Looking for family financial sanity? A3

Bethlehem Diocesan Life
Vol. 1 No. 4, May 2010 ~ diobeth.org

Smiles abound for Bethlehem

Students at Sodogo Primary School rejoice over gifts received from the twelve days of Christmas project

The Man in the Mitre or Bishop Paul invites children to join him for Bishop’s Day for Kids

“Have no fear, little ones,” Said the man in the mitre “I’ve good news to tell you that will make your hearts lighter. The gospels are special, so special you see, that they teach us to live better than what’s on TV!”

“In the fantastical summer of Dr. Seuss, you’re invited to wonder just what is the use of my Bishop’s crook. Can it hold the Good Book? Is the mitre a hat, that you wear when at bat?

Where can you learn what’s up and what’s down? And what’s going on in Jesus’ town?”

“The gospel According to Dr. Seuss for children in grades 1 through 5 Saturday, July 10, 2010 9:30 to 2:30 The Church of the Good Shepherd 1780 North Washington Avenue Scranton, PA 18509 Parents invited! A special parent’s forum with Bishop Paul will be offered. Register online at Diocesan Events www.diobeth.org. Registration will open May 10.

For more information, contact Anne Kitch, Canon for Formation in the Christian Faith akitch@diobeth.org or 610-691-5655, ext. 237 Sponsored by the Commission for Lifelong Christian Formation.

INSIDE DIOCESAN LIFE

INSIDE EPISCOPAL NEWS MONTHLY
Easter joy comes to Haiti. House of Bishops concludes spring retreat, release draft report on same-gender relationships. United Thank Offering hopes to build on legacy of thanksgiving giving. Study group reorganizes for 2010-2012 triennium. Our Lady of Alaska icon conveys Tlingit culture’s hospitality. South Carolina Episcopalians continue to debate their diocese’s role in the wider church. A roundup story of reactions to the full consent earned by Diocese of Los Angeles Bishop-elect Mary Glasspool and a preview of the May 15 consecration. Haitian synod hears bishop’s call to “Stand Up and Walk.” Church Pension Group and CREDO to offer wellness and respite program. General Theological Seminary suspends dean search, faces financial crunch.
Bishop of Bethlehem shaped the Olympics

BY BISHOP PAUL V. MARSHALL

Did you know that a Bishop of Bethlehem influenced the shape of the Olympic Games as we know them? Strange, but true. The person was Bishop Ethelbert Talbot (1848-1927).

Talbot had been a missionary bishop to Native Americans for a decade before coming here. He wrote books on mission and the theology of the church—and one about his dog’s adventures traveling North Carolina and meeting Teddy Roosevelt. He was also the last Presiding Bishop as that office was originally conceived.

We join his story in England, however. The Lambeth Conference of bishops meets every ten years, and their 1908 London meeting was followed by the Olympics, for which many of the 246 bishops attending stayed on.

We will never know why, but the Brits did not display the United States or Swedish flags at the stadium prior to the games. The Swedes packed up to go home, but did finally compete. The U.S. team stayed, but in the opening ceremony ignored the custom of dipping the national flag to the head of state of the host country. The American carrying Old Glory made it clear that this was not an oversight.

Like everybody else on the planet, the British are capable of remembering a slight. In those days all judges at the games were provided by the host country. When a British runner lost the 400-meter race to the U.S., a complaint of interference was lodged, and the judges ruled according to U.K. rules, discounting U.S. practices. They ordered that the race be re-run by the four main contenders, who then Americanized it out in protest and the British runner won the only gold medal for a 400-meter stroll in Olympic history. There were many complaints about British rulings in general—at least in part because rules varied around the globe.

The games ended with Britain taking 146 medals, followed by the U.S. with 47, and Sweden third with 25. Nobody else was close, and people did not leave feeling good.

Notable results of the story so far were that, after 1908, flags were no longer dipped, judges were to be representative of the nations attending, and the concept of international rules began to get serious attention.

At stake, however, was something larger, the very spirit of the games. Everybody had a case that could be made about judges, rules, and rulings, and feelings were running high. Enter Bishop Talbot.

