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Faith For Life Weekend to Offer Prayer, Fellowship for All

BY BECKETT STOKES

The first annual Faith for Life weekend at Snow Mountain Ranch, near Winter Park – which will take place June 2 – 4, 2006 – will be designed to provide fun, fellowship and a celebration of faith for people of all ages. It also provides a unique opportunity for Colorado Episcopalians to gather together outside of their own congregations. “We hope that this weekend will become an event that families put on their calendars and look forward to all year,” said Neil Riley, Canon for Faith Formation.

The weekend’s theme will be Marking Milestones, and presentations, discussions and activities for all ages will explore the idea of “Faith Milestones,” events in our lives that provide opportunities to celebrate and nurture our faith.

Dr. Dick Hardel, the weekend’s keynote speaker, promises to provide the event with energy and with food for thought. Hardel, who works with the Youth and Family Institute in Minnesota, served as a Lutheran pastor for twenty years, and is the founder and proprietor of the Life in Christ Circus. He has been actively involved with clown ministry for several years, and believes that the healing



Dr. Dick Hardel will be the featured speaker.

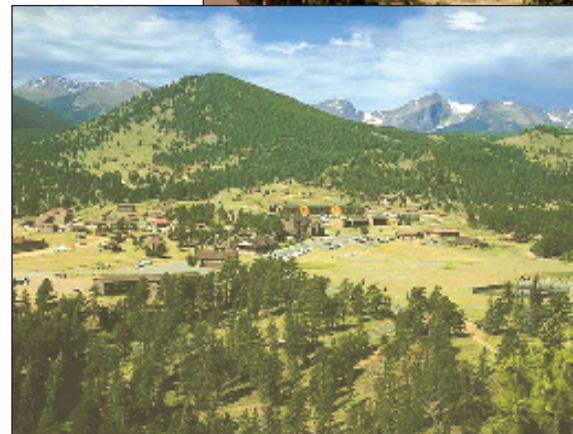
power of the Gospel can be found in laughter and play. The Faith for Life week-end is one of the visible results of the diocese’s focus on faith formation and discipleship, as well as an evolution of its camp and conference ministry in Colorado. “This is one important piece in our growing camp ministry that includes a number of summer camps for children and youth, as well as our Quest and Genesis weekends,” said Riley. This event is designed to bring together Episcopalians of all ages, from all over the diocese.”

The weekend will offer activities for children, youth and adults. Children will experience teaching, crafts, games and music for them; there will also be programs geared specifically for teens. Seminars and workshops will be available for all ages. The registration fee will include full use of all of the facilities at Snow Mountain Ranch, including lots of hiking trails, campfire time and great food.

Snow Mountain Ranch is a beautiful, world-class resort, run by the YMCA. It offers plenty to do. Available accommodations range from tent sites, to RV hook-ups, to hotel-style



Snow Mountain Ranch will provide a beautiful venue.



housing. Many from around the diocese have fond memories of the facility and the surrounding outdoors. Many new memories are waiting to be created at Faith for Life.

For more information about the Faith For Life Week-end, please contact the Office for Faith Formation at 303-837-1173, or 800-446-3081. ■

Bishop to Conduct Spring Discussions

BY BECKETT STOKES

To prepare for this summer’s General Convention, and to help Colorado Episcopalians comply with a resolution from Diocesan Convention that asks individuals and congregations to “prayerfully recommit ... to the study of the Windsor Report,” Bishop Robert O’Neill will conduct a series of meetings with clergy and lay people between February and May. The Bishop’s Task Force is also assembling resources for study and discussion for vestries and Bishop’s committees about the Windsor Report and General Convention so that lay leadership and congregations can conduct their own study and discussion.

“We are conducting these sessions so that all of us, clergy and laity, will have an opportunity to be better informed and prepared to understand and respond constructively to the key issues that will be raised during next June’s General Convention,” said Bishop O’Neill.

The Windsor Report was produced by the Lambeth Commission of the Anglican Communion in October of 2004 in response to actions taken by the Episcopal Church USA and the Anglican Church in Canada in 2003. The report offers recommendations for ways in which member provinces of the Anglican Communion can exist in communion even when there is serious theological and ecclesiastical disagreement among the member provinces. One of the matters up for discussion at the Episcopal Church’s General Convention this summer will likely be the Episcopal Church’s response to the Windsor Report.

All clergy will attend two day-long meetings with the Bishop in February and March to discuss both the Windsor Report and General Convention. The Bishop will also hold a series of meetings for lay people in April and May, and he is encouraging clergy to organize meetings of vestries and Bishop’s committees from two or three congregations for mornings of reflection. Both the meetings for clergy and for lay people will be held throughout the state in order to make them as convenient as possible to attend.

For more information and schedule of the clergy and lay meetings, please visit the diocesan web site at www.coloradiodiocese.org, and click on the News and Events page, or call the diocesan office at 303-837-1173. ■

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DATES FOR LAY GATHERINGS

Specific locations and times to be announced.

Tues. evening, April 4 North of Denver
 Thurs. evening, April 6 Denver area
 Sat. morning, April 8 Denver area
 Weds. evening, April 19 South of Denver
 Thurs. evening, April 20 South of Denver
 Tues. evening, April 25 Denver area

Thurs. evening, May 4 Southwestern Colorado
 Sat. morning, May 6 Mountains/Western Slope
 Thurs. evening, May 11 North of Denver
 Sat. morning, May 13 Denver area
 Sat. morning, May 20 South of Denver

DISCIPLESHIP

From Bishop O'Neil's Convention Addresses

"As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, [Jesus] saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.' Immediately they left their nets and followed him." —Matthew 4:18-20

Discipleship is a curious word. I will admit, up front, that to my catholic sensibilities, it comes across with a decidedly protestant ring. I think, for example, of the way in which that perfectly good noun ("disciple") has been turned into a verb in some circles, so that people will say things like "I'm 'discipling' some of the new folks in our church" or "You know, if someone is going to be baptized, it's very important that they be 'discipled'" Okay. I get it. I know what it means. It's even a good thing to do. The grammar just doesn't quite work for me. Even so, the fact that the word may have some edge to some of us is, I believe, helpful. What are we about, what is our mission, if we are not disciples?

"Discipleship"—it points very directly to the heart, the center, of who we are, of what we profess to be, as Christians—followers, learners, apprentices, pupils, those whose allegiance is given to the instruction and commitments of the one we call Teacher (with a capital "T") namely, Jesus.

One of the great biblical images of discipleship is contained in the story of the calling of Simon and Andrew found at the beginning of Matthew's gospel. It is stunning in its simplicity. "As he walked by the Sea of Galilee," Matthew writes, "[Jesus] saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And [Jesus] said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.' Immediately they left their nets and followed him." That's it. Nothing more. No commentary. Simon and Andrew are just going about their business. Jesus' happens to be walking by. He says follow me, and they go—with no more assurance apparently than the promise of being made into something new.

I point to this story because so much of our discussion of mission in the Church today seems to begin in a very different place—not at the beginning of Matthew's gospel, but at the end. People love to point to Matthew 28—that passage in which the risen Christ appears to the disciples on the mountain top and says to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." People love to hold up that passage, the great commission—sometimes in a critical way, sometimes as a challenge, sometimes with no small amount of pride and condescension—and say things like, "We are a Great Commission congregation;" or "In this diocese, we take the Great Commission seriously;" or "I don't know about you, but we take our marching orders straight from Matthew 28." I will readily acknowledge that it is, in many ways, a well-intended and well-deserved corrective to a certain apathy and complacency toward mission on the part of the Church.

But hold on. Time out. Take a breath. (And please do not misunderstand me. If we claim the name Christian, we are indeed sent into the world by Jesus to make disciples, to baptize, and to teach. If we claim the name Christian, the great commission is not, as some are want to say, the great option. But...)

We can't move there too quickly either. Remember, the fundamental movement of discipleship is not, first and foremost, a movement into the world but rather it is a movement into relationship. "As he walked by the Sea of Galilee," Matthew writes, "[Jesus] saw two brothers...and he said to them, 'Follow me.'" It's not "go." It's "follow." In John's gospel, the invitation is "come and see." To be a disciple is, first of all, to enter into relationship with Jesus." Clearly, this relationship is transformational, for neither Simon Peter nor Andrew (nor James nor John, if your read further) will be able to continue to go about their business; they will learn instead to "fish" in a new way. And clearly, there is a cost to embracing this relationship as well, for none of them will be able to stay where they are; they must leave their nets behind and they must move wherever Jesus may lead them. And yes, the more willingly and deeply they are drawn into relationship with Jesus, the more profoundly their hearts and minds are changed, and the more powerful their witness to the world becomes.

