



The Forward

February 2009

Letter from the Bishop

Mission. Mission. Mission. We talk about mission in the church all the time. We use the word in a variety of ways—mission-oriented, mission-minded, mission-driven, and my favorite, missional. From time to time, I think it's a good idea to stop and ask what we mean when we talk about mission or the mission of the Church.

The Book of Common Prayer, in the catechism, defines the mission of the church as that of restoring all people to unity with God and each other in Christ. This is a tall order to say the least.

The good news is that we undertake mission in the world supported and driven by the grace of God in Jesus Christ. Our

Christian practices of hospitality, prayer, worship, and giving are missional by nature. This is especially the case when we engage these practices in ways that are active and alive.

We engage in mission with those who are far off and those who are near. An important component to effective mission work is that the work be discerned and carried out in the context of community. Mission that emerges from communal prayer and discern-

ment tends to be powerful and authentic in ways unachievable by the individual alone.

In this edition of *The Forward* you will read about various mission opportunities. Dan Paulo, a lay leader and veterinarian from St. John's in Franklin, is leading another mission trip to Honduras. I have travelled with



Dan to Honduras on a couple of mission trips. He is a person of deep faith and a real commitment to the mission of the church around the world. Dan has travelled to parts of southeast Asia, Africa, and Central and South America exercising a vocation of mission work. If you think you might be called or interested

in this trip to Honduras, then pray about it and talk to Dan. I guarantee such a trip will change your life.

Maybe travel isn't something you want to do right now or you want do something locally. Pray about it. See what opportunities are available and then do it. Engage in Christian practice.

Mission isn't just a word. Mission is a way of life.

Blessings,

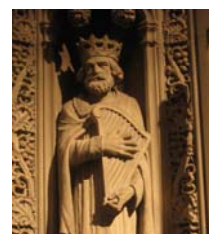
+ Sean

Inside this issue:

St. John's, Franklin, Organizing Mission Trip	2
Get My People GOING!	2
Letter from the Canon	3
The Diocese Gives as Part of the MDGs	3
Velma Moore - St. Barnabas Grants Awarded	4
Disciples of Christ in Community	4
Diocesan Meeting Reminders	4

Bishop Sean's & Canon Martha's Visitation Schedules - February 2009

- February 1st - Canon Martha - St. Agnes', St. Marys
- February 8th - Bishop Sean - Church of the Holy Cross, North East
- Canon Martha - Holy Spirit & St. Mark's, Erie
- February 15th - Bishop Sean - Emmanuel, Corry
- Canon Martha - St. John's, Sharon
- February 22nd - Bishop Sean - Church of the Ascension, Bradford
- Canon Martha - Trinity Church, New Castle



St. John's, Sharon

St. John's, Franklin, Organizing Mission Trip to Honduras by Dan Paulo

This summer a short-term mission work team from St. John's, Franklin, will be returning to the Central American country of Honduras for a third time. Anyone interested and able is invited to join us in this effort. We will be assisting with projects in communities served by missionaries of the South American Missionary Society (SAMS). The primary project will be to buy and build concrete stoves, water tanks or latrines for very low-income families in a small village near San Pedro Sula, Honduras. We would be working alongside the families who would receive the stoves.

The work will be hot, dirty and physical. The accommodations and food will be adequate. The experience will be priceless.

In addition to providing a much needed benefit to those in need, we would be fostering Christian brotherhood and developing contacts within the Episcopal Diocese of Honduras. You will be able to see how our Christian brothers and sisters live in one of the poorest countries in Central America as well as to observe first hand the work of missionaries in action.

The dates of the trip will be July 11-19, 2009, and the estimated cost will be approximately \$1200 per person for airfare, lodging, meals, and a small Honduras Diocesan administration fee. Each participant will also be expected to participate in some pre-trip fundraising effort to raise the \$250 cost for each stove or water tank. If we raise enough funds we could possibly help with the building of up to two stoves (or water tanks or latrines) per person during the week.

