

Connect



A communication resource for clergy and lay leaders in the Diocese of Chicago

NEWS

News compiled from [Anglican Communion News Service](#), [Episcopal Life Online](#), and the Office of Communication, Diocese of Chicago.

Media Team and bishop return from Sudan

Bishop Jeffrey Lee and the members of the Sudan Media Team returned home January 18 from their two week visit to the Diocese of Renk, Sudan, tired but thankful for having experienced the hospitality and faithfulness of the people of the Episcopal Church of Sudan. At every stop they were greeted by crowds, some lining the roadway a mile or more outside the village or town they were visiting, reported Bishop Lee in his meeting with diocesan staff January 20.

Despite reports about differences between African provinces and the Episcopal Church, the clergy and people of Renk are unwavering in their commitment and desire to be in relationship with their companions in ministry in the Diocese of Chicago, reported the bishop. Highlights included a meeting with Sudan's primate and the former bishop of Renk, The Most Rev. Daniel Deng Bul; a joy filled service with Bishop Joseph Garang Atem at St. Matthew's Cathedral; the naming and dedication of churches in Halaga and North Pelouch; and visits to medical clinics and schools where the church is the primary social service provider for the South. "Our visit mattered more than probably we can appreciate," said Bishop Lee. View the video reports of the Media team on [YouTube](#). A DVD will be available later.

Third Sunday After the Epiphany January 24, 2010

[Review: Spirituality of Welcoming](#)

[Bishop Awards Nominations](#)

Send submissions or queries to David Skidmore, Canon for Communication. News, event, resource and position open notices should be submitted in MS Word or text format to dskidmore@episcopalchicago.org. Publication is at the discretion of the editor and subject to space and style requirements of Connect. Back issues are posted on the [Connect page](#).

Imagining with Diana Butler Bass



The Office of Lifelong Christian Formation in partnership with St. James Cathedral and the Congregations Commission is sponsoring a series of conversations and presentations at three locations around the diocese with noted author and speaker, Diana Butler Bass, **Thursday March 11 through Saturday March 13**. Butler-Bass, author of *A People's History of Christianity* and *The Practicing Congregation*, will speak and engage in conversation with clergy and



Church responds to the Haiti disaster

From spare pocket change to thousands of dollars and additional pledges of ongoing assistance, Anglicans and Episcopalians around the globe have rallied to aid their sister Diocese of Haiti in the aftermath of the worst earthquake in the island nation's history.

News of the Jan. 12 magnitude 7 earthquake, which destroyed most of the Episcopal Cathédrale Sainte Trinité (Holy Trinity Cathedral) complex including the residence of Bishop Jean-Zaché Duracin in the capital city Port-au-Prince, reverberated across the international religious community, evoking prayers and eliciting concern for the missing and injured, as the death toll, now estimated at 200,000, continued to climb.

Church leaders, from Episcopal Church Presiding [Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori](#) to [Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams](#) and [Archbishop Thabo Makgoba](#) of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa, urged a generous and immediate response, while acknowledging tough economic times.

"I urge your prayers for those who have died, been injured, and are searching for loved ones -- and I urge your concrete and immediate prayers in the form of contributions to Episcopal Relief and Development, who are already working with the Diocese of Haiti to send aid where it is most needed," Jefferts Schori said in a Jan. 13 statement.

Basic needs are in short supply for the 3 million people in Haiti, a third of the nation's population, affected by the earthquake. Agencies, including Episcopal Relief and

lay leaders on **Thursday March 11** from 10 am to 3 pm and **Friday March 12** from 10 am to 2 pm at St. Martin's Episcopal Church, 1095 Thacker St., Des Plaines. Both days will feature time for questions and answers and worship. On **Saturday March 13**, Butler Bass give a presentation centered on her latest work, *A People's History of Christianity*, and answer questions, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 900 Normal Rd., DeKalb. The Saturday session, starting at 10 am, is intended for all members of the diocesan community and the public. On **Thursday evening, March 11** St. James Cathedral will host a conversation with Butler Bass and Bishop Jeffrey Lee in the cathedral starting with refreshments at 5:45 pm followed by the program at 6 pm. Butler Bass will sign books at the end of the program around 6:45 pm. The sponsors are arranging for copies of Butler Bass's works to be available at And All Angels bookshop at St. Michael's, Barrington. They are also recommending that participants visit Diana Butler Bass's website to view and listen to interviews she's given, and learn about her work on her website. More information on registration will be available in late January. Contact [Barbara Rasero](#) in the Office of Lifelong Christian Formation (312)751-4206

