



# The North Carolina DISCIPLE

THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF NORTH CAROLINA

*are you ready for a*  
**CHALLENGE?**

*meet the*  
**NOMINEES** *for*  
**BISHOP SUFFRAGAN**

**GOSPEL BASED  
DISCIPLESHIP** *inside*

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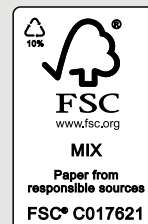
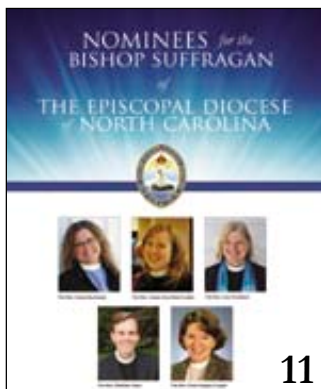
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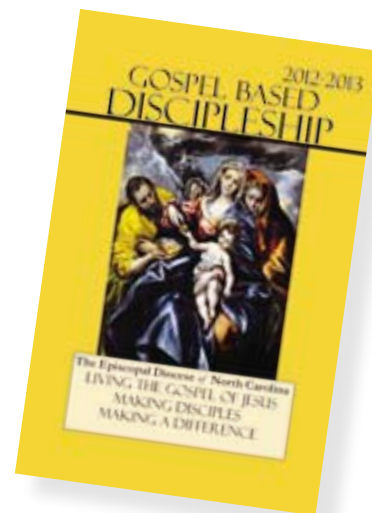
### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Are published on the diocesan website under "The NC Disciple."



# GOSPEL BASED DISCIPLESHIP

*Gospel Based Discipleship* is a publication of the Diocese of North Carolina that includes the Gospel reading from the Daily Lectionary for each day of the year, the diocesan and clergy cycles of prayer and additional prayers for corporate or individual worship. It serves as a useful aid to personal prayers and study, a helpful guide for morning prayer or compline and an easy meditation to open meetings. What follows is Bishop Curry's introduction to this year's *Gospel Based Discipleship*.



“The late William Stringfellow was one of our Lord’s rather remarkable disciples. He was a Harvard Law School graduate who used his legal skill primarily to defend the poor and to serve those without other helpers. He was an Episcopalian who could have settled for the mere living out of civic religion and cultural Christianity. Instead, he was someone who sought to really live a life of real and radical discipleship that follows in the footsteps of Jesus of Nazareth.

“Near the end of the Second World War, Stringfellow was able to spend time with some members of the German resistance movement and the Confessing Church who were part of the underground movement resisting the Nazis. In conversations with a number of them, he was surprised to discover that part of what fed and nurtured many of them during the struggle was the discipline of Bible study.

“The recollection that now visits me from listening to those resistance leaders concerns Bible study. While not a practice of the entire resistance, it strongly engaged the whole confessing movement implicated in that resistance. Most appropriately, it often included Jewish as well as Christian participants. I recall being slightly bemused at the time of which I am speaking by

Find your copy of *Gospel Based Discipleship* in the center fold of this issue of the *Disciple*.

the strenuous emphasis placed upon the Bible study. No doubt that bewilderment reflected my own biblical deprivation, a lack in my American churchly upbringing that I have since struggled gladly to overcome. In this dimension of the resistance, the Bible became alive as a means of nurture and communication; *recourse to the Bible was in itself a primary, practical and essential tactic of resistance.*’

“As I wrote this (several years ago now), I shared Stringfellow’s words with Bishop Gary Gloster (who was the Bishop Suffragan of our Diocese at the time and a real mentor to me). After listening to how the Bible helped form the sense of justice in many in the resistance movement he said, quite rightly, ‘The Bible is a dangerous book.’ He’s right. I’ve heard Archbishop

Desmond Tutu say that. The Bible is a dangerous book. Its core message, the Gospel, will often upset things as they are with God’s dream of how things are meant to be. Its core message, the Gospel, challenges all that is less than love with the incredible power of a love, as the hymnwriter says, ‘so amazing, so divine, it demands my soul, my life, my all.’ Its core message, the Gospel, confronts what often is the nightmare of the world with the dream of God for the world.”

ABOUT



The North Carolina

# DISCIPLE

**The North Carolina Disciple** is the quarterly magazine of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina. Other diocesan communication vehicles, including *Around the Diocese*, a monthly bulletin insert; *Please Note*, a weekly e-newsletter; and the Diocesan website, [www.episdionc.org](http://www.episdionc.org); are used for more time-sensitive, day-to-day news.

Contact Sarah Herr at [sarah.herr@episdionc.org](mailto:sarah.herr@episdionc.org) with any questions or feedback regarding these communications, or to submit ideas, articles and photos.



**ATTENTION CHURCHES:** Have you updated your member lists with the Diocesan Office? The Diocese is attempting to update the *Disciple* mailing list. Contact Scott Welborn at [scott.welborn@episdionc.org](mailto:scott.welborn@episdionc.org) for more details.

## At a Glance Facts: This Magazine...

- Is printed with soy inks, which are more environmentally friendly than traditional petroleum-based inks.
- Is printed on FSC® certified paper - an independent, non-governmental, not for profit organization established to promote the responsible management of the world's forests.
- Is printed and mailed in Morrisville, North Carolina. The printer has been using an internal paper recycling system for paper production since 1995.

**Delivery occurs in the early part of the following months:**

September / Fall Issue  
December / Winter Issue  
March / Spring Issue  
June / Summer Issue

# IS A BIBLE-READING EPISCOPALIAN AN OXYMORON?

For a number of years now, I have intentionally read Morning Prayer, with its readings from the Psalms and portions of the Old and New Testament, together with my review of several morning newspapers. I subscribe to an online news service that brings together news stories from a variety of national and international sources. I can't say that I make connections every morning between the Good News in the Bible and the news in the media, but at times and over time some connections do become clear and impact both my outlook and my actions.

The present Archbishop of Canterbury, the Rev. Dr. Rowan Williams, will soon step down from his position. At a news conference in New Zealand he said, "My successor will need the newspaper in one hand and the Bible in the other." He was borrowing from the late Karl Barth, one of the greatest theologians to ever live, who said just that for everyone called to preach the Good News. I adopted the practice of reading and praying Morning Prayer and the morning paper together when some years ago my spiritual director reminded me of that quote from Karl Barth. It occurs to me that that



Karl Barth

wisdom of Dr. Barth is not only true for Archbishops, preachers and theologians, but for those who would follow the footsteps of Jesus as his disciples in the world.

It is sort of difficult to follow in someone else's footsteps unless you have some sense of what they might look like and a hunch about the direction in which they may be headed.

We who are Episcopalians are Christians in the Anglican family and tradition of catholic Christianity.

In this tradition, scripture isn't to be read and heard as an act by a solitary individual, or as the sole testing ground of faith.

Scripture is read and heard within liturgy in the context of the worship of Almighty God in the community of faith.

Scripture is to be read and heard in dialogue with the ancient tradition of our faith, with the insights and wisdom of the community and people of faith over the ages and with the insights of reason, knowledge and thought. Scripture, tradition, reason -- the three-legged stool that guides us in our belief.

Scripture is to be read and heard in the context of the life of the world and our calling to follow Jesus as

his disciples and witnesses in it.

Is a Bible-reading Episcopalian an oxymoron? Absolutely not. In fact, the opposite is probably more the case. After all, this was the tradition of gave the English-speaking world the King James Version (Authorized Version) of the Holy Bible. And that translation, maybe more than any other, influenced and transformed the literature and life of the English-speaking world. Who knows what will happen as we Episcopalians grow more deeply as a biblical people, shaped by the Scriptures, following in the footsteps of Jesus of Nazareth, serving the world in the liberating and life giving reality of the Spirit of the living God. Jesus said it this way: If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth and the truth will make you free. (John 8:31-32)

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*The Rt. Rev. Michael B. Curry was elected 11<sup>th</sup> Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina in 2000.*



{an invitation}



Dear Friends,

I would like to invite you to join me in a renewed commitment to the daily reading and study of the Holy Scriptures. This issue of the suggests several ways that can be done.

involves the daily reading of and meditation on a passage from the Gospel readings that are used in the Daily Offices of Morning and Evening Prayer.

The Bible Challenge developed by the Rev. Maric Zabriski, rector of St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Whitmarsh, Pennsylvania, offers several Bible reading and study programs, plus resources ranging from "Reading the Bible in a Year" to "Reading the New Testament," and other possibilities in between.

I personally have decided to accept the Bible Challenge to read the entire Bible over the course of one year, beginning the first Sunday of Advent (December 2, 2012).

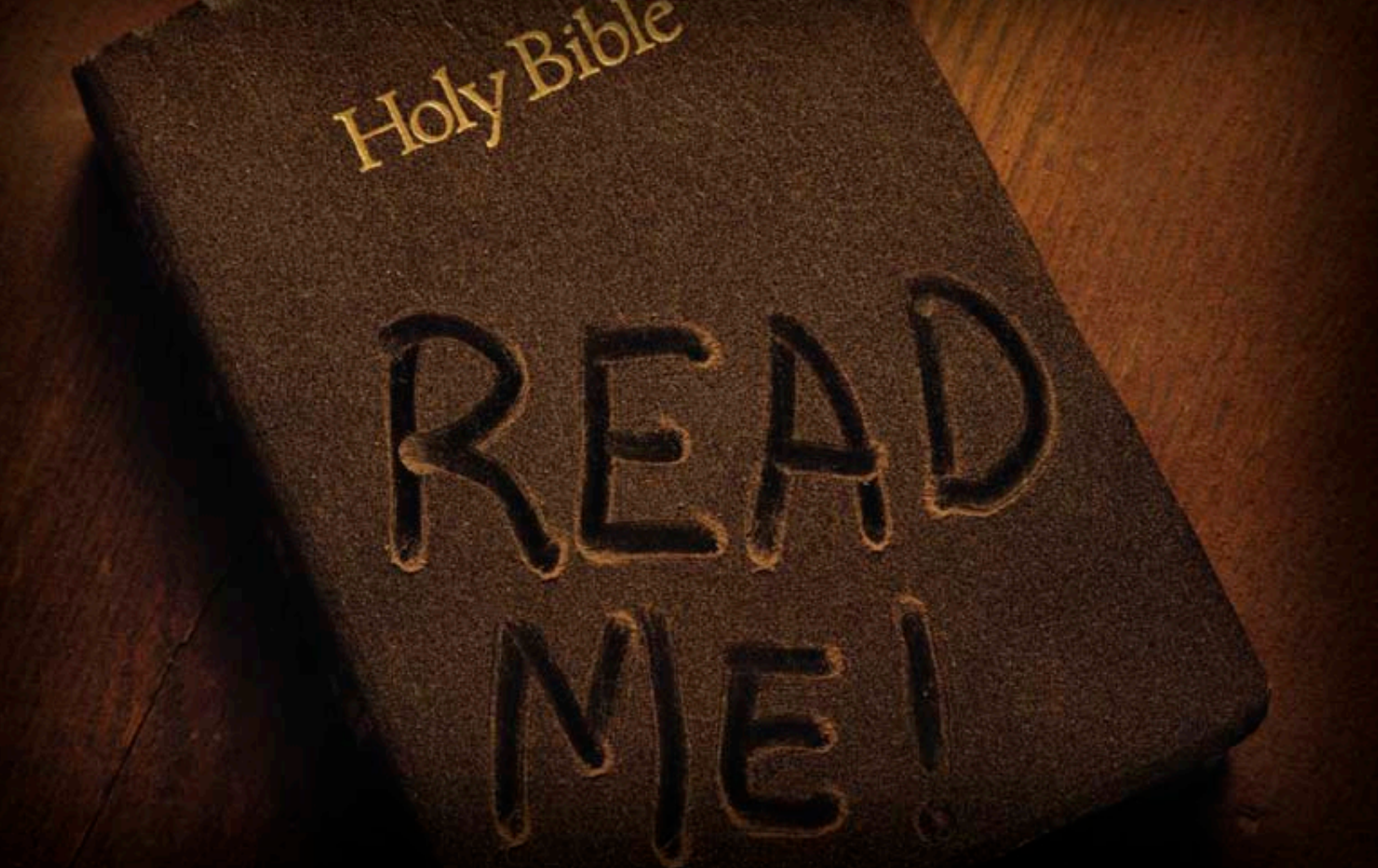
The Reverend William Bennett of Good Shepherd Church, Raleigh, and a group of people there have followed this discipline for the last year or so. He has written a wonderful article in this issue of the Disciple. He and several other clergy have also agreed to write periodic reflections on some of the readings in the Bible Challenge. We will publish these on the diocesan website and Facebook page and we will tweet them and email them through Please Note. Additionally, I will share some thoughts and reflections for conversation about some of these passages as the year goes on. In this way, we hope to encourage an ongoing dialogue with each other and with the stories of our tradition found in the Bible.

