The 228th Convention of the Diocese of Maryland
May 4-5, Hunt Valley Marriott

THE THEME for this year’s Diocesan Convention is Planning for Vitality Today and Beyond, featuring keynote speaker Diana Butler Bass (see MCN winter 2011/12 for a biography).

Diocesan Convention is a time when representatives from around our diocese gather to share in the polity of the Church, upholding the common mission and ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ. While voting representatives and alternates must preregister and pay to attend Convention, anyone is welcome to attend as an observer for free or to pay the registration fee. Registered attendees receive packets of information, including the Pre-Convention Journal, plus meals during the two-day meeting.

The registration fee is $190 per person on or before April 16 ($240 after), which includes both days and the following meals: lunch and dinner Friday and lunch Saturday. Guest tickets for dinner Friday are $50. Online registration is now available on the Convention page of the diocesan website, episcopalmaryland.org.

Please watch for notices, news and information about Convention in the Parish Emailing. To sign up for the Parish Emailing (e-newsletter), visit the diocesan homepage and sign up on the right-hand side, episcopalmaryland.org.

Important Convention Dates
Feb. 21
- Lay and youth delegate certification
- Nominations
March 5
- Resolutions
March 12
Reports for the Pre-Convention Journal
April 3
Hotel reservations
April 16
Convention registration

To learn more about Diocesan Convention or General Convention, visit episcopalmaryland.org/convention.php.

ON THE COVER: Springtime in Buckeystown. The lane leading to the Bishop Claggett Center is lined with blossoming trees.

Photo: Donna Kerner
2012 Pre-Convention Meetings

PRE-CONVENTION MEETINGS are held around the diocese to give individuals a chance to meet nominees up for election to various office and committees; learn about the resolutions before Convention, and for first-time delegates, learn what to expect.

All meetings begin with a 30-minute orientation session for new delegates only, followed by a 90-minute session for all delegates in which rules of order are reviewed, as well as convention schedule, nominees, and resolutions. All meetings are from 7-9 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

General Convention Deputation
Members of the General Convention deputation will also be on hand to introduce themselves and to give an overview of the workings of convention, as well as some of the legislation that may be considered this summer in Indianapolis. If time permits there will be an opportunity for questions and conversation around specific topics such as the current status of The Anglican Communion Covenant, anglicancommunion.org/commission/covenant/index.cfm, and Rites for Blessing of same-sex couples, gc2009.org/viewlegislation/view_leg_detail.aspx?id=898&type=Final.

If you would like to express thoughts or concerns about these topics to the deputation from this diocese, you may do so at one of the pre-convention meetings or forward your comments to the Rev. Scott Bellows, chair of the deputation, s.bellows@stdavidsbalt.com, who will forward them to the rest of the deputation.

Any questions regarding these meetings should be directed to Dawn Kline, diocesan staff, dkline@episcopalmaryland.org, 410-467-1399, 800-443-1399.

Wednesday, April 11
Diocesan Center,
4 E. University Parkway,
Baltimore (recorded)

Saturday, April 14, 3-5 p.m.
St. Stephen’s, Severn Parish,
1110 St. Stephen’s Church Rd.,
Crownsville

Tuesday, April 17
St. Thomas’ Church,
2 East High St., Hancock

Thursday, April 19
St. James’ Parish, 5757 Solomons Island Rd., Lothian

Tuesday, April 24
Grace Church, 5740 Green Valley Rd., New Market

Thursday, April 26
St. Mary’s Church, 1 Saint Mary’s Church Rd., Emmorton

Dioce of Maryland Night at Camden Yards

$6 Tickets
Fun & Fellowship

Orioles vs. Nationals
Saturday, June 23
7:15 p.m.

Details at episcopalmaryland.org
In January we reached a settlement with Mount Calvary Church, Baltimore, on the issues of property and use of those buildings. Since 1842, the people of that parish have witnessed faithfully as members of this diocese. On Jan. 22 they were officially received into the Roman Catholic Church. Twenty-four of the 28 members present (out of a congregation of 45) voted last year to make this move. They left with our prayers and very best wishes for their future ministry.

I had been praying for our departing brothers and sisters since they made their decision, while at the same time working with our Standing Committee and chancellor as responsible stewards of all that has been given to this Episcopal congregation and this diocese. I am grateful that we were able to arrive at a fair and just settlement, enabling our brothers and sisters to respond to the call they have heard.

Worldwide, Episcopalians, Anglicans, and our Eastern Orthodox sisters and brothers, see ourselves as fully part of Christ's one, holy, catholic and apostolic church. We know our roots. Theologically and liturgically the Roman, Anglican and Orthodox traditions hold much more in common than there are differences. Our polities – the way we govern ourselves – differ, but together we are members of the Body of Christ.

For instance, the Episcopal Church's polity is more democratic in practice. We elect vestry members, rectors, bishops and the presiding bishop. We vote on resolutions at Diocesan Convention and the Church's triennial General Convention, believing that we can best discern the will of God when all voices are heard and participate in the decision-making process. So when Episcopalians at Mount Calvary gathered to discern their future as servants of our Lord, Jesus Christ, they naturally followed the democratic process that has been part of their 170-year history and the charism of our communion since we formed ourselves in 1785 out of the Church of England.

Since the beginnings of the Anglican tradition more than 450 years ago, many Anglicans and Episcopalians have chosen to continue their spiritual journeys in the Roman Catholic Church. And, a great many Roman Catholics have chosen to become Episcopalians, as we can readily see here in our parishes. I have often said we are "one spiritual family living in two houses." There are more than 400 former Roman Catholic priests and deacons now serving in the Episcopal Church, including the dean of our Cathedral of the Incarnation. We have several Roman Catholic priests who are discerning a similar move, and two former Roman Catholic deacons are now serving in our parishes.

The bottom line for me is not which denomination is winning members from the other, but rather whether we are doing the work that Jesus called us to do. I’m an Episcopalian in no small part because the Baptismal Covenant in The Book of Common Prayer is all about living out the "good news" of the gospel in all aspects of life. When I was confirmed into the Episcopal Church, I was asked if I would seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving my neighbor as myself, and would I respect the dignity of every human being. I have found I can best do that work in our beloved Episcopal Church, while others have found another denomination is better suited for them.

Our brothers and sisters at Mount Calvary have not "converted" to Roman Catholicism. Rather, they have chosen to walk with different friends in the same one, holy, catholic and apostolic church of which they have always been a part. Let us pray for them on their journey. Let us hope that their work in the future will continue to seek and serve Christ in all persons, to respect the dignity of every human being, and help build up the Kingdom of God here on earth. And let us feel proud that the Episcopal Church provided the spiritual grounding for their journey, and lives out the grace to wish God's blessing upon them.

The Rt. Rev. Eugene Taylor Sutton
Bishop of Maryland

For settlement details see Jan. 18 press release, episcopalmaryland.org/press
message from bishop burnett

“Pass the roles, please!”
Or, why I’m an “ant,” not an “ing” — and “just Joe”

Some weeks ago, my niece — an ordained United Methodist minister in Mississippi — was in Baltimore for a meeting. We had not visited in some time, so it was a treat to meet her for dinner.

Her first question to me was, “What was it like to be a bishop?” “Carol,” I replied, “I’m still a bishop.” “Oh, I know,” she said, “but what was it like to be a bishop before you retired?”

Since coming to the diocese of Maryland in April of last year I have often been referred to in parish newsletters, or introduced in churches, as our new retired assisting bishop. So, just to set the record straight I thought it might be helpful to say a clarifying word about my status, title, and role.

First of all, I am not retired. I draw no pensions, and I am not old enough to enroll in Medicare. After eight years as diocesan bishop of Nebraska, I chose to come here to serve as full-time assistant bishop for a period of two or more years. While this may at some point lead to retirement, I’m not there yet!

Second, I am the assistant bishop, not an assisting bishop. There is a fairly significant canonical difference in the two positions and titles. An assisting bishop is an informal title created some years ago by the House of Bishops to describe those bishops who are for the most part retired and working part-time in various capacities in dioceses. An assistant bishop is a formal canonical office and title, as described in various sections of Title III, Canon 12, of the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church.

I chose to come here to serve as full-time assistant bishop for a period of two or more years. While this may at some point lead to retirement, I’m not there yet!

In part the canon reads, “When a Diocese, in the opinion of its Bishop, requires additional Episcopal services, the Bishop may, with the consent of the Standing Committee of the Diocese, ask the Convention of the Diocese to approve the creation of the position of Assistant Bishop and to authorize the Bishop to appoint a Bishop for the position, with the consent of the Standing Committee of the Diocese, and under such conditions as the Bishop may determine.”

