

Connect



A communication resource for clergy and lay leaders in the Diocese of Chicago

Second Sunday in Lent February 28, 2010 Office of Communication, Diocese of Chicago

Connect is a publication of the Office of Communication, Diocese of Chicago. It is distributed weekly by email to clergy, ministry and congregational leaders, and others interested in the work of the Episcopal Church in Northern Illinois.

Send submissions or queries to David Skidmore, Canon for Communication. News, event, resource and position open notices should be submitted in MS Word or text format to dskidmore@episcopalchicago.org. Publication is at the discretion of the editor and subject to space and style requirements of Connect.

NEWS

News reports from [Anglican Communion News Service](#), [Episcopal News Service](#), and the Office of Communication/Diocese of Chicago.

Bishop Lee raises awareness on gun violence prevention

Bishop Jeffrey Lee is asking the leaders of the congregations of the Diocese of Chicago to raise awareness among their members of the need for sensible policies on the prevention of gun violence. In a February 25 letter to diocesan clergy and congregations, Bishop Lee cited the sobering statistics of deaths of Chicago area children to violence-36 Chicago Public School students killed in 2008-2009 school year-and called on congregations to work for passage of meaningful gun policy reform. Bishop Lee is encouraging congregational leaders to schedule discussions and workshops during Lent on the impact of gun violence in their communities; and to learn more about Illinois State Senate Bill 3632 which seeks to tighten background checks on firearms purchases and increase penalties for selling firearms to street gang members. Several organizations, including the Episcopal Peace Fellowship and the diocesan Peace and Justice Committee, are supporting passage of this bill. [Read more.](#)

Second Sunday in Lent

Bishop Lee on
gun violence prevention
Religious leaders oppose
video gaming
Ashes to go at Metra stations

IMAGINING with Diana Butler Bass



The Office of Life Long Christian Formation in partnership with St. James Cathedral, Seabury-Western Theological Seminary, and the Congregations Commission of the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago is sponsoring a series of conversations and presentations with noted author and educator Diana Butler Bass at three locations around the diocese for clergy, lay leaders, parishioners and general public.

Thursday

March 11

Friday March 12

Trends, Tinker Toys and
Transformation

St. Martin's, Des Plaines

10 am - 2 pm

Chicago religious leaders speak out against video gambling

A coalition of Chicago religious leaders is calling on Illinois Governor Pat Quinn to issue a moratorium on the introduction of video gaming in bars and restaurants until public hearings can be held. The coalition includes the pastors of four major congregations in Chicago's 42nd Ward: the Chicago Temple of the United Methodist Church, led by the Rev. Philip Blackwell; the Rev. John Buchanan of Fourth Presbyterian Church; the Very Rev. Joy Rogers of St. James Cathedral; and the Rev. Dan Mayall of Holy Name Cathedral. Also partnering in the coalition are the Council of Religious Leaders of Metropolitan Chicago and the Jewish Council on Urban Affairs. While the City of Chicago has a pre-existing ban on video gambling machines, the Chicago City Council may end the ban as a way to increase revenue to fill a projected \$469 million deficit.

"We deeply care about the strength and quality of our city institutions and do not want to see them ruined by the introduction of video poker machines," said Blackwell, who is the coalition's convenor, at a February 23 press conference at the Chicago Temple. Describing video poker machines as "the crack cocaine" of gambling, Blackwell said their introduction to Chicago bars and restaurants will spark a dramatic rise in crime and destabilize families and neighborhoods.

Said Dean Joy Rogers at the press conference: "It is a dangerous and foolish gamble to jeopardize the character of a vital, growing and productive area of our city by introducing so called 'entertainment' that preys upon the vulnerable and fragile in all of us, for a suspect return."

Suburban clergy offer ashes to go to Metra rail commuters



The Episcopal Church had higher than normal visibility on

Thursday

March 11

A conversation with Bishop Jeffrey Lee and Diana Butler Bass
St. James Cathedral

Saturday

March 13

A People's History of Christianity
St. Paul's, DeKalb
10 am to 2 pm

[Register online](#). More information or contact [Barbara Rasero](#) (312) 751-4206.

MOMENTUM



Momentum: Conversations on Emergent Faith will bring together noted speakers and leaders in emergent church and church development on **Monday, April 19**, 9 am to 4 pm, at St. Michael's Episcopal Church in Barrington, Illinois.

