

E-Matters March 17, 2010

News from the Diocese of Western Massachusetts

Blessings on the Feast of Patrick,

Bishop and Missionary of Ireland, 461

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The 2010 Diocesan Cycle of Prayer is now available on our website at www.diocesewma.org

QuickLinks

Diocese of

The Bishop invites all Diocesan Clergy to join him for the Annual Renewal of Ordination Vows and Blessing of Oils

***Tuesday in Holy Week
March 30, 2010***

***Christ Church Cathedral, Springfield
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.***

The Rev. Dr. Will Bergmann will offer the quiet day meditations

Shift in the Western Church

Veteran Church observer Peter Steinke notes that the Western Church is experiencing a shift from one historic period to another. He believes that large changes in American culture have sweeping implications for the life of the church. In these prominent shifts that Steinke lists below, which ones do you think would help St. Andrew's be more effective in attracting new members? Which one of these changes present St. Andrew's with temptations to deviate from its mission?

* People are less interested in an intellectual approach to faith and increasingly drawn to the experience of faith.

* Fewer and fewer people are following in the footsteps of the family's denomination and more are shopping for a church.

* Congregational membership is less organized around an immediate neighborhood and more around a regional area.

* Authority in the congregation is shifting from vertical dimension (top-down) to the horizontal structure (network, teams).

* People are attracted to churches that offer certainty more than churches that offer information or knowledge.

Western Mass

Bishop's Visitation
Schedule

Alleluia Fund

The Episcopal
Church

2009 Constitution
and Canons

Update on Bement
Property

E-Matters

The next issue of E-Matters will be sent on Thursday, March 25, 2010. Please email your information to William Coyne at wcoyne@diocesewma.org or Sue O'Hare at sohare@diocesewma.org by Wednesday, March 24th to be included in the March 25th edition.

E-Matters is published on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month.

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* The visual is replacing the verbal as a major avenue for communicating the Gospel.

* Churches experience greater competition for members. Those that meet the needs of the 'consumers' are favored.

* Loyalty to an institution is being replaced by participation in meaningful groups or networks.

* The role of worship is changing from a strengthening of the believer's faith to a way of evangelizing.

Peter L. Steinke, "Congregational Leadership in Anxious Times," The Alban Institute, 2006.

[clipped from the March, 2010 issue of The Anchor, St. Andrew's, Longmeadow]

Earthquake Relief for Chile:

On February 26, Chile was rocked by an 8.8 earthquake which has devastated much of the south central region of the country. Those living in coastal towns suffered a tsunami only a half hour after the quake.

As many of you know, John and Kathryn White from St. John's. Sutton, have recently returned from a trip to Chile. They traveled to a camp owned by The Pentecostal Church of Chile (IPC) which has had the long standing support of the United Church of Christ of Massachusetts in its mission is to promote healing and reconciliation. The purpose of John and Kathryn's visit to the camp this year was to help bring a course of trauma healing from Eastern Mennonite University which could then be used with groups of adults and children at camp and throughout the church. No one knew that this training would be needed so quickly!

One of the paths to healing from any trauma is to begin to move forward -- begin to look at the reality and take some steps, however small, to move beyond it again. Such healing will take years or a lifetime, but, in Chile, we have already heard of one project that will help. The IPC has had an architect draw up plans for a simple one room house that could be built pre-fab and then transported to its new location. A "factory" will be set up at the church in Curico to build the pieces of these houses, then the owners will dig the foundations and set up the pilings and the pre-fab house will be transported to the locations across the country so that the owners can put them together. A rough estimate is that 300 houses are needed for church families by May when cold rainy weather comes to the Southern Hemisphere. Each house will cost about \$2,000. The project is called "Levanta la Esperanza" or "Lift up Hope." If you would like to donate to housing, please write a check to "MACUCC" (our neighbors in the UCC in Massachusetts) and mark in the memo: "Levanta la Esperanza." Send the check to MACUCC, 1 Badger Road, Framingham, MA 01702. For more information, contact John (ejohnwhite@charter.net) or Kathryn (kswhite45@gmail.com).

There are many organizations, such as World Vision, the American Red Cross, and Oxfam, that are already sending aid to Chile. Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) is also working with the Anglican Church in Chile. All of these agencies can use your help, so please support the organization of your choice.

Thank you for your prayers and your contributions.

Eucharistic Visitor Training Workshop

A Eucharist Visitor training workshop will be held on Saturday, March 20, 2010 from 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. in the Whiteman Room at St. James' Church, Greenfield. Participants will need to have CORI checks and attend a Safe-Church training before being licensed, but need not have these in place prior to the workshop. To register, please either e-mail The Rev. Ann Wood at deaconapw@gracechurchamherst.org or call (413) 665-8478 by March 15. Drinks and snacks will be provided. Please bring a bag lunch.

