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The objective of THE LIVING CHURCH magazine is to build up the body of Christ, by describing how God is moving in his Church; by reporting news of the Church in an unbiased manner; and by presenting diverse points of view.

THIS WEEK







Features

- 7 Drama and the Gospel BY WANDA VASSALLO
- **16** Streams in the Desert Part 6 in a Lenten series on the many waters of baptism. BY DANIEL MUTH
- 23 THE LIVING CHURCH Associates

Opinion

- **18** From the Editor He Isn't Mainstream
- **19** Editorials Thanks to Associates
- **20** Viewpoint Change is Inevitable BY JOHN S. RUEF
- 21 Letters Misses the Point

News

12 Appeals court rules for the diocese in Pawleys Island property dispute.

Other Departments

- 4 Sunday's Readings
- 5 Books
- 6 Movies
- **17** People & Places

The Cover

With the help of his chaplain, the Rev. John T. LeSueur II, the Rt. Rev. V. Gene Robinson seeks possession of his cathedra (or bishop's chair) at the opening of his liturgical installation as Bishop of New Hampshire at St. Paul's Church in Concord on March 7. (New Hampshire has a bishop's chair, but does not have a cathedral.)

Mike Barwell/St. Paul's School photo



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SUNDAY'S READINGS

Loss for the Kingdom's Sake

'Behold, I am doing a new thing' (Isaiah 43:19)

The Fifth Sunday in Lent, March 28, 2004

Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Phil. 3:8-14; Luke 20: 9-19

The texts of holy scripture appointed for this last Lord's Day prior to the beginning of Holy Week speak to our penitent spirits of the process of renunciation that leads to reception of grace. The prophetic word from Isaiah is to "remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old." Turning away from the familiar past, "a new thing" of blessing from the Lord may be perceived as it "springs forth."

This movement of renouncing the past to lay hold of the future is caught in the words of the psalm, "Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy." Forgetting the sorrow and sadness of struggle, the full benefit of fruition is to be enjoyed when God fulfills our petition, "Restore our fortunes, O Lord."

The passage from the letter to the Philippians is a classical biblical text calling for renunciation of self for the sake of the kingdom of God, of losing one's life to find it. The apostle declared, "I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord." This attitude demonstrates the fulfillment of that for which we petition in the Collect of the Day, when we pray, "that ... our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found This is "the goal" of "the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" which is only to be attained by "forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead."

The parable of the wicked tenants presented in the gospel provides the antithesis of this process, giving an example of renunciation of the good and clinging to "the unruly wills and affections of sinful men." The tenants renounce the just claims of the owner. mistreating and rejecting the servants he sends, and are thus closed to the potential blessing of faithful stewardship. Their assertion of self-interest even goes so far as murder, killing the owner's heir in hopes of taking possession of the vineyard. Jesus teaches that their renunciation of the good exemplifies the biblical notion of "the stone which the builders rejected. and his hearers, who oppose his purposes, "perceive that he had told this parable against them." In this very realization, the opportunity to renounce their former disbelief and receive the grace of faith might have been embraced.

Look It Up

Read the Litany of Penitence (BCP, 267-9) and consider those things that we are called to renounce for the sake of righteousness.

Think About It

What have you learned from your Lenten disciplines about habits or behaviors that might be forgotten as "what lies behind" in order to "press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God"?

Next Sunday

Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday, April 4, 2004

Luke 19:29-40; Psalm 118:19-29 (at the Liturgy of the Palms) Isaiah 45:21-25 or Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm 22:1-21 or 22:1-11; Phil. 2:5-11; Luke (22:39-71) 23:1-49 (50-56)





BOOKS

The Cult of King Charles the Martyr

Readings in Modern British Religious History, volume 7

By Andrew Lacey. Boydell and Brewer. Pp. 310. \$85. ISBN 1-896836-59-3.

In Resolution C010, last summer's General Convention voted against restoring Charles I to his traditional January 30 place in the Anglican cal-



endar. This resolution, sponsored by the Diocese of New York, urged the observance of Charles' death in 1649, which was kept in America until the Revolutionary War, and is observed in many parts of

the Anglican Communion today.

In this volume, Andrew Lacey (College librarian at Trinity Hall, Cambridge University) provides the first book-length study to examine from a historical and literary perspective the liturgical observance of Charles' death. Lacey looks at hundreds of published sermons and other documents. as well as engravings and embroidery. to excavate the origins and persistence of devotion to Charles. He begins with Charles' execution, which was immediately understood as a martyrdom by Anglicans and at least one Presbyterian, and follows the history of the observance through Oliver Cromwell's rule and the Restoration. Lacey chronicles the history through the middle of the 19th century, paying attention to ways in which Anglicans of different political backgrounds understood the observance.

The last chapter looks at a report commissioned by the Archbishop of Canterbury in 1957 which found that "King Charles is a clear example of a popular canonization," and that his entry in the calendar of the Book of Common Prayer was "as genuine a canonization — that, too, of a martyr — as the history Church can show."

Prof. Lacey has produced a thorough look at the persistent memory of the man whom John Keble called "our own, our royal saint."

> Richard J. Mammana, Jr. Rego Park, N.Y.

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Christopher Stace

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A Story that Converts

Mel Gibson's The Passion of the Christ

By Michael Ensign

Review

Ash Wednesday was cold and unusually wet for Los Angeles. A small group of us from St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Hollywood, had just received ashes at the noon Mass. We decided to attend one of the first screenings of Mel Gibson's *The Passion of the Christ.*

St. Thomas' is an urban parish in the heart of Hollywood. My fellow parishioners were men in their early 30s and hardly conventional looking. Our parish M.C.



would look as at home on a motorcycle as in cassock and cotta at High Mass. It was no wonder the large press contingent at the theatre made a stampede to interview several of our fellows.

I attended the screening with a certain amount of trepidation. I am an actor, 60 years old, and rather orthodox Anglo-Catholic. I wasn't sure how I would react to the film.

The next two hours and seven minutes were relentless. Mel Gibson never lets us relax from his story. We cannot look away. We are forced to experience in an almost visceral way the sufferings of our Lord. The pacing of the film is such that I doubt anyone would be glancing at his or her watch. It is exciting to hear Aramaic and Latin spoken (I think I also caught some Hebrew and Greek). The subtitles are another way that concentration is focused on the story.

James Caviezel's portrayal of Jesus is one of the best I have ever seen. Here is no sentimental Jesus all coy and sweet, but a very real figure in the midst of great suffering. Mary is superbly played by Maia Morgenstern. John the Beloved and Mary Magdalene are also outstanding.

This is a very personal film. Mel

Gibson follows the gospel closely br opens up his vision with fictional por trayals of Pilate and Pilate's wife. whom we know very little. Jewish temple authorities are seen in a severe light, as are the Roman soldiers.

This is not a documentary of the passion. This is the "story" of the passion. It concerns itself not with the total life of our Lord but with his las 12 hours. There has been criticism of the film because it appears so one sided. To repeat, it is not the life of Christ, it is the passion of the Christ 1 have my quibbles with things such a the temple authorities being present a Golgotha; surely purity laws would have forbidden them such attendance There are other areas of the picture which are probably not historically correct, but the history of Jesus the Christ does not convert humanity; it is his "story" which does.

The film is a very catholic look at that story. I am surprised that Christian fundamentalists have adopted the film with such fervor. The role of Mary, the portrayal of the journey to Calvary (I will never again be able to do Stations of the Cross without remembering the film) all speak to things with which "born again" protestants would disagree. Is the film anti-I don't think so. It is Semitic? anti-establishment: it is anti-authority. Our Lord was a Jew. His is a Jewish story that went to fill the earth. Yes, "some" Jews helped kill our Lord, not all of them. Some Romans did as well. We do not condemn a whole people for the acts of a few.

My friends and I emerged from the theater different than when we went in. This is a film no one will be neutral about, but that is usually the mark of a true work of art.

Michael Ensign is an actor and a member of St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Hollmood, Calif.

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Drama and the Gospel

ong before the advent of television, Jesus used interactive, visual approaches to make his point.



Wanda Vassallo photo

By Wanda Vassallo

Just days before I was to receive my D.Min degree, I got an urgent, puzzling message. The school needed the "original" of my thesis. I had already sent the required four copies, which, printed in a shade darker on expensive paper, looked a lot better than the original. Finally, it dawned on me. Evidently a rule book written long before the advent of the computer (when a thesis had to be typed and carbon copies made) required the student to give the original to the school.

That experience reminded me of the way the Church too often clings to past practices instead of considering new approaches to communication. Without compromising its message, the Church can capitalize on the heightened influence of and familiarity with multimedia approaches so prevalent today.

Long before the advent of television, Jesus used interactive, visual approaches to make his point. He fed 5,000 with five loaves and two fish. He com-(Continued from previous page)



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Drama and the Gospel

(Continued from previous page)

manded, and a fig tree withered. He set a child in the disciples' midst to teach them humility. He used bread and wine at the last supper.

Throughout many years of using drama in the church, I have observed a heightened involvement and impact on the congregation whenever we've done a play. For example, a worshiper at the Church of the Resurrection in Dallas said she had been out of fellowship with the Lord for some time, but, after seeing our play, The Challenge of the Cross, she was ready to take up her cross once more and follow Jesus. And a member of the congregation wrote, "The dramatizations make more real and bring more feeling to the biblical scriptures. I am touched and enlightened."