Development, are sending in supplies and professional aid workers to address immediate needs and assess the longterm rebuilding of the nation. As much as financial support is needed now-and it is the most effective way the average person can make a difference for Haiti-those contributions will be critical in the months and years ahead as Haiti rebuilds.

What we can do: Give to the [Haiti fund](#), learn about [Haiti](#) and [Millennium Development Goals](#), and [pray](#). More at the [Haiti Disaster Response page](#).

Several churches in the Diocese of Chicago have taken up special collections for Haiti relief, among them [St. Michael's, Barrington](#), and [Holy Comforter, Kenilworth](#). At Holy Comforter, the Rev. Robert Myers reports that the congregation received \$36,000 at the January 17 offering and expects additional gifts to bring the total to \$40,000. Half will be donated to [Episcopal Relief and Development](#), and half to the [Red Cross](#).

Clothing needed for Haitian refugees

The Department of Children and Family Services for the State of Illinois is requesting donations of clothing for newly arrived Haitian children and families who have sought refuge in the Chicago area. United Airlines flew in 77 Haitians Wednesday and has another flight arriving this evening (Jan. 21). All season clothing, and hats and gloves for children of all ages, and winter clothing for adults are needed (the DCFS has enough winter coats for children). Donations should be sent or delivered to DCFS, 17 N. State 7th Floor, Chicago 60602.

Lawrence Hall student wins Chicago City vehicle sticker contest

Lawrence Hall Youth Services student, Lookman Muhammed was recognized for his winning design in the annual Chicago City Vehicle Sticker contest at City Hall. City Clerk Miguel del Valle presented Lookman with a certificate of honor and a \$1,000 U.S. savings bond at the January 14 award ceremony. Lookman will also get the opportunity to see his artwork on 1.3 million cars throughout Chicago.

All of this year's 300 entries, received from 39 Chicago-area high schools were inspired by Daniel Burnham's architecture and vision. The top ten finalists received a combined 17,500 votes during the week of public voting and Lookman's design was the overall winner.



Momentum Conversations in emergent faith

Momentum: Conversations in Emergent Faith featuring author, networker, pastor and emergent leader Brian McLaren, will be held **Monday April 19, 2010** at St. Michael's Episcopal Church in Barrington. Sponsored by the Diocese of Chicago, Seabury-Western Theological Seminary, and the churches of St. Michael's, Holy Apostles in Wauconda, and Church of the Redeemer in Elgin, this gathering will be an important opportunity to hear practical ideas and participate in cutting edge conversation with significant leaders in the emergent movement.

Along with McLaren, speakers include Tom Brackett, program officer for church planting and redevelopment for The Episcopal Church; the Rev. Martha Gillette, priest-in-charge of Holy Apostles in Wauconda; the Rev. Al Johnson, rector of St. Michael's, Barrington; the Rev. Pedro Lopez, rector of Church of the Redeemer, Elgin; and Bishop Jeffrey Lee. More information and registration is available on-line at [Holy Apostles](#) or by [email](#)

Headline Block

Click and drag to move

CALENDAR

This is a sample of events occurring in the Diocese of Chicago. Check the [Master Calendar](#) on the diocesan website for a full listing of

This was Lookman's second entry into the contest. In 2009 he was a finalist and received an honorable mention. This year was a lesson in perseverance.

