May 2017

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Chuck Perfater retires...really!

Canon Chuck Perfater has been the Provincial Executive Coordinator of Province II since 2004. He has managed the work of the province for seventeen years. See a few photos here: [http://www.province2.org/chuck-perfater-retires.html](http://www.province2.org/chuck-perfater-retires.html) While he has announced repeatedly to the Provincial Council that he would like to retire, he has been asked to stay on “until...” since 2014. Now he is actually retired. All his records have been transported to the Diocese of Long Island, so we know it has really happened.

Chuck has been a faithful servant of the Episcopal church and served in numerous capacities besides that of Executive Coordinator. At the Diocese of NJ Convention on March 5, 2016, he was presented The Bishop’s Cross for Distinguished Service. This is the first time this award had been given, so he was the inaugural recipient. In addition to chairing numerous committees in the diocese, Chuck has been a six-time deputy from the Diocese of NJ to General Convention. (see more about Chuck: [http://www.province2.org/perfater-award.html](http://www.province2.org/perfater-award.html))

Chuck’s leadership and enthusiasm will be missed.

Our congregation is an asset?

Yes, every congregation is an asset in the Episcopal Branch of the Jesus Movement! If you wander into a new place, the Episcopal Church is likely to be a place where you will be welcomed, where the liturgy will be familiar, where there will be concern for social justice issues, and where there will be people serving others in the community. But this is often a well-kept secret.

Our call to share the good news of Jesus tells us that evangelism is an imperative, not a bad word. Now there is a new tool developing to help us tell our stories, the Episcopal Asset Map. The Episcopal Asset Map is a joint project of The Episcopal Church and Episcopal Relief & Development and it is intended to be a searchable platform that will help us to tell our stories and share our gifts with each other. ([https://episcopalassetmap.org/about-map](https://episcopalassetmap.org/about-map))

This online platform shows the locations and ministries of Episcopal churches, schools and institutions. Pins appear on the map and search functions allow users to explore their local area or the entire country. Here, Episcopalians can tell the full story of how they are a part of the Jesus Movement. Clicking on a pin (or a link from the list view) provides contact information and descriptions of programs. But this project is different from many other mapping platforms because it is completely grassroots-populated with oversight by appointed Diocesan Map Officers.
Administrators. This means that the accuracy of information is up to you! This project can only be successful if you participate and join in sharing the story of The Church.

Each congregation is already on the map and the link is just waiting for your congregation to get together and fill in your story. In addition to your contact information you can add pictures and videos. You can link to outside sources such as newspaper articles about your congregation. Right now, most of these asset links are empty of all but the title and location. They are waiting to be filled with the life-giving stories of your congregation.

- See the link and video on the Episcopal Relief and Development website for an overview: http://www.episcopalrelief.org/what-we-do/us-disaster-program/asset-map
- Go to the Asset Map website and explore: https://episcopalassetmap.org/
- Want to get started? Vicki Ix of the Diocese of Western Massachusetts has a pdf outlining all of the steps: http://www.episcopalrelief.org/uploads/EducationFileModel/166/file/How%20To%20Episcopal%20Asset%20Map%20Survey.pdf

How does the church communicate? – EpisComm17

Each year in the Spring the Episcopal Communicators hold their annual conference. This year it was April 18-22 in Cincinnati, OH. There were over 150 communicators of every level from small church congregations to large dioceses coast to coast. The opportunities for networking and learning were boundless! Next year's conference will be EpisComm18, April 17-20, 2018 at Kanuga Conference Center, Hendersonville, NC. I hope that every diocese will budget time and resources to send at least one person responsible for communications. Information about Episcopal Communicators, membership and coming events is on the website: http://www.episcopalcommunicators.org/.

Province II was represented by myself, Nina Nicholson of the Diocese of Newark, Kirk Peterson from the Diocese of Newark and contributor to The Living Church, Denise Fillion of the Diocese of Long Island, Sonja Slother from St. Paul’s Cathedral in the Diocese of WNY, Walter Baer of the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe, John Rollins from the Diocese of Newark, and Nathan Brockman from Trinity Wall Street. If there were others from the province, I am sorry that I missed them.
The workshops, presenters and keynoters were outstanding. Here is a partial list of workshops: Communicating the Gospel, How to make a quality welcome video on a budget, Teaching teachers – diocesan communicators, Branding 101, Invite, welcome, connect, Transforming communications through asset mapping, Video on the fly, How to identify and nurture advocates, Latin/Hispanic Evangelism in English, Refresh and revitalize your content strategy, Planning your special event, and more! The keynote speaker was Jana Reiss, the author of *Flunking Sainthood Every Day: A Daily Devotional for the Rest of Us*, among other things. Her topic for us was how can your church or organization identify its core message—and, just as importantly, communicate that message effectively to both insiders and outsiders?

