



Six resolutions under consideration at Diocesan Convention

Diocesan clergy and lay delegates will gather November 7-8 at St. Thomas, Coral Gables for the Thirty-ninth Diocesan Convention, hosted by the South Dade Deanery.

The convention will consider six resolutions, which had been submitted by the September 13 deadline. (Additional resolutions may be presented from the floor.)

Delegates will be asked to approve clergy compensation guidelines for 2009 and a change in the language of diocesan Canon XX, Section 6, that would require any diocesan or parish organization to have the approval of the bishop, the Executive Board and the Standing Committee for any amendment to its charter.

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Save these dates for 2009

January 25— Celebration of the 25th anniversary of Bishop Leo Frade's consecration, with Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori as preacher.

March 13-14— Bishops' Spring Conference, led by speaker and author Diana Butler Bass.

Mark your calendars now and watch for more information on these events in the coming months.

OUR INVITING CATHEDRAL



Photo by Rob Bannister

A RINGING WELCOME

Members of the North American Guild of Change Ringers begin a "peal"—a complex sequence of bell-ringing—in the tower at Trinity Cathedral, Miami, during the group's October meeting. The sound of the bells attracted several potential new members to the Miami Guild of Change Ringers, said Trinity's Belltower Captain, Rob Bannister.

Trinity reaches out with new energy

By Mary W. Cox, editor

On the first Friday in October the celebratory sound of Trinity Cathedral's bells rings out over the noise of construction across the street at Omni and passing traffic on Bayshore Drive. The white iron gate stands open, beckoning passersby into the cathedral garden, and a sign at the sidewalk issues a

tempting invitation: "Cathedral Gift Shop—Religious, seasonal and exciting everyday gifts."

In late afternoon a crowd of about 20 people gathers on the cathedral patio, listening intently as Bruce Butler, education officer for the North American Guild of Change Ringers, talks about bells and explains the ancient art that members of his group are

practicing in the cathedral tower.

Are these cathedral parishioners? "No," exclaims Trinity's treasurer and facilities manager Jim Nolan with a huge grin. "We've never seen these people before in our lives—they're new!"

For the past three years, since Hur-

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Southeast Florida responds to neighbors affected by storms

By Mary W. Cox, editor

Four storms—Fay, Gustav, Hanna and Ike — roared through the Caribbean and the Gulf of Mexico between August 15 and September 15, causing Southeast Florida a few anxious days, but sparing us any direct impact.

Because of concern that the predicted track of Hurricane Ike would bring it close to some parts of our diocese, the Clergy Conference scheduled for September 9-11 was canceled. When that storm, like the others, took another path, attention turned to ways to help those in the Caribbean and on the Gulf Coast for whom this year's hurricane season had

already been catastrophic.

In a September 13 appeal to the diocese for donations for hurricane relief, Bishop Leo Frade relayed messages he had received from bishops in three of the affected countries—Bishop Zaché Duracin of Haiti, Bishop Miguel Tamayo of Cuba and Bishop Coadjutor Laish Boyd of the Bahamas.

"The whole of Haiti has been affected, a country where the socio-economic situation was already bad," Duracin told Frade. "Many people have been left homeless with no food,

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no clothes, no clean water. Many of our church buildings have been affected or destroyed.”

Tamayo compared the damage left by the storms to the effects of a war. Hurricane Gustav completely destroyed the Isle of Youth and the western province of Pinar del Rio. Then Hanna hit the northern coast with major storm surge that swept away homes in coastal towns. Then came Ike, “that managed to hit every single province of Cuba.” The storm’s trajectory from east to west devastated everything along its path, the bishop said. A week after the storm most of Cuba was still without power or potable water.

Boyd said that several churches on the island of Inagua and in the Turks and Caicos have lost bell-towers and roofs. One rectory was completely destroyed, and most homes on Grand Turk and South Caicos suffered substantial damage. Electric power on those islands may not be restored until December.

Saying that the three bishops had told him that the best and most efficient way to help them meet the urgent needs of their people would be to provide funds, Frade asked for contributions to be made through Episcopal Charities of Southeast Florida or on the donations page of the diocesan website.

Individual donations, along with special collections taken by some congregations, brought the total received for hurricane relief to \$8,846 by the first week in October. Any of these funds not specifically designated for a particular country or location will be divided among the affected dioceses, both in this country and in the Caribbean.

On Saturday evening, October 4, Archdeacon Fritz Bazin and the Rev. Cori Olson, priest-in-charge at St. Luke the Physician, Miami, offered the support of the diocese for hurricane victims in another way. The two were speakers at an interfaith rally and prayer vigil at Notre Dame d’Haiti Catholic Church in Miami, urging the government to grant Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to Haitians residing in the United States because of the catastrophic conditions in their country. TPS would allow Haitians currently in the US to continue to work and send remittances to their families in Haiti whose very survival may depend on their support.

Frade also noted in his message the assistance that was already underway through “ongoing ministry partnerships” between congregations in our diocese and ministries in the Caribbean and on the Gulf Coast.

One of these relationships, between several Palm Beach County parishes and the congregation of Ste. Marie Madeleine in Bondeau, Haiti, meant that donations of food have already been

HOW TO HELP

Checks should be made payable to Episcopal Charities of Southeast Florida, designated for whichever country or location you feel led to assist, or simply for Hurricane Relief, and mailed to the Episcopal Charities office at 8895 N. Military Trail, Suite 205-C, Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410. Donations can also be made online on the diocesan website at www.diosef.org; an option is provided for designating a particular storm and/or location.



Photo provided by Food for the Poor

AFTERMATH

A family in Cap Haitien, Haiti, stands beside the remains of their house after Hurricane Gustav.

received and distributed in that community by Père Amirolld Lazard of Ste. Marie Madeleine.

Lazard told Deacon Anita Thorstad of St. Gregory’s, Boca Raton, that the school at Ste. Marie Madeleine was damaged by a fallen tree during Tropical Storm Fay, but was still able to provide shelter for some families during the subsequent storms.

By the first of October, St. Gregory’s and other participants in the partnership had sent three shipments of food through Unitransfer, a company with warehouses in Haiti. Because the road to the school at Bondeau was impassable for a delivery truck, Lazard had picked up the food at the Unitransfer offices in Miragoane.

“The people are very appreciative,” he told Thorstad.

Thorstad says the most recent shipment of food included a live goat, which will be butchered for the

wedding of the daughter of a woman who is a leader in the church. “We can’t be there so we sent a goat for the wedding celebration,” the deacon said.

St. Gregory’s will receive a first-hand update on the situation in Bondeau when Lazard preaches there October 19.

Other congregations have also found a variety of ways to help. Church of the Resurrection, Biscayne Park, has served as a drop-off point for supplies that will be shipped to Haiti by Haitian community organization in Miami.

At St. Christopher’s by-the-Sea, Key Biscayne, parishioner Peter Verbeeck donated over 4,300 roof tarps, and more than 200 water containers and blankets to the church for distribution to countries hardest-hit by the storms. The bulk of the relief supplies will be shipped to Haiti through Food for the Poor.

“Here, those tarps would just be a temporary covering for a roof till it could be repaired,” said St. Christopher’s rector, Fr. Burt Froehlich, “but I suspect that in Haiti they will become long-term shelter for a lot of people who have lost their houses.”

Even St. Christopher’s Montessori School stu-

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ricane Wilma ripped off sections of the copper roof and left water pouring or seeping into classrooms, offices and even the nave and sanctuary, Trinity has focused resources and effort on repairs that would protect the fabric of the historic building from further damage. Although extensive restoration and preservation work remains to be done, the cathedral is now snug and dry under a recently-completed bronze-colored metal roof that complies with all county codes, including requirements specifically for historic structures.

Now our diocesan cathedral, located in the burgeoning "Performing Arts District" just north of downtown Miami, has turned toward exploring ways to reach out to the "people we've never seen before in our lives," and to fulfill its unique role as both a parish church and what cathedral Dean Douglas McCaleb has called, "a center of liturgy, spirituality, education and mission" in the community.

The fall calendar at the cathedral that featured the October 1-5 annual meeting and ringing courses of the North American Guild of Change Ringers also includes the debut of the Anglican Chorale, a new diocesan choral group performing of sacred music in the Anglican tradition—including services of Choral Evensong; the "Kirkin' O' the Tartans," a celebration of Scottish Anglican heritage for the feast of the Scottish patron saint, St. Andrew; and a performance on December 6 of the poetry of Sufi mystic Rumi, accompanied by traditional Sufi music and the ecstatic dancing of whirling dervishes.

FRIENDS OF TRINITY CATHEDRAL

Trinity invites all Episcopalians in the diocese to be part of the restoration work and the ministries of our diocesan cathedral by joining Friends of Trinity Cathedral. For information go to <http://trinitymiami.org/friends.asp>.

Beginning in August, the cathedral's new assistant, Deacon James Reho, has offered a weekly yoga class in the Cathedral Hall. Reho, who will be ordained to the priesthood on December 21 at the cathedral, is a licensed yoga teacher. (See story below.)

The Cathedral Bookstore—now Trinity Cathedral Gift Shop—has undergone its own transformation, with a new manager, Billy Mitchum, and a wide range of new merchandise. Mitchum sees the shop as a ministry, part of the inspiration and education that the cathedral offers to the community.

And then there's that open gate. For many years, the safety of cathedral staff and the faithful stewardship of cathedral property in a rapidly changing urban neighborhood seemed to require the security of locked gates; but now the neighborhood is changing again, with more people—both visitors and local residents—on the streets, and the dean, the Cathedral Chapter and the congregation are ready to take the risk of inviting them in.

The next step, Nolan has said, is to keep the cathedral doors open all day during the week, not just for the noon Eucharist. This would mean having someone present at all times to provide both security and welcome.

"We're not quite ready for that," he said, "but we're working on it."

Trinity Cathedral—it's not just for Sundays anymore, and the cathedral's staff and members want to make sure the community knows that.

