



Fourtieth Edition, AKH December 2009

In This Issue:

Britannia Arms and Trinity join in Outreach Project Page 1

Bishop Mary's Column, Report from Committee on Vitality and Growth Page 2

Marriage Task Force Report, UTO Update Page 3

Christmas Marketing Materials, Daily Advent Prayers Page 4

Haiti Mission Trip, SSP in Honduras Page 5

Calendar, Book Review Page 6

**Britannia Arms and Trinity Cathedral Join in Turkey Drive**

On November 21, 500 frozen turkeys were distributed to local non-profits from the parking lot in front of the Britannia Arms Pub and Restaurant on Almaden Expressway. Santa Maria Urban Ministry received 300 turkeys – the most that the facility can accommodate.

Mr. Michael North, one of the restaurant owners, never ceases to make this happen and coordinates with all of the non-profits and his customers and other donors. This has been a joint venture with Trinity Cathedral spanning seven years. It began when Michael and the Rev. David Bird, Dean of the Cathedral, had a conversation about the needs of residents here in San Jose. They knew that people strongly wanted to give back to the community but had a certain level of distrust about how the money would be distributed. This helped them develop the plan. Simply writing a check and mailing it off to some foundation is too impersonal. David and Michael wanted to give the patrons of Britannia Arms and the congregations at Trinity a closer association with the recipients of any collections. That started the great turkey program for Thanksgiving and, this year, recession or not, brought in the most ever collected. The plan is simple: buy a turkey and hand it off directly to those who can distribute it to a family in need.

Santa Maria Urban Ministry received the bulk of the donations. Ms. Karen Gillette, a member of Trinity, received 20 turkeys to distribute to families who are recent graduates of the Family Shelter. These families found homes in the area and are now independent, but they still struggle to remain independent. Father Eddie Samaniego of Most Holy Trinity Catholic Church received about 150 turkeys. Holy Trinity has both a food pantry and serves a Thanksgiving breakfast on Thanksgiving Day to those in need. Smaller donations were given to other groups in the area.

Donors came out on that Saturday to meet the recipients and to help load trucks with the turkeys. This personal touch is part of what makes the program such a success. The fact that Michael agrees to be "egged" to help raise funds to purchase turkeys just adds to the fun and the personal involvement.

The generosity does not stop with Thanksgiving turkeys. The Christmas toy and bicycle drive has just begun and Michael tells me that he already has toys for over 300 needy children! If you are in the San Jose area, stop in and let Michael, his friends, and customers know how much we appreciate their generosity and the support he provides to Santa Maria and other non-profits in San Jose. And bring a toy!

*Submitted by Ms. Edy Unthank*



The Rev. Lawrence Robles, his wife Carmen, and two volunteers pose next to a truck full of donated turkeys. The Rev. David Bird can be seen in the background with Fr. Eddie Samaniego.

*A joyous  
Advent  
and  
a Merry  
Christmas!*



“We are all going to die....”

My son Dorian, a couple of years back, seemed to turn everything toward death. He would engage in run-on sequential dramas that included, “and then” numerous times, until the finale, “and then we are all going to die.” For example, “if we go on that narrow hiking trail, and then it has a steep edge, and then you fall off the edge, and then you break your leg, and then no one can find you, and then you will be out all night, and then a bear will eat you, and then...you will die.” Doom was certain. This season of Dorian’s life prompted good conversations about resurrection and, ultimately, such run-on dramas ended, safe in the understanding that “whether we live or die, we are the Lord’s.”

As one liturgical year ends and another begins, I am always struck by the tone of scripture in the final weeks of Pentecost and in these first weeks of Advent. It is loud and clear, displaying an ordered God, humanity, and creation; be watchful – something is happening – and it may not be good. There is a place for everything, and everything has its place, and one ought to move with this order instead of resisting it. The judgment of which our texts speak, or the Apocalypse, a word whose origin is “to lift the veil” or “reveal,” is going to be thorough, overwhelming, and successful in getting things “back” to where God has ordered life to be. Isaiah 24:18 notes “For the windows of heaven are open and the foundations of the earth tremble.” Further on, in verse 20, it notes that “On that day the Lord will punish the host of heaven in heaven, and on the earth the kings of the earth.” In Luke, Jesus says, “The power of heaven will be shaken (21:26).” In our Advent season, we are warned to be ready for terrifying days and not even heaven is exempt from cleansing.

