

E Connect

Lent Four, February 25, 2008

Office of Communications, Diocese of Chicago

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NEWS

Seabury-Western board charts course for radical restructuring

Seabury-Western Theological Seminary will be charting a new course for theological education as it responds to the economic challenges facing Episcopal seminaries and the changing circumstances of congregationally based ordained ministry.

In a February 20 letter to Episcopal bishops with seminarians enrolled at Seabury-Western in Evanston, Ill., seminary dean the Very Rev. Gary Hall said the executive committee of the seminary's board had approved a planning committee's recommendations to end the three-year residential Master of Divinity program, and suspend recruitment and admissions to all of the seminary's degree and certificate programs. The seminary's popular Doctor of Ministry program in congregational development, administered through Seabury Institute, will continue with the present enrollment through the completion of degrees, but will not accept new students for the time being.

The Executive Committee, stressed Dean Hall, does not intend to eliminate the Master of Divinity program, only the three-year residential model currently in use. The possibility of offering the Master of Divinity in other formats will be explored over the next two months leading up to a special meeting of the seminary board of trustees in late April, said Hall.

"The seminary is not closing its doors. It is engaging in a radical reassessment of what shape its mission has to take in this time," said Bishop Jeffrey Lee of Chicago.

Bishop Lee, who attended his first board meeting as a Seabury-Western trustee February 15, said he would be working with Chicago's Commission on Ordained Ministry, people in the discernment process in Chicago, and other Episcopal seminaries to envision "how we best form people and then deploy them most effectively for the church's life as it exists right now, right here in the Diocese of Chicago."

Bishop Lee said he has offered Dean Hall and Seabury's faculty and students "all the resources at my disposal for pastoral care in this time of transition." Read more on the [diocesan web news section](#).

Bishop Lee to be keynote speaker at Leadership and Ministry Fair

Bishop Jeffrey Lee will give the opening address on Saturday, April 19, 2008 when clergy and lay leaders gather at the Lutheran School of Theology for a day of learning and sharing as a diocesan community.

Leadership and Ministry Fair has something for everyone, with over 60 learning opportunities covering a broad range of topics. As has been true over the last few years, we will again be presenting offerings for those intent on demystifying the intricacies of life on a vestry or bishop's committee, for those investigating a call to ordained leadership, for those beginning to think about ministries in daily life, and more. Although there are always, of necessity, some repeats from former Fairs, learning opportunities on new and timely topics are added yearly. This year there will again be a full set of sessions in Spanish as well as workshops dealing with technology and offerings on the nature of the church itself.

A full listing of learning opportunities will soon be available on our website so save the date and encourage members of your congregation to join you on April 19. As one past participant commented, "This is a must do for all leaders in the church."

Applications needed for Bishop Awards

Bishops Associates, the ministry support organization for the Bishop of Chicago, is accepting applications for the Bishop's Awards program. The awards are from the Bishop of Chicago in recognition of members of the Diocese of Chicago who have made an outstanding contribution in service to the church, the wider community in northern Illinois, or to the world. Criteria used in evaluating the nominees: 1) the capability and creativity of the nominee's achievement; 2) the impact of the achievement on the community; 3) the achievement's influence on the spiritual life of the people involved with or affected by the achievement.

Nomination forms and guidelines have been posted on the diocesan website at

The deadline for receiving nominations is 4 pm on April 7, 2008. Awards will be presented at the Bishop's Associates annual luncheon May 8, 2008 at the Union League Club of Chicago, 65 W. Jackson, Chicago. Nominations should be submitted to:

Bishop's Awards
Episcopal Church Center
65 E. Huron St.
Chicago, IL 60611

Or by email to: bishopsassociates@episcopalchicago.org

For information contact Michael Stephenson, Canon for Development at (312) 751-6725 or mstephenson@episcopalchicago.org

Bible study group considers starting new mission in Beverly/Morgan Park

Your prayers are requested for the next six months as a Bible Study group begins meeting for the next six months in homes in the Beverly/Morgan Park neighborhoods and the surrounding south suburbs. The study group, which held its first meeting on Sunday, Feb 3, will over the next six months consider making a formal request to Diocesan Convention for recognition as a mission congregation. Many of the persons at the first meeting were members of Church of the Mediator which closed at the end of December 2007.

If you know if of anyone who lives on Chicago's South Side or the surrounding suburbs, and believe they might be interested in joining the Bible Study group, please contact The Rev. Donald Frye at 630-290-6704 (cell phone) or by email at padrefrito@comcast.net. The group will meet each Sunday at 1 pm in the homes of group members.