See p. 4 for stories on the Anglican Chorale and the Cathedral Gift Shop. ■

FALL 2008 TRINITY CATHEDRAL EVENTS

- Oct. 19,** 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., "Body and Soul" Health and Wellness Fair, The Rev. Carlos Sandoval, M.D., preacher at 10 a.m. Choral Eucharist
- Oct. 26,** 6 p.m., Choral Evensong Music by the Anglican Chorale of The Diocese of Southeast Florida
- Nov. 1,** noon- 3:30 p.m., Diocesan Ultreya
- Nov. 2,** All Saints' Sunday—Festive Choral Eucharist at 10 a.m.
- Nov. 23,** 3 p.m., ECW Memorial Tea in memory of Meg Clements and Una Brinkley
- Nov. 27,** 10 a.m., Thanksgiving Day Eucharist
- Nov. 30,** 4 p.m., Kirkin' o' the Tartans in honor of St. Andrew's Day
- Dec. 6,** 7:30 p.m. Rumi Poetry Night with Whirling Dervishes
- Dec. 13,** 8 p.m. The Master Chorale of South Florida
- Dec. 20,** 4 p.m., Ordination to the Priesthood of James Reho
- Dec. 21,** 5 p.m., Traditional Service of Lessons and Carols
- Dec. 24,** 5 p.m., Family Christmas Service
- Dec. 24,** 11 p.m., Midnight Mass – The Rt. Rev. Leo Frade, Preacher
- Dec. 25,** 10 a.m., Christmas Day Eucharist
- Dec. 27,** 11 a.m., Ordination of Deacons

Yoga classes at Trinity offer an ancient practice for prayer

Trinity Cathedral has begun offering yoga classes on Thursday evenings from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the Cathedral Hall.

The classes are taught by Trinity's assistant, Deacon James Reho, who is a registered yoga instructor. Classes are \$12 for a single class or \$99 for 10 classes.

Why teach yoga, a discipline from the Hindu tradition, in an Episcopal cathedral? Reho explains:

The term "yoga" comes from a Sanskrit root (yuj) meaning "union" or "yoke," like the yoke of Jesus that he asks us to take up (Matt. 11). As Christians, we seek to answer Jesus' invitation to seek union with him in our lives as he himself is united with the Father (John 15).

"Yoga" covers a broad spectrum of practices that help us open our whole selves up to God's grace and to the experience of union with the Spirit of Christ. These practices include physical postures and movement, sitting in meditation, purifying the body, and breath work.

Yogic practices are geared toward helping the practitioner achieve health in soul, spirit and body. The goal of yoga is balance, peace and joy through union with God

(however God is understood by the practitioner). The only overt theological "claim" of yoga is that union with God is possible. This is, of course, a central tenet of the Christian faith.

Christianity at its best has always affirmed the importance of the whole person, for as Christ "was made flesh," our bodies (and psyches) are vehicles through which we can experience God. Monastics and desert elders practiced fasting, meditation, and prostrations—all forms of yoga—aiding their growth into life in Christ.

Many common Christian practices, including standing, genuflecting or kneeling for prayer, bowing, fasting, praying with beads (such as the Rosary), "centering prayer," or the "Jesus Prayer" are forms of yoga that our tradition has affirmed over the centuries.

The practice of yoga helps us to recapture and enter into these rich and transformative practical traditions of the early church, and to pray as the early church prayed—incorporating soul, spirit and body.

For more information on Trinity's yoga classes, call Reho at 786-888-6695 or email assistant@trinitymiami.org. ■



LIFE IN BALANCE

Deacon James Reho demonstrates a headstand for his yoga class at Trinity Cathedral.

Photo by Christopher Cooper

CATHEDRAL GIFT SHOP HOURS

- Monday and Tuesday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Wednesday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Sundays after services.
- Closed October 27-31 to prepare for Christmas Shop.
- Watch for extended hours from Nov. 1 through Christmas.

NEW DIOCESAN CHORAL GROUP FORMED

In September a new choral group, the Anglican Chorale of the Diocese of Southeast Florida, began weekly rehearsals at Trinity Cathedral.

Formed by Trinity's Director of Music Matthew Steynor and Simon Jacobs, organist at St. Thomas, Coral Gables, the group offers an opportunity for singers who would like to come together to sing sacred music in the Anglican choral tradition.

While the group will specialize in traditional Anglican church music, its repertoire will also include European and American sacred music from all eras. Previous experience of the Anglican/Episcopal tradition is helpful, but not required.

The Chorale rehearses in Trinity's choir room on Tuesdays from 7-8:30 p.m. All music is provided, and there is no membership fee.

The group's first performance was a service of Choral Evensong on October 3, and the chorale is scheduled to lead Choral Evensong again on October 26, as well as to present a traditional service of Lessons and Carols on December 21.

For information contact either of the directors: Matthew Steynor, 786-888-6665 or music@trinitymiami.org, or Simon Jacobs, 305-588-4546, sjacobs@stepsmia.org. ■

New manager sees Cathedral Gift Shop as "ministry"

By Cheryl Chapman and Mary W. Cox

It may be 80-plus degrees outside on an October day, but inside the Trinity Cathedral Gift shop, it's fall. An amber-colored candle on the counter gives off a spicy fragrance, and shelves display decorative pumpkins in various sizes and shapes, along with kits for making gourmet pumpkin bread and apple-spiced cider.

Billy Mitchum, the new manager of the Trinity Cathedral Gift Shop (formerly Trinity Cathedral Bookstore), is enthusiastically filling the shop with new merchandise, but he makes it clear that the shop is not "just about things."

For Mitchum, it's all about ministry, relationships and vision.

"This is a ministry," says Mitchum, 37, who had a career in the corporate world and in retail, and in the past year had launched and operated the successful Angel Food Gifts and Books at St. Thomas, Coral Gables.

"One of my aims is to create an experience that is nurturing, inspiring and peaceful for everyone who passes through here. That's where I start."

Mitchum takes his purchasing power seriously. "I take risks every time I purchase products that I believe are inspiring and beautiful, and I'm personally invested in every aspect of this store," he said. "So when you come to Trinity Cathedral Gift Shop and find something interesting on the shelf, I'll likely want to talk to you about that product, not a sales pitch exactly, but about why that product inspired me, where it's made, what its story is and, of course, why you should have it!"

For the meeting of the North American Guild of Change Ringers, colorful bell-shaped ceramic ornaments handcrafted in Uzbekistan were on display, as were copies of Dorothy Sayers' *The Nine Tailors*, a classic mystery in which change-ringing is at the heart of the story.

The shop is open after the yoga classes taught by Deacon James Reho on Thursday evenings, offering materi-



MORE THAN THINGS

Cathedral Gift Shop manager Billy Mitchum (right), assisted by volunteer Jim Vann (left), unpacks new fall merchandise for the shop that he sees as part of the cathedral's ministry to the community.

als related to yoga and contemplative spirituality.

The week of October 27 the shop will be closed to prepare for its grand reopening on November 1 as the "Cathedral Christmas Shoppe," filled with Advent wreaths, handcrafted crèches from a variety of countries and cultures, candles, wreaths and gifts of all kinds.

In January, Mitchum will review his merchandise for "ordinary time," and begin to choose new product lines that he feels will touch and satisfy the people who come into the shop.

It's clear that relationships are at the heart of Mitchum's vision as a Christian retailer.

"I love the process of selecting product, of working with customers and helping them clarify their vision of what they want as they shop," he said.

"I want people to walk in this door and be inspired, personally inspired about the relationships in their lives, as well as their relationship with God. I want them to know that they can come to this space and find that perfect gift for a cherished person in their life."

Mitchum firmly believes that we really miss the mark if we ever forget

that the Cathedral Gift Shop serves as a ministry to people.

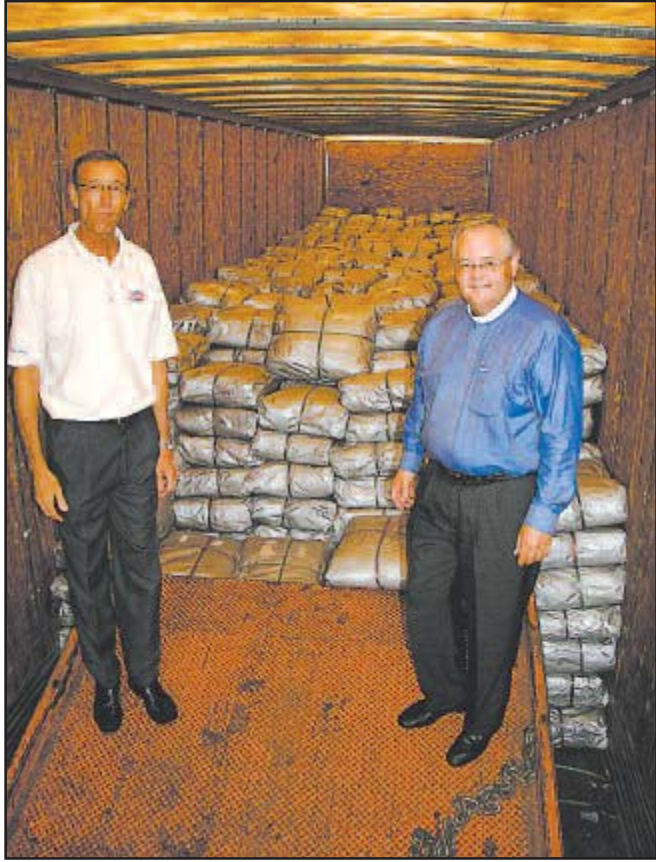
"Our mission is to enhance the lives of all those in our community – both religious and nonreligious – by offering items that bespeak beauty, inspire the spirit, and educate the mind – all very important components to anyone's spiritual journey. My heart is in everything I do here, and I'm so excited about where we're going," Mitchum said.

"I envision relationships established far and wide across South Florida and nationally, with both institutions and individuals. I want them to know that we're not just a source for 'things,' but that God shows up here, ministry can be found – for healing, inclusion, challenge and compassion. I want them to find all of that in their experience here at the Gift Shop."

Mitchum is actively recruiting volunteers to join him in this ministry. He says that time commitments are flexible—and that volunteers receive a generous discount on purchases. Call him at 305-789-0074 for information. ■

Adapted from a story in the fall issue of Trinity's Cathedral Life.

The NEWS



A TRUCKLOAD OF HELP

Peter Verbeeck (left) a parishioner at St. Christopher's-by-the-Sea, Key Biscayne, and St. Christopher's rector, Fr. Burt Froehlich (right) check out the trailer loaded with tarps, water containers and blankets that Verbeeck donated to be sent to Haiti.

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dents have committed to contribute to the efforts to help those who have suffered such catastrophic losses. The students had a "dress down" day, when everyone made a donation for the privilege of not wearing the school uniform, and raised almost \$791. Those funds will also go toward the relief efforts of Food for the Poor in Haiti. The students are now planning to make "dress down" day a regular event, one Friday a month, so that they can continue to raise funds for hurricane relief.

Additional contributions have come from parishioners and the church's Faith at Work committee.

Dr. Dannel Anshutz, a parishioner at St. Martin's, Pompano Beach, and leader of the parish's mission team, responded to the bishop's call for assistance for hurricane victims by asking colleagues to help her gather medical supplies to send to the Caribbean. In addition to drugs, surgical supplies and clinic staples, the doctors provided an EKG machine and an endoscopic camera that could be used by a hospital. Food for the Poor will transport these much-needed items to Haiti and deliver them to a medical facility there.