If you are interested in going, and are willing and able to work, please contact Dan Paulo at fdpaulo@gmail.com or 814-437-6368. We will need those who are interested to let us know as soon as possible and we must have an absolute commitment by April 1st. If you are even considering going, it is not too soon to begin obtaining a current passport (applications for new passports or passport renewals are available in your County Court House or online). Recommended vaccinations for Honduras include Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, Typhoid and Tetanus. Hepatitis A vaccine and boosters are given over a 6-month schedule; Hepatitis B requires 3 doses of vaccine over at least a 4 month time period.



Websites of Interest:

The South American Missionary Society - <http://samsusa.org>
Episcopal Relief/Aanglidesh - <http://www.er-d.org/Honduras>

Get My People GOING! A Lenten Journey Toward Wholeness

By Judith Fair, PsyD & Joyce Wilhelm, RN

Please accept this as your invitation to wholeness, a project offered by the Health Ministry Team at St. Stephen's, Fairview, and designed by the International Parish Nurse Resource Center. Get My People Going is a wellness program grounded in the book of Exodus where we will "walk through the wilderness to the Promised Land." It is designed for use by anyone who wants to move toward a healthier lifestyle. You name your concerns, three areas you would like to improve (e.g., more exercise, fruits & veggies, energy, sleep, less anxiety/worry, stop smoking, more social contact, purpose in life, deepen your spiritual life—and so on). We'll walk with you toward the direction of wholeness during the Lenten Season. The program is structured to meet your needs and goals. There are no required weekly meetings; however, we've found that some folks benefit from periodic gatherings and/or personal coaching which we can make available. This will be part of the group's orientation and decision on February 12, 7:00 PM at St. Stephen's, on Dutch Rd. in Fairview. There is no fee for the program. All you need to do now is call for a registration form. You may contact Judith at home (814.474.5445) or on her cell (814.460.0779); you can contact Joyce at 814.838.7203. You can also register at St. Stephen's after the 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM services on Sundays.

Letter from the Canon

It has been very much like winter this winter. Farmers know that even when snow is covering the ground and it appears to the casual eye as though not much is happening, the earth itself is preparing for spring. Ground prepared and seeded in the fall will bring forth its bounty early. Ground left fallow will be rested and ready to be tilled when the last of the snows have watered the earth. In the mean time the farmer continues with the daily chores that get ever so daily this time of year.

All of that is to say that the work of the diocese (for me anyway) continues in much the same way. Much ground was prepared in the fall. I have been working with a number of congregations in transition and several will be ready to receive names for new clergy this spring. On another front we continue to refine and develop the ordination/formation process. Currently I am meeting with the Diocesan Discernment Committee and two individuals discerning a call to the diaconate. A meeting is planned for February to orient the newly appointed Commission on Ministry to their role in the process. And, on March 27 & 28, we will be hosting the next aspirants re-



treat. Please keep all of these folks in your prayers.

Educationally, we are cooperating with the Northwestern Pennsylvania Lutheran Synod to pool resources for the necessary course offerings. To date, we have offered an Introduction to Scripture class locally and a New Testament class through the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Gettysburg. In order to continue to develop these course offerings, a steering committee has been formed with representatives of both the diocese and the synod. Presently these courses are being offered only to those pursuing a call to ordination but the hope is to eventually open the classes to all interested persons.

All of this is ongoing and in the mean time, or in between times, I continue to visit the congregations and try to address whatever concerns you may have. I hope to see many of you along the way. Spring is coming and the farmer in me is looking forward to that season as well.

Blessings,

Martha

The Diocese Gives as Part of the Millennium Development Goals

By the Rev. Zachary Irwin

The Millennium Development Goals represent a far reaching promise by the world's wealthiest peoples to transform global suffering among the poorest to a level of sustainable development. The eight goals include the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger and the achievement of universal primary education. Some goals such as the reduction of infant mortality are part of the "Poverty Reduction Strategies" and seem largely attainable by 2015, while others such as achieving environmental sustainability present a grave challenge.

