

The Cathedral Call

December 2009—January 16, 2010

Dear Friends in Christ,

Forty-eight years ago a new ministry was inaugurated at the Cathedral. Over the years, this ministry, known as the Next-to-New Shop, has served the community and the Diocese, and has been a major contributor to the mission work of Saint John's. People of all ages have benefited from the numerous contributions that have been distributed from the Shop's income to agencies, institutions, and Cathedral ministries and programs. Over the years, thousands of items, including clothing, jewelry, household goods, and furniture have been given to Next-to-New. These items have been sold and the income used to support ministries and services for those in need.

The Next-to-New Shop has not only provided financial resources for ministry, it has also provided hospitality for countless men, women and children of the Brandywine Village. Whatever a person's walk of life, he or she can enter the Next-to-New Shop and expect to be received with the courtesy due a child of God. The many volunteers who have staffed the Shop over its forty-eight years have lived out their Baptismal promise to *Respect the dignity of every human being*.

Through all its years, Next-to-New has been housed in the Cathedral's Market Street property. This property is owned by Cathedral Community Services, a corporation established many years ago by the Cathedral's Vestry. As has been announced and published many times over the past year, the Cathedral now needs to find ways to put its property to work producing income that will help reduce the operating deficit – yes, help keep the doors open. Cathedral Community Services has agreed to this and the Market Street property has been on the rental market for some time.

Now a tenant has come forward and the property may well be rented and produce much-needed income. This is indeed good news. But such a rental will not come without a cost, and that cost will be the end of the Next-to-New Shop in its present configuration.

For several years now, the shop has seen dwindling sales and has had difficulty in recruiting volunteers. But with all that, it has continued to serve the community and provide a place of hospitality for the people of the Brandywine Village. So it is with a sense of sadness that we would see its closing. Sadness especially for the volunteers, and most especially for those volunteers who have put years of service into its ministry. And while the people who have come to Next-to-New over the years will be able to find sources for clothing and other needs when it closes, it will be difficult for them to find a greater ministry of hospitality.

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So there is cost and there is sadness, but we must not allow either of these to keep us from celebrating the forty-eight years of mission and ministry at the Next-to-New Shop. As an insert to this issue of the *CALL* you will find an article about the Shop's story and a report on the forty-eight years of contributions from Next-to-New to the community, the Cathedral and the Diocese.

Please mark **Sunday the 6th of December** on your calendars. That Sunday is the Second Sunday of Advent, but it will also be Next-to-New Sunday. We will celebrate the life and work of the Shop and honor its many volunteers. Following the 10:30 a.m. service, the Vestry will hold a reception for the volunteers to which we are all invited.

Finally, my thanks to the members of Next-to-New's Board of Directors, **Marion Allison, Anna Winslow, Gloria Johnson, Jean Harpham, and Mary Megee**, as well as to **Leslie Acker-Rowe** who has been the Shop's manager for a number of years, and to all the volunteers who have put hours of time and love into the Next-to-New ministry. What you, and all who have been involved over the years, have done is an unforgettable part of the story of the Cathedral Church of Saint John.

Faithfully,

Christmas Pageant 2009

This year's Christmas Pageant will be **Thursday, December 24th at 4:00 p.m.** Rehearsals will be held on Sundays after the 10:30 a.m. Participants are asked to

bring a bag lunch with a drink for rehearsal days. Anyone age 8 to 17 is invited to audition for the pageant. We also need help with costumes, coaching, scenery, props and lighting. Anyone interested in being a part of the 2009 Christmas Pageant is asked to contact **Adele Meredith at 302.366.1478 or 302.750.4867.**

Ordination Announcement

Cecily Sawyer-Harmon will be ordained Deacon by Bishop Wright on **Saturday the 5th of December at 1:00 p.m. in Saint Stephen's Church, Harrington, Delaware.** Cecily and the five others who will be ordained with her will be Vocational Deacons, that is they will be ordained to the priesthood. You are welcome to attend the service of Ordination on the 5th.

Deacons function under the authority of the Bishop of their Diocese. So Cecily and the other five newly ordained Deacons will serve under the direction and at the pleasure of Bishop Wright. An important part of a deacon's ministry is to be the servant of the Church in service to the world. Cecily has already begun that ministry and will continue after her ordination. She is serving as the Episcopal Campus Minister at the University of Delaware and is on the staff of the Reverend Paul W. Gennett, Rector of Saint Thomas' Church in Newark.

Deacons also have a liturgical ministry and for the first six months of her ordination, Cecily will exercise that ministry here at the Cathedral. She will be with us on at least two Sundays a month through Pentecost of 2010. Cecily will also serve on Ash

Wednesday and the three great feasts, Easter, Pentecost and Christmas during that period. The basic liturgical ministry of a deacon, as you might remember from when Deacon Jim Robertson was with us, is to read the Gospel, prepare the Altar, assist with administering Holy Communion, remove the vessels after Communion and dismiss the people.

