

WASHINGTON window

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The District of Columbia and the Maryland Counties of Montgomery, Prince George's, Charles and St. Mary's

Bishops lobby for a just world

Health care, immigration and the environment top the list of issues

By Lynette Wilson

[Episcopal News Service] Seven bishops representing 200,000 Episcopalians from Maine to California made the case for health care and immigration reform, and stricter environmental protection on Capitol Hill Sept. 16.

Bishops Working for a Just World, organized by the Episcopal Public Policy Network's Office of Government Relations and guided by General Convention resolutions, met Sept. 14-16 to lobby

Congress and meet with more than 30 elected officials and/or their legislative staffs on behalf of the Episcopal Church.

SEE ALSO:
Bishop's column
Page 2

"Our involvement says that it's appropriate for Christians to be involved in conversation about social issues and bring an informed, theological perspective to the discussion," said Diocese of Connecticut Bishop James E. Curry, the group's convener. "We [bishops] model that, and I could make the case that that is more important than taking a



Photo by Lynette Wilson/ENS

Connecticut Bishop James Curry and DeWayne Davis, domestic policy analyst for the Episcopal Church's D.C.-based Office of Government Relations, meet on Capitol Hill Sept. 16.

stand [on a specific issue]." Bishops Working for a Just World is a caucus within the House of Bishops devoted to

fulfilling the baptismal covenant to "strive for justice and peace and respect the dignity of every human

being." "We began in 1993 to try to reclaim our public voice,"

see *JUST WORLD*, page 4



Photo by James Woody

A house on the future site of the Bishop Walker School is demolished Sept. 14.

Bishop Walker School starts its second year

By Lucy Chumbley

School is back in session at the Bishop John T. Walker School for Boys, with a brand new class of Pre-K students and two new faculty members - Angela Garcia, lead teacher and director of the early childhood program, and associate teacher Annie Winder.

Also new at the school is Jana Gowan, a volunteer teaching assistant from Trinity, Piney Branch, who will spend time in both classrooms this

school year, and Giselle Pole, manager of development operations, who started work in the school office this spring.

The original faculty remain - with the exception of school chaplain, the Rev. Kwasi Thornell, who retires in mid-October. Bruce Holmes has moved up to teach kindergarten, Maxine Collie is welcoming the Pre-K pupils and Geraldine Hubbard is overseeing the after-school program.

see *WALKER SCHOOL*, page 8

inTHEwindow



ANIMAL BLESSING:
Page 4
Parishes around the diocese honor St. Francis of Assisi



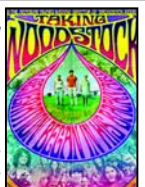
BODY OF CHRIST:
Page 7
Meet the Church of the Transfiguration, Silver Spring



150th BIRTHDAY:
Page 9
St. Barnabas' Church of the Deaf celebrates 150 years



WINDOW ON FILM:
Page 12
Featuring Woodstock, extraterrestrials and time travelers



Where is the church on healthcare?

The summer months have been filled with some of the most acrid and emotionally charged debate I have experienced regarding healthcare reform. The newspaper and television coverage of town hall debates, public forums and congressional harpoonings have featured irrational shouting matches, legislative bullying and arguments based on inflated falsehoods that have made a mockery of open public forums and debates. The genius of American democracy and the freedom to engage in respectful public conversation have been replaced with competition for who can yell the loudest and who can generate more misinformation about what the present status of health care in America is and what it will look like in the future. What needs to be understood by

everyone, regardless of what position they hold on this controversial subject, is that health care in the United States is in serious trouble and is in need of significant reform. Health care must be our nation's first domestic priority in 2009.

Spending on health care in the U.S. right now is approximately \$2.5 trillion, which accounts for a whopping 17.6 percent of our Gross Domestic Product. If significant changes in health care expenditures do not happen soon, the cost is conservatively expected to reach \$4.4 trillion by 2018. By 2012, the cost of Medicare and Medicaid will total approximately 50 percent of our total national health care spending.

As Americans we are too often led to believe that our health care system is the best in the world, and yet the real

truth is that we are the only industrialized nation in the world that does not guarantee health care access as a right of citizenship. Along with this fact, many Americans should be stunned by the news that the U.S. ranks 23rd in infant mortality. It ranks 21st in life expectancy for men and 20th for women. And yet we can celebrate that we have the very best health care providers in the world and the best medical infrastructure of any industrialized country. But as we celebrate, these questions need to be asked: "Why is our health care system so expensive, so selective in who can receive its bounty and who cannot, and why do health care costs continue to skyrocket and add to an already depleted U.S. treasury?"

A 2007 survey found that 70 million Americans had difficulty paying their medical bills. Others are forced to file for bankruptcy because they are unable to pay for huge medical expenses either because of insufficient health insurance or no insurance coverage at all.

Add to this that the U.S.

spends at least 40 percent per capita on health care; more than any other industrialized nation in the world that has universal health care.

In an Aug. 27 op-ed in the *New York Times* titled "Health



Bishop John Bryson Chane

Care Fit For Animals," Nicholas D. Kristof makes the point that executives and other decision makers in the health care industry are too often removed from the consequences of the decisions they make, and that their industry defines as best business practices.

Best practices include denying requests for expensive medical procedures, failing to pay medical expenses on an issued health insurance policy held by persons afflicted with cancer or some other costly illness requiring ongoing diagnostics and extensive therapies and treatment.

Writes Kristof: "The insurers are open to one kind of reform - universal coverage through mandates and subsidies so as to give them more customers and more profits. But they don't want the reforms that will most help patients, such as a public insurance option, enforced competition and tighter regu-

lations."

I believe it a crime in the richest, most productive, powerful and innovative country in the world that in 2009 more than 50 million Americans have no health insurance. Of those who have health insurance, more than 60 percent are carrying significant medical debt. The fact that we cannot as a nation discuss the health care crisis with rationality through the medium of respectful dialogue is a national embarrassment.

Expressed fears about socialized medicine and big government takeover are fears that are touted by partisan politicians and insurance companies who seem to care more about the bottom line or about being re-elected to Congress than the collective concern for the welfare of all Americans.

Truth be told, some of the persons who are uninsured are young, in good health and play a poker player's hand, betting they are immune from major or catastrophic illness because of their age and current medical condition. But it is a bad gamble when medical costs are soaring and failure to pay medical bills can lead to bankruptcy or a failed credit rating.

For the millions of uninsured who seek hospital emergency room care or free

see *BISHOP*, page 3

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BISHOP'S visitations&engagements

Oct. 1: Prince George's County clergy lunch. Noon, at Trinity, Upper Marlboro.

Oct. 3: Latino Ministry Celebration: 6 p.m. at Washington National Cathedral

Oct. 4: Trinity, St. Mary's City (Sunday visitation)

Oct. 4: Service for the Rev. Julius Grey-Coker to become honorary canon, 5 p.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 7410 New Hampshire Avenue, Takoma Park

Oct. 6: D.C. clergy lunch. Noon at St. Paul's, Rock Creek

Oct. 7: Montgomery County clergy lunch at noon at Christ Church, Kensington

Oct. 8: ESM Fall Tea. 3:30 p.m. at Washington National Cathedral

Oct. 9: St. Alban's School Centennial Celebration Service, 7 p.m. at Washington National Cathedral

Oct. 10: Acolyte Festival, 10 a.m. at Washington National Cathedral

Oct. 11: St. George's, Glenn Dale (Sunday visitation)

Oct. 13: Clergy Day with Jon Meacham of Newsweek at National 4H Center, Chevy Chase

Oct. 13: Diocesan Council, 6 p.m. at St. Patrick's, D.C.

Oct. 15: Fresh Start at St. Alban's from 9 a.m. to noon

Oct. 17: Regional Assemblies for regions 1, 2, 3, & 4 at Washington Episcopal School

Oct. 18: St. Luke's, Bethesda (Sunday visitation)

Oct. 20: Charles County clergy lunch at noon at St. Paul's, Piney

Oct. 22-Nov. 4: Jerusalem pilgrimage

Panel mulls ways to gauge parish health

Diocesan Council discusses how, and if, congregational viability can be measured

By Lucy Chumbley

What does it mean to be a 'viable congregation'? Is it enough to be able to pay the bills? And if a parish is struggling financially, when, and to what extent, should the diocese get involved?

These questions and others like them were considered during a lengthy discussion on congregational health at the Sept. 15 Diocesan Council meeting.

"Where do the members of council think this church is going to be in 20 years?" asked Bishop John Bryson Chane. "Because those are the kind of issues that we have to address now."

The bishop noted that across the Episcopal Church, dioceses are having similar conversations: seeking ways to strengthen parishes and facing the reality some are no longer viable.

"One of the priorities of the diocese is working with our congregations, strengthening our congregations and helping some of our congregations through significant transitions," he said.

To help the diocese better determine when to step in, Chane suggested that the council consider creating a parish health standard, which he described as a "yardstick for parish health." This

would set specific standards so congregations in distress can be more easily identified, he said.

Finance Committee Chairman Peter Marks said his group has been having a hard time collecting and analyzing income statements and balance sheets from parishes.

"It [is] very, very difficult," he said. "Because we've never gone out to them before and said, This is what we want from you; how we want you to report. ... It's all over the map. We don't really have good uniformity on the parochial report."

"We really need, even if it's only for a short period of time, to find a wellness scale that we can work with here," Chane said, pointing out that parishes can be slow to recognize or accept their situation. "The bottom line is, no patient wants to be told they have a terminal illness."

"No patient wants to be told to go to the doctor, either," Marks said.

"The general overall health of the diocese is at the heart of the matter," said council member Michael Whitson, who also serves on the council's steering group. "I think we will continue our discussion about what's our role in that and what it should be."

Canon to the Ordinary Paul Cooney said that in previous times the diocese had chartered a committee on the state of the diocese to study the issue of parish health.

"I don't know that we would need one on a permanent basis," he said. "But it may be a worthy next step. It would add more precision to our understanding."

Over the last year, Cooney has offered a series of "State of the Diocese" presentations to the council, documenting trends in areas such as membership, Sunday attendance and congregational giving.

"I think it would be a worthy idea to get a broader sense - not just from me - of where we are, and develop a framework for helpful conversations," he said.

Presenting his most recent "10-year snapshot" of life in the diocese, Cooney noted that while membership numbers have not changed much and average Sunday attendance has slipped, the statistics show an upward trend in pledging, which he described as "perplexing."

"I don't know what to take from this," he said. "I think the data is kind of ambiguous."

"What we don't have is a set of aspirational objectives," he added. "By default, if a congregation can pay all its bills, it can say it's a success. We don't, as a community, have a consen-

sus on what are the minimum standards for having the privilege of being an individual community - and it's not all about money."