In his appeal for hurricane relief, Frade reminded the diocese to pray for those affected for the storms, and for "guidance and generous hearts in our efforts to help." Throughout the diocese that prayer is being an-

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Other resolutions ask: That congregations and parishioners "reduce their carbon footprints by reducing their consumption of energy and other resources" and "act as role models to the wider community" for reduced energy consumption; "that the percentage of giving by the Diocese of Southeast Florida to the work of the Episcopal Church be adjusted from its current level of 15% in the 2009 proposed budget by 1% to a level of 16%" and that parish assessments be proportionally increased accordingly; that the convention approve the submission to General Convention in 2009 of a resolutions supporting the Clergy Letter Project "and its reconciliatory programs between religion and science;" and that Deanery Youth Coordinators be granted seat and voice in Diocesan Convention.

The proposed budget for 2009 to be considered by convention shows an increase of less than one percent over the revised 2008 budget in the total amount congregations will be assessed. This proposal reflects the same concern over the effect of the economic downturn on congregational incomes that prompted the diocesan Executive Board at its May 13 meeting this year to approve a reduction of \$100,000 in 2008 spending.

Positions that must be filled by elections at convention this year are: two clergy members and one lay member of the Standing Committee; one clergy member of the Ecclesiastical Trial Court; one lay trustee of the University of the South; and one lay member of the Cathedral Chapter.

Nominations, with a short biography of the nominee, were to have been submitted to the secretary of convention by October 19. Nominations not received by that date will be made from the floor of convention.

The first convention session will be from 1 to 4:30 p.m. on Friday, November 7, followed by the Convention Eucharist at 4:30, and at 7 p.m. the island-themed banquet, which will be held at Palmer Trinity School, one of the two Episcopal high schools in the diocese. The cost for the banquet will be \$35 for advance registration or \$40 for late registration (after November 3). Late registrations for the banquet will be accepted on a space-available basis.

The preacher at the Convention Eucharist will

be the Rt. Rev. Robert McLean Thompson, bishop suffragan for Kingston, in the Diocese of Jamaica.

The Saturday session will be from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. A hot breakfast will be available at St. Thomas from 7:30 to 8:15 a.m., at a cost of \$8 for advance registration or \$9 at on-site registration Friday morning.

The dress code for all convention events is casual.

Following last year's successful pre-convention workshops, three optional workshops will again be offered on Friday morning before convention begins.

At 10 a.m. St. Thomas parishioner Ann Rose, retired professor of English and Humanities at Miami Dade College and former teacher of 8th-grade Humanities at Palmer Trinity Episcopal School, will lead a workshop at the church on "Roman, Orthodox, and Celtic Roots of Anglican Spirituality: A Journey of Christian History through Art." There is no fee for this workshop. Advance registration is requested, but walk-ins will be allowed as space permits.

At 9:30 a.m. a walking tour of Fairchild Tropical Gardens will be offered. The gardens are about a five-minute drive from St. Thomas. The cost for advance registration is the group rate of \$15 per person; walk-ins must pay at the gate, where the ticket price for adults is \$20.

The third workshop is a tour of the historic Biltmore Hotel in Coral Gables, about a 15-minute drive from St. Thomas, beginning at 10 a.m. Ruth Jacobs from Dade Heritage Trust will lead the tour, telling the stories of the architecture and uses of this famous building and the colorful people who have spent time there. The cost for this tour is \$10 per person. Again, advance registration is encouraged but walk-ins are welcome as space permits and may pay on site.

For those who are participating in any of the morning workshops or anyone else arriving early, advance registration includes the option of requesting a box lunch for \$8. These will be served at St. Thomas after the workshops.

Child care during the convention sessions will be available only by advance registration; the cost is \$10 per day per child. The parish nursery will be open during the Convention Eucharist for no cost, but registration for this is also required.

Registration for all convention events is online at www.diosef.org/register.html. ■

Frade issues pastoral letter on financial crisis

On September 17 Bishop Leo Frade responded to the nation's growing financial crisis with a pastoral letter emailed to diocesan clergy and posted (in both English and Spanish) on the diocesan website, www.diosef.org.

"As your bishop I want to remind you at this time of turmoil: 'Be not afraid,'" Frade said. "We serve the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth, and we and all human institutions, even the financial markets, are in his hand and cannot ever be beyond the reach of his loving care."

He continued, "The next thing I want you to know is that our diocesan Investment Committee continues exercising very wise and careful stewardship of the funds that have been entrusted to us. This committee met last Friday [September 12] and again on Monday [September 15] with representatives of the firm that currently handles our investments, and has been assured that our investments of diocesan and parish funds—your money, our money, God's money are secure."

He spoke of a "need to revise our priorities," turning away from greed and the philosophy that the winner is the one who "dies with the

"... Be ministers of the transforming love of Jesus Christ in ... all these worrisome circumstances."

most toys."

He called on the people of the diocese to "be ministers of the transforming love of Jesus Christ in the midst of all these worrisome circumstances. Let us reach out with our prayers, our material goods, our helping hands and our presence to serve all of our neighbors, near and far, who are overwhelmed by adversity and fear."

He reminded the diocese of his call for donations to aid those affected by the four storms in late July and early September, and asked for prayers for guidance for national leaders as they deal with the financial crisis.

He concluded, "Beloved, in this time, as in all times of anxiety, trust in God, be faithful in prayer, be of good courage — and be Christ's Body in the world!" ■



Photo by Tiffany DiPanni

HII-BHAG AT ST. JOHN'S

Recording artist Mindy Simmons gets children into the act at a day of celebration for children at St. John's, Hollywood on October 5. The day began with a Eucharist led by children and youth of the congregation, with a special sermon for children by the rector, Fr. Matt Faulstich. After the service there was a catered lunch, the musical entertainment, games, crafts and face-painting in the parish hall. The parish advertised its "HII—BHAG" event widely in the community, and around 120 people participated in the afternoon program, including families from the charter school that leases space from St. John's. For more on events at St. John's, go to <http://www.stjohnshollywood.org/>

“HII-BHAG” —moving from courtship to marriage

By Archdeacon Bryan Hobbs

(This is the second in a series of essays and articles concerning the critical issue of declining church membership and creative ways in which our congregations can respond.)

“...and they become one.”

— Gen. 2:24

In my first essay in this series I wrote about the cottonwood trees of Idaho and the universal “law of nature that every living thing must reproduce in order for the species to survive.” I also concluded that although “we have a fertile message...we seem to disconnect when it comes to inviting, welcoming and incorporating new members.”

There are, of course, pockets within the diocese where our birth rate exceeds our death rate, but I believe God has called us to do better for more dynamic growth. One proven tool for improving congregational growth is an intentional process of HII – Hospitality, Invitation, and Incorporation – and especially the “HII-BHAG.”

The HII-BHAG is a major event requiring the entire church's participation, combining the congregation's HII process with the Big Holy Audacious Goal (BHAG) of trying to match the high attendance of Christmas, Palm Sunday and Easter. At best a church can only sponsor one or two of these events, typically one in the fall (late September, October or November) and one in February.

It is very important to note that we are not talking just about numbers, although church leaders must be aware of the “numbers reality.” Our primary focus is and always will be to fulfill our diocesan mission imperative, “to make known to all people the transforming power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, including ALL, excluding none.” We will do this by developing and perfecting a process – even a life-style – of Hospitality, Invitation and Incorporation for those God wishes to invite into our churches for his purposes and our wellbeing.

BECOMING ONE: INVITATION

Let me share part of my story as an illustration. Annabel and I were married 40 years ago on June. I remember all too well the courtship period. Although we had dated in middle school and high school, it felt as if it took forever for me to ask Annabel into marriage, and even longer for her to say yes. Timing was an issue, as we were both in college, but I was impatient. Finally, after two years, she said yes – and the

rest is history.

Inviting someone into saying “yes” to Jesus often takes just as long, if not longer; but we can never give up, because we care so much. We spend lots of prayer, time, energy, church resources, and hope in the anticipation that eventually our friend will say, “yes.” Everyone who has ever seriously courted realizes quickly that the road to achieving our heart's desire is uncertain and takes the best we have to offer.

BECOMING ONE: HOSPITALITY

Inseparably mixed with the Invitation is Hospitality. Our friends who visit our church want to know if this is a place where they can experience God. They desire to be introduced to the giver of life, and not used to prop up our church financially. In truth, they want to marry the church in the finest sense of the term. They want a place where they see people caring for one another and where time, prayer and resources are utilized in making a difference in people's lives.

Annabel hesitated in saying yes to me until she was convinced that I genuinely cared for her and that she cared for me in equal measure. We were going to become “one,” and she needed to know that this was worth her life's investment. It's all about relationship – and so, too, with those we invite into the church family. People are not won easily or quickly.

The HII-BHAG event is like a wedding day, but the marriage requires continuous Invitation and Hospitality events that become part of our life-style, 24/7/365 – continuous, persistent and timeless. It's all about relationship, relationship, relationship—and in the life of the church, as in the marriage of two persons, this doesn't and shouldn't come quickly or without deep reflection and prayer.

BECOMING ONE: INCORPORATION

Now we get to the really exciting part of life's adventure – that is, living out and intensifying the relationship by turning dreams into reality. In our marriage that meant graduating from college, entering new careers, moving from West Virginia to Key West, diving, fishing, buying a home, starting a family and sensing a call to ministry. In our church families, we welcome new members into our pilgrim's adventure of discovering and serving God as revealed in Jesus Christ.

We worship; we sing; we serve; we join in inviting others; we journey near and far on missions; we strive to thrive with fear as our constant companion; we sacrifice; we weep; we sin; we are broken; we repent; we rejoice; we are both selfless and selfish; we are contin-

uously stretched to accomplish that which we could not possibly accomplish on our own; we are often afraid but never lose hope; we give our all knowing that all depends on HIM; we are thankful because we receive life that we do not deserve. Simply put, we are family – the Family of God, often just known as the Church – the most dynamic, life-breathing institution on Earth.

The HII-BHAG is only one factor that can help to make all of this possible; but when it becomes an essential part of our church's life-style, it clearly offers a better possibility of welcoming a greater number of friends into God's family, the Church.

What are your perceptions and your stories? Let me hear from you. You can write to me at do-chobbs@bellsouth.net. ■

RECOVERY MINISTRY EVENT PLANNED FOR NOVEMBER 22

On November 22 at St. Gregory's, Boca Raton, the diocesan Task Force on Addiction and Recovery will present “Recovery in the 21st Century,” an event that will include workshops on recovery issues and a 12-Step Eucharist.