Keep the faith,

+ *Michael B. Curry*

Bishop Michael B. Curry





*are you ready for a*  
**BIBLICAL CHALLENGE?**

This year, the Rt. Rev. Michael B. Curry has issued a challenge to the people of the Diocese of North Carolina: Join him in taking “The Bible Challenge.” His goal is to read the entire Bible in one year, but the beauty of the challenge is that each person creates a goal that works for them. Perhaps your challenge will be same as Bishop Curry’s, or maybe you will choose a different option. The challenge is yours to decide.

**About the Bible Challenge**

Not to be confused with the Jeff Foxworthy game show, the Bible Challenge is an initiative by the Center for Biblical Studies (CBS) designed to encourage more people to engage with Scripture and practice regular reading, prayer and meditation. The Bible Challenge began after Christmas 2010, when the Rev. Marek P. Zabriskie, rector of St. Thomas’ Episcopal Church, Fort Washington, Pennsylvania, decided to re-read the Bible over the course of a year, something he hadn’t done for a long time. He invited a few church members to join him, and the number of individuals committed to reading the Bible in 2011 soon grew to over 270.

This experience led Zabriskie to found The Bible Challenge and The Center for Biblical Studies to encourage others to follow his example and dedicate 15-30 minutes each day to reading the Bible in one year. In 2012, individuals in over 1,000 churches in 14 different countries and 19 Episcopal and Anglican dioceses participated in The Bible Challenge.



During this summer’s 77th General Convention, the House of Bishops and the House of Deputies voted to pass C083: “Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, That every

In both liturgical and non-liturgical traditions portions of the Bible are selected for use in the course of public worship. As a result, the vast expanse of scripture is reduced to a series of selected texts. The Bible Challenge is an invitation to journey with fellow believers from across the world and across the Anglican Communion through the entire length and breadth of the Bible, and to experience the full sweep of the biblical record.

- *The Rt. Rev. Frank Griswold*



Episcopal diocese, cathedral, church and mission shall invite their entire membership and people beyond their church to read the entire Bible in 2013.” This year, the Bible Challenge has the potential to unite The Episcopal Church in a shared study of Scripture.

#### Why? I Already Get the Bible Every Sunday

The idea of reading all the way through Scripture in one year might sound both intimidating and unnecessary. After all, Episcopalians hear readings from the Old Testament, the New Testament and the Gospels every Sunday, working their way through the Bible over the course of three years. The CBS website points out, however, that “[t]here is a vast difference between attending church and listening to a portion of the Bible being read aloud and actually reading the Bible on your own. Understanding how the entire Word of God coheres and what God is saying to you daily through Holy Scripture is a transformational experience....It is like the difference between riding in a car as a passenger and not paying close attention to the route being taken versus driving the car and learning the roads that get you to your destination.”

It is also worth noting that the Sunday readings, while they cover all books of the Bible, do leave out portions of the text. The passages that are included are frequently ones with which we are already familiar--Noah's ark, anyone?--but there are many rich, challenging portions of the Bible omitted from the lectionary.

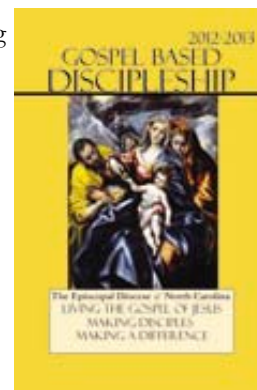
Bishop Frank Griswold explains the importance of the Bible Challenge in this way: “In both liturgical and non-liturgical traditions portions of the Bible are selected for use in the course of public worship. As a result, the vast expanse of scripture is reduced to a series of selected texts. The Bible Challenge is an invitation to journey with fellow believers from across the world and across the Anglican Communion through the entire length and breadth of the Bible, and to experience the full sweep of the biblical record.”

#### How it Works: A Flexible Challenge

For those willing to accept the Bible Challenge, CBS has put together a Monday through Saturday reading schedule that moves through the books of the Bible sequentially and includes three chapters from the Old Testaments, one chapter from the New Testament and one psalm each day.

If reading through the entire Bible in one year sounds too ambitious, there are other options available. You could commit to reading the New Testament throughout the year, reading through the psalter during Lent, reading the Gospel of Mark in a slow, meditative fashion, or reading Eugene Petersen's *The Message* or Zondervan's *The Story*, two modern language retellings of the Bible.

Of course, *Gospel Based Discipleship* is also included in the Diocese's Bible Challenge, should you choose to read through the Gospels in one year. It is also a great supplementary prayer resource if you choose to accept another challenge.



Find a copy of the *Gospel-Based Discipleship* stapled inside this issue of the *Disciple!*

## MEDITATIONS **RESOURCES**

from clergy will be made available on a weekly basis.

#### UPDATES

related to the Bible Challenge in the Diocese of North Carolina will be shared via social media, so “like us” on Facebook ([facebook.com/EpiscopalDioceseNC](http://facebook.com/EpiscopalDioceseNC)) and follow us on Twitter (@EpiscopalINC).

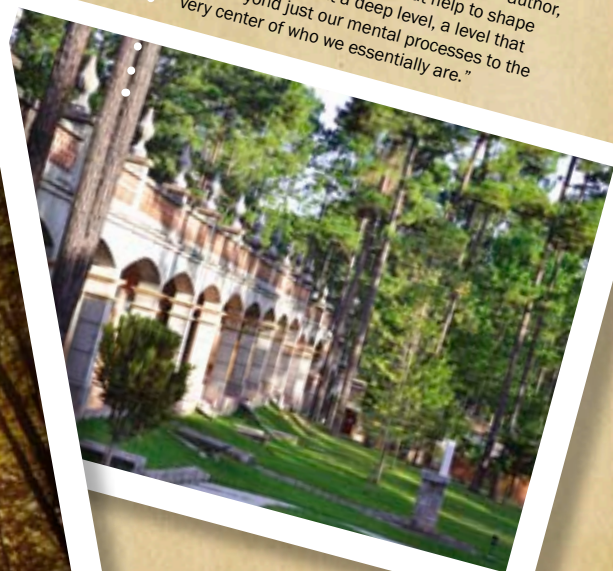
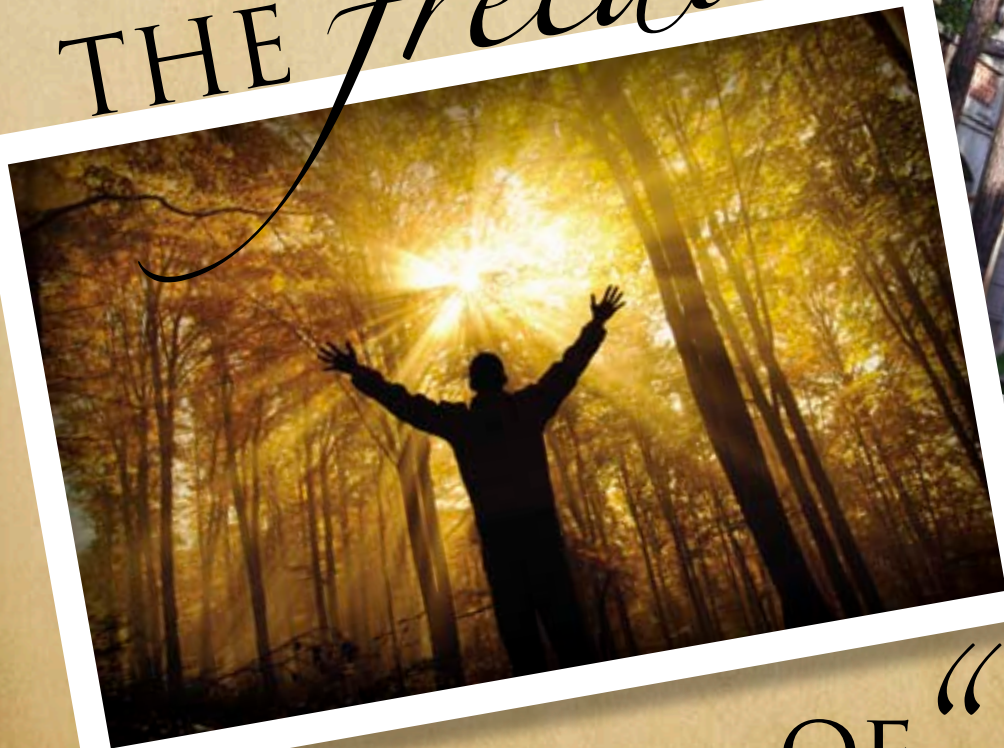


#### FIND MORE

links to resources compiled by the Center for Biblical Studies and archives of meditations online at [www.episdionc.org/BibleChallenge](http://www.episdionc.org/BibleChallenge).

# THE freedom

- Though frequently thought of in terms of monastic life, a “Rule,” according to the author, is really a “daily discipline that help to shape Christ’s life in us at a deep level, a level that goes beyond just our mental processes to the very center of who we essentially are.”



# OF “Rule”

By the Rev. Bill Bennett

This issue of the *Disciple* includes a menu of two “practices” involving Holy Scripture: *Gospel Based Discipleship* and The Bible Challenge. Both of these involve the reading of Scripture, but neither is necessarily “Bible study.”

Bible study, at least as it is understood in the mainstream of the Anglican tradition, involves a critical reading of the sacred text, bringing to bear the tools of critical biblical scholarship. Critical Bible study is a good thing for Christians and can be done with profit to one’s progress toward Christian spiritual maturity using such resources as N. T. Wright’s *For Everyone* New Testament commentary series or the very helpful works of biblical scholars such as Walter Bruegemann, Duke Divinity school emeritus professor James M. (“Mickey”) Efird or current Duke faculty member Ellen Davis, among others.

But *Gospel Based Discipleship* and the Bible Challenge are not about taking the Scriptures apart critically. They

are about making ourselves available to the sacred text, dwelling with it, letting it sink into us and even speak a word to us that may break through our skeptical resistance and change us, most often in a gradual, practically hidden, way.

Even more than this, these practices represent what in the vocabulary of classic Christian spirituality is known as “Rule.” They are more than anything else daily disciplines that help to shape Christ’s life in us at a deep level, a level that goes beyond just our mental processes to the very center of who we essentially are.

To speak of “Rule” is to use a term that for some has a lot of “baggage,” most of it probably negative. “Rule” may bespeak to some a loss of freedom, an onerous obligation or a conformist inhibition to individuality, but “Rule” in the sense that it is known in classic Christian spirituality is really not any of those things, and, in fact, to some extent, represents just the opposite sense.



“To speak of “Rule” is to use a term that for some has a lot of “baggage,” most of it probably negative. “Rule” may bespeak to some a loss of freedom, an onerous obligation or a conformist inhibition to individuality, but “Rule” in the sense that it is known in classic Christian spirituality is really not any of those things, and, in fact, to some extent, represents just the opposite sense.”