Renowned author, speaker, pastor, and networker among innovative Christian leaders, Brian McLaren will lead a dynamic discussion on the emergent church movement and more importantly begin to explore with us how our parishes and our dioceses can participate in the development and growth of these communities.

The Rt. Rev. Jeffrey Lee will be joined for presentations by the clergy of St. Michael, Barrington; Redeemer, Elgin; and Holy

Ash Wednesday thanks to the creativity of several suburban clergy who stationed themselves at Metra commuter rail stations to dispense ashes and prayers.

At the Lombard station, the Rev. Emily Mellott and five of her parishioners, one of whom is a high school freshman, offered the imposition of ashes to people on the platform and to drivers arriving at the station. The response was uniformly positive, reported Mellott, even from those declining their offer. Several people said they appreciated the Ashes to Go effort, a title Mellott borrowed from a St. Louis friend and priest who has done a lunchtime ash imposition for several years, as they didn't have time to attend services in their own church. One person asked for prayers in addition to the ashes.

"The most common question was "do these work for Catholics?" or variations on the theme," said Mellott. "One woman stopped her car and jumped out calling, 'Is this for real? Great!'" [Read more.](#)

Hunger survey uncovers powerful ministry

The diocesan Hunger Committee has found that diocesan congregations are responding to the problem of hunger in unique and powerful ways. In a survey at last year's Diocesan Convention, 42 congregations described how they were reaching the homeless and hungry through on-site ministries and through partnerships with other congregations or agencies. In a summary report the committee observed: "The respondent from St. Andrew's, Grand Ridge, a LaSalle County congregation open only from Easter to Christmas, wrote 'We are a congregation primarily of farmers who share excess with members of the church and community.' Larger, urban congregations like All Saints, Ravenswood, Chicago, have a pantry serving more than 300 people per week together with a hot meal program for approximately 150 low income and homeless individuals and families. Whatever the size, location, and/or resources of each congregation, each has sought to respond in a meaningful, powerful way to the needs of our hungry neighbors. All are aware that much, much more needs to be done. The congregations of our diocese are committed to that challenging task."

If you would like to share the work of your congregation or receive a copy of the committee's data to date, please contact Julie Donalek, jdonalek@rcn.com. The committee's report has also been posted to the [Hunger ministry webpage](#).

Apostles, Wauconda.

The day is jointly sponsored by The Episcopal Diocese of Chicago, Seabury-Western Theological Seminary, St. Michael's Episcopal Church in Barrington, Church of the Holy Apostles in Wauconda, and Church of the Redeemer in Elgin.

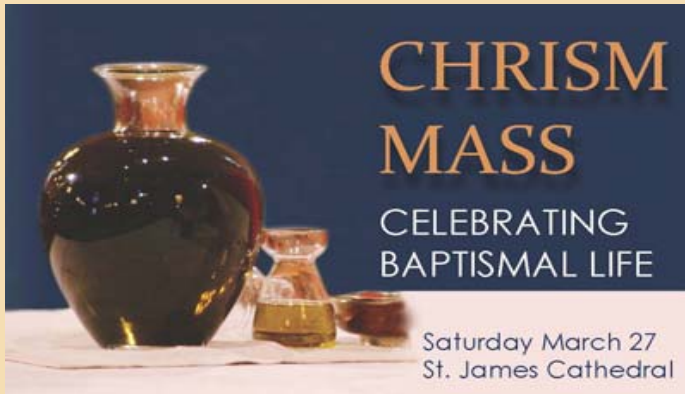
To register or get further details, go to [Holy Apostles Wauconda](#)

CALENDAR

This is a sample of events occurring in the Diocese of Chicago. Check the [Master Calendar](#) on the diocesan website for a full listing of diocesan events and meetings and the [Google calendar](#) for events sponsored by congregations and organizations.

Identifying and pastoring the difficult parishioner

Identifying and Pastoring the Difficult Parishioner: A Workshop for Clergy, Church Administrators and Secretaries -- ANYONE -- who Deals with Difficult Parishioners featuring Clinical Psychologist, Dr. Melissa Britt Perrin
Tuesday March 2, 2010, 9 to 12 in Burrill Hall at St. James' Commons, 65 E. Huron Street, Chicago, IL



Bishop Jeffrey Lee and Canon for Lifelong Christian Formation Vicki Garvey will be the keynote presenters at this celebration of baptismal life on **Saturday March 27** at St. James Cathedral. Anointing with the Spirit: A Program for Adults and Children will explore a catechumenal approach to evangelization and Christian formation. Catechumens and their families, sponsors and godparents are especially encouraged to attend this event.