We use drama at Resurrection as an integral part of a traditional Episcopal service. Care is taken in relating the message of the plays to scriptures from the lectionary readings.

Sometimes a story such as Jonah's is read by a lector and then acted out, using costumes and props. Scripts contain actual words from the Bible, and the rest is filled in. Or the basic story is told but transplanted into a modern-day setting and situation. Short, open-ended dramatic sketches are presented to introduce the subject of a sermon. Longer plays are usually given during Holy Week and at Christmas Eve services. We also present choral readings to interpret scriptural passages and appropriate poetry.

The results of the study conducted for my thesis statistically confirm my observation and conclusion that drama can be used as an effective tool to add excitement and understanding for biblical messages.

The study compared

the effect on congregants of two metods of presenting scripture in a church service: read as it traditionally is and acted out. Two of Jesus' parables, "the prodigal son" and "the friend at munight," were used in two Dallas area liturgical churches, Our Savior Lutheran and Resurrection. Results of the study showed a statistically signiicant effect for drama in the church setting. Those receiving the drana+ tized version scored significantihigher on measures of recall, understanding, and ability to relate the scripture to their lives.

Results were even more dramatic for the nine questions related to events that participants in the study saw in the play. All who saw the play got eight of the nine questions correct. On the ninth question, only one missed it. In the church that heard π read, none of the nine questions was answered correctly by all of the participants. These results are in keeping



For Pentecost, members of Resurrection perform "A Rushing % a Digitized by

Lor V



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with numerous studies that have demonstrated the positive impact of showing and telling on learning.

Also, an average of 79 percent in my study preferred seeing the story acted out because they:

• found it more interesting;

• remembered the details of the story to a greater degree;

understood the message better;

• saw more relevancy of the scripture to their lives.

Other positive aspects pointed out about seeing scripture dramatized were: "fun," "stirred spiritually," "added insight into the meaning and application," "more alive," "makes a strong point," "brings it home for me," and benefit to young people and memorv. Three commented on the strong impact of having the visual images.

These were not elaborate Broadway-style productions with a cast of hundreds. The scripts were taken directly from the Bible. The actors were church members, some new to acting. The rewards were well worth the effort, and the actors were delighted to have a part in telling one of Jesus' stories.

With membership shrinking in most major denominations, many churches closing their doors, and others failing to attract younger members, a wakeup call is needed and should be heeded. Certainly the biblical message is as pertinent today as it was hundreds of years ago. It should not be compromised or watered down to make it more popular. The challenge is to make it as exciting and as vital as it actually is to those used to sitting with remote control in hand ready to switch channels at the first hint of boredom.

After all, Jesus was creative in his approach to getting across his message. By using drama and other multisensory methods, we can be too.

Wanda Vassallo is the author of several books and numerous plays and articles. She is the director of The King's Company Drama Ministry of the Church of the Resurrection, Dallas, Texas



Across

1. Big burgers?

7. German city

11. Priestly duty

15. Mar ending

22. German city

25. Priestly duty

26. Type of pool

32. Singer Patty

33. Clear negative

38. Defunct airiline

41. Priestly duty

47. For example

39. Militant Irish greup

46. Penitential season

46. Kingly father of Salome

36. Doesn't apply (abbrev.)

37. Beginning and ending letters, to Jesus

27. Cookie

30. Bohemian

34. Diphthong

1B. Odors

19. Bind 20. Letter

5. Half of mediocrity

15. immediately, in the office

21. Hawaijan neckwear

24. Children's choir org.



Priestly Duties

Down

2. Hebrew month 3. Religious teacher 4. Weak 5. What a priest forgives 6. The Wizard of 7. Artist's stand B. Cabin 9. Deceptiveness 10. Allen (abbrev.) 12. London gaillery 13. "Take, 14. Belliefs 17. Reaper's demeanor? 23. Fetus' digs: In 26. Miraculous wedding site 28. Greek letter 29. Santa's backward words? 31. Sign of boredom 32. Abrabam's wife 35. Chapel of 36. Zere 38. Egyptian king, for short 40. Pub quaff 41. Anglican inst.: of 42. "Glory ba to God 43. See 47A 44. Ready not 45. Fro's partner

One in a monthly series by the Rev. Timothy E. Schenck, rector of All Saints' Church. Briarcliff, N.Y. Answers to appear next week. Digitized by Google

Critical Need for Aid in Haiti

The arrival of peacekeeping troops and the naming of an interim prime minister in Haiti offered hope in recent days for stability, while church leaders continued to urge that the need for humanitarian aid remains great.

The Rt. Rev. Jean-Zache Duracin. Bishop of Haiti, warned of famine and anarchy unless emergency assistance was received from abroad.

Bishop Duracin told Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) that it was important for the work of the Church to continue in Haiti no matter the political situation. "We've given money to a priest [in Gonaïves] to buy food and school supplies," he said. "It is important that the children continue their education amidst the unrest going on around them."

An Episcopal priest, the Rev. Macdonald Jean, was named a member of Haiti's council of seven "sages," which on March 9 appointed Gerard Latortue to serve as prime minister until elections are held.

The Episcopal Church was asked to nominate a member for the council because of the great respect in which the church is held, Bishop Duracin told Episcopal News Service. "[It] is the church of the real people of Haiti, the people of the countryside," he said of the diocese of 180,000 members.

ERD has sent an emergency grant of

funds to the diocese to "provide immediate food, shelter, and medicine" but further assistance would be required, said spokeswoman Ayana Davis.

Burton Joseph, program officer for the Diocese of Haiti, told ERD that Portau-Prince was a "ghost town" in the days following the outbreak of violence.

"People don't have access to food and medical care. It is a very, very difficult situation," Mr. Joseph said. Reports received by the diocese from the countryside and from the outlying cities of Cap Haitien and Gonaïves foreshadowed famine and continued lawlessness unless order was quickly restored.

On March 8, the Rev. Canon Fritz Bazin gathered in Miami with other members of the city's Haitian American Christian Council to talk about what they could do to help their homeland. Canon Bazin, rector of St. Paul's et les Martyrs D'Haiti, and the other members of the interdenominational group were discussing how they could motivate other Haitians in Florida to channel funds to Haiti.

Canon Bazin said he hoped Haiti might soon be able to focus on reconciliation. "As a group, we're trying to imitate what was done in South Africa proclaim a year of jubilee of forgiveness. We need a new start. Healing is necessary." He added the church was best suited to facilitate the healing.





Mike Barwell/St. Paul's School photo Bishop Robinson at the installation service.

Bishop Robinson Takes Charge in New Hampshire

The service of investiture for the Bishop of New Hampshire began with three loud knocks on the door of St. Paul's Church, Concord. The Rt. Rev. V. Gene Robinson spoke words from The Book of Occasional Services: "Open for me the gates of righteousness." His predecessor, the Rt. Rev. Douglas E. Theuner, who is retiring, and the standing committee led the new diocesan to the altar, where he renewed his ordination vows to the Rt. Rev. Chilton R. Knudsen, Bishop of Maine and president of Province 1.

After passing the ceremonial crozier to Bishop Robinson, Bishop Theuner presented his successor with a personal crozier — a shepherd's crook, carved from olive wood by a shepherd in Bethlehem. The simple staff has one embellishment: a gilded scene of the skyline of Jerusalem.

The moment Bishop Robinson was seated in his cathedra, the estimated congregation of 700 was joined in its applause by simultaneous organ crescendos and peals from the church's bell tower.

"This is going to be a great adventure," Bishop Robinson said in acknowledgment.

Kansas Installation

Assisted by cathedral verger Kent Wingerson, the Rt. Rev. Dean E. Wolfe, Bishop of Kansas, uses his crozier to knock on the door of Grace Cathedral at the start of his installation service recently in Topeka.

Melodie Woerman/Plenteous Harrest photo

Appeals Court Rules for the Diocese in Pawleys Island Property Dispute

The South Carolina Court of Appeals has overturned a judgment in favor of a congregation which left the Episcopal Church for the Anglican Mission in America (AMiA) and is seeking to retain title to its property. The decision will allow the Diocese of South Carolina to contest ownership of the multi-million dollar campus in Pawleys Island that is also the corporate headquarters for the AMiA. In determining that there were sufficient facts in dispute to warrant a trial, the three-judge panel vacated and reversed a lower court summary judgment in favor of the AMiA.

Litigation over title to All Saints' began shortly after the Jan. 2000 consecration of its rector, the Rev. Charles Murphy, as Bishop Suffragan of Rwanda with a missionary charge to the United States. After growing concerned that the congregation would attempt to keep its property if it decided to leave the Episcopal Church, the diocese filed a notice with the local Register of Deeds, stating that in the event of a dispute, church canons stipulate that the diocese has the superior ownership claim.

All Saints' responded by filing suit seeking to clear the title. Circuit Judge John Breeden, Jr., issued a summary judgment before trial ruling that the language of the 1745 deed which held the property "in Trust for

The Church of North India (CNI) has deposed two bishops, and the Anglican Church of South India (CSI) has replaced its primate after the three men laid hands on a pentecostal minister, consecrating him a bishop. The move could have implications for the Lambeth Commission task force that is studying the New Hampshire consecration because the Most Rev. James Terom, Primate of the Church in North India, is a member.