- The Rev. Bill Bennett

In his classic work *Christian Proficiency*, the late English priest and spiritual director Fr. Martin Thornton defines “Rule” in this way: “A single, systematic pattern of prayer and worship; a (personal) ascetical programme; a balanced composition of spiritual exercises....”<sup>1</sup>

Fr. Thornton goes on to say: “Rule” is the literal translation of the Latin word *regula* – rule, pattern, model, example....Rule, like pattern, model, or system, is an essentially singular word, in some ways directly opposite to a list of rules...it implies much the same as when we speak of a Regular soldier in the Regular army; not so much one who keeps a lot of rules or who is strictly disciplined but an efficient full time professional....<sup>2</sup>

This and the five marks of “Rule” (see sidebar) point to a priority not of being compulsively scrupulous in observing “Rule” but rather to the intention of our heart to be one who is under the gracious discipline of Christian “Rule.”

This applies in a significant way to taking up Gospel Based Discipleship or The Bible Challenge as daily disciplines. Sometimes, knowing ourselves as well as we do, we pull back from a daily commitment such as these disciplines because we feel like failing to take it up daily, missing a day, a week, a month or more, negates the practice as something to our benefit and may even be a moral sin. In the context of “Rule,” it is neither.

Understanding these practices as “Rule” places them within the wisdom of the Christian spiritual tradition, which always has a bias toward continuing in spiritual progress, regardless of our “faults,” as opposed to scrupulous judgmentalism of others, or of ourselves.



The Rev. Bill Bennett is the associate rector at Church of the Good Shepherd, Raleigh. Contact him at [bill.bennett@cgs-raleigh.org](mailto:bill.bennett@cgs-raleigh.org).

## 5 Marks of Rule

Fr. Thornton gives five marks of “Rule” that contradict the common misconception of “Rule” as list of rules to be strictly obeyed and instead defines them as the practices of a way of life that is “embraced.”

- Rule is embraced, not promised: One who follows “Rule” ...may do it well or badly, he may fail seldom or often... but he can only “break” his Rule...by giving up the whole principle of the thing....
- Rule is wholly opposed to legalism: ...Rule is just not intended for legalists, it is completely incompatible with that type of outlook: it presupposes a soul enlightened by the living Spirit of Christ, it has not use at all for the dead letter of the law....
- Rule is neither artificial nor a burden but the principle of a civilized life: ...Rule that stipulates Mass on, say, Sundays, Wednesdays and Saints’ days, is so much easier than the irksome, perennial “Is it not about time I made my communion?”
- Breach of Rule is not sin: ...it needs to be seen very clearly that a breach of Rule – technically a “fault” – is strictly amoral....<sup>3</sup>
- Rule is, and must always be, variable.

<sup>1</sup>The Rev. Martin Thornton, *Christian Proficiency*, 193  
<sup>2</sup>Thornton, 45    <sup>3</sup>Thornton, 47

# TIMELINE

## Thursday, December 13, 2012

Diocesan Council gives final approval to 2013 Mission and Ministry Budget to be presented to Convention.

## Monday, December 17, 2012 (40 days before Convention)

Last day to submit nominations and resolutions. *Rule of Order XVIII, Rule of Order XIX.* Bishop appoints Legislative Committees no later than today. *Canon 13, sec. 2.*

## Wednesday, December 26, 2012 (30 days before Convention)

Last day to apply for admission as a parish or mission in Union with Convention. *Canon 2.5.*

## December 31, 2012

Deadline for full payment of assigned Fair Share for the 2012 budget.

## January 3, 2013

Committee report deadline for report to be included on flash drive for delegates.

## At least 10 days before the Annual Convention

Convocation pre-Convention meetings to discuss nominations and resolutions and to elect deans and lay wardens.

## Tuesday, January 15, 2013 (10 days before Convention)

Date for determination by the Secretary of the Convention as to whether a parish or mission must obtain consent of the Convention to seat its lay delegates due to failure to file its 2011 parochial report or 2011 audit report.

Last day for parishes and missions to pay in full 2012 shares of the diocesan budget. Secretary of the Convention strikes from the roll of voting members of Convention clergy and lay delegates from delinquent congregations. *Canon 18.4.*

## Friday, January 25, 2013

The 197<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention convenes.

## Saturday, January 26, 2013

The 197<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention adjourns.



# getting ready for the 197<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION

The 197<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina convenes on Friday, January 25, at the Benton Conference Center in Winston-Salem, and adjourns on Saturday, January 26.

## IMPORTANT ITEMS TO NOTE Convention Is Going Paperless

Proposed resolutions, nominations, election information and committee reports will be available online in a special pre-Convention packet, **which will be made available no later than January 3, 2013. Delegates and clergy with voting privileges will not receive paper copies of this packet in the mail or at the Convention**, but they will receive flash drives with the materials when they arrive. The Benton Convention Center has upgraded its wireless access, but the Diocese still recommends that you download or print (should you prefer to do so) the pre-Convention information before you arrive. Plenty of outlets will be available at the convention center to power your devices.



## Submitting Resolutions and Nominations

The Diocese of North Carolina is currently receiving resolutions for action and nominations for positions to be filled. This year, the following positions will be filled by the Convention: Standing Committee (two clergy, one lay position); Diocesan Council (two clergy, three lay positions); Board of Directors of Penick Village (10 positions, clergy or lay); and Trustee, University of the South (one lay position). Find guidelines for resolutions and nominations at <http://bit.ly/Q6qeyZ>.

The nomination and submission deadline is 12:00pm, Monday, December 17, 2012. The Diocese will not accept mailed paper copies of resolutions or nominations. Resolutions may be submitted via email to [convention@episdionc.org](mailto:convention@episdionc.org). Receipt of resolutions will be confirmed via email. Nominations may be submitted online using the form found at <http://bit.ly/VQfu4N>.

Nominees and resolutions submitted on time will be made available on the diocesan website no later than January 3, 2012.

## January Pre-Convention Convocation Meetings

- Jan. 3: Raleigh Convocation, 7:00pm, St. Michael's, Raleigh
- Jan. 3: Sandhills Convocation, 7:00pm, Emmanuel, Southern Pines
- Jan. 8: Charlotte Convocation, 7:00pm, St. Martin's, Charlotte
- Jan. 8: Greensboro Convocation, 7:00pm, All Saints, Greensboro
- Jan. 10: Rocky Mount Convocation, 7:00pm, St. Andrew's, Rocky Mount
- Jan. 15: Winston-Salem Convocation, 7:00pm, St. Timothy's, Winston-Salem
- Jan. 15: Durham Convocation, 7:00pm, St. Luke's, Durham

## Important Deadlines

- Dec. 17: Deadline for receiving nominations and resolutions and for submitting annual reports for inclusion in the pre-Convention packet
- Dec. 26: Deadline to apply for a admission as a parish or mission in union with Convention
- Jan. 15: Deadline to pay in full 2012 shares of the diocesan budget



# NOMINEES *for the* BISHOP SUFFRAGAN *of* THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE *of* NORTH CAROLINA



On November 1, 2012, the Nominating Committee announced five nominees, including two from within the Diocese of North Carolina, to stand for election as the sixth Bishop Suffragan of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina.

## AND THE NOMINEES ARE...

The five nominees, categorized by Episcopal Cafe contributor Theresa Johnson as “a notably young and predominately female slate,” include: the Rev. Susan Buchanan, Rector, Christ Episcopal Church, North Conway, NH (Diocese of New Hampshire); the Rev. Canon Amy Real Coultas, Canon Missioner, Christ Church Cathedral, Louisville, KY, and Episcopal Chaplain, University of Louisville Interfaith Center, Louisville, KY (Diocese of Kentucky); the Rev. Lisa Fischbeck, Vicar, Episcopal Church of the Advocate, Chapel Hill, NC (Diocese of North Carolina); the Rev. Matthew Heyd, Priest and Director of Faith in Action, Trinity Church Wall Street, New York, NY (Diocese of New York); and the Rev. Anne Hodges-Copple, Rector, St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, Durham, NC (Diocese of North Carolina).

Meet the nominees, in brief, on the following pages through their answers to one question asked in the search process. For additional details about the nominees (including complete resumes, biographies and answers to additional questions), a letter from the Nominating Committee and more, visit [bishopsearch.dionc.org](http://bishopsearch.dionc.org).

## PRAY

“We are praying for a Bishop Suffragan who will be a missionary bishop and partner with us as we work to proclaim, live and witness to the gospel of Jesus in the mission context of the new 21st century Galilee. The Nominating Committee has prayerfully identified five priests capable of being just that,” the Rt. Rev. Michael B. Curry said in a press release announcing the nominees. The Bishop and Bishop Suffragan Committees

ask that the Diocese continue to pray for the candidates, their families and the Diocese of North Carolina as we move closer to the election.

## STAY IN TOUCH

The nominees will visit the Diocese during the week of January 7, 2013, in anticipation of the election at the 197th Annual Convention January 25-26, 2013. See related timeline on page 16-17.

There are several additional ways to keep up with happenings related to Convention and the election, including watching the election live.



**LIVE STREAM** Watch the election via a live stream at [www.episdionc.org](http://www.episdionc.org).



**TWITTER** Follow the Diocese on Twitter during the Convention @EpiscopalNC and look for Twitter updates #DioNC197.



**FACEBOOK** Look for photos and updates on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/EpiscopalDioceseNC](http://www.facebook.com/EpiscopalDioceseNC).



**ON THE WEB** Find updates about the Bishop Suffragan online at [www.bishopsearch.dionc.org](http://www.bishopsearch.dionc.org). Find information related to the Convention at <http://bit.ly/pUJUEu>.



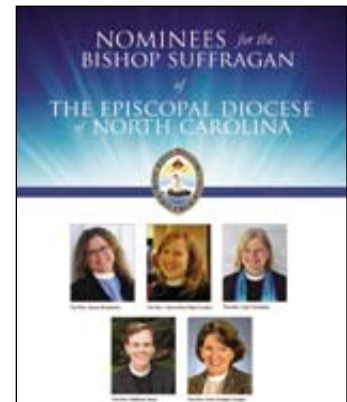
**QUESTIONS** Direct questions to the Transition Committee at [ncsuffragantransition@gmail.com](mailto:ncsuffragantransition@gmail.com).

# NOMINEES *for the* BISHOP SUFFRAGAN

## Meet the nominees {in brief}

During the search process, each nominee for Bishop Suffragan answered the following question: **“The new Bishop Suffragan will take our church out into the world, beyond the doors of our churches. Which of your gifts and talents would equip you to do this work?”** Here are their answers.

Visit [www.bishopsearch.dionc.org](http://www.bishopsearch.dionc.org) for additional information about the nominees and find resources for congregational use (bulletin insert announcements, poster, graphics, etc.).



A packet of information regarding the nominees is available online.



### The Rev. Lisa Fischbeck, Vicar, Episcopal Church of the Advocate, Chapel Hill, NC (Since 2002) NH (Since 2002)

I am a Missionary Vicar of a 21st century church, with a passion for church history, liturgy, “re-traditioning,” and the cultivation of inquiring and discerning hearts.

More and more, my energy and sense of purpose come from finding ways to make the Way of Jesus known in the public square, and to make all our church walls more porous and open.

I am a collaborator with a zeal for the church to engage in the world—with those who are near and those who are far off, within the Episcopal Church as well as in the wider faith community, with non-profits, for-profits, government agencies, and the academy.

By nature I am creative, playful, and open to new ideas and different ways. Yet I am also rooted deeply in our Anglican tradition. And I love Jesus.

In November 2011, I tweeted on the Advocate Church Twitter feed: Advocate Vestry Passes @PFADP Resolution Calling for a Repeal of the Death Penalty. People of Faith Against the Death Penalty re-posted that tweet to those who follow them. Overnight, 1000 new people heard of the Episcopal Church of the Advocate and connected the church with opposition to the death penalty.

In March 2012, the Advocate began to explore with UNC the possibility of housing on our campus a program of their OB-GYN Department that serves pregnant women with

addictions. With The Episcopal Church’s prime real estate and vast skills and connections, it is exciting to consider whether our Diocese might be able to develop more such collaborations with secular institutions to bring God’s compassion and justice to our society.

On Good Friday, 2012, the Advocate held our 9th Way of the Cross through downtown Carrboro. Each year, we recall the traditional stations, re-interpreting them for the 21st century Carrboro setting. We are cheered and jeered. Horns honk support and annoyance. This year we added posters and signs to our presence. “Occupy the Cross; Love the World”; Jesus Welcomes the Alien and the Stranger”; “Dichosos los Pobres”. We were vulnerable and empowered.