Wiser heads in the English church had seen the need to transcend the bickering. A past-game service was held at St. Paul’s Cathedral, to which the athletes—and the officials—were particularly invited. An American, Bishop Talbot, was invited to serve as the preacher.

“We have just been contemplating the great Olympic Games,” Bishop Talbot said in his sermon. “What does it mean? It means that young men and women of physical life have come from all parts of the world. It does mean, I think, as someone has said, that this era of internationalism as seen in the Stadium has an element of danger. Of course, it is very true, as he says, that each athlete strives not only for the sake of sport, but for the sake of his own country. Thus a new rivalry is invented. If England be beaten on the river, or America outdistanced on the race-path, or that America has lost the strength which she once possessed. Well, what of it? The only safety after all lies in the lesson of the real Olympia—that the Games themselves are better than the race and the prize. St. Paul tells us how insignificant is the prize. Our prize is not corruptible, but incorruptible, and though only one may wear the laurel wreath, all may share the equal joy of the contest. All encouragement, therefore, be given to the exalting—I might also say soul-saving—interest that comes in active and fair and clean athletic sports.”

A few days later, Pierre Coubertin, the “father of the modern Olympics” who modernized Talbot’s thoughts, and the modern ideal of the Olympics was born: the joy is in the race, in the taking part. Other concerns, real and important as they are, must take a back seat to the higher purpose of the games, which are only warfare in the minds of the social sciences.

I think Bishop Talbot reminds us of an important truth about the Church’s role in difficult times. Talbot did not try to adjudicate the technicities of a series of disputes. He most emphatically did tell people to find the highest common denominator when it would have been easy to squabble or hold a grudge. In doing so, he had an influence that continues to the present moment.

The word “Christian” is co-opted for all kinds of things these days, from militias to pickets at funerals. Bishop Talbot reminds us that our mission is the reconciliation of all people to God and to each other. Let’s hope we can say it runs in our family.

A religious experience?

BY CANNON BILL LEEWIS, EDITOR EMERITUS

You’re kidding. A religious experience?

Not kidding. It may have happened in church or elsewhere.

It happens from within. In-sight. Not from external manipulation. You may not perceive what you’ve experienced as religious. Nothing outside of you changed. Your reality is the same. Somewhere in religious or not— you can never be as you were before. You may contradict it by how you live—that’s essentially what sin is, inauthenticity—but you can’t ignore it. You have taken a step out of hiding into the light. The next step is conversion.

You may think of it as simply experiencing greater integrity. Transformation, however, ought not be reduced to “simple.” Our experiences of integrity are part of the process of God’s self-communication. That’s how I see it. You may not. That’s OK. Making a difference. What makes a difference is that, in the process, you have become a more authentic you. You may have experienced that many times. The path to integrity or authenticity is lifelong. Many conversions, many transformations.

We church people often use words that conceal rather than reveal reality. Revelation, for example. We put God in a box and let God out only when our preconceptions are not threatened.

We may limit revelation, for example, to truths handed down, to facts rather than acts, rather than opening the concept to insights that bring us out of hiding. During the mid-1980s, a Jesuit professor at Holy Cross College (Worcester, MA) suggested that revelation might be seen as “out our coming out of hiding into the light created by the holy mystery of God.”

“God’s self-communication,” William Reiser wrote in Drawn to the Divine, “continues to take place... in the desires of the human heart, in the questioning and wondering of the human mind, in our thirst for true freedom, in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, in the experience of having been loved and forgiven, in the conviction that we have been personally called to know God and to each other.”

To find you and bring you out of hiding, you are on the verge of a religious experience.
The vestry meeting: Beyond majority and dynamics to functioning up

BY ARCHDEACON HOWARD STRINGFELLOW

“Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and joyous hope regarding the manifestation of your glory. Even though you do not now have that hope fully realized, you trust in the hope you have, which you have before God. The same hope you have for us, we hope for you, that God may also perform what he has promised. May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” (2 Peter 1:3-8) 

The role of lay people in functioning up is to encourage and to assist the clergy in the spiritual work. This may mean, for example, helping individuals to change their ways of thinking and to lead a life that is more consistent with the teachings of Jesus. 

