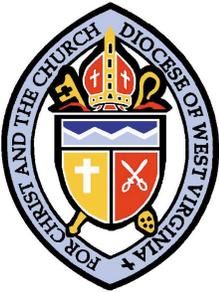


March/April 2008



## Team Ministry Pilot Project in Full Swing

By: The Ven. Faith Perrizo & The Very Rev. Theresa Kelley

Following recommendations from the Living Stones Conference in February of 2006, the Commission on Ministry and Regional Ministry Commission of the Diocese of West Virginia approved five locations for a Team Ministry Pilot Project. Living Stones is a partnership of twenty-four dioceses engaged in total ministry/team ministry/cluster ministry/collaborative ministry---it has many names and many forms! The Diocese of West Virginia began engagement in cluster ministry under the direction of Bishop John Smith. Bishop Smith's original vision had been to raise up and form teams of ordained and lay persons in several clusters and yokes to work together in a new model, addressing the reality that many small churches could no longer afford a full-time clergy person in residence. Unfortunately, Bishop Smith's model did not come to complete fruition and in many instances only the clergy person was raised up. This led to priests with full time secular jobs being asked to work long hours as the priest in residence.

In 2006, representatives from the Diocese of WV were challenged by representatives of other dioceses in a small group discussion at the Living Stones conference to revisit the original model and to engage in ministry development with laity and clergy in teams. A Team Ministry Pilot project was conceived and developed between February and July 2007. In July and August, The Rev. Theresa Kelley (Regional Ministries Commission facilitator) and The Ven. Faith Perrizo (Archdeacon), trained four others to form a team of six Ministry Developers to work at five sites. These Ministry Developers are The Rev. Kent Higgins, serving Ascension, Hinton, The Rev. Michael Simon, serving Emmanuel/Moorefield and St. Stephens/Romney, The Rev. Roy Gene Crist, serving the New River Episcopal Ministries, and The Rev. Gene Sheppard, serving the Brooke-Hancock cluster. Archdeacon Perrizo serves Chapel on the Mount/Snowshoe and St. John's/Marlinton, while she and The Rev. Kelley also serve as retreat leaders for the discernment and team development portion of the program.

Each site was given the option of choosing from the LifeCycles (Diocese of Northern Michigan) program or attending the Equipping the Saints (ETS) program for their study and formation component. Attending ETS are eleven people from Romney/Moorefield and three people from Hinton. Eight people from Marlinton/Snowshoe, four from New River Episcopal Ministries, and five from Brooke-Hancock have committed to the LifeCycles Program. The commitment was for one year, to be reviewed in the summer of 2008. The purpose was to provide discernment and team development, as well as theological education, working towards identifying gifts for ministry and mission for the congregation, with the mission growing out of the gifts represented on the team.

Team members have found the program to be challenging and a lot of work, but report much personal and communal growth in the process. Representing this pilot project at the 2008 Living Stones conference were Jack Hauber of Emmanuel, Moorefield and Jane Crist of the New River Episcopal Ministries. Discussion of the pilot project included recommendations for strengthening the program. Development of a congregational component for identifying mission was strongly recommended, so that everyone is listening to God's call to serve, not just the team members. A program for this component has been written by The Rev. Michael Simon, but not yet presented in any of the pilot locations.

Continuing work in the pilot project includes an ongoing discussion of how the strengths of ETS and LifeCycles might be combined to provide a single approach to the formation and development of ministry teams. The work has been exciting and the participants ask your prayers as they continue to faithfully follow where God might be leading.

# News Around the Diocese

## *Newsmakers and Events*

The **Magnetic Church** conference is coming up right away! Please don't miss this opportunity for clear and concrete pointers on how to grow your congregation. The Conference is at Good Shepherd Church, Parkersburg, Friday evening, April 4 and Saturday, April 5, 2008. Registration materials have been mailed out and are also available on our website: [www.wvdiocese.org](http://www.wvdiocese.org). Let's get magnetized!

Don't miss the **Disciples Net Spring Conference** April 11-13 at Days Hotel in Flatwoods. The theme is *Congregational Development for Baptismal Ministry: It's a Process, Not a Program*, with guest speaker the Rev. Canon Margaret Babcock. Registration information is on our website at <http://www.wvdiocese.org/pages/pdfs/disciplesnet-springconf.pdf>.

### New Convention Dates: October 24-26, 2008

The **Health Ministries Commission** is sponsoring a workshop on Saturday, April 19, 10:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m., at Church of the Good Shepherd in Parkersburg. There is no charge to attend. Please register with Mollie in the Diocesan Office, 304-344-3597 or [mbailey@wvdiocese.org](mailto:mbailey@wvdiocese.org).