This impending doom, however, is not the end of the story. Instead, our lectionary shifts into the mystery of the Incarnation and into Christmas, and we move toward the discovery that what flows through the windows of heaven is not destruction and terror, but grace incarnate. After all that clear poetry, prose, and story-telling about being prepared and ready for a turbulent re-ordering, we are greeted with a child that does not yet have any words with which to tell us God’s message, just His presence. Those who speak - angels, prophets, family, and the faithful - invite our gaze, our wonder, our awe at the prospect of God’s promise of salvation, of order; not arriving in chaos and death but in unconditional love and mercy. We are hastened to reflection and awareness within the loving and safe embrace of a baby. The judgment so scary is instead a bundle of joyous new life.

The surprise of joy, especially when we have expected death, can be, well, so joyful, lighthearted, and exuberant. It can cause us to chuckle, smile, get a little giddy, and delight in the one who brings it. When we have been in a period of seriousness, of waiting for our doom, it is especially lovely to be greeted with good news; relieved of the burden of vigilance, of living under constant threat. Unfortunately sometimes we get stuck in that rut of thinking, and even many Christians use the scriptures that we read at this time of the year all year round. A lectionary keeps us from making this mistake. Just a season is all we need to get a little rise in anxiety, to remember that if God wants to wipe us off the face of the earth, God can. It is always a divine option, since anything is a divine option; but graciously in Jesus, it was not the one eternally exercised. The option of grace, love - a bundle of joy - was the one given. Praise God for that!

Living into that flow, allowing our story to be contextualized in the story of salvation – its terrifying drama as well as its simple and wondrous gazing at a beautiful, wordless child – is a gift of this Christian life. Many people live with the free-floating anxiety of doom; it has no boundary or frame, just a firm grip on one’s heart, mind, and soul. There is no salvation in their story, either through destruction or new birth; “we are all just going to die.” As Christians, our call is to share the story so that others can have somewhere to place theirs – all the terrifying drama and giddy joy of the fullness of life – including the so-called finale of resurrection.

I was struck in the feedback from our convention, the number of comments that indicated that people felt there may not have been enough stress or conflict during our meeting. This made me laugh, I must say! I understand it after all the highly conflicted conventions of years past. This year, there was little to be contentious about: the business was, shall we say, boring. And, praise God for that! There surely will be more contentious conventions in our future; it is just the normal ebb and flow of things. We do not, though, need to make the mistake of Christians who lack the gift of a lectionary and take our focus from just one scene of the story of salvation. For every bit of terrifying drama in the scripture, there is a bundle of joy there is ease, laughter and giddy happiness. As Anglicans, we seek balance and order, but we do allow the joy of the presence – the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus – to be the story in which we read our own. We always know in the midst of terrifying drama, joy, unconditional love, and grace are swaddled in a manger somewhere close at hand. In our individual lives and as a diocese, let us rejoice in the God of salvation, who has given us a wondrous, dramatic, joyful - and sometimes terrifying - life to enjoy.

With Advent blessings,  
+Mary

## COMMITTEE ON VITALITY AND GROWTH: A Helping Hand

Looking to increase your church’s income? Add membership? Need new ideas for outreach?

There’s a helping hand. Your Diocesan Committee on Vitality and Growth (CVG) is looking for your “best practices” to share with other parishes. We plan for each edition of *Along the King’s Highway* to contain one or more best practices for your consideration. Not all will fit every parish, but one may strike a chord with your parish’s needs and be helpful.

For example, St. John the Divine in Morgan Hill has implemented its Preschool Program in such a way that the program has brought in substantial funding to support church programs. In addition, forty-two young families have been added to the church rolls.