The day will begin with registration 8:30 a.m., followed by workshops, the 12-Step Eucharist and lunch. The event is open to anyone concerned with or affected by the disease of addiction. There is no charge, but a free-will offering will be taken.

Workshop topics will include spirituality, and addiction as a community/parish *dis-ease*. There will also be a panel of youth who are patients in the South Miami Hospital Addiction Treatment Program discussing the prevention and treatment of addiction in young people.

Leaders for the workshops include Fr. Stuart Hoke and Fr. Randall A. Green, two priests with long experience in recovery ministry, as well as clergy and lay members of the diocesan Task Force.

In a letter to clergy and congregations, Bishop Leo Frade issued an invitation to the November 22 event, saying, “The Episcopal Church is a great place to party in communion with others. But it is a great a place to recover as well...I commend this event and encourage you to attend.”

Reservations are requested in order to provide materials and lunch for all who attend; a registration form is available at www.diosef.org/register.html. For additional information contact Jim Carlton, jim@diosef.org or 800-268-9993 or 305-373-0881, ext. 16. ■

The NEWS

PORT MINISTRY NEEDS PERSONAL ITEMS FOR "SHOEBOX CHRISTMAS"

Seafarers' House, the interfaith ministry to seafarers at Port Everglades, is requesting donations of small gifts for the "Shoebbox Christmas" program, which provides a gift-wrapped shoebbox full of personal items for visiting seafarers.

Last year nearly 300 Christmas packages were distributed to seafarers on ships at the port. This year's goal is to give a gift to every seafarer who comes to Port Everglades from the first of November to December 31. Some of the gifts will include items for the seafarers, who come from countries around the world, to take home to their children.

For more information on how you or your congregation can help, contact Anmati or Rafael at Seafarers' House, 954-467-7330. ■

THE SHOEBOX CHRISTMAS WISH LIST

For adults: shaving cream/disposable razors; tissue packets; soaps; after shave; toothbrushes and toothpaste; work gloves; combs; white athletic socks; playing cards; Florida picture postcards; pencils and pens
For children: crayons and markers; pencils and pens; coloring books; small games; puzzles; activity books; small stuffed animals

EPISCOPAL CHARITIES SUNDAY

Bishop Leo Frade has designated November 23 as Episcopal Charities Sunday. Congregations are asked to take a special collection on that day to help fund the work of Episcopal Charities of Southeast Florida, which is the charitable and philanthropic arm of the diocese, funding parish-based ministries to "the least of these."

For nearly 10 years, Episcopal Charities has been funding programs that provide thousand of meals, modest shelter, education, medical assistance and other essential necessities to the poor, the underserved, the homeless, the elderly and children in our communities.

For more information about Episcopal Charities and how they are helping in your community, please call (651)799-6424 or visit www.ecsefl.org ■

Episcopal Charities' 10th anniversary celebration will focus on tackling homelessness

On January 15, 2009, Episcopal Charities of Southeast Florida will celebrate its tenth anniversary with a luncheon event called "The Mission of Grace" at Bethesda-by-the-Sea.

The featured speaker will be William Laney, a "graduate" of the Key West Loaves and Fishes Program, which receives grant support from Episcopal Charities through St. Paul's, Key West. Laney has recently published a book, *Homeless Isn't Hopeless – A remarkable journey of hope and humor*.

The event will also include the public announcement of the diocesan Human Needs grants for 2009.

Similar luncheons are planned throughout next year in Broward and Miami-Dade Counties.

Episcopal Charities of Southeast Florida was established in late 1998 as the Southeast Florida Episcopal Foundation, with the stated purpose "to raise, manage and disburse funds to support the mission and ministry

of the Episcopal Diocese of Southeast Florida and its parishes." At that time it focused on promoting and soliciting planned gifts for the diocese and serving as a resource for parishes in the areas of major gift planning, endowment structuring and basic financial strengthening.

With the creation of the Blair and Agnes Smith Charitable Fund by a bequest in 2000, the Foundation began to focus more of its work on grant-making. Two years ago the Foundation became Episcopal Charities, and now serves as the charitable and philanthropic arm of the diocese, in addition to its ongoing ministries as a resource for the diocese and congregations in the areas of planned giving and endowment.

For more information on the January 15 event, or if you would like to help with planning for it, contact Margaret Hudson at Episcopal Charities, (561)799-6424 or margaret@ecsefl.org. ■

Diocesan chancellor chairs Ethics Committee of Florida Bar

At the Florida Bar Convention in June, Diocesan Chancellor Mercedes Busto was appointed to a year-long term as chair of the organization's Professional Ethics Committee.

This standing committee of the Bar for the entire State of Florida is composed of 42 attorneys from different parts of the state, and is charged with the duty of addressing ethical questions concerning the conduct of Florida lawyers. The committee reviews informal advisory opinions of the Florida Bar ethics department attorneys and publishes formal advisory opinions to guide bar members in interpreting and applying the ethics rules.

Busto, a member of Chapel of the Venerable Bede, Coral Gables, has served as chancellor of the diocese since October 2003. She was admitted to the Florida Bar in 1981, shortly after her graduation from Columbia Law School. Busto and her husband, William G. Jennings III, are partners in the Coral Gables law firm Busto & Jennings. ■



Busto

CHURCH@THE GROVE REQUESTS CDS FOR SOLDIERS

Church @ The Grove, the new church plant in the Loxahatchee/Acreage area of western Palm Beach County, hasn't even begun holding regular Sunday services yet—that's scheduled to begin November 2—but the fledgling congregation is already strongly focused on outreach ministry.

A current project is to collect CDs of contemporary Christian music to give to an organization that will send them to members of the Armed Forces serving overseas.

The goal is to collect 500 new or "gently used" CDs. (The church cannot accept home-made CDs, because there's no way to tell whether those include illegal downloads or copies of songs).

Church @ The Grove will have a table at Diocesan Convention where donated CDs will be collected. The church is also accepting financial contributions toward this project. Donations may be sent to Church @ the Grove, 15730 88th Place North, Loxahatchee, FL 33470.

For additional information, call the Rev. Holly Ostlund, 561-333-2020. ■

Deadline nears for joining January 2009 pilgrimages

Bishop Leo Frade has announced that the reservation deadline is November 5 for the two January 2009 pilgrimages he will lead with his wife, Diana.

As of October 1, a limited number of spaces were available for both the 15-day trip to Egypt and Rome, departing January 2, and the 10-day Holy Land pilgrimage, departing January 27.

The Holy Land trip will include visits to Capernaum, Nazareth, Bethlehem and Bethany, as well as three full days in Jerusalem. There will be opportunities to meet residents of Israel and Palestine, and to talk and worship with local Episcopalians.

The cost for the trip is \$3,375 per person, double occupancy.

The Egypt-Rome trip begins with a visit to the Monastery of St. Catherine in the Sinai and includes the Coptic Christmas Eve service at the Coptic Cathedral in Cairo on the eve of January 6, sightseeing in Cairo and a Nile cruise to Luxor and other ancient sites, concluding with two days in Rome with an opportunity for an audience with the pope.

Complete itineraries are posted at www.diosef.org.

The cost is \$4,755 per person, double occupancy. A \$300 per person tax-deductible donation to Our Little Roses Ministries is included in the cost of the tickets for each trip.

For information and reservations, call Globe Travel, 305-823-3939. ■

■ **St. Monica's, Stuart**, celebrated its 80th anniversary the weekend of October 5 with a parish picnic and a homecoming program that included a tribute to benefactors and founding members. (See story p. 13)

■ The weekend of October 9-12, **Church of the Advent, Palm City**, once again hosted a team for a Kairos renewal weekend. Kairos is a renewal movement similar to Cursillo, and is designed specifically as a ministry for persons in prison.

■ In spite of intermittent rain, the youth group at **Good Shepherd, Tequesta**, held its second annual 1.8 mile "Walk with a Purpose" on October 4. Parishioners and friends sponsored walkers and runners, with proceeds benefitting parish youth programs, pilgrimages and missions. By the time the rain began to fall heavily, everyone was back at the church enjoying goodies from a bake sale. The event concluded with a Eucharist with music by singers from the youth group accompanied by the rector, Fr. Bob Taylor, on guitar.

■ **All Saints', Jensen Beach**, will hold its annual barbecue, with children's activities and live musical entertainment, on October 23.

■ The Blessing of the Animals service at **Bethesda-by-the-Sea, Palm Beach**, on October 5 included prayers for pets that had died in the past year.

■ The final event in this year's Centennial Celebration at **Holy Trinity, West Palm Beach**, will be two evenings to experience an Elizabethan Banquet, December 6 at 7 p.m. and December 7 at 4 p.m. In addition to the feast itself, there will be singers, dancers, actors and musicians playing instruments of the period. Costumes are encouraged, but not required. The cost is \$40 per person. Seating is limited, so reservations are required; call 561-655-8650 or go to the parish website at www.holytrinitywpb.org.

■ On Sunday, December 14, at 4 p.m., **St. Andrew's, Lake Worth**, will offer a traditional Advent Service of Lessons and Carols, featuring music for organ, trumpet, timpani and choir, as well as opportunities for congregational singing.

Following the service there will be an informal reception in the Parish Hall, with homemade Christmas cookies, accompanied by eggnog, punch and coffee. It's all free and the public is invited.

■ **St. Benedict's, Plantation**, held a finance seminar on Sunday, October 5, following the 10 a.m. Mass. Presenter Winston Plummer spoke on "Budgeting - The Annual Plan for Our Lives as We Live in Response to God."

■ On September 28 **St. Martin's, Pompano Beach**, honored its longtime acolyte master, Jerry Macomber, who is retiring from that position.

■ Gwyndolen Clarke-Reed, senior warden at **St. Mary's, Deerfield Beach**, has been elected State Representative for House District 92.

■ On September 7 **All Angels, Miami Springs**, celebrated Back to School Sunday. Over 200 people (the congregation's average attendance is about 80) were present for the service, with blessings for the new school year and for students' backpacks, and for the lunch that followed. There were foods from the different cultures represented in the congregation, and tables displaying every activity in both church and school, from the Parent-Teacher Organization, to the Altar Guild, to such after school offerings as piano lessons. Everyone was invited to visit the classrooms and meet the All Angels Academy faculty.

■ October 30-November 2, **All Souls', Miami Beach**, will hold a celebration of its past, present and future as the only Episcopal Church on Miami Beach. "All Souls' Alive!" will include book signings by local authors on Thursday evening, a "Halloween Cabaret" on Friday evening and an All Souls' Fair on Saturday, and will culminate in an All Souls' Day sung Eucharist on Sunday, followed by a luncheon. For further information contact Fr John Tidy (305-766-3906) or visit the parish website, www.allsoulsmiamibeach.org.