The Rev. Stephanie Nagley, council moderator, noted that not all the indicators of parish health were tangible: "How do you get a happiness index?" she asked. "How satisfied are [parishioners] with what's going on?" In other matters, Cooney presented the council with the first draft of the diocese's 2010 operating budget, which he described as being "essentially a steady-state budget."

After a "slow start" with parish pledges this year, and some resulting anxiety, "I think we're plugging along pretty well," he said, adding that "the Bishop's Appeal is well ahead of budget."

The 2010 budget projects an increase of 2 percent in congregational giving compared to 2009. It reflects significant savings from staff layoffs in 2009 and assumes no cost of living increases to diocesan staff salaries. It also assumes, as there will be no COLA increase, that the level of employee cost-sharing for health insurance will remain at 10 percent, instead of moving up to 20 percent as originally projected. Other expenses reflect the decision, this summer, to lower the diocese's giving to the national church by not tithing from the Soper Fund.

BISHOP, from page 2

medical clinic care, the costs are underwritten by Americans who are currently insured or by the states that financially support these clinics.

For the elderly, there is great fear that their benefits will either be cut or that when in dire straits they will no longer receive the kind of good and compassionate medical care that they need and deserve.

For those of us who are blessed with excellent, comprehensive health care coverage and where money spent seems to be no object, there is fear that we will no longer be able to have such privileged and individualized health care coverage.

The people who always bear the greatest burden for the failure of the American health care system are the millions who live at or below the poverty line in our country. Others who suffer from the American health care dilemma are the many thousands of our nation's children, small business owners, their employees, the elderly and the terminally ill who wonder what will happen to their cover-

age if a health care bill is finally passed and signed into law by the President.

Jesus in his teaching reminds us that we are commanded to love our neighbors as ourselves. Loving in this biblical sense has a far greater meaning than having affection for one another. It means bearing each other's burdens and making it possible for all to have an opportunity to live an abundant life. Where is there abundance when 50 million of our citizens are subject to uninsured illness and accidents and where the wealthy have an abundance of excellent health care while the poor are left to feed off the scraps from the table?

Jesus in his parabolic teaching speaks to the apostle Peter and reminds him that his greatest work as a disciple is to feed his sheep. And feeding the sheep is not just about making sure they get enough to eat. It means caring for all of God's people and feeding them physically, spiritually and emotionally.

Where is the church, Christ's body, in the current health care debate? Where are you?

Interfaith Prayer Vigil



Photo by Lynette Wilson/ENS

Diocese of Rochester Bishop Prince Singh speaks at a Sept. 15 interfaith prayer vigil in Washington, D.C. Singh, faith leaders, members of Congress and others gathered in prayer to call for an end to hateful rhetoric in immigration debate, at the vigil organized by the Interfaith Immigration Coalition, of which the Episcopal Church is a member.

JUST WORLD, from page 1

Curry said.

The bishops' three-day meeting included a workshop on community organizing, guest speakers, and a legislative briefing by OGR staff, a prayer vigil and Eucharist. The visit also coincided with the release of Sen. Max Baucus (D-Mont.) and the Senate Finance Committee's plan to remake the health care system and offer coverage for millions of uninsured.

"The bill wasn't received well," said DeWayne Davis, OGR's domestic policy analyst, adding that the Senate will have to work in the coming weeks to reconcile its differences and that the House is still working on its bill.

"Members still believe that we are going to get health care this year," he said.

July's General Convention passed several health-care-related resolutions (C071, D048 and D088) in support of universal access to good quality, affordable health care in the United States, and called on Congress to pass comprehensive health-care reform this year. It also adopted Resolution B006,

which called for comprehensive immigration reform that would allow millions of undocumented immigrants who have established roots in the U.S., including parents and spouses of legal immigrants, to have a "pathway to legalization and to full social and economic integration into the United States."

General Convention also adopted resolutions addressing environmental issues, including climate change, global warming, economic and environmental justice, creation care and renewable energy.

Though the congressional visits centered on the bishops' requests for universal, affordable, quality health care for all Americans; comprehensive immigration reform grounded in family unity; and support for the climate bill, the recent infusion of incivility into politics and public discourse entered the discussion.

Sens. Frank R. Lautenberg (D-N.J.) and Susan M. Collins (R-Maine) expressed concern over the nature of the health care debate in their meetings with Bishops Mark Beckwith (Newark) and Stephen Lane (Maine)

the bishops said.

Arguments, shouting and the spread of misinformation have characterized town hall meetings nationwide and have proliferated online since the health care reform debate heated up over the summer. More recently Rep. Joe Wilson (R-S.C.) shouted "you lie" when President Barack Obama said during a Sept. 9 address that illegal immigrants wouldn't be given access to coverage under the current plan for health care reform. Wilson's outburst led former President Jimmy Carter to suggest that some of the protests against and opposition to Obama are rooted in racism.

Racism was part of the discussion during a meeting between Sen. Benjamin L. Cardin (D-Md.) and Bishops Eugene T. Sutton (Maryland) and John Bryson Chane (Washington). Sutton reminded Cardin, who is Jewish, that Cardin had sent a Muslim staff member to represent him at a celebration commemorating the 325th anniversary of Diocese of Maryland's oldest church. "We were celebrating the fact that a Jewish senator sent a Muslim to worship at our Christian celebration," he

said. "And that's what Maryland is all about."

OGR, which organized and supported the meetings, was created by Executive Council in 1979. Its mandate is to lobby Congress and the president in response to legislation passed at General Convention.

"These were very good meetings. I am happy the Office of Government Relations could set these up," Sutton said. "Elected officials need to meet with religious leaders who are not intolerant and who don't abuse positions of power to shame, demean or demand."

The Sept. 16 meetings were just a start, said Mary Getz, OGR's grassroots coordinator.

"What the bishops were doing here was starting and building relationships," she said. "The bishops have plans to make follow up visits in the members' home districts."

The bishops also hope to inspire Episcopalians to get involved. The EPPN offers educational and technological resources to all Episcopalians interested in participating in public life. Learn more about at www.episcopalchurch.org/eppn.

Parishes around the diocese celebrate the feast day of St. Francis with pet blessings

Many parishes will honor the feast of St. Francis with a Blessing of the Animals. Here is a selection of services taking place around the diocese:

St. Augustine's, D.C., Blessing of the Animals

Oct. 3, 4 p.m. at St. Augustine's, D.C., on the Southwest waterfront. All animals, leashed or crated are welcome to the 6th Street SW lawn, or if it's raining, inside the sanctuary. Treats for all creatures great and small, and their owners. 202/554-3222, rector@staugustinesdc.org.

Capitol Hill, Blessing of Animals

Oct. 3 at 10 a.m. in Lincoln Park (11th and East Capitol Streets SE) St. Monica and St. James, Capitol Hill, will host a pet blessing. Pets and owners of all denominations are welcome for benedictions and biscuits (doggie) on the feast day of St. Francis. The Rev. Milton C. Williams will do the honors. 202/546-1746

Christ, Clinton

Blessing of the Animals

Oct. 3, at 1 p.m., during the church's Community Day and Open House.

St. Timothy's, D.C., Blessing of the Animals

Oct. 3, mid-morning service at St. Timothy's, D.C. (3601 Alabama Avenue S.E.) The service is part of the church's homecoming celebration. 202/582-7740

Redeemer, Bethesda, Blessing of the Animals

Oct. 4, 12:30 to 1 p.m. at Redeemer, Bethesda. Pets of all kinds are welcome! Treats for all of God's creatures will be provided.

Christ, Capitol Hill, Blessing of the Animals

Oct. 4, 2 to 3 p.m. at Christ, Capitol Hill. All are welcome, from cats and dogs, to birds, fish or hamsters. Also blessing stuffed animals and photos of pets that do not travel well. Pet owners must ensure their animal friend is on a leash or caged. Cider, donuts and animal treats will be served after the blessing.


Washington National Cathedral, Blessing of the Animals

Oct. 4, from 1:30 p.m. on the front steps of Washington National Cathedral. Renowned oceanographer and National Geographic explorer-in-residence Sylvia Earle will participate. A brief prayer service, followed by individual blessings for companion animals (and aquatic life), begins at 2:30 p.m. Adoptable animals from Washington Animal Rescue League and Washington Humane Society will be in attendance and ready to greet the public before the service, beginning at 1:30 p.m. Earle also will speak at the Cathedral's Sunday Forum at 10:10 a.m. Oct. 4.



File photo courtesy of Heather Calloway

Tongue lolling, this dog awaits his blessing at Our Saviour, Brookland.



ANNUAL DIOCESAN HUNGER WALK

Sunday, October 18, starting at 1:30 p.m.

COME WALK WITH US IN TWO LOCATIONS:

Lake Artemesia in College Park, Md.

http://www.pgiparks.com/Things_To_Do/Nature/Lake_Artemesia.htm

OR

The new Indian Head Rail trail in Charles County

http://www.charlescounty.org/pfi/parks_rec/parks/trails.jsp

Materials have been mailed out to all churches in the Diocese.

Contact Lee Mericle at imericle@acm.org or 301/434-6635 with any questions.





IN BRIEF

Georgia diocese elects Scott Benhase as bishop

[ENS] The Rev. Scott Benhase, rector of St. Alban's, D.C., was elected Sept. 12 as 10th bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Georgia.



Benhase

Benhase, 52, was elected on the second ballot from a field of six nominees. He received 76 votes of 146 cast in the lay order and 58 of 103 cast in the clergy order.

The election took place during the diocese's 188th annual convention at the Dubose Porter Center, a business and training center in Dublin, Georgia.

Providing he receives the required consents, Benhase will succeed Georgia's ninth bishop, Henry I.

Louttit, who has served the diocese since January 1995. The ordination and consecration is set for Jan. 23 at the Savannah International Trade and Convention Center.

Latino Ministry to be launched at St. Alban's

St. Alban's, D.C. will launch a new Latino Ministry during an Oct. 4 service at which the Rt. Rev. Julio Holguin, bishop of the Episcopal Church of the Dominican Republic, will preside.

The new ministry will continue with weekly Sunday services in Spanish, held in the church at 5 p.m. The Rev. Simón Bautista, the diocese's canon for Latino ministry, will serve as priest, and music will be provided by musician Julio Cuellar.

"I believe that it just makes sense," Bautista said. "For St. Alban's it just made sense to have some services oriented to the growing Latino population in the immediate area."

Plans for the new ministry have been under way for about a year, Bautista said.

"We're not only targeting Spanish

speakers," he said. "We're also targeting English speakers with some background in Spanish who are interested in reaching out to Spanish speakers. Anyone who wants to participate, who wants to support us in this new effort is welcome. It's a new baby being born in our diocese."

The ministry will operate on a trial basis for one year, after which an assessment will be made about its continuation. An advisory group consisting initially of Lauri Fitz-Pegado and Richard Parkins will help foster linkages between the new congregation and St. Alban's and assist with some of the foundational work needed to move the ministry forward.