Not your cup of tea? What about a golf tournament? Well-planned tournaments can bring in amounts ranging from a few hundred dollars to several hundred thousand dollars. St. Andrew’s in Ben Lomond has held a small annual tournament. St. Stephens in the Field has a larger one, and there is an even larger annual tournament to benefit Cystic Fibrosis research at Stanford.

Other churches in the diocese have started Amazon programs where income is generated when items are ordered from Amazon through the church’s web site. Again, the amount raised can range from a few hundred to several thousand dollars depending on the size of the church, the amount of promotion given to the program, and the amount purchased.

St. Thomas, Sunnyvale, has established a self-supporting program that feeds about 200 persons three days per week. About 100 volunteers support this program, and not all of them are members of St. Thomas. The program had a modest start when some volunteers invited twelve homeless people from Washington Park across the street from the church to a free Thanksgiving meal. The mighty oak starts growing from one small acorn.

There are many ideas that can take root such as concerts featuring outstanding artists and plays written by local authors using local talent or Episcopal community revivals featuring some of the best preachers in the Episcopal Church. There are numerous possibilities for various programs that might interest others. St. John’s, Aptos, could provide expertise in how to learn about your neighborhood and what to do with the information. After all, they did exactly that when they moved from their old location in Capitola to their new one in Aptos. And, while your congregation may not be likely to anticipate such a move, you could learn how to get to know your neighborhood better.

Retirement homes and convalescent homes frequently have residents who are unable to attend regular church services for various reasons. Many would welcome a brief Morning Prayer service. Our diocese is blessed with talent. We have members who are skilled in conflict mediation; persons who can provide pointers on property/facility management and others who can teach how to make CDs and DVDs of worship services for shut-ins. Some members of the diocese are skilled retreat leaders for vestry retreats as well as women’s and men’s retreats. We have others who can help with web site design; stewardship program planning; and training lay servers, greeters, ushers, etc. St. Timothy’s in Mountain View has an excellent job assistance program, a service sorely needed in the present economy. The program has been highly successful at St. Tim’s, and they have a nearly 50% success rate in securing employment for the participants. They are willing to assist other congregations in the diocese interested in exploring the use of such programs for their own benefit.

Many of these services are available at little or no cost.

Do you have a “best practice” that has worked well in your parish? How about sharing it with us? You could be featured in a future article in *Along the King’s Highway*.

It is the intent of the CVG to explore some of these programs in greater detail in future issues of *Along the King’s Highway*. Be on the lookout for them.

*Submitted by Mr. Floyd Farlow, member of the committee on Vitality and Growth*



## A Report from the Theology of Marriage Task Force

The 2008 Diocesan Convention passed a resolution calling for the national church to undertake a study of the theology of marriage. When this reached the floor of General Convention in 2009, it was passed by the House of Deputies and then referred by the House of Bishops to the Executive Committee.

In the meantime, Bishop Mary convened a diocesan study group in order to start a conversation within our own diocese. Working with the chair of the task force, the Rev. Ernest Boyer, the Bishop attempted to find people with some particular interest in the areas whose theological views spanned the full spectrum of those represented in the diocese. It proved difficult to find individuals to represent the full range of perspectives. People willing not only to present their own positions but also to truly listen to and engage with those of opposing viewpoints were needed. In addition, they had to be willing to make the substantial time commitment required by the task force. Finding such individuals took many months, but the group is now not only established, it's off and running.

The members of the task force are Ernest Boyer, Michael Ferrito, Caroline Hall, Fred Heard, Laurence Robles, Judi Sato, Lynn Westercamp, and Julie Zintsmaster. The group is meeting with the intention of discovering how to have a respectful and informative conversation about the theology of marriage and finding resources that assist in that discussion. It does not intend to produce a definitive statement but rather to develop a process by which church members can have an open conversation and together explore the question of marriage despite theological and political differences.

In 2009, the group spent time getting to know one another by sharing their own experiences of marriage, and then approached Biblical texts. For each text that was suggested as pertaining to marriage, we attempted to reach agreement about what it actually tells us about marriage. In most cases, we reached consensus but, in some cases, a minority opinion was also noted.

