

THE LIVING CHURCH

AN INDEPENDENT WEEKLY SERVING EPISCOPALIANS ♦ AUGUST 22, 1999 ♦ \$2.00

EPISCOPAL YOUTH EVENT

Indiana State University
Terre Haute, Indiana



THIS WEEK

Sr. Clare Connell, newly installed as superior of the Sisters of St. Gregory, embraces her sisters at the exchange of the Peace.

Tobias Stanislas Haller, BSG photo
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Margaret Mead (center) with adolescent girls in Samoa, 1928.

Courtesy, Institute for Intercultural Studies, New York

"A good ritual is very like a natural language . . . spoken for a very long time by very many different kinds of people, geniuses and dullards, old people on the verge of dying and children just learning to speak, men and women, good people and bad people, farmers, scholars and fishermen."

— Margaret Mead

Features

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(One of a series)
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BY JAMES B. SIMPSON

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Bottom: Hulman Memorial Student Union Fountain

Jon Potter photos

THE LIVING CHURCH

An independent weekly serving Episcopalians since 1878

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Volume 219

Number 8

BOOKS

A New Song

By Jan Karon
 Viking. Pp. 400. \$24.95

Fans of Jan Karon's Mitford series will welcome Fr. Timothy Kavanagh's latest adventure. *A New Song* finds Fr. Tim and his wife, Cynthia, with one week left before their departure for Whitecap Island just off the Atlantic coast. The reader is quickly caught up in the mixed emotions of saying good-bye to the parish where Fr. Tim was rector for 16 years. The predictable years of his life ended when he discovered Cynthia living in the yellow house next door to the rectory. We join them there in the newly completed addition — 1,270 square feet of bright space which he and his "visionary wife had added."

This is not the same Fr. Tim we knew in the first Mitford book. Indeed, he grows as the story unfolds. As he experiences God in his life, he is encouraged

to be more audacious, to take more risks. That is a heady experience. He proclaims to his delightful wife that he is "actually looking forward to the adrenaline of their last week in Mitford." And indeed, his unpredictable wife has an unexpected surprise awaiting him the morning of their departure. Buckle your seat belts and join them as they wave good-bye to Mitford and drive south to the romantic island where storm winds are already brewing to pound and dampen their spirits before the tale is told. Indeed, before *A New Song* concludes, the reader will experience serious breakdowns which become marvelous breakthroughs in our Whitecap Island cast, which draws upon the local salts as well as the faithful and the not so faithful of the congregation at St. John's in the Grove. In addition, we are still connected to all our wonderful acquaintances in Mitford who faithfully update Fr. Tim of exciting developments in the North Carolina mountain town. A wonderful read, and add Romans 12 for a double blessing!

Mary Terrell Haines
 Silver Spring, Md.

Trinity Institute's
 30th National Conference
 September 27-29, 1999



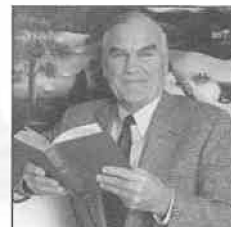
ROOTS & WINGS: Episcopal Identity and Vocation in the New Millennium

*This conference is a partnership among the Office of the Presiding Bishop,
 Trinity Church Wall Street, and the Episcopal Church Foundation.*

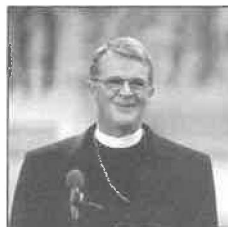
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'... Many Members Yet One Body'

Young adults gather to celebrate the church's diversity at the Episcopal Youth Event

"Listen my brothers and sisters: You are many members yet one body," was the theme for the Episcopal Youth Event that took place at Indiana State University in Terre Haute, Ind., July 27-Aug. 1. It was a gathering of 1,500 teens, young adults and adults who are still young at heart. All of them were gathered to celebrate the church's diversity, the great oneness that we have in Christ, and learn how we can better live together.