Cecily's first Sunday with us as Deacon Sawyer-Harmon will be the Second Sunday of Advent, the 6th of December. It will be a joy for all of us to share with her in this beginning of her new ministry.

The Very Reverend William B. Lane

**The Reverend Dr. Nancy Calhoun
is Serving the Cathedral as
Sunday Assistant**

Dear Cathedral Community—I thank you for welcoming me into your midst and now that I have been with you a few weeks I would like to introduce myself in a more formal way. I grew up in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. I went to Seabury-Western Seminar and earned my M. Div., followed by a D. Div. in Counseling from the Chicago Theological Seminary. I came to the Diocese of Delaware in 1996 and have been working as a nurse in community mental health. I am currently with the Wilmington Community Mental Health Clinic. I do some supply work when I am called. I live with five fur balls – four cats and a rascal Jack Russell mix. I look forward to getting to know all of you and to participate in the life of the Cathedral.

Nancy

**A Letter from your
Candidate to the Diaconate**

November 10, 2009

In a few short weeks, after four years of work I, along with five other candidates, will be ordained deacon in our diocese. Looking back, the time seems to have passed very quickly. I am very happy for my achievement and humbled by the vows that I will take. I am humbled too by how I will be somewhat transformed as clergy and deacon to the people of this diocese, and specifically to this parish and the students of E.C.M. As many of you know, my diaconate ministry in the world is the Chaplain of the Episcopal Campus Ministry (EMC). I have worked at St. Thomas' Parish since July of this year. My letter of agreement with Bishop Wright and Father Paul Gennett is for 10-15 hours a week. The students and I have been very busy with regular programming every Wednesday evening from 8:30 p.m. until 10:45 p.m., and with several more programs and projects. We have done the following projects: Newark Community Day, (our mission project for the fall semester) where we sold items made in Kenya. The money will be returned for programs for orphans and children with AIDS. We sold items at St. Thomas' Bazaar and will sell again at Parish Life Day. So far we have made over \$600. We are able to retain 20% of the money, which we will use for our mission trips. In late September we held our first Coffee Hour, featuring a song writer and artist. The students and I went on an overnight retreat with the Chaplain from the Lutheran Campus Ministry the last weekend of September. Pastor Heggen and I celebrated together, and I preached my second and third sermon that weekend. In mid-October several students and I spent the weekend

at Virginia Seminary attending the Province III Higher Education Leadership Team Retreat. We have been involved with the Hillel House and the Lutherans, and have plans to do programs with the Methodist also. I attended a dinner with Turkish graduate students, representing St. Thomas' and ECM. I leave for Chicago on Tuesday, November 17, for a meeting of CCB for the National Church.

I am committed to the work of ecumenism and intend to strengthen our bonds with other campus ministries.

After four years of study I will graduate from EFM (Education for Ministry); I have two classes left. My job at the university remains demanding. My spiritual advisor reminded me yesterday that I was doing the work of the deacon as I fought for staff and faculty that are being mistreated, and those who are struggling with mental and physical illness. My private practice is small; I usually see no more than five clients a week.

I ask for your continued support and prayer as I move to become a Deacon in the Episcopal Diocese of Delaware. *TO GOD GOES THE GLORY.*

God's Shalom,
Cecily Sawyer-Harmon
Candidate to the Diaconate

Double Your Gift to the Cathedral Choir School

Now your gift to the Cathedral Choir School Scholarship Fund will be doubled by a generous **\$50,000 Challenge Grant** created by donors: **Ross and Evelyn Burnam, Hardy and Margriet Drane, Delbert C. Glover and The Reverend Linda L. Grenz,**

Tom and Mary Henderer, Judy W. Sargent, Muff and Bob Scott, Vicki and Lee Tashjian, and Norm and Suzy Veasey. Every dollar you give becomes two dollars for the Scholarship Fund. Your \$100 gift becomes \$200. We are halfway toward our goal of meeting this Challenge, so ***please make your gift before June 30, 2010***, so that all of the Challenge money will be granted!

You can celebrate someone you love by giving a gift in honor or memory of a loved one during the holidays. We will send them a lovely card to let them know of your thoughtfulness. ***Please contact Lisa F. Slinkard in the Office of Development for more information at 302.654.6279, ext. 2. Thanks!***

Neighborhood Assistance to Help with Christmas Gifts and Food

With Christmas just around the corner, we begin to plan for a special family dinner. However, about one in seven in our neighborhood goes hungry each day. So this year you can be part of "adopting" a family to help them celebrate Christmas. Families involved with one or more of the Cathedral's programs have been selected based on need.