The CSI Synod disciplined its mod-

the Inhabitants on Waccamaw Neck for the Use of a Chapple or Church for divine worship of the Church of England established by Law" did not vest ownership in the Diocese of South Carolina.

The court ruled that the language of the trust deed was "clear and unambiguous" and held the "the 1745 Deed created an active valid and binding charitable trust and legal title to the Subject Property is held by the common law heirs of George Pawley represented by John Doe and Jane Doe, and the equitable title is held by the inhabitants of the Waccamaw Neck as the Trust beneficiaries."

In its 30-page opinion, the Court of Appeals ruled the circuit court had erred and should have allowed the introduction of "parole evidence" to determine ownership and affirmed eight legal objections to the summary judgment filed by the diocese.

All Saints' may ask the Court of Appeals to review the decision, and if unsuccessful may petition the Supreme Court of South Carolina for review. If it is unsuccessful in reversing the decision of the Superior Court, the case goes back to the Circuit Court for adjudication as to who owns All Saints', a process that, lawyers familiar with the case believe, will take several more years to resolve.

(The Rev.) George Conger

Church of North India Bishops Deposed

erator, the Most Rev. K.J. Samuel, Bishop of East Kerala, and the CNI Synod deposed the Rt. Rev. P.M. Dhotekar, Bishop of Phulbani, and the Rt. Rev. Bancha Nidhi Nayak, Bishop of Nagpur, for consecrating the Rev. K.P. Yohannan as bishop of the Believers Church. In a statement released to THE LIVING CHURCH on Feb. 25, the CNI noted that bishops were not free to make doctrine, but were obliged to confirm to the canons, doctrine and discipline of the Church.



Rosenthal/Anglican World pt

Assisted on March 5 by Canon Peterson, Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams blesses the entrance to St. Andrew's House, new heapquarters for the Anglican Communion Office.

New ACC Office

The Joint Standing Committee of the Primates (JSC) and the Anglican Consultative Council reported a church whose heart was solid despite some serious financial and doctrinal differences among the autonomous provinces of the Anglican Communion. The JSC met March 1-5 in London and included a tour of the new headquarters for the Anglican Communion Office. It also heard an address by the Rev. Canon John L. Peterson, who retires as secretary general Dec. 31.

Moving the office to a state-of-the-an facility such as the newly remodeled St. Andrew's House was necessary even before Canon Peterson assumed his current position nine years ago, he said He also cited creation or enhancement of a number of significant endowments on behalf of the Anglican Communion during his tenure, including a recent \$25 million on behalf of the Compass Rose Society. To his dismay, Canon Peterson reported that the Inter Anglican Finance Committee will report a deficit for the first time in seven years.

The JSC meeting was not entirely consumed with financial matters, however. It reported unspecified developments in telecommunications and that it also began planning for the 2008 Lambeth Conference of bishops as well as an Anglican Council to be held jointly.

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Priest's Licensing in Wyoming Called Out of Order

The licensing of an American priest by a Canadian bishop may lead to disciplinary action, according to the acting primate, Archbishop David Crawley.

Archbishop Crawley, metropolitan of the Province of British Columbia and the Yukon, said the Rt. Rev. William Anderson, Bishop of Caledonia, acted improperly when he licensed the Rev. Hume "Skip" Reeves to plant a denominationally unaffiliated Anglicanrite congregation within the geographical confines of the Diocese of Wyoming.

Fr. Reeves retired as rector of St. Mark's Church, Cheyenne, Wyo., on Dec. 31, and later renounced his orders as a priest of the Episcopal Church. But the Rt. Rev. Bruce Caldwell, Bishop of Wyoming, said Fr. Reeves organized another congregation in Cheyenne affiliated with the Diocese of Caledonia.

The Church of St. Peter the Apostle was begun Jan. 18, Bishop Caldwell said, as he filed a complaint with Archbishop Crawley against Bishop Anderson.

The Canadian publication Anglican Journal News reported that Bishop Caldwell's letter said "Bishop Anderson has in fact licensed (Mr.) Reeves and is assuming oversight of the congregation. This action is clearly in violation of church order."

The newspaper reported that Bishop Anderson said Fr. Reeves left the Episcopal Church because Bishop Caldwell approved of the consecration of the Rt. Rev. V. Gene Robinson as Bishop Coadjutor of New Hampshire.

The new congregation rents space in Cheyenne and has an attendance "of about 140," the newspaper said.



Arches Deteriorating

Senior warden J. B. Jackson (left) blames damp weather and changing demographics for the misfortune that in recent years has plagued Church of the Holy Redeemer, Lake Worth, Fla. Deterioration of the laminated wooden arches inside the arkshaped nave forced the congregation to install 12 posts among the pews recently, but last month building inspectors prohibited the congregation from holding further services in its church until repairs estimated to cost \$250,000 are completed. Although the congregation continues to manage a bustling food pantry program, it is currently unable to afford a full-time rector.

Nick Von Staden/South Florida Sun-Sentinel photo

South African Primate Says Wait

The Episcopal Church's sole supporter among African primates, the Most Rev. Njongonkulu Ndungane, Archbishop of Cape Town, has rejected a call from within his province to break with the Episcopal Church over the consecration of a sexually active homosexual person as Bishop of New Hampshire.

In a letter written to the Bishop of Port Elizabeth, the Rt. Rev. Bethlehem Nopece, and distributed to the clergy of the diocese last month, Archbishop Ndungane acknowledged "the depth of feelings that the consecration of Gene Robinson as a bishop may have engendered" in South Africa, but said the province would wait upon "the report of the Archbishop of Canterbury's Commission which, no doubt, will point a way forward for the Communion."

On Dec. 18, the diocesan council of Port Elizabeth unanimously passed a resolution calling upon the Synod of Bishops to declare the Episcopal Church out of fellowship with the Church of the Province of Southern Africa.

In his response, Archbishop Ndungane, noted that though the South African bishops had "expressed their deep regret over these matters," he could not act upon the resolution. "The Archbishop of Canterbury has pleaded with us not to do anything until an opportunity for the consideration of the commission's report by both the Anglican Consultative Council and the primates' meeting has been given."

(The Rev.) George Conger



Regional Deans Named for NACDP

A steering committee meeting of the Network of Anglican Communion Dioceses and Parishes (NACDP) announced a number of structural and strategic decisions following a March 2-4 meeting in Pittsburgh. The Rt. Rev. Robert W. Duncan, Bishop of Pittsburgh and moderator, announced that the network had welcomed the Diocese of Springfield as the sixth to affiliate following council approval three days earlier in Illinois.

The steering committee unanimously voted to appoint the American Anglican Council (AAC) as provisional secretariat for the network. In accepting the assignment, the Rev. Canon David Anderson, AAC president, pledged the resources and staff necessary during the transition to a network.

In addition to the AAC, the steering committee anticipates a key role for the newly elected regional deans for parishes located inside the geographical confines of non-affiliated dioceses. The convocation deans are: the Rev. John Guernsey, Mid-Atlantic; the Rev. James McCaslin,

BRIEFLY ...

The **Church Pension Fund** Board of Trustees unanimously elected T. Dennis Sullivan to succeed Alan F. Blanchard as president of the Church Pension Group. Mr. Blanchard, who has served as president for the past 15 years, will retire in June. Mr. Sullivan, a member of St. Bartholomew's Church, New York City, has extensive financial administration background at not-for-profit organizations. He is currently chief financial officer for the New York Public Library.

The **Diocese of Colorado** recently announced an updated pledge income estimate of \$1.4 million, which would be 20 percent lower than expectations established at convention in October. The decline will not significantly affect programs or Southeast; the Rev. Ron McCrary, Mid-Continental; the Rev. William Thompson, Western; and the Rev. David Moyer, Forward in Faith North America. The appointment of a New England dean is pending.

By a substantial majority diocesan council on Feb. 28 in Springfield approved membership despite several unsuccessful canonical challenges from a council member who conferred on several legal issues with other Via Media Springfield members who were present as observers. While acknowledging that it was unusual for council to have a dozen or so guests for its meeting, the Rt. Rev. Peter Beckwith, Bishop of Springfield, said he was encouraged by the group's sudden interest in the administrative details behind the missionary work of their diocese.

Shortly before this issue of THE LIV-ING CHURCH was going to press, clergy and lay delegates to convention in the Diocese of South Carolina approved network affiliation. The other dioceses to affiliate are: Central Florida, Fort Worth, Pittsburgh, Rio Grande and San Joaquin.

result in layoffs, according to the Rt. Rev. Robert O'Neill, Bishop of Colorado, who explained that the diocese plans to leave two staff positions open and keep programming costs at 2003 levels.

In a Feb. 25 statement, Presiding Bishop **Frank T. Griswold** expressed concern about the advisability of a constitutional amendment on marriage as proposed by President George W. Bush. Bishop Griswold discussed those concerns on March 7 in London during a BBC-TV "Breakfast with Frost" interview. Questions of sexuality are far from settled, Bishop Griswold said, and a constitutional amendment to settle the matter would only make it more difficult to engage in civil discourse.



Marcelle Riddick pt.: Fr. Wade: "Our God is a gathering God."