Although the temperature dropped below 90 degrees only once during the conference, the day the event ended, it didn't faze the participants. Energy and strength flowed in and through the conference as activities were organized from early morning until late at night.

Each morning following breakfast was a service, during which Presiding Bishop Frank Griswold spoke. This was followed by a presentation highlighting some aspect of our diversity. The content of these presentations ranged from issues about racism, to a special service called Authority of all Generations, in which participants were asked to individually answer a question about their walk in faith. After the morning program all the attendees went to small groups, made up of people from around the nation to discuss the topics of the morning program.

The afternoon program offered a choice of workshops including "Psychokinetics" — relaxation and tensions releasing techniques, to "Are You Called?" — discerning God's call to the

ordained ministry. There were no workshops on Thursday. This day was reserved for representatives from individual provinces to meet alone and talk about things that were going on in their area. After workshops were over it was organized free time, with optional activities such as an inflatable obstacle course one day and a basketball tournament and lacrosse games another day.

After dinner an evening service, varying in style from Taizé worship to a Eucharist, was held. After the service it was more fun time, with activities such as karaoke in the student union or a "dive-in" movie at the pool. The two most notable evening activities were the "Cultural Carnival," a carnival-style atmosphere where members of each diocese had the opportunity of a booth to give out information about its diocese or small diocesan trinkets. The other notable evening activity was the "Super-duper-funky-monkey-get-down-with-you-bad-self-come-on-let's-do-the-Macarena Big Block Party," as quoted directly from the schedule, a large dance put on for the participants as a closing activity.

Jon Potter



Guillermo E. Brown entertains at youth conference.
Jon Potter photo

150-year-old Parish Builds New Church

St. Paul's, Hudson, Wis., a small, 150-year-old parish in the Diocese of Eau Claire, has built a new church and has moved into its new home.

When the building was consecrated, the Rt. Rev. Keith Whitmore, Bishop of Eau Claire, told members of the congregation that the new church was a miracle, in the sense that members of such a small congregation in a time of depleted resources and with a dilapidated building could come together, overcome their differences and dissension and move forward with what they perceive to be the Lord's work.

Bishop Whitmore made it clear that there was more to accomplish. He challenged the people of St. Paul's to at least double, with his help, their present membership during the next five years. It is a challenge the bishop said should be easily achievable, since Hudson is close enough to Minneapolis, Minn., to be a bedroom community.

The historic altar, baptismal font, pulpit, eagle lectern and other appointments from the old church are incorporated into the new, as are all but two of the stained glass windows. The organ and piano were



James D. Rupert photo

also moved.

Katherine Kelly, one of St. Paul's earliest members, who has been in the congregation for most of this century, remembers all of the furnishings, except the organ and piano, as having "always been there." She said an earlier pipe organ "was pumped from behind the wall for the organist."

Internship Designed to Attract Younger Candidates to Priesthood

In its own small way, Calvary Cathedral, Sioux Falls, S.D., is taking an active role in responding to the national church's lack of clergy under the age of 35. This summer, in an effort to encourage young people with possible priestly vocations, the cathedral hired an intern.

The program is an idea of the Very Rev. William Winters, dean of the cathedral. The Rev. Martha Rogers, assistant to the dean, said the cathedral hopes to offer the internship annually.

Erin McCoy Rath, 19, a sophomore at the University of Minnesota-Morris, was chosen for the eight-week program this summer. She was selected, Ms. Rogers said, because her interest in ordained ministry has been pursued in school writings for several years. Ms. McCoy Rath spent part of last summer "shadowing" a Lutheran minister, and she spent a day with Ms. Rogers last winter.

Ms. McCoy Rath is working in four primary areas: learning more about the Episcopal Church; understanding differences among denominations regarding ordination of women and women's roles; developing a sense of personal ministry and gifts; and exploring ministries at Calvary Cathedral.

"We wanted it to be very personal," Ms. Rogers said. "We wanted it to be a very holy and growing experience for her."