That is discipleship—being willing to move on every level, leaving the old life behind, following Jesus wherever he may lead the way, sitting at his feet so to speak, taking in not only what he says but who he is on the deepest level of our being, allowing our lives to be reoriented and our selves (our deepest self) to be transformed. This is no small or superficial proposition.

When the disciples set out, they have no idea where they will be led. They cannot possibly imagine the courage that they will need to exercise or the death that they will need to die. It's like that moment in the Chronicles of Narnia when the children are waiting for Aslan, the great lion, the Christ figure. Some of the children have met Aslan already. Others have not. There is some apprehension in the air, and one of the children who has never met Aslan asks one who has, "Is he safe?" And the other child answers, "No. But he's good." To be a disciple is neither safe nor comfortable. But it is good. And it is life changing. And it is what our world needs. In a world in which religion (Christianity included) is so distorted, so abused, and so regularly and willfully coopted to rationalize, and to justify, and to glorify the politics of power and violence, we need true disciples—deeply committed, wise and thoughtful, prayerful and humble, courageous and compassionate disciples of Jesus Christ.

"Follow me," Jesus says. It is what we commit ourselves to in baptism when we say that we will turn, accept, trust, follow and obey Jesus as Lord and Savior. It is not safe. It is, in fact, a commitment to die to self and to be reborn. It is, in fact, a commitment to deep and profound transformation. It is not safe. But it is good. And no one—not one of us—is exempt.

This is so important. The strength of our witness as Christians is directly proportionate to the depth of our discipleship. If we take our mission seriously, we must take our formation seriously. And in the Diocese of Colorado, I want to challenge us to commit collectively to the lifelong work of our own formation as disciples of Christ. Our growth in faith does not happen accidentally by sitting passively in a pew. Christian faith is not something we absorb as if by osmosis. Our formation, requires not only our attention but our intention. It requires our time, our care, our commitment. Our formation as disciples demands an ongoing disciplined life of prayer, regular participation in the sacramental life of the church, a practice of studying the scripture, of fearless self-examination reflection within the fellowship of the Body. Formation is a

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PROCLAMATION DISCIPLESHIP SERVANTHOOD

Deadlines for Upcoming Issues:

February 28, April 28, June 29, August 29,
October 27 and December 22

Visit www.coloradodiocese.org!

What's New on the Diocesan Web Site?

- Rollover menus for easier navigation
- Information about preparation for General Convention in the News and Events section
- Updates and registration information for camping programs in Faith Formation
- Church reporting forms and information in Ministry Support

Coming Soon:

- Updated church directory
- Opportunity to sign up for a monthly email newsletter

Cursillo Offers Unique Opportunity for Reflection, Renewal

■ BY BERNIE MALY, LAY DIRECTOR, CURSILLO SECRETARIAT

Have you dreamed or imagined lately about having a long weekend "away from it all"? None of the usual responsibilities or tasks, NO PHONE CALLS, none of all that. No job responsibilities, no yard work, no cooking or cleaning, nothing. No one to take care of and perhaps someone to take care of you.

Now stick with me, I have something specific in mind here. On the special weekend I'm thinking of food is provided (and cooked), the weekend costs you a token amount of the actual cost, and a special friend drives you there and buys you supper on the way (a firm tradition).

It's not about dancing the night away. Rather, it's about uplifting praise music, about Christian fellowship and fun and laughter. It's not about talking politics or sports but about heartfelt presentations and stimulating discussion about key spiritual issues. It's about such things as prayer, Eucharist, clergy spiritual direction if one wants that, and hopefully some time as well for quiet reflection.

Imagine three full days to explore your Christian journey,

your relationship with Christ, and how to enhance your service and discipleship. It's not about hanging out by the pool but about discussion and pooling ideas with other enthusiastic Episcopalians who have the same desire and passion. It's not about glitz and glamour, or even the great food (which is very plentiful). It's about you and other participants being bathed in prayer, loved with Jesus' love, and nurtured by others in His grace and care so you might best benefit from this spiritual feast--for three whole days.

Those of you who have had this experience know that I'm talking about--Colorado Episcopal Cursillo. Those of you who are unfamiliar, or only slightly familiar, be especially sure to read on in future articles that I'll be sharing about the exciting endeavor that is Colorado Episcopal Cursillo. More important, check with friends and fellow parishioners who have had this experience and get their story and impressions first hand.

The belief and focus in the effort to involve people in a Cursillo weekend is that the Spirit of God is really the travel

agent and weekend guide. We believe that He is also the selection committee. We experience this to be true of both the participants ("candidates") and the "team" who present the weekend agenda, that all are hand picked by Him for a given weekend experience. We truly find that the Spirit of God has certain people in mind at certain points in their lives and has wonderful and useful lessons and messages for each. And to see that happen over and over again in those weekends is indeed quite beautiful and exciting.

Cursillo is not geared to the unseasoned traveler (seeker or brand new Christian). Rather, it is a tool to help those already established in the faith toward further growth. It is geared to those who are potential leaders and those who are already leaders--leaders perhaps in their parish church but, even more important, also leaders or potential leaders in influencing their personal environments and our world for Jesus Christ.

The next Cursillo weekend will be held from May 18-21, 2006 at Camp Red Cloud near Lake City, Colorado. There are two other Cursillo weekends each year in the diocese. This year one will be held from August 24-27 at the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park. The other will be at the Easter Seals Camp near Georgetown from October 26-29. Perhaps the Spirit of God is trying to pique your interest. Who knows, you may be getting His personal invitation soon. Be alert for spiritual deliveries. ■

Celebrating the Life of Absalom Jones

■ BY LELANDA LEE

On Sunday, February 12, 2006, special celebrations commemorating the ministry of the Rev. Absalom Jones will be held in Denver at St. Thomas Episcopal Church in the morning and at the Church of the Holy Redeemer in the afternoon. Jones was the first black American to be formally ordained in any denomination in the United States. All are invited to attend the worship services and the educational and fellowship events hosted by both churches and the members of the Diocesan Anti-Racism Committee.

The Rev. Jayne Oasin, the Social Justice Officer at the Episcopal Church Center in New York City, will be the guest homilist and concelebrant with the Rev. Paul Spurlock, rector, at St. Thomas' 8:00 AM spoken mass and at the 10:30 AM sung mass. Oasin will also conduct an educational discussion between the services from 9:15 to 10:15 AM, and a reception and coffee hour will follow the second mass.

At 4:30 PM, Holy Redeemer will host a potluck supper

followed by an educational forum with Oasin as the featured speaker, followed by a panel discussion with Oasin and members of the Anti-Racism Committee, moderated by the Rev. Richard Kautz, the parish's rector. In her position, Oasin is responsible for the implementation of the Episcopal Church's anti-racism, economic justice and anti-violence programs. In November, 2005, Oasin was one of the two-person team who conducted a day and a half Anti-Racism Training, developed by the Episcopal Church Center, in Denver, which was attended by members of the Anti-Racism Committee, the Diocesan Center and the Standing Committee.

The 1991 Episcopal Book of Lesser Feasts and Fasts states that "Absalom Jones was an earnest preacher. He denounced slavery, and warned the oppressors to 'clean their hands of slaves.' To him, God was the Father who always acted on "behalf of the oppressed and distressed." Born a house slave in 1746 in Delaware, Jones taught himself to read out of the New Testament. Later he was sold to a store owner in Philadelphia, where he attended a night school for blacks operated by Quakers. Jones did not earn his freedom until the age of 38.

Jones was a member of St. George's Methodist Episcopal Church in Philadelphia, which included both black and white members. When the white members voted to require the

blacks to sit only in the balcony, Jones and the other black members walked out. The blacks organized the Free African Society, which built a church that was dedicated in 1794. The African Church was accepted by William White, Episcopal Bishop of Philadelphia, as an Episcopal parish later that year. Jones served as lay reader, and after a period of study, he was ordained deacon in 1795 and priest in 1802 and served as rector of the parish.

The members of the Anti-Racism Committee have been meeting regularly to observe a period of study and formation before undertaking the work of implementing anti-racism training in the Diocese of Colorado. Resolution B049 of the 2000 General Convention requires the lay and ordained leadership of the Episcopal Church to take anti-racism training and receive certification of such training.

St. Thomas (telephone 303.388.4395) is located at 2201 Dexter Street in the Park Hill neighborhood near City Park, and Holy Redeemer (telephone 303.831.8963) is located at 2552 Williams Street, in Denver. ■



Camping Dates Set for Children, Youth

The Office for Faith Formation at the Diocesan Center has been working hard to prepare camping and fellowship opportunities for all ages. In 2006, children from elementary school to high school will be able to go to Episcopal Summer Camps at Trinity Ranch in southern Colorado. The summer camps for elementary-aged children have been so popular that the Diocese will offer two camps for this age group this year. The Diocese also offers Angel Tree summer camp at Trinity Ranch, as an outreach to those children who have a parent or parents who are in prison.

