

# *E Connect*

Lent One, February 7, 2008

Office of Communications, Diocese of Chicago

Contact: David Skidmore dskidmore@episcopalchicago.org



## NEWS

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### **A Message from Bishop Jeffrey Lee: Life in Christ: Thank You**

Q: Who do you seek?

A: Life in Christ

So begins a rite in The Book of Occasional Services to mark the admission of Catechumens, adults who are preparing for Baptism at Easter. It is a powerful moment when it is used in a congregation of people who are willing to accompany new Christians publicly in their journey to the font. Here are the origins of Lent. The candidates for baptism, their sponsors, and the whole congregation moving deeper and deeper into the Mystery of Christ's dying and rising for us and in us for the sake of the world.

There are too many people to thank here individually for the spectacular celebrations last weekend. We can all take pride in the wonderful hospitality, worship and dedication of the Diocese of Chicago. I could not be more delighted to be your bishop, and I thank you all for your prayers, your hard work, and your welcome. It has been an interesting shift to come away from the festivities of the ordination and seating so quickly into the contrasting austerity of Ash Wednesday and on into Lent. But I am grateful for it. In season and out, in good times and bad, in times of joy and in times of sorrow, we are all committed to seeking the one thing most important: Life in Christ.

Sister and brothers, I wish you a holy Lent. Keep your eyes fixed on Jesus Christ. Seek life in Christ with all your heart. Let your prayer, your fasting and your works of mercy all be signs of your intention to follow Christ. I rejoice to be here with you, walking the way of the cross. It is none other than the way of life and peace.

Faithfully,

Jeffrey D. Lee  
Bishop of Chicago

### **Panel discussion on open communion**

Seabury-Western Theological Seminary will host a panel discussion on open communion on Wednesday evening **February 13** in the seminary's Seabury Lounge. Seabury-Western's dean and president, the Very Rev. Gary Hall, will moderate the Who May Be Invited to the Table? discussion which begins at 7:30 pm and ends at 9 pm. Participating on the panel will be The Very Rev. Matt Gunter, dean of the Aurora Deanery and rector of St. Barnabas, Glen Ellyn; The Rev. Dr. Tom Holtzen, associate professor of historical and systematic theology at Nashotah House; The Rev. Dr. Ruth Meyers, professor of liturgics at Seabury-Western; The Rev. Juan Reed, vicar of St. Martin's, Chicago; The Rev. James Steen, rector of St. Paul and the Redeemer, Chicago; and Dr. Kathryn Tanner, professor of theology at the University of Chicago Divinity School.

A growing number of congregations in the Episcopal Church are inviting anyone present at the Eucharist, whether or not baptized, to receive communion, despite a canon stipulating that only those who are baptized shall be eligible to receive. Panelists will explore this question from various perspectives – biblical, historical, theological, liturgical, and pastoral.

For information contact, Constance Wilson, director of communication, at 800-275-8235 x 27 or [constance.wilson@seabury.edu](mailto:constance.wilson@seabury.edu) Seabury-Western is located at 2122 Sheridan Road in Evanston.

### **Stained glass dedication honoring martyred Uganda archbishop**

St. Edmund's Episcopal Church, Chicago will observe Black History Month with the dedication of a stained glass window honoring Janani Luwum, Archbishop of Uganda, who was martyred February 16, 1977 by Uganda security forces under orders of dictator Idi Amin. The dedication will take place during the 10:30 am Eucharist at St. Edmund's on Sunday February 17. The Rev. Petero Sabune, a nominee for Chicago's episcopal election last November, will be the preacher. Sabune is Episcopal chaplain at New York's Sing Sing Correctional Facility and associate rector of Trinity Episcopal Church in Ossining, N.Y. St. Edmund's is located at 6105 S. Michigan.

### **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 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](mailto:dcampbell@saintjamescathedral.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](mailto:eerickson@episcopalchicago.org)

### **Formational meeting for founding of Integrity chapter**

*[Editor: we are publishing this notice at the request of the organizing group. Integrity was founded in the Diocese of Chicago in the early 1970s, and until recent years had an active chapter here. It is an affiliated organization with the Diocese of Chicago.]*

Beginning in the spring of 2007 a small group of persons began to explore the possibility of again forming an Integrity chapter in the Diocese of Chicago. That conversation has continued and attracted

a grass roots group of committed and hardworking persons who have completed the groundwork necessary to form the Northern Illinois Chapter of Integrity.

We have heard the argument that there is no longer a need for Integrity in the diocese because lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, queer, and questioning (LGBTQ) persons are now fully welcomed and integrated into the life of local congregations and the diocese. Yes, this is true for many, particularly within the city, but we have discovered this is not true for many others. In addition, the ongoing debates about gay marriage at the state and national levels and about the blessing of same sex unions and the ordination of bishops who are lesbian or gay in our own Anglican Communion continue to leave many within and beyond the church wondering whether they genuinely have a full and equal place in the life of the church or whether they genuinely want to be part of the church.

Given these realities for many LGBTQ persons in our diocese, the grass roots organizing group believes that a local chapter of Integrity, like the national level organization, is needed. We envision the local chapter being a safe place where LGBTQ persons will be invited to tell their stories, both joyous and challenging, speaking about those things which are important to them as persons of faith. Beginning from this place of listening, we then see the local Integrity chapter becoming an articulate voice for education, leadership development and advocacy at the local level while collaboratively supporting the work of Integrity at the national level.