Youth Pilgrimage to St. James Cathedral to view Keiskamma Altarpiece

The Bishop of Chicago and the people of St. James invite the youth of our diocese to make a pilgrimage to the Cathedral on **Saturday March 29** to welcome the return of the Keiskamma Altarpiece to Chicago. The Altarpiece will be on display through Eastertide, the last installation before its return to South Africa. The day begins with registration at 9:30 am, followed by the program starting at 10 am. The day ends with a closing worship at 4 pm. Transportation from Metra stations to the cathedral will be arranged with advance notice from those traveling.



The Altarpiece was created by women of Hamburg, South Africa as a hope filled response to the tragedy of AIDS in their community. It stands 14 feet high and 22 feet across, three layers deep, opening layer after layer to tell the story of their lives – their courage and their faith. This day offers us all an opportunity to encounter the Spirit in art, in community, in worship.

Plan to accompany your young people to the Cathedral to meet our new bishop and to open imaginations to God's workings among us. For information call the cathedral office (312) 787-7360 or email dcampbell@saintjamescathedral.org; or contact Sue Cromer, canon for youth and young adult ministry, scromer@episcopalchicago.org

Kennon Callahan returns for church development conference

Church development expert Kennon Callahan will lead his second conference for the Diocese of Chicago on **April 7, 8 and 9** at St. Michael's, Barrington. In Leadership Resources for a Missional Church, Callahan will teach participants how to grow generous congregations, ones which focus on bringing ministry and mission to the real hurts, hopes, and needs of the community. His advice centers on twelve characteristics of effective congregations; six Relational and six Functional.

The sessions run from 1:30-5:00 and 7:00-8:30 pm. Registration is for diocesan members (lay & ordained) is \$100; the rate for non-Diocese of Chicago registrants is \$250 (meals not included). Please register by March 28. (*see attached registration form*). For information contact Elizabeth Erickson (312) 751-4212 eerickson@episcopalchicago.org

Diocese and Seabury-Western collaborate on clergy mentoring

The Diocese of Chicago and Seabury-Western Theological Seminary have initiated a collaborative program that will lead to certification in congregational development for seminarians studying for Master of Divinity degrees. The new program will be an extension of the Making Excellent Disciples clergy mentoring program operated by the diocese's Office of Ministry Development. In operation since 2002, the Making Excellent Disciples (MED) program places newly ordained clergy in mentoring congregations for two years, after which they move on to serve as rectors and vicars of "mustard seed" congregations, ones that average fewer than 150 in average Sunday attendance but are poised for growth. The MED program currently has ten MED curates. The new program will place seminarians in both mentoring congregations and mustard seed congregations for two years. Participating seminarians must fulfill all field education requirements of Seabury-Western and spend an additional five to ten hours a week in ministry in the congregation. The seminarians will be required to take two congregational development courses in addition to the basic seminary curriculum during the two years they are participating in the program. Each seminarian selected for the program will receive a \$2,000 annual stipend, and each mentoring congregation will receive a \$2,000 grant. Seminarians participating in the program will be appointed by the bishop of Chicago and the dean of Seabury-Western. For further information contact the Rev. Canon Clarence Langdon clangdon@episcopalchicago.org

Note: The bishop will be consulting with Canon Langdon and the dean of Seabury-Western on the prospects for this project once the seminary's board adopts its restructuring plan in April

Bishop Daniel Deng Bul elected Archbishop of Church of Sudan

The Episcopal Church of Sudan has elected Bishop Daniel Deng Bul, bishop of the Diocese of Renk, as archbishop of the province. The election took place February 14 at a three day emergency General Synod at All Saints Cathedral in Juba, Sudan .

"It is a big day filled with excitement in Juba," said Emmanuel Sserwadda, the Episcopal Church's partnership officer for Africa who is attending the February 13-15 Synod.

The 75 voting delegates included bishops, clergy and laity, and a two-thirds majority of 50 votes was required to elect the new archbishop. The other candidates were Bishop Ezekiel Kondo of Khartoum and Bishop Francis Loyo of Rokoni.

Deng received 39 votes, Loyo 21 and Kondo 15. Kondo was eliminated and before the Synod could proceed to the second ballot, Loyo withdrew and asked all delegates to support Deng. Deng's enthronement will be held at All Saints Cathedral in Juba on April 20. He succeeds the Most Rev. Joseph Marona who served eight years as archbishop until retiring last December. Since Marona's

retirement the dean of the cathedral in Khartoum, The Very Rev. Nathaniel Garang has served as interim archbishop. The Church of Sudan has 5 million members in 24 dioceses.

