

springfieldcurrent



September 2011 Volume 18, Issue 6 A newsletter of the Episcopal Diocese of Springfield

Father Hallett Retires



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Newsletter of the Episcopal Diocese of Springfield

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From the Bishop

Beloved in Christ,

This month marks the tenth anniversary of an event that any American adult, and many youth as well, can recall with vivid clarity. I lived in California in 2001, so it was just after 6 a.m., as I lay in bed on a Tuesday morning thinking about facing the day, when the familiar voice of NPR's Bob Edwards on my nightstand radio calmly announced that a plane had crashed into one of the towers of the World Trade Center in New York. A few minutes later I was downstairs watching CNN as the rest of that morning's horrendous developments unfolded.

Ten years later, what can we make of 9-11? It has changed our lives in more ways than we can count and for longer than we can imagine. Something as simple as accompanying a loved one all the way to the departure gate at an airport, or meeting them there when they arrive, is a thing of the past. Instead, we have to take our shoes off going through security and remember the 3-1-1 rule for liquids and gels in our carry-on baggage.

Thousands have died in the ensuing military action in Iraq and Afghanistan, and tens of thousands of lives have been adversely affected by those wars. We now live in constant fear - even if that fear is subliminal - of terrorism. What I personally find most disturbing is not what we know, or what we know that we don't know, but what we don't know that we don't know ... the literally unimaginable. And for that very reason, I take great comfort from the words of one of our Prayer Book collects: "...that we who are wearied by the changes and chances of this life may rest in your eternal changelessness..." (from the Office of Compline, p. 133)

Of course, in addition to being afraid, we are also angry, even ten years later. We not only suffered the loss of lives and the destruction of property, our national pride was wounded. They went after some potent symbols of American identity: the twin towers, the Pentagon, and, but for the heroism of those aboard United 93, probably the Capitol Building or the White House. I must confess that I have at times pictured those who plot terrorism when one of the imprecatory Psalms comes up in the daily office lectionary, such as these lines from Psalm 109: "He loved cursing, let it come upon him; he took no delight in blessing, let it depart from him. He put on cursing like a garment, let it soak into his body like water and into his bones like oil..."

To the extent that we are afraid or angry, then, we do neither ourselves nor anyone else any favors by trying to deny or repress those feelings. We do well to recognize and acknowledge them. Then, as disciples of Jesus, we do well to lay that fear and anger at his feet and allow him to deliver us from them. When I visit the churches of our diocese, the liturgy often concludes with the Pontifical Blessing, which begins with the line from Psalm 124: "Our help is in the name of the Lord." This is the context into which we are invited to place our fear. Then we can take note of the scriptural counsel to avoid letting our instinct for revenge get the better of us: "Vengeance is mine, says the Lord" (Romans 12:19, Deuteronomy 32:35). This is the context into which we are invited to place our anger.

Then, having been partially liberated from fear and anger (full liberation does not occur in this world for most of us, I think), we can turn our attention to more constructive endeavors,



The Rt. Rev. Daniel H. Martins

such as justice, righteousness, and peace. Remember that in classical Christian theology, evil does not exist absolutely in its own right; it is, rather, the absence of good. Perhaps one could also say that evil is sometimes the distortion of good. The motives that lie behind terrorism are invariably rooted in a distortion of good, which, in turn, is rooted in a perceived absence of justice (a form of good). We don't have to agree with the moral assessments of those who attack us. We can legitimately oppose and attempt to thwart their efforts. I, for one, am more than happy to see armed guards at airports and to walk through scanners if any of that helps protect public safety. But we are only being foolish if we blind ourselves to the fact that those who wish us harm think they are doing good and opposing evil. Being open to engaging them on that level might just yield fruit that makes us all feel more secure. If nothing else, it is an act of obedience to the injunction from the Psalmist (34:14): "Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it."

Blessings in Christ Jesus,

+Daniel

Crisis for Christians in the Middle East

By the Very Rev. Keith Roderick, DD, Rector, St. Andrew's, Carbondale



Overlooking the Bay of Jounieh and Beirut

In July, I had the opportunity to travel to Beirut, Lebanon to participate in a conference to discuss the status of Christians in the Middle East following the “Arab Spring.” The conference was sponsored by the International Christian Union. Representatives of the Lebanese Christian political parties and other civil organizations were in attendance. There was broad consensus that Christians are in a precarious position in all countries of the Middle East, including Lebanon.

The situation in Lebanon is different by virtue of the confessional arrangement of the Lebanese Constitution, which mandates that the president of the country be a Maronite Catholic Christian, the prime minister a Sunni Muslim and the speaker of the

parliament, a Shiite Muslim. Since the Cedar Revolution, which followed the assassination of Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri, there has not been a unified strategy of moving forward. The assassination has been investigated by a UN tribunal which has concluded complicity of Syrian and the Iranian-backed Hezbollah. The tribunal returned indictments against four members of the Iranian-backed Hezbollah at the end of June. Hassan Nashwalla, leader of Hezbollah has vowed not to allow the arrest of any of its members indicted. This has led to an environment of increased tension and uncertainty, which the violence in Syria has escalated.

Unfortunately, Christians are divided by their loyalties to two major parties: the Lebanese forces, aligned

to the “March 14” Movement - an alliance between progressives, Sunni Muslims and the Christian Party led by Dr. Samir Gagea; and those aligned with Gen. Michel Aoun, leader of the Free Patriotic Movement and a member of the “March 8 Movement,” which also includes Hezbollah. After returning from exile in France, Gen. Aoun signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Hezbollah in hopes of securing the presidency.