One of the highlights of the conference is always the Polly Bond Awards ceremony. The Polly Bond Awards for Excellence in Communication are inspired by beloved communicator and founding member, Polly Bond. Episcopal Communicators recognizes outstanding work produced by our members.

This year there were two awards given to Province II communicators. Congratulations to:

- Denise Fillion with The Rev. Canon Kris Lee - Honorable Mention in the category of Video: Long-Form for "Writing Icons: The Rev’d Regan O’Callaghan". Watch the video at [https://vimeo.com/171921507](https://vimeo.com/171921507). Denise is the Director of Communication for the Diocese of Long Island and Canon Lee is the Senior Communication Consultant of the diocese.

- Sonja Slother - Award of Excellence in the category of Visual Arts: Graphic Design for “I am the Light of the World” Sonja is the Communications Administrator of St. Paul's Cathedral, Buffalo, NY in the Diocese of Western NY.

Here’s hoping to see many of you in Kanuga next April!

**Support our Diocesan Young Adult Service Corps Member!**

Mr. Ben Hansknecht of St. Peter’s Church in Cazenovia, NY (CNY) will spend a year volunteering in the Philippines through the [Young Adult Service Corps](#) of The Episcopal Church. Prior to his departure, Ben is raising funds to make his year in mission possible. Bishop DeDe encourages the entire diocesan community to pray for Ben, follow his journey online, and support his fundraising as we are able. [Download a bulletin insert about Ben’s plans and his fundraising efforts to share with your congregation.](#) [Read a letter from Ben on the diocesan website](#).
Out in our neighborhoods

From the Diocese of Albany

The Beaver Cross Ministry Internship is a residential program framed to help young adults aged 18-25 live as disciples of Jesus while carrying out The Great Commission with their whole lives. This internship gives young adults an opportunity to thrive in their gifts and talents and use them to serve and build The Kingdom of God. This program is a blend of corporate prayer, worship, formal teaching/training, and hands on experience. Every aspect of the internship is intentionally designed with the aim of helping young adults grow personally, professionally, and in their relationship with Jesus, all in the context of a supportive Christian community. More information: http://www.beavercrossministries.org/bcm-internship.html

From the Diocese of Central New York

“It is God who has brought us to this place.”

A Sudanese community leader reflects on the journey to Syracuse.

By Abraham Deng

Abraham Deng is a member of the vestry of St. Paul’s Church in Syracuse. Having come to Syracuse as a refugee from Sudan, Mr. Deng is a leader of the Sudanese congregation at St. Paul’s Church. Over the coming months, we will periodically feature reflections from Mr. Deng on the experience of the Sudanese community in Central New York.

The reflection linked was originally published in the May 2017 issue of St. Paul’s monthly newsletter, The Courier. Read the article: https://cnyepiscopal.org/2017/05/god-brought-us-place-sudanese-american-community-leader-reflects-journey-syracuse/

From the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe

The Council of Advice recently appointed the Strategic Plan Committee for the Convocation. They are pleased to report that the Committee represents a good cross-section of the Convocation, with members from five countries, and a wide variety of gifts, experiences, and backgrounds, in small missions as well as larger parishes. The responsibility of this committee is to create a Strategic Plan for the Convocation which will become the basis of the Profile for the search for a new Bishop — and the new Bishop’s guide to where to lead the Convocation in the next few years.
From the Diocese of Haiti

Right now, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is considering whether or not to extend Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Haitians in the United States.

The current Temporary Protected Status for Haiti is set to expire on July 22, 2017. The Episcopal Public Policy Network is encouraging everyone to call Secretary Kelly and the White House to let them know that you support extending TPS for vulnerable Haitians. Find out more: http://advocacy.episcopalchurch.org/app/document/20883645?0

From the Diocese of Long Island

**Video News:** Community Leaders, Students Vow to Take Action Against Opioid Epidemic - Bishop Provenzano and several other clergy from the Episcopal Diocese of Long Island joined over 1,200 community leaders and students at St. Anthony’s High School for a forum focused on combating the opioid epidemic on Long Island on April 26. See the video: https://vimeo.com/dioceselongisland/againstopioids

From the Diocese of Newark

**Senior Moments: Transitioning from driver to passenger** - We’ve all seen it – the little old lady who can barely see over the steering wheel, the old man who drives 5 miles down the highway with his blinker on, or the headlines proclaiming another senior citizen has confused gas pedal and brake pedal, and has driven into a building. Read the whole article by Patty Watts: http://dioceseofnewark.org/content/senior-moments-transitioning-driver-passenger

From the Diocese of New Jersey

**Christ Church, Woodbury blesses area firefighters** - Christ Episcopal Church honored those who are first responders in times of emergency with a blessing of trucks and equipment on Sunday, May 7th, commemorating the feast of St. Florian, the patron saint of firefighters.