Bishop Peter Lee celebrates 25 years of Va. ministry

[ENS] The Diocese of Virginia celebrated Bishop Peter James Lee's 25 years of ministry on Sept. 19, with a silver jubilee and service of leave-taking at St. Paul's in Richmond, Va.

"Bishop Lee's 25 years of ministry have been marked by a gracious wisdom and an ability to help build the church's broad and welcoming cen-

ter," said Bishop Coadjutor Shannon S. Johnston of Virginia.

Beginning Oct. 1, Lee will continue his ministry as interim dean of Grace Cathedral in San Francisco, the largest Episcopal cathedral on the West Coast. Johnston will succeed Lee to become the 13th bishop of Virginia on Oct. 1.

George Werner leads U.S. Representatives in prayer

[ENS] The Very Rev. George Werner, former president of the Episcopal Church's House of Deputies, led the United States House of Representatives in prayer when it convened Sept. 10.

"Strengthen our vision and courage to do right," he prayed on the morning after President Barack Obama's address on healthcare to a joint session of Congress.

Werner, who was invited to lead the prayer by Rep. Jason Altmire (D-Pa.), served two terms as president of the House of Deputies and is a trustee of the Church Pension Group. He is also dean emeritus of Trinity Cathedral in Pittsburgh.

CALENDAR, from back cover

10, 17 and 24, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.) Contact gibdoc@yahoo.com.

arts&music

Vocal ensemble from St. Petersburg, Russia

Oct. 2, 7 p.m. at Christ, Durham. LYRA, a vocal ensemble of professional musicians from St. Petersburg, Russia, will introduce the musical heritage of the Russian Orthodox Church and Russian folk music.

Choral Evensong series at Christ, Georgetown

Oct. 4 at 5 p.m. The music of William Smith, Peter Aston and Stephen Paulus, sung by the professional Choir of Christ Church. Free. 202/333-6677.

Hispanic Eucharist Music Festival

Oct. 4, 11 a.m. at St. John's, Lafayette Square. All are welcome.

Tuesday Concert Series

Oct. 6, 12:10 to 1 p.m. at Epiphany, D.C. Washington Bach Consort. Noontime Cantata Series - Johann Sebastian Bach: Cantata "Gleichwie der Regen und Schnee," BWV 18; Prelude & Fugue in E Minor, BWV 548; J. Reilly Lewis, organ

First Wednesdays

Organ Concert Series

Oct. 7, 12:10 p.m. at St. John's, Lafayette Square. Program 1: Michael Lodico, associate choirmaster and

organist: American, English and French Romantics, including works by Elgar, Barber, Vierne and Howells. 202/347-8766 or Michael_lodicojr@yahoo.com.

St. Augustine's

Art & Spirit Coffeehouse

Oct. 7, 7 p.m. at St. Augustine's, D.C. Los Angeles artist Lucas Reiner will discuss his oil paintings of radically trimmed trees, another series on fireworks, and his plans to paint Stations of the Cross series for St. Augustine's. Free event includes coffee and desserts, followed by a facilitated Q&A. Donations accepted. 202/554-3222, rector@staugustinesdc.org.

Choral Evensong

Oct. 7, 5:30 to 6 p.m. at Redeemer, Bethesda. Sung prayer led by Redeemer's treble choristers. Liturgy includes traditional settings of the responses, psalm, and canticles, as well as an anthem and a hymn.

Inscape Chamber Orchestra

Oct. 11, 5 to 6:30 p.m. at Redeemer, Bethesda. Eclectic program featuring Richard Wagner's symphonic poem Siegfried Idyll and György Ligeti's Old Hungarian Ballroom Dances. Also a premiere by composer John McGinn. Free-will offering. Reception to follow.

Tuesday Concert Series

Oct. 13, 12:10 to 1 p.m. at Epiphany, D.C. Levine School of Music Faculty; Irina Kats, piano. Mussorgsky: Pictures at an Exhibition.

Choral Evensong for

the Feast of St. Luke

Oct. 18, 4 p.m. at St. Paul's, Rock Creek. Sung by the professional choir of St. Paul's, Rock Creek Parish. 202/726-2080.

Choral Evensong series

Oct. 18, 5 p.m. at Christ, Georgetown. The music of Herbert W. Sumsion, Herbert Murrill and William Mundy. Sung by the professional Choir of Christ Church. Free. 202/333-6677.

Verdi's Requiem

Oct. 18, 4 p.m. at Washington National Cathedral. 202/537-5524 or acombe@cathedral.org.

Tuesday Concert Series

Oct. 20, 12:10 to 1 p.m. at Epiphany, D.C. Covington String Quartet Greg Pinney, violin; Luke Wedge, violin; Will Hurd, viola; Frank McKinster, cello

Tuesday Concert Series

Oct. 27, 12:10 to 1 p.m. at Epiphany, D.C. Michelle Kim, violin; Igor Zubkovsky, cello; Diane Winter Pyles, piano

services&worship

Latino Ministry Celebration

Oct. 3, 6 p.m. at Washington National Cathedral. Bishop John B. Chane will preside, and Bishop Julio Cesar Holguin, of the Episcopal Church in the Dominican Republic, will preach. A fiesta and dinner will follow. For more information, contact the Rev. Simón Bautista at 202/537-

6441 or sbautista@edow.org

Latino Ministry launch at St. Alban's, D.C.

Oct. 4 at 5 p.m. St. Alban's, D.C., will kick off its new Latino ministry with a service where the Rt. Rev. Julio Holguin, bishop of the Episcopal Church of the Dominican Republic, will preside. Following this event, a Spanish-language service, with music, will be held at 5 p.m. each Sunday at St. Alban's. All are invited. Contact sbautista@edow.org

Taize Service

Oct. 5, 7:30 p.m. to: 8:30 p.m. at Redeemer, Bethesda. An informal, contemplative service with scripture, icons, incense, silence and chant accompanied by piano, guitar, and other instruments.

5 Autumn Evenings Of Prayer

Wednesdays at 6 p.m. from Oct. 7 to Nov. 4 at Epiphany, D.C. Pray contemplatively with the images and words of autumn, to become more aware of God's presence in the season and our response to God. Attend any or all of the sessions. RSVP to swalker@epiphanydc.org, or 202/347-2635 ext 20.

A Service of Healing & Holy Eucharist

Oct. 19, 7:30 p.m. at Redeemer, Bethesda. Prayers for healing, laying on of hands, and Holy Eucharist, held on the third Monday of every month.

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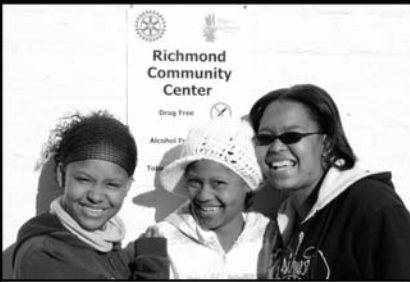
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ESM Episcopal Senior Ministries www.ESM.org

Hope in Richmond, South Africa



Four years ago parishioners at St. Peter's, Poolesville, formed Hope in Richmond. What started out as a partnership with St. Matthew's, Richmond, South Africa, has grown to include partners in both countries, including Christ Church, Rockville, Rotary International (via Frederick, MD), Grassroot Soccer, and a host of South African

individuals who make up Hope in Richmond.

Today, Hope in Richmond is a host of ministries centered on a community center. At the community center:

- Children learn about HIV/AIDS and making good choices through Grassroot Soccer;
- Up to 200 children are fed daily;
- People infected with HIV/AIDS receive advice and treatment at an AIDS Outreach Center;
- Children can read books and play educational games in the new resource center;
- Children can find a safe place to gather;
- A community comes together to support itself.

Lives are being changed and some of the greatest challenges of a community are being met. As the bishop of the diocese of Kimberley and Kuruman explained during the most recent trip to Richmond, "Our greatest challenge is that of leadership." By raising up leaders from within Hope in Richmond and all its partners can meet any challenge.

The Community Center model of Hope in Richmond will expand in 2010 to share resources with the neighboring communities of Colesburg and De Aar, South Africa. It is an exciting time for this still-new partnership, but the possibilities for the work of God's kingdom are almost limitless.

Send checks payable to "Diocese of Washington," indicate they are for "Hope in Richmond," and mail to: Cheryl Daves Wilburn, Episcopal Church House, Mt. St. Alban, Washington, DC 20016.

Please visit the Southern Africa Partnership Committee web site: www.edow.org/sapc.

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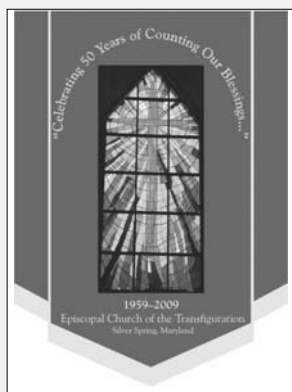
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 Wed., Nov. 11 9 AM
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 Tues., Jan. 5 9 AM



BODY OF CHRIST



Transfiguration, Silver Spring

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301/384-6264

www.transfig.org

Established in 1961; 443 members

The Rev. Margaret Ingalls, Rector

Body of Christ aims to introduce readers to a different parish in the church family of the Diocese of Washington each month. This month, writer Diane Ney speaks with the Rev. Meg Ingalls, rector of Transfiguration, Silver Spring, to learn more about the life, history, plans and character of that congregation.

WW: This year Transfiguration

Parish is celebrating its 50th anniversary.

INGALLS: Yes, we began celebrating back in the early spring with a prayer breakfast, followed by a Pentecost homecoming service. We're having a dinner dance on Nov. 6, and Bishop Chane will be with us for a prayer service of thanksgiving on Nov. 8. It's been a great celebration. People who were former members came back for the homecoming service, and we had an international luncheon afterwards, with lots of different kinds of food. One of the neatest things about that service was that the Rev. Rich Kukowski, who had been the rector here for 27 years, was made rector emeritus.

WW: You've been at Transfiguration for about a year and a half.

INGALLS: And I am super pleased to be in the Diocese of Washington.

WW: As someone relatively new to the parish, what would you say attracts people to it?

INGALLS: Its diversity. We have people from so many different cultures. We have people from a lot of African countries, such as Sierra Leone, Liberia, Uganda and Nigeria. And we have people from the West Indies, Jamaica. And we have African Americans. It's a really good mix.

WW: OK, how does that work with the music?

INGALLS: Well, just about everybody loves *Lift Every Voice and Sing*, and then there are people who really like the hymnal, too. And we try to bring in music from other cultures. We have a very nice choir, with some wonderful sopranos, which not every church has, and a terrific choir direc-

tor. Elton King has been here about 22 years and he's just really wonderful.

WW: Do you have services honoring the various cultural groups in your parish?