In June, Hezbollah, which had blocked the formation of a government, consented to a cabinet consisting of several Christian ministers politically allied with them. The Lebanese government is now a de facto Hezbollah government. The division among the Christian parties has weakened the Christians politically and threat-

ens to undermine further their status in the country.

I met with Lebanese religious leaders to discuss the future of Christians in Lebanon and the Middle East. The Vatican has appointed a commission to develop a strategy of support for the Christians of the Middle East. Patriarch of Antioch and the Syriac Catholic Church, Cardinal Ignatius Joseph III Younan is the co-president of the Vatican's Special Assembly of the Synod of Bishops for the Middle East.

In discussion with the cardinal about the commission's work, he revealed that the final report of the commission has been delayed for approximately a year. He was very forthright in his perspective on the future of



Ignatius Cardinal Younan

Christians in the Middle East saying that it is bleak unless there is substantive support from western Christians. He told me the status of Christianity in Iraq does not give much confidence in U.S. foreign policy for providing protection to minorities in the Middle East. Nearly half of all Christians have fled Iraq or been killed. On August 2, the first day of Muslim month of fasting, Ramadan, Islamic terrorists attacked the Holy Family Syrian Catholic Church in Kirkuk, Iraq, injuring 23 worshippers.

The newly elected patriarch of the largest Christian church in Lebanon, the Maronite Catholic Church, Beshara al-Rai, and his predecessor, Nasrallah Boutros Cardinal Sfeir, who retired last year were equally concerned about the situation.



Patriarch Beshara al-Rai with the Rev. Keith Roderick

Rai, recognizing the deep divisions in the Christian community, called for

a renewal of the 1943 National Pact and "a new mentality, a new vision and a democratic rhetoric." One of his first actions upon being elected this spring was to call the four major Christian parties together to discuss the survival of the Christian presence in Lebanon.

The Chaldean Bishop of Beirut, Msgr. Michael Kassarji, and the Archbishop of the Syrian Orthodox Church, Bishop George Salib, were adamant in stressing how important it was for western Christians to assist their brothers and sisters in the Middle East.

Lebanon may be the last home of refuge for the Christians of the Middle East and best hope for their future. However, that hope may be fragile. Christians within Lebanon need to find resolution to their divisions and realign themselves from the alliances that they have made

outside of their confession.

Unless healing takes place, the Christian community will continue to be vulnerable.†



Delegation, L-R: Nick Toulu – ICU US Board, Cardinal Sfeir, Fr. Roderick, Tony Nissi, ICU – Lebanon

You are cordially invited to celebrate the 175th Anniversary of the founding of Cathedral Church of St. Paul the Apostle.

**Sunday,
September 18
6 p.m.
Northfield Inn Suites
&
Conference Center
3280 Northfield Dr.
Springfield**

This event is by invitation only.

If you would like to attend, please send your contact information to: Cathedral Church of St. Paul

815 S. 2nd Street
Springfield, IL 62704
or email
stpaulpca@comcast.net

Information is needed no later than September 9th!

The Rev. Timothy J. Hallett on the Occasion of His Retirement

By June Skye Szirotny, photos by Matt Townsend





We, at the Chapel of St. John the Divine, have now said farewell to our rector of 35 years - so long ago that few of us remember his coming.

As a member of the Bishop's Committee in 1976, charged with electing a priest (Bishop Hillestad told us he would not give us a priest we did not want), I well remember that there were two serious contenders for the position of chaplain: a middle-aged man with experience as priest and professor; and Timothy J. Hallett, 35 years old, with very good credentials (I asked him how he got into Who's Who in Religion, and with characteristic humility he said he didn't know), but less experience. Since I knew and admired the man, I supposed I would support him. But faced with voting, I could not shake an uncanny conviction (I knew nothing that would justify it) that the latter, youngish and starting his first important job, would have the enthusiasm that is usually the sine qua non of great success. Thus, while I felt myself a traitor, I, along with most others, voted for Fr. Tim, as he is sometimes known (ask him how he wants to be addressed, and he will say, "However you like."). But ultimately I felt I had made the right decision, for he clearly regarded his position as a vocation, a religious calling.

Of course, when he was appointed, no one knew that we were getting two for the price of one (an arrangement no feminist would approve), for Fr. Tim and his wife, Mary, would always function as partners, Mary being director of Christian education and of the nursery, as well as general troubleshooter, and hostess of the numerous functions at the rectory. But future generations will remember her as making the majestic iron and hand-forged brass cross with new life sprouting from its arms, which stands in the chancel.

Much of Fr. Hallett's success was due to his skill as a leader (portended by his penchant for masterminding the operations of toy trains?). The poet Robert Russell Lowell says that the genius of Lincoln was that he brought the nation around to his way of thinking before taking action. Fr. Hallett knew what he wanted to accomplish, and, when there was opposition, he would quietly provide alternatives until the time was ripe for change. For example, as long as

women chalice bearers, whom he introduced, were controversial (learned men seriously deliberated whether they should receive from a woman), there was always one male chalice bearer so no communicant had to receive from a woman. And for those who objected to the new Prayer Book, adopted in 1976, there was a service in which the traditional language was used.