When I came to Maryland early in 2011 the diocese had long since created such a position many years ago, and though long vacant, it still existed. So, all that was needed was for the bishop to appoint, and the standing committee to consent, and announce it to the diocese.

As an assistant bishop I have a seat, voice, and vote in the House of Bishops, and I participate fully in the life and work of the House and the wider church. In the diocese I serve at the pleasure and under the supervision of the diocesan bishop. Bishop Sutton and I regularly reflect on diocesan needs and missionary strategy, and on that basis seek to deploy our energies in ways best suited to our gifts and talents. At present, among other duties, I do regular visitations, oversee the commission on ministry and the ordination process, work with clergy and congregations as needed, and serve with staff in a variety of diocesan and programmatic ministries.

Oh, and last but not least, as much as I love my youngest son – Joseph Goodwin Burnett, who is a relatively new Episcopal priest – I am still quite happy with my own given name at birth, which is Joe Goodwin Burnett. That’s me – just Joe – happily serving in the diocese of Maryland as the full-time assistant bishop!

The Rt. Rev. Joe Goodwin Burnett
Assistant Bishop of Maryland
CLAGGETT HAS BEEN OUR DIOCE-SAN HOME away from home for 61 years. Given by the Baker Family in 1951, the only significant addition to the facilities in its first 50 years was the construction of North and Doll Cottages in the late '70s. That situation changed dramatically in 2007 with the completion of the lovely new dining and meeting complex. From St. Thomas’ Chapel in the converted silo at one end to the 250-seat dining facility on the other, the complex is magnificent. As one person put it after their first meal in Sugarloaf Dining Hall, “This is not my Claggett…but this could become my Claggett!”

For this to become “our Claggett,” we must now finish the job commissioned by the Diocesan Special Convention of 2001 by constructing the Inn at Claggett. The inn will have 20 double rooms and 43 single rooms, all with queen beds and a private bath. The building will be fully accessible, modern and comfortable, and it will complete the transformation begun in 2007.

Completion of the inn will dramatically shift the horizon for Claggett. For example, the Women’s Weekend in mid-January was limited to about 100 women, and of those, 30 were housed in Powell Hall, our youth facility. None of the women had a handicap and yet many struggled moving between buildings. With the inn, it will be possible to envision an expanded weekend with a noted guest speaker and 150 or more participants. Those with handicaps or physical limitations could occupy the inn and the other more robust participants could stay in the cottages. Powell Hall could remain available for concurrent youth activities.

Financial analysis of the project was performed by RevPar International, which concluded that construction of the inn will likely increase net operating revenues by $200,000 to $300,000 a year. This is a very important consideration for several reasons:

• Maintaining our older buildings like Powell Hall will require considerable resources as we continue to address building systems that have surpassed their useful life, such as the Powell Hall heating system that will require a complete overhaul in the next five years.
• As we pursue the vision for Claggett to be a “program rich” center, we will need to invest some of our cash to make it happen. Between scholarship expense, the cost of noted speakers, publicity and other costs, programs almost always need to be subsidized.
• Finally, we expect that addition of the inn will help to attract some Episcopal Church events to Claggett. Several of these events already take place in Baltimore because it is a hub for several major airlines, including Southwest.

As one member of the Board of Trustees said, once the inn is finished Claggett has the potential to become the premier Episcopal conference and retreat center in the mid-Atlantic region.

Joe Kerner is the director of the Bishop Claggett Center, jkerner@bishopclaggett.org.
A Claggett Reflection: Journey to the Priesthood

By the Rev. Ron Fisher

The current campaign to build new adult lodging at the Bishop Claggett Center has brought back a very special memory. As many people in the diocese know, I came into the Episcopal Church after a number of years in the Methodist ministry. The process of answering that deeper call to a priestly ministry that I could not fulfill in the Methodist Church took some years, but the door finally opened and I was ready to be ordained as a deacon in the Episcopal Church. Recognizing the efficacy of my prior pastoral ministry, Bishop David Leighton suggested that my diaconal ordination take place at the closing Eucharist of that year’s clergy conference.

In those days, the clergy conferences were held at the Bishop Claggett Center, and the closing Eucharist was held in St. Andrew’s Chapel. I remember my trip in the car to Claggett that morning. Although I was clear enough about my calling, there was still that little bit of doubt somewhere inside; and I prayed, “Lord give me some sign. I know I shouldn't ask, but…” Well, the Lord really came through! After my ordination and just after I performed my first diaconal act by setting the Altar, during the singing of Alleluia! Sing to Jesus, I experienced the presence and power of the Risen Lord as I never had before in my life. I remember thinking, “Jesus couldn’t be any more real if I saw him face to face!” As far as I know, mine is the only ordination ever to have taken place at the Bishop Claggett Center.

I have since had many other experiences at Claggett, including Cursillo Weekends, Seabury Institute studies, personal and community retreats. I have also served as a camp counselor on a couple of occasions. Through these experiences, Claggett has become an important “place apart” for me where it is easy to meet God. The new Inn at Claggett will make such an experience available to many more people – especially to those who cannot use the current facilities because of their lack of accessibility. And it will eliminate the blocks to that Godly focus posed by the challenges of the current antiquated and, for many groups, inappropriate facilities. Hospitality is a special charism of the Episcopal Church, I believe, and it will be wonderful to see that more fully offered at the Bishop Claggett Center.

The Rev. Ron Fisher is the rector of the Church of the Ascension, Westminster, rfisher@ascension-westminster.com.
A Long, Winding Road

By Johnna Stein

Driving up the winding road that leads to the Bishop Claggett Center never fails to make my heart flutter with delight. Just the mention of the name Claggett brings smiles to my family’s faces and conjures up years of treasured memories. Our family of four moved away from Maryland 15 years ago, but we still maintain strong ties to this wonderful, peaceful oasis.

My husband and I first experienced the power of God at Claggett during our Cursillo weekend, when we both gave ours lives to Jesus. A few months after that amazing weekend, we moved to Pennsylvania where we lived for two years with our preschoolers. During those years, we visited several times to reunite with friends and cursillistas. I also volunteered one week each summer at camp, bringing along friends’ kids to experience the magic of Claggett.

Then the Lord moved us to my husband’s homeland, Holland. A few years later our daughter, Olivia, reached the age to attend camp. I signed us up and booked our tickets. It was exciting to watch her enjoy the beautiful surroundings, fun activities, but most of all, Christ’s love shown by the counselors.

Five weeks later, we drove to Claggett to find two teens who had grown emotionally and spiritually. This new maturity resulted from the unexpected call to lead daily worship each week at camp.

Two summers ago, our teenagers finally reached the moment they’d longed for — serving as junior camp counselors. We waved goodbye as they took their first 13-hour train trip from Atlanta to Baltimore.

Five weeks later, we drove to Claggett to find two teens who had grown emotionally and spiritually. This new maturity resulted from the unexpected call to lead daily worship each week at camp. That experience solidified Olivia’s calling to major in music in college and shaped her as a worship leader. It helped Jan become a more confident musician and leader.

For our family, Claggett will always be a special place where we know we will encounter God, where we can draw nearer to Jesus, and where we’ll always be accepted and loved just as we are.

Johnna Stein can be reached at johnnastein@bellsouth.net.
Alternative Ways to Give

By the Rev. Charles Cloughen Jr. with Karen Stewart

Giving to the Church is a way of participating God’s ministry beyond ourselves. There are many ways to give to the Church. A person may continue to honor stewardship pledges and make other gifts by putting cash and checks in envelopes and placing them in offering plates; however, giving opportunities do not stop with this method of payment. Here are a few examples of alternative ways to give monetary gifts to your congregation, the Bishops’ Appeal, or the Inn at Claggett Campaign.

Check by mail:
You may mail your check payments to your church, the Diocese of Maryland, or the Bishop Claggett Center specifying the reason for the gift in the memo line of the check. This will ensure that the receiving entity will understand and apply your gift to the pledge or program for which it is intended. Plus, a copy of the cleared check will serve to support your charitable deduction on your tax return.

Payroll deduction:
You may decide on a fixed amount to be deducted from each pay period to be paid to your pledge or program of your choice. Your employer would, in turn, send a regular payment to your congregation or other program of your choice. Any charitable giving will be reported on your paystub and be accumulated in a “Year to Date” category allowing you to use your final check stub to support your charitable deduction on your tax return. Please check with your employer to ensure that this type of deduction is supported by their payroll system.