In June 2012, I officiated at the wedding of a young couple from the Advocate. The wedding was held in a community garden in east Durham. Many who tend the garden and share in its harvest gathered around the invited guests.

When the service ended, a Dixieland band led us in parade on a 1.3-mile route through downtown Durham to the reception. The band was playful, bold. As we walked and danced along, people came out of their houses. “What’s going on?” they asked. “It’s a wedding parade,” I said, “Come on along!” And some did—on skateboards, on bicycles, others strutting and shuffling as they danced along.

My heart is surely stirred by the sounds of organ and choir leading a congregation within high stone walls, singing “Lift High the Cross” and “For All The Saints.” But my passion is also a wedding parade with Dixieland band, in the streets, publicly celebrating life and love, and inviting others to join in the dance.



**The Rev. Canon Amy Real Coultas**, Canon Missioner, Christ Church Cathedral, Louisville, KY (Since 2009); Episcopal Chaplain, University of Louisville Interfaith Center, Louisville, KY (Since 2006)

My primary passion is encouraging discipleship which leads to apostleship: we follow Jesus so we can be ready to be sent. I believe this is essential for the 21st century church.

We must be out among the people, watching for what Christ is doing, so that we might join in God's work.

I am a connector, a problem solver, an encourager, a stirrer-upper. I have a particular commitment to listening for the questions of faith of today's world and watching for where God is already at work in our neighborhoods where we might join in. I enjoy being a guide—not someone with all the answers, but someone who watches down the road just

a little farther, someone who can reflect back a clear image from what seems to be a cracked glass, someone who can gently challenge and enthusiastically encourage.

My faith is rooted in the story of the Incarnation. I think this is a particular gift of the Anglican spiritual life, and that it is integral to being equipped to be missionaries in the world today. The Good News we proclaim must be grounded in the story of God With Us and in the stories of God's people. It is necessary today for us to be able to clearly share the extraordinary news that God was made flesh "and moved into the neighborhood." In an increasingly secular society, the story of God made human, the story of the God who washes feet and shares bread and wine as his body, the story of a God who cries out from the cross is essential.



**The Rev. Susan Buchanan**, Rector, Christ Episcopal Church, North Conway, NH (Since 2002)

Bishop Curry has been inspiring and eloquent as he has led you forward to commit to this journey, and to call a Bishop Suffragan whom you specifically task with helping you to put feet on the ground in Galilee. You are already blessed by the gifts and leader-

ship of many people who believe in and are already going about this calling, including your Regional Canons, College Chaplains, Deacons, and many others. Called to journey with you, you will need a Bishop Suffragan who also believes in that vision with every ounce of their being. And I do. I praise God to hear your focus on those who are not part of our churches, claiming as your primary mission something other than the narcissistic question of "will we, as a church, survive?" Worrying about our own survival is not what following Jesus is about.

But I also bring a deep love for our church: both for the local expressions of it that have nurtured the faith of so many and for the Episcopal Church as a whole. I deeply believe that our traditions do not need to be cast aside, but are gifts that we can use to strengthen our existing communities, even as we seek to live into God's vision for new faith communities that might look very different. Our traditions (such as our liturgy; Eucharist-centered life; the ancient order of deacons which is, at its heart,

a Galilean ministry) are gifts we carry with us in this journey.

Old enough to have acquired some hard-earned wisdom, I am young enough to have the energy to put it to work. People often ask me if I ever slow down. I have learned to do that – to take Sabbath rest. We are no good for the long haul if we don't pay attention to the patterns of rest and re-creation in God's presence.

I thrive on a schedule in which no two days or challenges are alike. And no two of your congregations or communities have the same opportunities or the same challenges, so no two specific local journeys into Galilee will look alike. That excites me. Coming from outside the diocese, I am well aware that I do not know you. But that can be gift to you, as well, for I am a patient and willing listener, eager to give each the time to teach me about who they are and introduce me to Galilee where they live. I am not eager to be in an office in Greensboro, but I am eager to be with you in Galilee.

I am a creative thinker. Thinking outside the box, I am able to see connections and possibilities that others often overlook. I am technologically literate, and enjoy discovering new ways of doing old things. And I'm always energized by a new adventure, especially when I'm not going on it alone. Journeying with you, as you follow Jesus into Galilee, will be one of the great joys for your new Bishop Suffragan.

# NOMINEES *for the* BISHOP SUFFRAGAN



**The Rev. Matthew Heyd**, Priest and Director of Faith in Action, Trinity Church Wall Street, New York, NY (Since 2009)

*Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, "The kingdom of God has come near to you."*

The salvation of the world is happening right now, all around us.

On Ash Wednesday this year, I helped to impose ashes at the corner of Vesey and Church Streets in Lower Manhattan. This intersection is the busiest in New York City on weekday mornings because of the commuter train station nearby. New Yorkers walk fast and don't make eye contact. Over three hours, about two thousand people received ashes. They were hungry for a spiritual connection, for an attachment to meaning, so they slowed down and stood still to receive a visible sign of their faith etched on their foreheads. I don't believe the commuters were hungry just that one morning. We are called daily to be Church in the public square and to stand witness to Christ's love.

My own leadership is about being pastoral, being strategic, telling stories that affirm and shape new possibilities, and maintaining my health and supporting the health of those around me.

*Pastoral:* The most important thing is to love your people. We all are gifted, and we all are broken. Deep listening is critical. When I created the grant programs for Episcopal Charities in 1996, we listened closely to the dreams and concerns of parishes in Harlem and the South Bronx to focus on youth programs because of the meaningful engagement that parishes had with summer camps and after school programs.

*Strategic:* Strategy looks different in churches than it does in business or non-profit sectors. At the non-profit group Do Something, I recommended changes on Friday that were implemented on Monday. Churches pursue change at pastoral speed-- change at the speed of relationship. It respects the deep investment that people have in their parishes and understands that loss and progress are twinned. Church strategy succeeds because of the health of the system. I am a big fan of Rabbi Edwin Friedman's family systems theory. When we launched mission & service trips at Trinity Wall Street, we took several years to work with small groups of congregation and staff to identify locations and form consensus that could sustain the ministries over time.

*Storytelling:* I enjoy preaching and work on it as a craft. My preaching at Trinity has focused on sharing the stories of the congregation's gifts.

*Health:* Rabbi Friedman says that the health of the organization depends on the health of the leader. Running for me is a spiritual practice: centering prayer in (slow) motion. I emphasize health for those around me. My team and I have a continuous conversation about growth and renewal.

This approach to leadership has allowed me -- at Carolina, Yale, Episcopal Charities, and Trinity -- to renew complex institutions. We are called to stand on street corners and invite everyone into deeper relationship with God. The church of the future will be born from the people we have and the history we bring. The journey to Gallilee -- to be public square Church for our children and grandchildren-- doesn't begin with our steps but with the ministries of our parents and grandparents.

## *timeline* OF EVENTS

The nominees will visit the Diocese during the week of January 7, 2013. Their schedule during the visit will include the following opportunities for clergy, delegates to Convention and other lay people to meet the nominees. Each walk-about will include time for the candidates to speak to the entire audience and time for those in attendees to ask the candidates questions in smaller groups. Videos from the walk-about will also become available on the bishop suffragan search website during the week of January 14.

### Tuesday, January 8

- 12:30-2:30pm** Luncheon for Raleigh/Durham/Rocky Mount area clergy at Good Shepherd, Raleigh
- 7:00-10:15pm** Walk-about with five break-out sessions at Christ Church, Raleigh

### Thursday, January 10

- 12:30-2:40pm** Lunch with Charlotte area clergy and Bishop Gregg at St. Martin's, Charlotte
- 7:00-10:15pm** Walk-about with five break-out sessions at St. John's, Charlotte

### Wednesday, January 9

- 10:45am-12:30pm** Coffee and lunch for Sandhills area clergy at Penick Village, Southern Pines



**The Rev. Anne Hodges-Copple, Rector, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Durham, NC (Since 2005)**

I have lived and worked in a variety of settings across the country. As a young woman I was a community organizer in Boston, Massachusetts and, later, in Martin County, Kentucky. I have run shelters for

battered women in Wake County and Orange County. I have led efforts responding in the aftermath of hurricanes, organized healing services for victims of sexual abuse, and worked with other community organizations on prevention of homelessness. From the time I was confirmed as a twelve-year-old, I have believed discipleship means to hear the Word of God and then go forth. What I have learned to recognize over time is the power of context in shaping how we hear the Word and act on it. If we fail to appreciate the context where lives are lived, hearts are broken and dreams are born, then we will only hear our own thoughts and preconceptions. We will fail to see how and where Jesus is calling us to be his companions on the way. We will fail to see Jesus along the way.

Campus ministry is a great training ground for moving from the Lord's Table to God's world and back again. Campus ministers know better than most that we cannot wait for the congregation to come to us. Campus ministers go forth, walk with, and bring good news to those beyond our doors. Young people can be so anxious about the future, so busy looking for the ladder of success, that they miss the ladder of angels connecting us with the great mysteries of life. Campus ministry is a frontier for making connections with searchers and creating meaningful community.

The Triangle region, along with many other areas of our state, have become magnets for creative people thinking in new ways about everything from food to art to housing to education. I believe I have helped St. Luke's adapt and thrive in this rapidly changing environment, with an emphasis on thinking creatively. Luke the Evangelist is the patron saint for artists as well as physicians. We practice "the art of living your faith," by sharing our beloved traditions in unexpected ways: a jazz compline service; a come-as-you are Eucharist alongside the Eno River. The parish is a diverse cross-section of Durham. We have a passion for mission beyond our doors. This ranges from the two weeks a year we spend at Holy Cross Anglican School in Belize to our Faith Team who is partnered with a young man rebuilding his life after his release from prison. We have adopted a new care team model for meeting special needs of our aging parishioners so they may continue to live full lives. St. Luke's is one of the founding partners of LEAP –Latino Education Achievement Partnership, a kindergarten readiness and literacy program for Spanish-speaking children.

I imagine that the Bishop Suffragan, with the blessing of Bishop Curry, will at times engage in dialogue with some of the larger institutional power structures of our state and how they protect – or maybe sometimes fail to protect – the public interest. I have led workshops on the theology of social responsibility in investing. I have participated in efforts to bring more education and dialogue on issues of immigration reform and responding to climate change.



**Friday, January 11**

**12:15-2:15pm** Lunch with Greensboro/Winston-Salem clergy at Holy Trinity, Greensboro

**Friday & Saturday, January 25-26, 2013**

The 197th Annual Convention will elect the Bishop Suffragan in Winston-Salem. The election will be available as a live stream on the diocesan homepage, [www.episdionc.org](http://www.episdionc.org).

**Saturday, January 12**

**9:00am-12:15pm** Walk-About with five break-out sessions at St. Paul's, Winston-Salem

**Saturday, June 15, 2013**

The Bishop Suffragan will be consecrated at Duke University Chapel, Durham, by the Most Rev. Dr. Katharine Jefferts Schori.



# ACTS OF LOVE

••••• in •••••

## GALILEE



### UPDATES FROM CONGREGATIONS

Each congregation, chaplaincy and the Diocesan youth delegation in the Diocese received \$100, along with an invitation to use the money to take the Gospel beyond their doors, to places where people thirst for the good news.



During his Pastoral Address at the Annual Convention last January, Bishop Michael Curry articulated a dynamic vision for the Diocese – a vision of moving beyond the walls of our churches to bring the good news of the Gospel to those outside our doors, to those in what he termed a modern-day “Galilee.”

“The Church in and for Galilee is a missionary Church focused outward, stepping outward,” he said. “The Church in Galilee is a Church that doesn’t wait for the world to come to it, but instead follows Jesus out into the world.”

Bishop Curry went on to ask: “How might this changing context of Galilee begin to change the shape of the traditional parish or mission? What would happen if we encouraged new possibilities for being worshipping and serving congregations and communities of faith? What would an Episcopal Church presence on the street and in public spaces and in untraditional contexts look like? How could we as a Diocese foster those kinds of experiments for being the Church in the world?”