Ms. McCoy Rath works with both Ms. Rogers and Dean Winters, but Ms. Rogers is her primary mentor. She has enjoyed observing their styles of ministry, which she says, "are very different, but complementary." She enjoys working with Ms. Rogers, seeing her as a woman leader who is able to preach, read the gospel and consecrate the Eucharist.

"The best way to get to know Episcopalians is to pray with them," someone once told Ms. McCoy Rath. She participates in daily Morning Prayer and has a part in all Sunday worship services, funerals and weddings.

Ms. McCoy Rath very much enjoys visiting shut-ins. "Old people are cute," she said, "especially the women. They're not inhibited by what other people think anymore." She sees herself, when visiting, as sitting across from "a lifetime of stories



Martha Rogers photo

Ms. McCoy Rath at the children's chapel for "Little Saints," the cathedral's day care program.

and a lifetime of wisdom." She also works with both the junior and senior high school youth groups and young children.

An important part of Ms. McCoy Rath's internship is keeping a journal of her experience with which she documents her experiences of prayer, observation and discernment over the eight-week period.

Ms. McCoy Rath, who was baptized when she was 15, describes herself as "a Roman Catholic, (but) clearly not typical of the stereotype of my faith." However, she talked of how important the students the Newman Center and Catholic Campus Ministries were to her during her freshman year at college.

Halfway through her internship, Ms. McCoy Rath feels the program has already increased her sense of vocation to ordained ministry. She expressed concern that the "challenge" to herself and to students with whom she has become close at the Newman Center, "is to agree to disagree" about her possible calling to ordained ministry.

She sees the Episcopal Church as "living the universality of catholicism," and likes the idea that "the Episcopal Church is not a rules church, but a thinking church." She likes the similarities between the Episcopal Church and the Roman Catholic Church — the consecration of the Eucharist, that priests wear Roman collars, that priests are called priests ... "Right now," she said, "if I were to pursue ordination, it would be as an Episcopalian."

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to ordained ministry.**

While Calling Around

These telephone calls I make to subscribers are getting more fascinating each week. You may recall that a year or so ago I began a practice of calling a subscriber on a weekly basis. I always ask these folks how delivery of TLC is going, how they're enjoying the magazine, and what suggestions they might have to improve it. All sorts of interesting conversations have developed.

The other day I spoke to a woman in the San Francisco Bay area who told me she'd found her church by surfing the web. "I was a lapsed Episcopalian," she said. "I hadn't been to church in at least 10 years. I was exploring some websites for a nearby community and I found the church. It started me thinking about returning, so I checked it out. I've been going there for about two years. I've found a home." Never underestimate the power of a website.

An Arkansas reader said she has begun to share her copy of TLC with members of her parish. "Stop that," I said, only half in jest. "Isn't it time those folks had their own subscription?" She replied that four others read her magazine — two of them a couple on fixed income, one a graduate student "with huge debts" and the other an unemployed priest. "I thought you'd be pleased that I've introduced your magazine to others," she said. Talk about feeling like Scrooge...

A newly retired priest who lives in Florida was incredibly candid. "This is probably the last year I'll be subscribing," he said. "After the General Convention approves same-sex blessings next year, I'm outta here." I asked him where he was going and was surprised by his answer. "I'll join one of the Orthodox churches," he said. "I haven't decided which one yet. My wife and I have been shopping around. I'll join as a lay person and will stay out of

church politics." My mild attempts to talk him out of his plan were not appreciated.

I got an earful from a woman in Pennsylvania. "I thought you people were above this," she said firmly. "I didn't think you'd stoop to calling people and asking them to subscribe. Besides, we already get your magazine." When I tried to tell her who I was and why I was calling, she launched into a tirade about solicitors. She said she'd tell the attorney general about me. Caller ID can be a wonderful thing.

