

A message from Bishop Bud Cederholm



Together we will empower our congregations to respond effectively to their changing communities so they might continue as beacons of Christ's light to the people of eastern Massachusetts across boundaries of race and class, generation and language. **Read more about Mission Hubs inside.**

People ask, "How's retirement?" I reply that, besides not shaving every day, I enjoy choosing things I have passion for. I am passionate about the Together Now campaign. When I talk with individuals, congregations and deaneries, I realize that never before in my 42 years of ordained ministry have I witnessed such excitement and dedication through the Holy Spirit's movement across this diocese.

In a time when divisive partisan attitudes and activities in politics, economics and religion run rampant, the Diocese of Massachusetts is growing and alive because of partnerships created by God's Holy Spirit. God created the first partnership with humanity in creation when the people of God understood and accepted God's call to care for all creation. I have seen an outpouring of generous

and sacrificial gifts of time, talent and treasure in support of this campaign. Already we can see the blessings that people and congregations have received as funds are allocated to

the five campaign areas: tithing for mission; caring for creation; equipping congregations for local mission; increased funding for proven programs that raise up new generations in faith and service; and transforming our cathedral church.

Partners with God and one another are not bound by a contract. We seek to live into our Baptismal Covenant. Through Jesus' life, death and resurrection we know that God will never quit on us even though sometimes we may want to quit on God's dream for the church and all creation. Partners depend on one another. Our campaign is an opportunity for each of us and each congregation to live together as partners with God and one another as we pray and give toward the \$20-million goal. As I witness the dedicated efforts of so many and the generous gifts and pledges received and yet to come, I believe in God, I believe in you! I hear God saying once again, "It is very good." Partners, can you believe the amazing things the Holy Spirit is doing through us and God's church?

Our \$20-million campaign

\$2 million

Tithing for mission beyond our diocese

\$2 million

Caring for God's creation

\$4.5 million

Equipping congregations for strategic local mission

\$7.5 million

Raising up new generations in faith and service

\$4 million

Transforming our cathedral church

For more information about each of the campaign initiatives, please visit: www.diomass.org/together-now-campaign

MISSION HUB INITIATIVE:

Equipping congregations for strategic local mission

SOMETHING NEW IS HAPPENING IN OUR MIDST:

an emerging, collaborative model for engaging God's mission across our diocese, in our deaneries and in our communities.

“Mission” refers to our baptismal calling to be agents of restoration in the church and in the world. We do this in our prayer, our worship and our work for justice, peace and love (*Book of Common Prayer*, page 855). The Mission Hub Initiative, funded through the Together Now campaign, supports this with a vision of collaborative mission and healthy congregations throughout the diocese.

So what is a mission hub? It is a collaboration of three or more Episcopal churches in a strategic location whose aim is to develop and enhance sustainable initiatives that embody God's mission. Together with other local partners, such as social service organizations and congregations of other denominations or faiths, the hub congregations will discern needs in their communities and draw upon diocesan and local resources to respond collaboratively to these opportunities. The hubs will provide a means for expanding already successful diocesan programs into new places where there is need and opportunity. Depending on local needs, a hub might seek expertise from or choose to partner with programs such as the B-SAFE

and B-READY summer and afterschool programs for children and youth, the Life Together young adult intern program, the Leadership Development Initiative, Episcopal City Mission, the Urban Residents program, campus ministries or Bethany House of Prayer.

Work already has begun on the South Coast, where a pilot hub is up and running. Under the guidance of hub director Tim Brown, a leadership team from area Episcopal churches is forming. A new branch of the Life Together program has begun there this fall, with four interns living in the rectory of the Church of the Holy Spirit in Fall River and serving in local site placements. A B-SAFE (Bishop's Summer Academic and Fun Enrichment) program for children and youth will be implemented there next summer.

This is a new model for mission, a new way of collaboration, a new way of building relationships and transforming communities and congregations. Inspired by the success of other collaborative initiatives across the diocese, a diverse group of lay and ordained leaders called the Mission Hub Working Group has met for the last several months to devise a way for more such partnerships to emerge across the diocese. This group has envisioned a wide range of forms for these hubs, depending upon their contexts and locations. The group is also making recommendations for the successful implementation of the Mission Hub Initiative. The process for congregational participation, exploration and hub funding will be presented at Diocesan Convention.

The number and locations of hubs has been a key area of the working group conversation. Based on the belief that mission initiatives can be most

successful when emerging from the local communities, and recognizing the varying needs from community to community, a one-size fits all model is not appropriate. The plan to be presented at Diocesan Convention will feature the pilot hub and six potential hubs strategically located throughout the diocese, with as many as five to seven more initiated locally. The Together Now campaign will make it possible for each hub to implement a variety of programs scaled to meet their community needs.

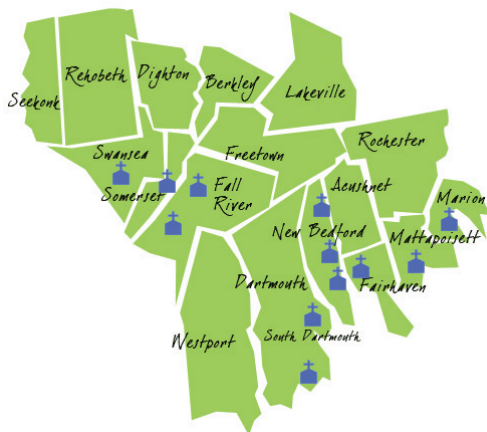
The Mission Hub Initiative is different from traditional diocesan grant programs in three ways: It is about building relationships and collaboration from the beginning and at all levels; it is about transformation of communities and congregations through mission; and, finally, it is a commitment for five years of funding to build sustainable mission.