Shortly after his address, each congregation, chaplaincy and youth delegation in the Diocese received \$100, along with an invitation to use the money to take the Gospel beyond their doors, to places where people thirst for the good news. The Swindell Speakers Fund, created to support the deepening of faith in this Diocese and beyond, provided

the funds.

In response to Bishop Curry’s words and to the \$100 bills, congregations have been engaging in creative ministries to those beyond their doors. Here are some of the inspiring stories of acts of love and service we have heard so far.

#### Holy Comforter, Charlotte

During Lent, members of Holy Comforter, Charlotte, purchased 10 paperback copies of the Book of Common Prayer as part of “Common Morning, Common Prayer.” Members met daily in public locations across the city (coffee shops, downtown office buildings, restaurants) to offer Morning Prayer together. They had prayer books to share with anyone who joined them, and they offered the

prayer books as gifts to visitors.



A snapshot from a “Common Prayer, Morning Prayer” meeting hosted by Holy Comforter, Charlotte. Photo by Holy Comforter, Charlotte



## Grace Episcopal Church, Clayton

In August, Grace Episcopal Church, Clayton, co-sponsored “Blessings of the New School Year” with First Baptist Church of Clayton. The event was planned in response to the many injuries and teen deaths in Johnston County from car crashes and the death of an elementary student in a bike accident. In addition to worship with musician Al Watkins, the event included a free hot dog lunch to the first 100 participants, a bike rodeo for elementary children conducted by Clayton Police and a session on safe driving for teens and parents.



St. Luke's, Durham, used their \$100 to commission a parade banner that could be used at public parades and events. Photo by St. Luke's, Durham

## St. Andrew's, Greensboro

St. Andrew's, Greensboro, offered Vacation Bible School twice: first at their church and then at the Pathways Center in collaboration with local UCC and Disciples of Christ congregations. (The Pathways Center, sponsored by Greensboro Urban Ministry, provides homeless families with a safe, temporary living environment while they search for housing.) The VBS theme was “Jesus’ Miracles,” focusing on how God feeds all God’s people in miraculous ways. This theme was reinforced with mid-morning snacks. One teacher noticed several children not finishing their snack but saving some to make sure they had something to eat later in the day. With their \$100, St. Andrew's purchased additional food so they could give each child a snack bag.

## Grace Episcopal Church, Lexington

Grace Church, Lexington, used part of the \$100 to join the pantry and feeding programs of Second Harvest food bank. They applied the rest of it to the cost of the required ServSafe certification training for one parishioner so they can purchase foods from Second Harvest's Community Kitchen Program for their food pantry and weekly Sunday meal.

Members of the church also contacted the local Food Lion where each week volunteers now pick up food, including fresh vegetables, meats and canned goods, that would otherwise be thrown out. They also began to pick up fresh produce from the local Farmer's Market on Wednesdays and Saturdays. The vendors give them the produce they are unable to sell. At the lunch, they put everything on tables and the guests choose from among the items, as they would in a grocery store.

## St. Cyprian's, Oxford

St Cyprian's, Oxford, is using the \$100 to fund their new Senior's Program, a monthly lunch meeting and program. Among this group are some very active members who saw St.Cyprian's through some very difficult days, particularly when the yoking with St Stephen's ended in 2008. They will now serve as one of the entry points into the life of the congregation, inviting their friends to join them for the monthly meeting and activities of the group.

At the School of Ministry booth at Convention, we will have a diocesan “Story Corps” to listen to your stories. Please stop by and tell yours!

## more...

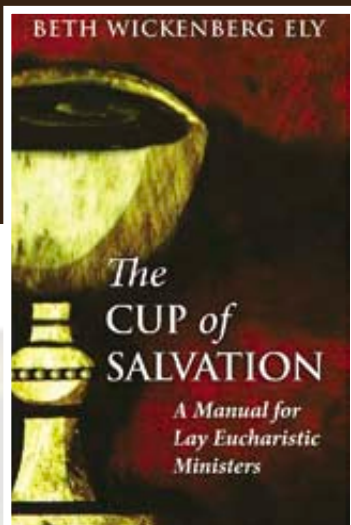
- 1 St. Philip's, Durham**, earmarked their \$100 to fund their community garden.
- 2 The Church of the Advocate, Chapel Hill**, is using the \$100 to fund a flower garden which is being developed with residents from a nearby group home for mentally ill adults.
- 3 The Episcopal Center at Duke** ordered umbrellas with logos for students to carry and give away to other students and local folks when it rains.
- 4 St. Luke's, Durham**, commissioned a parishioner to make a parade banner for use in public parades. It made its debut in the NC Pride Parade in September.

## share

Share your stories at the School of Ministry booth at Convention (January 25-26, 2013, in Winston-Salem) or email [ayliffe.mumford@episdionc.org](mailto:ayliffe.mumford@episdionc.org).

*Ayliffe Mumford gathered the stories and Liz Dowling-Sendor wrote the article for the Beyond our Doors/Swindell Committee.*

# A SPIRITUAL AND THEOLOGICAL GUIDE TO A WELL-LOVED MINISTRY



“Canon Beth Ely tells the story of our faith, the story of our way of worship, the story of baptized disciples in our Episcopal tradition serving one another in order that we might serve the world in Jesus’ Name.”

- The Rt. Rev. Michael B. Curry, in his introduction to *The Cup of Salvation*

The Rev. Canon Beth Ely has written a new book, *The Cup of Salvation*. Her second book, *Cup* serves as a companion to her first book, *A Manual for Lay Eucharistic Ministers*, published in 1992 and re-released as *A Manual for Eucharistic Visitors* in 2005. Unlike her first book,

which primarily addresses home and hospital visits, Beth’s new book addresses what many know as the ministry of the chalice bearer.

“I hope that it will be a legacy to the Church,” Beth says. “I know it can be very widely used and can deepen the formation and the education of our laity concerning how important their ministries are.” She achieves her goal of providing formation through the theological and spiritual reflections that accompany her more technical directions. Readers might pick up the book looking for a step-by-step guide to navigating the altar rail, but they will finish it with a deeper understanding of the important place eucharistic ministers occupy in the Church.

## **What motivated you to write your new book, *The Cup of Salvation*?**

I’ve always been concerned as a priest about giving our laity the chance for more and deeper spiritual education within the Church. Since I’ve been a priest for 23 years, I know from my own experience that there are many, many eucharistic ministers, and most of the training they get, if they’re lucky, is a little something before they start doing their tasks as a eucharistic minister. In most churches, the priest and the deacon (if they’re lucky enough to have one) don’t have time to do an in-depth training for eucharistic ministers. They usually say, “Here’s the chalice, and here’s how to use it.”

I thought this book would help with the educational component. Many people who have been [serving as eucharistic ministers] for a while know it’s an important ministry, but we don’t have anything written about the ministry to deepen and expand their understanding.

## **I’ve been a eucharistic minister (EM) for several years. Will this book still be useful to me, or is it designed for new EMs?**

The book will be useful to everybody who had ever done eucharistic ministry, those who are doing it, and those who are considering it. You would be surprised how much you’d learn. The book has spirituality and theology in it, as well as the mechanics of serving as a eucharistic minister.

## **How do you view the role of the EM in the context of the Eucharist and within the wider ministry of the Church?**

One thing that’s really important that is not given enough credit is the fact that this is the only sacramental ministry open to lay people on a regular basis. For thousands of years, sacramental ministries were reserved only for clergy under normal circumstances. We as a Church have recaptured the importance of lay people as an order in our liturgies, which reinforces our belief that we are all children of God and ministers of the Church. There’s no rank within the orders. The call of a lay person is equally as important as the call of a bishop. When we have eucharistic ministers in our services, we show what we believe by having those lay people up front.

## **What is your funniest story from your time watching eucharistic ministers serve at the altar?**

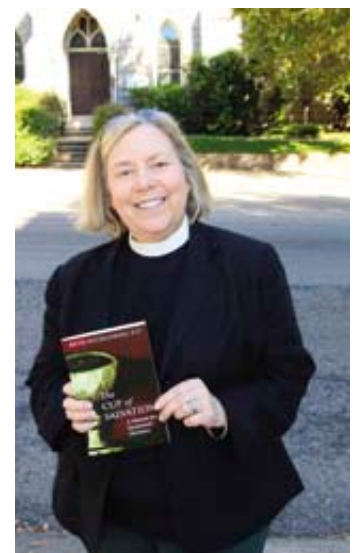
In the book I tell a story about my father. He was a eucharistic minister, and during my ordination to the priesthood, he spilled wine on the large bosom of a parishioner. I could see him dabbing at it with the purificator. He had no clue what to do, and all I could do was watch. My book talks about what to do in a situation like that.

## **Speaking of the section dedicated to questions concerning mishaps and dilemmas that a eucharistic minister might face, I once spilled some wine from an overly full chalice onto a widow at her husband’s funeral. What should I have done in that situation?**

Hand the purificator to her and let her clean up herself. If wine spilled on the altar rail or the floor, use another purificator to wipe those things. Then you’ll need a third purificator to use for the rest of the service. And apologize to her.

In the future, if you have an overly full chalice, turn your back to congregation, and sip it until it’s no longer too full. I have a whole list of these things [in my book]. People are always asking me questions about situations like that.

Find Beth’s book in paperback or Kindle edition on Amazon at <http://amzn.to/X06r7y>.



The Rev. Canon Beth Ely poses with her new book, *The Cup of Salvation*.

# SNAPSHOTS



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1) At the Celebration of New Ministry for the Rev. Jemonde Taylor, St. Amrose, Raleigh. 2) With the 42 confirmands and one baptized baby at Nativity, Raleigh, on October 14. 3) With Monica Gillespie, the new head of St. Mary's School, Raleigh. 4) The Rev. Canon Michael Hunn chats with the Rev. Patty Willet at the New Clergy Orientation. 5) A "Seeing God's Face in Each Other" seminar. Read more about these anti-racism seminars on page 30. 6) At the Celebration of New Ministry for the Rev. Ollie Rencher, St. Peter's, Charlotte. 7) Adult youth leaders weren't the only ones present at September's Youth Ministry Conference. Twenty young people also attended to hone their leadership skills. 8) With the confirmands at All Saints, Hamlet. 9) At the consecration of the Rt. Rev. Robert C. Wright as Bishop of Atlanta. 10) At the Celebration of New Ministry for the Rev. Jose deJesus with the Rev. Jose deJesus Sierra and the Rev. Wren Blessing at Iglesia El Buen Pastor, Durham. 11) The procession at the Celebration of New Ministry for the Rev. Janey Wilson, St. Luke's and Calvary, Tarboro. 12) Lisa Aycock, the Rev. Canon Michael Hunn, Duana Cisney, Beth Crow, Pam Hatley and Summerlee Walter set the vision for youth ministry in the Diocese.



## THE CHURCH *of the* FUTURE & THE CHURCH *of the* PRESENT

Young people in our Diocese have long served as acolytes, Vacation Bible School volunteers and pancake flippers at annual Shrove Tuesday suppers, but many churches are now including them in leadership positions and seeking their input in decisions that impact the life of the congregation. Pam Hatley, youth ministry coach for the Charlotte and Sandhills convocations, explores their changing roles.

The Gospels give us only a few glimpses of Jesus as a child. Thanks to Luke, though, we have the account of a 12-year-old Jesus separated from his parents for three days. When his parents finally find him, Luke tells us that he was “in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were

amazed at his understanding and his answers.” This story is primarily meant to show that, even at an early age, Jesus understood his call and knew that his place was “at [his] Father’s house.” Could it also, however, be a lesson to all of us about our relationships with the young people in our midst?