Preach-in on climate change organized for Valentine's Day Weekend

Interfaith Power and Light is sponsoring a national preach-in on climate change on Valentine's Day weekend February 13-14. Many congregations will be making climate change the subject of their worship services this weekend. You can sign up for materials from Interfaith Power & Light here: [IPL Preach-in Sign Up](#).

You can also get a kit of resources from Interfaith Power and Light that includes an essay by Dr. Dawn Nothwehr, OSF, from the Catholic Theological Union on the Catholic lectionary readings for the day, an essay by Rabbi Herbert Bronstein on Judaism and the environment, and an essay by Rev. Dr. Clare Butterfield on the revised common lectionary readings for the day, as well as prayers, hymn ideas and more. To get those email: erika@faithinplace.org or call 312-733-4640.

Traffic woes ahead

Now that your headache is fading from the stress of the Reagan and TriState tollway reconstruction, brace yourself for a new migraine: the I-290 and Congress Parkway bridge rehabilitation. Stage 1 (Congress Parkway from Wells to Canal) begins this spring and supposedly finishes in fall. More information at [Illinois Department of Transportation](#). And Chicago commuters need to be using the [CTA bustracker webpage](#) now that the transit agency has announced route eliminations and reduced service. atabase maintenance is a thing of the past.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

CLERGY NEWS

Bishop Lee will install **the Rev. Jose Arroyo** as Vicar of Sagrada Familia-Holy Family, Lake Villa on Wednesday, April 14 at 7:00pm

The Rev. Jim Steen has retired as rector of St. Paul and the Redeemer in Hyde Park. He will continue serving as a consultant to the Congregations Commission and Leadership and Ministry Development Office.

The Rev. Al Johnson has announced his plans to retire as rector of St. Michael's in Barrington. A date has not been set yet, but the parish and Al are planning for the retirement

CALENDAR

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Michael Pflieger speaking on ending gun violence

On **Saturday, January 23** at St. James Cathedral, The Rev. Michael Pflieger, pastor of St. Sabina Catholic Church in Chicago will speak on the issue of gun violence in Chicago, and solutions for ending it. Provocative, often controversial, but connected to those who suffer most in Chicago's epidemic of gun violence, Father Pflieger offers ways to connect us to addressing the tragedy. He inspired those who heard him speak at our Diocesan Convention in November. Father Pflieger's knowledge of the issues and his experience with victims of violence on the streets of Chicago are grounded in a theological and Biblical vision . . . and he leaves his listeners with avenues for action and hope. The morning session is offered in partnership with Forth Presbyterian Church and the diocesan Peace and Justice Commission. It is open to the public.

The presentation is at 10 am followed by lunch and discussion on how to address the tragedy of gun violence at 11:30 am. The cathedral's annual meeting sessions begin at 1 pm with four presentation and discussion sessions. The

to take effect within 12 to 15 months. The wardens and vestry are in the process of forming committees for the search and transition processes.

Ordination of Vocational Deacons

Bishop Lee will ordain the following candidates to the diaconate on Saturday February 6 at St. James Cathedral: **F. Newton “Newt” Carpenter**, St. Mark, Barrington Hills; **Laurie J. Michaels**, St. Michael, Barrington; and **Heath M. Missner**, Christ Church, Winnetka. The service begins at 11 am.

EPISCOPAL CHARITIES AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Rev. John (Jack) D. Seymour has been appointed as Cathedral Shelter’s new executive director. He began his new ministry at the agency of Episcopal Charities and Community Services earlier this month. Seymour joined the vocational diaconate through ordination in 1994, having served in both the Diocese of Springfield and the Diocese of Chicago. He presently serves at the congregation of St. Paul the Redeemer in Hyde Park, IL and he also serves the Diocese of Chicago as director of the Deacons’ School for Ministry and Formation.

Pray for:

The people of Haiti

The 20 million Americans unemployed or underemployed

The Rev. Kimball Cannon

Deacon William Carlson

Sister Mary Cecilia (Sisters of St. Anne) recovering from a fall.