INGALLS: What we have done is use various Anglican liturgies from around the world. For example, last year when the diocese was asking parishes to have services of reconciliation, Transfiguration's service included elements of a service that came out of Kenya. And that made the reconciliation service, which was already meaningful, very lively and engaging. The interesting thing to me about this parish is that even though it has changed so much over the years, there's still a strong sense of tradition. For instance, every Easter they have what is called the Bunny Breakfast and the Easter Bunny shows up and the kids just love it. And Pentecost is always a time of real celebration. So many things like that speak to the traditions of the parish.

WW: Of course, what Transfiguration was dealing with 50 years ago is different in many ways from what you're dealing with now.

INGALLS: Absolutely. And we're making a real strong effort to be welcoming and ready for the changes coming. For instance, we're sitting at the very edge of where the Intercounty Connector is going to come through. So one of the things we're wrestling with is how to make ourselves visible to the new community that is being brought to our door. And in the meantime, the parish continues to work with Action in Montgomery. This past year, that

work included having a sidewalk put in on Good Hope Road, and setting aside money for low-income housing. Our outreach is fairly strong and our evangelism is at the growing edge at this moment.

WW: Reaching out to new members is always a challenge.

INGALLS: Yes, but then good things happen. Just this past Sunday, a young man showed up - he was probably in his 20s - who had never been baptized and was looking for a church to join. And this was the Sunday when the H. Too Wesley family, members of Transfiguration from Liberia, were having their family reunion and had come to worship together. And there the Wesley family was in its beautiful African dress and this young man was so taken by that that he said, "I think I've found the church for me."

WW: Something like that is a wonderful testimony to the spirit of Transfiguration.

INGALLS: And let me tell you that that spirit includes our openness to participation by our parishioners in important decisions. This Sunday we're having a Name and Claim Sunday. We have a building that was used for decades by the Quakers and now it's available and we're trying to decide what kind of community ministries we can have in that building. We're looking at a lot of possibilities, including a food pantry. So, this Sunday our members will have the opportunity to claim and name the ministries they'd like to see Transfiguration take on as part of our mission.

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Wednesday, November 11th
Saturday, December 5th
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Potosomac, MD 20854

PRESCHOOL (AGE 2) - GRADE 3
Tuesday, November 17th
Saturday, December 12th
Potomac Village Campus
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REGIONAL ASSEMBLIES 2009

Clergy, wardens and convention delegates are entitled to vote and should plan to come. Vestry members also are encouraged to come to participate in discussions.

Regions 1, 2, 3 & 4: Oct. 17, 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon, Washington Episcopal School

Regions 5 & 6: Nov. 21, 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon, Queen Anne School

ELECTIONS:

Region 1: Clerical Representative to Diocesan Council - 3 year term (2013)

Region 2: Regional Convener - 3 year term (2013)

Region 3: Lay Representative to Diocesan Council - 3 year term (2013)

Region 4: Lay Representative to Diocesan Council - 3 year term

(2013)

Region 5: Regional Convener - 3 year term (2013); Clerical Representative to Diocesan Council - to fill a vacancy (2012)

Region 6: Clerical Representative to Diocesan Council - 3 year term (2013)

NOMINATIONS BY REGION (elect nominees to run at Convention):

- 1 Clerical and 1 Lay nominees for Member of Standing Committee, 2 year term (2012)
- 1 Clerical and 1 Lay nominees for At-Large member of Diocesan Council (2013)
- 1 Clerical and 1 Lay nominees for Ecclesiastical Trial Court, 5 year term (2015)

Further information can be found at <http://governance.edow.org> or contact Ann Talty, Governance Officer, at 202/537-6548; atalty@edow.org.

Bishop Walker School continues to thrive

from page 1

Hopes had run high that the school would be able to relocate to its permanent facility on Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue in Congress Heights this fall, but building plans have been delayed by the District's permit approval process.

This means the Pre-K class will remain at St. Philip's, Anacostia through the fall semester, said the Rev. Preston Hannibal, the diocese's canon for academic ministries, and the kindergarten class has set up temporary residence across the street at St. Theresa of Avila, a Catholic church.

The Rev. Bill Lewis, rector of St. Philip's, and the St. Philip's Child Development Center have been invaluable in helping the Walker School get on its feet, Hannibal said, noting that Lewis was instrumental in forging the connection with St. Theresa's.

In addition to sharing a food service provider and some custodial arrangements, the two programs have taken part in some joint field trips and spe-

cial events such as puppet shows.

"It's been of mutual benefit," Lewis said. "It's been wonderful. I think what really helped us has been the communication. Our director is always in touch with the [Bishop Walker School staff]. So if there are any problems, we meet, we discuss and we move on."

As the Bishop Walker School currently operates under the St. Philip's CDC's license, Leslie Downing, executive director of the CDC, has provided some welcome administrative support for the school's dealings with the city, said James Woody, the Walker School's director of external operations, by helping the school navigate the District's record-keeping requirements.

"That's been exceedingly helpful," Hannibal said. "To have that infrastructure to tap into and to learn from. They have made our first year a lot easier. They have helped us in the transition to a full-fledged school."

"There's a real sense of cooperation," Woody said. "We couldn't have done it without them. They provided the space to get this thing launched.

Without them there would be no Bishop Walker School."

"We are very hopeful that even after the move to Holy Communion, the relationship will continue, because we see ourselves as a feeder school to the Bishop Walker School," Lewis said.

Two pupils from St. Philip's CDC are now enrolled at the Walker School, and "we would very much like to have students as they come to Pre-K age at least consider the Walker School," Hannibal said, adding that Downing "has been very helpful in directing kids from her program into our program."

Meanwhile, Woody said, the school is in the final stages of the process to obtain a building permit, which is needed before renovation work can take place at the Church of the Holy Communion, which will be the school's permanent home.

After the permit is granted, he said, there will be an approximately four-month construction process, so if all goes well, the building could be completed sometime in January.

The planned three-story building will contain classrooms, conference rooms and meeting/multi-purpose space. The education wing of Holy

Communion also will be renovated and brought up to code, with elevators and a sprinkler system being installed.

A house that stood on property adjacent to the church, which was purchased by the diocese for the school in January 2008, was demolished on Sept. 14, and the site has now been completely cleared and graded.

In its place is perhaps the clearest sign that a new school is coming to the neighborhood: a playground, designed by KaBoom! and built in a single day with grant money from the J. Willard and Alice S. Marriott Foundation.

On Sept. 25, around 150 students, parents and faculty from St. Alban's School and the Bishop Walker School joined community members and parish volunteers to build the playground. The ribbon was cut in a special ceremony on the same day.

"At some point in time you have to get started," Lewis reflected. "You can't wait for everything to be in place before you start, so I'm glad they decided to get started. I'm glad we've been able to assist."



Photos by James Woody

Going, going, gone! A house on a property in Congress Heights purchased by the diocese in 2008 for the new Bishop John T. Walker School for Boys was torn down Sept. 14 to make way for the school's new playground.



St. Barnabas' Church of the Deaf celebrates 150 years

St. Barnabas' Church of the Deaf celebrated 150 years of continuous ministry on Aug. 30 with a special Eucharist celebrating Gallaudet/Syle Day followed by a catered luncheon and a history presentation and program. (The Gallaudet family were pioneers in deaf education; and Henry Winter Syle was the first deaf person to be ordained into the Episcopal Church).

St. Barnabas' began in 1859 when the Rev. Thomas Gallaudet came to Washington, D.C., from New York to teach a Bible Study class at the hearing congregation of St. John's, Lafayette Square. On Feb. 27, 1859, six deaf persons attended the study and Gallaudet signed and spoke the lesson. What is now St. Barnabas' Episcopal Church of the Deaf was born at that Bible Study.

The anniversary Eucharist was celebrated by the Rev. Roger A. Pickering, retired vicar of All Souls' Church for the Deaf in Philadelphia, with the Rev. Barbara A. Allen, vicar

of St. Barnabas', preaching. There were 32 people and one hearing dog, Buffy, present.

After lunch, parishioners shared stories and history. Allen gave a presentation on the history of St. Barnabas', and Pickering, who was ordained to the priesthood in 1963, contributed his own stories, sharing his memories of many of the previous priests of St. Barnabas'.

The church also hosted an ecumenical gathering of more than 60 members and guests that afternoon. Pastor Ronald Friedrich, of Christ Lutheran Church for the Deaf in Silver Spring, and his family attended the celebration, along with a large group from their church. Representatives from a Methodist Deaf congregation and a Jewish Deaf congregation also attended.

St. Barnabas's is counting on at least 150 years more of presenting the Gospel to the Deaf Community in the Diocese of Washington and beyond.



Photos courtesy of Sandra Pickering

Jim Lindsay gives a historical reading as the Rev. Thomas Gallaudet during the 150th anniversary celebration of St. Barnabas' Church of the Deaf on Aug. 30 (clockwise from left). The Rev. Barbara Allen, vicar, greets youngsters at the luncheon, where guests included Ginny Lindsay (laughing); Angela Somers, Agnes Sutcliffe, Allen, Derek Braun and Ron Sutcliffe; and Tonya Stremiau and her son.



Reconnecting with God's creation

■ BEARINGS:



Martin L. Smith

I was taking a quiet day at a seminary a few weeks ago, and it set me thinking about the energy I brought to the launching of my own ordained life, almost 40 years ago. What were some of the first things I wanted to commit myself to? Not just in theory but in practice. I began to remember what it meant to me to become chaplain, in 1970, to the new wetland nature reserve that local volunteers were creating from old watercress beds near my parish. Maybe I was one of the first nature reserve chaplains at a time when ecological consciousness was dawning, just eight years after the publication of *Silent Spring*, the book that helped to launch the environmental movement.

Later I volunteered to devote my first vacation as a butterfly catcher to the great European survey of butterfly populations, one of those groundbreaking explorations of the effects of atmospheric pollution on wildlife. The survey needed volunteers who had no expertise or biases about butterflies to catch them randomly in

their thousands so that experts could take a scientific tally of species distribution and numbers. So I spent some weeks darting around meadows in the Massif Central in France, and all over the vast marshes of the Camargue, swirling my net, and bringing my catch to my expert companions for counting and identification. I can remember the feeling at dusk, standing outside my tent, shoulders aching, watching the vast flocks of pink flamingos on the marshes, praying and wondering about what kind of future lay in store for them and us in the world we were relentlessly degrading.

Well, that was 40 years ago, and now the ecological movement is in full swing. My commitment back then was practical, mirrored today by the thousands of people who work hard to support or protect wildlife. Where would my commitment be now? I think it is up to me to respond more deeply to what might be called the mystical dimension of ecological awareness.

There is no lack of voices that witness to the pragmatic, the practices we need to embrace to forge a viable way of life for the planet. Schoolchildren can reel off recommendations for the habits we should adopt to reduce energy, waste and pollution. In the church we can't be content with merely echoing what is commonly and publicly recognized as

sound practice. And there is no lack of voices that witness to the need for new technological solutions. We are bombarded with programs and articles about the highly technical solutions that scientists are exploring to counteract the effects of global warming and inaugurate a new era. Economists propose complex schemes of offsets, researchers investigate ways of sowing protective substances into the atmosphere, and Christians as Christians have no special angle on any of it. So where might our contribution be one that is in fact intimately connected with our praying and believing?