Reconciliation Commission

The Feb. 6-8 annual council of the Diocese of **Southern Virginia** began with a physics lesson and ended acknowledging that there were "profound differences" over human sexuality and the interpretation of scripture among parishes and individuals.

During extended debate, the council addressed issues arising from the decision by General Convention last summer to consent to the consecration of the Rt. Rev. V. Gene Robinson as Bishop of New Hampshire and acknowledge that some dioceses are permitting liturgical blessings for same-sex relationships. At the conclusion of the debate, delegates voted to create a year-long Reconciliation Commission to discuss issues of human sexuality and scriptural interpretation. Following this action. the delegates soundly defeated the resolution rejecting the actions of the national church.

The Rt. Rev. David C. Bane, Jr., Bishop of Southern Virginia, said the wide margins showed that "the vast majority of our people want to stay together to serve Christ together."

The council adopted a \$1.7 million budget. This projects a modest decline of about \$30,000 from the previous year. Although parish pledges to the diocese are expected to be down approximately \$250,000. several congregations have indicated they wish to give money directly to diocesan institutions or organizations which the diocese historically supports. In some cases, this directed giving will flow through the diocese's accounts and in some cases it will go directly to the recipients but in either case it will allow the diocese to reduce its giving to the designated institutions proportionately.

In his keynote address, the Rev. Francis Wade, rector of St. Alban's Church, Washington, D.C., and chair of the General Convention committee which successfully introduced the same-sex blessings resolution to the legislative floor, used an analogy from physics to describe sin and redemption. "Our God is a gathering God," Fr. Wade explained. "He is a centripetal force pulling his creation toward the center - toward him: on the other hand, sin is a centrifugal force pulling things outward and away from God."

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In other business, the council approved a new companion diocese relationship with the Diocese of Belize to work in parallel with an existing relationship with the Diocese of the Virgin Islands. Belize's bishop, the Rt. Rev. Sylvestre Romero-Palma, also addressed the council.

The council also adopted the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, mandated local antitraining for racism а broad cross-section of the diocese, and made minor canonical changes.

H. Carlyle Gravely

'Ugly' Convention Avoided

The Diocese of San Diego, which is preparing to elect a bishop in September, approved several measures at convention on Feb. 7 which were aimed at preserving unity and civility among constituents who are in some cases bitterly polarized over the controversial sexuality votes at General Convention last summer.

The one-day convention withdrew or replaced several resolutions that more specifically addressed the fallBishop Hughes (left) and the Very Rev. James Carroll, dean emeritus of St. Paul's Cathedral, converse prior to the Eucharist in San Diego.

out from General Convention. Those included a call for opposition to the General Convention votes on sexuality and a plea for alternate episcopal oversight. Perhaps the two most controversial resolutions - a call for the "conscience-dictated resignation" of priests who could not accept the decisions of General Convention and a resolution "celebrating 214+ years of withdrawn.

Diocesan communications manager Rebecca Williamson noted that the closeness of several votes underscored the fact that the diocese is divided on sexuality issues.

"There was definitely a feeling that out of respect for (outgoing) Bishop (Gethin) Hughes let's not make this really ugly and that was largely why two of what could have been really controversial resolutions were withdrawn," she said. "Nobody really wanted the bishop's last convention to be ugly."

The Rev. Russell Martin, assistant rector of St. Dunstan's Church, San Diego, had a different view: "I think the idea was, 'Let's hold ourselves together until we have a new bishop and then go forward (with dialogue)," Fr. Martin said.

San Diego delegates also received a "very lean" 2004 budget of \$1.6 million which was about even with the yearago budget, mainly due to reduced and unpaid pledges, diocesan treasurer Kent Davis said.

To make matters worse, he said, an unexpected shortfall in the 2003 budget of \$85,000, or about 5 percent, made it necessary to remove money from the diocesan endowment fund to prop up the 2004 budget. It was unclear whether actual 2004 income would match pledged income, he said.

The national church also will receive slightly less money from San Diego, Mr. Davis said. In receiving the budget which was previously prepared by members of diocesan council, convention gave its stamp of approval to a new formula of giving to the national church, and an option which will allow at least eight of the 49 churches in the diocese to redirect funds away from the program portion of the General Convention budget, he said.

Sarah Tippit

\$18.4 Million for Camp

The Diocese of Massachusetts recently announced completion of an \$18.4 million fund-raising campaign for its Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center. The 326-acre facility, located near Greenfield, N.H., opened last summer.

The total project includes \$13.4 million in construction costs, a \$3 million scholarship endowment and a \$2 million operating endowment. The campaign represents the most money the diocese has ever raised toward a single project. Contributions have come from each of the nearly 200 parishes, missions and college chaplaincies.

Rebecca Williamson photo





The Many Waters of

BAPTISM Part 6: Streams in the Desert

For as rain and snow come down from heaven, and return not thither but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth. (Isaiah 55:10-11)

By Daniel Muth

From Ur of the Chaldees, Father Abram has come to the western Mesopotamian city of Haran. There he hears the call of God to go to a land that he will show him. In faith, Abram heeds the call and comes to the land of promise and there God will make a covenant with him and with his descendents, who will be as numerous as the stars in the sky or sands on the seashore, and they will be God's people and he their God.

The promise is clear, its means and timing are not. Impatient and unsure, Sarai convinces her husband to beget an heir by her servant Hagar. Being with child, the slave is contemptuous of the barren mistress, and the mistress, great woman though she is, is not above pettiness and drives her rival to flee.

By a spring in the desert, God comes to the fugitive and bids her

return, for to be the servant of the servant of God is to be his. He predicts the lad's name, Ishmael, *God hears*, and tells her something of her descendents. Encouraged, refreshed, knowing that her cry has been heard, Hagar is prepared to return and to be obedient. And so does scripture establish the spring in the desert as the

water of obedience.

As with the Egyptian servant of the Hebrew, so with the Hebrew servants of the Egyptians. Brought by God out of the foreign land of enslavement and into the wilderness of sin, the children of Israel are sustained and nourished by miraculous water in the desert. Brought to the mountain of the Lord, they are given the law and find it a similar source of refreshment: "the Law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul." And yet the cup of obedience is one they too

They are given the law and find it a similar source of refreshment: "the Law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul." And yet the cup of obedience is one they too often spurn.

> often spurn. At Meribah, the people contend with the Lord, demanding water. Exasperated, Moses and Aaron cry, "Shall we bring forth water for you out of this rock?" And in doing so fail to glorify God and so share the fate of that generation and do not enter the land but die on the hither side of the Jordan.

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As in the days of their wanderings so in the days of their kings. Some centuries later, the people have entered the land and have been given first judges then kings, many of whom have led the people into disobedience, but none more so than King Ahab of Israel. Having married the Sidonian princess Jezebel, he is not content with a foreign wife, but joins her in the worship of foreign gods.

Elijah the Tishbite challenges Ahab: As the king has withheld his obedience to God, so will God withhold water, for the two are closely akin. And Elijah withdraws thence to the brook of Cherith (for he is obedient and so may drink) and is fed by the ravens. And when the brook is dried up, he is sent to a poor widow in the land of Queen Jezebel, for God ever sends his servants to the lowly, and her measure of grain and cruse of oil are not spent, but provide food for many days. And when tragedy strikes and her son dies suddenly, God, through the prophet, brings him back. When the time comes for the drought to be ended, Elijah returns to the king and if he does not learn the lesson, it is there still to be learned by his progeny.

But they are hard of heart and are disobedient as well, and in not too many years the people are defeated by their enemies and are carried off into captivity in Babylon. And during their allotted time in exile, the prophet Ezekiel is by the shores of the Chebar River when he sees a great vision of the Lord in storm and cloud and fire with four living creatures beneath the firmament and God calls the prophet to give the people his words for their refreshment, for they will return to their land.

And they do, and time flows on and in the fullness of time, God himself comes to pitch his tent among us, the King incarnate. And as he is traveling through Samaria to Galilee and is in the town of Sychar, he encounters a Samaritan woman coming to draw water from a well in the heat of the day, for she is not beloved of her people. He asks for a drink of water and she marvels that a Jewish man should so ask of a Samaritan woman and she neglects to draw the water for the drink. He offers her living water which she, misunderstanding, much desires. "Go call your husband and come here," he says. But she confesses that she has no husband. He acknowledges her sins and neither affirms them nor condemns her. And she perceives first that he is a prophet and then that he is the Messiah and, in the joy of one who has found refreshment in confession of sin, she calls out to her fellow townsmen to see the Lord, obedient even then to his later command to "make disciples of all nations." What is God calling us to confess that our burdens might be eased and how is he calling us to obey that we might be refreshed?

Discussion Questions

Recommended Hymns: 470, 686, 517, 343

Abraham and Sarah know that God has promised them an heir. In their day, it was an accepted practice for a man with a barren wife to have children through her servants. In scripture this is never noted to produce particularly satisfactory results — particularly in this case. Have you in your life ever had occasion to try to goad along the hand of Providence? Were the results in your case better or worse than they were for Abraham & Co.? How can you do a better job of waiting on him?

Throughout scripture, the people of God testify to the joy that comes in obedience to God. Have you found this to be the case in your life? How do you need to change to be a better servant of his? How can your congregation support you and how can you better support others in your congregation in his service?

