

## **071203 newSpin**

### **News with some Spin**

#### **Edited by Bill Lewellis**

The *newSpin newsletter*, published four 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.**

### **Everyone called her Lala**

[*Bishop Paul*] Few people have shown me so unselfconsciously how what we believe looks like when it works. With the humility and genuine kindness that only truly beautiful souls can muster, she did many kinds of good where you get your hands dirty. Born 1919 in Chile, she was educated there and in England. During World War II, she worked in Chile on specialty coding and decoding for the British Navy and British Security Coordination ... Lala decoded the central truth of her religion: God became incarnate -- in Jesus, God got close to humanity, and people changed. When we choose to get closer to those who are in need, one-on-one, we and they are changed together. [Download [Bishop Paul's December column for daily newspapers.](#)]

### **Protect Vulnerable Pennsylvanians this Heating Season**

Contact your Pennsylvania representative to urge him/her to support HB 824 to make it easier for working families to keep the heat on this winter. A vote is expected on Dec. 4. Click [here](#) to find Pennsylvania legislators, who yours are and how to contact them. Suggested Message: Identify yourself as a person of faith (you may wish to identify your faith tradition). Urge your PA representative to support HB 824 to make it easier for working families to keep the heat on this winter. Remind him/her that dramatically higher energy costs threaten the ability of many families to pay their greatly increased utility bills, resulting in shut offs that threaten the health, safety, and welfare of all, but particularly the most vulnerable citizens – elderly, children, and persons in poor health. [Thanks to Diana Marshall for this.]

### **Action Alerts for Pennsylvania**

Find [Action Alerts with background information](#) on specific bills and issues of interest to the Pennsylvania Council of Churches and the wider faith community both in Harrisburg and Washington.

### **The Bishop was here!**

Montrose, December 2 – It was a cold, snowy Sunday morning and the roads were slick, but the Bishop was on his way. Download the story, with pictures, [here](#).

### **Dire Times For Iraq's Christians**

“From the time of Jesus, there have been Christians in what is now Iraq. The Christian community took root there after the Apostle Thomas headed east. But now, after nearly 2,000 years, Iraqi Christians are being hunted, murdered and forced to flee -- persecuted on a biblical scale in Iraq's religious civil war,” according to a *60 Minutes* segment aired by CBS last Sunday evening. “You'd have to be mad to hold a Christian service in Iraq today, but if you must, then the vicar of Baghdad is your man. He's the Reverend Canon Andrew White, an Anglican chaplain who suffers from multiple sclerosis and from a fanatical determination to save the last Iraqi Christians from the purge. White invited *60 Minutes* cameras and correspondent Scott Pelley to an underground Baghdad church service for what's left of his congregation. White's parishioners

are risking their lives to celebrate their faith.” White said the situation now is clearly worse than under Saddam, there’s no comparison between Iraq now and then. [Read more and view the *60 Minutes* segment [here](#).]

### **Episcopal Church needs ‘a plan for action’**

An interim report issued by the House of Deputies Committee on the State of the Church says the Episcopal Church needs "a plan for action" to address concerns related to its identity, mission and organization. Read about it [here](#)

### **Thanksgiving 2007 in North Parish**

On Thanksgiving Day, Holy Apostles Episcopal Church, St. Clair (North Parish) opened its doors to people who were alone for the holiday. Download the story by Bonnie Baker and photos by Liana Evans [here](#).

### **At Trinity, Bethlehem**

#### **Trinity’s Table served 178**

As the guests arrived, a joyful din began to fill the dining room. Hugs and smiles, squeals of delight mixed with the smells of the feast. One-hundred and seventy-eight people shared the Thanksgiving meal at Trinity Soup Kitchen in Bethlehem. Download the story [here](#).

#### **Designer Soup-a-thon**

Trinity, Bethlehem, is going to have one on December 8-9. Read about it [here](#).

#### **Celebration of New Ministry**

Trinity, Bethlehem, will celebrate their new ministry with the institution of Laura Howell as rector, December 28 at 7:00 p.m. See the invitation [here](#).

### **At St. Andrew’s, Bethlehem**

#### **Homemade cookies, kiffles and nut tossies**

As St. Andrew’s, 1900 Pennsylvania Ave.(just south of Catasauqua Rd., on the border of Bethlehem and Allentown), is selling homemade Christmas cookies to support the church’s mission and ministry. The delectable treats, including kiffles and nut tossies, will be sold from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday, December 16. Phone 610 865-3603 or visit [www.standrewsbethlehem.org](http://www.standrewsbethlehem.org) for details.