Direct Debit:
You may decide to set up a direct debit from your checking account via your bank’s online bill paying system. Handling your giving in this fashion will ensure that your pledge payments are made on a recurring basis, thus ensuring that your congregation continues to receive your stewardship on those occasional times when you are unable to attend a church service. Your congregation may give you a special envelope to put in the offering plate where you may check a box stating “My gift is paid via Direct Debit” to eliminate the awkward feeling of putting nothing in the plate.

Stock Gifts:
You may choose to give a gift of stock to your church or other diocesan program. Please ask your church, and don’t hesitate to contact either the development director or comptroller for information on making such transaction. Remember no gift is too large for God’s work!

The Rev. Charles Cloughen Jr. is the director of development, stewardship and planned giving for the diocese, ccloughen@episcopalmaryland.org, 410-467-1399, 800-443-1399.

Ms. Karen Stewart is the comptroller for the diocese, kstewart@episcopalmaryland.org, 410-467-1399, 800-443-1399.

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AIDS: Africa Is Destined to Survive
Kenya Connect Mission Trip 2012

By Tara Hyde

“We will take the gifts you have given us, and we will use them for your good. We will work together the way the sun and the rain work together to grow the trees.” – The Book of Uncommon Prayer: Contemplative and Celebratory Prayers and Worship Services for Youth Ministry by Steve L. Case

This January, 11 University Students from St. John’s Parish, Ellicott City, traveled to Kenya to share their gifts and talents. Accompanied by six adult leaders, the students were prepared to strengthen their spirituality and accomplish the five marks of mission (see sidebar), all in 10 days.

Their journey began in Karen, where they visited the Elephant Orphanage and Giraffe Park. The students were able to make donations, as well as to admire all of God’s creations up close and personal. The team then traveled to Machakos, where they would settle for the rest of the trip.

Once in Machakos, the group met with All Souls’ Cathedral parish and youth. They received a tour of the grounds and helped out with church maintenance. In the afternoon the university students had an open discussion with the youth about the different challenges adolescents face. After finding similarities, relationships were quick to form. They laughed together, they danced together and they worshiped the Lord together. After the service the next day it was hard for them to say goodbye.

The rest of the week the group traveled to schools in Wamunyu that partner with Kenya Connect. Kenya Connect is a nonprofit organization that promotes cross-cultural exchange and grassroots community development, kenyacconnect.org. The schools greeted the team enthusiastically with a welcoming ceremony. After introductions, the university students taught a lesson in each of the classrooms. The lessons included an art project, photography, reading and word games. The children were very attentive and eager to learn.

Another project the team worked on throughout the week was breaking ground for the foundation of the Learning Resource Center. The Learning Resource Center, funded by Kenya Connect, will provide books, computers and other resources for the community. The group had to use shovels and pickaxes to level out the ground.

The team also experienced the local culture and helped the economy by visiting homesteads and wood carving co-ops. At the end of the day the group would come together for reflection. They would pray and discuss spiritual journeys and individual growth.

“God, we are still here! We survived. We are your servants. We have accomplished so much with our hands and hearts. We have shown the world that you are who you say you are: the giver of everlasting love.” – The Book of Uncommon Prayer

When it was time to depart Nairobi, the university students realized that their lives had forever changed. Impacted by the love and spirituality of the Kenyan community, they were excited to share their experience with those back home. Although they have now settled back into their daily routines, Kenya will forever be in their hearts.

Tara Hyde is a junior at Towson University who attended the trip. She is studying mass communications and film, thyde1@students.towson.edu. Read more about the Kenya trip and view photos at: http://stjohnskenyaconnect.wordpress.com/. The trip was funded in part by an Endowment Grant for Ministry totaling $10,000.

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The Five Marks of Mission

1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
2. To teach, baptize and nurture new believers
3. To respond to human need by loving service
4. To seek to transform unjust structures of society
5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.
In 2011, as the cathedral celebrated its 100th anniversary, the Diocesan Center marked its 20th year at 4 East University Parkway. More than 20 years ago, a group of people had a vision of what it might look like to move the bishops’ offices to the site of the Cathedral of the Incarnation, the bishop’s seat. They envisioned a center that not only provided office and worship space but also hospitality. The vision has been realized and the mission, “...to provide worship and hospitality that all who enter here may know the love of the Lord” has been fulfilled.

THE DIOCESAN CENTER hosts more than 900 events annually, not counting cathedral services that include ordinations, Integrity meetings, Tuesday Eucharist and Centering Prayer, Urban Missioner commissioning as well as the frequent use of the Peace Chapel by committees and parishes. The cathedral columbarium is open to all in the diocese. St. Bede’s Book Store and the Diocesan Resource Center are located here.

From the beginning the center has been available for no fee to diocesan committees, parish retreats, vestries, and workshops: Old St. Paul’s vestry, St. Bartholomew’s staff retreat, the Standing Committee, the Bragg Fund, the Truth & Reconciliation Commission, the Union of Black Episcopalians, the Inn at Claggett campaign, Absalom Jones celebration, the Christian Formation Committee and the Commission on Ministry, to name a few.

“The space was lovely and the proximity of the small kitchen helped immensely with preparation and cleanup. The diocesan staff was very helpful and accommodating with the planning and setup,” said Kim Peabody, project coordinator, Chesapeake Covenant Community.

We have extended hospitality on a sliding fee scale to groups from the community, including Martin Luther King Early Head Start, Johns Hopkins Experience Corps, Health Care for All, English as a Second Language, the Coalition for Homeless Families and Children and the Chesapeake Covenant Community.

“We welcome the ecumenical community such as Church Women United, Fountain Baptist Church, the Church of Power and Light and the Ecumenical Leaders Group.

“Over the years, use of the diocesan meeting facilities has been critical to the effective working of our board and coalition for meetings and press conferences,” said Vincent DeMarco, president of the Maryland Citizens’ Health Initiative. “Fran Brown has been terrific in helping us schedule these events and making sure everything is set up correctly. We also greatly appreciate the critical support that the Episcopal Church and the broader Maryland faith community have given to our successful public health advocacy campaigns.”

The Center opens as early as 7 a.m. on some days and closes no later than 10 p.m. We provide hospitality, security, setup and cleaning. It is a major part of my job to coordinate all of these events and groups in our four conference rooms and one large meeting room – sometimes a challenge; always a joy! I love to see the building in full use, serving our diocese and the larger community just as the early planners had envisioned.

If you would like to reserve a room for an event or meeting, contact Fran Brown at fbrown@episcopalmaryland.org.
Ecumenism & the 19th Century Episcopal Church
Second in a four-part series

By Bruce F. George

The defensive stance maintained by the Episcopal Church in the early 19th century inhibited evangelism and ecumenism. Our church had an Episcopal hierarchy, i.e., bishops. Such a hierarchy dated from antiquity and has been retained within Anglicanism and some other denominations from before the Reformation. Our church also had an educated clergy, examined and ordained by its bishops. We also had fixed liturgies defined in The Book of Common Prayer.

The bishops believed they needed to defend these Episcopal Church markers. Their approach to evangelism and ecumenism was simple: “Our way is The Way; join us if you will.” Despite their inflexibility, the Episcopal Church continued a modest expansion.

By mid-century, there was unease within the Church over the bishops’ conservatism. The occasional exchange of pulpits by parish priests with neighboring churches was prohibited by the bishops in 1820. Also questioned was the 1789 canon requiring a three-year wait before ordination. This was a difficult requirement for those ministering in other traditions but seeking ordination in the Episcopal Church. It was discussed and revised at General Conventions between 1826 until 1853. By 1839, the required wait had been reduced to six months.

In 1836, William Augustus Muhlenberg, a New York City priest, published “Hints on Catholic Union.” The pamphlet asserts that most Christians proclaim the same faith, but disunity detracts from their message. It advocates a confederacy of Protestant denominations — a conceptual precursor to the World Council of Churches. He said, “union of doctrines would be easy,” that “union of ministry” was possible – he outlines a process – and that “union of worship” was not necessary. Individuals should worship in the manner that brings them closest to God.

He suggested that all churches read the same scripture on a given day. (A common lectionary was finally published in 1992 by a working group from 17 Protestant and Roman Catholic traditions. The Revised Common Lectionary was accepted by the Episcopal Church in 2006.) Though prophetic and influential, Muhlenberg’s pamphlet had little immediate impact.

In 1853, Muhlenberg and friends stirred up the bishops with a controversial “memorial.” The memorial’s basic tenet was that the Episcopal Church, as bound, was not addressing the “moral and social necessities of the day.” The 1856 House of Bishops responded by relaxing liturgical strictures and establishing a Commission on Church Unity. Also in 1853, William Reed Huntington, another New York City priest, published a book, The Church-Idea, an Essay on Unity. He enumerated four principles as the basis for true Christian belief:

1. The Holy Scriptures as the Word of God.
2. The Primitive Creeds as the Rule of Faith.
3. The two Sacraments ordained by Christ Himself.
4. The Episcopate as the keystone of Governmental Unity.