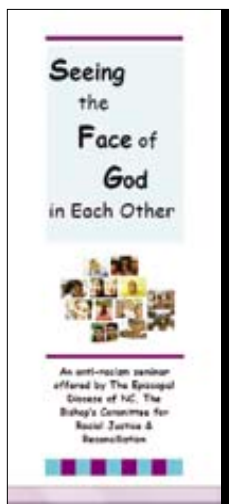


## NEW DIOCESAN YOUTH EVENT WILL ADDRESS THE BASICS OF FAITH

Genesis is a new program our diocese is starting in the spring of 2013. This weekend retreat, held March 15-17 at Haw River State Park (The Summit), is designed for middle school youth. Genesis is based on the central values of Christianity; it is designed to help middle school youth begin to explore their own faith through youth-led talks on various subjects such as family, friends, peer pressure, the Church, Jesus and sharing one's faith. It is an event based on presenting the basics of Christianity and how we use that faith to guide our lives. Participants will have the opportunity to share their thoughts in small groups. There will also be time for fun, being with friends and large group activities.

Registration is already available online at <http://bit.ly/TxYnEQ>. The discounted early bird participant registration deadline is December 10. Regular participant registration ends March 14. Scholarships are available.

## SEEING THE FACE OF GOD IN EACH OTHER: AN ANTI-RACISM SEMINAR



Through resolutions passed nationally and in North Carolina, the Episcopal Church has extolled a consistent message to its churches, clergy and parishioners to educate themselves and to take action to eliminate racism wherever it exists—in our institutions, our communities, our churches and ourselves. Sponsored by the Bishop's Committee for Racial Justice and Reconciliation, the December 8 seminar at Emmanuel, Southern Pines, will allow attendees to overcome prejudices and honestly examine their feelings toward race. Read more on page 30, or contact Martha Waters with questions at [martha.wtrs@gmail.com](mailto:martha.wtrs@gmail.com).

The Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina



## DIOCESAN EVENTS

DECEMBER  
JANUARY  
FEBRUARY

### December

- 6 Fresh Start, held regionally. Contact Canon Hunn.
- 6 Seeing the Face of God in Each Other: An Anti-Racism Seminar, 8:30am-4:30pm, Emmanuel, Southern Pines
- 7-9 Bishop's Ball, Camp Walter Johnson, Denton

### January

- 3 Fresh Start, held regionally. Contact Canon Hunn.
- 3 Sandhills Pre-Convention Convocation Meeting, 7:00pm, Emmanuel, Southern Pines
- 3 Raleigh Pre-Convention Convocation Meeting, 7:00pm, St. Michael's, Raleigh
- 8 Clergy Lunch with Bishop Suffragan Candidates, 12:30-2:30pm, Good Shepherd, Raleigh
- 8 Raleigh Walk-About, 7:00-10:15pm, Christ Church, Raleigh
- 8 Greensboro Pre-Convention Convocation Meeting is 7:00pm. All Saints, Greensboro
- 8 Charlotte Pre-Convention Convocation Meeting, 7:00pm, St. Martin's, Charlotte
- 9 Clergy Coffee and Lunch, Penick Village, 10:45am-12:45pm Southern Pines
- 10 Clergy Lunch with Bishop Suffragan Candidates, 12:30-2:30pm, St. Martin's, Charlotte
- 10 Charlotte Walk-About, 7:00-10:15pm, St. John's, Charlotte
- 10 Rocky Mount Pre-Convention Convocation Meeting, 7:00pm, St. Andrew's, Rocky Mount
- 11 Clergy Lunch with Bishop Suffragan Candidates, 12:15-2:15pm, Holy Trinity, Greensboro
- 12 Winston-Salem Walk-About, 9:00am-12:15pm, St. Paul's, Winston-Salem
- 15 Winston-Salem Pre-Convention Convocation Meeting, 7:00pm, St. Timothy's, Winston-Salem
- 15 Durham Pre-Convention Meeting, 7:00 pm refreshments, 7:30pm meeting start St. Luke's, Durham
- 25-26 197th Annual Convention, Benton Convention Center, Winston-Salem

### February

- 7 Fresh Start, held regionally. Contact Canon Hunn.
- 8-10 Chartered Committee for Youth Retreat

Look for additional events and more detailed event information online at [www.dionc.org/digital\\_faith/events](http://www.dionc.org/digital_faith/events), or contact the Diocese at 919.834.7474, toll free 800.448.8775. Upcoming diocesan events and events from around the diocese are featured in Please Note, the Bishop's weekly e-newsletter, and in the Around the Diocese monthly bulletin insert.

## ENVIRONMENTAL DVD RESOURCES AVAILABLE

The Chartered Committee on the Environment has made more than 15 DVDs available, some with study guides. Contact the Sacred Garden Bookstore at Holy Trinity, Greensboro, 336-544-1225, to obtain the resources. There is no charge for the DVDs.

Information can also be obtained from the webpage of the Committee. Go to [www.episdionc.org](http://www.episdionc.org), click on "Ministries," then on "Environmental Ministry," to find additional resources from the Committee.

## STAY IN TOUCH

Keep up with the Diocese through Social Media!

[www.facebook.com/EpiscopalDioceseNC](http://www.facebook.com/EpiscopalDioceseNC)

[www.youtube.com/episdionc](http://www.youtube.com/episdionc)

[twitter.com/episcopalnc](https://twitter.com/episcopalnc)

[twitter.com/bishopcurry](https://twitter.com/bishopcurry)



# DURHAM BISHOP JUSTIN WELBY NAMED 105<sup>TH</sup> ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY

Following months of anticipation and media speculation, Downing Street confirmed on November 9 that the Queen has approved the nomination of Diocese of Durham Bishop Justin Welby as the 105th archbishop of Canterbury.

As the 105th archbishop in a succession spanning more than 1,400 years, Welby will assume the multi-faceted role as spiritual leader of the Anglican Communion, Primate of All England and bishop of the Diocese of Canterbury.

Church of England bishops are appointed rather than elected, with a 16-member Crown Nominations Commission putting forward two names—a preferred candidate and a second candidate—to Downing Street. The U.K. prime minister then seeks approval from the British monarch, who is the supreme governor of the Church of England.

Before his ordination to the priesthood in 1992, Welby studied law and history at Cambridge University and then spent 11 years as an executive in the oil industry. After a decade in parish ministry, he was appointed a canon residentiary, and later sub-dean, of Coventry Cathedral. He served as dean of Liverpool Cathedral from 2007 until 2011. In October 2011, he was consecrated as bishop of Durham, the fourth most senior position in the Church of England.

Welby, 56, will succeed the Most Rev. Rowan Williams, who will step down at the end of the year after serving as the 104th archbishop of Canterbury since February 2003.

“I don’t think anyone could be more surprised than me at the outcome of this process,” Welby said, according to a Lambeth Palace press release. “It has been an experience, reading more about me than I knew myself. To be nominated to Canterbury is

at the same time overwhelming and astonishing. It is overwhelming because of those I follow, and the responsibility it has. It is astonishing because it is something I never expected to happen.”

Williams issued a statement saying that he is “delighted at the appointment.... I have had the privilege of working closely with [Welby] on various occasions and have always been enriched and encouraged by the experience.

“He has an extraordinary range of skills and is a person of grace, patience, wisdom and humor. He will bring to this office both a rich pastoral experience and a keen sense of international priorities, for Church and world. I wish him—with [his wife] Caroline and the family—every blessing, and hope that the Church of England and the Anglican Communion will share my pleasure at this appointment and support him with prayer and love.”

“I am delighted to hear of Bishop Welby’s appointment as archbishop of Canterbury,” Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori said. “He brings knowledge of the immense challenges of the world in which the Anglican Communion seeks to partner in the service of God’s mission to heal and reconcile.”

Welby’s enthronement as 105th archbishop of Canterbury will take place March 21, 2013, in Canterbury Cathedral.



## CLERGY CHANGES

*As of October 16, 2012*

**The Rev. T.J. Bland**, from Deacon, Christ Church, Walnut Cove, to Non-Parochial.

**The Rev. G. William Poulos**, from Vicar, Christ Church, Walnut Cove, to Retirement.

**The Rev. Sara Ball-Damberg**, from Vicar, St. Elizabeth’s, Apex, to Assistant Rector, Holy Family, Chapel Hill.

**The Rev. Maria Kane**, from Priest Associate, Hickory Neck Church, Toano, VA, to Chaplain, St. Paul’s School, Concord, NH.

**The Rev. Colin Miller**, from Non-Parochial, to Associate Rector for Urban Ministry, Good Shepherd, Raleigh.

**The Rev. Dr. R. Scott White**, from Rector, Church of the Good Shepherd, Rocky Mount, to Rector, Trinity Church, Asheville, Diocese of Western North Carolina.

**The Rev. Martin Juarez**, from Vicar, Iglesia El Buen Pastor, to Non-Parochial.

**The Rev. Jemonde Taylor**, from Diocese of Dallas, to Rector, St. Ambrose, Raleigh.

**The Rev. Ollie V. Rencher**, from Diocese of West Tennessee, to Rector, St. Peter’s, Charlotte.

**The Rev. Nita Charlene Johnson Byrd**, from Candidate for Holy Orders, to Transitional Deacon, June 16, 2012.

**The Rev. Andie Wigodsky**, Letters of Dimissory, from Diocese of North Carolina, to Diocese of Southern Virginia.

**The Rev. Lauren Winner**, Letters of Dimissory, from Diocese of Virginia, to Diocese of North Carolina.

**The Rev. Maggie Silton**, from Non-Parochial, to Deacon, St. John’s, Wake Forest.

**The Rev. Louane Frey**, from Deacon, St. Stephen’s, Durham, to Non-Parochial.

**The Rev. Michelle Robertshaw**, Letters of Dimissory, from Diocese of North Carolina, to Diocese of Southwest Florida.

**The Rev. Jane R. Williams**, Letters of Dimissory, from Diocese of Lexington, to Diocese of North Carolina.

**The Rev. John W. S. Davis**, Deceased, September 11, 2012.

**The Rev. Ian George McMahon**, Deceased, June 25, 2012.

# OUR MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION: HEALING GOD'S CREATION

*"We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now." (Romans 8:22)*

Recognizing the biblical call to be good stewards of Creation, on January 21, 2012, during the 196<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina, the delegation resolved to receive with thanks the "Teaching of the House of Bishops on Environment" (found at <http://bit.ly/rFXJMU>) and strongly recommended that all clergy and congregants in the Diocese, "read, mark and inwardly digest" its contents and heed its suggestions.

The Rev. Thomas Droppers, Chair for the Chartered Committee on Environmental Ministry (CCEM) explains the need for the Episcopal community of faith to act, "The House of Bishop's issuance of a teaching on the

In the past year, the Rev. Jerry Cappel, leader for Environmental Ministries for Province IV of the Episcopal Church has said that we all need "to move Creation care from the periphery to the center of our parish and personal lives."

the issues and to respond in any way possible to heal the earth. The Bishops have set forth specific ways in which churches and individuals can make a difference, and this resolution supports their call to all of us to respond to what they have designated a crisis."

As people of faith consider the most effective ways to work in our congregations to restore right relationships with the environment, the CCEM recommends that parishes and missions act on the resolution passed in 2005 that calls for congregation to perform an energy efficiency audit. Energy conserved through efficiency measures is the cheapest, cleanest, smartest and most readily available source of energy. Our congregations can readily both save money and lower their carbon footprints. For example, audits, particularly in older buildings, have uncovered insulation or structural problems that allow huge energy losses and create higher energy bills.

In our diocese, the most straightforward way to perform an

energy audit is to schedule one with North Carolina Interfaith Power and Light (NCIPL), which offers free professional-level energy audits for all North Carolina houses of worship. The application process is simple and takes very little time.