Looking for family financial sanity?

BY DAN CHARNEY, STEWARDSHIP MISSIONER

A discussion followed a snapshot of Nathan Dungan’s Seminar, Share Save Spend®, I presented at one of the clergy bible studies. One clergy member said she received a call from her daughter, in college at the time, and the first words were “thank you, thank you, over and over again.” The mother said, “Well that’s wonderful to hear, but what is it that you are so thankful for?” “Oh,” said her daughter, “I’m so thankful that you and dad taught me how to manage money. I have classmates who are in debt up to thousands of dollars, and they don’t know how they can pay them off.”

Two years ago I attended a Stewardship Conference in Toronto. One of the sessions was Financial Sanity®, presented by Nathan Dungan. He had me on the edge of my seat, taking notes furiously, saying to myself, “We’ve got to get this guy to the Diocese of Bethlehem. There’s no way we can present this material to our youth the way he does it!”

I have been working on my financial stewardship for many years and have attended many stewardship conferences, but I heard things from Nathan that affected me in a different way. I know our family struggled with money issues from time to time. I only wish I had heard Nathan’s ideas on the value of money, and the differences between needs and wants. Had we had Nathan’s training, I believe it would have been much easier for us as a family to deal with issues of money in a sane manner.

Nathan Dungan has led this ministry of helping youth understand the issues of dealing with money for 14 years. He has done it beautifully. He demonstrates how families can communicate money issues in a meaningful and calm way. He explains the pitfalls of spend, spend, spend, and how advertisements bombard minds and cause people to spend without thinking. At the same time, he shows how sharing money can be a joyful thing, and what saving can do for one in the future. Share Save Spend® is a balanced financial way of managing money that can be learned by both child and parent.

This seminar offers value for the whole family. By learning that all we have is gift from God, and using all according to God’s principles for God’s purposes, we can make a difference in our world. Families who participate in the seminar will have a better sense of the value of money and a clear vision of the difference between needs and wants. (Parents and grandparents will also have the opportunity to learn about money management and explore their own spending habits.)

What better gift can you give your family this year than helping them link their money decisions to their values in their journey toward financial freedom? One day, you too may receive a call from your son or daughter saying, “thank you, thank you, thank you … for teaching me how to manage money.”

Register online at www.diobeth.org by choosing Diocesan Event Registration, then click on Share Save Spend®. Registration closes June 1 or when 200 people register. Don’t miss out on this meaningful seminar for you and your family’s financial sanity.

[Dan Charney is the Stewardship Missioner for the Diocese of Bethlehem]
Cathedral kicks off capital campaign

BY RAYMOND ARCARIO, SENIOR WARDEN

On April 11, 2010, Cathedral Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem, officially began the public phase of their “Carrying the Vision Forward” capital campaign. The kick-off event launched into action a plan that had been discussed for years. Over two years ago, members of the Cathedral participated in a strategic planning process to help identify a sound missional strategy and mark a path forward for mission and ministry. There were many opportunities identified but three in particular became critical as they have capital needs associated with them: Restoration/repair work and update of the facilities, creation of an endowment specifically for the upkeep of the heavily used facilities; and improvement in technology focused on communications in the Cathedral and Sayre Hall.

The kick-off event marked a day reflecting the spirit and commitment of the congregation and the hard work of the Vestry, Steering Committee and Property Committee. For the event, Sayre Hall was transformed into a playful “construction site” complete with scaffolding, tools, ladders and enough hard hats to transform many into potential construction workers in their Sunday best. There was an area for nursery age children to play and explore as well as games for the youth (and young at heart). A lovely brunch was offered with foods that evoked thoughts of “breakfast). A lovely brunch was offered with foods that evoked thoughts of “breakfast), and a sign to all who see it that God is with us,” wrote Bishop Paul.