Workshop on MDG goals planned for Chicago area

The Millennium Development Goals Task Force is planning a workshop and summit on September 20. Speakers for this provincial gathering include Bishop Jeffrey Lee; Alex Baumgarten of the Episcopal Church's Office of Governmental Relations; Abigail Nelson of Episcopal Relief and Development; and Mike Kinman of Episcopalians for Global Reconciliation. Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori has been invited and an invitation will be going out to House of Deputies President Bonnie Anderson. The location will be announced in March. Contact: Newland Smith n-smith1@seabury.edu
<http://pr1.dfms.org/>

Institutions

Bishop Scantlebury will preside at the institution of **the Rev. David Rude** as rector of [Grace Church, Sterling](#) on Sunday, March 2 at 3 pm.

Bishop Lee will preside at the institution of **the Rev. Timothy Squier** as rector of [St. Ignatius, Antioch](#) on Sunday, April 12 at 3 pm.

Pray for:

The Very Rev. Bonnie Perry.

The Rev. Terry Bowers.

The Rev. Tom Lamb

Mary Hoelzel

EVENTS

The Death of the Beautiful Young Man: The Erotics of Christian Redemption

Seabury-Western Theological Seminary has added intensive weekend offerings to the 2007-2008 academic curriculum. This spring, John Dally, Seabury's Associate Professor of Christian Communication, will offer *The Death of the Beautiful Young Man: The Erotics of Christian Redemption*, which is open to the public for enrichment as well as credit.

Please contact Seabury Registrar Peggy Pearson, 847-328-9300 x. 44 or peggy.pearson@seabury.edu for more information or to register and receive a reading list. Participants at any level will be asked to complete the same reading to enable conversation during class sessions.

The course will be offered Friday and Saturday, **March 7-8**, and **April 4-5**. Seabury is located at 2122 Sheridan Road in Evanston, Illinois. There is no set fee for anyone wishing to attend a class for personal enrichment without receiving academic credit. Payment of any amount will support the work and life of the seminary and enroll you in the course.

Sudan Benefit Concert

St. Barnabas, Glen Ellyn is sponsoring a benefit concert for the Diocese of Renk, Sudan on **Saturday, March 8** at Pierce Chapel, Wheaton College. Reception at 7 pm followed by the concert. A donation of \$20 is suggested for those attending the concert. Proceeds benefit the Episcopal Diocesan Health Clinic in Renk. Pierce Chapel is located at the northeast corner of Washington and Union streets in Wheaton. For further information contact St. Barnabas at office@stbarnabas-episcopal.com or (630) 469-1394.

Camp Preview Day

Learn more about the diocesan summer camp program at a Camp Preview Day on **Sunday March 9** at Camp Algonquin, site of the diocesan summer camp, beginning at 3 pm. Camp staff will be on hand to explain the different sessions, activities and camp policies. For any high school or college age youth who will be 18 years or older this June: the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries is looking for camp staff. For information serving as a camp staff person or to enroll in a summer camp, contact Sue Cromer (312) 751-6722 scromer@episcopalchicago.org.

LeHavree prayer service for healing at Grace, New Lenox

Are you suffering with a health issue—physical, emotional, spiritual? Do you care for someone with a health issue? On **Tuesday evening, March 11**, Grace Episcopal Church, New Lenox, hosts its quarterly “*LeHavree Service*,” a prayer service for healing. The phrase “LeHavree” comes from the Hebrew meaning, “to heal.” Grace’s Lehavree Service incorporates sacred readings, music, time for reflection, and anointing with holy oil in a quiet setting.

The LeHavree Service begins at 7 pm at Grace Church, located at the corner of Pine and Hickory Streets just one block west and one block south of the intersection of Cedar Rd. and Route 30 in New Lenox. Everyone in the community is invited, including those with health concerns and those caring for them. For more information call Grace Church at 815-485-6596 or visit the website

www.gracenewlenox.org.

4th Annual Winter Bowl-A-Thon for Lawrence Hall Youth Services

Lawrence Hall Youth Services will hold its 4th annual Winter Bowl-A-Thon benefit on **Tuesday, March 11** at the Lucky Strike Lanes, 322 E. Illinois Street, Chicago. Youth session runs from 5 pm to 7 pm; the adult session is 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm. Registration fee is \$400 per team of 5, or \$100 per individual and includes food, beverages and shoes. For information contact Nicole Askew at 312.456.2490 or naskew@lawrencehall.org.