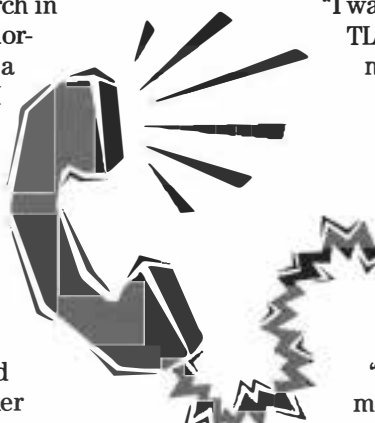
A reader in Michigan could have made a wonderful promotional ad for TLC.

"I want you to know that reading TLC is one of the highlights of my week," she gushed. "I get more out of your magazine than anything I read." Naturally, I wondered about her reading habits and indeed, her life. As the conversation continued, she wanted to talk about her parish and her rector. "A dear man," she said, "but a weak preacher. I get more out of the little commentaries on the Sunday readings than I do from his sermons."

Then there was a person whose name I recognized. You would too. Formerly active at the national level, still a diocesan honcho. He wanted to give me fatherly advice. "Don't listen to all those people," he said. "You're on the right track with that magazine. Those people who are always criticizing you are full of beans. Stick with what you're doing." I assured him we intended to do that. "Are you OK?" he asked. "Are these people getting to you?" I told him they were not and that I was indeed OK.

In general, people have been friendly, pleased to be asked for their opinions, and satisfied with TLC. You may be next. Don't hang up when I call. I'll promise not to call during your dinner hour if you'll promise not to call the attorney general.

David Kalvelage, executive editor



Did You Know...

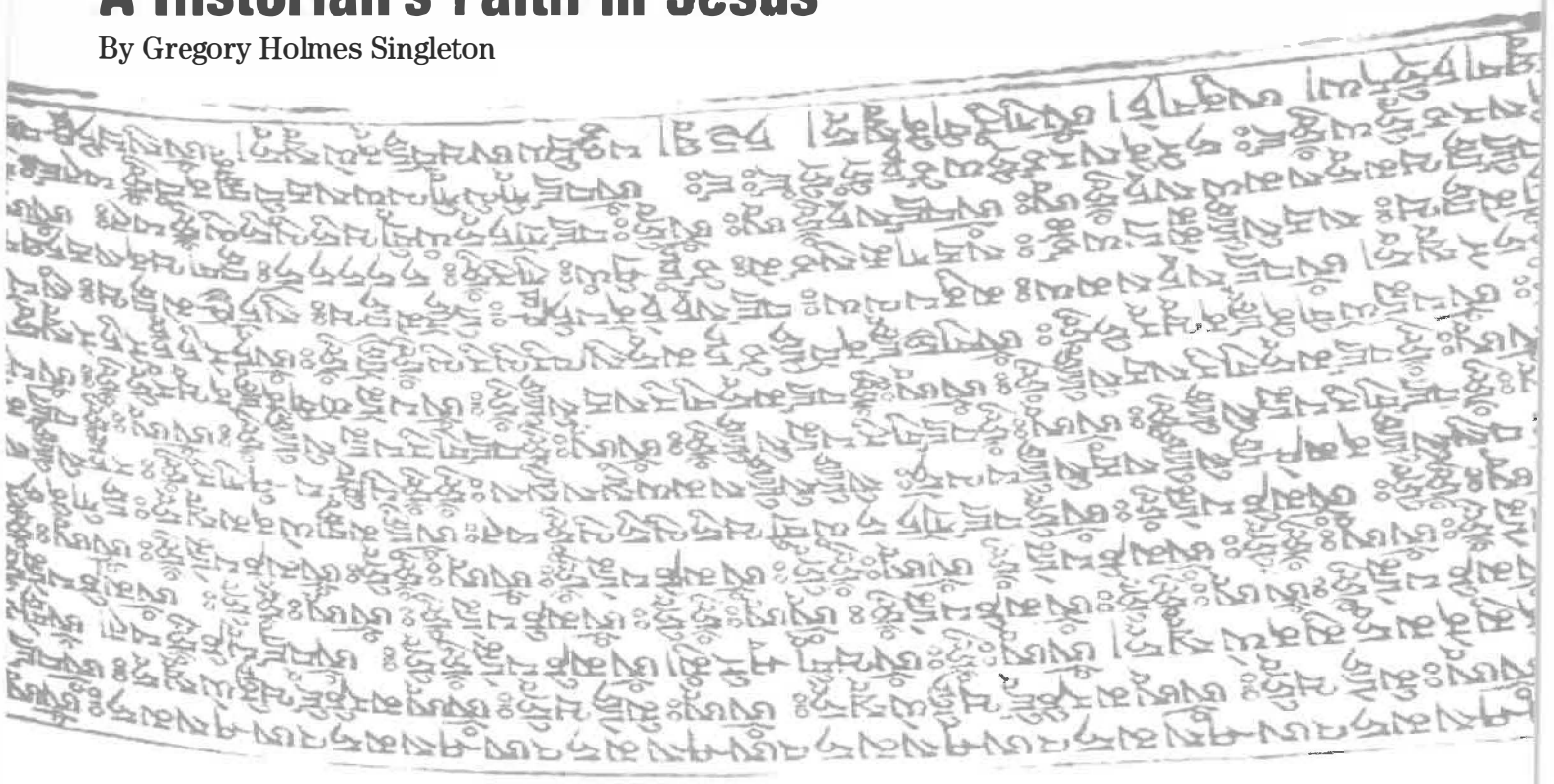
All Saints' Chapel, Orr's Island, Maine, held some of its finest services in an ice cream parlor.