One way is by forging a spirituality that is deep enough to help people change the way they experience the world around them. A faith centered on the Cross should give us deeper insight into human brokenness - alienation from the natural world, estrangement from the creatures that share our planet. This is the brokenness underlying resistance, indifference and apathy in the face of the ecological crisis. Christians might be the ones to help people recognize the terrible loss to the human spirit we have inflicted upon ourselves by creating an industrialized and technological culture that has contempt for the ecosystems. We need the spiritual resources of lament, God-inspired grief, and that is totally different from the fatal religious impulse to moralize

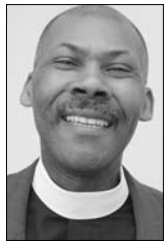
and to berate and condemn people for their consumerism and selfishness. We need to help people recognize the depth of our loss, our emotional and spiritual numbness to the splendors and intricacy of the natural world in which we are embedded. A great philosopher once said, "By the little that now satisfies the soul, judge the extent of its fall." How pathetic that the little pleasures that come through endless fiddling with our handheld electronics seem to be enough, when in reality we are victims of a tragic isolation from nature and from the daily beauties all around us that carry an infinite freight of meaning and bliss.

Through grieving comes the dawn of new possibilities, and unless the church is a healing environment in which people are coached to shed their insulation and be re-sensitized to the beauty of God's intricate net of life, we have little to offer. Everyone knows we need to change many of our lifestyle habits. Everyone knows that the utmost ingenuity of our scientists will have to be deployed. But not everyone knows how to have their eyes re-opened and their hearts reconnected with the natural world. Do we, as bearers of the Gospel? Isn't this another reason why spirituality is at the heart of mission?

Martin L. Smith is a well-known spiritual writer and priest. He is the senior associate rector at St. Columba's, D.C.



COMUNIÓN



Simón Bautista

Una Vez Mas A Celebrar

Saludos a todos. Ahora que aquellos que tuvimos la oportunidad de tomar unas vacaciones estamos de regreso en nuestros afanes diarios y

que nuestros hijos se adentran en la seriedad y rutina de la escuela, les invito a que nos sentemos un momento y que hablemos un poco, quizás hasta compartamos un café, ¿quién sabe? Yo pongo el tema y usted pone el café, ¿qué le parece?

¡Y sí que hay temas! En el momento en que escribo estas notas faltan todavía unos días para la celebración de los ministerios Latinos de nuestra Diócesis. "Que todos seamos uno" es el tema que hemos escogido para

este año. No es un tema original, ya lo ha utilizado nuestra diócesis para una de nuestras convenciones y muchísimo antes lo utilizó Jesús en una de sus oraciones por los discípulos y la iglesia, evangelio de San Juan capítulo 17. No importa cuantas veces lo utilizemos, la realidad es que siempre podemos encontrar razones de sobras para incorporarlo en el contexto de una celebración religiosa como la nuestra.

Nuestra celebración, la de nuestros ministerios Latinos, se presenta en el contexto del mes de la herencia hispana y de la independencia de algunas naciones hermanas del continente Americano. También coincide con un momento de mucha incertidumbre para casi trece millones de personas, niños, jóvenes y adultos que todavía esperan por una reforma migratoria que no acaba de llegar a las puertas del congreso para ser nuevamente discutida, tal parece que tomó el camino más largo hacia el Capitolio y que sigue envuelta en un tráfico accidentado. Su retraso pone en riesgo la inclusión de muchos en la reforma al sistema de la seguridad médica que

con tanta vehemencia está impulsando el presidente Obama.

Parece una ironía que estemos hablando de celebración cuando hay tantas personas que han perdido sus trabajos y sus casas, que todavía no ven una luz en el túnel a través del cual persiguen su regularización de estatus y que van a ser excluidas de los beneficios del seguro médico ¿para todos? Por esa razón nuestra celebración tiene que ser diferente y en ese sentido se justifica que usemos, una vez más, el tema "Que todos seamos uno". Uno en la oración, uno al celebrar; uno en nuestros afanes y aspiraciones diarias, uno en la lucha por nuestros derechos y el derecho de los demás, uno con aquellos que comienzan a perder la esperanza ante la insensibilidad e incapacidad de nuestras autoridades gubernamentales para curar nuestro sistema de inimi-

gración.

Sí mis hermanos y hermanas, celebremos nosotros también, pero al hacerlo recordemos que el verdadero sentido de la fiesta de este año no reside en el acto en sí sino en el mensaje de unidad que a través de ella tenemos la gran oportunidad de enviar.

Hasta pronto. Espero tener la oportunidad de verles el día tres de octubre, a las 6:00 de la tarde en la Catedral Nacional de San Pedro y San Pablo.

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A SAINT FOR OCTOBER



Henry Martyn

Commemoration: October 19

Time and place: Born Feb. 18, 1781 in Truro, Cornwall; educated at St. John's College, Cambridge; died Oct. 19, 1812 in Tokat, Armenia.

Story in brief:

Martyn was born in Truro, Cornwall and educated at St. John's College, Cambridge where he was much influenced by Charles Simeon, a well-known evangelical clergyman of the time and a founder of the Church Missionary Society. After his ordination, Martyn served as Simeon's curate, and felt called to the mission field. He was deterred from offering his services to the Church Missionary Society, which did not pay, by a reversal in his family's fortune, accepting instead a chaplaincy to the British Community of the East India Company in Bengal. Here, he expanded his ministry beyond the confines of the expatriate community. He visited the Hindu temples to speak with the Brahmin, quickly learned the local languages and soon was able to conduct additional services for the local population. Discovering his gift for languages, he translated the New Testament and the Book of Common Prayer into Hindustani and Urdu. He later traveled in Persia, learning Arabic and Farsi and translating the New Testament into both languages, also meeting and entering into discourse with scholars and leaders of other faiths. A frail young man, Martyn died of an illness while travelling in Armenia at the age of 31. His letters and journals were later edited by Bishop Samuel Wilberforce.

MONTHLY MEDITATION

With my whole heart: A reflection on John 12:1-11 and Mark 14:3-9

"While Jesus was in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at the table a woman came with an alabaster jug of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head. But some were there who said to one another in anger, 'Why was the ointment wasted in this way? For this ointment could have been sold for more than 300 denarii, and the money given to the poor.' And they scolded her. But Jesus said, 'Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me. For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me.'"

-- Mark 14:3-9

Each day I see signs all around me that it is a right and good thing to embrace the environmental movement: the devastation of floodwaters across Georgia and Tennessee, the increased speed of glacier melting recently reported by the United Nations.

I keep trying. For several years now I've said no to plastic bottles, and when using-reluctantly-plastic wrap or tinfoil, I measure out just enough. During Lent, I eschewed paper towels in favor of cloth rags. Some winter nights I've been known to turn down the thermostat, much to my family's discomfort, to 60 degrees. I restrict our meat diet to only grass-

fed cows, and I save back every apple peel for the compost bin. Yes, I still drive too much, but while I'm driving I think of how much less I could be driving. I'm even vigilant of the teakettle, lest it come to a wasteful boil. And I never let the faucet run unnecessarily.

All these things are helpful, no doubt. We must save the earth: To have dominion over something, as God says we have over creation, is to care for it. I can and I will do more. At their heart, my actions are generous: I want to pass on a beautiful world to the next generation.

And yet, all this measuring out, turning down and off, restricting, and conserving has made my spirit... well, miserly.

Because when I read of Mary in the Gospel today, I realize how much easier is my habit of holding in, rather than pouring out. That is what the woman does who anoints Jesus with the expensive oil. She feels an urge to show tender and absolute devotion to him. She doesn't hold back. She goes "all in," for someone who's said he's not going to live very long, which would seem to diminish her odds for any payback. And, perhaps worse for some of us, she risks looking the fool in front of her peers.

Pouring out is scary. It's often seen as wasteful, even embarrassing. You might spill something; your friends

might call you down.

You always have the earth with you, Jesus might have said.

Now I'm not suggesting that I abandon any of my habits, just as Jesus wasn't advocating forgetting about the poor. And maybe I just need to shift my word choice when I think about these things, using expressions such as nurture the planet, rather than rein in my energy use.

But what if I take all that energy I'm conserving and let it flow freely somewhere else?

What if I pour, like oil, lavish praise on my husband, which he surely deserves?

What if I eagerly telephone my mother twice a day, instead of half-heartedly twice a week, to pour out the details of my life, which is really what she wants?

What if I pour every ounce of patience-and delight-into a marathon day of board games with my daughter: Life, Monopoly, Sorry!, Clue, Enchanted Forest...?

What if I tell a friend she is beautiful and pour out my heart to her?

It may be messy, or scary; I may not get exactly the response I anticipate. But then I may really get to know what tender and absolute devotion to Jesus Christ feels like. What if I work to save the earth and love Jesus with my whole heart?

Margaret Hutton Griffin is a parishioner at St. Columba's, D.C.

Lord of All Seasons

By Peggy Eastman

This is the turning time, a time of change in colors, sounds and air. Chameleon-like, this leaf will shift its hue in three days time. Cornstalks shrivel; sunflower heads droop, resigned to the raids of hovering birds. Insects grow more raucous, as if to usher out this waning season's days with a sustained celebratory crescendo. Or is their incessant chorus a dirge for what is passing? Air is lighter now, purer, paler, its washed blue a most fluid shade

from the master Painter's palette. This is the turning time, a time of change in colors, sounds and air. We would cling, if we could, to bright azure days of a season past, prolonging the frolic, picnics, open windows and sweater-less strolls by fields in flower. But we must let go. Moth-balled blankets must be aired, woodpiles stocked and windows closed. The Lord of all seasons invites us to join His tour of change in colors, sounds and air. Come, let us accept His invitation and see what wondrous new vistas He has in store.

Award-winning writer Peggy Eastman is a member of All Saints', Chevy Chase.

Advent Silent Retreat

The Diocesan Retreat Committee will hold an Advent Silent Retreat on Dec. 4-6 at Bon Secours Spiritual Center, Marriottsville.

Retreat director will be the Very Rev. Ian Markham, dean of the Virginia Theological Seminary. The theme is "Faith, Forgiveness and Peace: Bringing Human Complexity to God."

The retreat will include prayer, pri-

vate reflection and the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. There will be opportunities for consultation or confession with Markham. The fee is \$195. Applications and a \$100 deposit must be received by Nov. 6. Visit www.edow.org/retreat or contact Joan Shelton at 202/232-1667 or joanshelton@verizon.net

Volunteers needed

The diocese is looking for volunteers to help with the Oct. 17 Regional

Assembly for Regions 1-4 at Washington Episcopal School, Bethesda.