In the first quarter of 2010, the Task Force plans to consider the ecclesiological, cultural, and theological traditions around marriage. We are reading several books to help in this process.

*Submitted by the Rev. Caroline Hall, member of Marriage Task Force*

## Discern Your Church's Spiritual Heart

*By Celia Allison Hahn, D.D.*

Five parishes in Washington, D.C., have been teaching the rest of us how to uncover the hidden spirit of a congregation, thanks to a grant from the Soper Trust.

Ascension, Silver Spring, St. Thomas' Parish, St. Peters, Poolesville, St. Patrick's, and Ascension Lexington Park are sharing their wisdom about the spiritual heart of a church's life with the rest of us. What follows is a description of the research, not a cookbook, though there are practical learnings from the process.

The first year's work focused on the congregation's gifts. After I visited each parish, learning something of their history, and talking to pastors (who were my partners throughout), we asked each church to choose interviewees who were thus revealed as the spiritual leaders of the congregation. Interviews provided a way to begin to sense the hidden corporate spirit through the eyes of members and rector.

Important learnings about the gifts of these parishes emerged. Some churches have experienced a resurrection: having come through tough times (a devastating fire, the departure of a group of parishioners) they are overjoyed to discover that they are strong at the broken places. It is as though a rock had been thrown into the stream of congregational life, which now flows on by grace into a new future. Some churches find their gift in experiencing the power of their diversity—in spite of the racial or gay/straight barriers that often separate people in our society they know that they are one body in Christ.

During the second year, the focus moved from Gifts to Call. I met with each pastor (and sometimes others) to plan one or more discernment meetings. After checking out our sense of each congregation's gifts, we engaged in whole-person ways (prayer, looking at our lives through scripture, mime, meditation, and art) of listening. Given these gifts, what are we called to be and do now? The third year's work is to let people know what we learned. I've written a book about what these five parishes have been teaching us, which was published by the Alban Institute. Work stretching beyond the research has included workshops, in cooperation with The Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation, and with Alban, and recruiting and mentoring spiritual companions for parishes—a role that emerged out of the experience of the research. Interested parishes can order the book, *Uncovering Your Church's Hidden Spirit*, from The Alban Institute 1-800 486 1318 x2.



## UTO Update

For those of you who contacted me at convention, your UTO supplies are on their way!

On November 7, there was a UTO ingathering in Paso Robles. For those who could not attend, thank you for sending in your checks. The ingathering collection totaled over \$5,400 with only 24% of our congregations participating. Just think if every congregation who did not have a UTO collection gave only \$25 each, we would have another \$1,000! Please contact me if you are interested in leading this movement in your congregation. All UTO materials are also available in Spanish.

The concept of the United Thank Offering, giving a few coins daily to express thanks for our blessings, is a simple one. I can order blue boxes for your congregation if you would like to start or revitalize this tradition. The blessings come back in so many ways.

Speaking of UTO blessings, it is that time of year again to submit proposals. Proposals need to be submitted to me by the end of the year. You can find the guidelines and an application at <http://www.episcopalchurch.org/uto.htm>. While you are there, read the rich history of this program, launched in 1889, that distributes 100% of all funds collected to worthy causes around the globe.

Many thanks and blessings to those of you who put a few coins daily in a little blue box to support great works. Our next ingathering will be in the spring. Keep up your daily practice of giving thanks. Here is a United Thank Offering Prayer:

### Path to God Prayer

Source of all creation, all love, all true joy,  
accept we pray these outward signs of our profound  
and continuing thankfulness for all of life.

Bless those who will benefit from these gifts through the outreach  
of the United Thank Offering;  
and keep each of us ever thankful for all the blessings of joy and  
challenge that come our way; through him  
who is the greatest gift and blessing of all,  
Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen

*Submitted by Ms. Edy Unthank, Diocesan UTO Coordinator  
edyunthank@yahoo.com*



Bishop Mary visited Florida in November. She was the guest preacher at Diocesan Convention there and she also presided at a confirmation at St. Margaret's. Here she is with Bishop Frade who was the preacher at her installation at St. Andrew's.