The Civil War preempted further ecumenical discussion.

After the war and restoration of Episcopal Church unity, the Commission on Church Unity was re-established in 1868 and renamed the Committee on Ecclesiastical Relations in 1880. No reports were forthcoming. The 1886 General Convention received a memorial signed by more than 1,100 clergy complaining about the lack of ecumenical progress. The bishops reacted by publishing the Chicago Quadrilateral, a general call for Christian unity and a declaration of our church’s willingness to confer with any other church seeking the restoration of unity. Huntington’s four points from 1853 were included as the basis for discussion. (See The Book of Common Prayer, page 876.)

By century’s end the bishops had recognized the hubris of their predecessors and were no longer complacent with the status quo.

Bruce F. George is a 2010 graduate of the Ecumenical Institute, Baltimore, with an MA in Theology. bfjgeorge@comcast.net.
Mardi Gras and Ash Wednesday: the Reversal of the Easter Vigil

By Canon Scott Slater

My wife and I lived in New Orleans for a year back in the early 90s, which meant we experienced one full season of Carnival. We attended numerous parades, collected lots of beads and doubloons, and ate too much King Cake, which our church had every Sunday throughout Epiphanytide. Even though “mardi gras,” or “Fat Tuesday,” is technically only one day, New Orleans celebrates for 10 days with continuous parades, parties and krewe balls. Then it all just stops. Ash Wednesday arrives and all the trinkets and detritus are swept away. Lent begins with a vengeance.

When we moved to Baltimore in 2001, my first week as rector of Church of the Good Shepherd, Towson, was the last week of Epiphany season. The parish had scheduled its annual Mardi Gras dinner (no pancakes, but jambalaya and etouffee) as a newcomers’ welcome event. Since we were among the newcomers, we were the celebrities. It was a grand evening in which we ate well and were welcomed well.

But the most memorable part of the evening occurred after dinner ended. A “Farewell to Alleluia” service had been planned in the church. We marched down the long hall from the Parish Hall to the Nave singing “When the Saints Go Marching In.” We had noisemakers and beads. We sang an “Alleluia” song and got all the alleluias out of our systems. We brought forward our dried palms from the previous year’s Palm Sunday liturgy and burned them in preparation for receiving ashes the next day.

As the small pile of palms turned to dust, we sang a quieter song, a Lenten song. As we sang, the associate priest, who planned the liturgy, took off her beads as the palms burned, and laid them on the floor in front. Instinctively and without invitation, children started coming forward to do the same, removing strings of beads that they had clamped over less than an hour earlier, and setting down noisemakers. Lent had begun.

As a new rector in a new place, I caught a first glimpse of a faith community that would continue to teach me things about liturgy as “work of the people.” We said our goodbyes to “Alleluia” to better welcome Lent with an open heart. As I subsequently led this service in future years, I became more and more aware of how it was, in many ways, a reversal of the Easter Vigil, which begins in darkness and ends in light and joy.

As each of us maneuvers through this season of Lent, may we appreciate the opportunities it presents to jar us with contrasts: darkness and light, ashes and palms, noise and silence, clamor and quiet. It is within these extremes that God encounters us, and that we are made new.

The Rev. Scott Slater is the canon to the ordinary of the Diocese of Maryland. sslater@episcopalmaryland.org.
Respect, Hope and Healing

By Peter Dunn

The Samaritan Community provides assistance to meet the needs of families and individuals who are in crisis and wish to improve their lives. Our program is rooted in respect, hope and healing. Located in the basement of Memorial Church in the Bolton Hill neighborhood of Baltimore, the Samaritan Community has been in operation for more than 40 years.

As Samaritan has grown over the decades, we have come to understand the complexity of poverty and the hardships that it causes. Poverty represents a broader range of hardship than what is measured by a dollar figure. It means little hope and limited options, chronic worry, inadequate housing and minimal neighborhood solidarity. The Samaritan Community provides a place where people are sustained emotionally and materially as they work to build better lives.

In 2011, Samaritan Community distributed more than 5,400 bags of groceries to 622 different individuals, as well as emergency assistance and counseling to about 100 others. This was a 70-percent increase from just two years before. During this recession we are finding that our clients are coming from a broader range of backgrounds. Many of our new clients were solidly working or even middle class before the economic downturn. Another change in our demographics is that many clients now require much more time to get back on their feet, as it can take up to a year or longer to find employment. We have never seen circumstances like this before.

The Samaritan Community’s mission is to promote self-sufficiency, and we have a history of successful clients. Sharon Krieger, program director, believes that, “the client is the program.” By this she means that we work closely with our clients, establish a bond of trust and then tailor our services to each client and provide them with all the services needed to help them transform their lives.

Samaritan Community works with clients to address issues of mental health, substance abuse, employment, education and other issues that may be keeping them from creating better lives for themselves. We collaborate with other organizations to provide what services our clients need that we do not provide directly, such as medical and legal aid.

One of the things that makes Samaritan Community so special is how hard we work to create real community for our clients where they can connect with others and help each other build better lives. Building a more just and caring community is at the core of the Episcopal Church’s mission, and it is the life’s work of Samaritan Community.

Every year Samaritan Community touches and transforms hundreds of lives, including the lives of those who volunteer with us, to help those in need. Because we receive no government funding, we rely on the generosity of individuals to enable us to do the work that we do. More than 80 percent of our funding comes from individuals and foundations outside of the Episcopal Church. We are immensely grateful for this support and are proud of the fact that we have such a diverse group of donors who share our vision of a more just and merciful society.

If you would like to learn more about the dynamic work that Samaritan Community does, visit samaritancommunity.org. Donations can be sent to Samaritan Community, 1407 Bolton St., Baltimore 21217.

Peter Dunn is the development director for Samaritan Community and a member of Memorial Church, Baltimore, pcd2006@verizon.net or 410-435-0913.
Yearning for Wholeness: The Spirit at Work

Well for the Journey Celebrates 10 Years

By Mabeth Hudson

Amazing things can happen when a small group of people comes together to listen for God. The Spirit has been at work in the life of Well for the Journey, a grassroots nonprofit that was partially seeded at Church of the Good Shepherd, Towson. As The Well celebrates 10 years, this is a grace-filled time to reflect on the Spirit’s work and to listen for how we are being called to reach out to others who seek spiritual wholeness and wellness.

The Well began with a spiritual yearning that I recognized in my own life. I sensed a call to something new, and I wanted to listen for God’s invitation. Believing that there were others who were experiencing a similar desire to listen for God, we formed a "Mission Discernment Group" at Good Shepherd to listen for God’s call. Meeting twice a month, we committed to spiritual practices.

During the next two years, this intentional listening led me to resign as a partner at my law firm to take on projects to serve the materially poor. However, I became increasingly aware of spiritual needs all around me. Others were also experiencing a spiritual yearning. Although some people expressed a desire to discover God in everyday life, most had difficulty putting words around this longing for something more.

A recurring image appeared on my journaling pages...an ecumenical spiritual center that offered varied, accessible programs for ordinary people. I shared this vision with others and there was energy and excitement. A smaller group comprised of lay and clergy formed to listen for this call. Four were from Good Shepherd, including Canon Scott Slater, who was then serving as the church’s rector. Others were from other denominations and faith communities. The mission, vision and initial programs emerged out of this discernment process. There were no roadmaps for this endeavor; the Spirit was our guide.

Since The Well officially formed in July 2002, it has provided spiritual nourishment for daily living to countless men and women through its innovative small group programs and resources.

Dr. Franklin Adkinson, a current board member and leader of The Well’s Group Spiritual Direction program, said, “I came to The Well to find others who were serious about living a meaningful life. Spiritual nourishment is hard to find these days, but in small group activities with like-minded people from many faith backgrounds, The Well has given me the courage to try to live life from the center. It’s a joy to be with others who pay attention to the yearnings and mysteries of the spirit—the things that last.”

Joan Partridge, who has been a part of Well programs for more than seven years said, “The Well has given me an opportunity to dig deeper into my faith and explore the innumerable questions that crop up every day – big questions and small ones too.”

According to Executive Director Greg Cochran, “The Well provides sacred space for the spiritual life that isn’t available elsewhere.”

The Rev. Thelma Smullen agrees, “The Well is able to do what individual congregations cannot always do: offer a wide range of opportunities for spiritual enrichment with a broad range of people. It fills a void.”