Volunteer hours will be approximately 8 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. If you can help, visit the "What's New" section at <http://governance.edow.org> or contact Ann Talty at atalty@edow.org or 202/537-6548.

Help is needed with registration, hospitality, election tellers. Most volunteers will be able to listen to the guest speaker, the Rev. Robert Gallagher.



WINDOW ON FILM

By Beth Lambdin

District 9 (Rated R)

Of all the planets in all the solar systems in all the galaxies, they had to wander into ours. Out of fuel, the extraterrestrials' spaceship hovers ominously over Johannesburg, South Africa. The creatures on board, (who communicate in a synthetic-like language subtitled for our understanding), have been removed and confined to District 9, a Soweto-like-shanty-town. The film picks up 20 years into their captivity when a private contractor, Multi-National United, has been hired to resettle the creatures, derogatively dubbed "prawns," for their shrimp-like appearance. A dorky bureaucrat, Wikus Van De Merwe (Sharlto Copley), is put in charge of the operation, which quickly devolves into chaos. Things go from bad to worse when he suffers an unfortunate accident, and starts to metamorphose into a prawn. Although the film reinforces some negative stereotypes (evil Nigerian warlords), it also makes sharp, social comments on a range of topics from apartheid to Guantanamo to Nazi-like medical experimentation. And, it skewers human paranoia, our all-too-common response to what we don't understand. Derivative and strikingly original, we sympathize with the aliens' desire to flee this troubled planet and return home.

The Time Traveler's Wife (Rated PG-13)

Eric Bana looks good naked. That's good; because he's naked a lot in this film (no naughty parts are exposed).

A genetic anomaly causes him to travel through time, and for some inexplicable reason it's always in the buff. The story (and there isn't much of one) jumps around in time telling about a love that knows no boundaries between Bana, who plays Henry, and lovely Rachel McAdams who plays Clare, his long-suffering wife (whom he initially meets when she's a precocious child - is there ever any other kind in the movies?). With the patience of Job, she tolerates his frequent absences, preferring him around some of the time rather than none of the time. Given his overall "hotness," she may be on to something. The telegenic actors work hard to make something out of nothing, but alas, there is no BIG reveal; the time traveling serves no higher purpose.

Extract (Rated R)

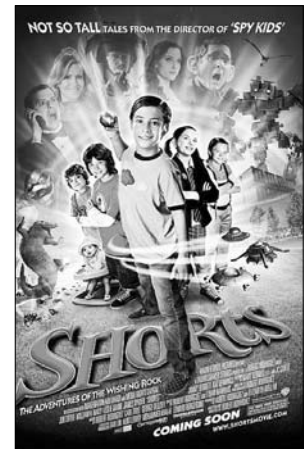
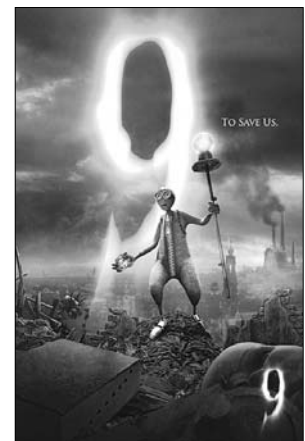
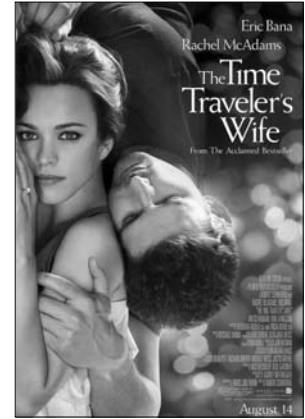
Michael Judge of *Beavis and Butthead* and *King of the Hill* fame crafted the small gem of a movie, *Office Space* in 1999, a commercial failure but a cult hit. This is no *Office Space*, although I suspect *Extract* may be a box-office success. Fitfully amusing, Judge again satirizes the workplace, but this time from the perspective of management. Versatile Jason Bateman plays Joel, the affable owner of a small company that makes extract flavorings. For a seemingly smart man, he makes some colossally stupid moves. Sexually frustrated, rather than talking to his wife (underused Kristen Wiig), he solicits advice from his bartender buddy, Dean (very funny Ben Affleck). Dean convinces Joel to hire a gigolo (Dustin Milligan, with the sultry sexuality of a young Nic Cage) to seduce his wife, thereby easing his conscience about a potential affair with the hot, new babe (Mila Kunis) just hired at

the plant. But, the "plan" backfires when the gigolo more than fulfills his studly duties and the babe has sticky fingers. High-brow entertainment this ain't, but there are amusing scenes, especially those between Joel and his clueless neighbor. Sourness segues to sweetness in the last act and once again we reap the satisfaction of seeing a flawed man-boy succumb to his inner goodness.

Taking Woodstock (Rated R)

Regrets, who doesn't have a few? One of mine is that I didn't go to Woodstock when I had the chance, missing one of the defining events of the 1960s, if not the 20th century. In director Ang Lee's latest film, our young protagonist, Elliot Teichberg, (comedian Demetri Martin) knows about dreams deferred. He shelves his New York City art aspirations to help his parents run their dilapidated motel, the El Monaco "resort" in the Catskills. It's not an easy job. His father (Henry Goodman) is flat and uncommunicative, and his mother (Imelda Staunton) is a volatile battle ax terrified of poverty. However, their fortunes change when their motel is chosen as headquarters for a music festival in mid-August of 1969. At what would become Woodstock, half a million peacefully gathered down the road at Max Yagur's farm for three days of drugs, sex and rock-n-roll in the rain and muck. Elliott, always the dutiful son, misses out on much of the action, but thanks to the wise counsel of a sympathetic transvestite (fabulous Liev Schreiber deserving of an Oscar nomination), he comes to appreciate that there's a whole lot of love right in his own backyard.

Agree? Disagree? Let Beth know what you think at beth@bethlambdin.com



FAMILY FILMS

By Judy Russell

Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs (Rated PG)

Columbia Pictures and Sony's amazing technology have created a sweet 3D confection so "Prepare to get served!" Directors Phil Lord and Chris Miller have taken Judi Barrett's story and Ron Barrett's illustrations and structured an animated adventure about a town that has peculiar weather: food falls from the sky like rain. Key scenes and foods from the book's illustrations - such as the

restaurant without a roof, the Jell-O mountain, and the giant pancake that covers the town's school - appear to the delight of young members of the audience.

New characters have been added to the story to push the action along. Flint Lockwood (voiced by Bill Hader), an inventor since childhood who has failed at many past creations such as spray-on shoes and walking televisions, creates a rocket-like machine that changes water into any type of food. His invention ends up working too well! Cute, perky and brilliant Sam Sparks (Anna Faris, voice), a big-city television weather girl who is fearful of showing her intellect, becomes Flint's first love interest. And Brent (voiced by Andy

Samberg) is the town bully who turns friendly when the town needs his help. Some other voiced parts include the talents of Al Roker, Neil Patrick Harris and Mr "T". Besides the basic story, there are many themes and thoughtful questions aimed at various maturity levels. These run throughout the film so there is plenty for everyone to think about and enjoy. This is a fun family film for all age groups so keep your eyes on that bountiful sky and *bon appétit!*

Shorts (Rated PG)

Imagine if all your wishes could come true. Also imagine the chaos

see FAMILY FILMS, page 15



WHAT'S COOKING?

Apple Nut Squares

Recipe from Donna Courtney of St. Dunstan's, Bethesda.

- 3 eggs
- 1 cup oil
- 2 tsp vanilla
- 2 cups peeled, diced apples
- 1 cup broken nuts
- 2 cups flour
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 2 tsp cinnamon

Prepare apples and nuts and set aside. Measure flour, salt, baking soda and cinnamon and set aside. Preheat oven to 350 and oil a 9"x13" pan. Combine eggs, sugar, oil and vanilla and beat on low speed of mixer until sugar is dissolved. Add flour mixture and stir until incorporated. Blend in the apples and nuts. Pour out into prepared pan and bake for 40 minutes or until toothpick comes out clean. Sprinkle with powdered sugar and cut into squares. This keeps well for several days in the refrigerator.



"So, if I think more, will I be more?"

Our cartoon is drawn by Bob Erskine.

Finding your roots in the family tree

■ FAMILY MATTERS:



Margaret M. Treadwell

Ninety-eight percent of the people who call my psychotherapy practice are seeking help with a relationship. Whether my clients are dealing with the bliss-laced jitters of pre-marital counseling, bad patches in their love affairs and marriages, or challenges in raising children and seeking new ways to relate to parents, I believe my most useful purpose is to help them find a better way of functioning within their family of origin and extended family, where we first learn how to negotiate all our relationships.

One person who benefited from bridging his family's "intra-continental drift" over several years of coaching told this story:

"It all began after World War II separations when my family reconvened with Bronxville, N.Y., as the center, then exploded like a star to remote parts of the country from Buffalo to Minnesota and California. I'm an only son, and my motivation to reconnect with cousins came after the

death of my mother and from observing my wife's delight in her family reunions. I developed a yearning to have closer blood relations rather than rely on her family or my friends. Mother's two sisters had large families so my cousins really didn't need me, and I felt isolated.

"I began in 2007 to send out feelers, and made my first big mistake when I wrote that I wanted to plan a family reunion before another sister dies. A male cousin I seldom hear from hit 'reply all' to my message, chastising me for not being attentive enough to his mother who was dying of Alzheimer's disease. It took some time to overcome this clash between us two firstborns. There were other reasons the reunion didn't come together, as cousins cited rites of passage - weddings, births and a multitude of transitions. At least their reunion regrets kept me newly in touch, and I became aware of how important my staying the course was for our children and grandchildren.

"I began to realize that rather than herd all these cats, I'd have to start speaking to each cousin individually. I was surprised to find that one-on-one, each expressed an interest in expanding their circles to include more extended family. My efforts were a lot like fishing. I had to pay out a lot of

line before I could reel in the fish. I'd wait but hold tight to the rod while I imagined how tempting it would be for each cousin to fall back to his or her own siblings. I learned how to take their "No, not now," less personally and never to ask defensively, "Why?" A leader's motivation has to be sufficient to overcome resistance.

"The breakthrough came when I found out that I could book several days last August at The Bishop's Ranch in the Episcopal Diocese of California (Bishopsranch.org) near several cousins who live in the San Francisco area. I began to paint an emotional picture of what it would be like to have a family vacation (not calling it a two-day reunion) at a convenient site. I wrote to them about the swimming and hiking through miles of gorgeous property, including vineyards. I knew I'd caught the biggest fish when my Buffalo cousin, whose travel would be the toughest, became excited about my plan. Her spark carried her sisters along for a full catch. Adept followers are crucial to good leadership!