The Dean, The Very Rev. Anthony Pompa, in his sermon for the day and in remarks at the celebration, invited the congregation to imagine what their lives and the lives of those living on the south side of Bethlehem for the past 150 years would be like if not for the vision of the Kingdom that led to the birth of Nativity. Building on the Gospel text of the day and the story of the disciples “locked in a room in fear,” he urged the congregation in joining in a disciple’s discernment to consider “who we are”, “what we have” and in unlocking the doors to go do it - Carry the Vision Forward.

The Cathedral's space is witness to the ministries of sheltering and feeding the homeless, educating and socializing children each day in after school programs, hosting diocesan events and ordinations, worship and education programs for the parish, fellowship for all, etc. The Cathedral provides space and partnership for nearly 100 groups from throughout the Bethlehem community. The capital needs that have been identified to be addressed are estimated to cost $4,075,000. In the silent phase of the campaign leading up to the kick-off event, pledges and gifts totaling just over $1,600,000 have been received.

If you would like to learn more about this campaign please contact Raymond Arcario, Steering Committee Co-Chair at 610-282-9509 or rarcario@hotmail.com. You are invited to visit the Cathedral website at www.nativitycathedral.org.
Schuylkill County Youth Group holds lock-in at Trinity, Pottsville

BY BARB TOKARZ

The Schuylkill County Youth Group, comprised of youth and leaders from Holy Apostles, St. Clair; Calvary, Tamaqua; and Trinity, Pottsville, held a successful lock-in on March 6. Sixteen youth ranging in age from eleven to eighteen attended the event held at Trinity, Pottsville.

The goal was to help youth focus on worship and service to others while enjoying fun and fellowship. Youth members arrived at 5:20 p.m. and shared a dinner during which they renewed friendships and acquainted themselves with new friends. Following dinner, participants engaged in team building activities. A focal point of the evening was using the newly painted labyrinth for worship and reflection. Nancy Rinehart led the youth, youth leaders, and Father Jim Rinehart, rector of Trinity, in worship using the labyrinth. Afterwards, the youth explored activities at work stations focused on service to others.

The youth finished the evening with a movie, a talent show, and lots of snacks. After Evening Prayer, everyone retired to bed at 1:30 a.m. They awakened early on Sunday morning and enjoyed a breakfast and planning session before attending worship at Trinity. All of the youth and leaders agreed that it was a successful event and are looking forward to another lock-in in the future.
Cyber Safety 101: Bullying

BY KIM ROWLES, YOUTH MISSIONER

In the past year, I have heard about suicides and suicide attempts by youth and children as young as eight. The recent death of Massachusetts sopho-
more, Phoebe Prince, after nine youth bullied her for more than a year, is one example. Her death is one of the worst case scenarios of what can happen if “kids being kids” goes unchecked by parents, school administrators, teach-
erers and other adults.

So what can you do to protect your children from online bullying?

Here are some tips from Pew Re-
search, the FBI and cyberbullying watch group—Teenangels.

Think about the Internet as the “neighborhood.” When most adults were children, they went outside and played with their friends in the neighborhood until it became too dark to see. The same is true of children today, though, no one goes home when the streetlights go on. The Internet is 24/7, especially if children are allowed to keep their cell phone or their computer in their room behind closed doors.

The same rules apply online that apply to playing on the neighborhood play-
ground. Share these with your children:

Are you a cyberbully? Take this quiz

Are you a cyberbully?

Often, people who are victims are also bullies. Before you feel too bad for yourself, take the quiz below to find if you, too, are part of the cyberbullying problem. Rate yourself on the follow-
ing point scale. Give yourself 0 points if you’ve never done it; one point if you have done it one or two times; two points if you have done it three to five times; three points if you have done it more than five times.

Have you ever...

___ Signed on with someone else’s screen name to gather information?

___ Sent an e-mail or online greeting card from someone’s account?

___ Impersonated someone over IM or online?

___ Teased or frightened someone over IM?

___ Not told someone who you really are online, telling them to guess?

___ Forwarded a private IM conversation or e-mail without the per-
mission of the other person?

___ Changed your profile or away message designed to embarrass or frighten someone?

___ Posted pictures or information about someone on a web site without their consent?

___ Created an Internet poll, either over IM or on a web site, about

someone without their consent?