The day begins with registration at 9 am in Burrill Hall of St. James Commons at 9 am , followed by the program at 9:30 am. The Chrism Mass liturgy begins at 11 am in the cathedral. In a change from previous years practice, there will not be a renewal of ordination vows. Bishop Lee intends to schedule that rite during a clergy day later in the year, noting that the rite originated fairly recently in the wake of Vatican II in the Roman Catholic Church, and was later adopted by Anglican churches. To register contact [Barbara Rasero](mailto:Barbara.Rasero@stjames.org) 312-751-4206.

Clergy invited to submit credentials for transition ministry conference

Beginning March 8th and continuing through the 12th, Canon Randall Warren will meet with other diocesan deployment officers at the semi-annual Transition Ministry Conference. This is an occasion where the credentials of interested clergy from each diocese are presented and considered for employment within the participating dioceses. If it helps to have a comparison, it's much like a "virtual" job fair. The "credentials" circulated at these conferences are clergy CDO's, resumes and a one-page summary called the Personal Information Sheet.

If you are interested in having your credentials presented at this conference, please do the following:

- Update your CDO on the Church Deployment Office website (so the review date is no older than February 2010)
- Update your resume

60611. Your own internal responses may be the best tool you have for identifying helpful ways to manage difficult situations and people. This workshop will help you learn to pay attention to yourself and, in the process, think of new ways for dealing with the difficult people in your ministry. This is a free workshop. Yet pre-registration is appreciated, so that we can plan for coffee and space. Please follow this the above link to an on-line registration form. QUESTIONS? Please contact [Elizabeth \(Beth\) Erickson](mailto:Elizabeth.Erickson@stjames.org): or 312-751-4212

Ecosystems in harmony lecture

Botanist and ecologist Jerry Wilhelm will speak on Ecosystems in Harmony, Responding to Change at Church of the Holy Spirit, Lake Forest on **Sunday March 7** from 3 pm to 4:30 pm. Wine and cheese reception will follow the presentation. Wilhelm developed the Floristic Quality Assessment methodology used widely in the United States to determine habitat quality, and is a leading thinker on plant community succession, cultural impacts on the evolution of North American ecosystems, long term viability of

- Complete the Personal Information Sheet (NOTE: not to be longer than one page).

The Personal Information Sheet form is on the diocesan website, <http://www.episcopalchicago.org/>. Once at the site, click on the "Current Registration and Forms" link. You'll find the link at the bottom of the left-hand side column.

Once this paperwork is completed, send e-copies of your documents NO LATER than Wednesday March 3. (eerickson@episcopalchicago.org)

If you have any questions, please e-mail or phone Elizabeth Erickson at 312-751-4212.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

CLERGY NEWS

The Rev. Juan Reed retired as vicar of St. Martin's Episcopal Church, Chicago on February 28 after 20 years of ministry at St. Martin's. A celebration of ministry honoring his leadership was held February 28.

Bishop Lee will preside at a celebration of new ministry and installation of **the Rev. Jose Arroyo** as vicar of Sagrada Familia-Holy Family, Lake Villa on April 14 at 7 pm.

Bishop Lee will preside at the institution of **the Rev. Lisa Graves** as rector of St. Philip's, Palatine on Monday April 19 at 7 p.m.

Bishop Lee will preside at the Celebration of new ministry and institution of **the Rev. Peter Lane** as rector. St. Paul and the Redeemer, Chicago on May 12 at 7 pm.

CHURCH BRIEFS

Latest collections for Haiti quake relief: **St. Mary's, Park Ridge** is donating the proceeds from its Mardi Gras fundraiser, \$20,000, to Episcopal Relief and Development's Haiti Fund; **St. Edmund's, Chicago** raised \$3,991 in recent weeks for Haiti relief.

For the 10th year, **All Saints' Episcopal Church in the Chicago Ravenswood** neighborhood hosted a most unusual fundraiser, where the very parishioners who provided a wide variety of baked and homemade tasty treats, bought them back for outrageous prices, because they know they can change the world and their giving makes a difference.