We also know that to be effective and credible the local chapter will need to include the broadest possible representation of LGBTQ persons and their friends, families and allies from throughout the diocese. With that in mind we cordially invite all interested persons to attend a meeting of the grass roots Integrity formation group at St. Peters Church, 621 West Belmont in Chicago, on Saturday, March 1 from 2:30 – 5:00 PM. So that we can make appropriate arrangements for space and refreshments, please RSVP by February 25 to John Larson ([jvlarson@aol.com](mailto:jvlarson@aol.com) or 815-886-6951) or Sharon Hamman ([shamman@comcast.net](mailto:shamman@comcast.net) or 847-420-9363).

It is requested that all churches communicate the above announcement to their congregations between now and February 25.

### Pray for:

**Katherine Lee**

### In Memoriam

**The Rev. Sherman Miller**, husband of the Rev. Pam Miller, died February 6 at home. A funeral is scheduled for Saturday February 16 at 11 am at Emmanuel Church, Rockford. Bishop Lee officiating.

## **EVENTS**

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### **Keeping God's People Safe training**

**Sunday February 10, 2008**

#### **Level Two Training**

Church of Our Saviour

530 W. Fullerton Parkway, Chicago

Noon to 4 pm. Lunch will be provided. Contact: Kevin Caruso before Jan. 30 at (773) 549-3832 or [coschurch@sbcglobal.net](mailto:coschurch@sbcglobal.net)

### **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](mailto:rwarren@episcopalchicago.org)

## Magnetic Church Conference

Andrew Weeks, a gifted lay evangelist and motivational speaker, will lead a one and a half day conference in practical evangelism on **Friday evening February 8** through **Saturday, February 9** at St. Lawrence Episcopal Church in Libertyville. The Magnetic Church conference is meant for everyone, lay and ordained, with an interest in welcoming and retaining new members.

Friday's session runs from 6:30 pm to 10 pm; Saturday's session runs from 8:30 am to 4 pm. Each participant will receive a 40-page Presentation Reference Guide, and each church represented at the conference will receive the 17-page Resource and Reference Packet which includes the 45 step Planning Guide. Participants need to bring one copy of the congregation newsletter, a welcome brochure or visitor form or contact letter, and church bulletin.

Registration fee is \$40 per person or \$35 each if preregistered in groups of four or more and prepaid by January 18, 2008. Refreshments, materials and Saturday lunch included in fee. The parish is located at 125 W. Church Street.

For registration information contact Mary Ann Seagrist at (847) 756-4218 or [seagrist5@comcast.net](mailto:seagrist5@comcast.net)  
Information on the Magnetic Church Conference resources and conferences at <http://www.magnetic-church.com/>

## 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](mailto: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, **February 8-9, 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.

### About *The Death of the Beautiful Young Man*:

Why is Jesus so often portrayed as young and beautiful in his suffering and death in spite of our lack of information about his age or appearance? What systems of belief are encoded in artistic renderings of the crucifixion? What hierarchies of value persist in our ongoing representations? What is at stake in the depiction of the death Christians call redemptive? *The Death of the Beautiful Young Man* will look at these questions from a variety of perspectives — art historical, anthropological, theological and philosophical — and in dialogue with a variety of media — poetry, sculpture, music and film. Its source material will range from the epic struggle of a handsome Mithras with a bull primordial to the present-day combats of beautiful young men with living bulls in the *corridas* of Mexico and Spain, from the theology of human sacrifice in Mesoamerican cultures to the execution of Montgomery Clift in *A Place in the Sun*; and from Filipino penitents to U.S. soldiers to the offense caused by a crucified Black Jesus made entirely of chocolate. *The Death of the Beautiful Young Man* will ask participants to become thoughtful critics of the explicit and implied messages inherent in the iconography of Jesus' death.

## Parenting course for young adults

St. Mary's, Park Ridge will be hosting a seminar on parenting on **Saturday February 16** from 9 am to 11:30 am. Parenting 401: Strategies for Parents of Young Adults will look at such questions as Is parenting your young adult child (18-29) different than what you expected? Are you looking for some

support as you move into this new phase in the life of your family? This workshop is a time to learn from trained professionals, share challenges and joys with other parents, and grow in relationships. St. Mary's is located at 306 S. Prospect Avenue. For information call the parish office (847) 823-4126.

### **Absalom Jones Day observance**

The Rev. Petero Sabune, chaplain at Sing Sing Correctional Facility in New York and associate at Trinity Church, Ossining, N.Y., will be the keynote speaker at the annual observance of Absalom Jones Day at St. Thomas, Chicago **Sunday February 17**. The observance, which begins at 3 pm, is being sponsored by the Chicago chapter of the Union of Black Episcopalians. Sabune was one of eight candidates for election as the 12<sup>th</sup> Bishop of Chicago at the annual Diocesan Convention this past November.

Absalom Jones, the first black priest in the Episcopal Church, was ordained in 1804. Jones, with Richard Allen, was among the first leaders of the African American community to lobby for the abolition of slavery. They formed the Free African Society in 1787 after being expelled from St. George's Methodist Church in Philadelphia after refusing to sit in the slave gallery. Later Jones and Allen organized nursing and burial efforts during a two-year yellow fever epidemic in Philadelphia, a ministry that won them praise throughout New England. While Allen chose to remain in the Methodist Church--forming the first black church in the United States--Jones chose to join the Episcopal Church, and founded St. Thomas African Episcopal Church in 1794.

St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Chicago, the diocese's first African American parish, is located at 38<sup>th</sup> Street and South Wabash Avenue. For information contact The Rev. Christopher Griffin [chris61griffin@yahoo.com](mailto:chris61griffin@yahoo.com)

### **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](mailto: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](mailto:scromer@episcopalchicago.org).

### **4<sup>th</sup> Annual Winter Bowl-A-Thon for Lawrence Hall Youth Services**

Lawrence Hall Youth Services will hold its 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](http://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.

### **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](mailto:scromer@episcopalchicago.org)