Quote of the Week

The Most Rev. Njongonkulu Ndungane, Archbishop of Cape Town (South Africa), on how the Church of the Province of Southern Africa handles diversity: "We have not lived well with our differences. We have allowed them to form the basis for exclusion, prejudice and intolerance."

A Historian's Faith in Jesus

By Gregory Holmes Singleton



Before we get too worked up, one way or the other, about the “historical Jesus,” let’s consider the extent to which “historical” is a problematic term.

I have been immersed in the study of history for more than three decades, and have yet to come up for air. As a result, I have developed a sense of humility and skepticism in the face of evidence.

I am humble because I know how tempting it is to read preconceptions, predilections and wishes into the evidence. I have been there, done that, and still do it when I leave humility behind. It took a long time to learn the difference between what the evidence incontrovertibly and explicitly says and what the evidence will support. One can always find the latter. The former is far more difficult to spot. A regular part of my writing process is to subject my first draft to a rigorous cross-examination (sometimes amounting to a deconstruction of my own explanatory structure) in order to remove as many of those preconceptions, predilections and wishes as I can find. In short, I am humble because I am aware of my own egocentric way of reading the evidence, and realize that it is not adequate. (This egocentrism, by the way, is something I share with approximately 100 percent

of the species.)

I am skeptical because I know how one piece of evidence can raise serious questions about another piece of evidence. Given thousands of pieces of evidence, the picture usually becomes far more muddled than it initially appeared when only a handful of bits of evidence were at issue.

I began my graduate studies in ancient history (yes, I know how that phrase could be read—be kind). I switched to modern in large part because

It took a long time to learn the difference between what the evidence explicitly says and what it will support. One can always find the latter.

the difficulties inherent in the study of history generally seemed to reach exponential proportions in both the ancient and medieval sub-fields. Therefore, the idea that we can actually know the “historical Jesus” is one that strikes me as more than problematic.

Let me illustrate by way of example. I am looking at the shelves in my office right now, and, for no particular reason, my gaze has settled on the Jacksonian Era. I immediately see seven different books characterizing the period in seven remarkably different ways. I know six of the seven historians quite well, and know they share a common

Anti-Gun Legislation

Contrary to what Jan S. Monningh suggests in his letter [TLC, July 25], support of anti-gun legislation should not be considered “embarrassing” but is something which should deeply concern all Christians.