Participating in an NCIPL energy audit, though, is just the first step. The next steps are up to congregations and their creative genius. Consider just a few success stories to get your imagination going:

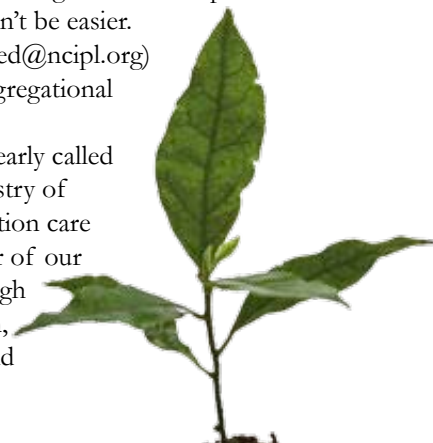
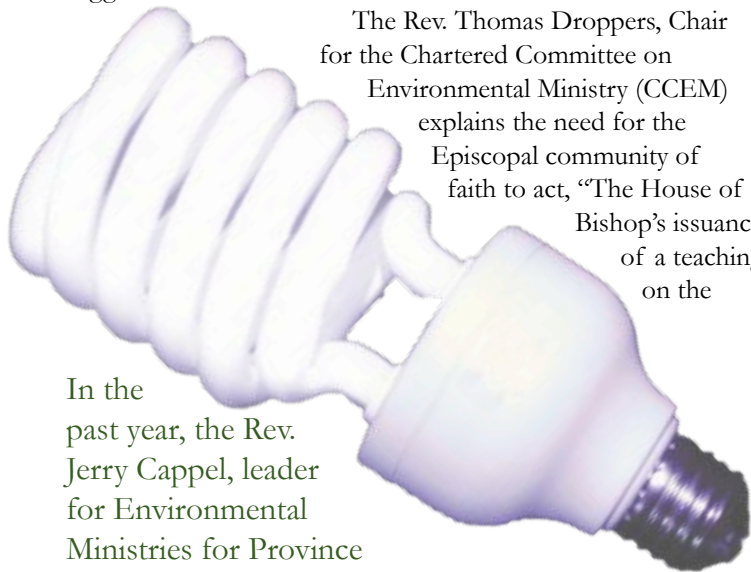
- In Durham, St. Luke's Episcopal Church completed a lighting audit and then changed more than 250 ballasts, 500+ fluorescent lights and many lenses to obtain a two-year return on investment.
- In Asheville, First Presbyterian Church also made lighting changes that have resulted in \$26,000 of savings after 5 years.

Our challenge is big, but the changes can be simple and the first step, getting an audit, couldn't be easier. Please contact NCIPL ([connected@ncipl.org](mailto:connected@ncipl.org)) today to schedule your free congregational energy audit.

As people of faith, we are clearly called by our Creator God to the ministry of reconciliation and to bring Creation care from the periphery to the center of our parish and personal lives. Through our faith, work of reconciliation, and the love of God, we will find hope and transformation.

*Allison Reeves Jolley, NCIPL; The Rev. Rick Willaims, Vicar, St. Paul's, Salisbury, CCEM; Carl W. Sigel, Ph. D., Church of the Nativity, Raleigh, CCEM, NCIPL*

**Over the years, the CCEM has provided congregations with excellent resources (found at <http://bit.ly/P9G5Y9>) to fulfill the Rev. Cappel's recommendation. On the website, in addition to important documents, there is a complete listing of diocesan convention resolutions on the environment. Another excellent resource for bringing creation care into all aspects of parish life is *Earth Ministries' Greening Congregations Handbook*.**





# BLESSED *to be a* BLESSING

The Office of Stewardship of the Episcopal Church created a stewardship series, complete with pledge cards and bulletin inserts, to assist congregations in their stewardship campaigns. The "Blessed to Be a Blessing" stewardship reflection series featured six writers, including Bishop Curry, who composed reflections based on the Sunday lectionary reading from the Gospel of Mark from October 7 until November 11, 2012.

THE  
*Episcopal*  
CHURCH



Visit [www.episcopalchurch.org/page/blessed-be-blessing](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/page/blessed-be-blessing) if you missed the series or would like to locate the related resources.

## COALITION *of* PRISON EVANGELISTS

Four members of the Bishop's Committee on Prison Ministry attended the annual conference of the Coalition of Prison Evangelists (COPE) in late August in Jamestown, NC.

COPE is an interdenominational organization that serves to support people who serve in Criminal Justice Ministry. Their brochure states that "COPE leadership brings its abilities, experience and resources to recruit, establish and strengthen Christian ministry to criminal justice systems throughout the world." People attended from all over the USA, and it was encouraging to meet so many committed to sharing the Good News of the love of God in Jesus Christ in the darkness and pain of prison.

An impressive variety of local Christian ministries which help prisoners and their families were showcased at the COPE conference. There were many booths, each having their own display and representatives, such as Tabitha House, Teen Challenge, Exodus Works, Exodus Homes, Forgiven Ministry's Program of One Day with God, Jobs for Life, Save



### CELEBRATE PRISON MINISTRY SUNDAY IN THE DIOCESE OF NORTH CAROLINA: THE THIRD SUNDAY IN EASTER

our Kids Outreach, and Sisters of Joy. The daily worship was often inspiring, with converted ex-prisoners playing their original compositions. Having been found by God, these gifted musicians are returning to minister to others who are held in the bonds of shame, anger, and fear.

As we pray about and explore where God would take us as a diocese into Galilee, I hope that more Episcopalians priests and members of our churches will step out in faith into their local jails and prisons to bring the light of Jesus, His human warmth and compassion to those who are so lost and broken. If you sense God's call to prison ministry, Lennie Spitale's book *Understanding Prison Culture, Inside and Out* is practical and insightful.



At the COPE conference, from left, are the Rev. Sara Palmer and Sara Wilson, members of the Bishop's Committee on Prison Ministry. The Rev. Margie Holm and Rev. Velinda Hardy also attended the conference.

*The Rev Sara Palmer is Assistant to the Rector at St. Mary's, High Point. Contact her at [arap@stmarysepisc.org](mailto:arap@stmarysepisc.org).*

Below: The Very Rev. Murdock Smith presents Bishop Curry with a prayer shawl during St. Martin's anniversary service. To the right: Bishop Curry blesses the new Fellowship Courtyard. Photos by Bill Short.



From top: Confirmands pose with Bishop Curry after the service. The sanctuary was full of worshippers during the celebration. Below: Bishop Curry proclaims the power of love during his sermon to the people of St. Martin's, Charlotte. Photos by Bill Short.

By the Very Rev. Murdock Smith

# CELEBRATING 125 YEARS OF MINISTRY IN THE QUEEN CITY

Love wins! That was Bishop Curry's message at Saint Martin's, Charlotte, on All Saints' Sunday, a great and glorious celebration of 100 years of worship in the present church, the dedication of the new Fellowship Courtyard and 125 years of ministry in the Queen City.

There were baptisms, confirmations, receptions, a sermon, a prayer shawl for the Bishop, the premiere of a new piece of sacred music, prayers for healing, unction and a Eucharist. Those two and a half hours gave us a glimpse of heaven. After the service, there were games for the children, food for all and, to the delight of the rector, a bluegrass band playing Rocky Top.

This celebration was the culmination of a year of events that celebrated the ministry of this diverse, vital urban parish. Bishop Curry started it off on Saint Martin's Day 2011 and brought it to a conclusion on All Saints' Sunday 2012. In between, Saint Martin's welcomed the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, the Most Reverend Katharine Jefferts Schori, and the Bishop of New Hampshire, the Right Reverend V. Gene Robinson. Saint Martin's also lifted up Gospel Hospitality in the Celebration of Absalom Jones and Gospel Justice in the Celebration of Jonathan Daniels.

The outward and visible sign of this year of celebration is the completion of the Fellowship Courtyard, which not only solves an engineering problem with water but also creates an extraordinary space of welcome for prayer and for play. With benches, fountains, grass, indigenous plants and rain gardens,



the Fellowship Courtyard transforms the physical space. It is also a reminder of our faith journey with *Eden's Garden* and *Creation*; the *Waters of Life* of our baptism, Moses striking the rock in the desert, and Jesus' baptism in the River Jordan; the *Courtyard of the Twelve* that calls us into community as a reminder of the twelve tribes of Israel and the twelve apostles called by Our Lord; and the *Pilgrims' Way* that guides us with the fruit of the Spirit from this life to life eternal.



The Very Rev. Murdock Smith is the rector at St. Martin's, Charlotte. Contact him at [msmith@stmartins-charlotte.org](mailto:msmith@stmartins-charlotte.org)

# LEAP-ING *into* EDUCATION for LATINO CHILDREN

By Leigh Bordley

What if your child were attending a school where the teachers spoke a different language from the language spoken in your home? What if your child had learning differences, but the culture of your child's school was unfamiliar to you, and you didn't know how to advocate for him or her? Achieving academic success is difficult enough for some children without these added stresses.

The Latino Educational Achievement Partnership (LEAP) is a new collaboration among a number of Durham churches that strives to empower Latino students in Durham to achieve academic success and overcome these challenges. Iglesia El Buen Pastor, St. Luke's and St. Philip's (Durham) are the program's sponsors; St. Michael's (Raleigh), Chapel of the Cross and Holy Family (Chapel Hill) and St. Matthew's (Hillsborough) are supportive partners.

In 2008, St. Philip's parishioner Kess Ballentine started an English as a Second Language program at Iglesia El Buen Pastor, a church in East Durham. After the first year, members of El Buen Pastor began expressing their concern for their children's academic success. In 2010, members of both congregations responded and shifted their focus from ESL to younger members of the congregation by providing twice-a-week, one-on-one literacy tutoring for school-aged children. The volunteer training for the tutoring program draws on the practices developed by the Augustine Project in Chapel Hill and is based on an Orton-Gillingham approach to literacy instruction.

In the summer of 2011, the leadership at El Buen Pastor, St. Philip's and St. Luke's embraced Ballentine's broader vision for an expanded program for academic success that would begin with kindergarten readiness for four and five years olds and continue all the way through their middle school years. After receiving Bishop

Curry's blessing and some startup funding from the Diocese, LEAP was officially founded in the fall of 2011. Other area churches quickly and enthusiastically joined the partnership. Tutoring for 15-20 school-aged children has since continued with volunteers from area churches and schools serving as tutors.

In an exciting step towards building this pipeline, LEAP opened a pre-kindergarten this fall. A bilingual teacher engages a classroom of children in a rich, developmentally appropriate curriculum that prepares them to enter kindergarten the next year. The children's favorite day so far is Thursday, which is baking day, but every day is filled with hands-on activities that teach the children vocabulary and the rhythm of a school day.

In the fall of 2013, LEAP plans to add another pre-kindergarten classroom and double the number of children participating in tutoring. This expanded capacity will enable the program to serve children from the broader community as well as children who attend El Buen Pastor. LEAP will also expand programming to include enrichment activities and "future-ready" activities that will involve older students in preparing for college or careers.

LEAP's Advisory Board, which has doubled in size in the past three months, is composed of members from four Episcopal churches in the Durham convocation. Lay people also serve as tutors and teaching assistants. The program invites the prayers and active involvement of our brothers and sisters.



Leigh Bordley is the Executive Director of LEAP. Contact her at [durhamleapcoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:durhamleapcoordinator@gmail.com).



From left: Adriana, the LEAP instructor, works with pre-kindergarten children on their literacy skills. Playtime is an important part of any child's school day. Photos by Hillary Martinez.



From left: Sharing meals together was an integral practice for the people of St. Elizabeth's. Parishioners are active in local and diocesan outreach, including *NetsforLife*.



From left: Children form a vibrant part of the St. Elizabeth's community. Members band together to do whatever the community needs done.

By Jenn Rau

# COMMUNITY DETERMINES THEY'RE MORE THAN A BUILDING

## *St. Elizabeth's, Apex: Ever-Changing Congregation Looks Towards the Future*

What is St Elizabeth's Episcopal Church? Originally, it was a community of people brought together from The Prince of Peace Episcopal Church (TPoP), Apex. We were small from the beginning. We grew a little. We shrank a little. We didn't have much, so we learned new ways of doing church with what we had. Not having music wasn't an option, but neither was a choral director or even a regular paid accompanist. So we learned to sing a cappella, from Taize chants to some of the more traditional hymns.

We were an energetic group led by a visionary vicar, the Reverend Sarah Ball-Damberg, out of whom Christ's light continuously shone as she pushed us outside of our comfort zones by relating our everyday lives back to our baptismal covenant. In those everyday lives, we quickly learned that we loved to eat together. Before we ever even set foot out of the TPoP building, service time had already been moved back by half an hour to allow for a full-on potluck brunch every Sunday!