"As the date drew near, I had a tendency to over-organize. I ordered logo T-shirts, found games to play, asked cousins to bring family pictures and written histories if available. But in the end I learned that none of this

mattered as much as our time laughing and talking together - first in small groups and later all gathered around a table where we drew our family tree and filled in information for the roots and branches together.

"The result: Each person brought pieces of the puzzle of who we are and where we stand in the family as we unraveled the mystery of lives in previous generations. Our experience spread motivation for another reunion in two years, so everyone will participate and I no longer have to be head cheerleader. I feel myself more included and have become an integrated part of my extended family."

"The ability to be more of a self brings people into better emotional contact with the most durable and reliable support system they will ever have. ... Improving emotional contact with the extended family has the potential to significantly reduce serious physical, emotional, and social symptoms in oneself and/or one's nuclear family (and)...appears to reduce an individual's level of chronic anxiety." From *Family Evaluation* by Michael E. Kerr and Murray Bowen. Margaret M. "Peggy" Treadwell, LCSW, is a family, individual and couples therapist and teacher in private practice. She can be contacted at PeggyMcDT@gmail.com

A church of the streets and the courts

■ VIEWPOINT:



Greg Syler

Sitting with Hemingway's breakthrough classic, *The Sun Also Rises*, once again, I noticed what must have always been there, though I hardly saw it before: a robust catholicism; a

"grand religion" no less vital to Spanish culture than to a few of the American ex-pats who tried to renew life, at least for a while, in a fictional summer. Read of protagonist Jake Barnes' experience in the Bayonne cathedral, relishing the cool stone, awkwardly feasting in quiet prayer, soaking up time-honed sacredness of place.

Hemingway began to write it in those early years spent abroad with his wife and child. Bored and brooding as 1925's summer turned to fall, he headed off by himself to Chartres, and found the ancient pilgrimage site an excellent place to refine the novel. Biographer Michael Reynolds notes: "Catholicism held for Hemingway a strong emotional attraction. It was the religion of the bullfighters and royalty, a religion of the streets and courts."

Something there speaks to me. Not the watered-down cultural religiosity but the honest appraisal of what is in the Episcopal Church, as well, a

catholic truth: If we take Jesus seriously, we'll find ourselves singing, praying and eating with the rich and poor, the homeless and those with mortgage woes, the ones we'd like to vacation with and the ones we'd rather serve lunch to, behind the protected wall of a parish hall's kitchen counter.

You see, I'm the rector of a small but increasingly vibrant Episcopal parish in St. Mary's County. Not much happens where we live and worship in the village of Valley Lee, but an Anglican church has been here, continuously, since 1638. No modern church planter would start a congregation in this precise spot, because it doesn't marry with the modern layout of roadways in southern Maryland, but St. George's is a simple whitewashed building almost exactly halfway between the great manor houses nearby. Sure, this was a church for the landed gentry, but it also was a congregation for the folks who tilled the land and worked the waters, those who got up with the sun and rested when the day was done.

That's something to be celebrated, a truly Christian community in which the wealthy and not-so-prosperous gathered around the same altar. Even today, long after the slave galleries were ripped out and the manor barons' wealth all but dried up, St. Mary's is a booming mix of U.S. Navy, military contractors, retirees and folks who can still trace their line to the founding of the colony. And they gather, still, around the same altar - those with doctorates and over-

sight of multimillion dollar defense contracts right next to those who learned from their grandparents how to stuff a ham and whose parents showed them how to catch rockfish according to native American customs.

To me, it's both amazing and humbling because, like many, I chose the Episcopal Church as an adult Christian and (let's be honest) many of us, myself included, relish that our church is a fairly elite group that still prides itself on how many U.S. Presidents we claim, how intellectually curious we can be, how upper-crust we still seem, and that Vanderbilt, Washington and Lee all count as members of our clan. As the relative wealth of colonial manor homes gave way to the contemporary wealth of Navy contracts down here, it's refreshing to know that the Episcopal Church has, all along, also been founded on watermen and tobacco farmers, on honest, simple folks (myself most certainly included) as well as the elite; a "religion of the streets and courts."

This also is refreshing, I should hope, to congregations in the Episcopal Church that don't necessarily share the colonial heritage that quaint little St. George's, Valley Lee does, for number-trackers continue to alarm faithful Episcopalians (and diocesan staffs) when they show the average attendance at an Episcopal church today as something like 70 folks on a Sunday morning and an increasingly aging population and, well, never mind the rest of the statis-

tics but throw up your hands and cry "Oh, my, the ship really *is* sinking!"

If you look at it another way, however, you realize that a lot of church-folk in southern Maryland learned the lesson, long ago, that a church of 70 or so on a Sunday morning can still be the recipe for a pretty amazing Christian body, and they don't have to come with deep pockets. In Valley Lee and other hamlets here, we are growing in spirit as well as in numbers, and we're doing it through readily identifiable Christian work: education, outreach, worship and pastoral care; not just finding the next wealthy manor lord. We may not be the Upper Crust Church and, like others, our overall attendance may have slipped from previous decades, but we are still fairly successful Christian congregations who are passionately committed to reaching out in Jesus' name.

Maybe numbers and size and average-education-level don't matter so much as faithfulness and vibrancy. And maybe a new door is being opened for the Episcopal Church just as the old one is closing, slowly, decade after decade. Maybe congregations like "quaint little St. George's" will become the model for the rest of us - that the rich faithfulness and robust quality of Christian faith matters, above all else, and those qualities can be found chiefly at those altars where the streets meet the courts.
The Rev. Greg Syler is rector of St. George's, Valley Lee.

ECW gathers for 46th Triennial Convention

By Sarah Stowell Shapley

Episcopal Church Women held its 46th Triennial Convention at Anaheim along with that of the Episcopal Church. It brought together delegates and did business for both ECW and the United Thank Offering. The ECW-EDOW Board sent three delegates from the Diocese of Washington: Sarah Stowell Shapley, ECW president (St. David's, D.C.); Margaret H. Gordon of the UTO, (Our Saviour, Hillandale); and Meigan Chan, Province III Representative to ECW's National Board (St. Timothy's, D.C.). During the Convention a ceremony for "Most Honored Women" from the dioceses recognized Meredith Smoke, of St. Columba's, D.C., who died in the past year.

Let me paint the scene. In a vast room stood an array of standards for almost every diocese (110) in our

Episcopal Church, with more than 370 delegates and guests registered. Every one of the nine provinces was amply represented. Our Province III (comprising the states of Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland and Washington) was on the left; and far away on the right side was Province IX (comprising Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Honduras, Venezuela, Puerto Rico, and even Cuba despite its special status within the Anglican Communion). It was very moving to visit with these women who had traveled so far at such expense to find solidarity and inspiration from ECW's Triennial Convention.

Another wonderful opportunity suggested itself from being able to meet with some people from dioceses that have undergone "the great divorce," to quote C.S. Lewis. Talking with two of the four, San Joaquin, Calif., and Pittsburg, Pa., reminded me of how

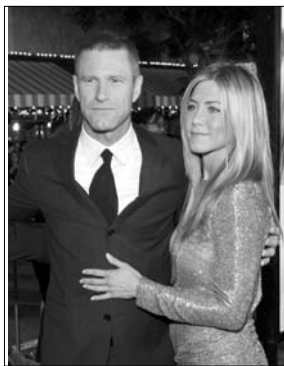
they are having to re-create their churches and diocese, much as would have happened historically when they were missions created by pioneering evangelists. Surely we might consider links and outreach to help materially and sustain in spirit. Again, taking care of the "home-front," hands across our own country's Episcopal Church.

During our convention there were many notable addresses. Both the Archbishop of Canterbury and our Presiding Bishop made visits. Each was greeted at entry and exit with a standing ovation. The Presiding Bishop handed to each delegate the ECW convention token, a lovely gold cross with the ECW logo sculpted on the center point. Rather like a very long communion line! And the Archbishop sat with us through an Opening Morning meditation, by the Rev. Ellen Sloan of General Seminary and convention chaplain, and joined

lustily in singing the hymns, which providentially included a Welsh one. Both of these leaders made a similar point: while they cope with institutional and policy issues, the ECW women assembled were the largest organized troops on the ground to deliver on their hopes and plans for such initiatives as the Millennium Development Goals. The "bonds of affection" across our province and Communion were both strongly and clearly manifest.

Also we heard from the Communion's Anglican Observer at the U.N., Hellen Wangusa, the Episcopal Church Center staff for women, and also from the International Anglican Women's Network, which reports to the Anglican Consultative Council on women's status and concerns across the Communion. Karen Chane addressed us in connection with

see ECW, page 15



FAMILY FILMS, from page 12

that would follow if you didn't think carefully through the wording of your wishes or what could happen if you mispronounced any of the words in your wish! This is the fabric of the "Shorts" story.

The film begins in a small, peaceful town called Black Falls where a few children and a couple of adults take turns finding, wishing and losing a smooth rainbow-colored stone that turns out to be a magical, wish granting rock. There are wishes made for friends, material things and even super powers. This would be a pretty good story line, but it is presented in a rather unusual way for a children's film. The film is a series of "chapters" or "shorts" which are all jumbled - flashbacks, flash-forwards - all mixed up. Even the film's narrator explains that he can't remember the story's order.

The wild action caused by the wishes - such as alligators that run on their hind legs, castles built in moments, arms that grow to 12-plus feet, and even a giant, walking booger - keeps children engaged for a while, but the storyline is so fragmented that younger children, and even some adults, get confused to the point that they lose interest.

There are some bright spots in the acting. James Spader, who plays a power-hungry CEO of the town's only employer, Black Box Unlimited Worldwide Industries Incorporated, is a very good villain, and Jimmy Bennett is convincing as Toe Thompson, a bullied, middle-school-aged boy. Unfortunately Robert Rodriguez, who wrote and directed this film, seems to have relied too heavily on CG effects. Most of the situations are so unbelievable that the viewer doesn't connect with the characters. Some giggles may come from gooey splatters and silly actions, but mostly the gags and this movie fall a

bit... Short.

"9" (Rated PG-13)

Director and author Shane Acker, with the help of screenplay writer Pamela Pettler, has transformed his 11-minute Oscar nominated 2005 short film, "9", into a powerful 79 minute animated story about a post apocalyptic world where good and evil still rage even though the world's people are gone. In this world which parallels our own in many ways, there are only machines and small, cloth covered robotic beings left amid the rubble of a past civilization's art, music and architecture. Both mechanical groups have been created to hold intelligence, but they hold it for very different purposes.

Number 9 (voiced by Elijah Wood) is the last of 9 soft bodied beings created and given "the spark of life" by a dying good scientist, and it falls to 9 to find a way to help the world survive. Years before this time the same kind inventor had made a peaceful "Big Machine" to help the people of the world, but it was taken by the military and transformed into a war machine. The scientist was so worried that the Big Machine would now turn its power against humanity (which it did) that he tried to create a way to reboot life on the planet. He made 9 robots - each holding a piece of his own spirit. The actors selected to voice these resilient, brave hearted robots include Christopher Plummer, Martin Landau, John C. Reilly and Jennifer Connelly.

