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NEW HOPE REACHES 75% OF GOAL BY CHARLIE BAREBO

We have received \$2.7 million in pledges



Charlie Barebo
New Hope Campaign Chair

Our Diocesan Convention marked the coming of age of the *New Hope Campaign* and our relationship with our companion Diocese of Kajo Keji. To date we have received approximately \$2,700,000 in pledges, 75% of our goal. And pledges have come in from only 6.5% of the families in our Diocese!

Convention, for me, was a celebration of the maturity in our relationship with Christ. As a Diocese we have moved past our anxieties of scarcity and forward into celebrating the abundance to be found in Christ. This can be evidenced in the reactions from the early days of the feasibility study to the calm happiness effaced at Convention.

Let me share a few motivational quotes from convention weekend with you. "History is in the making in the Diocese of Bethlehem," said Bishop Anthony Poggo. "You are giving your all so that we might survive. We may not eradicate but we can alleviate. We alleviate by attacking the root causes of poverty and isolation with education. You are giving *New Hope* to the hopeless."

My favorite quote came from Ms. Pril Hurd. "All of us take up space on earth. We pay our rent by doing good works. Some of us take up a lot of space and pay little rent. I prefer to be with those who take up little space and pay much rent. Stretch out your arms as far as you can. Now stretch them a little farther. That is what it feels like when you know you have given the proper amount."

Mounting a capital campaign is a little like climbing a mountain. The early going is mentally strenuous as you strategize the climb. But the last 25% of the mountain is the most difficult to climb. We are in the final quarter of our climb. If you have pledged, ask your friends and loved ones if they will consider giving *New Hope* to the hopeless by making a pledge. If you have not yet pledged, I pray that you will contemplate joining us. As a wise man once said, "All that is needed for evil to thrive is for good people to do nothing." Join us in making history. Amen.

Mission trip to Kajo Keji

Since 2000, eleven missionaries from the Diocese of Bethlehem have visited our brothers and sisters of the southern Sudan Diocese of Kajo Keji. Some have made the journey several times. Another trip is being planned for January.

Jo Trepagnier, Father Earl Trygar and Char Horst intend to make this journey. Trepagnier, a member of the Cathedral Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem, visited Kajo Keji last year. Trygar is rector of St. Mark's Church, Moscow. Horst is development director for the Diocese of Bethlehem.

"The team has a limited brief," Bishop Paul wrote recently to Bishop Anthony Poggo of Kajo Keji. "Their main purpose takes its cue from our Lord's Incarnation: their goal is to be with as many people as possible to let them know that their sisters and brothers in Bethlehem know about them, care about them, and want to know their story. This was the great teaching we had from Bishop Manasseh about the importance of letting people know that they are noticed.

"There are some (comparatively) minor tasks they will address along the way. They are, if possible, interested in learning what kind of hands-on ministry people from the US may profitably do on the ground in Kajo-Keji, short- and long-term. Of particular interest is what youth may do on short-term visits. You had mentioned the possibility of high school and college-age students who have the requisite skills to help with computer use. The team will be eager to know what else can be done by young people with other skill sets."

Pray for New Hope

Ignite our hearts, O Holy Spirit, with the love of Jesus Let his compassion for the poor burn in us as we respond joyfully to his call to serve the least of his sisters and brothers. Let our participation in the work of *New Hope* transform us as individuals and as a community. May our unity of purpose and love for your creatures witness to the world the truth you have revealed to us in Christ. Receive our work as praise for our creation, redemption, and the call you have given us; receive it as our response to your eternal love.

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. 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 from the *newSpin* blog.

Licenses

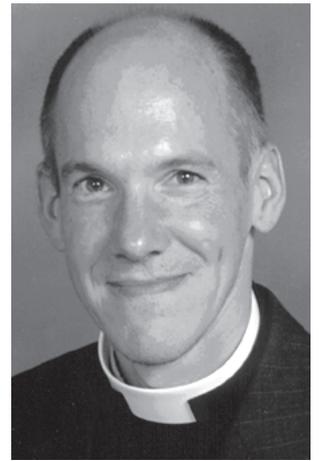
The date for renewal of licenses for chalice bearers, lay eucharistic visitors and lay readers has been extended from December 1, 2007, to March 1, 2008. Clergy who want new people licensed for these ministries should send an email with their request to Bishop Paul, bpoffice@diobeth.org.