In what is now an annual event, the Rev. Brian K. Burgess blessed 20 vehicles, lined up in the parking lot behind the church on Delaware Street, next to the Gloucester County Courthouse.

Packed with uniformed emergency personnel, church members and visitors, the lot was filled, according to Father Burgess. Some 130 watched a procession into the church, which included the bagpipes of the Emerald Society, and participated in a service of Evensong.

Fire Chaplain Kevin Davis, pastor of St. Paul’s United Methodist Church in Paulsboro, was awarded the St. Florian Medal of Mercy at the event. A reception hosted by the church followed in Parish Hall.

The blessing, procession and Evensong service honors St. Florian, a Roman officer who was martyred around 300 AD.
From the Diocese of New York

The *Episcopal New Yorker* Spring Prayer Issue is now online.  
http://www.evergreeneditions.com/publication/?i=403757&ver=html5&p=1#{"page":0,"issue_id":403757}

From the Diocese of Rochester

**Farmworkers Albany Day: Tue, May 23**

Farmworker Albany Day (FAD) is an annual day of protest where advocates, farm worker supporters, and workers from different parts of the New York State converge on the state capitol to call for basic labor and human rights for New York State farm workers. Read more:  
http://www.episcopalrochester.org/content/farmworkers-albany-day-tue-may-23

From the Diocese of the Virgin Islands

St. John’s Episcopal Church Restoration Committee is committed to the preservation and restoration of one of St. Croix’s Landmark buildings. The St. John’s Church Restoration Project is a comprehensive undertaking, encompassing the church, Sunday School building, rectory, churchyard (cemetery) and grounds. Find out more:  
http://stjcrestoration.com/home

From the Diocese of Western New York

U.S., Canada police agencies to honor officers killed on duty - Law enforcement personnel who died in the line of duty will be honored at 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 17, at the 20th annual Niagara Interfaith Chaplaincy Police Memorial Service. The service will take place at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 400 Ridge St., Lewiston. Read more:  
http://episcopalwny.org/2017/05/u-s-canada-police-agencies-honor-officers-killed-duty/

Opportunities and Events

Episcopal Church releases ‘Becoming Beloved Community’ guide for racial reconciliation efforts

Presiding Bishop Curry and President Jennings will host a webinar to discuss the Church’s long-term commitment on May 16 from 3 to 3:45 p.m. ET.  
Find links here >
Following a year of listening, consulting and reflection, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and House of Deputies President the Rev. Gay Clark Jennings and officers of the House of Bishops and House of Deputies are inviting Episcopalians to study and commit to using “Becoming Beloved Community: The Episcopal Church’s Long-term Commitment to Racial Healing, Reconciliation and Justice.” The full document is available here.

Internship Fall 2017
The Episcopal Church’s Office of Government Relations is seeking an intern to provide research, policy, and administrative support during the fall of 2017, approximately from the end of August to the beginning of December.

More information > The deadline to apply is Friday, May 26th.

September 28 – October 1, 2017 • Sunday River, Maine
Each working day, mariners push themselves in a race against time and nature to deliver the world’s commerce. In addition to the outdoor elements, our event also includes a “Philanthropy Challenge”, asking participants to raise funds and awareness for the Seamen’s Church Institute (SCI) and its mariner support services. Find out more >

Episcopal Women Together: Women in the Episcopal Diocese of Newark have recently launched a new organization with a new name: Episcopal Women Together (EWT), and an event. On May 30th, the Rev. Sara Lilja, Director of Lutheran Episcopal Advocacy Ministry NJ, will kickoff a postcard campaign. The event will provide an opportunity for participants to engage in advocacy on issues related to women.

“ENVIRONMENTAL CIRCLES”
A Symposium on New Jersey Sustainability Issues
Presented by the Theology Working Group of the New Jersey Council of Churches
Date: June 10, 2017 – 10:30-2:00 More information >

Register now for the 2017 Young Adult and Campus Ministry Leadership Conference, CULTIVATE: Resilient Hope, slated for June 25-28 at St. David’s Episcopal Church, Austin (Diocese of Texas). In addition to CULTIVATE: Resilient Hope, there will be a Pre-Conference on Sunday, June 25 from 2 pm to 6 pm. Read all about it and Follow this on Facebook

EYE 2017 - Let’s plan to have a good showing from Province II! The theme will be Peace. Read more.

All of the stories in this newsletter are on our website at http://www.province2.org