Derrick Dawson, chair of the Anti-Racism Commission,

Dylan, grandson of the Rev. Canon Clarence Langdon

The Rev. Tom Lamb, who is recovering from surgery

The Rev. Paul Brouillette

The Rev. Jim Swarthout who is recovering from surgery

four sessions address the cathedral budget; the parish council work on mission and ministry; homelessness, human rights, hunger and violence; and choir rehearsal for the annual meeting’s concluding Eucharist. For more information contact [Ann Ryba](#) or 312-787-7360.

Ecumenical Prayer Service in Wilmette

In observance of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity the Ecumenical Millennium Committee of Chicago is sponsoring the tenth annual Ecumenical Day of Prayer Service, **Sunday January 24** at Wilmette Community Church, 1020 Forest Ave., Wilmette. The service begins at 4 pm. [More information.](#)

Trinity Institute 40th National Teleconference

Seabury-Western Theological Seminary in Evanston will be hosting a telecast of the Trinity Institute's 40th National Conference, in collaboration with three other congregations (*see schedule below*). The conference will be [webcast](#).

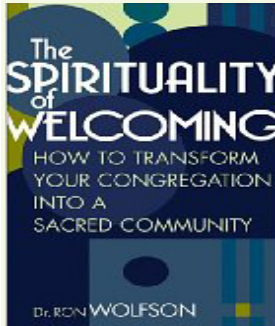
This year the theme is

Building an Ethical Economy: Theology and the Marketplace.

Speakers include Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams; Kathryn Tanner, professor of theology at the University of Chicago Divinity School and author of *Economy of Grace*; Sir Partha Dasgupta, the Frank Ramsey professor of economics at Cambridge University and author of *Economics: A Very Short Introduction*; and Bishop

RESOURCES

BOOK REVIEW



The Spirituality Of Welcoming: How to Transform Your Congregation into a Sacred Community by Ron Wolfson. Publisher, Jewish Lights Publishing (4th Printing, 2008). ISBN-10: 1580232442

REVIEW BY RANDALL WARREN, CANON FOR PASTORAL CARE

The Spirituality of Welcoming describes the work of a program called Synagogue 2000, which was designed to foster the transformation of synagogue life across the several branches of Judaism. The author, Ron Wolfson, is a Jewish educator who, together with Rabbi Lawrence A. Hoffman (currently working in Evanston) founded Synagogue 2000 (and, now, Synagogue 3000). They sought to engage congregational leaders in conversations that could lead to transformation in many areas of synagogue life; membership practices, education, worship and beyond.

The benefit of Wolfson's book is that it provides a great summary of the current thinking regarding congregational development. Even more interestingly, it allows us to see different congregations creatively adapting congregational development ideas to their own contexts. *Full review accompanies this issue of Connect.*



Become and Believe video and booklet

The story of the ministries of congregations, agencies and offices of the Diocese of Chicago has been captured in a 41 minute DVD produced by the Office of Communication. The DVD trailer was shown at the Convention reception November 20, and in late January copies of the full length video will be mailed to all congregations along with a

Bernard Ntahoturi, archbishop of the Anglican Church of Burundi, who will be preaching.

Building an Ethical Economy will bring together leading theologians and economists to talk about the relationship between economics and Christian belief and action. Speakers will address topics including:

- Theology & Economics: Two Different Worlds?
- Is Capitalism a Belief System?
- What Is Wealth?
- What Do We Owe the Future?

Each speaker will address one of these questions in detail, followed by responses from the other speakers, and audience questions. Interactive reflection groups throughout the conference will provide attendees with an opportunity for discussion and to share their own thoughts and experiences.

Webcast sponsors in Chicago area: **January 28-29**, 8 a.m. until 4:15 p.m.: [Bethany Lutheran Church](#), 9147 South Jeffery Avenue, Chicago

January 28-29, 8 a.m. until 4:15 p.m.: [Bethany Lutheran Church](#), 8 South Lincoln Street, Batavia

January 28-29, 8 a.m. until 4:15 p.m.: [Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church](#), 285 Washington Street, Grayslake

Men's PreLenten Retreat

There will be a 22 hour Pre-Lenten Men's Retreat open to

booklet with the text of video narration and photos from the video. To order the video on DVD (41 minutes), contact [David Skidmore](#), Canon for Communication, (312) 751-4207, or [Elizabeth Nelson](#) (312) 751-4215. There is a \$3 charge for each DVD and booklet to cover shipping and handling. Checks should be payable to the Diocese of Chicago, and marked for DVD.