At Meribah, Moses loses patience with his people and sins against God, with the result being that he is not allowed to enter the promised land. In what situations in your life have you sinned by losing patience with others? What have you done to try and improve? How can you help others?

Elijah is – shall we say – unsubtle in his dealings with King Ahab and Queen Jezebel. How are you at dealing with confrontation? What successes or failures have you encountered in telling others what they'd prefer not to hear? How are you at accepting correction from others? Do you know ways to confront others that are encouraging and/or uplifting rather than destructive?

Jezebel has come down to us in popular parlance as rather a harlot. In scripture she is presented as an idolater. However, scripture sees the two as much akin. Israel is often talked of as "whoring" after other gods and for that disobedience she is punished. What gods are we tempted to "whore" after today? How are you and how is your congregation doing in being true to God as he reveals himself in scripture and the Church?

In response to our Lord's question, the Samaritan woman finds herself confessing at least one of her sins. She seems to find significance in doing so and pleasure in Jesus' lack of condemnation. Are you making a regular confession? If not, how do you think it would help if you did?

Next week: The Water of Life

Daniel Muth is a nuclear engineer who is a member of Christ Church, Port Republic, Md.

He Isn't Mainstream

Some 20 years ago I stopped watching "60 Minutes" because I thought its interviewers were trying to dominate the program instead of concentrating on their subjects. When I tuned in recently to view what an anonymous voicemailer had said would be "a program about the Episcopal Church," I was amazed to find the same people conducting the interviews. I had thought at least one of them had died and another had retired years ago.

I was anxious to see what Wallace, Safer, Bradley and Co. had to say about the Episcopal Church. As you know by now, the segment was not about the Episcopal Church, but rather about the Rt. Rev. V. Gene Robinson, who on the day the program aired became the Bishop of New Hampshire. The portion about the Church's

media star was shown between a presentation on whether there are weapons of mass destruction in Iraq and a profile of University of Connecticut women's basketball coach Geno Auriemma.

I was also dumbfounded to find the same irritating ticking pocket watch the program used 25 years ago. When was the last time your watch ticked like that?

Bishop Robinson, identified as "the first openly gay bishop in the history of Christendom," was shown in his kitchen with his partner of 16 years, Mark Andrew, in a gay bar in New York City with his daughter, at his consecration, preaching to a New Hampshire congregation, and offering words of hope to what appeared to be an adult class.

The bishop had some noteworthy things to say:

• "... I'm pretty mainstream. I've got a mainstream family."

• "... give me a little time and I'm going to win them over."

• "I think it will all calm down

when people see that not a lot has changed."

• "It's not all going to go back to being nice and pretty again. It's going to be messy for awhile."

Interviewer Ed Bradley described the Episcopal Church as an "influential protestant denomination." Some Episcopalians would challenge each of those three words.

In fairness, CBS gave those opposed to Bishop Robinson an opportunity to speak. Archbishop Robin Eames of Ireland made some strong comments about the state of the Anglican Communion, and members of the Church of the Redeemer, Rochester, N.H., spoke forcefully. "If he's going to hold a higher office, he's going to be held to a higher moral structure," said one. "He's the head of a church, for God's sake."

The congregation's "fired" priest-in-charge. the Rev. Don Wilson, also didn't mince words. "I've never been in trouble before," he said. He advised those in other congregations who opposed the New Hampshire consecration to "Stand. Just don't accept it. Take a stand against it. Do not cooperate with it. Do not support it. Do

not recognize it."

By the way, isn't it difficult to take seriously an aging interviewer wearing an earring?

I found the presentation interesting, predictable and fair. I thought about how Episcopalians would react to the segment that showed the bishop in a gay bar a few feet from shirtless bartenders wearing leather vests. "I'm not embarrassed about being in a place with other gay folks," he said. Would people in, say, the Diocese of Southern Virginia, or Iowa or San Diego be upset if a network showed their bishop in an airport cocktail lounge?

The strongest words in the program came from veteran curmudgeon Andy Rooney, who said, "Dogs are nicer than people." Six months ago I wouldn't have agreed with him, but now I think he's right on target.

I thought Bishop Robinson was portrayed as a nice person — a regular guy. And from all accounts he is a nice person. When we met

at General Convention, he was friendly, even though we probably didn't agree on much. We had a positive conversation about being grandfathers. He seems to be able to handle the pressure of being in the spotlight. But mainstream? No way.

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Quote of the Week

Sam Cox, editor of *Progressive Review*, on defining voters: "You can no more define what it means to be a Democrat than it does to be an Episcopalian."

Did You Know...

The Rt. Rev. John B. Chane, Bishop of Washington, was the chaplain for tha 1980 U. S. men's Olympic hockey team that upset tha heavily favored Soviet Union and went on to win the gold medal.



The Rt. Rev. V. Gene Robinson

"It's not all going to go back to being nice and pretty again. It's going to be messy for awhile."

> — The Rt. Rev. V. Gene Robinson

Thanks to Associates

We are pleased to recognize the Living Church Associates by publishing their names in this issue. The Associates are persons who contributed at least \$100 to the annual campaign of the Living Church Fund during 2003. It is particularly encouraging to note that the 2003 campaign was the most successful we have conducted in recent years. Subscribers and friends of THE LIVING CHURCH contributed nearly \$140,000 to this fund, surpassing our goal of \$135,000. Also encouraging is the fact that more than 1,400 persons made gifts during 2003 — the highest number on record. More than 400 persons contributed for the first time.

The Living Church Fund was begun when it became obvious that income from advertising and subscriptions was not able to keep up with the steadily increasing costs of printing, paper and postage. The fund was created to supplement our general working budget, and the response to it has been heartening.

The Associates, and all who contribute to this fund, have enabled us to make improvements to the magazine, and to hold our subscription price at the same amount since 1991. In lean years, it has been the Living Church Associates who have ensured that this unique magazine would continue to be published.

We thank God for the generosity of the Living Church Associates. We hope many more persons will be moved to join them during 2004, and that many more will participate in this year's campaign. All gifts, of every amount, are most gratefully appreciated.

Archbishop's First Year

Last month the Archbishop of Canterbury celebrated his first anniversary in his current ministry. It has been a tumultuous year for the former Archbishop of Wales. There was the controversy over the appointment and the eventual withdrawal of the Rev. Canon Jeffrey John, a celibate homosexual person, as Bishop of Reading. There was the election, consent, and consecration of the Rev. Canon V. Gene Robinson as Bishop Coadjutor of New Hampshire, a skirmish that is far from settled. The archbishop has made a visit to the pope, and somehow has found the time to continue his practice of writing books. In a meeting with members of the British press, Archbishop Williams admitted that there has been pressure on him, that he missed Wales, and that his meeting with the pope had been a moving experience.

Seldom have such demands been placed upon a church leader. Millions are looking to the Archbishop of Canterbury to hold together a loosely connected fellowship of churches known as the Anglican Communion. He is expected to make decisions that will affect the future of the Episcopal Church as well as the rest of the Communion. No matter what those decisions may be, there will be a certain element within the Church disappointed or angered by those decisions.

From all indications, the archbishop reaches decisions prayerfully and thoughtfully. He takes time, and doesn't let his personal beliefs stand in the way. It won't be any easier in the months ahead. He will have to endure sniping from both sides of the theological spectrum, and he will need to make critical decisions, particularly when his theological commission issues its report. The archbishop will need the prayers of the faithful throughout the Communion during this difficult time. In lean years, it has been the Living Church Associates who have ensured that this unique magazine would continue to be published.

Change is Inevitable

By John S. Ruef

Whenever I voice concern over the Church as we know it, apostolic and anarchic, beatific and befuddled, catholic and congregational, someone is bound to point out that it is better to leave it in God's hands and stop worrying. So I am not worrying, but I am concerned, not so much about the future of the Church as we know it, but about the rather extraordinary way in which various members of the Church seem to be of the opinion that their way is the right way and that anyone who disagrees with them is *ipso facto* beyond the pale.

When I was in seminary, the divisions were fairly obvious. At one extreme were those who espoused something rather close to post-tridentine Roman Catholicism, while at the antipode there were those who sounded more like John Wesley than Richard

Hooker. Furthermore, there were lots of folks in between. But there was also good-natured bantering. We all belonged to the same Church.

The Episcopal Church did not get the way it is either overnight or by accident. While there may be some disagreement about the nature of the changes that took place when the Church in England became the Church of England in the 16th century, there can be no doubt that there were significant changes, that those changes were deliberate, and that they were motivated by a desire to be true to the historic doctrines of the Church while accommodating different attitudes toward the Church and its doctrines. These differences stemmed largely from varying attitudes toward and accommodations with the Continental Reformation.

Any student of church history knows that in the Elizabethan Settlement, leeway was given to those who were more inclined toward the protestant view of the Church as well as to those who favored a more catholic view. What was not debatable was loyalty to the crown, which meant any thought of alliance with or obedience to the Bishop of Rome was considered treason.

It is fair to say that, until recently, the Episcopal Church has weathered some pretty serious storms rather well. The emergence of the Episcopal Church after the War for Independence was a testament to its vitality. Along with other non-Roman churches, it survived the War Between the States, the Great Depression and the production of two new prayer books. There was some controversy at the time the marriage canon was modified in the face of the prohibition of divorce by Jesus in Mark's version of the gospel. But the canon was changed, bishops became adept at handling or handing over to someone else the paperwork involved, and things settled down quite nicely.