Around this time, the Little Red Wagon ministry also began. Every Sunday, our 30-40 attendees filled with food and household supplies the two red wagons that the children brought forward as a part of the offering after they helped set the Eucharistic table. Since Easter 2009, our little mission congregation collected over 20,000 pounds of food for Western Wake Crisis Ministries (WWCM).

I think Allan Thunes, our junior warden, captured the spirit of those gathered as St Elizabeth's Episcopal Church best with

the following announcement that he wrote asking others to come take the diocesan property that we had in our possession:

“St Elizabeth's, Apex, is blessed with a unique sense of community and worship born of necessity and cultivated in a state of rest and faithful discernment of God's calling. Much to our surprise His plan revealed was not one of traditional growth as we anticipated but of dissemination for service to His Gospel in ways each will continue to discern individually. Unencumbered of the space and artifacts that bound us, St Elizabeth's will remain as a faith community in support of its missioners and all who wish to gather for periodic study, worship and rejoicing in His word. As a community we move forward in peace....”

No one really knows what The Community of St. Elizabeth's will look like in the future. We've already furthered our connection to WWCM by learning some of the very basic ropes of helping in the pantry during a visit on the first Sunday in November. We want to maintain that relationship through physical and possibly monetary service when able. Above all, we desire to continue to grow as followers of Jesus from our joint experiences as a community.

*Jenn Rau is the senior warden at St. Elizabeth's, Apex. Contact her at [jrau05@gmail.com](mailto:jrau05@gmail.com).*

# A PRIEST AND A RABBI WALK INTO A BAR...



“A priest and a rabbi walk into a bar.  
The bartender looks up and says, ‘Is this some kind of joke?’”

At Finnigan’s Wake Irish Pub in downtown Winston-Salem, the answer is no (or fey!). Owned and managed by members of St Timothy’s, Finnigan’s Wake now hosts a real-life version of the ubiquitous joke.

Upon returning from a year sabbatical in Israel, Rabbi Mark Strauss-Cohn of Temple Emanuel emailed Fr. Steve Rice of St Timothy’s with the idea to make this joke an inter-faith opportunity at one of their favorite hangouts. They felt a strong spiritual hunger “brewing” among members in their community who had no comfortable place to ask questions and have meaningful dialogues.

With no model to follow, the priest and the rabbi met for lunch at the pub to work out the uh, spiel. After asking other patrons what they would like to hear from a priest and a rabbi, they quickly discovered that, despite being religious professionals in their respective traditions, they knew very little about each other’s faith. They also realized they spent more time laughing and telling jokes than talking serious midrash.

With these two epiphanies, the plan for “A Priest and Rabbi Walk Into a Bar” was born. Rabbi Mark and Fr. Steve would occupy a corner in the pub and share their lunch conversations with a larger audience.

The first “Priest and a Rabbi” on October 18 welcomed 24 curious souls to the back corner of Finnigan’s Wake – 12

Christians and 12 Jews, a very biblical beginning. Rabbi Mark and Fr. Steve opened by finishing the sentence “I believe...” For an hour the two interacted with each other and the dining crowd while discussing the similarities and differences between Christianity and Judaism. The topics ranged from resurrection and the afterlife to social justice to reasons to believe. Despite the excellent food and drink at the pub, the participants left hungry for more. The response was so positive that plans are being made to expand the monthly gathering to accommodate more patrons and pilgrims.

“A Priest and a Rabbi” will continue each month on the third Thursday at 6:00pm. The website for the monthly conversation is [www.priestandarabbi.org](http://www.priestandarabbi.org).



Rabbi Mark Strauss-Cohn and the Rev. Steve Rice host an inter-faith discussion.

*The Rev. Steve Rice is rector of St. Timothy’s, Winston-Salem.  
Contact him at [frsteve@sttimothys.ws](mailto:frsteve@sttimothys.ws).*



# THE HOLY SPIRIT: ALIVE & WELL IN OXFORD

## *Racial Reconciliation Seminar Reaches Into Oxford Community*

“These discussions put ‘words’ to ‘feelings.’” “It’s now personal if one of my friends has been discriminated against.” “People are more alike than [they are] different.” “Everyone was listening and trying to understand me.” These responses from participants in “Seeing the Face of God in Each Other” prove the power of deep listening and open-minded sharing.

In July 2010, a process began in Oxford that has produced amazing results. Fr. John Heinemeier, vicar of St. Cyprian’s, said of the change, “I am a firm believer in the Holy Spirit’s moving presence.... That believe was vindicated. Some real ‘movement’ toward one another happened.”

That summer, Fr. Heinemeier and an interracial, interdenominational group of clergy<sup>1</sup> in the Oxford area began to work cooperatively and with a united voice to promote and support changes that would benefit the community. They realized that the issue of racism arose repeatedly and that they needed to talk about it.

Fr. Heinemeier contacted the Bishop’s Committee for Racial Justice and Reconciliation to seek guidance and support during the group’s process. In response, the Bishop’s Committee split the material for its one-day anti-racism seminar, “Seeing the Face of God in Each Other,” into six sessions for the Oxford clergy’s use.

Facilitators from the Bishop’s Committee met with the clergy beginning in the fall of 2010, completing the six sessions by June 2011. Each month, intense, powerful, honest dialogues occurred as the clergy told their stories about experiences of racism. They tackled topics ranging from perceptions and misperceptions to white privilege and the importance of power in relationships to internalized racist oppression and how Stephanie Spellers’ concept of “Radical Welcome” might be used to combat racism in the Church.

The clergy group was so pleased with the outcome of these dialogues that they wanted to tell their congregations and the Oxford community about them in a community service of celebration. On September 18, 2011, around 150 people gathered at Cornerstone Christian Church. The choir included members from several churches, black and white, singing in joyful praise to the God from whom we all

draw strength. Fr. Heinemeier and Pastor Willie Darby of Penn Avenue Baptist Church preached powerful sermons describing their experiences. At the end of the service, people present were asked if they would be interested in participating in similar dialogues with each other. The response was overwhelmingly positive.

During the fall of 2011, the first of the six monthly sessions began again at Penn Avenue Baptist Church with 71 community members in attendance. At each session, the Bishop’s Committee seminar team presented an introduction to the topic, after which small groups met for an hour of dialogue.<sup>2</sup> Among the group of participants were the mayor of Oxford and several City Council members.

The energy and spirit coming from the group was astounding. There was a strong desire to continue the dialogue that had been begun. It truly was the movement of the Holy Spirit.

The dialogue is set to continue over four additional sessions. Those sessions are titled “Institutionalized Racism,” “White Privilege and Internalized Racist Oppression,” “Racial Identity and Colorism” and “Putting it All to Work.”

Expressing his hope for the future, Pastor Willie Darby said, “When people see each other on the street or in Walmart, they will see each other as people, not black or white, but people with the same emotions and hopes as they have.”

And let the church say, Amen.

### Seeing the Face of God in Each Other

The next day long seminar offered in the Diocese will be held on December 8, 2012, 8:30am-4:30pm at Emmanuel, Southern Pines. Register online at <http://bit.ly/SQp2Mu>.

Considering holding a seminar in your parish? Contact Martha Waters at 919-469-5154 or [martha.wtrs@gmail.com](mailto:martha.wtrs@gmail.com) for more information.

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Martha Waters is a member of the Bishops’ Committee for Racial Justice and Reconciliation. Contact her at [martha.wtrs@gmail.com](mailto:martha.wtrs@gmail.com).

<sup>1</sup> Members of the Oxford clergy group are the Rev. John Heinemeier (St. Cyprian’s), the Rev. Willie Darby (Penn Avenue Baptist), the Rev. Ronnie Morton (Greater Joy Baptist), the Rev. Lacy L Joyner (First Baptist), the Rev. Waverly Mills (Philadelphia Baptist), the Revs. Steve Bolton and Dennis Herman (Oxford Baptist), Bishop J. Phillip Betts (Cornerstone Christian), the Rev. George Green (New Life Baptist), the Rev. Tolokon Omokunde (Timothy Darling Presbyterian), the Rev. David Haley (Oxford United Methodist), the Rev. George Bullock (Mountain Springs Baptist), the Rev. Spotswood Burwell (New Hope Baptist) and the Rev. Alan Felton.

<sup>2</sup> Members of The Seminar Committee of the Bishop’s Committee for Racial Justice and Reconciliation who participated as facilitators in the Oxford Dialogs are Martha Waters, Georgie Gracie and the Rev. Nita Byrd (St. Paul’s, Cary); Rhonda Reid Moody (St. Ambrose, Raleigh) and Martina Gardner Woods (St. Stephens, Durham).

# CROSSES AND TORCHES AND BANNERS...OH MY!

*Q. What is the ministry of the laity?*

*A. The ministry of lay persons is to represent Christ and his Church; to bear witness to him wherever they may be; and, according to the gifts given them, ...to take their place in the life, worship, and governance of the Church.*

*- The Catechism, The Book of Common Prayer, pg. 855*

On Saturday, October 6, 2012, the Washington National Cathedral came alive with clergy, vergers and acolytes from 18 states and the District of Columbia during the 33rd Annual National Acolyte Festival. The Rt. Rev. James B. Magness, Bishop Suffragan for Armed Services and Federal Ministries of the Episcopal Church, presided over the two hour long service that more than 700 acolytes attended. Nine young acolytes from the Church of the Good Shepherd, Raleigh—Hunter Sharp, Zach Morrison, Nicolas Dorer, Wini Dorer, Catherine McSorley, Erin Flynn, Ainsley Seiger, Elizabeth Howard and James Kuhns— participated wholeheartedly in this rich tradition of the Episcopal Church. Through their involvement in this service at the National Cathedral, they join in the company of so many wonderful young adults across the country who share a passion for this important ministry.



Clockwise, from top left: Catherine McSorley watches her kite as she carefully maneuvers it through the sanctuary. Good Shepherd acolytes pose outside the Washington National Cathedral before the festival service. A Church of the Good Shepherd acolyte carries the parish's banner during the procession. Washington National Cathedral hosted the 33rd annual National Acolyte Festival. As everyone who has ever been on a youth trip knows, a photo in the van is mandatory. Completely by coincidence, cathedral staff selected Hugh Overman, a Good Shepherd acolyte who was visiting his grandmother in D.C., to carry the elements for the Eucharist. *Photos by Debbie Flynn, Stephanie Bias, Ellen McSorley, David Stroud and Emily Howard.*

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## BISHOPS' VISITATIONS

	BISHOP CURRY	BISHOP GREGG	BISHOP MARBLE
2-Dec-12	St. Andrew's, Greensboro	St. Luke's, Durham	St. Andrew's, Rocky Mount
9-Dec-12	St. Mark's/Guadalupana, Wilson	Redeemer, Greensboro	
16-Dec-12	St. Luke's, Eden	St. Mark's, Huntersville	
23-Dec-12	<b>Area 4</b> Emmanuel, All Saints', Warrenton; Good Shepherd, Ridgeway; St. James, Kittrell	St. Christopher's, High Point	
30-Dec-12	No Visitations	No Visitations	
6-Jan-13	Emmanuel, Southern Pines	Trinity, Statesville	
13-Jan-13	Galloway, Elkin	St. Michael & All Angels, Charlotte	
20-Jan-13	Holy Innocents, Henderson	St. James, Mooresville	
27-Jan-13	St. Andrew's, Charlotte		
3-Feb-13	St. Luke's, Salisbury	St. John's, Henderson	St. Luke's, Yanceyville
10-Feb-13	Diocese of Barbados	St. Bartholomew's, Pittsboro	
17-Feb-13	St. Alban's, Littleton	Calvary/All Souls, Wadesboro	
24-Feb-13	St. Thomas, Sanford	Christ Church, Albemarle	St. Mark's, Roxboro

Bishops' visitations are subject to change. To confirm a specific date, please contact the Bishop's office at 919.834.7474 or email Margo Acomb at [margo.acomb@episdionc.org](mailto:margo.acomb@episdionc.org).