Youth in grades 6 - 12 will also be able to take advantage of the Quest week-end in the spring, at Frontier Ranch near Buena Vista. Finally, in October, youth groups will again have the chance to gather together at the Genesis week-end, also at Frontier Ranch.

Quest 2K6 - JUMP!	March 31 - April 2
High School Summer Camp	June 11 - 17
Middle School Summer Camp	June 18 - 24
Elementary School Camp I	June 25 - July 1
Angel Tree Camp, Elementary	July 5 - 8
Angel Tree Camp, Middle School	July 10 - 14
Elementary School Camp II	July 16 - 22
Genesis Weekend	Oct. 13 - 15

For information and registration for camping events, please go to the Faith Formation section of the diocesan web site at www.coloradodiocese.org, or call the Office for Faith Formation at 303-837-1173.



Colorado Haiti Project Looks Forward to New Year

■ BY DON SNYDER, CHAIR, THREE BISHOPS' FUND FOR HAITI

From time to time over the last year, as we worked to organize the campaign for the Three Bishops' Fund, I must admit, that during my weaker moments, I sometimes questioned whether or not we will succeed in meeting our ambitious financial goal of raising \$2.2 million (\$1 million within the Episcopal Diocese of Colorado) . . . a sum that will support the vision of our Haitian friends . . . a vision of a free, independent, self-sustaining community. Fortunately, I have had the opportunity to make several trips to Haiti in the last year. It takes but a glance into the hopeful eyes of one worn down by the harshness of everyday life, it takes but a glimpse of the smile on the face of a young child on their way to school for the first time, it takes but a moment to feel the hospitality of those who have almost nothing, in the material sense, but willing to share whatever they have, to renew my commitment to this effort. I wish that each of you could experience these things first hand, and I hope that a visit to Haiti will become part of your future.

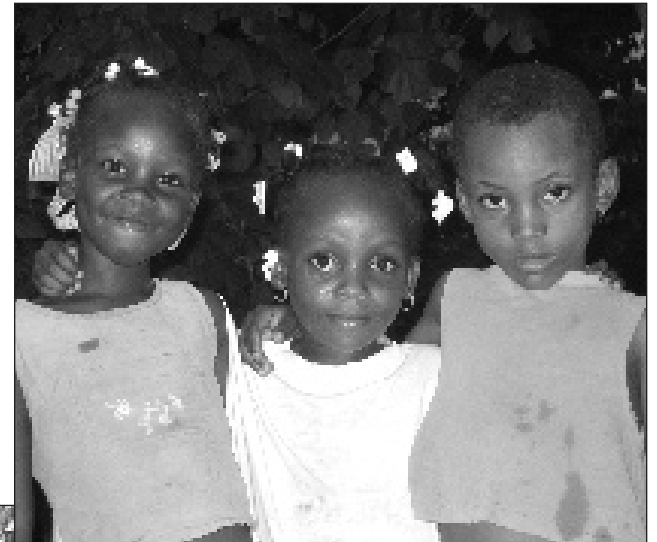
The simple fact is this: we must succeed, there can be no doubt, we cannot accept anything less. And while we have a long way to go, step by step, we are succeeding. The completion of the first phase of the new Women's Resource & Education Center, funded by the Three Bishops' Fund, is proof of this and construction of the new primary and secondary school has begun! The excitement that these projects and the accompanying programs bring to our Haitian friends is contagious. Hope is renewed, prayers are answered and people's lives are transformed.

If you are not already involved with this wonderful ministry, or simply want to know more, I hope you will prayerfully

consider, or in some cases reconsider how this might happen. There are so many possibilities; become informed about Haiti, commit yourself to prayer on behalf of our Haitian brothers and sisters, make a financial commitment to the Three Bishops' Fund, volunteer as a church representative for the Three Bishops' Fund, provide contact information on a foundation that might be approached with a grant proposal, plan a visit to Haiti with a CHP mission . . . these are but a few of the possibilities.

The Lenten season provides a wonderful opportunity for an introduction to Haiti and the Three Bishops' Fund. We have many 'presenters' who have been in Haiti and know the situation firsthand. Our presenters are willing and able to share their personal stories with you, provide you with a glimpse of the place through photographs and share the joy of mission with you using a video documenting an actual mission trip. I encourage you to contact the Colorado Haiti Project at 303-938-5021 or by e-mail at info@coloradohaitiproject.org to schedule a presenter.

For those of us who return time and time again to Petit trou de Nippes, we are often asked by our Haitian friends,



Some of the beneficiaries of the work of the Three Bishops' Fund: Petit Trou de Nippes (left), and young children who are learning at the new Women's Resource and Education Center.



who have been abandoned in so many ways, for so long, "Do you forget me . . . do you forget me?" I am always happy to tell them, both for me, and now on behalf of the Episcopal Diocese of Colorado, "No, we have not forgotten you . . . we will never forget you." ■

Bishop Appoints ERD Coordinator for Colorado

■ BY BECKETT STOKES

Bishop Robert O'Neill has appointed Suraya Yahaya as Colorado's coordinator for Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD). In this role, Yahaya will work with the Bishop's office and congregations throughout the state to raise awareness about ERD and the work it does to help communities and people throughout the world. "I want to create a positive vibe for ERD in Colorado," states Yahaya.

Diocesan coordinators for ERD are generally appointed by the diocesan Bishop, and work on a volunteer basis to promote ERD's ministry, provide information to parishes and help to raise funds for the organization. Colorado has been without a designated ERD coordinator for some time.

A member of Good Shepherd for the last several years, Yahaya came to Colorado after living internationally, and she believes that global outlook uniquely equips her to be an advocate for ERD. When the Asian Tsunami hit southeast Asia in December of 2004, Yahaya was familiar with many of the beach communities that were impacted. "I think I have a clear understanding of the impact that ERD can have, and how Colorado can add to that impact," says Yahaya.

Yahaya works as an attorney for Time-Warner Telecomm. She is married, and lives in Highlands Ranch.



Suraya Yahaya

Episcopal Relief and Development works around the world to provide emergency assistance, help communities rebuild after disasters and help children and families climb out of poverty. The organization was started in 1940 as the Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief, to assist refugees fleeing Europe during World War II. Over the years, its focus has expanded, and it now serves people and communities all over the world; it was re-named Episcopal Relief and Development in 2000. ■

Colorado Haiti Project Seeks Executive Director

The Colorado Haiti Project, Inc. is a vibrant, evolving faith-based nonprofit corporation, looking for a person committed to living out their faith as an Executive Director. He or she must guide the board and the organization through its next stages of maturation. The candidate should have substantial previous experience developing a successful non-profit organization (e.g. three to five years in fundraising and working with volunteer Boards of Directors).

Working with the Board of Directors, the Executive Director will ensure that the organization has a long-range strategy which achieves its mission, and toward which it makes consistent and timely progress. This will require leadership in multiple areas: personnel; budget and finance; communications and public relations; administration.

Send letter and resume to:

*Search Committee, Colorado Haiti Project,
1419 Pine St. Boulder, CO, 80302*

or to

Info@coloradohaitiproject.org

Applications accepted until position filled.



DU's Anglican Studies to Celebrate Tenth Anniversary

■ BY DR. GREGORY ROBBINS

On Sunday, March 19, St. John's Cathedral will host a reception to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Anglican Studies Program's association with the Iliff School of Theology. The reception will also be an occasion to honor the Reverend Drs. Wallace and Jean Clift, who taught in the Anglican Studies Program from its inception in 1989 until their retirements in 2002, and who were instrumental in its move to Iliff in 1995 from St. Thomas Seminary.

Wallace Clift, who was appointed Canon Theologian for the Diocese by Bishop Jerry Winterrowd in 1992, served as the Director of the Anglican Studies Program for 11 years. Jean Clift was made an honorary Canon by Bishop Winterrowd upon her retirement.

The Clifts will be honored and the Anglican Studies Program will be recognized at the 9:00 a.m. Eucharist at the Cathedral. The Clifts will join Dean Peter Eaton in con-celebrating. The reception will follow the service in Dagwell Hall.

The mission of the Anglican studies Program at Iliff is to assist the Diocese in providing appropriate theological education and spiritual formation for persons seeking to live into the covenant made at their Baptisms, a life of faith that may, in some cases, include a call to ordained ministry.

The three Dr.'s – Jean Clift, Gregory Robbins and Wallace Clift.



Increasingly, the Program has attracted students from other dioceses around the country and internationally. Moreover, the Anglican Studies Program at Iliff affords clergy and laity outstanding opportunities for continuing education and life-long theological reflection.