The Church has always responded to changes in the prevailing culture. It is naive to suppose that, given the

It is fair to say that, until recently, the Episcopal Church has weathered some pretty serious storms rather well.



way in which the Episcopal Church has accommodated itself to social and intellectual change, there will not be within it, at all levels, reaction to and some accommodation to those changes. Much of the Church has accommodated the ordination of women, some reluctantly, others quite happily. Eventually, all will accept this. just as all now accept, without a second thought, the matter of second, third, and other marriages. Many are upset at this time over the recognition of homosexual unions within the Church's fold.

Sticky Wicket

Now we come to the stickiest wicket of all, scripture and doctrine. As an outcome of the Enlightenment to which we referred earlier, these items were considered fair game for the object of the stickiest of the state of the s The art cles that appear on this page do not necessarily represent the editorial opinion of T+E LVNG Q+JROH or its board of directors. LETTERS TO THE EDITOR Misses the Point

approach. Most Episcopalians, I would suppose, have gotten used to the idea that there is a good deal of metaphorical, figurative and otherwise imaginative language and thought patterns in the Bible, starting with the creation stories in the book of Genesis. Needless to say, the investigation of things both biblical and doctrinal has not ended with creation. We do not bother to worry about the passages in the Old Testament which speak of the massacre of Israel's enemies at the behest of God. The Church has long ago given up the idea of jettisoning the Old Testament as bespeaking an inferior god. It is, after all, part of our heritage as it was part of Jesus'.

It becomes more difficult when we find that, not only are there inconsistencies and contradictions within the text of the Old Testament, but in the New Testament as well. But the Bible and the creeds in a very real sense belong to the Church. There are plenty of people in the Church who intuitively grasp this and, because they accept the Church, they accept these items as well in an unquestioning way. I have no problem with this. Where I do have a problem is the point at which there are those who find it objectionable that these problems should be mentioned at all or that having found these problems to be real, at least intellectually, they might just impact on the nature and presentation of what we are wont to call the gospel message.

It is important for thinking people to remember that both Bible and doctrine proceed by way of analogy. As such it becomes a question of the relevance and meaningfulness of these analogies in any given point of history. For those who find it meaningful that God is pictured as a judge and who can hold this idea while also giving due weight to those things which Jesus has to say about his mercy, more power to them. There are those who find this a problem. For those who see in the Bible a seamless garment and have no patience for the discussion of various levels and sources within it, more power to them. But for those who spend a lot of thought and effort trying to explain what seems to them a patent reality, allowance should be made and freedom of inquiry should be given and fellowship within the body of the faithful should be accorded. Jesus, as we recall, had some problems with the religious conservatives of his day. They could not accommodate his rather liberal interpretation of the Jewish tradition because, in their minds, if he were right then they had to be wrong. The outcome - he had to be wrong, so that they could be right. We don't want to fall into that trap.

The Rev. John S. Ruef is the rector of Emmanuel Church, Chatham, and Trinity, Gretna, Va.

Thomas Davis, in his article titled "2 Neglected Issues," [TLC, March 7] misses the point, both on the sacrament of baptism and the issue of direct ordination. Of the two, his position on baptism is the more troubling.

Contrary to being a barrier to evangelism or, as Fr. Davis puts it, "being initiated into a club," baptism is that sacrament that calls us into the living body of Christ and empowers us to minister in his name. This chief sacrament can and should be a

powerful tool for evangelism just as it was in the early church. Rather than being "inclined to simply ignore the question" of whether a visitor is baptized, it might be more appropriate to teach newcomers to the faith the catholic understanding of baptism. Also, why make those 6-13vear-olds wait until confirmation "so that the whole sacrament can be celebrated at once"? Baptism is the full and sufficient initiation into the body of Christ. It does not rely on confirmation to complete it.

As for direct ordination, following Fr. Davis' logic we might try calling and consecrating bishops directly, as well as priests (before you throw Ambrose in my face, he was ordained to all seven orders, minor and major).

Having been a "permanent" deacon for 16 years before being called to the priesthood, I might

recommend the earlier practice of keeping those called to the priesthood in deacon's orders much longer than the usual 6-12 months. Learning to lead through servant ministry sounds pretty gospel to me.

(The Rev.) James N. Parker St. George's Church Savannah, Ga.

Regarding the article, "2 Neglected Issues", the writer opines "John and Charles Wesley, who in spite of their apostasy are included among our remembered heroes of the faith ..." I find it a far stretch to apply the word "apostasy" to the Wesley brothers, who were stalwart in their upholding the Christian faith. To be an apostate is to abandon the faith and to abandon Christ. The Wesley brothers are revered precisely for their evangelism, missions, and holding on to the faith in spite of opposition and antagonism from many in the established

Neglected Issues

Baptism is the full and sufficient initiation into the body of Christ. It does not rely on confirmation to complete it.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

church, whose doors were closed to him and those converted to Christ under their ministry.

The proper question concerns the possible apostasy of those who opposed the gospel as preached by the Wesley brothers in favor of a dry, civil, establishment religion all too often devoid of the living Christ through the presence of the Holy Spirit. Much of the Church of England of that time was "all form and no substance." The evangelical revival did much in that era to restore the Church of England to true biblical spirituality and worship as well as to fuel within that century a renewed commitment to missionary work, and to the Anglican holiness movement.

> (The Rev.) Ian Montgomery Menasha, Wis.

'Baptist' Preaching

The Quote of the Week from the Very Rev. Peter Moore [TLC, Feb. 29] caught my attention: "Since so few Episcopalians have even a modicum of knowledge of the Bible, the gospel

I think the reason evangelical rectors sound so "Baptist" is that in some significant ways they are.

that evangelical rectors preach sounds 'Baptist' to untutored ears."

In turning this over in my mind, I think I have a different interpretation. Episcopalians surely do not know the Bible the way our Baptist friends do. We can't site chapter and verse or quote isolated texts. But many do have a fairly good sense of what is "biblical." And with a little coaching and encouragement Episcopalians can give a fairly good account of the basic biblical narrative. They know more than they think they do. They are differently tutored from the Baptists, not "untutored."

What they hear in the tone of "evangelical rectors," and in their methods of interpretation simply does not correspond with their own internalized sense of what is biblical. If I might be so bold, I think the reason evangelical rectors sound so "Baptist" is that in some significant ways they are.

(The Rev. Canon) Ronald Osborne Trinity Church Waterloo, Iowa

Few Solutions

I too have followed with much interest the new positions approved at General Convention [TLC, March 7]. As a member of a micro-church (a Sunday attendance of 15 or more is a cause of rejoicing), and no resident clergy (with an annual budget of less than \$13,000, and located in a small town in Appalachia) or any likelihood of one, I hope that these changes will provide a possibility of a full range of services for us.

While it may not be of much meaning to the congregations of large churches, i.e. 25 members or more, micro churches are left to recitations of prewritten sermons from internet sites, Eucharist so seldom that we can

> not meet the standard of being "good Episcopalians" (three times last year including the bishop's visit). As usual, I see the indifference or lack of awareness of the plight of the tiny churches. That may be what deacons are for,

but so what if there are no deacons? Since the Canon 9 process has been abolished, for us this presents the only possible alternative.

> Vince Carroll Richlands, Va.

No Place for Cowardice

I am something of a conservative. I don't agree with everything the Church has done, but I'm no coward. I cannot believe that at a time when we are needed most in the Episcopal Church there are some who want to "take their toys and go home."

Since when do we abdicate the field when we're needed most? If the Episcopal Church is devoid of moral guidI am willing to walk with you right up to the end, but I will not open that door which leads out of my church...

P!

ance, prove it. If people are acting in an unreasonable manner, the time for us to be reasonable is now.

There are hundreds, even thousands. of points of agreement that ought to hold us together. I may be heartsick over the current crisis, but I would rather see the issues clearly than enter into the argument hotheadedly.

With a great deal of courage I invite my conservative and liberal friends to walk with me and to talk more about these issues. I like long walks, and this one is going to take the balance of my years and beyond. We should talk together and fight the good fight, with honesty and reverence.

I am willing to walk with you right up to the end, but I will not open that door which leads out of my church and into something that is cloaked with an "Anglican mystique," but is the very essence of what Anglicanism is not. To do that would make me a person who ran when my presence was needed most, and I am not a coward.

> (The Very Rev.) John A. Marshall Christ Church Lockport, N.Y.

After reading the Rev. Roger Grist's letter [TLC, March 7] and seeing the sweeping fallacy of comparing the ordination of Gene Robinson to the Iraq invasion of five months prior, my gut reaction is that at least nobody got killed in the process.

Using the same argument for actions of war vs. listening to the call of Christ demonstrates how petty and poor is the process of discernment many employ today.

Opening the Church to the disenfranchised by allowing another sinner to lead is hardly related to bringing "free dom" at the price of blood. Christ's blood was shed as a grace that all might share in the true "freedom" of his hand

Bradley T. Upham Lakewood, Ohio

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The Rev. **Dennis Ackerson**, as rector of Holy Spirit, Tallahassee, FL.

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Retirements

The Rev. Lynn Ramshaw, as priest-incharge of St. Boniface, Tinley Park, IL.