Fr. Tim always made worship the center of our church activities. Special services, such as Christmas Eve and the Easter vigil were especially beautiful, but all services were formal without being stiff. For example, despite the solemnity of the Eucharist in honor of the Presiding Bishop's visit, March 20, 2011, when the electricity came on after threatening to crimp our style by making the organ nonfunctional, Tim could quip, "When it comes time for her to be canonized, the restoration of the electricity can count as the first miracle that she wrought at the Chapel." Moreover, services always ran smoothly because so many persons had experience as acolytes, readers, chalice bearers, etc.

Both the sermons and music distinguished the services and regularly attracted people from outside Champaign Urbana. Fr. Tim was undoubtedly one of the best preachers in the area. His sermons, well thought out and written, had the forcefulness of seeming to come out of his own experience. The music was especially fine. After Jerald Hamilton, who established the congregation's tradition of sitting through the postlude, retired in 1988, Linda Buzzard, who made the church an affiliate of the Royal School of Church Music for choristers in 1997, became organist and choirmaster. Since 1972, we had had an electric organ, but since 1992, we have had a splendid organ, custom designed and voiced for Anglican worship, which John Paul Buzard generously built at factory cost. Because the organ, one of the best in the state, attracts musicians, the Chapel has been able to sponsor free organ and choral concerts that are very popular.

Fr. Tim also supported an intellectual interest in religion. In the early years, he gave courses on such a subject as his favorite, St. Paul, and later he, Mary Hallett, and Lorraine Crummey mentored the popular four-year program, Education for Ministry, from the Uni-

continued, next page

The Rev. Timothy Hallett, continued

versity of the South, for about 16 years. Because the chapel is a campus ministry, Fr. Hallett was especially devoted to fostering the religious life of chapel students. Intellectual himself, he never made students feel they had to check their minds at the door. Perhaps the perfect freedom to ask any question, express any opinion was one reason for what he regards as his greatest accomplishment at the chapel: many former students have gone on to become leaders in their churches all around the country, and about twenty, half men and half women, have entered holy orders. Of the undergraduates who made up the Canterbury Student Association, someone was on the planning committee of twelve of the thirteen national gatherings of Episcopal students since 1983.

Not surprisingly, Tim's and Mary's abilities were recognized on a national level: he was coordinator of Ministry and Higher Education in Province Five, 1977-82; and President of the Episcopal Society for Ministry and Higher Education, 1986-88; Mary was administrator, 1988-2002; both were members of the board from time to time; Fr. Hallett served as deputy to the General Convention of the Church in 1997 and 2006 (an honor shared in various years by chapel members Kevin Babb, Olive Goldman, and Joseph Smith); and Fr. Hallett was trustee of Seabury Western Theological Seminary, 1985-97, and chair of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee during most of these years.

As Fr. Hallett always taught that we are empowered by our faith to work to diminish the world's suffering, many of our activities reflected his emphasis on doing good, to use an old-fashioned Biblical phrase - emphasis enshrined in our usual grace: "Bless these gifts to our use and us to your service, and keep us mindful of the needs of others and determined to do something about them." For example,

since 1987, we have had a diocesan companion relation with Barbados, which arose out of our relation with a Barbadian student. In 2004, a group of students from the chapel began the refurbishment of St. Mary's Home, a community center in Barbados, for which the United Thank Offering gave us a grant to provide parenting training. Fr. Tim attended the dedication of the building in 2007. Most recently, Chapel members, by hosting meals, have raised about \$10,000 for the Millennium Development Goals project. Other social service organizations that the Chapel was involved in were Meals on Wheels, Empty Tomb, Daily Bread, and Faith in Action.

There was always abundance of Christian fellowship at the chapel. In addition to the regular coffee hour after the Sunday Eucharist, frequent pot luck meals, receptions after special events, agape after the Christmas Eve and Easter vigil services, the Halletts frequently entertained, opening the rectory to all who wanted to come. Traditionally they always hosted Thanksgiving and Easter dinners.

Having attained parish status in 1985, in succeeding years, we did some refurbishing of the building - opening up the chancel by removing the rood screen, replacing the altar and dossal, and establishing a columbarium--but in this century we devoted ourselves to the enormous task of "chapel completion." When the chapel was built in 1927, there was not enough money to finish the western end of the building, and since then there had been only abortive efforts to make the building whole. With the temporary completion threatening to collapse, and with Fr. Hallett's leadership, which involved his extended trips to consult with alumni, a capital campaign was launched in 2005, which brought in more money than we had hoped for, and, in 2006, English Brothers, who had built the original build

ing, broke ground, completing their work in the fall of 2008. The finished product is, everyone agrees, aesthetically pleasing--sacristy, choir room, and modern bathroom behind the scenes, and, in the chancel, a rose window, designed by John Paul Buzard, around which is the Latin for Genesis 28:17: "O how awesome is this place. Truly this is none other than the house of God and gate of heaven" - text of an anthem used on several special occasions at the chapel.

This year, marking the hundredth anniversary of the church (which antedated the original church building) has been an exciting time. The chapel cohosted the diocesan synod with Evensong and Te Deum. On the eve of Pentecost, there was a solemn evensong attended by the Rev. Christine Hopkins, the Rev. Alan Herbst, the Very Rev. Geoffrey Scanlon, and the Right Rev. Daniel Martins, followed by a dinner at the Leavis Center. It was a grand occasion attended by many former chapel members and made memorable by testimonials, slide show, which enabled us to admire our more youthful, less corpulent selves, and announcement of large purses for Barbados, the chapel, and the Halletts. On Pentecost, June 12, 2011, at the solemn Eucharist, Fr. Hallett preached on the theme that Christ is in each of us, and spontaneous applause erupted for this, Fr. Tim's last gift to us.