National Episcopal Health Ministries conference

National Episcopal Health Ministries (NEHM) will hold its first annual conference, 'Seasons of Health Ministry,' at Kanuga Episcopal Retreat Center **March 27-29, 2008**. The conference will feature keynote speaker Rev. Jean Denton, founder of NEHM and author of “Good is the Flesh: Body, Soul and Christian Faith.” There will be a variety of workshops offered throughout the conference to help participants start, grow and refresh health ministry/parish nursing. To learn more, visit www.episcopalhealthministries.org or call 317-253-1277 ext. 34. NEHM is a network of nurses, health ministers, chaplains, and laypeople who promote health and wellness in Episcopal congregations.

Brent House hosts St. Matthew’s Passion

Since Felix Mendelssohn's famous revival of the St. Matthew Passion in 19th-century Berlin, this monumental piece has exerted enormous influence on countless composers and musicians. Calling for three choruses, a double orchestra, and many skilled vocal and instrumental soloists, the Passion is a musical tour-de-force that is not soon forgotten. Prepare for Chicago Chorale's **March 15** performance of the Passion with three prelude events orchestrated by Brent House:

Act I. Overture. The Baroque, Bach, and the Passion. Saturday, March 1, 3:00 p.m., Brent House. Organist and Roosevelt University professor David Schrader speaks on the composer, his era and the work.

Act II. Exposition. St. Matthew and the Passion. Saturday, March 8, 3:00 p.m., Brent House. Brent House chaplain Stacy Alan talks about Matthew’s particular perspective on the events around Christ’s trial and death.”

Act III. Interlude. In Rehearsal: Chicago Chorale. Wednesday, March 12, 7:30–9:00 p.m., Hyde Park Union Church. Listen in as conductor Bruce Tammen leads Chorale members

through its penultimate rehearsal. (Come or go as your schedule demands.)

Finale: The Concert. Saturday, March 15, 7:00 p.m., Church of the Holy Family Chicago Chorale, conducted by Bruce Tammen, performs Bach's St. Matthew Passion Performance is preceded by a 6:00 p.m. pre-concert talk by theologian Martin Marty.

Brent House tickets to The Passion include admission to the March 15 concert, as well as attendance at any or all of the prelude events. Donations are welcome to sponsor tickets for Brent House students. RSVP by Saturday, February 23. For more information, please call Lee Behnke at 773.324.2918 or email office@brenthouse.org.

Faith X-plorer weekend at Camp Algonquin

Faith X-plorers is a weekend event designed to allow senior high youth the space and opportunity to grow as a Christian in a fun-filled outdoor setting. Formerly known as Confirmation Camp, this program has been offered in a retreat setting for over four years. It is all about forming a relationship with oneself, others, and Jesus Christ, all as the participants prepare to accept the radical claim that they are Christ's body on earth; in other words, that they are the church. It is open to high-school age youth and adult mentors. Whether baptized, confirmed or just exploring, everyone is welcome.

Faith X-plorers will be held the weekend of **April 4 through 6** at Camp Algonquin in Algonquin. For more information and/or to register your group, contact Sue Cromer (312-751-6722) scromer@episcopalchicago.org or Vicki Garvey (312-751-4204) vgarvey@episcopalchicago.org

Keeping God's People Safe training

May 15 and 16, 2008 Train the Trainer

Church Pension Group will conduct a Sexual Harrassment Prevention Train the Trainer's event which will include the new videos. A new video on Equal Employment Opportunity laws will also be screened. Attendance will be by invitation from the diocesan Office of Pastoral Care. Contact: The Rev. Canon Randall Warren rwarren@episcopalchicago.org

Gulf Coast mission trip planned for August 2008

The Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry has organized a second Gulf Coast mission trip this coming August for high school and college age youth and the adults who work with them. The week long mission, **August 2 through 9** will be based at two of the Katrina work camps: Mission on the Bay in Bay St. Louis, Miss., and Camp Coast Care at Long Beach, Miss. High school and college youth teams will be based at Mission on the Bay while adults not working with the youth will be based at Camp Coast Care. Both teams have a limit of 50 persons. Cost has not been set. The organizers hope to keep the youth costs to \$200 or less per student through fundraising efforts and diocesan subsidies. Travel will be by Amtrak from Chicago to New Orleans and then in rented vans to the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

The Diocese of Chicago's 2008 Mission Trip is a ministry to the people whose lives were affected by Hurricane Katrina in Bay St. Louis, Long Beach, Pearlinton, and other areas in Mississippi. Volunteers participating in the activities of the mission trip will be expected to be involved in specific repair and building activities including, but not limited to: gutting houses, cleaning debris, gardening, yard work, roofing, carpentry, dry walling, digging and building steps, plumbing, glasswork, insulating, painting, flooring, masonry, electrical wiring and other facets of repair, remodeling and renovation. These activities include, but are not limited to: the use of power tools such as saws and drills, as well as the use of hand tools. The foregoing activities will also require climbing with and without supplies, tools and materials as well as working in high places such as on roofs and other facets of construction work.