___ Used information found online to follow, tease, embarrass or harass someone in person?

___ Sent rude or scary things to someone, even if you were just jok-
ing?

___ Used bad language online?

___ Signed someone else up for something online without their permission?

___ Used an IM or e-mail address that looked like someone else’s?

___ Used someone else’s pass-
word for any reason without their permission?

___ Hacked into someone else’s computer or sent a virus or Trojan horse to them?

___ Insulted someone in an inter-
active game room?

___ Posted rude things or lies
about someone online?

___ Voted at an online bashing poll or posted to a guestbook saying rude or mean things?

Now calculate your total score:

0 – 5 Points: Cyber Saint

Congratulations. You’re a cyber saint. Your online behavior is exemplary. Keep up the good work.

6-10 Points: Cyber Risky

Well, you’re not perfect, but few peo-
ple are. Chances are you haven’t done anything terrible and were just having fun, but try not to repeat your offensive behaviors. Keep in mind the pain your fun might be causing others.

11-18 Points: Cyber Bully

You’re a cyber bully. You have done way too many cyber no-no’s. Keep in mind that these practices are dangerous, wrong, and punishable; try to be clean up that cyber record.

More than 18: Cyber Bully

Put on the brakes and turn that PC/
MAC/text-messaging device around. You are headed in a very bad direction. You qualify, without doubt, as a cyber-
bully. You need to sign off and think about where that little mouse of yours has been clicking before serious trouble results for you and/or your victim(s), if it hasn’t happened already.

This quiz is from www.stopcyberbully-
ing.org/kids/are_you_a_cyberbully.html . Accessed on July 17, 2009.

Online resources

The following cyber safety organiza-
tions can be found the Internet.

Enough is Enough: enough.org

WiredSafety: www.wiredsafety.org

GetNetWise: www.getnetwise.org

Web Wise Kids: www.webwiskids.org

Net Family News: www.netfamilynews.org

Common Sense Media: www.commonsensemedia.org

NetSmartz: www.netsmartz.org/index.aspx

SafeKids.com: www.safekids.com

Cyberangels: www.cyberangels.org

their friends or classmates from school. With the world at their fingertips, it is easy to forget that on the other side of the screen is a person. Children feel in-
vincible behind a computer screen and with the invisibility and anonymity of the Internet they can get into trouble.

If you would like to learn more about Internet safety, please contact me. I can be reached via email, krowles@diobeth.org. Many programs nationwide help keep our children safe. I am particularly partial to a peer-to-peer mentoring program called Cyberangels. For more information about the program, please visit their web site at www.cyberangels.org. I am willing to help

parishes work to develop Internet safety classes in their neighborhood.
The Bakery and electronic newsletters — The online Bakery, includes news, ideas, opinion and conversation related to our diocesan community, the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion. Consider becoming a baker in the House of Bread. Bethlehem, you know, means “House of Bread” in Hebrew. There are a wealth of electronic newsletters available on our diocesan web site, www.diobeth.org.

Contact Sherri Albors at 610-597-8067 or Nancy Edmiston at 610-965-0085.

May 10: Archdeacon Visit, Nativity, Bethlehem 6:00 PM
May 11: Clergy Bible Study 7, St. Mark’s, Moscow 2:00 PM
May 12: Diocesan Episcopal Church-women Annual Meeting, Kirby House, Mountaintop 9:30 A.M. to 3:00 PM. Guest speaker: The Rev. Ronald Royce Miller who will discuss “Christian Art.” Contact Catharine Jeffery 610-866-6682 and Martha Fox 610-395-4857 for more information.

May 13: Clergy Bible Study 1, Nativity, Bethlehem 2:00 PM
May 14: Concert by the Lyric Consort, Dr. Alan L. Baker, Director, St. Stephen’s Pro-Cathedral, Wilkes-Barre 6:00 PM.
May 15: Bishop’s School, St. Peter’s, Hazleton 10:00 A.M. to 1:30 PM.