Fr. Hallett is blessed with a fine mind, persistence in striving to live up to his ideals, and a sense of humor. But perhaps what more than anything endeared him to many was the "simple human fellowship" that George Eliot says "is half the vocation of a priest." Perhaps it was discernible in his easy, unaffected manner when interviewed by the Bishop's Committee. Certainly it is evident in that he is not partial to the wealthy or privileged, he regards women as equals, and he does not wash his hands of those who disagree with him. ✚

Around the Diocese

Bishop Martins in Residence at Hale Deanery

Early in June, the Rt. Rev. Daniel Martins was in residence in the Hale Deanery to learn more about the communities, locations, distance, geography and facilities of the churches in the Hale Deanery. Bp. Martins began his visit meeting with the Rev. Richard Swan at St. Mark's, West Frankfort, and toured the church facilities built by hand by the original members. After a tour they traveled to Saline County for lunch and a visit to the Ohio River By-Way Visitor Center. They then made a side trip to the Garden of the Gods Trail in the Shawnee National Forest. That evening, Bp. Martins celebrated a Mass in Harrisburg on the Eve of St. Columba at St. Stephen's Wednesday evening Eucharist.

The next day, Bp. Martins and Fr. Swan traveled to Alexander County to visit the southernmost church in the

diocese, The Church of the Redeemer in Cairo. Louise Ogg, bishop's warden, led a tour of the Custom House Museum in Cairo and a historical orientation of the town. After noon prayer and lunch the duo headed north to St. Mark's for a meeting with the Bishop's Committee of St. James', McLeansboro. The day ended with dinner in Marion alongside the clergy and spouses of the deanery.

Friday morning Bp. Martins and Fr. Swan toured the fastest growing community of the region, Marion. They visited St. James' Memorial Church where the bishop met with the bishop's warden, Carol Marshall. Then Fr. Swan took the bishop to St. Andrew's, Carbondale, where he was able to spend time with the Rev. Keith Roderick and celebrate The Feast of Ephrem of Edessa at the weekly Holy Eucharist at St. Andrew's. Fr. Roderick



Bishop Martins and Louise Ogg at the Custom House in front of a scale model of the Civil War Union Gunboat "Cairo"

and Bp. Martins then toured Carbondale and the campus of Southern Illinois University. Bp. Martins is truly getting to know the highways and byways of Illinois in his early tenure! Please keep him and Brenda in prayer for their many travels.

Smile Train Chosen as 2011-12 ECW Outreach Project

By the Rev. Mollie Ward, ECW Chaplain & Outreach Committee Chair

The Episcopal Churchwomen of the Diocese of Springfield have chosen Smile Train as their 2011-2012 Outreach Project.

Smile Train's mission is to provide free cleft palate and lip surgery for millions of poor children in developing countries and free cleft-related training for doctors and medical professionals.

A cleft lip is a birth defect that leaves an opening in the upper lip between a newborn's mouth and nose. A cleft palate is created when the roof of the mouth has a hole in it. Babies can be born with a cleft lip or palate or both.

Most children with unrepaired

clefts cannot eat or speak properly, and many aren't allowed to attend school or hold a job and face very difficult lives filled with shame and isolation, pain and heartache.

Babies are born with clefts everywhere in the world, including the U.S., but clefts are seldom seen in the U.S. and Europe because they are repaired automatically soon after birth, with funds from insurance or the government. In developing countries, most families are too poor to afford surgery, and the government will not provide free surgery.

In developing countries, Smile Train pays for the cost of the \$250 surgery. Smile Train also provides

training and grants for accredited cleft teams in the U.S., a public information program that reaches millions of Americans and support for patients and their families.

The Diocesan ECW board encourages local ECW chapters, parishes and missions to hold fundraisers over the next year to support these projects and also welcomes contributions from individuals.

Checks should be made payable to ECW Outreach and mailed to ECW Treasurer Judy Ellison, 122 Hightide Drive, Decatur, IL 62521.

For further information on the ECW outreach project, visit the following website: www.smiletrain.org.

Around the Diocese

Trinity's Parish Secretary Retires After 25 Years

By the Rev. Christopher "Kip" Ashmore

Besides celebrating the 179th anniversary of its founding on August 14, Trinity Church also honored its long-time secretary upon her retirement.

After 25 years as parish secretary, Margaret Evans retired from that position on July 31. She has not retired from being a parishioner of Trinity Church, however. Margaret has been a parishioner of since 1946, when she came from England to Jacksonville to make a home and life with her new husband, Bob, and, the five children who would be born to them.

Margaret played a part in my coming to Trinity Church. I showed up at Trinity unshaven, in jeans and sweatshirt, to borrow a hymnal so that I could phone my secretary in San Antonio with hymns for the coming Sunday (I was in Pittsfield to bury my grandfather). Margaret greeted me warmly, gave me a tour of the church, and informed me that Trinity was looking for a new priest. She asked if I would be interested. I replied, "Well, I'll always take a look at something new if I sense that God wants me to," so she wrote down my name, address and phone number. I returned to San Antonio, and the only thought I gave to it was to tell my wife K-Lou about the secretary who had asked if I was interested in becoming rector of her church. And, as they say, the rest is history.

Margaret has gone far beyond any "job description" for a parish secretary. She carries a deep love for God and Trinity Church in her heart, and she has continually manifested that in her work as parish secretary. She has not been an "employee" to the rector; she has been a co-worker in ministry.

