

The Workshops

Environmental Stewardship in the Parish

Jesus taught us to let our lights so shine that others may see our good works and give glory to God. Our diocese, the Episcopal Church, and the Anglican Communion have all recognized that caring for the Earth is one of the good works to which the Bible calls us, and is closely related to our responsibility for caring for the poor. Parishes that practice good environmental stewardship can indeed be lights to their communities, serving as examples of responsible Earth care and encouraging others to do likewise. This workshop will present a scriptural reflection on creation, especially as Jesus experienced it, and some practical information on how parishes can become better stewards of the land, water, air, and material resources that are entrusted to us by God. The ideas will be based on actual experiences of congregations in the diocese as well as a book that will be given to each parish, *7 Simple Steps to Green Your Church*.

Partnering for Growth

Jesus called disciples to be with him. He created a community of faith in his Name. By his presence and through his ministry, he built commitments to a mission with the principle purpose of growing new disciples. Our diocesan vision describes us as a “community of congregations,” a community of parishes and missions in Christ. We are to see, to recognize, this “family likeness” in one another. Are there ways and means that parishes and missions may encounter one another in partnership? This convention orients us to asking these questions with the conviction Jesus is indeed in our midst. Archdeacon Reverend Canon Dennis Blauser, canon missionary of Saint Jude’s Episcopal Church - Trinity Ministry Center, Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania, will be our guest for this workshop. In advance of convention, you can read more about St. Jude’s and Trinity by visiting their website www.stjudeseiscopal.org. Father Blauser will be accompanied by lay members of the Trinity mission committee.

St. Jude’s and Trinity Mission Center was created in January 2011. Trinity was three congregations who became one new mission. This workshop will relate how their conversation began, what developed from their prayers and imagining of the Spirit’s call, and with the benefit of a year’s reflection, what Trinity has learned about moving forward together. What values must be present and at work for such an initiative to be more than re-organizing for survival? What kind of leadership team, clergy and laity, are at the core? How might seeing Jesus in our midst and in the midst of changing environments lead to partnering for discipleship in his Name?

***Workshops will be held
on Friday, February 24
at 1:15 pm and 3:00 pm***

Feeding Ministry

The people of St. Andrew’s, Hurlock, share how their congregation was transformed by entering into mission in a fashion they once would have thought impossible. How can a congregation with an average attendance in the twenties feed 90 families a week? What was the reasoning behind starting this ministry? Beginning with scripture and the practice of faithful stewardship, they’ll show how a tiny group can feed hundreds, how they came to this ministry, how it enabled them to stop worrying about money and also bring families to see how love and caring reaches out. Speakers will include the folks who work in this ministry including non-members who have joined them. They will demonstrate the “nuts and bolts” and then discuss how they now envision their congregation as including all God’s people, beyond the church walls.

Practice of Prayer

Relationships are built in many ways. We are called into relationship with others through our Baptismal Covenant in the breaking of bread, in worshiping together, and in helping others in need. God also asks to be in relationship with us, not just through the struggles and the joys but in every moment. One way we might deepen our relationship with God is through the practice of Contemplative Prayer. The Spiritual Life Committee offers the diocesan delegates and guests an opportunity to experience some of these practices. This workshop represents a similar retreat offering that they will offer throughout the diocese during the year ahead. In this 90-minute session, the group will experience Centering Prayer, Lectio Divina, and join us in the conversation about Praying with Icons, Holy Doodling, Ignation Prayer and others. Gather with fellow pilgrims on the way for a deeper, more intimate relationship with the Divine.

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Anglican Covenant

The Rev. Dr. A. Katherine Grieb has taught New Testament at Virginia Theological Seminary since 1994. More importantly, she was one of two members from the Episcopal Church to serve on the nine member Covenant Design Group for the proposed Anglican Covenant. She will offer a presentation on the current draft of the Anglican Covenant, and will seek to further our understanding of why and how the Anglican Covenant is relevant and important to us and the Episcopal Church.

Called to Serve

This workshop is grounded in the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, "As I have loved you, so you are to love another," and offers ways to open our eyes, hearts and our doors to all regardless of race or class. Through reviewing history and sharing personal experiences, we can be led to demonstrate Jesus' presence in our lives; by listening to others' stories, we can learn to develop new ideas to include all peoples into our church family, to offer them help if needed, and to share Jesus' love with them. Discussion will be led by members of the Episcopal Church Women (ECW).

Convention Eucharist

Our Convention Eucharist features the Wye Conservatory of Music from Old Wye Parish, Wye Mills and Queenstown. This auditioned and professionally trained group of young musicians performs music of diverse styles from over the centuries, of both a sacred and secular nature. The Choral Scholars, designed for boys and girls who like to sing and perform beyond what is offered at their school, are conducted by Bonnie Forgacs and accompanied by Amy Morgan.

The Wye Choral Scholars program, founded in 2006, is a school year-long program that offers scholarships and training in vocal music to middle and high school singers. Students selected for the program study, rehearse, and sing advanced music from diverse historical and cultural traditions. No previous performance experience is required, but students are open to the challenge of learning ensemble singing. The Wye Youth Chorale's season runs from October to May. Weekly rehearsals are held at St. Luke's Chapel in Queenstown, where the students learn a variety of repertoire that is performed in concerts throughout the season.



The Scholars receive individual voice lessons, as well as choral direction, from Conservatory Artistic Director Bonnie Forgacs, an opera singer who has performed at Carnegie Hall and has appeared as a soloist in numerous operatic performances in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. Heard on both radio and television, she records with the Pro Arte Singers on the Musical Heritage Label. Ms. Forgacs is a gifted voice teacher with a studio in Denton; she instructs the Choral Scholars at St. Luke's Chapel in Queenstown.

The Choral Scholars each receive eighty dollars per month as a scholarship stipend. Twenty dollars of the stipend is for their own use, and they are encouraged to spend it in pursuit of their musical interests. The remaining sixty dollars is deposited in an education fund that the Wye Conservatory establishes for each scholar.

Besides concert appearances in the region, Wye Choral Scholars sing with the Wye Episcopal Parish Choir and perform as soloists and in ensemble from September through May on the first and third Sundays of the month at the 10:00 a.m. service at historic Old Wye Church in Wye Mills, and on the second and fourth Sundays at the 8:00 a.m. service at St. Luke's Chapel in Queenstown.

The Wye Operetta Workshop (WOW!) is now in its fourth year. After debuting in 2008 with standing-room-only performances of *An Evening with Gilbert and Sullivan*, WOW! returned to Easton the following two summers with *The Mikado* and *Iolanthe*, playing again to SRO audiences.

Having performed in many Gilbert & Sullivan operettas, Ms. Forgacs enjoys sharing these works with both performers and audiences. She regards the great success of the WOW! performances as an indication of both the quality of young local talent and the interest here on the mid-Shore for this kind of theatre.

We are pleased to welcome the Choral Scholars to our Diocesan Convention.