The Rev. Canon Kwasi Thornell, as canon at Christ Cathedral, Cincinnati, OH.

Deaths

The Rev. **Samuel Akuamoah**, 71, a former Baptist minister, died Dec. 28 in Louisville, KY.

A native of Ghana, Fr. Akuamoah came to the United States as a representative of Ghana's embassy to the United Nations. He moved to Louisville to attend Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He became a Baptist clergyman, serving several churches from 1970 through 1978. He was ordained deacon in 1981 and priest in 1982 in the Diocese of Ohio. He was director and priest-in-charge of the South Cleveland Episcopal Ministry in the Diocese of Ohio, then moved to Cleveland, MS, where he was rector of Calvary Church from 1984 to 1987. He retired in 1987 and served for a time as vicar of Trinity, Detroit, MI. He moved back to Louisville and became associated with St. George's Church, where he established a relationship with the Diocese of Sunyani, Ghana, with several exchanges taking place between members in Sunyani and Kentucky. He suffered a stroke in 1993 but continued to teach and pray with groups who gathered in his home. Fr. Akuamoah is survived by his wife, Grace, and four children.

The Rev. **Prim Bayard Smith, Jr.**, lawyer and priest, died Jan. 29 in his home in New Orleans. He was 79.

Fr. Smith was a native of Eufaula, AL. He received undergraduate and law degrees from Tulane University and worked for a time with a New Orleans law firm at the time Digitized by

of desegregation. Later he was assistant US attorney in New Orleans. He then pursuholy orders and graduated from Church Divinity School of the Pacific. He was ordained to the diaconate in 1963 and to the priesthood in 1964. He served his entire priesthood in the Diocese of Louisiana a curate at St. Augustine's, Metairie, 1964-5 priest-in-charge and chaplain of Holy Spint campus ministry in New Orleans, 1967-87 and chaplain at the LSU and Tulane medica centers, 1985-95. He was a volunteer facult member of the Tulane Medical School are: later at the LSU Medical School. In recent years he was director of Episcopal Minustr to Medical Education. He was a past chair of the diocesan committee on constitution and canons, and was active in the Louisiana Epscopal Clergy Association. He also served or the Presiding Bishop's National Advisor Committee for Ministry in Higher Education Fr. Smith is survived by his wife, Charlene two daughters, Kathy and Carolyn; and two sons. Barrett and Guerry.

Mary Carter Hughes Coleman, 66, wife of the retired Bishop of West Tennessee died Feb. 15 at Trezevant Manor in Memphis of cancer.

Mrs. Coleman was a graduate of the lite versity of Tennessee. She founded the Diocsan Flower Festival and also wrote articlefor the diocesan newspaper. She is surviveby her husband, the Rt. Rev. James M. Colman; three sons, Frederick, of Santa Cruz CA, Finlay, of London, England, an Jonathan, of Melbourne Beach, FL; a siste: Dorris Hughes Martin, of Nashville, and tw grandchildren.

The Very Rev. **Robert Bizzaro**, retire dean of the Cathedral of St. James South Bend, IN, died Feb. 21 in Memor ial Hospital, South Bend, from leukemia He was 78.

Born in Princeton, NJ, Dean Bizzare earned degrees at Columbia University, the General Theological Seminary, Philadelphi-Divinity School, and New York Theologica Seminary. He was ordained deacon and priest in 1953, and served as curate at St Mary's, Haddon Heights, NJ, 1953-55; vicar of St. Clement's, Belford, and St. Mark's, Keansburg, NJ, 1955-57; rector of Trinity, Cranford NJ, 1957-72; rector of Gethsemane, Marion IN, 1972-75; and dean in South Bend from 1975 until 1991, when he retired. In recent vears he assisted at St. Paul's, Mishawaka IN. He was an associate of the Order of the Holy Cross and a member of the Order of St Luke. Surviving are his wife, Mary; a daugh ter, Gina Dudeck, of Granger, IN; and two sons, Stephen, of South Bend, and David. of Westfield, NJ.



CLASSIFIEDS

BOOKS

ANGLICAN THEOLOGICAL BOOKS — scholarly, out-of-print — bought and sold. Request catalog. The Anglican Bibliopole, 858 Church St., Saratoga Springs, NY 12866-8615. (518) 587-7470. <u>AnglicanBk@aol.com</u>.

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TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH Parkersburg, West Virginia



FULL-TIME RECTOR

Trinity Parkersburg is an historic church, with a congregation of 250, located on the banks of the Ohio River. The strength of our parish family has helped us grow and kept us financially stable. The completion of a \$750,000 stone restoration project is an example of the congregation's commitment to the parish.

Blessed with an abundance of talent and leadership, most of our members are involved in church and community activities. Trinity employs a staff of four and

has been the training ground for numerous deacons. A Canon to the Ordinary and a Bishop are numbered among our last four rectors.

Parkersburg is a town of 35,000, surrounded by medium and small towns to create an appealing population center. We have a small city atmosphere, and are located two hours from Columbus and three hours from Pittsburgh. Wood County has an excellent school system, the cost of living is very affordable, and the crime rate is among the lowest in the nation. West Virginia is a beautiful state, offering a wide variety of outdoor recreational activities and many local cultural festivals and events.

We are seeking a partnership with an experienced rector with traditional beliefs, who can inspire and lead us to greater spiritual peace through learning, worship, prayer and service.

If you wish to explore a ministry with us, please send your resume to:

The Rev. Cheryl Winter Diocesan Deployment Officer Diocese of West Virginia PO Box 5400 Charleston, WV 25361 E-Mail: cwinter@wvdiocese.org CONFERENCES

2004 Leadership Development Conference — Moving From Scarcity to Abundance, June 18-19, San Francisco, CA. Contact: TENS, 3750 E. Douglas, Wichita, KS 67208; 800-699-2669; <u>TENS@tens.org</u>; or visit <u>http://tens.org</u>

MUSIC RESEARCH

OLD BOY CHORISTERS: I would like to speak with any clergy or laymen who were in a men and boys choir in their youth for doctoral thesis & possible book. Brian Taylor, 307 E. 51st St. Savannah, GA 31405, E-mail: taylorteam@earthlink.net, I would be grateful for your help.

PILGRIMAGES

WORLDWIDE PILGRIMAGE MINISTRIES arranges group adult, youth and choir spiritual journeys to Israel, Turkey, Greece, Italy, England, France, Spain, Scotland, Ireland and South Africa. We also offer clergy and lay leaders the opportunity to travel on familiarization pilgrimages. Contact Worldwide, a mission creation of FRESHMINISTRIES. for more information. Phone: 1-800-260-5104; E-mail: wwpill@aolcom; Website: www.wwplerlmages.org.



PART-TIME PREIST: needed for pastoral ministry at The Falls Church, in Falls Church, Virginia, just inside the D.C. beltway. Ideal for someone who has "retired" from full-time paid ministry, but who loves pastoral ministry and wants to serve for several more years while enjoying our nation's capital! Please contact: The Rev. Rick Wright, (703) 532-7600 or E-mail: <u>rwright@thefallschurch.org</u>

FULL-TIME RECTOR: Historic 160-year-old parish located on the Mississippi River in Alton, Illinois (St. Louis metropolitan area), seeks a rector for a parish of 375. The parish of Alton in the Diocese of Springfield includes two worship sites — St. Paul's Church and Trinity Chapel. Our parish emphasizes traditional worship, fine music, vigorous Christian education, established outreach and vibrant parish fellowship. We seek a candidate with strengths as pastor, preacher, teacher, crisis minister and counselor. The deadline for receipt of all materials is 30 April 2004.Contact: Search Committee, The Episcopal Parish of Alton, 10 East Third Street, Alton, Illinois 62002. E-mail: <u>epialton@episcopalalton.org</u>.

FULL-TIME RECTOR: Incarnation, Highlands, NC. Our historic parish is looking for a caring, energetic pastor to guide and direct our various ministries. A sense of humor and the ability to preach with clarity and make the Gospel relevant in our lives, provide pastoral care, spiritual guidance and reach out to new families in our community are important. We are located in a growing, small resort/retirement town in the scenic mountains of Western North Carolina. Our newly completed addition has more than doubled our worship space and added office/classroom space and a community room while maintaining our historic church building which now serves as our chapel. For further information contact: **Bill Conway, Search Committee Chairman, PO Box 187, Highlands, NC 28741.** Applications will be accepted until May 1, 2004.

FULL-TIME PRIEST: St. John's Episcopal Church, Sturgis, Michigan, is seeking a full-time priest with pastoral skills to nurture and grow a family-sized parish in a town of more than 10,000. Our traditional parish values Anglo-Catholic liturgy, music and the Eucharist. We seek a caring, compassionate leader with counseling skills and a sense of humor. Our church family appreciates a commitment to pastoral care, outreach and Christian education for all age groups. Visit us at www.stjohnssturgis.org. Send Resume and CDO profile to: Anne Reed, Deployment Officer, Diocese of Western Michigan, 2600 Vincent Avenue, Portage, MI 49024. Please also send a copy to: M. Caywood, Search Committee, St. John's Episcopal Church, 110 S Clay S. Sturgis, MI 49091.

