

E Connect

Lent Three, February 20, 2008

Office of Communications, Diocese of Chicago

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NEWS

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 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



Sue Easterwood to retire the end of March

Sue Easterwood will be retiring the end of March after 22 years as administrative assistant to the Bishop of Chicago. Anne Cothran, currently administrative assistant to Assistant Bishop Victor Scantlebury, has been appointed administrative assistant to the new Bishop of Chicago, Jeffrey Lee. A position opening announcement will be posted later this month for the administrative assistant to the Assistant Bishop.

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 erickson@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

National 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 national 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. Both Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori and House of Deputies President Bonnie Anderson have been invited to participate. The location will be announced in March. Contact: Newland Smith nsmith1@seabury.edu

Pray for:

The Very Rev. Bonnie Perry.

The Rev. Terry Bowers.

The Rev. Tom Lamb

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.

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.

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