Support from the Episcopal community has been critical to this ecumenical undertaking. Good Shepherd provided seed money through its outreach committee. Numerous churches have graciously extended hospitality for programs. The Rev. Ben Smith, Canon Slater and the Rev. Jim Ransom served terms on the board and led programs. Other clergy, including Bishop Sutton, the Rev. Adrien Dawson, the Rev. Thelma Smullen, the Rev. Lee Ann Tolzmann and the Rev. Rebekah Hatch, served as program leaders.

As it enters the next decade of service to the community, The Well is listening for new ways to encourage spiritual wellness both for individuals and organizations. May the Spirit continue to guide, inspire and bless the journey.

Mabeth Hudson is co-founder of Well for the Journey and she can be reached at Mabeth@wellforjourney.org. To learn more about The Well visit wellforjourney.org or call 410-296-WELL (9355) for a catalog.

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Looking Back, Moving Forward

The Horizons 2015 Priorities
By Sharon Tillman, with Canon Scott Slater

The five Horizons 2015 priorities are a result of listening and reflecting in the diocese over the course of more than a year. Now that we have been living into these priorities for over a year through the establishment of task forces to discern what directions each of these priorities should take us, it is time to learn more about what is currently happening in churches in the diocese. We hope to celebrate those ministries in local congregations that reflect these priorities. We want to help build and strengthen relationships among churches and to share resources and great ideas. We desire to assist churches who might be looking for some new ideas and provide resources to support your ministries as we work together.

WE HAVE CREATED VISITING TEAMS that have been trained to help congregations assess parish life. These are not “secret shopper” visits and no team will visit a church without an invitation. However, this program is designed to help churches gain a new perspective on everything from how it welcomes newcomers to its communications and its ministry offerings, especially those items specific to the Horizons 2015 priorities. This is intended to be a non-threatening, affirming, helpful and supportive process with mutual benefit to the congregation and the diocese.

Several churches in the diocese have begun “beta testing” this program with the Horizons visiting teams, comprised typically of three laypeople and a clergy resource person. They have scheduled their visits and members of the churches are completing a three-part survey. Together the visitors and the church members will report, review and discuss the finding, and have a conversation about the future.

To help congregations and visiting teams prepare for their time together, a survey has been created that prompts both church and visitors to consider programs, ministries and missions of the church as they relate to Horizons 2015.

The information provided by the church leaders on the survey, together with the face-to-face meeting, will allow the visitors to produce a summary for the congregation. The Horizons visitors will help link the church with resources to support and strengthen ministries, and/or help share resources with others. All conversations will be confined to the congregation, the team members, and the diocesan staff.

About the survey

The first section provides Basic Information about the specific congregation. It helps to create a file for the church. It can be quickly completed by a staff member or vestry officer.

The second section is Getting Ready. It is a more detailed questionnaire specific to the Horizons 2015 priorities and the congregation’s ministries and mission. Collecting this information ahead of the visit allows the Horizons visitors to become familiar with the con-
The last section is named Let’s Talk. It asks some “big picture” questions. It is designed to help the congregation reflect on the basic themes and topics that will be discussed with the visiting team.

All of the task forces are involved in the visitations. Each task force has also been moving forward on individual projects. An update from each co-chair is available here:

**Proclamation**
By 2015, in response to the call to proclaim the Good News and make disciples of all nations, the diocese will grow its average worship attendance by 10 percent.

The Proclamation Task Force has had some accomplishments and set more plans in motion. At the Christian Formation Festival in 2011, we offered a number of practical workshops designed both to help congregations analyze themselves and to provide some helpful and specific suggestions. As 2012 dawns, we are taking part in the diocesan-wide series of congregational visitations with an end of furthering the self-analytical process. Coupled with that, we will begin to identify more ways in which congregations can become more welcoming and inclusive. As all this moves along, we will also begin exploring challenges such as outreach to young families and youth, who are both the present and future of the church and key to our Horizons 2015 goal.

**Evangelism**
By 2015, the diocese will have equipped every member of the diocese to express his or her faith story by words and actions.

During the past year, the Evangelism Task Force has discussed spiritual journeys and how we all have a unique faith story to tell, but how many of us are comfortable sharing it? The group is assembling a resource pamphlet for Diocesan Convention and the website on a variety of ideas for telling our story. These range from inward reflection on the question “What does my church mean to me?” to other less conventional methods using art, music, photos, nature, written reflections, or even mime or digital storytelling. The task force hopes to provide at least one way each person, whether quiet or outgoing, will be comfortable trying, at least in safe settings, such as one-on-one or small groups at church.

During the next year, the group hopes to move the focus to telling our stories out in the world. The task force is available for regional councils or congregations that would like more information, to hold a workshop, or to share storytelling methods.

**Action**
By 2015, the diocese will be an agent for transformational change in the State of Maryland and local communities and be recognized as such.

In the past year members of the Action Task Force read and discussed the book Doing Justice: Congregations and Community Organizing by Dennis A. Jacobsen. In addition we were given the resource Effective Organizing for Congregational Renewal by Michael Green. We also looked at the grid of social ministry that describes social ministry as advocacy, organizing, charity and solidarity in the book Becoming a Community of Salt and Light by Peggy Prevoznik Heins. We discussed what the Action Task Force means to our members and came up with this definition: Action includes transforming systems and engaging people regionally and/or globally, paying particular attention to where our God-given gifts meet community needs. We participated in the Christian Formation Festival at Convention by giving four workshops: two on faith-based

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**Task Force Co-chairs**

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For questions about Horizons 2015, contact the Rev. Canon Scott Slater, sslater@episcopalmaryland.org, or visit episcopalmaryland.org/horizons/index.php.
Truth and Reconciliation Commission: Research and Pilgrimage

By the Rev. Canon Angela Shepherd

The 2009 General Convention of the Episcopal Church called on each diocese to continue gathering information about the history of slavery, segregation and discrimination. We are one of a few dioceses to take this seriously. Although we have made progress, there are more stories to tell and facts to be revealed.

The Diocese’s Truth and Reconciliation Research and Pilgrimage working group enlists your help as plans are made to launch a pilgrimage in 2014. Current sites include the slave gravesite at the Bishop Claggett Center, Underground Railroad tunnels at Emmanuel Church, Cumberland, as well as others. We invite all Episcopalians to engage in telling their stories or experiences of their journey toward truth and reconciliation embodied in pilgrimage sites located within their geographic region as well.

Follow the example of St. Mark’s Church, Lappans, and St. Paul’s Church, Prince Frederick, whose research unveiled a remarkable story connecting significant pieces of slavery, freedom and reconciliation in their respective parish histories. These stories craft a new synthesis of our diocesan history. Although challenging, they empower us to understand our past and offer new insights as we continue to move toward better tomorrows.

Does your parish or church family have a story to tell from the 17th century to the present? We welcome you to be a part of the journey for truth and reconciliation by assisting us with additional pilgrimage sites or becoming a pilgrim. Embark on a journey with us as we open the doors of our hearts to the possibilities of truth and reconciliation.

You may want to make this a special Lenten project. At a minimum please designate a person or small committee to spearhead this project.

Please send your stories and information to Adam Barner, administrative assistant to the canons, by March 15, 2012 – abarner@episcopalmaryland.org. Please direct any questions regarding the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to the Rev. Angela Shepherd, canon for mission.

Canon Angela Shepherd
Diocesan Canon for Mission and Outreach
410-467-1399 :: 800-443-1399
ashepherd@EpiscopalMaryland.org

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Events, Resources Not Just for Christian Formation Ministers

By Randi Hicks-Rowe

The Diocesan Christian Formation Council will be holding a number of events to help parish volunteers and staff in their ministry of Christian formation.

April 21
Coffee, Croissants and Colleagues
10 a.m.-1 p.m., St. Margaret’s Church, Annapolis
The event will provide an opportunity for Christian formation ministers (lay or ordained, volunteer or paid) to meet others who are facing the same issues. The event will include an informal breakfast and informal time for networking and conversation, as well as structured discussions around issues related to summer programming such as inexpensive VBS options, training or recruiting of volunteers, and adapting programs to meet the needs of smaller parishes. The diocesan Resource Center’s ResourceMobile also will be available and provide books, DVDs and videos for borrowing, as well as curricula to review. The event is free and everyone who is involved in the ministry of Christian formation is invited.

Oct. 27
Diocesan Ministry Fair,
St. Timothy’s School, Stevenson
The Rt. Rev. Gregory H. Rickel, bishop of Olympia, will be the keynote speaker. Workshops on a variety of topics, including traditional formation topics as well as stewardship, parish leadership and outreach, will be offered.

The CFC is working on other events, as well as other ways in which formation resources can be made accessible throughout the diocese. The CFC launched a new website last year, episcopalmaryland.org/cf/, which includes several resources as well as a blog about Christian formation, cf.episcopalmaryland.org.