LAST CALL: 2010 Congregational Development Investment grants still Available

The Diocesan Convention approved Diocesan Operating Budget has **\$21,275 of Congregational Development Investments still available** to be allocated for 2010 & **\$8,000 still available in Regional Ministry Initiatives** for congregations looking for financial

assistance. If there is a new mission initiative you are planning for 2010, this is the place to look for a diocesan co-investment.

All the documents, forms, requirements and applications are available at the diocesan web page. Click here:

<http://www.diocesewma.org/parishmatters/congrants2010.html>

All congregations receiving an investment should plan on sharing what they did, what happened and what they learned.

We remind you and the leadership of your church to be bold and dream of an area of new mission development for 2010. These funds are earmarked for new initiatives and responses to God's call in your local ministry setting. You know your context for ministry best, and we wish to work with you as you engage a mission priority that cannot be ignored.

The final deadline - March 24, 2010

This will allow the team time to review all the requests, make the allocations and set up the process for 2011 investments. The mandate for the team remains *to support churches with specific projects or proposals that strengthen healthy mission-focused ministry in the Diocese.*

If you need assistance in preparing the application, call one of us.

Congregations will be notified by late April, 2010 if they are receiving funds.

From Your Christian Formation Missioners

Spiritual Practices in the Home

Did you know that Children and teens that have spiritual practices in their homes are more likely to continue to uphold Christian values and go to church when they become adults?

The practice of going to church each week is not enough to help your children develop a practice of spirituality. We need to reinforce worship, prayer, and biblical study at home for the influence of Christianity to become lasting. Here are some simple ways you can incorporate spirituality into your home life.

1. Pray together before meals, bedtime or before school each day.
2. Remember to put God at the center of even the hard stuff. It is easy to thank God when we are grateful for good things, but don't forget to ask the question where is God in the bad stuff?
3. Ask what happened in church school today or for older teens what did you think of the sermon. Then, don't correct or negate but rather just appreciate he/she listened enough to form an opinion.
4. Have your own Biblical study or prayer time in an obvious way...at the same time each day or in a common living space. Role model your own spiritual practices.
5. Evaluate your family calendar. Is spirituality a focus in your family or is your calendar so consumed by sports, school, work etc. that you're too exhausted for church, youth group, Bible study etc.?

If we want our children to care about the church and spirituality the work begins at home. If you have any questions or need more ideas feel free to contact Rev. Jill at jwilliams@diocesewma.org

Young Adults (18-30) Domestic Internships (Episcopal Service Corps / ESC)

You can be involved in mission and never leave the United States. There are plenty of opportunities to step outside your comfort zone and broaden your horizons domestically. There are currently 6 internship sites across the country. They are diverse in location and type of work, so find the one that best suits your needs.

The Episcopal Service Corps is a national federation of young adult service programs in the United States.

Based in the Episcopal Church and managed independently, we provide extended service opportunities for young adults to:

- Live in intentional community with a simple, sustainable lifestyle,
- Work for social justice
- Deepen spiritual awareness and discern vocation
- Develop leadership skills in the paradigm of servant leadership

Young Adult Service Corps (YASC)

Service Adventures for Those Aged 21-30

- Ready for an experience that will transform your life?
- Want to be a part of what God is doing in the world?
- Want to help, work, laugh, love, cry, and worship with God's people?

Then you are ready to work with YASC in a one-year assignment.

Young adults experience:

- Cultural Engagement
- Spiritual Commitment
- Vocational Reflection

Applicants will have a high degree of maturity and possess a faith commitment, the willingness to be a humble guest, and the ability to be an authentic companion. YASC brings young adults into the life of the worldwide Anglican Communion and into the daily work of a local community. At the same time, it brings the gifts and resources of the church into the lives of young adults as they explore their own faith journeys.

If you are interested in becoming a Young Adult Service Corps worker (YASCer), please contact Michelle Jobson at mjobson@episcopalchurch.org or 212-716-6124.

Short-Term Domestic Internship Program (SIP) for 18-30 year old young adults

- Ever considered engaging God's mission in a different part of the USA?
- Thought that year-long mission internships were too long to consider seriously?
- Would you like to make a difference by giving service to people in need?

If you answered "yes" to any or all of these questions, you should consider Short-term domestic Internship Programs for Young Adults (SIP), offered in eight week terms throughout the year.

Applicants should be at least 18 years of age, have some workplace and service experience, and be active members of the Episcopal Church. Persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply but not every site is equally accessible. Participants will be asked to raise \$500 from local sources to contribute to a travel and program pool. Assistance in identifying sources of funding is available.

The Office for Young Adult and Campus Ministry will provide round-trip, long-distance transportation or reimburse an equivalent amount for personal vehicle and a certification for student loan deferment; ministry sites will provide housing, food and local transportation, meaningful work, intentional Christian community, and oversight.