In February of 2000, Bette Lanning, a "cradle" Episcopalian, a parishioner at St. Paul's, Lakewood, and a long-term Board member of the Episcopal Church Women in Colorado, established The Wallace B. and Jean Dalby Clift Scholarship Fund at Iliff. The scholarship is designated to provide support for students of outstanding ability enrolled in the Anglican Studies Program at Iliff. It is awarded annually at the Iliff Honors Convocation.

The late Mrs. Lanning's grandfather and great-grandfather were Episcopal priests, and the Rev. Debra Angell, Bette's daughter and a graduate of Iliff who is an assisting priest at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church in Denver, continues this tradition.

Everyone is invited to the celebration. Current students, graduates, and participating faculty of the Anglican Studies Program will be in attendance to honor the Clifts, along with members of the Iliff School of Theology's faculty, board of

trustees, staff and administration.

This 10th anniversary is a perfect opportunity to thank the Clifts for their vision and untiring service, to raise awareness about the importance of the Anglican Studies Program in the diocese and at the Iliff School of Theology, and to seek additional financial support for theological education.

Contributions to The Wallace B. and Jean Dalby Clift Scholarship Fund may be made by anyone wishing to support scholarship funds for the Anglican Studies Program. For further information, please contact Lynda Wright, Director of Gift and Estate Planning, Iliff School of Theology, 303.765.3108. ■

Dr. Gregory Robbins is director of the Anglican Studies program at Iliff, and a professor in the Religious Studies Department at the University of Denver. He is also a parishioner at St. John's Cathedral.

Coloradoans Send Good Cheer to Soldiers in Iraq

■ BY KATIE KING

Church of the Holy Comforter in Broomfield recently helped Airline Ambassadors on a special mission to bring Christmas cheer to our wounded soldiers. For the holiday season, Airline Ambassadors organized a mission to take gifts, mail, a USO troop, entertainers from three professional ball teams to a medical facility in Landstuhl, Germany. Soldiers from Iraq and Afghanistan are airlifted to this hospital, stabilized and returned to hospitals in the United States. Holy Comforter parishioners donated gifts, (games, phone cards, clothing, books, disposable cameras, playing cards and gift bags) and prayed for parishioner Katie King who went on the trip. The group arrived in Germany with 8,500 pounds of presents to distribute (450 gift bags and over 2,000 cards and letters from our youth back home).

At the hospital, a USO troop performed Andrews Sisters music, while professional dancers and mascots signed auto-

graphs and handed out jerseys, t-shirts and ball caps from the Miami Heat, the Dallas Mavericks and the Dallas Star to our injured. Airline Ambassadors distributed gift bags and mail, visited with the soldiers, listened to their stories and provided words of encouragement from back home.

In addition to visiting soldiers in the hospital, the group put on a show and party for children of military stationed at Ramstein Air Force Base, distributing gifts. Another show was performed at the Enlisted Club on base in which recuperating soldiers were bussed in and more gifts were distributed.

The mission group visited the Fisher House and met family members of hospitalized soldiers staying there. One family shared the story of their son, Daniel, who was in a coma caused by a head injury. Daniel's mother shared the peace she felt in

American Airlines Ambassadors with a wounded U. S. soldier.



knowing Daniel is a Christian. She said that if he did not survive, she would see him again in heaven. Her faith was inspirational.

The group put on a show for soldiers at an outpatient facility in Kleber and passed out gift bags and mail. They even did a promotion at the Commissary to entertain stressed military shoppers and distribute more gifts. The appreciation of our military was evident and made this journey truly rewarding.

This is the second year Holy Comforter parishioners have provided gifts for our wounded soldiers at Christmas. ■



Panel of "Middle Old" Train New Group of Stephen Ministers

■ BY THE REV. SANDY BLAKE

Sunday January 15, a panel of four parishioners who have slowed down, but are still able to care for themselves shared their experiences and feelings about aging with newly commissioned Stephen Ministers at St. Stephen's in Aurora. This is part of ongoing training to assist Stephen Ministers as they care for those experiencing losses related to aging. When asked how personal loss affects their faith journeys, one panelist said he still tends to think of himself as "nine feet tall and bullet proof" even though the facts are otherwise. He went on to say that as painful as it is to relive his loss in church, church is where he has to be even though his tears often flow freely on Sunday. Another said he looks at death as life's last great adven-

ture when we find out what God has prepared for us.

Stephen Ministers are trained laity providing private, confidential Christian one-to-one care giving ---- extending and supporting the role of clergy. St. Stephen's commissioned eleven new Stephen Ministers December 11. To date eight of them have been assigned care receivers. Stephen Ministers receive 50 hours of training before being commissioned. Commissioned ministers are required to have four additional hours of supervision and training each month. A second class of Stephen Ministers will begin training soon to be commissioned in December 2006. Pictured with Fr. Rod Moore is St. Stephen's first class of commissioned Stephen Ministers. ■

Holiday Food Drives See Growing Need, Depleting Donations

■ BY BECKETT STOKES

As community programs organized holiday food and gift drives, many of them noticed either an increase in demand over 2004, a drop-off in donations, or both. While it is impossible to know exactly what specific event or trend is producing this more challenging environment for community assistance programs, as they plan for 2006, many are either increasing their outreach ministries, looking to new sources of food and donations, or simply asking more often and more fervently for donations. For some programs, the increased need has opened the doors to some new and rewarding ministries.

32nd Avenue Jubilee Center

At the 32nd Avenue Jubilee Center in northwest Denver, demand has increased over the last several months due to a number of factors, but primarily because a nearby food bank closed, leaving the Jubilee Center as one of the only food distribution centers in the area. At the beginning of 2004, the Jubilee Center had distributions three to four times a month. Now, the center has distributions every Thursday morning, and three to four Thursday afternoons each month. The center has been able to keep up with increased demand, in part because some of the resources that previously served the closed food bank have been re-directed to support the Jubilee Center, but also thanks to donations and volunteers from several area congregations, including the Church of the Good Shepherd and St. Timothy's in Centennial, and St. John Chrysostom in Golden.

In addition to its food pantry, the Jubilee Center offers a wide array of front line services, including food, medical screenings, basic health care, job referrals, and other social services. Much of the clientele they serve is Spanish-speaking, and many of the volunteers at the center are people who are served by the food bank and its other services.

St. Peter and St. Mary

For the congregation of St. Peter and St. Mary in Denver and the growing Tuesday evening ministry of St. Clare's

couldn't send them back out in it."

The Rev. Melanie Christopher, deacon at St. Peter and St. Mary, says that they have definitely had an increase in demand through St. Clare's and their ministry to the homeless on frigid nights – they have had up to 42 people come for shelter – but that donations are about even with last year. "We have had to beg throughout the diocese, and tap other sources as well," says Christopher.

For Quinn-Miscall, however, one of the blessings of both the St. Clare's ministry and her decision to offer shelter to those in need has been the way that this service has brought together diverse congregations within the Episcopal Church, and in dif-



Food awaits distribution at the 32nd Ave. Jubilee Center.



Christmas gifts for children at the 32nd Ave. Jubilee Center.

ferent Christian groups. St. Clare's Supper gets volunteers and financial support from several congregations across the metro area, including Epiphany and Ascension in Denver, Christ the King in Arvada, Christ Church in Castle Rock, and St. Martin in the Field in Aurora. St. Clare's also recently received significant financial assistance from the congregation of St. Barnabas in Denver, along with a matching grant from the Virginia Ervin fund. On nights the church provides shelter from the cold, they get assistance from the Salvation Army and from the Franciscan brothers.

"Our parish is made up of high-spirited, low income people," he adds, which makes it difficult to purchase food, and to meet the demands of the local population in need, including assistance with gas money to get to job interviews, and high-priced medical prescriptions.

Metro CareRing, Denver

At Metro CareRing center in Denver, which serves approximately 30,000 people each year – more than any other food bank in Denver – Brad Wood, director of community re-

...many are either increasing their outreach ministries, looking to new or simply asking more often and more fervently for donations

Supper, which provides a warm meal to the poor and homeless, the unusually cold early winter has called them to provide overnight shelter on frigid nights for those who have nowhere else to go. The Rev. Michele Quinn-Miscall, rector at St. Peter and St. Mary, says that many of the homeless who come to them come because of the trust they have in the community built as a result of St. Clare's Supper, and that it was a natural decision to open the church. "We had served dinner on one of the first nights it was frigid out," she remembers, "and we just

St. George's, Leadville

At St. George's in Leadville, which offers a warm community meal and a food pantry, demand has increased over the past year, and the congregation has struggled to keep up. In November, the food bank nearly ran out of non-perishables until an out-of-towner named Moses organized a food drive that filled the shelves. In December, one evening the community meal program served a record 90 people. Thanks to support from Christ Church in Aspen, the community meal should be on firm footing through the month of January. However, the Rev. George Lufkin at St. George's anticipates that the coming months will continue to present the program with challenges. "I imagine late February will be difficult as the spirit of year-end and holiday giving will have quieted a bit," says Lufkin.

lations says that while demand has only increased a little bit if at all, donations to the program are down from last year, both in terms of cash and food. The program is looking at ways to meet the shortfall in the months between the holiday giving season, and the Loaves and Fishes food drive of the summer months, including purchasing food, and cutting back on services and what's included in food packages.