Randi Hicks Rowe is the missioner for Christian formation and the Resource Center director for the diocese, rhicksrowe@episcopalmaryland.org, 410-467-1399, 800-443-1399.
Clear Signage Helps

We often test the resolve of first-time visitors

By the Rev. Canon Dan Webster

The 12:15 PM TUESDAY HOLY EUCHARIST had just finished. We were about to start our regular centering prayer sit when a young man walked through the rarely used glass doors at the front of the Cathedral of the Incarnation. He walked up the center aisle with the gait of someone on a mission. He was.

“Excuse me, but there’s a man in a wheelchair at the bottom of the steps who would like to come in,” he said.

That’s all I needed to hear. Up I stood and walked with him to the main entrance of the cathedral. I thanked him and he was on his way.

A man sat in his motorized wheelchair on the sidewalk 28 steps below, staring up. His name was Michael and he wanted to visit the cathedral. He had just come from our neighboring medical center where he was receiving treatment for cancer.

We had a long time to chat, given our journey around the corner and across the parking lot before getting to the ramp to the Bride’s Porch and side entrance to the narthex. Most members come in through the office entrance just off the parking lot. They know to do that. First timers like Michael wouldn’t know that or where to find the accessible entrance. Inadequate signage.

Most parishes I’ve visited over the years do not have adequate signage. It’s difficult to find wheelchair entrances or the parish hall or church office. If they do have signs, and many do not, they’re small and placed neither logically nor strategically for strangers.

It’s as though we’re testing the resolve of those visiting for the first time. If they can find their way in, they must really want to be there. If we welcome them in a way that does not put them off they might stick around awhile.

Here’s a thought. Visit your church as though you were a first-timer. See what guides you to the worship space, fellowship hall, classrooms, offices and, most important, the restrooms. Nothing says “welcome to our church” like signage you can read from a distance. And I’m not talking about predictable signage about how the “Episcopal Church Welcomes You.”

Michael’s visit opened my eyes and my heart. He had grown up an Episcopalian in Baltimore but hadn’t been to church in many years. He had never been in the cathedral. We entered through the Bride’s Porch. We sat halfway back down the nave where there’s space for a wheelchair at the end of a pew. The centering prayer group was sitting in silence. We did too.

Each day I wear the black wooden cross given to me when I was received as an associate of the Order of the Holy Cross. That Anglican/Episcopal order of brothers based in West Park, New York, follows the Rule of St. Benedict in which we’re instructed to receive all who come to us as Christ himself. That’s one reason why I stood up so quickly to greet the stranger, and also because it was the right thing to do.

Jesus tells us if we welcome the stranger we are welcoming him. The author of the Letter to the Hebrews says we may be entertaining angels.

Michael came back a few weeks later. He told me he’d attended a couple Sunday services at the cathedral.

And, I’m pleased to report, a ramp from the sidewalk to the parking lot now replaces steps. It will cut the journey from the front steps by nearly half. It will be a blessing for those who need wheelchair access. And those worshippers will be a blessing to those who already know their way into the cathedral without signage.

The Rev. Dan Webster, AHC, is Canon for evangelism and ministry development in the Diocese of Maryland. A version of this article appeared in the January 2012 issue of Episcopal Journal, dwebster@episcopalmaryland.org, 410-467-1399.
Boarding the Circus Plane for Mutual Ministry

By the Rev. Theresa Brion

Although it may sound paradoxical at some level, a four-person delegation from the diocese met at Circus Circus Las Vegas, Feb. 4-7, to attend the annual Living Stones Partnership meeting of dioceses and seminaries involved in baptismal and mutual ministry endeavors.

NEXPENSIVE FLIGHTS for our Anglican Church of Canada partners and less expensive rooms may have accounted for the location, but in actuality, the simultaneous activity of a three-ring circus greatly approximates the milieu of activity of this annual meeting. Nineteen delegations converged for discussions in five clusters of three or four as they presented a case study of a project, situation or concern for comment and discussion by the other members. Thus, the delegations spread over five or six rooms as the individual clusters met, shared, listened, and supported each other. Full partnership meals and addresses allowed for the further sharing of stories, catching up with old friends and making new friends across the U.S. and Canada.

Partner, visitor, and observer delegations generally consist of a bishop, a coordinator who is deeply involved in ministry development work, and one to three others. The 2012 Maryland delegation consists of: the Rt. Rev. Joe Goodwin Burnett, assistant bishop of Maryland, who was involved in mutual ministry through his former Diocese of Nebraska and has direct oversight for mutual ministry and Western Maryland; the Rev. Theresa Brion, bishops’ deputy for Western Maryland who first attended a Living Stones meeting in 2009; Mary Bourdeau, deacon and member of the mutual ministry support team for St. Peter’s Church, Lonaconing; and DeNoma Stallings, vestry member (and a host of other roles) with St. George’s Church, Mt. Savage.

The Maryland delegation presented a case study on the discernment and formation program that the bishops and the mutual ministry committee rolled out in fall 2010 for use in Western Maryland. With 16 months’ experience with the operation of the new formation and discernment program from which to glean new learnings, the Maryland delegation asked those in their cluster (Rupert’s Land and West Virginia) for insights on what we are doing right, where we can improve, and what is transferable for use within the other regions of the diocese.

The comments received always prove helpful in continuing to tweak our ministries, but the sharing that occurs in the larger meetings and through reading the other presentations is even more important to the life and vitality of mutual ministry both here and elsewhere.

Each case study, called a BMER for Baptismal Ministry Experience and Reflection, reflects many months of preparation as each delegation determines what to celebrate and where the members need feedback. BMERs (see Circus, page 24)

Mutual Ministry Defined

According to Armentrout and Slocum, “Mutual Ministry” is a term given to the concept of shared ministry and leadership in a congregation. Mutual ministry is an approach to Christian ministry that is lived out of the promises made in baptism. It sees the ministry of the whole congregation as the primary ministry. All members of the congregation are doers of ministry. Deacons and priests serve as resource and support persons to the congregation, and perform the other duties appropriate to their orders. The work of Roland Allen (1868-1947), an English missionary and parish priest, is the background of mutual ministry. Allen emphasized the training and empowerment of local leadership in the church, the importance of the laity, and the use of voluntary clergy. Leaders in mutual ministry in the Episcopal Church were Wesley Frensdorff, William Gordon, Charles Long, and H. Boone Porter. The dioceses of Nevada and Northern Michigan were forerunners in mutual ministry. The dioceses of Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota, and North Dakota used it in certain areas. See Allen, Roland.

An Invitation to Summer Camp

By the Rev. Dina van Klaveren

I am excited to be the director of summer camp for 2012, and I warmly invite you (and/or your child) to consider joining me and the other members of the summer camp staff at the Bishop Claggett Center for a time of outdoor exploration, personal and spiritual growth, and making friendships that last.

As a mother of two elementary school children and a full-time rector, I am aware of how busy household schedules become during the school year! This is a perfect way for children and youth to take a real break. Summer camp at Claggett gives children and youth time set apart from usual hectic patterns and allows them to relax into a new pattern—one that includes ropes course adventure, swimming, crafts, hiking, canoeing, serving in the community, creating new friendships, sharing stories, singing, daily worship and reflection, and joy-filled meal times.

It has been said that “a week of Christian summer camp is equal to a year of Sunday School.” Perhaps that is because summer camp creates fast bonds with new friends from other parts of the state. Perhaps that is due to the competent counselors and volunteer staff members who model their Christian faith and their love for others. Perhaps camp is so valuable because we break from usual routines and find God in fresh, new ways. Whatever the reasons, camp is a great way to continue forming the next generation of Christian leaders.

This year’s theme is Leap of Faith, and there will be many opportunities to learn about how to take a leap of faith-filled commitment to God based on examples from the Bible and the experiences that camp offers us to grow and stretch ourselves.

I pray that your child will join us for a time away at Claggett this summer, and that they will return to you refreshed, spiritually nourished, and excited about their faith and their new friends.

The Rev. Dina van Klaveren is the rector of St. Andrew’s Church, Glenwood, dinavk@gmail.com, 410-489-4035. Camp information and registration at bishopclaggett.org.

Camp Open House — April 29

Curious about camp at Claggett? Interested, but not quite sure about signing up because you’ve not experienced Claggett before? We have just the opportunity for you!