■ **St. Christopher's-by-the-Sea, Key Biscayne**, held Ministry Fairs on October 12 and 19, with displays showcasing all parish ministries, and ministry leaders on hand to talk about what they do and invite others to join. An added attraction was the pancake breakfast provided by the Men's Club.

■ **St. Stephen's, Coconut Grove (Miami)**, invited everyone starting school for the fall semester, "even if you're going back to college," to bring their backpacks to be blessed on Sunday, September 7. Parishioners were also asked to bring an extra backpack filled with school supplies to leave at the church to be given to a program that provides children in extreme poverty with school supplies all year long.

■ **St. Simon's/ San Simón, Miami**, began a series of retreats focused on Spanish saints with a retreat on St. Teresa of Avila, led by Professor Ann Rose, on October 11.

■ An October 25 concert by the choir at **St. Faith's, Cutler Bay**, will also include performances by youth from the parish and from other churches in the community.

■ **Chapel of the Venerable Bede, Coral Gables**, has no choir, so the church's "lead singer," Catie O'Donnell, is offering singing lessons during coffee hour time after the 10 a.m. service on Sundays, to help members of the congregation sing with more confidence and joy.

■ At **St. James the Fisherman, Islamorada**, the new rectory has been completed in anticipation of the calling of a new rector. Meanwhile, Fr. Jack Stanton, who is serving as supply priest, and his wife, Nora, sometimes stay in the rectory when they visit the parish on the weekends.



Pat Kharimanian



Steve Vinik

BLESSED REPTILES

(The Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, October 4, brings many of our animal companions to church for "Blessing of the Animals" services. Not all of these creatures are dogs and cats. On October 5, Peyton Andisman brought her lizards to be blessed at St. Gregory's, Boca Raton. In late September, Fr. Frisby Hendricks, rector of All Saints, Jensen Beach, made a "house call" to the Environmental Studies Center in Jensen Beach to bless an animal that, for obvious reasons, would not be able to attend the parish's Blessing of the Animals. The loggerhead turtle, held by Denise Blanton, a teacher at the Center, is currently nameless, but will soon be given a name by local elementary school students.



Marrero Studio

CHURCH OF LOVE

In the very early hours of an August Sunday, the Rev. Donald Sullivan, dean of the Keys Deanery and vicar of St. Peter's, Key West, preaches in an unusual venue - a Key West club. Peter Worth, who designed St. Peter's website, and is also a DJ, invited Sullivan to give "five-minute sermons" at the "Church of Love" night he hosts at a club on Duval Street. "People came up and told me how wonderful it was," Sullivan said, adding that he wants to do it again.

Parishes in Progress

GOD-FAMILY

The Rev. Susan Brutell baptizes her seventh grandchild, granddaughter Hailey Anne Trebbien, as Hailey's brother, Tyler (left) and (left to right) cousins Aimee LaVrar and Kylie and Colby Brutell watch. The September 20 baptism at St. Martin's, Pompano Beach, actively involved most of the Brutell and LaVrar families: Archdeacon Tom Brutell assisted his wife with the baptism, anointing Hailey with the chrism; two more cousins, Flynn and Maggie LaVrar, were acolytes; and their grandparents, Frank and Janice LaVrar, were crucifer and subdeacon at the service.



Jill Brutell

DINING TOGETHER

New and returning students at the University of Miami enjoy a paella dinner at the Episcopal Church Center at the University of Miami - the Center's now-traditional welcome at the beginning of the academic year. About 40 students attended the August 31 dinner, and 34 stayed after dinner for the first Sunday evening Student Eucharist of the year. The evening marked the beginning of the eleventh year of collaboration in campus ministry between Fr. Frank Corbishley of the Chapel of the Venerable Bede and Pastor Arnold Perry of St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Coral Gables.



Chapel of the Venerable Bede



Marvin Ellis

LOCAL ROYALTY

High school seniors Raynal Sands and Benjamin McNamee were crowned as Mr. and Ms. St. Agnes at the annual tea held by the Rector's Chapter of Episcopal Church women at Historic St. Agnes, Miami, to honor the parish's most outstanding youth. The speaker for the event was journalist DeMarco Morgan (center), an anchor at WTVJ-NBC6 in Miami.



Joann Young

WATERMELON GAMES

Children at St. Christopher's-by-the-Sea, Key Biscayne, find an unusual use for watermelons at the parish's Youth Sunday Rally Day on September 7. The event began with a Youth Sunday service to welcome back not only parish families, but also families whose children attend St. Christopher's Montessori School. Children, youth and adults registered for Sunday School classes, and the day continued with St. Christopher's First - and everyone hopes, Annual - Watermelon Games. The contests were reported to be "a little messy but fun."

From Our BISHOP

Official publication of the
Episcopal Diocese of Southeast Florida
Episcopal Communicators' Award of Excellence
"General Excellence" for the year 2000

The Rt. Rev. Leo Frade, Bishop

The Rt. Rev. Calvin O. Schofield, Jr.
S.T.D., Retired Bishop

The Rt. Rev. John L. Said
Retired Bishop Suffragan

Kathryn Blanton
Convener of Communications Ministry

Mary W. Cox
Editor

Dan Clifford
Designer

Catherine Kohn/PSPress
Layout Editor

John T. Cox
Proofreader

Letters to the Editor

The Net welcomes letters to the editor. All letters must include the name, address, phone number, and if available, email address, of the writer. Parish affiliation is also requested, when applicable.

The Net reserves the right to refuse publication, and to edit letters for length, spelling and grammar.

News & Information

The Net invites news of parish ministries and activities, as well as commentary on church-related issues and events. Whenever possible, all material should be submitted electronically or on a disk or CD. Documents sent as attachments or on disk should be in Word, or in a format that can be opened in Word. Printed material should be an original document or a clean photocopy that can be scanned — no faxes.

Please include with all material the name, address, phone number and if available, email address, of the contributor. Parish affiliation is also requested, when applicable. *The Net* reserves the right to refuse publication and to edit all contributions. Photographs should be high-resolution digital files or clear prints of film photographs, preferably on glossy paper. Photographs sized for a website are generally too small for print. Do not send hard prints made from digital photographs.

All material — letters, articles or photos — should be submitted electronically to: EpiscoRat@aol.com, or by mail to: Mary W. Cox, Diocese of Southeast Florida, 525 NE 15 St., Miami, FL 33132-1411.

Net Deadline

The next Net deadline is November 10. If you have an announcement or calendar item for events in late December, January or early February please have the information to *The Net* by November 10. E-mail to EpiscoRat@aol.com or mail to Mary W. Cox, DoSEF, 525 NE 15th St., Miami, FL 33132-1411.

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Gordon Gekko was wrong: Greed is NOT good

I wonder if you remember Gordon Gekko. He was the fictitious character portrayed by Michael Douglas in the 1987 movie *Wall Street* — a ruthless and rapacious corporate raider whose creed was summed up in the memorable line, "Greed...is good."

How sad is to know that so many people in this country are now suffering from economic devastation that is the inevitable result of irresponsible and unregulated policies fueled by this belief — that uncontrolled avariciousness is normal and "good." The pain that has been brought upon us by this philosophy of greed, and profit at all cost, could have been avoided if our government had acted in time. Unfortunately, in recent years the chasm between the rich and the poor has been allowed to widen as never before. It seems as if Gordon Gekko himself has been running our government and our financial institutions.

I think that it is time to revise our priorities and to realize that, contrary to what you have read on bumper stickers, the winner is not the one who "dies up with the most toys." We must rescue the soul of our country from a philosophy that equates success with how many possessions you own.

This belief has permeated all of our social classes, making people act in total selfishness, and even leading teenagers to kill a classmate for a pair of brand new designer jeans or shoes. A person's worthiness has ceased to be measured by his integrity, and is based instead on what car you drive, which designer's logo is displayed on your clothes, and how big and grandiose a house you live in.

Living within our resources long ago stopped being the ideal, as we were constantly bombarded with credit offers from multiple credit card companies that enticed us into shopping as much as we wanted, even for goods we didn't need, and with no one asking whether the funds would be there to pay the bills.

Well, now the bills are coming due for our whole country. But in times like these we need to remember that regardless of how desperate the situation may seem, there is always hope and we can always find a way forward. Let me paraphrase General Patton's saying: "It is not too important how far you are thrown down; what counts is how far you can bounce upwards."

Many of us have spent a lifetime working hard to assure for our families and for ourselves the means for future financial security and independence. I know that out of those efforts many have given in a manner proportionate to their means to affirm the lordship of Christ in their lives. It is that sacrificial giving that has made a difference in the Body of Christ, the Church.

It is important during this time of uncertainty not to forget what God is expecting of us. We are called to give to our God what is right — and not

just what is left!

In Matthew 6:9-12, our Lord reminded us not to hoard treasures on earth, "where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal." He told us that instead, we should make sure that

our treasures are in heaven, "where neither moth nor rust consumes, and where thieves do not break in and steal."

"Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also," Jesus said.

The temptation that we face during economic downturns is to cut first from what we give back to God; instead of giving to our Lord from our first fruits, we end up giving him our leftovers. We must be faithful to the spirit of the Holy Scriptures, which teaches that the grace of giving is an essential part of our spiritual journey with Jesus.

This is a time to trust in God's promises and to know that God is indeed, in the words of Psalm 46, "our refuge and strength and a very present

help in trouble." Therefore we are called not to fear "though the earth be moved, and though the mountains be toppled into the depth of the sea; though its waters rage and foam, and though the mountains tremble at its tumult." We are not to fear "because the Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold."

I invite you at this time not to forget your Church, not to forget those who are suffering and in need. As long as you continue to be blessed with the gift of life, in good times and

not-so-good, give thanks to God each day for the many blessings you have received.

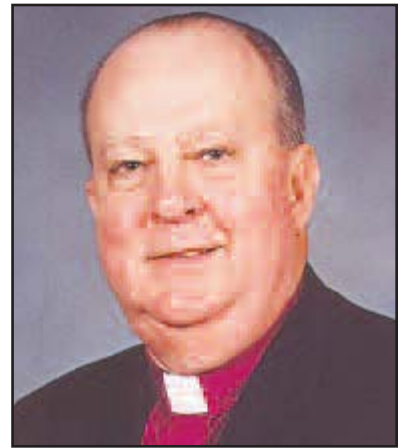
Do not forget that whatever material possessions you have, whether ample or meager by the world's standards, are a gift from God; and that we are commanded to return to him at least a tithe of what we are given, as a token of our thanksgiving for his love. Do not forget that our Lord has also called us to share his love and his abundance in ministry to the "least of these," our neighbors and fellow children of God.