Holiday Basket Program / OUR Center, Longmont

St. Stephen's in Longmont supports both the OUR Center, an emergency services provider for the Longmont area, and a Holiday Basket Program during the Christmas season. Demand for the basket program was up about five per cent over last year, while demand at the OUR Center was up 30 per cent from 2004. Donations for the Holiday Basket Program were down about 22 per cent from last year, and Ann Jennings, the coordinator of the program says that other churches and agencies in the area are reporting similar drop-offs in donations, and speculate that the drop-off is due to donor fatigue. ■



Volunteers at the 32nd Ave. Jubilee Center. Many of those who volunteer at the center have received services from it.

Responding to Homelessness In Our Communities

■ BY THE REV. JAN DEWLEN

We have 691 homeless people in Longmont. Some receive shelter in hotels, with friends, or extended families. There are approximately 175 people with absolutely no shelter who live under bridges. The OUR Center opened a day shelter this fall and some of God's people receive assistance with sleeping bags, blankets, and food to survive. The day shelter provides a place for people to send and receive mail, make phone calls for jobs, and have somewhere to turn to for help. The OUR Center caseworkers continue to assist clients with food, clothing, budgets, and community resources to help with the goal of self sufficiency.

Experiencing Homelessness

In November, I attended an evening presentation on homelessness in Boulder County. The guest speaker was Mike Yankoski, a college student who became homeless on purpose to experience and grasp the intensity of what it is like to be homeless. Mike is originally from an upper middle class home in Parker, CO and is studying theology and computer science in Santa Barbara, CA. He and his friend Sam traveled to 6 cities and found different situations in each. They hung out with alcoholics and drug addicts, mentally ill, and the least of these (as Jesus refers to). He wrote about his experience in a book entitled *Under the Overpass - A journey of faith on the streets of America*. The stories he tells are mind-boggling, and truly portray a trust in faith that God would not forsake him and Sam. Mike pointed to the group of over 500 in attendance at this conference, and said "Homelessness is not their problem, it is yours." As Christians, we are called to help.

What Can We Do to Help?

Have you wondered what to do when you pull up to a stoplight and someone is asking for help? Do you look the other way? Do you feel guilt? Does uneasiness make you wish the light turns green quickly so you can drive away?

Mike suggested that the best way to reach out to the homeless panhandlers is to give \$5 grocery certificates. These cannot be used for alcohol or tobacco. Carry these in your car for the times you pull up to a stop light and someone is begging.

On Sunday, December 18th, I gave out \$200 worth of \$5 certificates for parishioners to give away to someone who needs them. The challenge is to give it away soon, and not hold on to it (not bury it, as in the parable of the talents). My hope is that St. Stephen's will serve the homeless not just at Christmas, but 365 days a year!

Another suggestion from Mike is to carry pop top cans of food in your car with a spoon attached to them. Our St. Stephen's School ran with this idea, and the preschool and kindergarten children brought in cans of food and taped spoons to the cans for us to give away. The 3 year-old preschoolers presented the cans to me at staff meeting one week, and it brought tears of thanksgiving. I presented these on Sunday, December 18th to the congregation and asked them to give the food to someone who needed it. We will also give out the brochures with the cans of food. Now, the hope is that other parishioners can get their families involved in doing the same.

Other ideas are coming forth from the congregation such as putting the can of food in a new pair of socks for the homeless.

Matthew 25: 37-40 Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you? And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." ■

sources of food and donations,



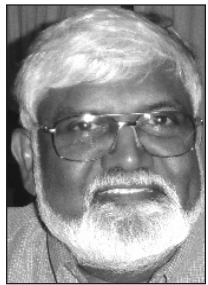
Volunteers helping out at the community meal program, hosted by St. George's in Leadville.



Colorado Episcopal Foundation Names New Officers, New Trustees

■ BY LELANDA LEE

The Colorado Episcopal Foundation elected new officers for 2006 at its annual meeting on November 19, 2005.



The Rev. F. Sathi Bunyan, rector of All Saints', Loveland, is the new chairman of the Foundation's board of trustees. A police chaplain for over 25 years and former president of the Loveland Rotary Club and Loveland Habitat for Humanity, Bunyan was vice chairman of the Diocesan Executive Council for six years. Hailing from the Church of South India, Bunyan completed his theological training in Calcutta, where he assisted Mother Teresa for three years at the Home of the Dying and Destitute.



Carolyn Daniels, the newly elected senior warden of Saint John's Cathedral, Denver, is the new vice chairman. Daniels, a native of New Jersey, moved to Colorado following graduation from the Harvard Law School to clerk for the Hon. William Doyle of the Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit. Following her clerkship, she joined a major Denver law firm, where her practice has focused on employee benefits and executive compensation.



John Thornbury, a former senior warden at St. Mary Magdalene, Boulder, is the new secretary. Thornbury is a commercial real estate appraiser (MAI) who primarily does compliance review work for financial institutions in Colorado. He is also the national assistant director of screening for the Ethics and Counseling Division of the Appraisal Institute. He has an MBA degree in real estate and finance from Ohio State University.



John Sneed, former stewardship chair and vestry member at St. Charles, Fort Morgan, is the new treasurer. Sneed is president and CEO of a Fort Morgan bank and hosts a weekly radio show, "Your Money Matters." He serves on the Fort Morgan Community Hospital Foundation board, Morgan Community College Foundation, and the Fort Morgan Airport Advisory Board. A private pilot, Sneed also enjoys rafting and camping.



Joining the Foundation's Board of Trustees are **Sue Gallanter** and **Jay Swope**. Gallanter, St. Barnabas, Denver, is senior vice president of community development of a major Denver non-profit and served as chairman of the Foundation from 1991 to 1995. She is active on numerous community boards and was awarded the Cross of the Servant of the Sick by the Hospice of St. John for her volunteer service.



Swope, who attends Saint John's Cathedral, Denver and is a graduate of the University of Denver Law School, is chief counsel of a major government agency. He has served as senior warden and on the finance, investment and personnel committees of the Cathedral in addition to holding officer positions in legal and community foundations and associations in Colorado.

New Diocesan Staff Members



Meg Stern joined the diocesan staff in November, as the Administrator for the Office of Faith Formation. She assists the Canon for Faith Formation, Neil Riley, and coordinates training events, including Safeguarding God's Children. A jack of all trades, Stern has a background as a horse trainer and caterer, and most recently worked in just about every capacity at the Shepherd of the Hills school in Centennial. Originally from Wiltshire, England, Stern has been in Colorado for seventeen years. She is married and has twin 12-year-old sons, and she attends the Church of the Holy Spirit.



Holly Dorrance has just joined the diocesan staff in the new role of Faith Formation Events Coordinator and Camp Director. She will help run the diocese's camping events, including Quest, Genesis, the Faith for Life weekend, and the diocesan summer camps at Trinity Ranch. Dorrance has a great deal of experience working with children and young people, including working as a preschool teacher, Sunday school teacher, and leading Brownie and Girl Scout troops. Most recently, she served as youth pastor at the Church of the Holy Comforter in Broomfield.

O B I T U A R I E S

ERNEST HARRY PRIEST

1925 - 2005

The Rev. Ernest Priest died on December 28, 2005 following a long illness.

Priest was ordained to the priesthood in 1952. He served in Michigan and New York before he came to Colorado in the mid-1970s. He helped found St. David's of the Hills in Woodland Park and served there for several years as the rector. He also served the community there, serving on the board of the Woodland Park Library, and on the board of directors of the Siloam Counseling and Renewal Center in Colorado Springs.

Following his retirement in the early-1990s, Priest served several congregations as an interim leader, including St. Barnabas, Denver, St. Michael the Archangel in Colorado Springs and Holy Redeemer, Denver.

For the last several years of his life, he suffered chronic

pain, but he continued to attend services at St. Andrew's in Denver. During the homily at his memorial service, the Rev. Constance Delzell noted this particular trait of Priest's, that even at the height of his frailty, it was vitally important to him to worship in community with others.