In addition to the mechanical



(L-R) The Rev. William Malottke, Deacon Thomas Langford, Margaret Evans, the Rev. Kip Ashmore

duties of parish secretary, she has performed a countless number of deeds and tasks that could be called "intangibles." She didn't have to do these

things; she just did them because it is who she is.

Trinity Church owes her a debt of gratitude that they will never be able to repay. But the beauty of Margaret is that she would never expect to be "repaid;" rather she would be embarrassed by it. She is one of the most truly selfless persons one will ever meet.

In her honor, a set of crystal cruets for the Sacred Oils was presented to the church. Trinity has also commissioned a local craftsman to build an Ambry for the Sacred Oils which will be dedicated to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for the ministry of Margaret Evans, parish secretary 1986-2011.

Diocesan Support Strong for U.S. Troops

By the Rev. Gene Stormer

The war in Afghanistan is often in the news. Many of our parishes have men and women who are serving in that area. Presently, the Rev. Phillip Boeve, the priest-in-charge of St. Barnabas, Havana, is serving in a dangerous area there. He is an Air Force reservist who was called to active duty for three months in July as a chaplain. He writes regularly to his parish in Havana. Recently, when one of the parishioners told him how hot it was back here, he replied that the reported temperature at his station was 148 degrees. Fr. Boeve is always in their prayers. St. Barnabas' parishioners began collecting a "goody box" of snacks etc. that do not melt to send to him. They also emailed him a picture of the parishioners waving to him.

Like our local parishes, the Diocese of Springfield is very supportive of our clergy who serve in

the military, and currently there are a number of active military chaplains in the diocese. Though support for our troops has always been given by the diocese, more attention to it began years ago with past bishop Peter Beckwith, who was a reservist in the Navy. The diocese continues to welcome many former and present military members. It recently accepted another military chaplain who wishes to become an Episcopal priest into the ordination process. This has been a very fruitful ministry and has led to the call of a number of our past and present clergy. The Rev. John Wall was ordained after he retired from the Army and served in the eastern part of diocese. The Rev. Jim Cravens, recently retired from Trinity, Lincoln, also served in the Navy reserves while here. The Rev. Gene Tucker from Mt. Vernon also came to the diocese as a

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Around the Diocese

Hale Deanery Holds Graduation Celebration in May

The Hale Deanery EFM class held a graduation celebration in May that included the spouses of the graduating class and former graduates. A Mass for Ministry was celebrated and a potluck dinner was held as part of the celebration.

The 2011 graduates included: Angela Rowe, St. Stephen's; and Michael Gearing and Janet Jones, both of Harrisburg First Presbyterian Church.

The class, pictured at right, included (first row) Carol Marshall, St. James', Marion; Martha Angel, St. Andrew's, Carbondale; Marv Swan, co-mentor; Cheri King, St. Stephen's, Harrisburg; and Henry Kammerer, St.



James', Marion. Second row: Angela Rowe, Michael Gearing, and Janet Jones; In the back, Fr. Dick Swan.

Anyone in the diocese interested in starting a class for 2011-12 year may contact Fr. Swan at 618-841-1146.

St. Paul's, Carlinville Hosts Ordination



In a service held June 29, The Feast of St. Peter and St. Paul, the Right Rev. Daniel Hayden Martins ordained John Reeves Henry to the sacred order of priests. It is believed this is the first ordination service hosted by St. Paul's in its 150-plus-year history. Fr. Henry was also installed as rector of St. Paul's during the service. In addition, he serves as vicar of St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Chesterfield. Acolytes for the service included longtime St. Paul's acolytes Susan Herndon and Victoria Zimmerman, as well as Fr. Henry's grandchildren, Michael Bloom, Ashley Casey, Alexandra Casey, and Rianna Bloom. Rector's Warden Bill Ogle

served as the Bishop's Chaplain and the Rev. Don Coventry served as Deacon. Lynn Zimmerman served as litanist.

Presenting Fr. Henry for ordination were the Rev. Christopher Ashmore, the Rev. Wayne Shipley, Rebecca Henry Kitchens, Larry Clark, and Judy DeMunbrun. Bearers of the symbols of priesthood were Sandy Henry, Elisabeth Herndon, Mary Alice Shaw, Anne Michael, and Elizabeth Ross. The lessons were read by the youngest and oldest members of the parish: Alexandra Casey, 10, and Beulah Barr, 95.

The preacher was the Rev. Dr. Thomas Holtzen, a professor at Nashotah House Episcopal Theological Seminary and Fr. Henry's mentor priest. Soloist for the service was Samantha Ferguson, a former second grade student of Fr. Henry. A combined choir from St. Paul's, Carlinville and St. John's, Decatur provided the communion anthem. Approximately 115 people attended the service, which was followed by a reception.

Springfield Current Contributors

The Springfield Current is a ministry of the Department of Communication in the Diocese of Springfield. Your voluntary contributions help to support its being published, printed and distributed. If you would like to contribute to this ministry, please send your gift to the Diocesan Center, 821 S. Second Street, Springfield, IL 62704.

Recently, we've received gifts from the individuals and families listed below, and are very appreciative of the support.

St. John's, Decatur

Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Metz
The Rev. & Mrs. Richard A. Swan

Trinity, Jacksonville

Anna Bergschneider

Christ Church, Springfield

Margie Higgason

St. Luke's, Springfield

Harold & Susan Meek

Friends of the Diocese

Frederick E. Nevin

Support, continued

retired military member and was ordained for service here.