Let me end with the words of an Anglican priest, John Wesley, who in a sermon called "The Use of Money" preached about "earning all you can, saving all you can and giving all you can."

Gordon Gekko's philosophy has brought us to this time of anxiety, but John Wesley's words bring us a trusted remedy for our fears.

Blessings,

+Leo Frade



Frade

*... contrary to what
you have read on
bumper stickers, the
winner is not the
one who "dies with
the most toys."*

Know thy neighbor, love thy neighbor

By the Venerable Dr. J. Fritz Bazin, Archdeacon for Immigration and Social Justice

On May 31 at the Historic St. Agnes Episcopal Church the diocesan Office of Immigration and Social Justice Ministries joined with the Theodore Gibson Chapter of the Union of Black Episcopalians and the diocesan Anti-Racism Commission to inaugurate what will be a series of forums aimed at promoting frank and candid exchanges among the various racial and ethnic groups that make up the Diocese of Southeast Florida.

The first forum centered on the black church, its relevance and contributions to society at large and to the Episcopal Church and this diocese, in particular. The more than one hundred persons who attended are unanimous in their views that such forums are vital for the well-being of our society and the diocese. (A report on this forum was published in the August issue of *The Net*.)

What one discovers through these

conversations is the fact that in order to express love for one's neighbor, it is helpful to know the neighbor. We are all victims of some form of prejudice and tend to generalize when we think or speak about people who are different – who look different, speak a different language, eat different food, and dance to a different beat.

“How good and pleasant a thing it is for sisters and brothers to live together in unity.” (Psalm 33) It is indeed pleasant, because when we know the neighbor, we discover that differences should be reasons for celebration—as we say in French, “vive la difference.”

It is this discovery that makes us happy when parts of the Eucharist are said or sung in Spanish, French, Kreyol, Portuguese or other languages.

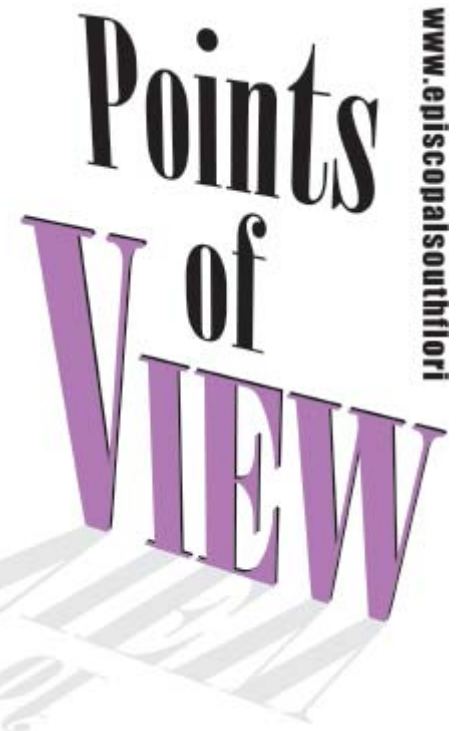


Bazin

The celebration becomes very alive when around the table of the Lord we find our oneness as we sing, “the love that made us makes us one, and strangers now are friends.” (Hymn 304, Hymnal 1982). My neighbor is the Kenyan, the Cuban, the Haitian, the Nicaraguan, the Canadian, the Japanese, the French, the Russian – all God's children.

Therefore, my sisters and brothers whom I have not met yet, let us meet and talk to one another – not just about one another. Let us discover how pleasant it is to live in unity, and when we come to know one another, how imperative it becomes – as we promise in our Baptismal Covenant – to “strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being.”

Another forum for conversation among the varied ethnic and cultural groups in the diocese is being planned for December. This event will focus on issues of race as they relate to our Hispanic communities. Watch for specific details at www.diosef.org. ■



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Leadership for growth must come from committed laypeople

Archdeacon Bryan Hobbs' article in the August issue of *The Net*, “Becoming like cottonwoods,” was like a fresh breeze on a long, hot, summer day.

As a new Episcopalian forty years ago, I asked my rector why the denominational leaders were not doing anything about the “flat line” or slowing growth of the Episcopal Church. This has been a perennial question which leaves many of us fearful for the future of this part of the Body of Christ into which we have invested years of service.

Dr. Hobbs wrote, “...there seems to be little serious attempt to even acknowledge, let alone reverse the trend.” That is so true, and what is so sad and alarming is that many of our clergy fall within that description.

What is it that has many of our leaders so afraid of change that we are frozen in failing paradigms of the past? What is going to be the spiritual legacy which they are leaving in the Diocese of Southeast Florida?

Evidently, but tragically, if we are going to reverse this deteriorating trend, much of the leadership will have to come from the laypeople.

There is a necessity for raising an army of committed Episcopalians who have the spiritual imperative in their hearts to share the “Good News” about Jesus Christ with neighbors and strangers alike. Methods are helpful, but of little use without motivation. We need our spiritual leaders to inspire and motivate us to expend the perspiration required to reverse the trend.

To get started, how about a blog, or a series of Letters to the Editor in *The Net*, focused on who is interested in helping, with ideas on how we can get the people of our diocese motivated to reach Southeast Florida for Christ. Let's pray that our leaders will inspire and motivate us in a “reproductive faith” that will reverse this trend.

Paul Thomson
Tequesta, Fla.

A priest finds God and laughter in family life

By Mary W. Cox, editor

What Size Are God's Shoes? Kids, Chaos and the Spiritual Life, By Tim Schenck (Morehouse Publishing, 144 pages, \$12)

“Grown-ups don't have all the answers about God; no human being does. But children seem to have all the questions,” observes Tim Schenck.

In *What Size are God's Shoes?* Schenck, an Episcopal priest and father of two young sons, provides plenty of those challenging questions and reflects with humor and grace on what he's learning about faith from fatherhood.

In the book's 40 short essays Schenck takes the reader right to the heart of daily family life: the death of a pet goldfish, a family road trip, superheroes, birthday parties, Happy Meals, thank-you notes, and the adventures of a dad as Assistant Class Mom.

Whether he's lying on the floor playing “garbage truck” with his sons, responding to charges of “It's not fair!” or feeling a child's pain at the dentist, this father finds God—and laughter – in all of it.

“There is no secular world. It is all sacred because God pervades

Book Review

everything,” Schenck says in his introduction, and that theme runs through the book.

There's a lot of common sense in his approach to parenting: We can't—and probably shouldn't – protect kids from dirt;

fairness is not the same thing as equality; simply “crossing the finish line” can often be a winning effort; and “Happy Meal Syndrome,” the demand for instant gratification, will never bring real fulfillment – and can be resisted. (That last insight might be especially helpful to parents dreading Christmas gift lists in a troubled economy.)

Although the book will be particularly relevant for parents, having small children is not a prerequisite for enjoying and appreciating *What Size Are God's Shoes?* Schenck is a father writing for other parents; but he is also a priest and a seeker, writing for anyone who, like him, looks for the presence of God in the absurd and the ordinary.

Even someone who has never been a parent, or whose children are now adults, has experienced the helpless feeling of being stuck behind a school bus in traffic, or the challenge of sorting life's literal and metaphorical baggage, or the reminder of aging and mortality that comes with the first gray hair.

“God is in the midst of it all,” Schenck reassures his readers, “even when life itself feels like that proverbial leap of faith.” ■

A parents' study guide for *What Size Are God's Shoes?* can be downloaded from www.frtim.com.



The DIOCESE



Photo by Adora Mack/ELO

PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS
Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori kneels after issuing Episcopal Church's apology for participation in transatlantic slavery.

Prayers, tears and song mark Episcopal repentance for slavery

By Daphne Mack

[Episcopal News Service] Expressing “profound regret that the Episcopal Church lent the institution of slavery its support and justification based on Scripture,” Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori issued a public apology October 4 for the church’s involvement in the institution of transatlantic slavery.

She went on to state that “after slavery was formally abolished, [the church] continued for at least a century to support de jure and de facto segregation and discrimination.”

The historic gesture of remorse drew hundreds of Episcopalians, both black and white, to St. Thomas African Episcopal Church in Philadelphia October 3-4 for the Day of Repentance – a two-day solemn observance which included presentations that examined racism in the past, present, and future.

St. Thomas, founded in 1792 by the Rev. Absalom Jones, a former slave, is the oldest African American Episcopal Church in the United States and the first black church in Philadelphia. Jones was the first person of African ancestry to be ordained a priest in the Episcopal Church. He and Richard Allen, the nation’s first African-American Methodist preacher, changed history when they initiated a walkout from St. George’s Methodist Church after blacks were denied full membership.

Bonnie Anderson, president of the Episcopal Church’s House of Deputies, was in attendance for both days and said, “This is an amazing day that has been long in coming.”

However she emphasized that although “this is a great start to a new beginning,” no one should view it as being over. Understanding that the “work is hard” and can be emotional she stressed that “it must continue” for the betterment of the Episcopal Church.

“Our coming together shows that this is not an Episcopal problem, nor a Christian problem, but a human problem,” explained the Rev. Jayne Oasin, program officer for Anti-Racism and Gender Equality for the Episcopal Church. “We are saying that we have marginalized and oppressed others, and have not regarded everyone as God’s equal creation, but we’re not going to be that way anymore.”

Seventeen bishops participated in the event, which welcomed the following ecumenical partners: Baptists, Catholics, Presbyterians, Unitarian Universalist and Christian Methodist.

Bishop Eugene Sutton, the first African American bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland, called it “an emotional day.”

“It’s part of a year of turning the clock forward in Maryland and continuing the work of fighting in-

tolerance,” he said.

Sutton, a descendant of slaves, was referring to the stain on a diocese that was first led by Thomas John Claggett, the first bishop consecrated on American soil, who owned slaves while serving as the rector of St. James’ Parish in Ann Arundel County.

In this year marking the 200th anniversary of the abolishment of slavery, John Vanderstar, Executive Council member and author of the 2006 General Convention resolution A123, which called for the occasion, said that “the church needs to confront its past in order to change its future.”

Resolution A123 declared that the institution of slavery in the United States and “anywhere else in the world” was and is a sin, and mandated that the church acknowledge and express regret for its support of slavery and for supporting “de jure and de facto segre-

“Our coming together shows that this is not an Episcopal problem, nor a Christian problem, but a human problem.”

– The Rev. Jayne Oasin

gation and discrimination” for years after slavery’s abolition. The resolution also asked the Presiding Bishop to call for a “Day of Repentance and Reconciliation” and to organize a service.