LYNNE ELIZABETH (DAVENPORT) WILSON

1944 - 2006



Lynne Wilson died in her home in Laramie, Wyoming on January 5, 2006. Wilson was an early advocate of "Total Ministry," an approach to Christian ministry emphasizing the ministry of all baptized people rather than the common pattern of ministry which is based primarily on ordained personnel.

In 1982 she married the Rev. Charles R. (Chuck) Wilson and the couple teamed up for private practice in total ministry development out of Arvada, CO. They created the Living Stones Coalition of American and Canadian dioceses, a pooled effort to promote total ministry worldwide. The Coalition continues today with 24 member dioceses and several spin-offs of educational resources.

In 1998 Wilson accepted a call to join the staff of the Rt. Rev. Bruce Caldwell of the Episcopal diocese of Wyoming as his Ministries Development Coordinator.

Wilson is survived by her husband, Rev. Charles R. Wilson, her stepchildren, Charlene R. Johnson of Summerfield FL, William (Bill) Wilson and his wife, Normita of Florissant, CO, Deborah G. Wilson Giboyeas and her husband, Nelson of Summerfield, FL and Sharon L. Wilson of Bangor, PA. She is also survived by her brother Wayne Davenport and his wife, Helen of Fredricksburg, TX. A third generation of nieces, nephews and grandchildren also celebrate her life.

Ordinations Point to New Beginnings

■ BY DEBORAH MCCANNE

Saturday, December 17 was a cold and snowy day outside, but the chill had no chance against the warm glow of the cathedral as Bishop Robert O'Neill ordained four priests at St. John's Cathedral. All four ordinands were women from Aurora, three from the parish of St. Stephen's. The Rev. Sandra Blake, the Rev. Nature Johnston, the Rev. Claudia Smith, and the Rev. Cassandra Strotheide were ordained in a solemn, time-honored service.

The festive weekend began on Friday evening with a reception and brief service for the ordinands, their families, presenters, and discernment committees at St. Stephen's. Each of the ordinands spoke briefly about her journey to ordination. Each echoed the idea that she felt she was standing on a threshold of a new life rather than completing a journey. That sense of expectation spilled over into Saturday's service and reception. On Sunday, each of the newly ordained priests presided at her first Eucharist and was honored at a parish reception. After the service at St. Stephen's, parishioners asking a special blessing from the Rev. Blake and the Rev. Johnston formed a line the length of the church.

Tend my sheep

The Rev. Dr. Rod Moore, rector of St. Stephen's, Aurora, gave the lively and instructive homily. He had chosen three texts for the day to be lodestones for the new priests, illustrating his points with examples from his experience raising sheep as a 4H project.

Isaiah 40:25-31, "...those who wait for the Lord...shall mount up with wings like eagles." Moore reminded the ordinands that they would never be alone. He compared the

journey of the ordinands to that of Abraham, setting forth on a life-changing journey into the unknown with only the promise that God would be there.

I Corinthians 11:23-26: "This is my body that is given for you..." Using the words central to the Eucharist, Moore stressed that as a presbyter of the Church, the central role of the priest is to call the people together and to proclaim the gospel. He also spoke of the role of the priest in center of the community helping each person to develop his own gifts. He said that sheep are near-sighted and the shepherd must lead by traveling with them.

John 21:15-17: "Jesus said,... 'Tend my sheep.'" Moore developed his theme by telling the congregation that sheep are easily overwhelmed, they get stuck, they get lost, they wander further than they intend. The shepherd must find each sheep and lead him home. He cautioned the ordinands "not to yell at their sheep," but to care for them and develop a relationship of mutual trust.

The New Priests

The Rev. Sandy Blake from St. Stephen's, Aurora earned her Master of Divinity degree at Iliff School of Theology, Denver. She is priest associate at St. Stephen's with responsibilities in adult education, Stephen ministry, parish communication and worship. She is also active in prison ministry at the Denver Women's Correctional Facility and Adams County Detention Facility and has been involved in prison ministry for the last six years in ten different facilities in Colorado. Prior to her ordination, Blake was the art director and graphics manager for 21 years for the Rocky Mountain Public Television Network. Blake is especially interested in developing deeper



Cassandra Strotheide, Claudia Smith, Sandy Blake and Nature Johnson with Bishop Robert O'Neill.

spirituality, discipleship and servanthood at St. Stephen's and in jail settings. She and her husband have two grown sons and three grandchildren.

The Rev. Nature Johnston is the liaison for hospice chaplains at Hospice of Metro Denver. She attended Yale Divinity School and Berkley Divinity School at Yale University. Prior to seminary she was a senior manager at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida in strategic business planning and previously had been a television news producer. Johnston's home church was St. Ambrose, Boulder. She has been serving at St. Stephen's, Aurora since 2003. Johnston, who is single, is close to her extended family. She said, "I provide spiritual care to dying patients and their families. My hope is to someday serve a parish on the Western Slope."

The Rev. Claudia Smith was called to St. Benedict Episcopal Mission in LaVeta last June. She will continue as their vicar. Sponsored by St. Stephen's, Aurora, Smith received her Master of Divinity from the School of Theology, Sewanee in Tennessee. Smith loves living in the small mountain community of LaVeta and is excited to be pastor to the diverse and enthusiastic people of this mission church. Prior to attending seminary, she was a health care executive. Smith has a grown son.

The Rev. Cassandra Strotheide earned her Master of Divinity degree from the Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest in Austin. Sponsored by St. Martin-in-the-Field, Aurora, she currently assists at St. Matthew's, Parker. For 20 years prior to attending seminary, Strotheide worked as a medical technologist at The Children's Hospital in Denver. She and her husband, Larry, have two adult children living in the Boulder area. Strotheide said, "I am particularly concerned with helping people develop their faith and mature in their relationship with God, so that they may become equipped and compelled to continue Christ's reconciling ministry to others in our broken world." ■

More Ordinations



On Tuesday, December 13, 2005, Amanda K. Gott was ordained to the priesthood at The Church of the Good Shepherd in Nashua, New Hampshire. The Rev. Deb Angell from Gott's home parish of St. Barnabas in Denver served as Gospeller for the service. Gott is serving as an assistant rector at the 125-year-old parish.



Salying Wong was ordained to the priesthood at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco on December 3, 2005. Her ordination was well-attended by members of her home parish of St. Andrew's in Denver. Wong serves as assistant rector at St. Clement's in San Francisco.

ECW Plan Spring, Fall Gatherings

The Episcopal Church Women of the Diocese of Colorado announce speakers and dates for two upcoming gatherings, the Lenten Silent Retreat, and the Fall Annual Gathering.

Lenten Retreat

The Lenten Silent Retreat will be held at Sacred House Retreat Center March 7-9, 2006. The Rev. Michelle Danson will lead the retreat on the topic of Celtic Christianity. Please contact Mary K. Whisler at WWhis52649@aol.com for more information.

Annual Gathering

The Right Reverend Geralyn Wolf will lead the women of the Diocese of Colorado in their weekend Annual Gathering next fall. The retreat will be held at Snow Mountain Ranch

from September 14-17, 2006 in Granby. Watch for more information in a future issue of the Colorado Episcopalian.

Bishop Wolf, elected Rhode Island's twelfth Episcopal bishop in 1995, spent a month during 1994 as "Aly," a homeless person, as part of a four-month sabbatical. During our retreat, she will share some of her experiences of what the homeless endure to survive day-to-day and the challenges of being alone, hungry and homeless.

We are thrilled that Bishop Wolf will be joining us for 2006 Annual Gathering! Please mark your calendars now to attend. If you have questions relating to this weekend, please contact Kay Todd at kaynmiket@msn.com. ■



2006 ECW Board Members

L to R front row: Blanche Zembower; Nancy Lawthers (President); Mary Hicks; The Rev. Cass Strotheide (Asst. Chaplain); Verlene White - Treasurer. Back row: Heather Hennigh; Kay Todd (Vice President); Mary Kay Whisler; Lyn Zolman; Carol Sherran; Betty Clark; Yvonne Franklyn; Susan Mason (Secretary); The Rev. Sally Bowersox (Chaplain); Kathy Thaden; Dee Shuster (Asst. Treasurer). Not pictured: Debbie Woods, Vicki Dodson, Charlotte Cox and Janice Allmacher.