The anti-gun legislation could protect children and adults from the too-easy availability of firearms for homicides and suicides.

The Diocese of Pennsylvania should be applauded for its approval of measures against hate crimes and the death penalty. There can be no debate about the deplorability of hate crimes. Being members of a state or nation which executes its prisoners makes us all murderers.

These are not just social or political issues, but ones on which Christians should make a stand.

*Rita S. Davis
Rancho Mirage, Calif.*

I read with some amusement (and perhaps incredulity) the letters to the editor objecting to the posting of anti-gun signs in the front of Episcopal churches in Utah. The authors of the letters are obviously not aware that this was made a necessity by the state legislature in Utah. By law, people can carry concealed firearms into a church unless it is clearly posted that such weapons are not welcome (hence, the signs).

Perhaps the authors of the letters see it as an infringement on their rights to bear arms guaranteed by the Constitution. However, I believe Jesus would applaud the signs. I can't imagine that he would approve of individuals bringing guns into his house during a worship service on Sunday mornings (or any other time, for that matter), which at the present time is perfectly legal in the state of Utah. Perhaps Bishop Carolyn Irish and the leadership of the Episcopal Church in Utah are interested in gun control and do have a political agenda, but I think they are probably more concerned in simply keeping such weapons out of their churches on Sunday mornings.

*(The Rev.) Bryant C. Bechtold
Christ the King Church
Fort Worth, Texas*

I'm fascinated by this new Jesus who is roaming around Locust Grove, Ga., and Carter, Mont. He seems to be different from the one I grew up with, who confronted me in all areas of my life, not just in those with which he and I agreed.

I'm not concerned with the gun issue. I'm concerned with the larger issue that implies that in the Episcopal Church, we let our faith touch only those areas that are not covered by laws and regulations. If there is a law already passed, or a political issue to be examined, for heaven's sake, don't let Jesus have anything to say about it. He might cause us to rethink our whole position. And under no conditions are we to allow the popular interpretations of the Constitution to confront biblically formed Christianity. No wonder we are accused of having a thoroughly domesticated faith.

Seems to me Jesus said, “Put up the sword...” I don't think he added, “But it's good and perfectly legal to pack a Saturday night special, just in case I don't make it back from this trial.”

*(The Rev.) John Desautniers
Milford, Del.*

The criticism of Bishop Irish by the Rev. Robert D. Bohyer appears to be less than candid. What he quotes is not the second amendment to the Constitution. In full, the amendment reads “A well regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.”

One suspects that the version quoted by the letter writer is the version promulgated by the NRA and kindred. As is often the case, either side involves “playing politics.” The appropriate way for society to protect itself from criminals is

‘No wonder we are accused of having a thoroughly domesticated faith.’



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POSITIONS OFFERED

RECTOR: Historic middle Tennessee parish seeks a rector. We are a small, stable parish that is poised for growth. We would like to strengthen our ministry to youth and young families. In addition to the usual pastoral duties, we are looking for a spiritual guide who has exceptional preaching skills. Please respond promptly with letter and profile. Contact: **Elaine H. Drake, Search Committee Chairman, 100 Vine St., Shelbyville, TN 37160.**

PART-TIME RECTOR IN CHARGE. St. Stephen's is seeking a spiritually motivated part-time rector with strong skills in pastoral counseling, preaching, spiritual and administrative leadership. Compensation in accordance with diocesan standards. Please send letter of interest and resume with CDO profile before Sept. 15, 1999 to: **St. Stephen's Episcopal Church Search Committee, 1445 Norview Ave., Norfolk, VA 23513.**

MUSICIAN AT THE BEACH. Part-time organist/choir-master (semi-retired welcome) to develop fledgling music ministry to include children's choir and instrumentals. Excellent clergy support. Community arts series in place. Good relational skills and ministry focus vital. Contact: **The Rev. Dorothy Hartzog, St. Martha's Episcopal Church, P.O. 1478, Bethany Beach, DE 19930. (302) 539-7444, revdorothy@juno.com**