## Christmas Marketing Materials Available

[December 3, 2009] Continuing to provide marketing materials to tell our story, The Episcopal Church Office of Communication is offering Christmas ads, announcements, and postcards.

As part of the Church's outreach and evangelism efforts, print ads in various sizes and postcards are available for local and regional use by dioceses, congregations, and provinces.

The print ads and postcards were originally created by the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio, which is generously making them available to the wider Church.

"Secular Christmas is expensive and full of stress. A return to the real meaning of Christmas is the best antidote," explained Anne Rudig, Director of Communication. "The purpose of these materials is to welcome all to the experience of Christmas in the Episcopal Church."

The print ads, which can be customized for local and regional use, read: "You can't fill that empty space with fruitcake." The postcards may be used as direct mail:

"Need to believe in more than flying reindeer?"  
"Give them something they can't outgrow"  
"Gift tip: Super-hero that won't break on Christmas day"  
"No elves. No credit cards. No mall music"  
"You can't fill that empty space with fruitcake."

All materials carry the familiar Episcopal shield with the words, The Episcopal Church Welcomes You.

The materials are available here: <http://www.episcopalchurch.org/adcollaborative.htm>

The materials are available at no cost. Additionally, space is provided for customization of local church and web site address.

"We encourage dioceses and congregations to place these ads in their regional media outlets and to use these postcards to increase outreach and attendance during Advent," Rudig said. "These are important tools in our efforts to evangelize and retain."

Rudig noted this is another in a series of materials that will be available as an overall communication strategy for The Episcopal Church is developed.

The Episcopal Church welcomes all who worship Jesus Christ in 109 dioceses and three regional areas in 16 nations. The Episcopal Church is a member province of the worldwide Anglican Communion.

*Submitted by Ms. Neva Rae Fox, Public Affairs Officer, The Episcopal Church*

## Daily Advent Meditations from Episcopal Divinity School

November 30, 2009, CAMBRIDGE, MA

The new president and dean of Episcopal Divinity School has an Advent gift for people of faith. "Our gift, not a Christmas gift, but an Advent gift, is a short daily meditation on the season and the lectionary," said The Very Rev. Dr. Katherine Hancock Ragsdale. "Advent is a season that is hard to live into. City streets and suburban lawns all are decked out with Christmas decorations; the newspapers are full of ads for Christmas sales; everything conspires to rob us of the depths, lessons, and joys of Advent. During this season, I hope you find time, once a week, to go to church. I hope you find time, once each day, to retreat into your own center to find that place where you can be present to the meaning of the season."

Delivered by president and dean Katherine Hancock Ragsdale, Monday through Friday, these brief video meditations are posted daily on the Episcopal Divinity School website, <http://www.eds.edu/>. To watch and listen, click on Advent Resources and Events.

"Because we live in such a fast-paced age where computers and technology are present in nearly everyone's lives on a daily basis, these meditations provide a moment for everyone to escape their obligations and reflect in spiritual thought," said The Rev. Dr. Ran Chase, Dean of Student and Community Life. "It is a great medium for everyone to use."

Episcopal Divinity School is a respected center of study and spiritual formation for lay and ordained leaders with a strong commitment to justice, compassion, and reconciliation. EDS, formed in 1974 with the merger of Philadelphia Divinity School (founded in 1857) and Episcopal Theological School (founded in 1867), offers doctor of ministry and master's degrees, as well as certificates in theological studies. Located on an eight-acre campus just a few blocks from Harvard Yard, EDS is a member of the Boston Theological Institute, a consortium of eight eminent theological schools, seminaries, and departments of religion.