On Sunday, April 29, from 3 to 5 pm, we will host a Summer Camp Open House at the Bishop Claggett Center. Bring any potential campers and get a feel for the camp experience. Sit on a bunk bed in Powell Hall. Try a fun, new activity with a ropes course instructor. Tour the dining hall, the chapel, and see the swimming pool. I’ll be there, along with Spencer Hatcher, the activities director, and a few of the 2012 camp counselors. We’ll show you around, answer questions, give you ideas for what to pack, and spend some time getting to know you and the other curious campers.

Let us know that you plan to join us by calling 301-874-5147.
New Summer Camp Director

THE REV. DINA VAN KLAVEREN has been a priest in the Episcopal Church for five years and serves as rector of St. Andrew’s Church, Glenwood, standrewsglenwood.org, in western Howard County. In 2011 Dina served as chaplain for Middle School Camp, and in previous years she has assisted with Claggett camps such as Family Weekend, Mini Camp, and various retreats. Dina grew up going to Christian camps and retreats in Southern California. She feels blessed to spend time with the youth and children of her parish and the diocese, especially when that time includes travel for international mission trips and domestic pilgrimages.
THANK YOU TO THE 874 DONORS to the 2011 Bishops’ Annual Appeal. Through their generosity we gathered $187,884 for the ministries of the diocese that are listed below. We have increased the number of donors by 33 percent over 2010. These gifts have made a difference and changed lives in our beloved diocese.

Bishop Claggett Center
Provided scholarships for campers and adult participants in retreats, and supported Music Ministry Weekend, Family Weekend, and Special Challenge Camp

Youth
Supported Camp Amazing Grace, Camp Excel, Rainbow Camp, Copley Kids, Homework Club, and youth mission trips

Outreach
Supported Baltimore International Seafarers’ Center, ERICA, parish grants, Johns Hopkins Hospital Chaplaincy, Episcopal Service Corps, Ethnic Ministries, Harford Family House, Urban Ministry, St. Mary’s Outreach Center, and Campus Ministries at Morgan State University, Towson University and UMBC

Mission
Supported Archives of the Diocese of Maryland, Committee on Older Adult Ministry; parish grants, Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Global Mission Links, and the urban education project

Contact the development director at 410-467-1399, 800-443-1399, or ccloughen@episcopalmaryland.org.

The Diocese of Maryland’s Stewardship and Planning Giving Conference
June 16, 9 am-3 pm, St. John’s Church, Ellicott City
The Rev. Laurel Johnston, stewardship missioner for the Episcopal Church, James Murphy, vice president of the Episcopal Church Foundation, and Bishop Sutton will speak. There will be a separate track for clergy.

(Circus, cont’d from pg. 21) vary greatly from cluster to cluster, partner to partner. But the commonality is that all present have an interest in fostering and growing the baptismal ministry to which each person is called and value the experiences that others might share in fostering that growth.

The Maryland delegation left Circus Cathedral exhausted mentally and physically from the rings of activity converging to make Living Stones what it truly is, but filled with the waters of our baptisms to continue to do God’s work in the world, within our regions.

To read more about the musings of the Living Stones Partnership, see the partnership websites livingstonespartnership.net and ministrydevelopment.ning.com and Theresa Brion’s blog at ministrydeveloper.blogspot.com. She can also be reached at tbrion@episcopalmaryland.org.
THE DIOCESAN MISSION TEAMS are offering a wonderful way to give a gift and support their missions, both domestically and abroad, all at the same time.

The Array gift card is a unique gift that can be used by the recipient for the things they truly want. It is a gift card for gift cards. You simply go online and register your unique Array gift card, select the amount and give it. The recipient then goes online and chooses a gift card from more than 500 stores, restaurants, shops and services for the amount you have pre-selected. The person gets what they want and you have helped send youth on a mission trip.

A percentage of the purchase of each Array gift card supports our mission work in Honduras, Appalachia and here in the diocese. These gift cards are great for birthdays, graduations, celebrations and just because. The more cards you give the more the missioners earn.

Gift cards are available by request from the Rev Wes Wubbenhorst, canon for youth and coordinator of the diocesan mission teams. Each card is pre-registered with Array to direct funds earned to diocesan youth mission teams. There are plenty of gift cards available. Request a few or challenge your congregation to see who can give the most. The cards are free from the diocese; you only pay for the ones you give.

For more information or to request gift cards please contact The Rev. Canon Wes Wubbenhorst. Learn more about Array Gift at arraygift.com.

The Rev. Wes Wubbenhorst
Canon for Youth Ministry and
Province III Youth Coordinator
410-467-1399 :: 800-443-1399
wwubbenhorst@episcopalmaryland.org

Upcoming Youth Ministry Events

Bishops’ Bash
Saturday, March 31
St. John’s Church,
9120 Frederick Road, Ellicott City
6-10 pm

Live band, games, fun, food. Third annual bishops’ event and youth leader recognition. Bring your youth leaders for dinner and music, featuring Bishop Sutton on lead guitar. A great time to give thanks to your youth leaders. Plus, enjoy an evening with other youth of the Diocese of Maryland. Casual dress this year. Features Maryland Cup Drill Team and more fun and games! Cost: $10 and a contribution to the Howard County Food Bank.

For more information contact the Rev. Canon Wes Wubbenhorst.

Senior High Nightwatch
April 13-15
Cathedral of St. John the Divine, N.Y.C.
This event is for youth in 9th grade and above.

$80 (includes bus fare, Friday and Saturday dinner, Saturday and Sunday breakfast) A special two-night trip with a fantastic High Tour Saturday night.

Each participant will need:
• Sleeping bag
• Toiletries (no showers)
• Money for lunches Saturday and Sunday
• Warm clothes

We will supply Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast (bagels), Saturday dinner (pizza) and Sunday breakfast (warm bagels).

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around the diocese

‘Sacred Ground’ Slave Stories Come Alive on New DVD

By Val Hymes

THE BISHOP CLAGGETT CENTER sits on land that in the 1700s was known as Buckingham House and Plantation where the Hasselbach and Cunningham families and their slaves lived and died.

A dirt road leads down to a family cemetery located about a half-mile into the valley where the remains of both slaves and slave owners are buried. An archeological dig in 1979 revealed the bones of an African American male, about 60 years old, buried before 1840.

Intrigued by that fact, a half dozen clergy and lay members of the diocese began in 2008 to research information about the families. They found that the lives of three slave families and two individuals were entwined with those of the land owners.

Now, four years later, fictional history based on research about the slave families and their owners at Buckingham Plantation comes alive in a new DVD. Fifteen of the personal stories are told through amateur re-enactors from four parishes in our diocese.

“A sadness clings to Buckingham...” said plantation owner John Hasselbach as he lay on his deathbed. Only two of his 10 children were living at the time of his death. Two daughters died in childbirth on a Christmas day. At the same time, research shows he planned to free all 34 slaves and their children when the women reached 27 and the men became 30. He wrote in his will that “Old Jim,” his personal servant, “will join me in the family cemetery.”

The stories were written and produced by
the Rev. William H. Fallowfield of St. Michael and all Angels, Baltimore, a former teacher and longtime director of the Bishop Claggett Center. The music is an old spiritual, “Hold On,” sung by members of the choir of Holy Covenant Church, Baltimore. The set was the Fallowfield-Faye Houston home and yard. The basement played the role of slave quarters and upstairs, the big house; an old fence portrayed the front of a farm building.

The stories tell about the work, recreation, and religious practices of the enslaved parents and their children as well as their hopes, fears and joys. One tells the story of two young brothers who ran away to freedom on the Underground Railroad.

The DVD also includes suggested questions for discussion of each monologue. One, for example, asks viewers why a Maryland legislator proposed a failed law in the 1850s to reenslave free African Americans.

“It’s an amateur production,” said the Fallowfield, “designed to spark discussion.”

The DVD, “Sacred Ground, Sacred Stories,” is an educational resource of the Slave Gravesite Committee — to be available for $25 in mid-March at St. Bede’s Bookstore. The proceeds will be used to rebuild the cemetery wall as part of the restoration and preservation project.

Donations may be made to the Bishop Claggett Center marked “Slave Gravesite,” episcopalmaryland.org/committees/sgtf.php.
All God’s PEEPS®
Evangelism illustrated in PEEPS

THIS EXCLUSIVE DIOCESE OF MARYLAND project invites anyone with a shoe box, leftover PEEPS and some imagination to create a diorama of a Bible story, parable or Psalm illustrating Evangelism, featuring PEEPS brand candies. These beloved marshmallow creations that have become a mainstay of Easter baskets can now become the central characters in entries to the diocese’s All God’s PEEPS contest.

The goal of this Easter season project is to inspire people to read the Bible and provide a fun and educational activity for individuals, groups and families. We present this contest with the blessing of Just Born, Inc., makers of PEEPS.

