet.Kolepp@dioceseofbethlehem.org) 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.

Two Advent calendars online

Trinity Wall Street puts a multimedia spin on an old-fashioned tradition with the launch of its online Advent Calendar, *Getting Ready: An Advent Calendar of Hope*. Beginning December 2, visit [here](#) to explore the essential Advent themes of hope, peace, love, and joy via a virtual calendar that each day reveals a message of inspiration, a call to action, and links to related resources. Using the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as the backbone of the calendar, many of the "doors" will open to reveal opportunities for sustaining the environment, supporting relief organizations, and volunteering individual talents.

The fourth annual online Advent calendar of the **Diocese of Washington** will be available on December 1. Look for it [here](#). Beneath each "window" in the calendar, visitors will find a photograph of one of the figures from the annual crèche exhibit at Washington National Cathedral and links to a daily meditation, a daily carol (courtesy of the [choir](#) of Trinity Church Wall Street) and a giving opportunity (many of them culled from Episcopal Relief and Development's annual [Gifts for Life Catalog](#). Visit the [2004](#), [2005](#) and [2006](#) calendars.

Religion and Violence: Untangling the Roots of Conflict

This is [Trinity Institute's 38th National Theological Conference](#), January 21-23 at Trinity Church in NYC. A panel of prominent Christian, Jewish, and Muslim theologians (James Carroll, James

Cone, Susannah Heschel and Tariq Ramadan) will explore the deeply rooted, seemingly inexorable union of religion and violence, illuminating the resources within each tradition for living together in peace, without losing the unique identities of each faith. Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori will preach at the opening Eucharist. You may attend in New York, participate via webcast at a partner site or view the presentations online at your computer. Locally, the conference will be held via telecast at [Zion Lutheran Church](#), Old Zionsville, PA. For more information, email the church at zions@ptd.net.

Back issues

Find recent back editions of the *newSpin* newsletter: [071117](#), [071111](#), [071102](#), [071029](#), [071023](#), [071010](#).

*** 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