*Submitted by Ms. Nancy Davidge*

## Insight on African Religion and Care of the Earth Highlights Epiphany West 2010 Conference at Church Divinity School of the Pacific

For more than ten years, Church Divinity School of the Pacific's (CDSP) annual, interfaith conference Epiphany West has gathered leaders in ministry from throughout the church for rich conversation with leading thinkers and practitioners on issues of vital concern in a changing church and world. Held January 25-29 on CDSP's lush Berkeley campus, Epiphany West 2010: Sacred Elements—Creating Sustainable Earth Communities offers courses, lectures, films, worship services, and an art opening that invite a textured conversation within a diverse community of scholars, authors, ministers, activists, artists and more on the role faith can play in creating visions of economically- and environmentally-sustainable relationships to creation and how communities of faith may be involved in realizing these visions. Among more than 18 remarkable speakers at the conference is Western Kentucky University professor Isabel (Bella) Mukonyora.

Mukonyora was 21 when the former British colony Rhodesia became Zimbabwe, and both her spiritual and academic development were deeply influenced by an active blending of Western and indigenous African cultural resources. While her parents were Roman Catholic, her grandmother, an herbalist whose traditional African spirituality emphasized the honoring of nature and of one's ancestors, refused to convert to Christianity. Likewise, deeply rooted in African culture and identity, Mukonyora was educated in the United Kingdom, where she eventually completed a doctorate in religious studies at Oxford, focusing on an indigenous Christian sect, the African Masowe Apostles, who practice a blend of mainstream colonial Christianity and indigenous Shona traditions focused on reverence for nature

For Mukonyora, the emphasis in Masowe spirituality on the wilderness—the sacredness of the space in between urban and cultivated areas—says much about the hybrid character of African culture and religion in the aftermath of European colonialism. "The Masowe are an example of people creating new boundaries of meaning for people caught up in this changing political and physical environment," she explained. Mukonyora will share insights on the Masowe understanding of nature, wilderness, gender, and community as "sacred elements" during a plenary address at Epiphany West on Thursday, January 28, 2010.

Other plenary speakers for Epiphany West 2010 include Safei-Eldin Hamed, of Chatham University, who will discuss sustainability in Arab-Muslim cultures; and Patricia Watts, founder of Ecoartsapce, a nonprofit focused on the intersection of art and sustainability, who will discuss the aesthetics of sustainability. CDSP Associate Professor of Theology Marian Grau will offer the conference keynote address. Diocese of California Bishop Marc Andrus will celebrate a conference Eucharist on Wednesday, January 27, with Mike Schut, Economic and Environmental Affairs Officer of the Episcopal Church preaching. Green, paperless registration for the conference is available online at [www.cdsp.edu/call](http://www.cdsp.edu/call).



Ms. Isabel Mukonyora, a professor at Western Kentucky University, is one of the speakers at Epiphany West 2010.

## Haiti Mission Trip

This is a letter from Sarah Rice, a member of Trinity Cathedral in San Jose.

Greetings!

I am traveling in January to Haiti on a mission trip for Bethlehem Ministry, an organization that provides programs and support to the extreme poor in Haiti. I plan to be there for seven days, talking with local people involved in different programs, assisting in the local health clinic, and better understanding what the needs are for this organization as it grows over the next five years.

My goal for this trip is to understand more about Haiti and how Bethlehem Ministry has been working with the local people to alleviate the problems brought on by poverty. I will then be able to guide the Board of Directors in identifying important activities and processes that will allow them to market and raise funds more effectively, identify future programs, and help them further their mission of combating extreme poverty in Haiti.

I am asking people to participate in my mission in two distinct ways. First, I need prayer support. If you are interested in praying for me for a day between Jan. 10-18, please send an email to [rice@seneb.com](mailto:rice@seneb.com) or call (408) 315-8961 and let me know. I'll provide you some more information about this as my departure date draws closer.

Second, I am raising funds to defray my travel costs as well as purchase medical supplies for a local clinic in Haiti. If you are interested in giving a tax-deductible donation, you can either write a check or donate online. To make an online donation, go to <http://www.bethlehemministry.org/donations> and click on "PayPal." Add "for Sarah Rice" in the description section. To donate by mail, please make your check out to Bethlehem Ministry, put "for Sarah Rice" in the comment section and mail to Bethlehem Ministry  
105 Rocky Road  
Morganton, GA 30560.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me! When I return, I'd be happy to meet with you or make a presentation to your church about my trip and how awesome the organization is doing to help others in Haiti. It really is amazing all that they are doing in such a poverty-stricken nation.