DID YOU THINK THAT CALLING ON PARISHIONERS in their homes had gone out of style? The people of St. John's, Halifax, VA, don't think so. They are looking to call a rector who will administer the sacraments, preach from the Bible, and call on the people. In this county seat of Halifax County, in the Diocese of Southern Virginia, there is the opportunity to be a pastor in a well established community where gentle traditions are valued and gracious hospitality is a way of life. For further information, interested parties may contact: **Jim Davis, P.O. Box 486, Halifax, VA, 24558. (804) 476-1577. FAX (804) 575-1202.**

PART-TIME VICAR for two mission churches in beautiful, rural northeastern Washington resort communities surrounded by lakes and mountains, close to metropolitan area. Flexible schedule. Seek strong pastoral and homiletic background. Request our profile/send resume to: **St. John's/Redeemer Churches, Box 607, Republic, WA 99166. E-mail: nanam@televar.com**

EPISCOPAL CHURCH SEEKS DIRECTOR to help begin day school. Salary commensurate with education and experience. Initial contract period Nov./Dec. 99 through June 2001. Written inquiries only. Send resumes no later than September 30 to: **St. David's Episcopal Church, Attn: School Committee, 19917 Ashburn Rd., Ashburn, VA 20137-2359.**

POSITIONS OFFERED

IS GROWING DOWNTOWN CHURCH SEEKING YOU? Are you a priest wanting to strengthen a high-quality educational and spiritual formation program for adults in a thriving downtown corporate parish? Do you want to develop a network of small groups within this broad church congregation of more than 1,000 baptized members? Do you enjoy caring for people and teaching them how to care for one another? Would you like to be part of a clergy and staff team? If you answered yes, then please read on. This position is open. Salary and benefits are competitive and attractive. A comfortable refurbished three-bedroom house is supplied. It is situated about a mile from the church in a neighborhood of Victorian and other homes that are well cared for. Christ Episcopal Church, founded in 1859, is the oldest church in continuous use in Springfield. It is the fourth largest church in the Diocese of West Missouri. We are a congregation with active ministries to children and youth, outreach in Haiti and the local community, and an emphasis upon spiritual formation for all. Our mission is "to know Christ and to make Christ known." Springfield is a growing city in the heart of the beautiful Ozark Mountains, where there are ample opportunities for everything from theater and music and museums to fishing, camping and float trips on the many rivers and streams. It is an excellent community to rear a family, thanks to excellent public and private schools and a low cost of living. If you think God might be calling you to this new ministry, then please send your current Church Deployment Office profile, resume and letter of interest to: **The Rev. Kenneth L. Chumbley, Rector, Christ Episcopal Church, 601 E. Walnut St., Springfield, MO 65806 or FAX the same to (417) 866-1301.**

ASSISTANT TO RECTOR for All Saints' Episcopal Church located in Tarpon Springs in the Diocese of Southwest Florida. We need a full-time assistant to the rector for newcomer assimilation, Christian education, youth ministry and outreach. A generous salary, housing and benefit package provided. Send resume, CDO profile and cover letter to: **Search Committee, All Saints' Church, 1700 Keystone Rd., Tarpon Springs, FL 34689 or e-mail allstse@gte.net**

ASSOCIATE RECTOR for large, dynamic suburban parish: We're looking for a full-time assistant to the rector for special ministries including newcomer assimilation, volunteer and program ministries, pastoral care groups and children's ministries. Housing provided along with strong salary and full benefits. Send resume, CDO profile and cover letter to: **Search Committee, Christ Church Cranbrook, 470 Church Rd., Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304. You may also e-mail: cchurch@concentric.net**