May 15: NYC Car Wash, Nativity, Bethlehem 8:30 A.M. to 1:00 PM. Rain date May 29. Proceeds benefit Nativity Youth Camp. Treats and beverages in Nativity Café with entertainment by the Nativity Jazz Band (weather permitting).

May 15: Spring Tea Time, Trinity, Bethlehem 3:00 to 5:00 PM. Tickets are $20 each with 9 themed tables. Tea, sandwiches, and desserts featured.

May 16: Bishop Jack, St. Alban’s, Spring Hill 6:00 PM.
May 16: Archdeacon Visit, St. Stephen’s, Whitehall 6:00 PM.
May 16: Morning Tea, St. George’s, Hellertown 2:00 PM. to 4:00 PM. Cost is $10.00 with $1.00 going toward raffle. Several kinds of tea, desserts, and sandwiches will be served.

May 16: St. Matthew’s Society Dinner, Lehighton Country Club, Allentown 3:00 PM. to 6:00 PM.
May 16: Sopranora Mara Hazard in Concert, Trinity, Pottsville, 4:00 PM.
May 16: Celebrity Organ Recital, Cathedral Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem 4:00 PM. Given by Mollie Nichols, Director of Music for Church of the Heavens, 4:00 PM. Given by Mollie Nichols, Director of Music for Church of the Heavenly Rest, NYC. For more information, contact Russell Jackson, 610-865-0727.

May 17: Clergy Bible Study 8, Christ, Towanda 4:00 PM.

May 18: Archdeacon Visit, Good Shepherd and St. John’s, Milford 6:00 PM.
May 20: Clergy Bible Study 2, St. Stephen’s, Whitehall 2:00 PM.
May 22: Good Shepherd Flea Market, Good Shepherd and St. John the Evangelist, Milford 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 PM.

May 22: Forward Life Planning Workshop, Good Shepherd, Scranton 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 PM. FREE. Please call Ely Valentin at 610-691-5655 x222 to register.

May 22: St. Anne’s 4th Annual Talent Show, Upper Milford Township Center, 7:30 to 9:30 PM. For more information, please contact Carol Keane at 610-395-5427 or ckene@netreach.net.

May 23: Bishop Jack, Good Shepherd and St. John’s, Milford
May 23: Bishop Paul, Nativity, Bethlehem
May 25: Clergy Bible Study 3, St. Alban’s, Sinking Spring 2:00 PM.

May 25: Archdeacon Visit, Trinity, Easton 6:00 PM.

Jun. 1: Diocesan Life deadline for July/August edition
Jun. 1: Archdeacon Visit, Mediator, Allentown 6:00 PM.
Jun. 3: Clergy Bible Study 1, Cathedral Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem 2:00 PM.
Jun. 3: Corpus Christi, Holy Cross, Wilkes-Barre 7:00 PM. Bishop Paul celebrant.
Jun. 5: Breakfast and Bake Sale, St. Mary’s, Reading 7:00 A.M. to Noon. All you can eat pancakes and sausage breakfasts $5.00 adults, $3.00 children.

Jun. 6: Bishop Jack, Trinity, Easton 6:00 PM
Jun. 11: Liturgy and Music Commission, Diocesan House, 12:45 to 2:15
Jun. 12: Commission on Ministry, Trinity, Mt. Pocono 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 PM
Jun. 12: Share, Save, Spend Stewardship Workshop with Nathan Dungan, Diocesan House, 12:45 to 2:15

June: Archdeacon Visit, Trinity, Bethlehem 6:00 PM
Jun. 8: Soprano Mara Hazard in Concert, Trinity, Pottsville, 4:00 PM.
Jun. 10: Commission on Ministry Meeting, Trinity, Mt. Pocono 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 PM.

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Jun. 17: Clergy Bible Study 2, St. Stephen’s, Whitehall 2:00 PM.
Jun. 19: Partners for Sacred Places, Module 3, Good Shepherd, Scranton 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 PM.
Jun. 19: St. Brigid’s Annual Golf Outing, Wedgewood Country Club, Bethlehem 1:00 PM. For more information contact Tammy Fuller at 610-923-6393 or fullogfunk@rcn.com.