The following priests are canonically resident in our diocese serving in the military:

- The Rev. Dr. Daniel N. Karanja – U.S. Air Force Chaplain Active Duty, Ft. Jackson, S.C.
- The Rev. Frank P. Munoz – U.S. Navy Chaplain Active Duty, Miramar Air Station, San Diego
- The Rev. J. Victor Sheldon – U.S. Navy Chaplain, Army War College, Carlisle, Pa.
- The Rev. Mark S. Winward – U.S. Navy Chaplain Active Duty, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Let us remember to pray regularly for all those serving in the military.

Around the Diocese

Several Charities Benefit from St. Stephen's Fundraiser

Early in June, members of St. Stephen's Church, Harrisburg, presented proceeds from the 2011 Annual Italian Feast to charities in Saline County. The Anna Bixby Women's Shelter, the Bridge Medical Clinic and the Guardian Center for Children each received \$600. According to the Very Rev. Richard Swan, dean, Hale Deanery, "The women's shelter is a refuge for battered and homeless women and their children, The Bridge Clinic provides medical care for those who work but have no insurance, and the Guardian Center assists child victims of physical and sexual abuse. St. Stephen's has challenged other churches and organizations in the



Ed Williams, bishop's warden, presents a check to Barbara Wingo, director of The Anna Bixby Women's Shelter. Delores Bennett of St. Stephen's is pictured at right.

county to step forward and assist these charities."

The Most Wanted List

The Diocesan ECW board is seeking nominations for a Distinguished Woman from the Diocese of Springfield. The woman selected will be honored at the 47th Triennial Meeting of the Episcopal Church Women in Indianapolis, in July, 2012.

Nominations need to be received by October 22 and can either be emailed to the ECW board at ecw.board.springfield@frontier.com or placed in the box that will be available at Synod in October.

Consider how the nominee reflects her Christian values in the secular community as well as in her service in the church. Give a brief biographical sketch of the nominee and, using 40 words or less, tell why the nominee is deserving of this honor. Those who are nominating must include contact information as well.

The final selection will be made by the board and announced in the December issue of the Current.

**Deadline for the October
edition of the Springfield Current is
September 20th**

St. Paul's and All Saints Take Part in Sidewalk Sale



(L-R) Phyllis Orr, Lora Zessin and Pat Ludewig prepare for the sale.

By Sandy Callahan

While St. Paul's, Pekin, and All Saints', Morton, have shared worship, study, and social events since they yoked two years ago, they joined forces for the first time on June 1 at the annual Washington Street Sidewalk Sale in Pekin. Proceeds were dedicated to an upcoming Relay for Life event and volunteers from both churches stepped up to lend a hand.

A variety of donated clothing, household items, bicycles, toys, Christmas decor, books, and antiques filled the church basement and spilled out onto the sidewalk and steps where volunteers greeted and provided lemonade and water to strolling shoppers.

"It was wonderful how well everyone worked together," said Deacon Laurie Kellington, who oversaw the project. "From setting up beforehand to showing up early Saturday morning, everyone got into the spirit. When the sale ended, we even had volunteers arrive with their pick-up trucks to pack, load and deliver what remained to other needy organizations."

Unlike previous years, customers this year were encouraged to set the price for whatever they purchased. "That seemed to work well for most people," said Deacon Kellington.

How to Share the story of Jesus with Secular People

By the Rev. Dr. Desmond C. Francis, Rector, Christ the King Episcopal Church, Normal

The Gospel in the Public Square Acts 17:22-33

Apostolic Christianity charmingly encourages us to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with secular people. The challenge is always, “How to Share the Good News of Jesus Christ with secular people.” In the Acts of the Apostles, 17:22-33, Paul the Apostle, provides a possible model.

In Acts 17:22, Paul is in the Areopagus, which is like a town hall or convention center. He first begins to share the story of Jesus with secular people not by condemning them for their absence of faith, but by complimenting the Athenians for their religiousness. He reminds them that God is indeed the Creator of the Universe as Acts 17: 22-24 reads, “I see that in every way you are very religious. For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription, ‘To an unknown God.’ Now what you worship as something unknown I am going to proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands.” We say to secular people that our world is not here by chance. Instead, we say that God is both the personal creator of everything that exists and the personal Lord of everything that has been created.

Second, we remind secular people that God is the Sustainer of Life as Acts 17:25 reads, “And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else.” We remind secular people that God is both the giver of life and the sustainer of life. We say something like, “Isn’t it absurd to make the case that God who supplies our needs should himself need our supply?”

Third, we remind secular people that God is the Ruler of the universe as Acts 17:26 reads, “From one man he

made every nation of men that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. For in ‘him we live, move and have our being.’” As we remind secular folks that God is indeed the ruler of the universe, we also remind them that God is not responsible for all the tyranny or aggression of individual nations. We say God is like the Hound of Heaven or the Good Shepherd who comes searching for us and never rests until God finds us.

Fourth, we remind secular people that God is the Father of all humankind as Acts 17:29 reads, “We are God’s offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone - an image made by man’s design and skill.” True, in the reality and richness of creation all people are children of God; but in the sense of redemption, only those who are “in Jesus Christ” are the “people of God,” the one, holy, catholic and apostolic church.

Fifth, we remind secular people that God is the Judge of the world as Acts 17:30 reads, “In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now commands all people everywhere to repent. For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He had given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead.” What is the essential truth of divine judgment? God has appointed a person by whom God will judge the world and that person is Jesus Christ. At this point we share the story of Jesus Christ which includes his perfect life, his perfect death for human sin and his perfect resurrection for our complete and full forgiveness and we say that as a result of placing our faith in Jesus Christ we will receive full forgiveness of our sins and God himself

comes to live in us and with us and through us by the Holy Spirit. And when we “repent” and “return” to God, we will become a permanent part of God’s “redeemed” community.