Celebrate with the women of Nativity

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, contact Janet Kolepp 484-241-1252, jkolepp@msn.com. Registration deadline is December 1.

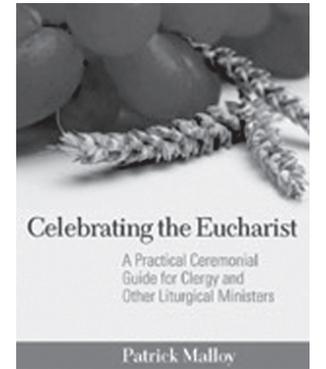
Honesdale calls Father Ed Erb

The Rev. Edward K. Erb of Hamlin has been called as rector of Grace Church, Honesdale, has called the Rev. Edward K. Erb as rector. He had been rector of St. John's, Hamlin, since 1998. He assumes his new duties January 1. A native of Lock Haven, Father Erb attended Lycoming College and Penn State University. After a career as church musician in Williamsport and Lewisburg, he received the Master of Divinity degree at the General Theological Seminar, NYC. In the Dioceses of Central Pennsylvania and Bethlehem, Father Erb has chaired Liturgy and Music Commissions and has been an active instructor for lay ministries. He also served as missionary for youth in the Bethlehem Diocese, and serves on the Commission on Ministry. Father Erb and his wife, Susan, copy-chief for *Highlights for Children* magazine, are the parents of two adult sons living in the Baltimore and Philadelphia areas.



Celebrating the Eucharist, by Patrick Malloy

In this first new Eucharistic customary in nearly 20 years, Father Patrick 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. Former member of the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music of the Episcopal Church, Father Malloy holds a Ph.D. in liturgical studies from the University of Notre Dame. He was a staff member of the Notre Dame Center for Pastoral Liturgy and taught at St. John's University, Collegeville, MN, and Duquesne University, Pittsburgh. Download more information at the *newSpin* blog and the website of Church Publishing, www.churchpublishing.org.



Victoria Lala Leach

Victoria Lala Leach, 88, died on 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.

Last year, at the Cathedral Church of the Nativity, Pentecost, 2006, Bishop Paul Marshall made the following remarks: "You will note in your program that I am about to recognize Lala Leach. It is an understatement to say that this is not something she would seek, so I will not be long and will try not to embarrass anyone. Furthermore, it would be both presumptuous and impertinent for me to attempt to add anything to the civic honors and awards the Lala has received for her work in community, hospital and education. If you go to the Morning Call's website and search on her name, you will see what I mean.

"I am up to something different today. I am, as sincerely as I can, thanking her for ten years of witness in quiet conversations to the power of God to direct and fulfill our lives. She has in quiet and direct ways made the connection between what we say and do – she has been for me a model of how compassion and firmness of conviction can coexist in one life with authenticity. There have been very few people in my ministry who have shown me so unselfconsciously how what we believe looks like when it works. In thanking her for her witness to Christ I also hope to remind us all that who and what we are can touch others profoundly. I have a small gift for Lala, and can also announce today that grateful clergy have funded the Victoria Leach Primary School in the diocese of Kajo-Keji, Southern Sudan. Please greet her with me."

The obituary published in *The Morning Call* as well as Bishop Paul's sermon at Lala's funeral on November 5 in the Cathedral may be accessed at our *newSpin* blog.



Diocesan Convention News

At the *newSpin* blog, you will find Bishop Paul's address to convention, greetings from Kajo Keji delivered by Bishop Anthony, Bishop Anthony's sermon, election results, resolutions adopted, resolutions of courtesy, photos, reports of ecumenical dialogues, and more. Also, the addresses, sermon, greetings delivered by Bishop Anthony, Eucharist and Evensong are available as podcasts.

Linda Shifter

Linda Shifter resigned recently for personal reasons. We will miss her at Diocesan House. Linda served at Diocesan House in several capacities for nearly 30 years with three bishops. During many of those years, she served as administrative assistant to the bishop and the archdeacon. Over the past few months, she also managed administrative data for the New Hope campaign.

You will find more news and features about the Episcopal Church, the Diocese of Bethlehem and our parishes on our online *newSpin* newsletter or at the *newSpin* blog. It's fit to print but simply doesn't fit in *Diocesan Life*. To receive the newsletter, tell Bill Lewellis, blewellis@diobeth.org, to add your email address to the *newSpin* list. You'll get news in a more timely way than you get it here. Find the *newSpin* blog at www.diobeth.typepad.com/diobeth_newspin.