Liturgical Calendars

Two complimentary copies of the 2010 diocesan liturgical calendar were mailed to congregations in early December. The calendar features Bishop Victor Scantlebury greeting members of Sagrada Familia-Holy Family, the new mission in Lake Villa. Additional copies can be ordered for \$6 each from the Office of Communication. Checks should be payable to the Diocese of Chicago and marked for the liturgical calendar. Contact: [Elizabeth Nelson](#) (312) 751-4215 enelson@episcopalchicago.org

Sudan Media Team Videos

Three youtube videos have been posted by the Sudan Media Team documenting their January 8-17 visit.

[Sudan Video One](#)

Khartoum, Renk Town, message from Sudan primate Daniel Deng Bul

[Sudan Video Two](#)

St. Luke's Church, Renk Town,; Glory Church, Renk Town; St. Matthew's Cathedral, Renk Town; Renk Theological College and medical clinic; new church consecration St. Paul, in Halaga; St. Barnaba Church, Geiger

[Sudan Video Three](#)

St. John's, Mellut; medical clinic and school, Mellut; St. Barnabas, Maban; church plant, Maban County; former mosque converted to church, St. Stephen's, North Pelouch; St. Andrew's, Wadokona.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Parttime bookkeeper

Episcopal Service Corps, now based in Chicago, is looking to hire a very part-time bookkeeper. Applicants should have some church bookkeeping experience, as well as

all men of the Chicago Diocese at the DeKoven Center, Racine, Wisconsin, from **Friday evening, February 5 through Saturday afternoon, February 6**. The theme will be "A Success That Really Matters," and the retreat leader is Rev. Ron Valentine, Deacon and Chaplain at The Episcopal Church of St. James the Less, Northfield, IL. Contact Bob Schenck at 312-371-1535 or E-mail him at rschenckmd@gmail.com for further details, or to register to reserve your space. The deadline for registration is Friday, January 29, 2010.

TrebleFest

TrebleFest 2010 will be held at St. James Episcopal Cathedral, 65 E. Huron, Chicago, on **Saturday, February 20, 2010**. As usual, the format will be a day-long workshop with youth choristers, culminating in a Festival Service at 3:00 p.m. in the Cathedral. Guest clinician will be Suzanne Purtee, Organist & Choirmaster of the Church of the Nativity in Huntsville, Alabama. TrebleFest registration will begin at 9:45 a.m. with the rehearsal beginning at 10 a.m. The closing Festival Service will be at 3 p.m. If you have any questions, please call either Harriet Mueller (847) 392-5153 or [Bruce Barber](#) at St. James Cathedral 312-787-7360.

Absalom Jones Day Observance

Chicago Chapter of The Union of Black Episcopalians presents An Evensong

ability to use Quick Books and Excel. Work commitment is approximately 10 hours a month, most of it toward the end of the month when financial reports are needed. Queries should be sent to: Kim Lamberty Executive Director Episcopal Service Corps P.O. Box 15126 Chicago, IL 60615-5141 312-233-2916 www.episcopalservicecorps.org

Bishop Awards Nominations

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

Downloadable nomination forms and guidelines have been posted on the diocesan website episcopalchicago.org The deadline for receiving nominations is 4 pm on March 26, 2010. Awards will be presented at the Bishop's Associates annual luncheon May 6, 2010 at the Union League Club of Chicago, 65 W. Jackson, Chicago. Nominations should be submitted to: Bishop's Awards Episcopal Church Center 65 E. Huron Street Chicago, IL 60611 Or by email to: bishopsassociates@episcopalchicago.org

CANDLEMAS AT ST. PETER'S

St. Peter's Episcopal Church (621 W. Belmont, Chicago) welcomes all to another of its special evensong services: Candlemas, **Tuesday, February 2**, at 7 pm. As with prior evensong observances, the evening offers a magical and mystical mingling of liturgy and art, this time in observance of The Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple and featuring St Peter's Cultivators in a debut reading of an original work composed specifically for this brief service, The Candlemas Cantata.