The first Spectacular Bake Auction in 2000, dreamed up by parish youth netted \$1,000. Eight years later in 2008, the

manipulated hydrological systems, and on how humility enables people to listen to nature's truths. Register in advance for best seats, at www.chslf.org or call 847-234-7633

U2charist at St. Martin's, Des Plaines

In response to the movement to Make Poverty History, St. Martin's Episcopal Church will celebrate a "U2charist" at 7:15 p.m. on **Wednesday, March 10**, at 1095 Thacker Street, Des Plaines, Illinois, preceded by an optional potluck supper at 6:30. This special church service will combine the celebration of Holy Eucharist (communion) with the music of the band U2 and the free-will offering will go toward ending extreme poverty, a special focus of U2 and its lead singer, Bono. The offering from the service will benefit CARE, a leading humanitarian organization fighting global poverty.

Lenten silent retreat at DeKoven Center

Abbot Andrew Marr, OSB, of St. Benedict's Abbey, Three Rivers, MI will lead DeKoven's Lenten Retreat, to be held this year **March 5-7**. The retreat begins

auction brought in more than \$15,000. Over the length of the auction's 10-year history, it has raised a total of more than \$76,500 and has become a highly anticipated annual church event. This year, three cakes brought in \$1,000 each with a fourth garnering \$1,200. The grand total equaled \$14,274.99.

In recent years, dollars raised through the auction funded initiatives for St. Peter Parish, All Saints' companion parish with linked Renk Diocese in Sudan. Funds from this auction have built a restaurant that is helping provide support for the people in N. Geiger, Sudan. Also included in this support are salaries for medical professionals, scholarships for Ugandan high school students and mosquito nets.

Bishop Lee and Bishop Scantlebury will join members of **Trinity, Aurora** and supporting congregations on **Thursday March 4** for a celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Sandwich Board meal program. Eucharist at noon, followed by lunch.

The Valparaiso University Chorale, one of the nation's leading Lutheran collegiate choirs, concludes its four state tour **Friday March 5** at **Grace Episcopal Church, Oak Park** with a 7 pm performance. The Chorale will perform selections including "Sacred Service" by Ernest Bloch, "Reincarnation" by Samuel Barber, "Abendlied" by Josef Rheinberger and several new works by Robert Buckley Farlee. Grace is located at 924 Lake Street.

Seabury-Western Seminary

The Rev. Dr. James A. Forbes, Jr., senior minister emeritus at The Riverside Church in New York, will speak at Seabury's commencement on **May 14** at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 939 Hinman Ave., Evanston. Dr. Forbes was named by a 1996 Baylor University survey as one of the twelve most effective preachers in the English-speaking world.

Pray for:

The Rev. William R. Burden, retired rector of Trinity, Aurora,

The Rev. Kate Guistolise

Sister Mary Cecilia

Derrick Dawson, chair of the Anti-Racism Commission

with a reception at 5 pm on Friday and closes at 10 on Sunday morning, following the Holy Eucharist and brunch.

DeKoven is located at 600 21st St., Racine, Wisconsin. For more information email kclark@dekovencenter.org

St. Gregory Episcopal School annual benefit

A fun and festive evening in support of St. Gregory Episcopal School will be held **Saturday March 6** at the Knickerbocker Hotel in Chicago. Cocktail reception begins at 6 pm followed by silent auction, dinner, live music and dancing. For more information call St. Gregory's at 773-277-4447 ext 13.

Alban Institute webinars on community outreach

Alban Institute is offering a webinar series for anyone wanting help in learning about the community around your church and why outreach to that community is essential to the future of your congregation.

These hour-long webinars will help you to:

- Understand how 'outreach' can be an engine that drives your church

Dylan, grandson of the Rev. Canon Clarence Langdon

The Rev. Tom Lamb

The Rev. Jim Swarthout

The **20 million Americans** who are unemployed or underemployed

The **people of Chile and Haiti** as they rebuild their homes and cities

Parochial reports due March 1

Parochial reports are due March 1. Information from these reports is used in developing an accurate profile of the church's financial health, membership strength, and congregations. The information is also used in calculating the diocesan contributions to the Episcopal Church budget. Forms online at [Episcopal Church Research and Statistics](#)

In Memoriam

The Rev. John Crist's mother, **Armella Crist**, died February 24 at a nursing home in Medford, Wis. She was 97.

Doris Pistole, wife of the late the Rev. Richard Pistole, died February 22 at her home in Naperville at the age of 82. Her funeral was held February 25 at St. Paul's, Riverside.