To attain the MDGs, the Episcopal Church has committed 0.7 % of its administrative budget, while encouraging individuals and dioceses to do the same through the "One Episcopalian" campaign (<http://www.episcopalchurch.org/ONE>). At its 2006 Diocesan Convention, our Diocese accepted the 0.7% challenge for existing programs in developing countries.

The greatest share of this year's budgeted amount of \$5464, some \$4000, has gone to support milk dietary

supplements for children and orphans cared for by the Nyakahanga Hospital in northwestern Tanzania. This privately funded hospital serves an area of 450,000 people, and the Milk Fund has provided 1-2 cups of milk a day to several thousand children since its inception in 2003 under the leadership of Deacon Charl Kapp.



Also funded was the CSI Keralan Church in the Indian state of Kerala. Archdeacon Gail Winslow and the Cathedral of St. Paul has been helping the Church to meet the needs of its congregation.

Finally, through its sale of T-shirts, the Diocesan Peace and Justice Task Force has contributed \$600 to Dr. Paul Borger of Trinity, Warren. Dr. Borger visits the Rio Dulce region of Guatemala as part of a dental team from the US based International Health Emissaries that serves up to 400 children each year.

We invite every congregation to join us in helping these and other efforts devoted to the MDGs.

Velma Moore - St. Barnabus Grants Awarded by the Rev. Bonnie Skellen

The Deacons of the Diocese are pleased to announce that the following St Barnabus and Velma Moore Outreach Grant requests were recently awarded:

- * \$5,280 to the Church of the Holy Spirit, Erie, for their Food Pantry
- * \$4,999 to Emmanuel Church, Emporium, for the Cameron County Family Center
- * \$4,600 to St. John's, Sharon, for emergency funds for their Food Pantry
- * \$10,000 to St. Clement's, Greenville, for their Food Pantry
- * \$6,000 to Trinity, Warren, for their Holiday Food Baskets
- * \$4,500 to Trinity, Warren, for their Delivered Meals program
- * \$10,000 to Holy Cross, North East, for their Food Pantry
- * \$8,345 to St. Stephen's, Fairview, for their Nursery School.

We heartily encourage all congregations to seek ways to serve Christ in the people of their communities - to think big - being mindful of the great resource this Diocese has in this fund. We look forward to many more awards in the future.

For more information you can contact the Diocesan Church Center or the Ven. Gail G. Winslow.

Disciples of Christ in Community at St. Stephen's, Fairview by Judith Fair, PsyD

Greetings! We bring you new and revised information on the DOCC program at St. Stephen's. Due to a scheduling conflict, conference dates have been rescheduled for March 20 – March 22, 2009. DOCC is an educational training conference in adult formation, which employs presentations by Canon William Barnwell and small group discussions and activities. Throughout the training, participants will begin to deepen their spiritual lives and faith understandings, learn facilitator communication skills, and further identify challenges and opportunities in their parish ministries

Upon completion of conference requirements, participants may become licensed facilitators who, together with a licensed presenter, may offer the DOCC program in their home parishes. Brochures will be mailed to churches for distribution in early February. Individuals wanting to be placed on St. Stephen's mailing list should call Joanne at 814.474.5490.

There is a fee for the license and conference expenses. Those requiring tuition assistance should first inquire of their rector and vestry. Other tuition assistance may also be available. Anyone with questions and clergy who are interested in the DOCC training program but are limited by their Sunday obligations, are encouraged to call Judith Fair, at home (814.474.5445) or on her cell phone (814.460.0779).

Diocesan Meeting Reminders

Diocesan Council members, please remember that council will meet on Tuesday, February 17, at 7:00 PM at St. John's, Franklin. Please let Vanessa know whether or not you are able to come to the meeting either by phone (814-456-4203) or by e-mail (vbutler@dionwpa.org).

The Commission on Ministry will be meeting on Saturday, February 21, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM at St. John's, Franklin. Please let Vanessa know whether or not you are able to come to the meeting either by phone (814-456-4203) or by e-mail (vbutler@dionwpa.org).