Thanks for your consideration!  
Sarah

## About Bethlehem Ministry

Bethlehem Ministry is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization working to combat extreme poverty in Haiti: 80% of the nation lives beneath the poverty line, and over 40% in abject poverty (lacking education, work, access to clean water, etc). Bethlehem Ministry raises awareness of the Haitian situation, provides custom programs for the local population, and raises funds to combat poverty. To date, Bethlehem Ministry has three primary programs that, taken together, are working to combat poverty in Haiti's northeastern region. The organization is well-known and well-respected by the local community and is therefore able to make significant progress toward their goal. Their three major programs include:

A school, built from the ground up, now has an entire campus that supports K-7 education for over 500 kids in the area. They are guaranteed a high quality education, books, learning materials and a hot meal every day. For some, it's the only meal they get. The school provides a regular, steady source of electricity for its campus, and a computer lab that connects them to the world beyond their town and beyond Haiti.

A health clinic, started in the last couple of years, focuses on basic health care and education. Malnourishment, diabetes, and dental and eye care are all of primary concern to the local population, along with other diseases common to Haiti. The clinic has established a visiting doctors program that allows professionals from the US to travel throughout northeastern Haiti and treat people in their local communities as needed.

Jatropha Popenya - Jatropha is a plant native to Haiti and perfect for producing charcoal, cooking oil and biodiesel. Popenya is the Haitian word for nursery. The nursery will provide needed seedlings to farmers and other organizations to grow cash-generating crops and will provide fuel that can be used throughout the country. This will create jobs and allow for much-needed sustainable development. For more information, please see <http://www.bethlehemministry.org>



## Honduras Service-Learning Opportunity for Youth and Young Adults

Sierra Service Project (SSP) is an interdenominational non-profit that has been providing challenging service projects coupled with spiritual growth in a safe environment for junior and senior high youth and young adults since 1975. SSP is blessed to have a growing presence in the Diocese of El Camino Real. This past summer St. Andrews Episcopal Church of Saratoga and a group from the Diocese of El Camino Real each sent a junior and senior high group to one of our six domestic project sites.

SSP is excited to announce plans for the 2010 Honduras Service Project. Since 2003, SSP has sent teams of volunteers to Honduras to experience the culture, live in community together, and serve with Hondurans. All told, volunteers have constructed 28 homes. SSP plans to build eight more in 2010.

At SSP, Honduras participants will have the opportunity to be immersed in the culture and life of one of the poorest countries in the Americas. Volunteers work alongside Hondurans to build two simple, but safe and dry homes. There will also be opportunities to learn about local ministries serving Hondurans. The Honduras Project has proven to be a place of great spiritual growth for volunteers. One youth participant has called this experience "SSP on steroids"!

In 2010, SSP will send four project teams to Honduras. The summer has been divided into two sessions, and two teams will be in-country during each session: June 23 – July 7 and July 14 – 28. Trips are two weeks long and volunteers register as individuals. Volunteers must be mature high school juniors or seniors or college-age young adults.

Because of financial support from the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), SSP was able to lower the trip price for 2010. Register by December 31, 2009, and the cost is only \$1,700! Participants will also have the choice to depart from Los Angeles, California, or Houston, Texas. Visit the [Sierra Service Project website](#) for more details and registration information.

*Submitted by Mallory Naake  
Program Associate  
Sierra Service Project  
(916) 488-6441*

## What is "Anglican Spirituality" Today? Online Course Explores Spiritual Practices in Contemporary Life

The living out of faith in the Anglican tradition is sustained by diverse spiritual resources drawn from scripture, early church and medieval practices of prayer and worship, the Book of Common Prayer, and contemporary adaptations of spiritual practices from throughout the global Anglican Communion and beyond. "Anglican Spiritual Practices," a Spring 2010 online course through the Center for Anglican Learning & Leadership (CALL) taught by CDSP Assistant Professor of Christian Spiritualities Elizabeth Drescher, Ph.D., explores a range of spiritual practices, focusing particularly on how they nurture and sustain active discipleship in Anglican communities today.