Milwaukee museum hosts Dead Sea scrolls



Dead Sea Scrolls and the Bible: Ancient Artifacts, Timeless Treasures opened at the Milwaukee Public Museum on January 22, 2010. This is a limited engagement, extending

forward.

- Start to meet your neighbors and learn about the places and events that define them.
- Explore seven creative models for designing a custom community ministry program.
- Actually get people out of the pew and into engagement with community ministry.

Tuesday, March 2, 2010

2-3 p.m. EST.

Meet the Neighbors:
Ten Easy Ways to Discover the Community Around Your Church.

This one-hour web seminar provides 10 steps for church-staff or lay-leaders to use to begin building lasting relationships in your community.

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

2-3 p.m. EST.

Designing Your Community Ministry Program:
Seven Creative Models.
Learn about creative models for community ministry, from mobilizing volunteers to developing a full-fledged program or nonprofit on-site at your church (and a number of options in-between).

Tuesday, March 16, 2010

2-3 p.m. ET.

Out of the Pew, Into the Community:
Getting Church Members

through summer 2010. This is the largest temporary exhibit ever produced by the Milwaukee Public Museum, Dead Sea Scrolls and the Bible explores the archaeological history of the Holy Land during the period the Scrolls were written, from the third century BCE through the first century CE. The exhibit also tracks the discovery of the first Scrolls and subsequent realization of their extraordinary significance.

Actual Dead Sea Scrolls, including a fragment of the unique Copper Scroll, will be exhibited alongside the only known scroll-type manuscript on stone, the recently discovered Jeselsohn Stone - "Gabriel's Revelation," and a full-size reproduction of the 24-foot long Great Isaiah Scroll, one of the earliest and most complete scrolls found. Several diocesan congregations are planning museum trips to view the Scrolls. You can learn more about the exhibit at <http://www.mpm.edu/dead-sea-scrolls/exhibit/>

HELP HAITI

Give to Episcopal Relief and Development
[Haiti Fund](#)

Donate Unused Frequent Flyer Miles
to Haiti

If you have any unused frequent flyer miles you are able to donate those unused miles to the Haiti relief effort. Here are three airline web sites where you can donate miles.

[Delta Airlines](#) [United Airlines](#) [Continental Airlines](#)

RESOURCES

Good Friday offering for Jerusalem and the Middle East

The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East is again designated as the beneficiary of the Good Friday offering, a tradition observed in Episcopal dioceses and parishes since 1922. The Presiding Bishop has written to all congregations asking for their participation in this annual

Engaged in Community
Ministry.

This webinar features practical steps to getting your church members out of the building and down the street, based on the unique needs and interests of your congregation.

Learn more at the [Alban Institute website](#).

Cathedral Counseling Center annual benefit

The annual benefit for Cathedral Counseling Center will be held **Friday April 9** at The Nancy Goldberg International Center, 24 E. Goethe, Chicago beginning at 6:30 pm with a cocktail reception. The evening will feature a cabaret entertainment with the Lucy Smith Quartet and auction. For information contact Leigh Stewart at (312) 252-9500 x120.

Episcopal Marriage Encounter weekend

Episcopal Marriage Encounter(EME) will be holding a weekend program for married couples at the Double Tree Hotel in Schaumburg **April 16-18**, 2010. The EME Weekend begins on Friday evening at 8 pm and is completed Sunday at 3 pm. Presentations are provided by a Lay and Episcopal

event. A bulletin shell and poster can be downloaded in English or Spanish versions from the [Good Friday Offering](#).

Connect readers not ready for Jeopardy

The editor is left wondering about the cognitive functions of Connect readers in light of no responses to the past issue's quiz:

**What is the significance of these dates for Chicago fans:
February 17 and 18**

**And for rock and roll fans:
March 9**

As any Cubs or Sox fan could tell you, February 17 is the date pitchers reported, and February 18 is the date that catchers reported. So with some trepidation the editor poses this question:

What makes Thursday March 4 special for the boys of summer?

And you still have time to answer the question about March 9. **Hint: its posthumous**

Clergy Couple that focus on self, coupleness, coupleness & God, and coupleness, God and the World. Episcopal Marriage Encounter weekend is offered to couples who have been married for at least one year. For further information or to register for the April weekend, please contact Episcopal Marriage Encounter National Coordinators Dale and Debra Sands of St. Marks Barrington Hills by phone (847-381-8353) or by email (mdalesands@aol.com).

The next issue of Connect will be published March 10