- Iraqi citizens of Ninewah Province greatly appreciated the candy and stuffed animals that were shipped from **St. Michael's, Colorado Springs** and delivered by the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment. In a letter of gratitude, Regimental Executive Officer Christopher Kennedy detailed the importance of gifts of good will in the establishment of trusting relationships between U.S. troops and the civilian population.
- Children attending Sunday school at **Christ's Episcopal Church, Castle Rock** took turns taking home a 'Jesus doll' in an activity that illustrates that Jesus is always with us. The doll comes equipped with a backpack, disposable camera and journal notebook for capturing their adventures with Jesus throughout the week.
- Traditional baskets were replaced by holiday food boxes prepared by the Outreach Commission at **Trinity Episcopal Church, Greeley**. Delivered to 100 families in their community, each box contained substantial amounts of over 20 items including flour, cake mix, pork loin, potatoes and cereal.
- All was elegant at a Victorian Holiday Tea fund-raiser hosted at **St. Mark's Episcopal/Grace Lutheran Church, Craig** including the ever-popular crumpets that help to define such an event.
- The Christmas Alternative Market hosted by **St. Barnabas, Denver** offers congregation members the opportunity to double their Christmas gift giving by contributing to a community organization in the name of a loved one. Metro Area organizations benefiting from this event include homeless shelters, counseling centers, community housing projects, among others.
- Betty Cranmer, widow of the Rev. Chapell Cranmer, addressed a November 11 Veteran's Day breakfast at Snow Mountain Ranch in Granby. Betty captivated a large audience of veterans, their families and friends with memories of her service in the Royal Air Force during World War II in England. Her husband "Chap" Canmer served for many years at **St. John's, Granby and Trinity, Kremmling**.
- Youth at **St. Stephen's, Longmont** enlisted ornithological allies in a recent fundraising activity. For a donation from a congregation member, youth would install 16 - 32 pink flamingos on another parishioner's lawn. The latter would have to pay the youth to remove the flock...and install it in yet another member's yard.

- Numerous parishes observed an Advent Quiet Day of guided meditation, silence and contemplation, including congregations at **Christ Episcopal Church, Canon City, Christ the King, Arvada and St. Paul's, Fort Collins**. In addition, St. Paul's continued its tradition of opening its doors to students during exam week, offering quiet study space, snacks, open church and a separate room for students to hang out.
- Members of **St. Mark's, Durango** are celebrating their parish's 125th anniversary. Back in December of 1880, Episcopal Parson Hoge held the first service ever in Durango in the dining room of the Delmonico Hotel, after which he began the process of founding the church that remains in existence to this day.
- **Trinity Episcopal Church, Kremmling** will be providing support and assistance to a sister church that was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. The parish of Trinity Episcopal Church in Pass Christian, Mississippi was reduced to rubble by the storm and will need to be completely reconstructed. The assistance efforts will be coordinated through the Episcopal Mission in the San Luis Valley.



- A highlight of the worship year at **St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Lakewood** is the annual Festival of Advent Lessons & Carols, this year held on Advent IV, Dec. 18. A handbell group was formed to participate with the St. Paul's adult choir in the concluding anthem of that service. The four-member group, which included three generations of the Wiegman family, practiced faithfully and, despite the fact that two members were playing handbells for the first time, progressed quickly. Their execution of the handbell accompaniment part on Dec. 18 was remarkable as they shared the festive sounds of the approaching Christmas season with great joy and skill.

- Progress on the ramped entry to **Christ Episcopal Church, Aspen** is progressing in order to provide a gentle, dry incline into the building in this mountain community. Electric heating elements are embedded in the surface of the ramp and are activated by temperature sensors that turn the heat on when temperatures drop below freezing.
- Nearly 30 people braved sub-zero temperatures for a hayride and caroling in Kremmling on the third Sunday in Advent. Members of **Trinity Episcopal Church** extended an open invitation and were joined by people from three other local churches for fellowship and caroling. After singing throughout town with stops at Kremmling's assisted living center, senior apartments and hospital, the group returned to Trinity to warm up with hot chocolate, cider and cookies.



- Bishop O'Neill made a visitation to **St Paul's, Ft Collins**, on the Feast of St Andrew. He baptized, confirmed and received a total of five new members, as well as preaching and celebrating the Holy Eucharist. At the suggestion of Senior Warden Sarah Jamieson Shrum, the congregation held a "festival of funny hats" in the Bishop's honor. As the Bishop passed each pew in the Procession, the members of the congregation put on an array of unique and somewhat undignified hats. When he turned to face the people in his miter, Bishop O'Neill beheld an unexpected sight. He confessed to being momentarily speechless! Thus was the tone of the evening's celebration set.

Revamped Web Sites Help Spread The Word

■ BY SARAH MCAFEE

Three revamped websites of interest to Colorado Episcopalians were launched during Advent of 2005. One is from a Colorado parish, one from the Diocese, and one from the national church. All of the new sites use drop-down menus to make navigation within the website easier.

St. John's Cathedral, along with the redesign, also has a new web address: www.sjcathedral.org. The home page features elegant black-and-white photography of the cathedral and parishioners. The Cathedral has added several pages that were not available on their previous website for groups and organizations. Also, they make recent sermons available

in audio format.

"Increasingly, newcomers and seekers think of a church's web site as its virtual front door," comments the Rev. Canon Poulson Reed, who helped direct the new site project. "Our new site is designed to be particularly inviting to those looking for a church."

The Diocese has kept the same web address: www.coloradodiocese.org. The new website begins with the face of Jesus gazing benevolently over the earth-tone-backed navigation panel. The Diocese has significantly increased the amount of information available for parishes, especially business and re-

porting forms, forms for the Holy Orders process and up-to-date news and information.

The national church, www.episcopalchurch.org, also revamped their site, to make it more easily navigable. They have changed the color scheme from one of warm yellows and browns to a cooler and more austere blue and white. Evangelism underlies the redesign. Its goal is to invite people in and help people uncover the treasures of the web site," said A. Bowie Snodgrass, the Office of Communication web content editor. and to "spread the Good News and the Good News of the Episcopal Church. The easiest way to navigate the new site may be to go directly to the A to Z Directory, and surf from there. The national church has also rolled out a new Spanish-language site at www.iglesiaepiscopal.org.

Happy clicking! ■

Diocesan Events

F E B R U A R Y

- 2-4Godly Play Training
- 5 Bishop's Visitation,
Holy Redeemer, Denver
- 12 Bishop's Visitation,
St. George, Cherry Hills Village
- 16 High Plains Clericus
- 20 President's Day,
Diocesan Office Closed
- 26 Bishop's Visitation, Church of
the Good Shepherd, Briargate

M A R C H

- 1 Ash Wednesday
- 5 Bishop's Visitation,
St Michael, Colorado Springs
- 7-9 ECW Lenten Spring Retreat
- 12 Bishop's Visitation,
St. Andrew, Fort Collins
- 16 High Plains Clericus
- 21-22 Standing Committee Meeting,
Diocesan Center
- 26 Bishop's Visitation,
St. Philip and St. James, Denver
- 31-Apr 2 Quest 2K6: Jump!

SERVE YOUR CHURCH – DIOCESAN CONVENTION 2006 NEEDS YOU!

Do you have an interest in
serving the church in Colorado?

Do you have experience
coordinating events,
organizing groups of people,
or running an organization?

Do you know other people
with these skills?

The Bishop's Office is looking
for people who are interested in
helping coordinate and run the
Diocesan Convention, Oct. 6 – 8
at the Hyatt Regency, Denver Tech Center.

If you're interested,
please contact the Bishop's Office at
303-837-1173. Thank you.

Save the Date

Lenten Quiet Day – March 18, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Aurora

Taming Your Anger and Reconciliation, Facilitated by the Rev. Henry Jesse

For more information or to RSVP, please contact Chris Noakes at 720-876-0798, or chris.noakes@pinnacol.com.

Quest 2K6: Jump! March 31 – April 2, Frontier Ranch, Buena Vista, CO

A week-end retreat for fun, discipleship, worship, outreach, leadership training and ministry opportunities for young people. Registration information is coming soon! Contact Meg Stern in the Office for Faith Formation at 303.837.1173.

St. Michael the Archangel's Women's Silent Retreat – April 21-23

Renowned author and speaker the Rev Barbara Musselman Russo will conduct the workshop. For this retreat, her focus will be "Learning to nurture JOY in your life!" You will discover the difference between mere happiness, and true joy: the sources of joy; and why this fruit of the Spirit is so elusive. For more information, please email Mary Ellis at trentellis@aol.com; and be sure to put "Women's Retreat" in the subject line.

Faith for Life Weekend – Marking Milestones, Jun. 2-4, 2006 YMCA Snow Mountain Ranch, Winter Park.

Activities and programs for everyone—children and youth programs, teaching seminars, music and worship, hiking and exploring, and much more. For more information, contact Meg Stern in the Office for Faith Formation at 303.837.1173.

Opportunities

In preparation for General Convention in June, and in keeping with the resolution passed at the Diocesan Convention in October, to "prayerfully recommit ourselves as individuals and as parishes to the study of the Windsor Report at parish and regional levels"; Bishop O'Neill will be leading a series of open meetings for laity interested in the Windsor Report, General Convention, or the Anglican Communion. Specific times and locations are as yet TBD

LAY GATHERINGS

(All who are interested are invited; interested clergy are welcome too; specific locations and times to be announced.)