CALL offers online courses for continuing education and formation for laypeople and clergy throughout the Episcopal Church. Registration for "Anglican Spiritual Practices" and other courses on Bible, worship, spirituality, history and more is now open online at [www.cdsp.edu/call](http://www.cdsp.edu/call).

When: February 1 – May 21, 2010  
Where: [www.cdsp.edu/call](http://www.cdsp.edu/call)  
Cost: \$370 (\$290 for groups of 3 or more)  
Contact: [call@cdsp.edu](mailto:call@cdsp.edu)  
Registration Deadline: January 18, 2010

Note: This course is also available for academic credit for CDSP and GTU students. For more information, visit: [http://www.cdsp.edu/academic\\_online.php](http://www.cdsp.edu/academic_online.php).

## Contacts and Credits

Ms. Edy Unthank  
Editor  
editor@edecr.org

### Editorial Staff

The Rev. Brian Nordwick  
Ms. Jan Martin  
Ms. Barbara Rice  
Ms. Ann Wright

### Photo Contributors

Ms. Mary Cox  
Mr. John Mc Curry

### Graphic Support

Mr. John Little

## Regular Columns in Future Issues:

### Mission Highlights

History and news about our mission congregations, old and new.

### Parish Highlights

History and news about our parishes, large and small.

### Organizations

Information about the various active organizations in our Diocese such as the Order of St. Luke, Daughters of the King, the Order of St. Francis, the Brotherhood of St. Matthew's, and more.

### Renewal Groups

Information about Via Media, Alpha, Cursillo, 40 Days of Purpose and others.

### Comings and Goings

### Prayer Requests

### Calendar of Events

### Reports from Diocesan Committees



## December Calendar

6	Visitation, St. Mary's, Pacific Grove
12	Ecumenical Service - St. Stephen's, San Jose and St. Julie's 7pm at St. Julie's
13	Visitation, St. John's, Morgan Hill
13	Lessons and Carols, St. Peter's Morro Bay 5pm
20	Visitation, Holy Spirit, Campbell
23	Committee on Vitality and Growth 10 am, Gilroy or Marina

## January Calendar

16	Conference on Social Networking 10 am, St. Paul's, Salinas
23	Navigating the Ministry Discernment Process 10 - 1pm, St. Paul's, Salinas

## Book Review

### *Return to Your First Love*

There are many people that question whether or not God is real. *Return to Your First Love* is an inspirational story about one woman's life that will give an atheist second thought. Author Teresa R. Jones is a woman who has believed in God her entire life. She was zealous for God as a child. However, as she embarks upon adulthood, she commences a part-time relationship with God to indulge in the lures of the world. As a result, she suffers the consequences of carnality. By the time Teresa reaches her late twenties, she is weary and battered by the struggles of the world and the instability of living a double life. At this defining moment in her life, she repents and embraces the close walk with God she relished as a child. As a result, she experiences a vicissitude of blessings. Teresa's life is not absent from trials in struggles, but as she continues to seek Jesus Christ, she grows and evolves and discovers that life is much sweeter.

*Return to Your First Love* is now available in hardcover and paperback. It can be purchased from [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) or [Barnes&Noble.com](http://Barnes&Noble.com) and bookstores nationwide.

*Return to Your First Love* is not the typical self-help/relationships book filled with anecdotes and quotes from experts. Readers are invited to sit in the front row to experience actual events that dig deep and expose carnality and misconstrued ideas about Christianity, which will, in turn, guide them to a path of true intimacy with God.



Deadline to submit articles for the February Online-only Edition is January 31

You can submit articles to the editor via e-mail at editor@edecr.org

or send hard copy to Edy Unthank c/o

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church  
7269 Santa Teresa Blvd.  
San Jose, CA 95139

# Noel