The mission of the Big Machine, and the menacing machines it created, was to take over the world and wipe away all forms of intelligence, so it chased, hunted and destroyed all types it could find. The methods used on the soft bodied, camera-eyed, gentle carriers of the "spark" appeared truly vicious. Several of the cute little robotic beings are shown being cap-

tured, maimed and physically destroyed. These and other scenes may be very upsetting to younger viewers.

The end of the movie does offer the planet a bit of hope. Look carefully for the green "sparks of life" held within the drops of the first rain of the new world.

Love Happens (PG-13)

This romantic drama deals with love and loss. Burke Ryan (Aaron Eckhart) is a self-help guru of sorts. After his wife died in a tragic accident he kept a journal about his feelings. Now, three years later, the journal has become a book, a grief workshop series, and is on the verge of becoming a major multimedia and product corporation. The only problem is that Burke, who is trying to help lead others through their grief, has not truly faced his own guilt, blame and depression.

Eloise Chandler (Jennifer Aniston) is facing her own romantic problems. Her dating has been so disappointing that she has decided to stop and put all her energy into making her floral shop successful. As fate would have it she and Burke meet while she is at his Seattle seminar hotel arranging her flowers. They both sense a connection and neither thinks they are ready to do anything about it, but "Love Happens" if you are ready for it or not!

Fortunately this is also a film about the gift of a brighter future once one is able to say goodbye to the negative past and move ahead, even when it means completely starting over. A variety characters in the workshops tell their stories of death and fear-the death of a child is highlighted during several of the workshops-so this is not a film for young viewers.

Judy Russell teaches music and performing arts at Beauvoir, the National Cathedral Elementary School.

ECW, from page 14

IAWN. Again MDGs were featured as a unifying endeavor of the whole church. The Very Rev. Samuel Lloyd, dean of our Cathedral, made an appearance which was enthusiastically received and led to the National ECW Board's decision to hold its inaugural meeting here in October. He also published a one-pager on the cathedral and ECW.

Two addresses treated the theme for this Triennial, "Grow in Grace." The Rt. Rev. Stephen Charleston, member of the Choctaw Nation, formerly President of Episcopal Divinity School, and now Assistant Bishop for

missions in the Diocese of California, said that to understand grace one must understand Mary. Phyllis Tickle, well-known to us here and an advocate of the "emergent church," said "grace is a tough subject: Paul said grace is a gift of God, while Peter asked us to grow in grace; there is a tension there. And Jesus is never quoted in scripture as using the word "grace"

A major part of the Triennial is the In-gathering of UTO. There were 131 UTO coordinators in procession at the General Convention's Eucharist to honor the UTO and to recognize the \$7 million collected over the past triennium. The offertory saw more

than \$28,000 for UTO from the thousands in attendance. ECW approved grants for more than \$2.1 million for 2008, with our diocese receiving one for its mission in Swaziland. I was impressed with the careful deliberation of the UTO board, as well as their documentation and willingness to talk with individual delegates about their own cases.

Another special events was the concert by Elisabeth von Trapp to benefit the Jericho Housing project in New Orleans. This effort has been undertaken by the National ECW, in concert with Episcopal Relief and Development, and is now in sight of its goal of raising \$110,000 for one

house. ECW-EDOW contributed to this and hopes to make use of Jericho's experience here. The convention also featured a new play by ECW member Katarina Whitley, a published author, "Yet We Persist." It was performed at the banquet as a reading to a rousing response by all, especially the refrain, as it traced the ECW history from 1821 forward, "but we raised the money." We have an amazing and surprising and long history, and this spoken play is a truly fun way to learn and be inspired by it. The play and other items referred to in this report can be obtained by e-mail from SSS-ECW@rcn.com.

A new place to play



VOLUNTEERS from St. Albans School and parishes around the diocese joined families from the Bishop John T. Walker School for Boys on a rainy Sept. 25 to assemble this new playground, designed by Kaboom!, on land adjacent to the Church of the Holy Communion in Congress Heights. The playground was funded by the J. Willard and Alice S. Marriott Foundation. For now, Bishop Walker School pupils are meeting at St. Philip's, Anacostia (Pre-K) and nearby St. Theresa of Avalon Roman Catholic Church (Kindergarten). They expect to relocate to their new building in early 2010. **See story on page 1.**

activities & events

Friends of Sabeel Conference

Oct. 1-3 at Shiloh Baptist Church, D.C. "Framing the Discourse - Mobilizing for Action: A Conference for Peacemakers." Visit <http://fosna.org> or contact Grace.Said@verizon.net.

St. Timothy's Homecoming

Oct. 2-4 at St. Timothy's, D.C. "Revive Us Again." Oct. 2, 6 p.m.: Community Night with potluck dinner, games, dancing; Oct. 3, Blessing of the Animals; Oct. 4, 9 a.m., Festive Eucharist with the Very Rev. Robert C. Wright, rector of St. Paul's, Atlanta.

Fall Book Sale

Oct. 3, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at St. David's, D.C. Books, audio books and CDs. Call 202/966-2093 or visit www.stdavidsonline.org

Loss and Grief

Oct. 3, 9:30 a.m. to noon at Nourse Hall, St. Alban's, D.C. Clinical social workers Cay Hartley and Elizabeth Dietel will lead this open session. Free. RSVP to 202/363-8286 x219.

Community Day & Open House

Oct. 3, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Christ, Clinton. Blessing of the Animals at 1 p.m. Tours, rides, clown, fish fry, Christ Church Thrift Shop Grand Opening. Free admission.

49th Annual Candle Festival

Oct. 3, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at St. Luke's, Brighton. Outdoor fun: quilt raffle, homemade jams, games, live music. www.stlukesbrighton.org

54th Annual Potomac

Country House Tour

Oct. 3-4 at St. Francis, Potomac. At

the church: A la carte lunch, 20 boutiques, dessert. Tickets: \$20 pre-event, \$25 days of tour.

www.potomacountryhousetour.org

Fall Picnic/Fiesta,

Our Saviour, Silver Spring

Oct. 4, 2 to 6 p.m. at Our Saviour, Silver Spring. Food, craft fair, raffle, bake sale, moon bounce and children's activities.

Community Forum Series at St. Bartholomew's, Laytonsville

Oct. 6, 7 p.m. at St. Bartholomew's, Laytonsville. "Youth: What are the issues facing youth? What are the options for parents?"

ESM Tea to Thank

Parish Contacts

Oct. 8, 3:30 p.m. in the Pilgrim Observation Gallery at Washington National Cathedral. For more information or to RSVP, contact AShaw@esm.org or 202/414-6314.

Fall Rummage Sale

Oct. 8-10 at St. Peter's, Poolesville. 5 to 9 p.m. Thursday; 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday; and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday. Clothing, jewelry, toys, household goods, furniture, books. 301/349-2073

Homecoming at Trinity, Piney Branch

Oct. 9-11 at Trinity, Piney Branch. Jazz Event: Oct. 9, 7 to 10 p.m. with Marcus Johnson. Donations \$30. Contact Paula Smith at prsmile@juno.com or 202/635-7655.

Oct. 11: Bishop Jane Dixon will preach at 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., followed by "homecomers" luncheon.

30th Annual Acolyte Festival

Oct. 10, 10 a.m. at Washington National Cathedral.



Washington Window

Episcopal Church House
Mount Saint Alban
Washington, D.C. 20016-5094

The newspaper of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington
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www.nationalcathedral.org or 202/537-2228.

Homecoming Bazaar and Fish Fry

Oct. 10, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Trinity, Piney Branch.

Annual Fall Festival

Oct. 10, 12:30 to 5 p.m. at Christ, Chaptico. Country ham, baked ham and fried oysters with all the trimmings, served buffet style. \$20/adults and carry outs; \$7/children 6-12; Free for children 5 and under. Scalded oysters also available. Country Store with assorted goodies; arts & crafts and a raffle. 301/884-3451 or www.christepiscopalchaptico.org

Fall Clergy Gathering

Oct. 13, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the National 4-H Conference Center in Chevy Chase. Keynote speaker is Jon Meacham, editor of Newsweek. Register at www.edow.org/events Cost is \$15. Contact swilcox@edow.org or 202/537-6557

Annual Holiday Craft and Collectible Show

Oct. 17 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Good Shepherd, Silver Spring Parish Hall. Baked goods, pizza and soda available. 301/593-3282. Contact Irene Yazge at iejaz@aol.com

Regional Assemblies: Regions 1-4

Oct. 17, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Washington Episcopal School. Regions 1,2,3 & 4. The Rev. Robert Gallagher will make a presentation and lead discussion on Congregational Growth.

Oktoberfest at

St. George's, Glenn Dale

Oct. 17, 6 to 10 p.m. German/Bavarian dishes (plus vegetarian). Beverages, desserts, live music, bingo, raffle, silent auction and even some polka dancing. Advance tickets: \$25/adults (21 and over); \$15/young adults (11-20); no charge for children under 10. Or \$30 and \$20 at door. 301/262-3285

Free Community Dinner & Food

Distribution

Oct. 17, 6:30 p.m. at St. Michael & All Angels. Food items distributed as available.

Saint Paul's College Scholarship Fundraiser

Oct. 17, 7 p.m. at The Carlyle Club, Alexandria. Black tie fundraiser for St. Paul's College scholarship fund and announcement of the Charles N. and Hilda H. M. Mason endowment fund. Tickets \$100 (tax deductible). 703/461-9200 or 703/622-9453.

Centennial Gala at St. John's, Mount Rainier

Oct. 17, 7:30 to 11 p.m. at Martin's Crosswinds, Greenbelt. Black tie gala dinner. Minimum donation of \$100 includes hors d'oeuvres, buffet dinner, entertainment. Reserve by Sept. 30.

Hunger Fund Walk(s)

Oct. 18, 1:30 p.m. at Lake Artemesia and the new Indian Head Rail Trail in Southern Maryland. Contact Lee Mericle at imericle@acm.org or 301/434-6635

Fall Bazaar

Oct. 24, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in St. Barnabas, Temple Hills Church Hall. Crafts, baked goods, lunch, books, jewelry, toys, Christmas items. Santa will arrive on a fire truck at 1 p.m. 301/868-1522 or 301/894-9100.

Region 6 Youthleaders' Huddle

Oct. 24, 9 a.m. to noon at Christ, Durham. A gathering of those who work with youth in Region 6 for fellowship and to plan a diocesan event to be held in Region 6.

St. Margaret's Annual

Rummage Sale

Oct. 31, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at St. Margaret's, D.C. Women's boutique and clothes; menswear; houseware; antiques and collectibles; jewelry and watches; small appliances; children's clothes and games; linen. (Drop off donations at the church on Oct. 3,

see CALENDAR, page 5