C. David Williams, president of the Union of Black Episcopalians, described the day as “sublime.”

“It [the day] was offered to God from hearts and minds of black and white people who had need for this apology and received it,” he said. “But we have a long way to go in making the apology real and I’m pledging myself to it.”

The Episcopal Church will now join other denominations and the Church of England, which in 2006 voted to acknowledge its complicity in the global slave trade.

The gathering began October 3 with three presentations entitled “Revisiting the Past,” “Taking Action in the Present” and “Charting a Course for the Future.” Presenters included the Rev. Dr. Harold Lewis, rector, Calvary Episcopal Church, Pittsburgh, and author of *Yet With a Steady Beat*, the foundational book about African Americans and the Episcopal Church; Bishop Chip Marble, assisting bishop in the Diocese of North Carolina; Dr. Anita George, chairperson of

the Executive Council Anti-Racism Committee; and Byron Rushing, member of the Massachusetts State Legislature.

In his address “Bend our Pride to thy Control: The Need of the Church to Repent for the Sin of Slavery and its Aftermath” Lewis described slavery as “that odious institution” that has been a virulent cancer that has “metastasized through the bloodstream of our society.”

“The church early on could have assumed the role of that of physician, placing herself in a position to ‘heal the sin-sick soul’ of the society to which she ministered, assuring its people that there is indeed a balm in Gilead,” he explained. “Instead, she allowed herself to be infected along with her patient, rendering herself unable to be of any assistance.”

Marble and George acted as moderators while the dioceses of Delaware, Maryland, Atlanta, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina and Southeast Florida reported on the current work toward racial healing happening in their dioceses. (The Rev. William “Chip” Stokes, co-chair of our diocesan Anti-Racism Task Force, represented the Diocese of Southeast Florida on the panel. His report of this event will be published in the December issue of *The Net*.)

Nearly all mentioned using the documentary film, *Traces of the Trade*, by independent filmmaker Katrina Browne, as an educational tool. The movie tells the story of Browne’s New England ancestors, the DeWolfs, the most-active slave-trading family in the United States and prominent Episcopalians from Rhode Island.

Browne said Jefferts Schori’s mention of her film in the homily “was an honor.”

In speaking on the future, Rushing told those present that “the course for a future of awareness of the foundation of slavery to our society winds through remorse.” He said that remorse, as opposed to apology, “requires truth today and tomorrow mark the public announcement of this winding course.”

“Nothing is being accomplished by us today except beginning,” he explained.

Ed Rodman, professor of Pastoral Theology and Urban Ministry at Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, Massachusetts, summed up all three topics of discussion and said “vision only comes when you learn your history.”

“What would make me most proud is if people draw from this event and use it as a springboard for future action,” said Oasin. ■

Daphne Mack is a correspondent for Episcopal Life Media.

The DIOCESE

THE NET NEEDS YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

This is the tenth year that I have asked for your financial support for Communications Ministry in our diocese, and there has never been a time when I have been more reluctant even to bring up the subject: All of us are feeling the effects of the turmoil in global financial markets, while we are devoting substantial resources to aiding our neighbors in the Caribbean and the Gulf Coast who have suffered such devastating damage during this hurricane season.

But I am asking, because I am confident that you believe, as I do, that in challenging times it is even more important for us to use every means available to communicate with each other, and to share our message of Good News, as we say in our diocesan Mission Statement, with "all people."

Over the past few years we have become increasingly reliant on electronic communication to provide "breaking news" in emergencies and to help us share information quickly with each other and with our neighbors. Bishop Frade was able to share his daily reflections from this summer's Lambeth Conference on a blog, and the long-awaited redesign of the diocesan website is nearing completion.

Even as we stretch our communications budget to make use of a growing range of media, *The Net* continues to be an essential part of the mix. A diocesan newspaper can flesh out — incarnate — the stories behind headlines online and can introduce to the whole diocesan family some ministries, ideas and disciples that have much to offer to all of us.

This means, as I remind you each year, that your diocesan newspaper — and all the ways we share our stories — need your continued financial support.

Mary W. Cox, editor

An envelope for your donation in support of *The Net* should be enclosed with this issue. If you do not have an envelope and would like to make a donation, go to www.episcopalsouthflorida.org, click on "donations" and scroll down to *The Net*, or make your check payable to "Diocese of Southeast Florida," marked for *The Net*, and mail to: Diocese of Southeast Florida, 525 NE 15 Street, Miami, FL 33132.



Photo by Harlington Hanna

HONORED GUEST

Judge Edward Rodgers, guest speaker at St. Monica's 80th anniversary service, receives a plaque from Senior Warden Jim Christie as the Reverends James and Allison Spencer applaud.

Special guests help St. Monica's celebrate its 80th anniversary

The annual homecoming celebration at St. Monica's, Stuart, took on special meaning this year as the parish celebrated its 80th anniversary as a congregation on October 5.

New York vocalist Candice Corbin, who is the daughter of St. Monica's organist, Ron Corbin, added to the music for the festive Eucharist with two solos, "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands" and "Give Me Jesus," accompanied by her father on the organ. Candice is an alumna of Martin County High, where she was a member of OPUS, a music group directed by her father.

The guest speaker for the day was Hon. Edward

Rodgers, who was the first black judge in the history of Palm Beach County, where he served for 22 years in civil, criminal and probate courts before retiring in 1995. Judge Rodgers called upon the congregation to expand its reach in the community to help solve social problems and bring about needed change.

The Reverends Allison and James Spencer, who have been supply priests at St. Monica's since 1995, were honored with a plaque recognizing their "service, dedication and leadership" to the church.

Following the service, there was a buffet luncheon prepared and served by members of the congregation. ■

FAU professor seeks to coordinate health ministries in diocese

Dr. Susan Chase, professor and assistant dean for graduate studies at the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing at Florida Atlantic University and a parishioner at St. Paul's, Delray Beach, has recently been appointed Province IV representative to National Episcopal Health Ministries (NEHM).

The mission of NEHM is "to promote health ministry in Episcopal congregations, assisting them to reclaim the Gospel imperative of health and wholeness."

The primary focus of NEHM is on the local congregation, "a place where health professionals and

lay people can work together to keep people well, to empower and educate, to advocate for health and to care for people in need."

Chase said that she sees her new appointment as an occasion for her to coordinate communication among those engaged in health ministry in our diocese. She is especially interested in hearing from congregations with active parish nursing ministries.

She urges anyone engaged in health ministry to contact her at schase@fau.edu.

For more information on NEHM go to <http://www.episcopalhealthministries.org/> ■

Communications Ministry will offer PhotoShop Elements class

On Jan. 10, 2009, from 9 a.m.-noon at St. Gregory's, Boca Raton, diocesan Communications Ministry will offer "An Introduction to PhotoShop Elements." The class will be limited to 20 participants.

The three-hour course will be taught by graphic designer/digital photographer Steve Vinik, a parishioner at St. Gregory's and a frequent contributor of photos for *The Net*. The class will cover some of the

basic tools of PhotoShop Elements, with step-by-step demonstrations of such projects as how to improve a digital photo, how to format images for different purposes (for the web, for printed materials and for office documents), how to add text and how to use the Layers function to create collages and fun images.

Class members should plan to bring their own laptop computers, loaded with their own copies of

PhotoShop Elements, as well as a plug-in mouse.

The cost for the day is \$5, including lunch following the class. To register, email Mary Cox at episcorat@aol.com. This class can accommodate no more than 20 people; anyone who registers after the first 20 will be on a waiting list. If there is sufficient interest, another class will be offered later next year. ■

The DIOCESE



DANCING FOR GOD

Led by Naomi Braff (center), participants in the Liturgical Dance workshop at the diocesan Youth Convention practice the dance they will perform as part of the liturgy at the closing Eucharist.

Youth Convention teaches new skills for leadership

By Michael Sahdev,
Youth Commission President

Each year the Youth Commission holds its Youth Convention, where teens from all over the Diocese come together to make plans for the new year, elect officers and make new friends, while building stronger relationships within our diocese and with God. This year our convention was held at August 8-9 St. Benedict's in Plantation.

Fifteen churches, from every deanery except the Keys, sent delegates. A multi-cultural group of 64 teens participated.

Our theme this year was "Empowering Youth to Lead-NOW!" The goal of this convention was to teach participants new skills to take back to their churches, where they can begin using these new ideas and tools. This convention had small group sessions, games, food – and plenty of great workshops.

We started the weekend on Friday evening with a pizza party and some fun energizers. Our first workshop introduced Peer Ministry, presented by Pamela Sahdev and Vashti and Douglas Dozier, certified Peer Ministry Facilitators. This workshop focused on tech-

niques to welcome newcomers; listening skills; and how to use these skills once we returned to our home parishes and schools. We ended our first day with an ice cream social and a Compline service led by Deacon Ken Sims of Holy Family, Miami Gardens.

The next day began with breakfast, thanks to the St. Benedict's parishioners who arrived at 6 a.m. and stayed the rest of the day to prepare our breakfast and barbecue lunch.

Our second workshop was Gospel Graffiti Art, led by Stephen Douglas. In this workshop we learned how to spray paint gospel graffiti onto t-shirts that each participant could take home. They can teach their youth groups how to make the shirts to sell as a fund-raiser, or to wear to events.

We were offered a choice of four other workshops to choose from: Liturgical Dance, taught by Naomi and Serria Braff; Gospel Hip-Hop, demonstrated by G-Quinn; Drama in Church, led by Tracy Gonzalez; and Technology in Church, taught by Pamela Sahdev. Each of these workshops gave our participants skills and information that they could use once they returned to their youth group.

In our final workshop, we explored

the Millennium Development Goals, presented by Gladys and Luis Rodriguez, and discussed how we can organize our groups to further those goals. Ray Comfort of the Haiti Comfort House was our guest speaker. He spoke about his mission in Haiti and how he cares for children there. We were invited to go there for future mission trips. Everyone enjoyed the workshop and felt that they had learned a lot about worldwide needs and what we can do to make our world better.

The afternoon brought speeches from the candidates for election. We heard about why they wanted to serve and their plans for the Youth Commission.

Michael Sahdev of St. Benedict's was re-elected as president; Christopher Hendricks of All Saints', Jensen Beach, is vice-president; Kyle Meunier of St. Benedict's, is secretary; and Strickland Davis from St. Patrick's, West Palm Beach, was elected administrative assistant.

The new officers expressed their excitement about the coming year; Hendricks stated that he is excited about the opportunity to serve because he will be able to express his opinions

on issues in the church and hopefully be able to have an impact. Meunier said that he was inspired to run for office based on his involvement with the Youth Commission last year. He stated that he plans to contribute to the commission as much as possible and is excited to serve on team for Happening in October.