On the first Sunday in December a small Christmas tree will be placed in the Great Hall and will be covered with tags specifying either a financial contribution for Christmas dinner or a gift. Gift tags will have information about the recipient including gender, age and a short "wish list" with items valued at no more than \$30. *(Be sure to put your name on the sign-up sheet with the corresponding gift tag.)* Gifts should be wrapped with the tag attached to the package for

identification, and **must be left in the Great Hall no later than Sunday, December 20.** Packages may also be brought to the church office Monday thru Thursday 9-3 p.m. As in years past, Christ Church Christiana Hundred will also be providing gifts.

For those not interested in giving a Dove gift, but wanting to help with the cost of a Christmas meal, you may make a monetary donation to the Neighborhood Assistance program. Checks should be written to “*Neighborhood Assistance*” with “*Christmas Dinner*” on the memo line, and can be placed with the offering on Sunday or mailed to the Cathedral. Thank you.

Youth Group: *Attitude of Gratitude*

In November we talked about what we are thankful for and how we give thanks—and not just on Thanksgiving!

Our next meeting is **December 13.** All youth in grades 6-12 are welcome to attend Youth Group. We meet from **12 noon to 1:30 p.m. in the Common Room. Lunch is served!**

Remember—**2 + 2!** That is, bring **\$2** to help pay for lunch AND **2 cans** to help stock the food pantry for people in the community.

Youth Group is a chance to have some **fun** while learning about your **faith** and hanging out with some **friends** (and eat lunch and share **food** with the community too).

Questions? Call Laura Eisenman, 302.683.1829 or LTEisenman@comcast.net

EFM

Education for Ministry, affectionately known as EFM, is a program of theological education-at-a-distance from the School of Theology at the University of the South.

Students sign up one year at a time for this four-year program which covers the basics of a theological education in the Old and New Testaments, church history, liturgy, and theology. The seminar group is the nucleus of the program. Each group meets weekly and consists of a minimum of six and a maximum of eleven participants.

Grace Episcopal Church, across from the Concord Mall on Route 202, will be starting its 8th year of EFM in January 2010, and they invite you to join them. They meet on Monday evenings from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. They take two breaks during the year: one during the summer months and another between Thanksgiving and the New Year.

If you are interested in learning more about the Bible and your Christian heritage, and want to be part of a meaningful group that studies together, reflects theologically, and often shares laughs and smiles, please give them a call for more information.

**Grace Church:
(302) 478-2123**

**Cindy Larned, Co-Mentor
(610) 357-2901**

**Brenda Trageser, Co-Mentor
(610) 361-9537**

ADVENT FOR ADULTS

On the four Sundays in Advent, from 9:15 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., we will hold morning coffee and discussion for adults. These four sessions will each have a focus:

Advent 1, November 29
The Bible- What's it all about?

Advent 2, December 6
The Church-What's its story?

Advent 3, December 13
Episcopalians- What are we?

Advent 4, December 20
Christian-So what?

Morning coffee and discussion will take place in the Great Hall.

Read about the Twelve Days of Christmas on the back of this sheet!

Christmas Service Schedule

4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT THE 6TH OF DECEMBER

7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
10:30 a.m. Advent Lessons and Carols and Holy Communion_

CHRISTMAS EVE THURSDAY THE 24TH OF DECEMBER

4:00 p.m. The Christmas Pageant and Holy Communion
10:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Concert
10:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist Reception following the Liturgy

CHRISTMAS DAY FRIDAY THE 25TH OF DECEMBER

10:00 a.m. Christmas Day Holy Eucharist

A Brief History of “The Twelve Days of Christmas” Celebration and Song

The number of days of Christmas goes back to the Christian church of the early 4th century. At that time it was believed that January 6 was the date of Jesus’ baptism, representing the birth of his soul, and that date was thought to be even more important than the December 25 date. Two centuries later, Christian emperor, Justinian, proclaimed Christmas as a public holiday with eight days of feasting. During the 9th century King Alfred of England changed the celebration from 8 days to 12 days and Christmas was celebrated with enthusiasm. But by the 17th century the Puritans, under Oliver Cromwell, overthrew the king and Christmas was *completely abolished!* Eventually Christmas was again celebrated during the Restoration period, but no longer with the enthusiasm of the Middle Ages

The origins of the “*Twelve Days Christmas*” song are believed to date back to Medieval French troubadours. The “*Twelve Days of Christmas*” first appeared in a children’s book titled, “*Mirth Without Mischief*” in England in 1780 and appeared to be a memory game rather than a song.

The first time “*The Twelve Days of Christmas*” was published as a song was in England, however there are three known older versions in French and one version from Scotland. “*The Twelve Days of Christmas*” was first recorded as a song in 1842 by James O. Halliwell.

Eventually it was suggested that the gifts in the song were symbols used during the conflict between Catholics and Protestants and also to help children learn the tenets of their faith.

The “true love” in the song refers to God himself and the “me” receiving the gifts is every Christian.