April 4 North of Denver (Tuesday evening)
May 11 North of Denver (Thursday evening)

April 19 South of Denver (Wednesday evening)
April 20 South of Denver (Thursday evening)

May 20 South of Denver (Saturday morning)

April 6 Denver Area (Thursday evening)
April 8 Denver Area (Saturday morning)
April 25 Denver Area (Tuesday evening)

May 4 Southwestern Colorado (Thursday evening)
May 6 Mountains/Western Slope (Saturday morning)

DISCIPLESHIP

... CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

life-long process requiring a life-long commitment.

With that in mind, Christian formation, alongside the work of evangelism, is a priority in this diocese—a priority that is, again, significantly reflected in the proposed budget. The proposed budget for 2006, in fact, puts more resources into the work of Christian formation than ever before.

This past year, as many of you know, I expanded Neil Riley's position as Youth Pastor into that of Canon for Faith Formation—with responsibility for the Christian education and formation for children, youth, young adults and adults. The purpose of the faith formation office is to equip, encourage, and empower faith formation leadership and ministry at the local parish level—encouraging and empowering local churches, equipping and training faith formation leadership, and developing and growing faith formation programs that foster growth at the local level. This past March, Neil extended an open invitation to those working with faith formation in the diocese, and that group participated in a visioning process, identifying seven areas for the faith formation to focus its attention on. Among other things, this year we will lay the groundwork for engaging college and young adult ministry throughout the diocese, and this year's proposed budget includes several servant-leadership training opportunities and gatherings for college students and young adults. In addition to existing programs for youth—like our Genesis and Quest weekends—the department for faith formation will also be holding a this coming year a spiritual retreat weekend for youth and youth leaders. Knowing, too, that a vital ministry of summer camping is essential for strong and healthy Christian education programs, I have spent the past year having various conversations with any number of folks throughout the diocese—including members of the boards of both Trinity Ranch

and Camp Illium—as a way of beginning a process of developing a vision for diocesan youth camping. Now it is time to take it a step further. I am pleased to announce that my office has now entered into a partnership with the board of Trinity Ranch in which our office for faith formation will assume responsibility for the programming and staffing of all summer camp session there this coming summer, and that a camp program committee has already been put together to help us take this next step. Further, I have asked Neil Riley to form a Task Force whose responsibility it will be to formally develop a new vision for youth camping in the Diocese of Colorado and to report back to this convention in 2006.

Because our formation in faith is a lifelong task, I am pleased to announce that next June (June 2-4) at Snow Mountain Ranch, we will hold our first annual Faith For Life weekend—a diocesan experience for all ages that will include children and youth activities, seminars for all ages, fun, and faith growing experiences. This year's theme—"Marking Milestones"—and our keynote speaker will be Dick Hardell, a great speaker, a Lutheran pastor from the Youth and Family Institute. This is intended to be a gathering for all of us all over the diocese—something other than a convention. There will be, I guarantee, no resolutions proposed or debated, and I encourage you all to participate.

To be a disciple is to be willing to be drawn ever more deeply into relationship with Jesus—to follow, wherever he may lead the way. It does not happen accidentally. The invitation is God's. The response is ours.

Almighty God, you have built your Church upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone: Grant us so to be joined together in unity of spirit by their teaching, that we may be made a body of true disciples, a holy temple, acceptable to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE RT. REV. ROBERT J. O'NEILL, BISHOP



VISION FOUNDATION

Enhancements to Foundation Investment Funds

BY DEBBIE KONIECZNY, TRUSTEE

The Colorado Episcopal Foundation has made changes in the allocation of its Bond and Equity Funds and in the investment management of its Bond Fund. The Foundation's Board of Trustees and Investment Committee regularly review the Funds' allocation and performance, taking into account past performance, risk and how well the Funds are positioned for the future. The mutual funds selected for both the Bond and Equity Funds have exhibited excellent return and risk characteristics over short and long-term time periods. The Foundation's Board of Trustees and Investment Committee believe that the new investment allocations position both Funds very well to meet or exceed their objectives in the future.

Bond Fund

The Colorado Episcopal Foundation Bond Fund is a pooled investment fund seeking to provide current income. Capital appreciation is a secondary consideration. The Bond Fund invests primarily in publicly traded fixed income securities and mutual funds that focus on fixed income investments. It is the goal of the Bond Fund to produce, over the long-term, a total return that exceeds the total return of the Lehman Brothers Aggregate Bond Index on a risk-adjusted basis and a minimum total return that exceeds the rate of inflation by two percentage points.

Previously, the Bond Fund was invested in individual fixed income securities, managed by a professional investment firm in Boulder. The Bond Fund is now managed by the Foundation's Investment Committee, which is advised by a professional investment manager. The Bond Fund is now invested in three no-load fixed-income mutual funds.

BOND FUND – New Allocation

■ PIMCO Total Return Institutional Fund.....	60%
■ Dodge & Cox Income Fund.....	20%
■ Western Asset Core Bond Institutional Fund.....	20%

Training & Empowerment Grants

In 2005, the Colorado Episcopal Foundation made 21 Training & Empowerment grants totaling \$14,990 for 61 individuals from 16 churches to participate in workshops, conferences and course work to further their spiritual and ministry development.

Youth ministers Erica Jeglum, St. Aidan's, Boulder, and Kim Hollowell, St. Mary Magdalene, Boulder, attended the National Youth Worker Convention in Nashville in November with the help of Training & Empowerment grants. As a result of her participation in the workshops and programs offered at the convention, Jeglum says, "I feel reaffirmed in my ministry to youth and young people. Spending time and being present with young people is most important."

Hollowell learned "how to add more experiential prayer and worship into my youth program," and "how to care for myself so that I do not become overburdened or burned out."

Application deadlines are March 15, June 15, September 15 and December 15 for these matching grants. Download grant guidelines and an application from www.coef.org or call Lelanda Lee, program administrator, at 303.534.6778. ■

FOR SALE

Two separate burial plots at Crown Hill, Block 25, upright, with good access, valued at \$5,695 each. Call Kanchan Ghimire, accounts manager, at 303.534.6778 and make your best offer.



The 2005 trustees of the Foundation in front of its current location last September. Front row, left to right: Sathi Bunyan, president Anita Sanborn, John Thornbury, John Sneed, Standing Committee representative Roger Hughes. Second row: Debbie Konieczny, Michael Richardson, David Watts. Third row: Carolyn Daniels, Gary Thompson, Rex Chambers, Bishop Rob O'Neill, Dick Boblit. Not photographed: Gary Christy, Brooks Keith.

Equity Fund

The Colorado Episcopal Foundation Equity Fund is a pooled investment fund seeking long-term growth of capital. Income is a secondary consideration. The Equity Fund invests primarily in publicly traded equity securities and mutual funds that focus on equity investments. It is the goal of the Equity Fund to produce, over the long-term, a total return that exceeds the total return of the S&P 500 Index on a risk-adjusted basis and a minimum total return that exceeds the rate of inflation by seven percentage points.

The Equity Fund is also managed by the Foundation's Investment Committee. Previously, the Equity Fund was invested in five no-load large-cap mutual funds. The Equity Fund now allocates a portion of its assets to small and mid-cap investments as well as international investments. The Equity Fund is now invested in seven no-load mutual funds.

EQUITY FUND – New Allocation

■ LARGE CAP – 60%	
	Vanguard Institutional Index Fund.....40%
	Dodge & Cox Stock Fund.....10%
	Harbor Capital Appreciation Fund.....10%
■ SMALL & MID-CAP – 20%	
	Janus Mid Cap Value Fund.....10%
	Columbia Acorn Fund (Z shares).....10%
■ INTERNATIONAL – 20%	
	Harbor International Institutional Fund.....10%
	UMB Scout WorldWide Fund.....10%

For Further Information...

Before investing in any of the Foundation's Funds, please read the statement of information for the specific fund, which is available at www.coef.org, or call 303.534.6778. Contact Scott Asper at scott@coef.org or by calling the Foundation if you have any questions about the Foundation's investment products and services. ■

Foundation Will Be Relocating

The Colorado Episcopal Foundation will be relocating by the end of July, 2006. The Board of Trustees recently concluded the sale of the current property on Bannock Street, where the Foundation has maintained its offices since 1991, to the Denver Art Museum Foundation, which is acquiring real estate adjacent to the new Hamilton Wing of the museum.

Proceeds of the property sale are part of the Foundation's endowment and will be reinvested. Ideally, the Foundation will be able to purchase an investment property that will provide office space for its staff as well as other Diocesan ministries. However, it may be necessary for the Foundation to lease space for an interim period. ■

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