### **Handel’s Messiah at Cathedral**

The Cathedral Choral Society of Bethlehem will join the Cathedral Choir of the Church of the Nativity in its 44th performance of Handel’s “Messiah” on Dec. 16 at 4:00 p.m. This is the longest-running production of the "Messiah" in the Lehigh Valley, according to Susan Hercek, president of the Choral Society. Performed in previous years at the Asa Packer Chapel of Lehigh University, this year it moves to the Cathedral. The 80 singers, string orchestra, organ and trumpet will be directed by Russell Jackson, organist and choirmaster at the Bethlehem Cathedral. Soloists will include Gregory Oaten, tenor; Debra Field, soprano; Carol Burkhardt, alto, and Donald Barnum, bass. The concertmaster is Stephani Bell and organist is Alana Acker.

### **IRS Mileage Rates, 2008**

Business travel: 50.5 cents per mile. Volunteer service to charitable organizations: 14 cents per mile (no change from 2007). Medical travel or Moving: 19 cents per mile (lower than 2007). More info at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

### **Bishop’s School**

Spring semester, 2008. Beginning Jan. 12 (10:00 to 3:30) at St. Peter’s, Hazleton. The morning

class will be "Preaching" led by Bishop Paul; the afternoon class will be "Things You Need to Know for Parish Ministry" led by folks in various ministries. More info [here](#).

### **Generation to generation**

“After a generation that was not interested in religion, we now have a generation ignorant about it.” [Cardinal Andre Vingt-Trois of Paris, who was recently elected president of the French RC bishops’ conference. He said France no longer has “any Christian memory.”]

### **An Alternative**

To the traditional way of Christmas gift giving. Read about it [here](#).

### **Not Fair**

“*Not fair!!!* I am over 85, do not drive – how am I to go buy a turkey, get it to church – besides it’s *not fair!* She was only asked to bring canned corn!” [The Cathedral Church of the Nativity invites parishioners “to share a story (great or small) about being thankful for something that has been done by this church, its people or its ministries” for publication in the parish newsletter. Unless requested, all stories are published anonymously. [Not Fair](#) appears in the December issue of Cathedral’s *Parish Visitor*.]

### **Dec. 6**

#### **Creating Little Blessings**

At the Cathedral, Thursday, Dec. 6, Canon Anne Kitch will share how she came to write children’s books. Copies of all her books will be available for purchase and she will be happy to sign copies. Program at 11:00 a.m. Luncheon at 12:00. Invite your friends. Enjoy the fellowship and great food.

### **Dec. 8**

#### **Walk the Road of Peace**

The 48<sup>th</sup> annual Christmas Peace Pilgrimage, Nazareth to Bethlehem, symbolic of the journey of Mary and Joseph, is planned for the Saturday, December 8. Walk with family and friends and make new friends with others who seek a more peaceful world. Though you may join at any point, participants may meet at the parking lot at 520 E. Broad Street, Bethlehem before 10:45 a.m. Buses will transport pilgrims to Nazareth Moravian Church on Center Square. The peace walk follows Route 191. Support vehicles assist those not able to walk the entire way. Pilgrims arrive at Christ United Church of Christ, Market & Center Streets, Bethlehem, around 5:30 for a light meal and to hear Alan Jennings, executive director of Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley speak on "Irresponsible Stewardship: Are We Too Polite?" More info [here](#).

### **Dec. 9**

#### **Meet Barbara Crafton**

On Sunday, 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 who will also be there to meet people and sign books. Stone Soup is at 301 Broadway in Bethlehem, PA 18015. Call them at 610-867-4626.. *Stone Soup* is operated by “two seasoned artisans and one creative business lady,” all women of the cathedral.

### **Jan. 21-23**

#### **Trinity Institute at Kirkridge**

## **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 [Kirkridge](#) and at [Zion Lutheran Church](#), Old Zionsville, PA. For more information about the program at Zion Lutheran, email the church at [zions@ptd.net](mailto:zions@ptd.net).

### **Jan. 25-26**

#### **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. Registration deadline is December 15. More info [here](#).

#### **Parish Newsletters**

Download the latest parish newsletters [here](#).

#### **Diocesan Life.December**

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

#### **Back issues**

Find recent back editions of the *newSpin* newsletter: [071130](#); [071126](#), [071121](#), [071117](#), [071111](#), [071102](#), [071029](#), [071023](#).

**\* 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