Sahdev believes that the Youth Commission will continue to unite the teens in our Diocese. "The friendships made at the convention will form the basis for more involvement throughout the year," he said.

After the new commission members were introduced, we ended the two-day event by leading St. Benedict's usual 6 p.m. Saturday service, at the invitation of Fr. Bob Deshaies, the rector of the parish. The Liturgical Dance workshop performed, the Drama workshop presented two skits, the Gospel Hip-Hop workshop chose the music and performed several songs and Sahdev gave a sermon based on Jesus walking on the water and keeping your eyes on Jesus.

This youth convention was an amazing experience for all and we believe we lived up to our goal of "Empowering Youth to Lead-NOW!" ■



Photo by Elizabeth Drucke

RINGING ENDORSEMENT

Willie Siert (left) and Leslie Zeien (right) are ready to play some of the difficult music they learned at the International Handbell Symposium.

Handbell ringers find music transcends language barriers

By Leslie Zeien

Ten pieces of music, eight different conductors from six different countries, 800 minutes of rehearsal time for 850 ringers from 11 countries and Puerto Rico, little sleep, lots of new international friends, a concert attended by 900 in a ballroom the size of a small state—handbell ringers had the musical experience of a lifetime at the 11th International Handbell Symposium, August 4-8 in Orlando, Fla.

Willie Siert and I, members of the handbell choir from St. Andrew's, Palmetto Bay, along with former St. Andrew's parishioner Kathie Hayes, attended the Symposium together. We had no idea what to expect.

The schedule was frantic: Most days, we left our room in the early morning and returned, exhausted, late at night, when we often spent additional time going over the difficult music. There had been little time to practice it before we left home.

Rehearsals were interesting – every verbal direction given by each conductor had to be translated from English into Japanese and Korean, or vice versa.

The music, from composers around the world, ranged from an American march to the Japanese "Mood Over the Ruined Castle" with its strange (to us) melody, to a selection from Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana* (which might be recognized as the music from the Nike commercials), arranged for handbells especially for this event. After the concert, all copies of that arrangement had to be destroyed because of copyright laws.

We eventually came to love all the pieces, although our proficiency at ringing them was sometimes in doubt.

We reinforced our belief that "handbell people" from all over the world have a special bond; whatever the language barriers, music was our common ground. ■

Committed to MISSION

Potluck dining groups intend to change the world — one dinner at a time

Parishioners at St. Andrew's, Lake Worth, have launched a new – and delicious—ministry: Four “dining circles” made up of St. Andrew's members, friends and neighbors come together in private homes once a month for a potluck feast.

Fellowship and sharing good food are only part of the purpose of these evenings; the dollars saved by not dining out in a restaurant will be donated to Lake Worth's Maya Family Literacy Program.

Lake Worth has a growing population of Maya arriving from Central America. Nearly 100% of Maya women arrive in this country with no education. Most of the men have about a third-grade reading level. Most of the women speak only the Mayan language; some of the men speak a bit of Spanish. This

creates serious problems for the Maya children: No one in the home is capable of helping with homework or reading correspondence that comes from school. Young children are unprepared for kindergarten. No one is able to teach them their ABCs or read a bedtime story. The Maya Family Literacy Program seeks to empower this underserved immigrant community.

The dining circle ministry, through its donations to this program, is a way for St. Andrew's members to act on their commitment to the Millennium Development Goals of ending poverty, providing universal education, and supporting gender equality. It also guarantees participants a monthly evening of enriching fellowship and outstanding dining. ■

Ministries grow at Centro Hispano de Todos los Santos

On Saturday, August 16, the Hispano Centro Todos los Santos, the ministry of All Saints, Ft. Lauderdale, to the Latino/Hispanic community, celebrated an important addition to the facilities at its Davie Road storefront location—a new community room.

The new room provides a gathering space with a computer lab, as well as a brightly decorated area for children to learn and play.

About 50 people attended the grand opening celebration. According to the Rev. Rosa Lindahl Mallow, who shepherds the Hispanic ministry, members of the Centro had done door-to-door evangelism in the area and had also invited friends and family to the party.

While a bilingual clown, Strawberry, painted faces and played with the children, adults were given tours of the computer lab and encouraged to gather community resource information provided by the Centro. Many of the guests stayed for the regular Saturday evening Eucharist at the end of the party.

The Centro is not simply an outreach ministry from All Saints; members of the Centro congregation are full members of All Saints, and the larger congregation participates in many ways in the life and work of the Centro.

On the last three Sundays in August members of All Saints were asked to contribute children's school and art supplies to help stock the new community room at the Centro for a family and children's enrichment program.

On Monday evenings, 15-20 people, members of All Saints and of the Centro, gather for a meal and Bible study, and then prepare 50 bag lunches that are distributed each Tuesday morning in a parking lot where day laborers come to wait for work.

With the addition of the computer lab, the Centro is now offering an English-as-a-Second-Language program. In a posting on All Saints' website Lindahl Mallow describes a recent afternoon at the Centro, and the hope that its programs are offering:

“I have been able to set one of the laptops up to run the ESL class... This afternoon a young mom who is terribly scared of learning came in with great trepidation. She had her three children with her.

Another three kids had dropped in: Ryan, Erica and Alex, who, as far as I can tell, are lonely latch-key children who have started visiting me regularly after school. Today they needed help with homework, which I was glad to provide.

They were entranced by the young Mexican family and there were several really cute, funny exchanges across cultures between the two sets of kids and between the Mexican mom and my young American friends...

The young mom's face just beamed every time the system let her know she had answered correctly as she did her classwork... By the end of the day, I had three more people registered to get started on ESL, hopefully next week.

The dream of having the Centro be a place of sanctuary, hope and resources was actually so real today I could reach out and touch it. I am overwhelmed with gratitude...”

The Centro needs volunteers to help with its enrichment and educational programs. To volunteer, or for more information on the ministries at Centro Hispano de Todos los Santos, contact Lindahl Mallow at rosa@allsaintsfl.org or 954-683-4574. ■



SPACE FOR MINISTRY

Parents and children enjoy the celebration of the new community room at Centro Hispano de Todos los Santos.

Committed to MISSION

Photos by Kokie Dinnan



TECH SUPPORT

Volunteer Jerry Hasse sets up part of the computer equipment that will be available at the Day Center for Family Promise guests.

South Palm Beach churches begin new ministry to homeless families

As economic conditions threaten to force more families into homelessness, an interfaith group in southern Palm Beach County is launching a program that will respond to the needs of homeless families in their communities.

On November 1, two years to the day after a group of clergy and lay leaders first met to discuss how they might address the issue of homelessness, Family Promise of South Palm Beach County will welcome the first families into its program.

The South Palm Beach County program is a chapter of a national program that began in 1986 in New Jersey and now operates in communities in 39 states. Family Promise seeks to provide immediate – but temporary – shelter, meals and support services to homeless families with children, with the goal of restoring the families to long term self-sufficiency.

The organization's mission statement is: To provide active assistance in helping low-income families with children in South Palm Beach County to achieve lasting independence and to re-

dress the underlying causes of poverty and homelessness in our county.

Family Promise affiliates are based upon a network of congregations that host families in need for a week at a time, along with supporting congregations that may not have space to offer hospitality, but supply volunteers for the program. Approximately 50 volunteers are needed each week to provide the guest families with basic human needs – shelter, safety and sustenance.

Four Episcopal churches—St. Gregory's and Chapel of St. Andrew in Boca Raton, and St. Paul's and St. Matthew's in Delray Beach, are among the 13 Protestant, Roman Catholic and Jewish congregations that are founding members of the Family Promise SPBC network; the first three will be host congregations, while St. Matthew's will provide volunteers.

Faye Somers, a parishioner at Chapel of St. Andrew, is vice-president of the organization, and Fr. Andrew Sherman, rector of St. Gregory's; parishioner Carl House; the Rev. Kathleen Gannon, associate at St. Paul's;

and Matina Nimphie, a St. Paul's parishioner, serve as board members.

Kokie Dinnan, a member of St. Mary Magdalene, Coral Springs, is the program director. Dinnan, who graduated from Florida Atlantic University in May with a Masters in Social Work, Advanced Standing Program, previously served as director of Children and Family Ministry at both St. Mary Magdalene and St. Joseph's, Boynton Beach.

Shortly after her graduation, Dinnan was at Washington National Cathedral, where she prayed in the Chapel of the Good Shepherd for guidance in finding the right work in her new field.

The answer came, she said, when she learned of the position with Family Promise. "When I heard about it, I said, 'This is my job—I want this job!'"

The program will be able to serve up to 14 people—families that include a parent or parents with children – at any time. (The number is limited at this point by the size of the van that will be used to transport families to host facilities and the Day Center.) Families initially are accepted into the program for a maximum of 30 days, but if at the end of that time they are making progress toward self-sufficiency, they may continue. The average stay in Family Promise programs around the country, Sherman said, is about 65 days.

For one week each of the host congregations will provide the families with dinner, a place to relax in the evening and a place to sleep. At the end of the week, volunteers and a staff driver will transport the families to their next accommodation.

A key element in the Family Promise program is the Day Center at St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Church, Delray Beach. Every morning guests in the program will be transported to the Center, where they will have access to shower and laundry facilities, comput-

ers, daytime meals (breakfast and a bag lunch) and transportation assistance. Families can use the Day Center address for housing and job applications, so that no one need know they are homeless.

The program will provide intensive case management plans, and staff and volunteers will advocate for the services and assistance families need to regain their self-sufficiency. All parents will receive both parenting and financial education while in the program, and children will be promptly enrolled in school.

Family Promise will also offer a volunteer mentor program that intends to maintain relationships with past guests for up to two years.

The goal is an 80% success rate at transitioning families to stable housing.

Most of the families served by the Family Promise program, Dinnan said, will be people who "have been independent and something happened in their lives—an illness, an accident, a divorce—that caused them to lose their independence."

One of the important benefits of the ministry, she believes, will be the "learning experience" for members of the participating congregations as they develop relationships with homeless families and realize that they don't fit the image of the hard-core homeless street person.

The Family Promise website notes that of equal importance with the food, shelter and other material assistance provided by the program will be the volunteers' "work in providing companionship, acceptance and dignity to each individual they welcome. Both volunteers and guests grow, learning from each other and coming to know one another as individual human beings with inherent worth."

For more information on how to join in the ministry of Family Promise of South Palm Beach County, go to <http://familypromisespbc.org>. ■



MOVING IN

Comfortable furniture and computers will be part of a home base for homeless families at the Family Promise Day Center.