What was the response Paul received when he shared the Good News of Jesus Christ with secular people? Paul received three responses. One, Acts 17:32 reads, “When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some of them sneered.” Some people will laugh at us and think that the whole matter of sharing the gospel of God is a joke or a farce. Two, Acts 17:32b reads, “But others said, ‘we want to hear you again on the subject.’” When we share the story of Jesus with secular people, some people will invite us further to talk more about the story of Jesus. Evangelism is a spiritual journey from faith in ourselves to faith in God as we say “yes” to God in Jesus Christ. And three, Acts 17:33 reads, “A few men became followers of Paul and believed. Among them was Dionysius, a member of the Areopagus, also a woman named Damaris and a number of others.” Eusebius identifies Dionysius as Athens’ first Christian bishop and martyr.

As God’s apostolic community, let us go outside our comfort zones and share the “Good News of Jesus Christ.” When we do, we should expect many to respond affirmatively to the story of God as they make their journey to confess that Jesus Christ is indeed Lord because God is sovereignly at work calling all people to know, to love and to serve him. †

For more information on “How to Share the Story of Jesus with Secular People,” contact Fr. Desmond Francis at desritt@aol.com or (309) 310-9574.

Prayer Calendar

September 1

ANGLICAN CYCLE Saskatchewan - (Rupert's Land, Canada) The Rt Revd Michael Hawkins Saskatoon - (Rupert's Land, Canada) The Rt Revd Rodney Osborne Andrews
DIOCESAN CYCLE: Birthday of Jacque, wife of the Rev. Canon William H. Moore, Jr. Wallace, NC; The Rev James H. Fedosuk, ordination to the Priesthood.

September 2

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Sebei - (Uganda) The Rt Revd Augustine Joe Arapyona Salimo
DIOCESAN CYCLE: I am here abroad, I am here in need, I am here in pain, I am here in straits, I am here alone. O God, aid me -- Celtic Charm

September 3

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Sekondi - (West Africa) The Rt Revd John Kwamina Otoo
DIOCESAN CYCLE: Wedding anniversary of the Rev. Carl R. and Valerie Bloom, Chandler, AZ

September 4 Pentecost 12

ANGLICAN CYCLE: The Rt Revd Paul Keun-Sang Kim Presiding Bishop of the Anglican Church of Korea & Bishop of Seoul
DIOCESAN CYCLE: We pray for all priests and lay people in the Diocese of Springfield who loving labor unceasingly for the glory of our Lord, the King of Kings.

September 5

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Seychelles - (Indian Ocean) The Rt Revd James Richard Wong Yin Song
DIOCESAN CYCLE: St. Matthew's, Bloomington, Admitted to the Diocese

of Illinois, 1853; Birthday of Joyce, wife of the Rev. Daniel N. Karanja, Blythewood, SC.

September 6

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Sheffield - (York, England) The Rt Revd Steven Croft Sheffield - Doncaster - (York, England) The Rt Revd Cyril Guy Ashton
DIOCESAN CYCLE: Holy Spirit, guide us in our work for the Church.

September 7

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Shinyanga - (Tanzania) The Rt Revd Charles Kija Ngusa
DIOCESAN CYCLE: Birthday of the Rt. Rev. Daniel H. Martins, XI Bishop of Springfield.

September 8

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Shyira - (Rwanda) The Rt Revd Laurent Mbanda
DIOCESAN CYCLE: Birthday of the Rt. Rev. Peter H. Beckwith, X Bishop of Springfield; The Rt. Rev Donald J. Parsons, ordination to the Episcopate.

September 9

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Shyogwe - (Rwanda) The Rt Revd Jered Kalimba
DIOCESAN CYCLE: Wedding anniversary of the Rev. Allan L. and Sue Feltner, Normal.

September 10

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Sialkot - (Pakistan) The Rt Revd Samuel Sant Masih Pervaiz
DIOCESAN CYCLE: Give us insight, Lord, to understand and feel as others feel.

September 11 Pentecost 13

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Sittwe - (Myanmar) The Rt Revd Barnabas Theaung Hawi Suffragan Bishop of Sittwe - (Myanmar) The Rt Revd Sein Aung
DIOCESAN CYCLE: St. James

Church, Marion, The Rev Sherry Black, Assisting Priest; St. Joseph's Parish Church, Barbados, The Rev F. Errington Massiah, Rector.

September 12

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Sodor & Man - (York, England) The Rt Revd Robert Paterson
DIOCESAN CYCLE: Lord Jesus Christ, teach us to walk in your way more trustfully.

September 13

ANGLICAN CYCLE Sokoto - (Province of Kaduna, Nigeria) The Rt Revd Augustine Omole
DIOCESAN CYCLE: St. Laurence Episcopal Church, Effingham, The Rev. James D. Fackler, Supply Pastor; Diocesan Synod of Illinois ratified the establishment of the Diocese of Springfield, 1877; Holy Trinity, Danville, Admitted to the Diocese of Illinois, 1866.

September 14 Holy Cross Day

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Soroti - (Uganda) The Rt Revd Charles Bernard Obaikol-Ebitu
DIOCESAN CYCLE: Holy Spirit, give us hearts to understand.