Recent SIP SITES

- Sacramento, CA (Jubilee Ministry)
- Southwest Florida (Jubilee Ministry)
- Atlanta, GA (Episcopal Migration Ministries)
- Louisville, KY (Episcopal Migration Ministries)
- Cleveland, OH (Episcopal Migration Ministries)

Concord, NH (Episcopal Migration Ministry)

For more information, go to www.episcopalchurch.org/youngadults

Gift / financial support to Episcopal Relief & Development - Haiti

By a designation of Council - the Diocese of Western Massachusetts has sent \$5,000.00 from a modest 2009 end-of-year budget surplus and Bishop Scruton has matched that with an additional \$5,000.00 gift from Bishop's Funds. This \$10,000.00 will join various congregations who have through special offerings and mission funds responded to the devastation of the January earthquake in Haiti.

There is so much rebuilding to do - thank you for your support!

2010 Golf Tournament for Haiti Relief

Save the date!!! Saturday, June 19, 2010 the Seventh Annual Diocesan Golf Tournament will be held at the Southwick Country Club in Southwick, MA. Proceeds from this year's tournament will benefit Haiti Relief. Tee-off time will be 9:30 a.m. and as always this will be a day of fellowship, fun, and a fabulous dinner! Invitation letters to rectors and golfers as well as registration materials and bulletin inserts will be mailed out early in May. For further information on the tournament call John DeBonville at (413) 205-3090 or Karen Warren at Diocesan House, (413) 737-4786, ext. 18.

Getting Things Done: The art of stress-free productivity!!

If you missed the November Getting Things Done workshop, presented by Robin Hammeal-Urban of the Diocese of CT, here is another opportunity to participate in this fabulous training session. This session is open to clergy, administrators, secretaries, and lay leaders. GTD will be held at the Genesis Spiritual Life & Conference Center in Westfield on April 8-9, 2010 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. each day. The registration fee per person is \$175.00 and covers two days of training, all materials, and lunches. Please RSVP as soon as possible - but no later than Friday, April 2nd to Karen Warren at Diocesan House, (413) 737-4786 Extension 18.

Stewardship Formation Day

Living our Thanks to God: A Journey into Stewardship Awareness
A Stewardship Formation Day in the Berkshires
Saturday, April 17th from 9 until 3:30
St. Stephen's, Pittsfield

We'll look at stewardship as a way of life, not as merely a method of church fundraising. We'll examine year-round stewardship formation ideas and ways to link the mission of the church with stewardship. This is a wonderful opportunity for your parish stewardship ministry team.

While designed for leaders in the Berkshires, this event is open to people throughout the entire diocese. For more information, contact Tom Damrosch.

Basic Safe Church Training Events

Canon Sarah Shofstall will present a Basic Safe Church Training workshop on Saturday, April 24th, 2010 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at St. John's Church in North Adams. This session is open to all church employees-lay, ordained and volunteer. The workshop will cover material concerning the protection of children, and also address issues in the workplace. You must pre-register for this event-walk-ins on the day of training will be accepted only as space allows. Lunch and materials will be provided.

The deadline for registration for this event is April 17, 2010. Registration fee before the deadline is \$25.00 made payable to the Diocese of W. MA, 37 Chestnut Street, Springfield, MA 01103, Attention: Karen Warren. The Registration Form can be accessed on our website at: www.diocesewma.org/parishmatters/safechurch.html.

Late registrations (fee is \$45.00) will be accepted only as room permits, and wait-listed as

necessary. (You will be notified if you are wait-listed.) For further information please call Karen Warren at Diocesan House, (413) 737-4786, Ext.18.

New England Women Ministers Association

RETREAT AND ANNUAL MEETING
April 27 - 29, 2010

MIRAMAR RETREAT CENTER
121 Park Street, Duxbury, MA 02331

'The Warrior Wisdom of Sophia within Each of Us'
Donna Colletti Lowre, facilitator

Lay and Ordained Ministers welcome
More information is available on our web site, www.newenglandwomenministers.org

THE INCONVENIENT TRUTH ABOUT CASINOS AND SLOTS IN MASSACHUSETTS

The following is a letter from the Rev. Jack Johnson of the Mass Council of Churches. Please share this letter with anyone in your church who is passionate about this issue. Urge them to spread the word. Politicians need to hear from their constituents. It makes a HUGE difference.