**Clergy Spouses** are invited to take a **Spring Break** at Bishop Hodges' Pastoral Center in Huttonsville, from Friday, May 9 through Sunday, May 11. Registration information is available on our website at <http://www.wvdiocese.org/pages/pdfs/SpousesRetreat.pdf>.

This year's **Women's Conference**, The Practice of Prayer, will be at Peterkin May 16-18, with the Rev. Dr. Margaret Guenther. Visit our website for details: <http://www.wvdiocese.org/pages/pdfs/WomensConf2008.pdf>.

Are you ready for a **Family Adventure**? Set aside the dates of August 5-7, 2008 to join us for an outdoor event at Ace Adventure Center in Fayetteville. Jason Beschinski ([jbeschinski@wvdiocese.org](mailto:jbeschinski@wvdiocese.org)) will have details soon.

The members of **Emmanuel, Moorefield**, celebrated Shrove Tuesday with another record setting Pancake Supper. Hosted by Aromas Coffee Shop, the event raised \$1,000.00 and even added a few new members to the congregation. Senior Warden Jack Hauber thanked all members for their support, particularly Lisa and JD Duan, owners of Aromas.

#### FOLLOWUP ON CONVENTION RESOLUTION FOR CHILDREN

Remember Convention 2007? *Uh, kind of...*  
Remember the Convention Resolutions? *What?*  
How many Resolutions were there? *Are you kidding?!!*  
Sorry, we are just kidding, but...

One of those resolutions, from the Church Commission for Children, needs your response! As a Commission we challenged every parish in the diocese to commit itself to establishing "at least one new ministry with and/or for children between October 1, 2007 and June 30, 2008, and any future plans for ministry with and/or for children and the estimated time frame for implementing that ministry". This information should be sent by July 31 to the Diocesan office by e-mail to Mollie Bailey at [mbailey@wvdiocese.org](mailto:mbailey@wvdiocese.org) or mailed to Mollie at the Diocesan office. If you can rally round your priest, Senior Warden, Sunday School teachers and other Children's Ministry folks, you will be doing a great service not only to your local church and its children, but to children throughout the diocese when we share this information. And when you follow through on this important charge with your reply, you will also qualify for a drawing of a children's book suitable for use in Sunday School or other children's activity. Three such prizes will be available.

#### A Diet Tip from the Health Ministries Commission



**Consumer Reports on Health** points out in recent issue that the first U.S. based study on the Mediterranean diet and longevity has confirmed the life-extending benefits of several European studies. This diet has become extremely popular over the last few years. It consists of vegetables, fruits, whole grains, fish, unsaturated fats, i.e., olive oil and conola oil, legumes and fewer than two servings a week of red meat. This is definitely a heart healthy diet.

## Candlelight Vigil Service for Harmony Week at Holy Trinity, Logan



On February 24, 2008, Holy Trinity, Logan, was host for second year for the Candlelight Vigil Service for Harmony Week, in cooperation with Southern WV Community and Technical College and the Logan/Boone and Williamson NAACP.

The high point of the evening was when Ilene Evans, portraying Harriet Tubman, came in the church and said, "I saw your candle in the window and thought this was a house of safety." She then joined guest speaker the Rev. Gerald Dotson, from the Logan Street Baptist Church in Williamson, to sing 'Lift Every Voice and Sing.'

The youth group Genesis, from the Ebenezer Baptist Church, provided the musical program for the evening. Father George Kostas from Holy Trinity announced the establishment of a scholarship from

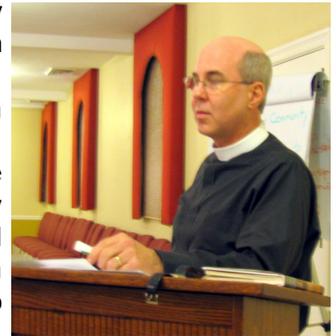
Southern WV Community & Technical College Foundation for a deserving student from the Logan/Boone NAACP.

Father Kostas noted that it was a blessing to have our brothers and sisters in Christ worshipping together and hoped for the day when Sunday morning will cease being the last stronghold of segregation in this country.

## 'Gracism' Lenten Series at St. John's, Huntington

During the Wednesdays in Lent, an intergenerational group of forty gathered each week for worship, dinner and study at St. John's in Huntington. This annual series, which is co-sponsored by Trinity Church, Huntington, has been held the last several years with each parish alternating as the host site for the program.

This year the theme was "Gracism" taken from the book by the same title, written by Dr. David Anderson, founding pastor of Bridgeway Community Church in Columbia, Maryland, an intentionally multicultural church community with over 2,000 worshipers each Sunday. Dr. Anderson writes that a gracist is "the one who hears, sees and pays attention to those on the margins – those in the desert." The Rev. John Stonesifer, Interim Rector of St. John's, had just read a review of the book when a few hours later he received



Bishop Klusmeyer's letter decrying the sin of racism and the admonition to actively address this in our parishes. Within a few weeks several copies of the book were ordered and the theme was in place.