September 15

ANGLICAN CYCLE: South Rwenzori - (Uganda) The Rt Revd Jackson Nzerebende Tembo
DIOCESAN CYCLE: St. John's, Centralia, Admitted to the Diocese of Illinois, 1859; St. Thomas', Salem, Admitted to the Diocese of Illinois, 1859; Redeemer, Cairo, Admitted to the Diocese of Illinois, 1864.

September 16

ANGLICAN CYCLE: South West Tanganyika - (Tanzania) Vacant; Western

Tanganyika - The Rt Revd Gerard E Mpango; Western Tanganyika - The Rt Revd Marko Badeleya; Western Tanganyika - The Rt Revd Naftal Bikaka; Western Tanganyika - The Rt Revd Sospeter Ndenza

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Birthday of the Rev. Philip M. Lewis, Mt. Pleasant, SC; Birthday of the Rev. Richard A. Swan, Decatur.

September 17

ANGLICAN CYCLE: South Western Brazil - (Brazil) The Rt Revd Francisco de Assis Da Silva

DIOCESAN CYCLE: O Lord God, your will is holy, loving and wise.

September 18 Pentecost 14

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Southeast Florida - (Province IV, USA) The Rt Revd Leopold Frade

Southwest Florida - (Province IV, USA) The Rt Revd Dabney T Smith

DIOCESAN CYCLE: St. John's, Decatur; The Rev Richard A. Swan, Priest in Charge; St. Clement's Church, Barbados, The Rev Keith Griffith, Priest-in-Charge.

September 19

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Southeastern Mexico - (Mexico) The Rt Revd Benito Juarez-Martinez

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Birthday of the Rev. Wayne S. Shipley, Carlinville.

September 20

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Southern Brazil - (Brazil) The Rt Revd Orlando Santos de Oliveira

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Wedding anniversary of the Rev. Harry G. and Betsy Newman, Springfield; Birthday of Marv, wife of the Rev. Richard A. Swan, Eldorado.

September 21 St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist – Ember Day

ANGLICAN CYCLE: PRAY for the Anglican Peace and Justice Network (APJN) as it lifts up the prime importance of justice and peace in God's mission and provides resources to enable Anglican Provinces, dioceses and congregations to educate and

advocate, wherever there are injustices. Southern Highlands - (Tanzania) The Rt Revd John Mwela
DIOCESAN CYCLE: Feast of Title, St. Matthew's, Bloomington.

September 22

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Southern Malawi - (Central Africa) The Rt Revd James Tengatenga

Upper Shire (Southern Malawi) -(Central Africa) The Rt Revd Brighton Malasa
DIOCESAN CYCLE: David J. Boase, Alton, ordination to the Priesthood.

September 23 – Ember Day

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Southern Nyanza - (Kenya) The Rt Revd James Ochiel

DIOCESAN CYCLE: O Lord, make us have perpetual love and reverence for your Holy Name.

September 24 – Ember Day

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Southern Ohio - (Province V, USA) The Rt Revd Thomas E Breidenthal Suffragan Bishop of Southern Ohio - (Province V, USA)

The Rt Revd Kenneth Lester Price
DIOCESAN CYCLE: Wedding anniversary of the Rev. David M. and Debbie Adams, Charleston, S.C.; Wedding anniversary of the Rev. Paul R. and Christine Dicks, Pewaukee, WI; Birthday of the Rev. Cn. Dr. George E. Pence, Edwardsville; Birthday of Gina, wife of the Rev Charles Reischman, Decatur.

September 25 Pentecost 15

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Southern Virginia - (Province III, USA) The Rt Revd Herman Hollerith

DIOCESAN CYCLE: St. Stephen's Harrisburg, The Rev Timothy Goodman, Supply Priest; St. Lucy's Parish Church, Barbados, The Rev Curtis Goodridge, Rector; Trinity, Jacksonville, Consecration of present church building, 1921.

September 26

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Southwark - (Canterbury, England) The Rt Revd Christopher Thomas Chessun; Southwark - Croydon –Vacant;

Southwark - Kingston-upon-Thames - The Rt Revd Richard Ian Cheetham; Southwark - Woolwich - Vacant .
DIOCESAN CYCLE: St. Bartholomew's, Granite City, Consecration of present church building, 1906.

September 27

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Southwell & Nottingham - (York, England) The Rt Revd Paul Roger Butler Southwell - Sherwood - The Rt Revd Anthony Porter

DIOCESAN CYCLE: St. Michael's Episcopal Church, O'Fallon, the Rev. Ralph McMichael, Priest in Charge; St. Ambrose Church, Barbados, the Rev Canon Wayne Isaacs, Priest-in-Charge, St. Michael's Parish; The Very Rev Dale D. Coleman, ordination to the Priesthood.

September 28

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Southwestern Virginia - (Province III, USA) The Rt Revd Frank Neff Powell

DIOCESAN CYCLE: Birthday of the Rev. Mark S. Winward, Virginia Beach, VA.

September 29 Saint Michael and All Angels

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Spokane - (Province VIII, USA) The Rt Revd James Edward Waggoner
DIOCESAN CYCLE: Feast of Title, St. Michael's, O'Fallon; Birthday of Libby, wife of the late William Turner, Springfield; Birthday of Eleanor, wife of the Rev. Charles F. Caldwell, Naples, FL; The Rev Steven T. Thorp, ordination to the Priesthood.

September 30

ANGLICAN CYCLE: Springfield - (Province V, USA) The Revd Daniel Hayden Martins
DIOCESAN CYCLE: We praise you, Jesus; you are the Bread of Life.

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