The Candlemas Cantata is a short work for speech ensemble. It has, like Candlemas itself, 3 central themes: recognition of birth, recognition of death, and recognition of the two types of life - the temporal and the eternal; the latter being made possible by the recognition of Jesus as Christ and Savior. It has 3 central characters: Mary, Simeon, and, of no less importance, us. It has 3 recurring

Celebration of the Life of the Rev. Absalom Jones, the first African American priest in the Episcopal Church, on **Sunday February 14** at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Chicago. This year's speaker is the Rev. JoAnne Marie Terrell Associate Professor of Ethics and Theology; Chicago Theological Seminary. Professor Terrell is an ordained elder in the Michigan Annual Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. She holds a B.A., Rollins College, 1981; M.Div., M.Phil., Ph.D., Union Theological Seminary (NYC), 1990, 1994, 1997. Rev. Terrell is also author: Power in the Blood? The Cross in the African-American Experience (Orbis, 1998).

The observance begins at 3 pm. St. Thomas is located at 38th Street and Wabash Avenue. All are invited and welcome to attend. Please call Alice Brown @ (773) 643-5162 or Johnnie Newton (773) 436-3360 for any additional information.

Faith in Place environmental advocacy workshop

[Faith in Place](http://FaithinPlace.org) will offer an annual policy workshop for environmental advocacy this year on **Sunday, January 31** at Fourth Presbyterian Church in Chicago from 2 pm to 5 pm. Charles Jackson, the Executive Director of the Illinois Environmental Council will offer the keynote outlining the overall legislative strategy for Illinois for the new General Assembly Session. Workshops will include a close look at the solar policy agenda for 2010 with Mel Nickerson of the

motifs: echoes of the Annunciation, foreshadowings of Ash Wednesday, and the constant intrusions of our very real, very jaded, and seemingly hopelessly repetitive historical existence. Finally, its text is entirely drawn from 3 diverse sources. The 1st of these sources is from the sacred: the gospels and the liturgy. The 2nd is from Christian poets: T.S Eliot and W.H. Auden. The 3rd is from the entirely secular: including Wikipedia's entries for February 2nd in history and, perhaps less predictably, the screenplay of the movie Groundhog Day.

St. Peter's Cultivators is a group of diverse parishioners devoted to spirituality and the arts. From poetry readings and presentations to sacred art at the Art Institute, from sacred music and drama to writing workshops, the Cultivators eagerly seek to explore the places where the arts and the Divine intersect. Founded in 2007, and with a cast of performers ranging in age from 20-something to 70-something, the St. Peter's Cultivators have performed a number of public concerts and dramatic readings, reaching out beyond the church and tending to and fostering the spiritual, artistic and intellectual needs of the parish and wider community.

Environmental Law and Policy Center and an analysis of legislative versus regulatory approaches to carbon and how they impact industry with Paul Sheehan, an engineer who works with heavy industry clients on environmental compliance.

Episcopal Urban Caucus

Episcopal Urban Caucus will hold its annual Assembly in Chicago **February 24 - 27**. Participants will be staying at the Allerton Hotel at N. Michigan Avenue and Huron Street, (locals may commute) and the Caucus Eucharist will be held at the St. James Cathedral Thursday evening, February 25 beginning at 6:30 pm. The theme of this year's Assembly is: Anti-violence, Keeping our Kids Alive. More information will be published after Christmas. Contact Nell Braxton Gibson, Coordinator, at 212-699-2998 or visit the Episcopal Urban Caucus [website](#)

The next issue of Connect will be posted January 28 2010