CHURCH PLANTER POSITION—The Diocese of Virginia. Applications are now being received for a church planting position in Fairfax County, VA. Interested applicants should write to: **The Very Rev. Dr. Randall Prior, 6509 Sydenstricker Rd., Burke, VA 22015-4210.**

MOVE TO THE SUNSHINE STATE? The Episcopal Diocese of Florida is receiving resumes and CDO profiles from clergy with a track record of congregational development and growth. If you have the skills and desire to "equip God's people for the work of ministry" and want to become part of a team committed to building a "Great Commission Diocese," please contact: **The Rev. Canon Ellis Brust, 325 Market St., Jacksonville, FL 32202 or e-mail: eb Brust@diocesefl.org**

RECTOR: Trinity Church, Potsdam, NY, is seeking a rector for pastoral-sized, program-oriented parish in a small, culturally rich college town located adjacent to the Adirondacks and within 2 hours of Montreal, Ottawa and Lake Placid. We are a caring, supportive parish community with committed lay leadership. Our liturgy is eucharistically centered with a strong tradition of music. Enhanced education program for all ages, improved communication throughout the parish, a strong pastoral care program and expanded participation in parish life by both newcomers and established members are important goals. Specialties we have chosen to emphasize are Teacher, Preacher, Pastor, Administrative Leader, Stewardship Leader and Spiritual Guide. Send resume to: **Thomas Stone, Search Co-Chair, 17 Hillcrest Dr., Potsdam, NY 13676.**

POSITIONS OFFERED

SEEKING A RETIRED PRIEST who chooses to remain active for growing mission congregation located in the Ozarks of southwest Missouri on Table Rock Lake near Branson. St. Mark's serves a resort and retirement area, and is seeking someone to help meet the changing needs of a growing congregation in an expanding community. Direct inquiries and letters of application to: **St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Mark Levitzke, Bishop's Warden, P.O. Box 153, Kimberling City, MO 65686. (800) 289-4070.**

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ANNUNCIATION OF THE B.V.M.

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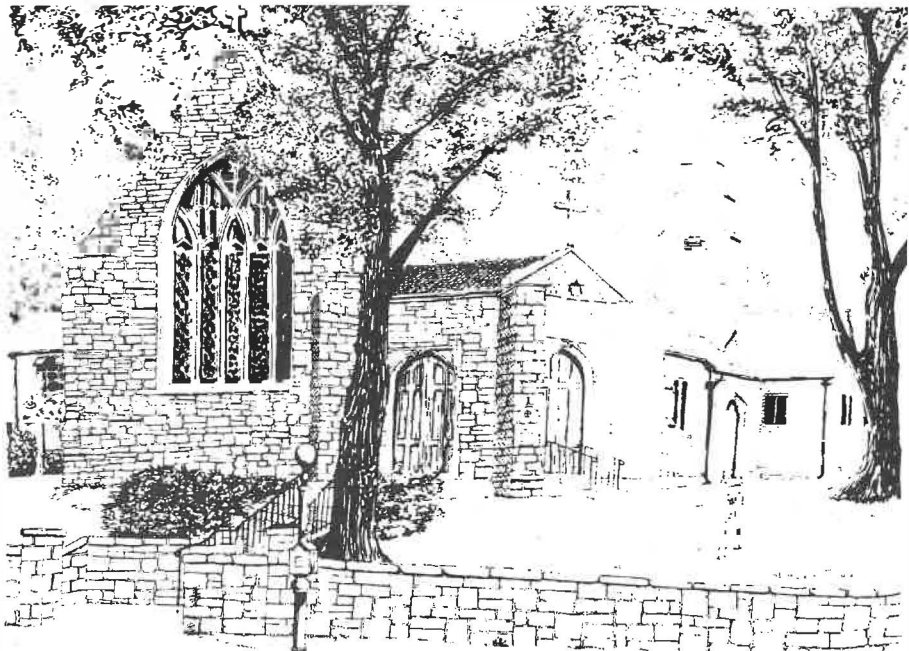
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