CLASSIFIEDS

POSITIONS OFFERED

CURATE: At Trinity Cathedral, a traditional parish, to work primarily with younger families and youth and Christian Education. Apply to the Dean, The Very Rev. John L. Hall, 121 West 12th Street, Davenport, Iowa 52803 or E-mail to <u>davtrinitycath@aol.com</u>

DEAN: St. George's College Jerusalem: We are currently accepting applications for Dean of St. George's College, Jerusalem, a Continuing Education Center of the Anglican Communion. Since 1962 clergy and laity from 92 countries and 96 faith traditions have attended for either short-term or long-term courses. The Dean needs to have strong administrative skills and experience. The candidate must be an Anglican and it is preferred that she or he has an earned doctorate. If you are interested please contact the **Rev. Jane Butterfield at 815 2nd Avenue, New York, NY 10017, Phone: (212) 716-6000 or 800 334-7626.** E-mail: jbutterfield@dfms.org.

YOUTH MINISTER: Wanted for a large parish in Fairfield County. CT. The parish is bursting at the seams with young people and families interested in growing our youth program with a full-time staff member. Experience is preferred but not necessary to apply. Please contact: The Rev. Maryetta M. Anschutz, Christ & Holy Trinity Church, Westport, CT (203) 227-0827 or maryetta.anschutz@christandholytrinity.org.

ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR: This growing congregation is seeking a priest to assist the rector full-time in pastoral ministry, adult Christian education, and with all aspects of worship. Successful candidates will have strong interpersonal and group facilitation skills, a passion for teaching, and excellent preaching ability. Responsibilities include pastoral calling, multifaceted adult Christian education programs, and developing the parental educational component of our youth ministry. An interest in social and economic justice ministry programs is a positive factor. For information: The Rev. William Ortt, Christ Church, 111 South Harrison Street, Easton, MD 21601 E-mail: fatherbill@christchurcheaston.org.

SEEKING RECTOR: Historic 231-year-old parish in northeast Philadelphia is seeking a rector after the loss of our pastor with over 40 years of service. We are a stable, mature, and financially sound parish of approximately 400 members. Located near transportation and schools; the church has an excellent music program with a pipe organ, day school building, chapel, and a parish hall. A parish profile is available.

For information contact Robert Honer, All Saints' Episcopal Church, 9601 Frankford Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19114.

Web Site: www.allsaintstorresdale.homestead.com.

FULL-TIME RECTOR: Church of the Good Shepherd, a historic, downtown church located in Rocky Mount, NC, is seeking a new rector.

We are a program church with a pastoral feel. Our strong, inclusive, and diverse congregation has kept us financially stable and is committed to service in the diocese. Our church staff consists of five full-time and one part-time employees, as well as a strong and enthusiastic lay support. Church of the Good Shepherd's ideal candidate will be an experienced rector who can deliver inspiring and meaningful sermons, help revitalize our Christian Education program, and foster year-round stewardship and augment church growth.

One hour east of Raleigh, and conveniently located to the Atlantic coast and the Blue Ridge Mountains, Rocky Mount is home to North Carolina Wesleyan College. Within a 75mile radius of the city are such notable universities as Duke, North Carolina State and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Interested parties should send an updated CDO profile and resume to: Search Committee, c/o Church of the Good Shepherd, PO Box 7791, Rocky Mount, NC 27801. Website: http://www.goodshepherdrmt.org.

POSITIONS OFFERED

FULL-TIME RECTOR: Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, Norfolk, Virginia, seeks rector with excellent education, superb preaching skills, and a gift for parish administration. We are an urban parish with a well-educated congregation. A committed laity serves mission and outreach needs, both here and abroad. The parish is in excellent physical shape and includes a twelve-room education building. The congregation is diverse in age, receptive to newcomers, and Christ-centered.

We are a challenging parish, located within minutes of a superb college, the largest naval base in the world and the Chesapeake Bay, yet we maintain a wonderful sense of community. If you like people in all the wondrous ways that they come to serve God, you will like us and feel at home. For more information visit our web site at <u>www.goodshepherdnorfolk.org</u>, or E-mail at <u>sue@goodshepherdnorfolk.org</u>, Please submit your resume and CDO Profile to: Church of the Good Shepherd Search Committee, c/o Sallie Avery, 7400 Hampton Blvd., Norfolk, VA 23505

FULL-TIME DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCA-TION: Christ Episcopal Church, Elizabeth City, NC, close to NC Outer Banks and Tidewater, VA. Close-knit, dedicated parish of 180 families seeks energetic, organized individual with shared vision to encourage spiritual growth of our young people through traditional, innovative programs and activities. Candidate must have a special insight for church and community affairs.

Recently voted "One of the Best Small Towns in America," this coastal Carolina hamlet has excellent outdoor recreation, refined culture, and is the home to outstanding educational resources. Find out why Elizabeth City is the "Harbor of Hospitality." Resumes to: Jeri Carson, Search Committee Chair, Christ Episcopal Church, 200 S. McMorrine Street, Elizabeth City, NC 27909. Email: jsc0226@vahoo.com.

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT: Historic Bruton Parish Church in Williamsburg, Virginia, seeks full-time Director of Development possessing strong fundraising skills in Stewardship. Planned Giving and Capital Campaigns. The initial emphasis of the director's work will be in the area of Planned Giving. We are searching for a lay person committed to the Episcopal Church with wellhoned self-starter skills, possessing excellent interpersonal talents and teaching, training and listening abilities. Person hired will be Bruton's first Director of Development and, therefore, needs at least three years' professional experience in the fundraising field.

Please send resume to Jack Rouzie, Development Director Search Committee Chairman, 121 Pinepoint Road, Williamsburg, VA 23185. E-mail: <u>irouzie@erols.com</u>.

PART-TIME OR RETIRED PRIEST: Long Beach Island (LBI), NJ: St. Peter's at the Light is not the largest of parishes, but we are one that offers a potential candidate a unique opportunity of employment. Built in 1890, St. Peter's is a historic and artistic edifice that is virtually unchanged from its original concept. There is an adjacent Parish House, Memorial Garden and nearby vicarage. Located at the northern tip of Long Beach Island, in the resort community of Barnegat Light, St. Peter's is 1 1/2 hours from Philadelphia, 2 hours from NYC and 45 minutes from Atlantic City. We are looking for a part-time or retired priest who can readily adapt to our seasonal changes where church attendance does fluctuate. Those who worship at St. Peter's have been very fortunate to enjoy an atmosphere that puts one in mind of earlier times when life was not as complex.

To that end, we are anxious to work with a priest who is a proactive, innovative individual who will provide evangelical leadership and guidance to enable the congregation to successfully recruit new members, a priest who will administer to those members on our parish prayer list and will have ecumenical and community involvement. Please send résumés to: Clergy Search, St. Peter's at the Light, Th & Central Avenue, PO Box 428, Barnegat Light, NJ 08006, E-mail: stpeterlight@juno.com

POSITIONS OFFERED

DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: The Cathedral Church of Saint John, Albuquerque, is seeker, an organized and energetic full-time Director of Chustar-Education and Formation to develop, coordinate, overse and staff all areas of children's ministry from bet through high school. Programs already in place include LOGOS, Godly Play, Journey to Adulthood, and nurcen. Other responsibilities include effectively administeria, a life with Christ, as well as recruiting and nurturing volunteer and staff members. The successful candidate well also direct aspects of worship, Christian education, and administration.

Qualifications: Bachelor's degree in education or theoogy required; some seminary training preferred. 54 yearworking experience in Christian Education - Epicorea Church environment preferred. Criminal backgroam, check required. Please mail resume and letter of interes before April 5, 2004, to the following: The Very Reterend Alan Dennis, Dean The Cathedral Church of Saint John 318 Silver Avenue S.W., P.O. Box 1246. Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103. For questions: (595-247-1581, E-mail: dennis@stjohnsabq.org. The Cathe dral Church of Saint John is an equal opportunity employer. Website: <u>www.stjohnsabq.org.</u>

FULL-TIME VICAR: Southwest Iowa Cluster (of 3 churches) seeks Ministry Developer to partner witt established, strong lay leadership, to revitalize youth maistry, and to execute new and existing programs. Flexible choice of residence. Want enthusiastic individual, traditional Episcopal worship. For further information, ceetact: Tom Gehlsen, Deployment Office, Diocese of Iowa, 225 37th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50312. E mail: tgehlsen@iowaepiscopal.org.



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24 th & Berker

CHURCH DIRECTORY KEY Light face type denotes AM, bold face PM; add, address; anno, Innounced: A-C, Ante-Communion; appt., appointment; B, Benediction; C, Confessions; Cho, Choral; Ch S, Church School; c. urate, d. deacon, d.r.e., director of religious education; EP, Evening Prayer; Eu, Eucharist; Ev, Evensong; ex, except; 1S. 1st Sunday; hol, holiday; HC, Holy Communion; HD, Holy Days; HS, Healing Service; HU, Holy Unction; Instr. Instructions; Int, Inter-essions; LOH, Laying On of Hands; Lit, Litany; Mat, Matins; MP, Morning Prayer; P, Penance; r, rector; r-em, rector emeritus; Ser, Sermon; Sol, Solemn; Sta, Stations; V, Vespers; v, vicar; YPF, Young People's Fellowship. A/C, air-conditioned; H/A, hand-

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