You can’t have a contest without rules
• Visit the Christian Formation website, episcopalmaryland.org/cf, for updates and all things PEEPS.
• Entrants illustrate the Horizons 2015 priority Evangelism through a Bible passage, parable, or Psalm or other scene depicting Evangelism that features PEEPS, in a standard-size shoe box. Other materials may include non-perishable food items, candies and crafts supplies (PEEPS from other holidays are permissible).
• Entrants submit no more than two high-resolution digital photos (300 dpi or greater) as JPEG attachments for judging and review to mcn@episcopalmaryland.org. In the message,

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To learn more and register today, visit TheologyandPeace.org
include: project title, your name and age or group name, parish/location, daytime phone number, the Bible passage, parable or Psalm, and a brief description including how it relates to Evangelism.

**Categories**

*Please specify the category in the subject line of your entry e-mail.*

- **Individual Children and Youth:** K-5th grade; 6th-8th grade; or 9th-12th grade
- **Individual Adult:** age 18 and older
- **Group Effort:** any project created by multiple people (Sunday School classes, youth groups, Bible study groups, Altar Guilds, families, etc.)
- **Photo Entries** due by April 16; winners announced at Diocesan Convention, May 4-5 (visit the home page for Convention details).
- **Entrants** are invited to display their dioramas at Diocesan Convention. Just let us know if you want to bring yours or send it with your delegate. Photos will be shown in a PEEPS slideshow.

**Prizes**

- **PEEPS** prize packages for first and second place Bishops’ Choice overall award winners.
- **Each Category Winner** will receive a Diocesan prize pack.
- **Categories** may be adjusted depending on the number of entries received.

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Camp Amazing Grace 2012; Campers Honored

CAMP AMAZING GRACE 2012 for children with parents in prison will be held Aug. 12-17 at the Bishop Claggett Center. Executive Director Maria Robinson-Conaway and program director Spencer Hatcher welcome interested volunteers to attend monthly Saturday planning meetings at the Diocesan Center.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 21, 10 am-12 noon. This year’s theme will be based on two songs by Sweet Honey in the Rock: “The Best I Can Be” and “Education Is the Key.”

Twenty-four children attended Camp Amazing Grace last year; five graduates moved up to Claggett camps. Two of the younger campers were selected as Student People to People ambassadors. Durand Brown, 9, and Damiya Hope, 12, both of Baltimore, were nominated by their teachers as “outstanding students.”

Camp Amazing Grace, founded in 2006, is sponsored by the Prison Ministry Task Force. For more information, mrobinson-conaway321@hotmail.com, 410-523-0191 – Val Hymes

Someone Important Is Missing! Age 16-25

An important voice is not being heard right now on our Diocesan Council: that of youth. Diocesan Council seeks a youth member (or two) who can meet one Saturday every other month. Youth participation can help the diocese support its parishes, provide resources for the individual ministries of our people, and participate in the work and witness of the whole Church in our nation and around the world as we plan, budget and provide oversight of many aspects of diocesan life.

Learn about Church governance and make the valuable contribution of your time and voice.

If you or someone you know can fill this missing piece, please contact the Rev. Wes Wubbenhorst, diocesan canon for youth, wwubbenhorst@episcopalmaryland.org, 410-467-1399 or 800-443-1399.

around the diocese
(Horizons, cont’d from pg. 17) organizing, one on grant writing, and one on what other congregations have done.

**Christian Formation**

By 2015, every congregation will have 40 percent of worship attendees of all ages participating in a Christian formation program.

The first year of work of the Christian Formation Task Force resulted in the birth of the Horizons Visiting Team process for gathering and sharing resources within the diocese and strengthening relationships among parishes. We helped develop an online survey to enhance the visitation process and we offered a training session for visitors using an active listening and appreciative inquiry approach.

We are hopeful that the visiting teams, the celebration of our ministries, and the sharing of our resources will build and strengthen relationships among the many and unique congregations in the diocese. The process itself is what Christian Formation is all about. We are also the beneficiaries of the ongoing hard work of the diocesan Christian Formation Commission and the Diocesan Resource Center. There are already many materials available to support congregations in developing resources for Christian Formation for all ages. ang-md.org/resource.php and episcopalmaryland.org/cf/.

**Education**

By 2015, provide every region in the diocese training and strategies for advocating for the poor in education.

The Education Task Force of Horizons 2015 has been moving forward on four fronts. First, following much study and visiting of schools in Baltimore and Washington that provide quality education for disadvantaged inner-city children, the committee’s understanding of what constitutes a quality program for this target population has become more defined and focused. Second, the committee has researched what other dioceses (e.g. Dallas) are doing to enable parishes to relate to local public schools. St. John’s Parish, Hagerstown; the Church of the Redeemer, Baltimore; St. Andrew’s Church, Clear Spring; and several other congregations have firmly established successful programs or are investigating options. Research results are being crafted into a “tool box” and will be available on the diocesan resource site, WikEpalian. Third, the task force is holding a series of meetings with experts on questions of church/public school legalities, financial resources, and similar topics where professional advice is essential. Finally, the Education Task Force is following a strategic plan and meets several times in-between designated Horizons gatherings.

**Communications**

This work of this task force is in answer to number three of the seven articulated guidelines for achieving the five priorities (see “efforts” below).

During the past year, the Communications Task Force has been tasked with developing ways to not only communicate the work of Horizons 2015, but also develop concrete ways to move the diocese forward in its communications among its churches, missions, schools and ministries. One of the keys to this is resource sharing. The group, made up of communications professionals from a variety of disciplines, has developed a wiki page for sharing documents, images, event planning, curricula and other resources that are yours to share. Officially established as WikEpalian, this resource sharing site will allow anyone to search for and take one church’s successful stewardship campaign, for example, and adapt it to their congregation’s needs. The possibilities are endless. Uploading information will require the sharer to create a user name and password, and certify that the information or image is theirs to share. WikEpalian will be officially launched at Diocesan Convention.

In our efforts to fulfill the mission and ministry articulated in these priorities, we will...

- Build in benchmarks and accountability to measure progress towards the task.
- Include youth and young adults as integral parts of the decision-making process at all levels surrounding the tasks.
- Develop methods of communication using available technology to link local members to diocesan tasks.
- Raise up and train leaders to direct the tasks.
- Develop funding sources and budgets to support the tasks.
- Use existing diocesan resources (e.g., Claggett Center, Cathedral, Diocesan Center) to support task development.
- Be mindful of diversity at all levels, including ethnicity, geography, etc…

The Horizons 2015 Priorities were affirmed by Diocesan Convention, May 1, 2010
around the diocese

Nets for Life Campaign Gets Local Boost

By the Rev. Tony Hollis

THE REV. ELLEN S. HURWITZ, a deacon at the Church of the Transfiguration, Braddock Heights, held a fundraiser to celebrate her 60th birthday and raised $2,449 for the work of Episcopal Relief and Development’s Nets for Life program. What a wonderful way to celebrate a birthday.

Hurwitz said, “...I [was able to] turn something that could have been problematic [turning 60] into something to help others... I may even do [the fundraiser] again next year... I also would be willing to help others who might wish to do something similar.” She added that the funds raised translate into help for 612 people for five years! As an added bonus, the parish collected 118 cans for food.

If you would like to develop a project in your parish, a church school event, a young people’s program, or a total parish outreach project, please contact us, call Hurwitz, or contact Episcopal Relief and Development through inspirationfund.org. Nets for Life supplies mosquito nets to African villages to help prevent malaria.

World Mission Sunday was celebrated on Feb. 19, putting special emphasis on ER-D and the Nets for Life project here in the diocese.

The Revs. Linda and Anthony Hollis are the diocesan coordinators for Episcopal Relief and Development, Linda_hollis@comcast.net or Saintpeter@comcast.net.

Save the Date!

The Episcopal Church Women of St. Katherine of Alexandria Annual Prayer Breakfast
Saturday, April 14 from 9 am-12 noon in our Undercroft. St. Katherine’s is located at 2001 Division St.

The Rev. Canon Angela Shepherd is the guest speaker. Adult tickets are $25 and children age 12 and under tickets are $10. For further information or to request tickets, please contact our church office at 410-523-2207.

St. Barnabas’ Laugh Out Loud Comedy Night
Saturday, April 28, 7-11 pm
Gamber Fire Hall, Route 32 and Niner Road, Finksburg
$35 for Dinner and Comedy Show featuring: Joyce Rebar, Mike Shader, Al Romas
Advanced Ticket Sales Only
Silent Auction, Money Wheel, 50/50 Raffle, Cash Bar
For Tickets and Inquiries, please contact the Parish Administrator at 410-795-0767, stbarnabas.ang-md.org.

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