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Forward life ministry: Planning for the future

BY CHARLIE BAREBO, DEVELOPMENT MISSIONER

You care about things. In fact, you care about them so much that you want them to continue, develop, and thrive after you are gone. You want to provide for the future. That is why planned gifts fund future ministries — gifts we thought about ahead of time, planned for, and make a difference in the future. In this way, the churches and ministries we love care about will continue, grow, develop, and thrive long after we are gone.

God teaches us to be generous. One reason congregations exist today is because those in past generations gave their time, talent, and treasure so churches could be built, clergy could be hired, and ministries of their congregations could be sustained. In the Diocese of Bethlehem, planned gifts made decades and even over a hundred years ago, are still sustaining ministry today. Quite simply, we enjoy the benefits created by those who have gone before us. We all rest in the shade of the trees planted by others. Planning giving can be our way of planting shade trees for those who will follow us.

When people make a planned gift it generally comes from accumulated assets and may be the largest gift the donor ever gives. This distinction is important because it changes the way planned gifts are encouraged, executed, and sustained. Often a person’s ultimate gift is their final statement of support to a ministry important to them. A planned gift is a vote of confidence in the future of the church. Making a planned gift to your church or the diocese is a serious process. Like a marriage, the basis for a planned giving program is built on the foundation of planning. And like a successful marriage, a deep sense of confidence in the future of the church is magnified. Our endowment by offsetting the salary of the rector assures the long term ministry of the church. And like a marriage, a deep sense of confidence in the future of the church is magnified.

The Book of Common Prayer mentions the following on page 465, “Instruct the people, from time to time, about the duty of Christian parents to make prudent provision for the well being of their families, and of all people to make wills, while they are in good health, arranging for the disposal of their temporal goods, not neglecting if they are able, to leave bequests for religious and charitable uses.”

Bishop Paul has established a goal that every parish in the Diocese should have an active planned giving program. In June of 2009 he asked me to lead development in the diocese. Saturday May 22nd will mark the first large, multi-parish event in my development ministry as we will be holding a “Forward Life Workshop” at St. Luke’s Scranton for parishes “north of the tunnel.” We plan on holding a similar event for our southern brethren in the fall. Please contact Ely Valentin at 610-691-5655 ext. 222 or evalentin@diobeth.org to register.

Forward Life Planning Workshop Saturday May 22nd St. Luke’s Scranton

Join us for a faith based discussion regarding forward life ministries. Our expert panel will help guide you through the difficult issues that face us all as we age, developing a will, medical directives, end of life instructions the following on page 465, “Instruct the people, from time to time, about the duty of Christian parents to make prudent provision for the well being of their families, and of all people to make wills, while they are in good health, arranging for the disposal of their temporal goods, not neglecting if they are able, to leave bequests for religious and charitable uses.”

Bishop Paul has established a goal that every parish in the Diocese should have an active planned giving program. In June of 2009 he asked me to lead development in the diocese. Saturday May 22nd will mark the first large, multi-parish event in my development ministry as we will be holding a “Forward Life Workshop” at St. Luke’s Scranton for parishes “north of the tunnel.” We plan on holding a similar event for our southern brethren in the fall. Please contact Ely Valentin at 610-691-5655 ext. 222 or evalentin@diobeth.org to register.

Case study: Trinity, Easton

“Trinity Church is the beneficiary of a charitable trust created by the estate of Charles and Helen Langer. In 2009, the trust contributed $90,000 to fund the mission and ministry of Trinity, Easton. At Trinity, parts of these funds are used to enable worship by offsetting the salary of the rector. Our stewardship is magnified by planned gifts like the Wagner Trust. Without the regular, faithful support of our members there would be no ministry, and with good planned gifts like this trust, that giving is magnified. Our endowment assures the long term ministry of the parish and provides essential working capital through the peaks and valleys of annual giving.”

The Rev. Canon Andrew Gerns, Trinity Church, Easton