Volunteers may, in their free time, engage in non-sponsored activities including, swimming, or other sports activities of their choosing. Planned evening activities may include, but are not limited to: visiting the local community, traveling to visit places or people of regional interest.

An informational meeting will be held **Saturday, February 23, 2008** from 2 – 4 pm at Grace Church in Oak Park. For more information contact Canon Sue Cromer at (312) 751-6722 or scromer@episcopalchicago.org

RESOURCES

Position Opening—Administrative assistant for Assistant Bishop

The Office of the Assistant Bishop and the Department of Christian Formation, and Youth and Young Adult Ministry is seeking an administrative assistant to fill a vacancy created with the appointment of Anne Cothran as administrative assistant to Bishop Jeffrey Lee. This is a full-time position with competitive salary and benefits. For a full description see the posting on the [diocesan website](#) or in the accompanying attachment.

Bulletin inserts for Prison Ministry Sunday March 2

The March 2 bulletin inserts from Episcopal Life Online describe prison ministries in several dioceses around the Episcopal Church, and provide a set of Prayers of the People for celebrations of Prison Ministry Sunday on March 2. Bulletin inserts are available [here](#).

Lenten resources from Episcopal Peace Fellowship

Episcopal Peace Fellowship has links to a number of peace oriented Lenten resources on the EPF website. These include an experiential model of prayer for the Millennium Development Goals developed by Deacon Liz Meade, co-chair of the Deacons Council; the Eco-Palm Project for sustainably harvested palms for use on Palm Sunday 2008 (the project is an effort of the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation and the University of Minnesota [Center for Integrated Natural Resources and Agricultural Management](#)); a lenten peace litany; suggestions for peace work and using less oil; and a cost of war exhibit from the American Friends Service Committee.

Consecration DVD

The Office of Communication will be offering a DVD of the February 2, 2008 Ordination and Consecration of the 12th Bishop of Chicago. This full-length version of the service will be available in early March. Titled *Together Proclaim*, the DVD runs two hours and nine minutes and may be ordered for \$10 per disk, shipping included by contacting David Skidmore, canon for communication. Or send your order with check made payable to The Diocese of Chicago (with notation Consecration Video) to:

Office of Communication
Episcopal Church Center
65 E. Huron St.
Chicago, IL 60611

Episcopal Church Archives offers online exhibit on African Americans

The Archives of the Episcopal Church announces an electronic publication and online exhibit entitled, *The Church Awakens: African Americans and the Struggle for Justice*. The multimedia exhibit, found at http://episcopalarchives.org/Afro-Anglican_history/exhibit/, covers the period of enslavement to the present, with emphasis on the Civil Rights era. As an educational resource for Church settings, the exhibit is designed to expand on the strength of reader input and future research.

This Web-based project offers an examination of the compelling story of how African American Episcopalians struggled to claim their rightful place as full and equal members of the Church community. The exhibit brings together a narrative overview of that development with photographs, documents, videos, and previously unheard taped interviews with prominent American figures on matters of race. Figures such as Absalom Jones, George Bragg, Pauli Murray, Jonathan Daniels, and Charles Lawrence are featured along with Church organizations such as the American Church Institute, the Conference of Church Workers, and the Episcopal Society for Cultural and Racial Unity. Audio recordings include interviews with figures as diverse as Langston Hughes and Jackie Robinson.

The exhibit arose from a 1993 commitment by the Board of the Archives of the Episcopal Church to focus the Archives' acquisitions and research services program on diversity, with an initial emphasis on the Afro-Anglican experience. The 1991 General Convention had called on the Church to conduct a wide-ranging examination of persistent institutional racism and patterns of forgetting that had overtaken the legacy of the post-Civil Rights period in Church and society. Working with a donor, the Reverend John Morris, who gave financial support to the exhibit, the Archives turned to emerging Web

technologies as a vehicle for making primary source materials permanently available to everyday Episcopalians and the public. The exhibit is a product of John Morris= desire to preserve a central lesson that the unified Christian community has within its grasp the capacity for extraordinary acts of justice and honor.