In all likelihood, House Speaker DeLeo may be announcing within this week a legislative proposal and timetable for the expansion of predatory gambling. As you know, there is a robust conversation going on in Massachusetts about legalizing slot machines. Suffolk Downs has been a vocal proponent for slot machines. There are deep justice concerns about the legalization of slot machines. No longer 'one-armed bandits,' slot machines are the most addictive gambling product available. These machines are designed to get gamblers to play "longer, faster, and more intensively," to use industry language. MIT Professor Natasha Schull testified at the most recent legislative hearing that "every feature of a slot machine- its mathematical structure, visual graphics, sound dynamics, seating and screen ergonomics is calibrated to increase a gambler's 'time on device' and to encourage 'play to extinction.'" With as much as 90% of the revenue coming from 10% of the gamblers, slot machines depend on out of control gamblers to make the business model work. If Massachusetts legalizes the slot machines Suffolk Downs is advocating for, our state will be actively creating new gambling addicts in our name. These are not simply harmless devices, but a whole new category of gambling device that raises serious issues about the predatory nature of the slot machines that Suffolk Downs is advocating for.

I am asking you to contact your Massachusetts House of Representative member, your state senator, and the Governor's office stating your opposition to the expansion of predatory gambling and to call for an independent cost-benefit analysis before any expansion.

When placing your call or sending your email do let your representative and Governor know that you're reaching out as one from a faith community that is a part of the Massachusetts Council of Churches.

It would be helpful if you let us know the results of your call.

Please do not delay the time to act is today.

ATTENTION CLERGY - SAVE THE DATE!

June 11 and 12, 2010 - Clergy Planning For Tomorrow Conference

Please mark your calendar for this special conference offered once every five years by our friends at the Church Pension Fund. This conference is designed for not-yet-retired clergy and their spouses/partners of all ages and stages of active ministry. Subjects covered in plenary session the first day of the conference are the Pension Plan, Personal Savings/Investments, the

Government's role in retirement plans, and Goal Setting for personal, physical, and professional well-being. The second day of the conference is devoted to a number of workshops that participants choose, depending on their individual situations. These workshops include, more in-depth Financial Planning, Retirement Life Planning for those who are within five years of retirement, and a special workshop just for non-ordained spouses/partners, and surviving spouses. We also provide an opportunity for clergy, and their spouse/partner, to meet with a member of the Church Pension Fund staff, to discuss their personal situations. More details on location, etc. to follow shortly.

New Links of Interest

Check out the March 2010 Fresh Expressions newsletter:

<http://www.freshexpressions.org.uk/e-xpressions/e-xpressions-march-2010?newsletter-view>

Bement Property Discernment

A new statement of our history, experience and goals with respect to Camp Bement is available on the Diocesan website at <http://www.diocesewma.org/parishmatters/bementcamp.html>

Help Wanted

Youth Director

Church of the Nativity, Northborough, MA, is looking to hire a 20-hour-per-week Youth Minister / Director. The position focus is on equipping youth and adult parishioners in their ministry with Jr. and Sr. High Youth (Grades 5-12). The goal of the ministry is to strengthen relationships within the youth, church, and neighboring community, helping all to be and make faithful followers of Jesus Christ. For information contact youth@churchofthenativity.org.

Director of Music Ministry

Vibrant Episcopal Parish is seeking an organist/pianist/choir director to play one service each Sunday and to accompany our dedicated SATB volunteer choir. 21 Rank Mann & Trupiano, Southfield Tracker Organ, installed 2007. Piano. Dynamic liturgy. Nice space. Inviting young parish community. Please contact The Rev. John D. Betit 508-865-3103 or johnbetit@st-johns-sutton.org. St. John's Episcopal Church, 3 Pleasant Street, Sutton, MA 01590 (10 minutes from Mass Pike Exit 10A).

Director of Children's Ministry

Vibrant Episcopal Parish seeking a caring professional to coordinate ministries with children pre-primary age to grade 5. Qualities: Prayerful spirit, strong organizational and communication skills, capacity to inspire the participation of others and work collaboratively, affirming attitude, prior classroom/teaching experience desirable but not mandatory.

Responsibilities: recruit, coordinate and assist all lay mentors and teachers, conducting meetings, planning and developing curriculum, special liturgies with children, support family spirituality. 8-10 hours/week, 46 weeks of the year, including Sunday mornings and 1-2 Saturday afternoons each month (beginning Summer/Fall 2010); Compensation and benefits TBD. The Rev. John D. Betit, Saint John's Episcopal Church, Sutton, MA 508-865-3103; johnbetit@st-johns-sutton.org.

Save the Date

March 20	Eucharistic Visitor Training, St. James' Church, Greenfield 9:30AM - 3PM
March 24	Congregational Development Investment Grant Deadline
March 30	Clergy Renewal of Vows, Christ Church Cathedral

April 8	Getting Things Done Workshop, Genesis Center, 9:30 AM-
April 15	Women Clergy Luncheon, Red Rose Pizzeria, Springfield, 11:30 AM
April 24	Basic Safe Church Training, St. John's, North Adams, 9AM - 3 PM
April 25	Legacy Fellowship Appreciation
June 11, 12	Clergy Planning for Tomorrow Conference
June 19	Golf Tournament for Haiti Relief, Southwick Country Club 9:30 AM tee-off