Presentations have rotated each week between the clergy from the two parishes, as well as a presentation made by Dr. Sherri Smith -- a professor at Marshall University and parishioner of St. John's. The book is built around six sayings to



move from racism to gracism -- through a ministry of inclusion – and these formed the basis of the program.

Each week the Wednesday evening begins with worship, and a special treat has been the participation of the young people. There is a shared, ongoing youth ministry between the two parishes with attendance each week averaging 25 - 30 students. The youth people have joined in the worship, reading most scripture passages each week, have dinner, and then meet for their own study time. The Rev. Siobhan Patterson, Curate at Trinity said, "The Lenten Series for the youth share the theme with the adult program. The youth are looking at scripture, listening to U2 music and talking about various social issues, including racism."

Because of this Lent, we have progressed a few steps forward in our commitment to "respect the dignity of every human being."



## From the Commission to End Racism

*At the beginning of Anti-Racism Dialogues we give the participants 3x5 index cards and ask them to list their hopes for the day on one side and their fears on the other side. We often get on the fear side " I fear it will be a bash the white man session" or "it will be confrontational". We hope these are not fears that keep you from attending or hosting one of these dialogues. We do not allow either of these things to happen. An Anti-Racism Dialogue was held at St. Paul's, Weston on October 20, 2007. This is one of the responses I received from my request for comments regarding the training. — Harold Stewart, Chair, Diocesan Commission to End Racism*

Dear Harold,

My reply to you is very complicated and mixed with emotion but here it is: What a workshop! If you want this in twenty words or less tell me!!!!

Thanks to Harold's skillful guidance, at the workshop to end racism, I became aware of my rich cultural background as well as the grounds for my current prison ministry. Even though I come from French-English-Scots background, up until the age of ten, I was steeped in Okinawa-Japanese culture in Hawaii. I lived at the end of Manoa road next to five waterfalls, and because of gas rationing during WWII, I walked home from school three miles among Japanese and Filipino truck farmers who raised bananas, gardenias, lettuce and tea leaves for luaus. Their children were my friends whom I walked with but diabolically could not invite home.

Because of the war, kimonos disappeared, Japanese Orientals carried cards. On the mainland to my horror they were incarcerated! I felt badly internally and silently for my Mama-san was Okinowan. I had attended her wedding with at least five changes of kimonos and watched her face painted with the white mask of traditional Japanese ceremony. She died one year later in child birth. During the war our house became a respite place for B-24 bomber pilots, Naval Officers and Seabees. I heard declarations of the "damn Japs!" as Tokyo Rose commented on progress in the Pacific theater. Many of the battles were planned right there in my home, none-the-less I felt internally, nonverbally the irrational terror of racism, fear and war.

My school K-12 was Punahou a private, missionary based college preparatory school. Many of my classmates were third and fourth generation mixed race: Hawaiian-Chinese-Filipino-Portuguese-Caucasian. We later raised my twin girls and son in the company of a retired Buddhist priest, a Caucasian family, a Haw'n Chinese family, who every New Years set off a thousand Chinese fire crackers to scare away evil spirits, and a Japanese family who had a car pool and flew the traditional boys and girls day Flags. They all lived on our circle.

In my children's teen years we lived on the slopes of Haleakala with a Filipino family on one side and across the street and a Portuguese family on the other. The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd in Wailuku was half Filipino (both Tagalog and Ilocano speaking), the food at the annual meeting was at least half Filipino and in Kula — further up Haleakala, the food at the annual meeting of St. Luke's was Hawaiian-Chinese.

My mother insisted I go to a cold place on the mainland to college. Five of us landed on the outskirts of the University of Washington and lived in a basement for two weeks playing our ukuleles and crying. No sunshine, no mountains, no surf, no beaches. And I couldn't read the emotions on all the white Scandinavian faces! And rice was a mushy, breakfast cereal! I was in a prison of sorts! Lonely. I later learned the effects of poverty and racism on health at King County Hospital and UCLA. Much later my husband and I had the privilege of serving the Anglican (Episcopal) Church four years in Melanesia under Bishop Harry Tevi. My service in Jesus Christ Our Lord is presently at FCI-Gilmer through the National Organization PVS (Prison Visitation Service). I'm hoping that I can raise the bar ever so slightly to end Racism as I give each prisoner a welcoming and parting hug when our team visits twice monthly.

Thanks once again to you and Carolyn for your brave efforts. The white privilege cards are very intuitive and revealing. Blessings in your continuing ministry. — Ceel

Visit our website for info on scheduling anti racism training: <http://www.wvdiocese.org/pages/antiracism.html>

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Deadline for May/June 2008 issue is May 15.