The Rev. Sam Rodman, Project Manager for Campaign Initiatives, and members of the working group have contacted leaders in every deanery and invited them to initiate conversations about the possibilities for mission hubs in their communities. In several regions, larger-scale conversations have begun. The working group is designing the entry process to provide for appropriate discernment, assessment of readiness, review and commitment. This plan also will be presented at Diocesan Convention. More information, as this initiative develops, will be available via www.diomass.org and diocesan newsletters, so stay tuned.

This is the beginning, with much work ahead, and every congregation is invited to consider the possibilities of the Mission Hub Initiative.

—Mimi Delcuze,

Member, Mission Hub Working Group



Meet Tim Brown, South Coast Mission Hub Director

Tim Brown has been at work over the past year getting to know the people and parishes of the South Coast and helping to prepare the way for something new that is coming to life in this diocese's midst.

So far it's meant countless meetings and careful listening, heavy use of his GPS as he makes his way around new places to meet new people and what he calls the unglamorous but necessary set-up work that involves finding filing cabinets, phone lines and copy paper. It's all mostly been behind the scenes, until now.

On Sept. 23, Bishop M. Thomas Shaw, SSJE gathered with Mt. Hope-Buzzards Bay Deanery parishes in Fall River to inaugurate and bless the first of the

"mission hubs" initiated and funded by the Together Now campaign.

What Tim Brown has been hired to help accomplish on the South Coast will provide one model for other mission hubs that will follow elsewhere in the diocese—partnerships among congregations in strategic locations to meet local needs in a way that any one church could not on its own.

That's a basic definition, but the hubs are about more than that, Brown explained in an interview, making an analogy to the experience of going on a mission trip.

"We go into it with the expectation that we're there to serve—we're there to put a roof on a building, for example—but what actually happens is that the

project becomes a backdrop. Later it's not the roof that you talk about or remember so much as the experience of being changed through the encounter itself. That's true of the mission hubs. It's more about transformative relationships, how we're transformed by what God does in our hearts and what God does through us," he said.

His job as program director for the South Coast mission hub encompasses many things, but he boils it down to this: "I organize things. I bring people together. I like to see myself as a developer who brings entrepreneurial skills. I relish that, starting something I've never done before."

A Pittsburgh native, Brown, who has two sons and two grandchildren, came

Meet the South Coast interns

Larissa Alter is from the small town of Flagler Beach in Florida. Growing up with two brothers and two sisters, life was always full of fun, laughter and a little chaos. After graduating from Palm Beach Atlantic University with a major in organizational communications and a minor in biblical studies, she knew that she wanted to be a light for God in the world. After two years mentoring students at Florida Southern College she felt a call to venture to the Northeast and to engage in the Life Together program on the South Coast. Larissa is serving in Fall River at St. Luke's Church and the Church of the Holy Spirit, working with the outdoor church ministry.

A native of the South Coast, **Rachael MacLagan** is a member of the Church of Our Saviour in Somerset. She is the youngest of three daughters, an animal lover and strives to follow the



South Coast Life Together interns: Larissa Alter, Elizabeth Malkin, Rachael MacLagan and Stephen Rainwater

example of Henry David Thoreau, finding God in simplicity. Rachael grew up in Ohio, but her faith was reignited when her family moved to Somerset and she joined Our Saviour. She is hoping Life Together will help her discern her call more clearly. Rachael is working with United Interfaith Action based in New Bedford.

Elizabeth Malkin is also originally from Ohio and grew up just outside of Cincinnati. Elizabeth attended Wesleyan University and while there

rediscovered her interest in all things spiritual. She was a double major in religion and French and spent last year living in France and teaching English. Elizabeth is looking forward to the upcoming journey with Life Together and is grateful to have found a group of people committed to social activism, acceptance and community. She is working at Greater Fall River Neighbors for a Healthier Community this year.

Stephen Rainwater

hails from Texas, though he moved North (slightly) for his undergraduate studies at Oklahoma State University. His field of study was marketing and entrepreneurship, and he has a passion for service. He was involved in Big Brothers Big Sisters, has worked with Young Life Camps and interned with other nonprofit organizations, including a social enterprise in Ngara, Tanzania, last summer. What drew him to Life Together was the promise of a healthy combination of spiritual growth and social justice work. Stephen has been assigned to the Coalition Against Poverty in Fall River. He is ecstatic about what God is doing this year and is excited to be part of the first group of Life Together interns in the South Coast region.

Source: www.lifetogethercommunity.org

to Massachusetts from Michigan, where he grew up and where he spent the last 12 years doing community organizing and development work. That included work he did with a Methodist church to help it reconnect with its poor, inner-city neighborhood. Opening itself to its neighborhood led to revitalized summer and afterschool programs that ended up turning around what had been a dying church.

"God was intertwined in that and in this. I really felt I was called to be here," Brown said.

The pilot mission hub based at the Church of the Holy Spirit in Fall River involves eight additional Episcopal churches so far. Four interns from the diocese's Life Together program are

in place, living in Holy Spirit's rectory and working in area parishes and social justice organizations. By summer, a version of the B-SAFE (Bishop's Summer Academic and Fun Enrichment) program that originates from St. Stephen's Church in Boston will be set up to serve New Bedford-area children in need of a safe and meaningful place to be during summer weeks.

"Beyond that, we are about to go through a discernment process that will take us through looking at our neighborhoods and identifying the needs," Brown said. "For example, many of our churches have food pantries and community gardens. If we were somehow to coordinate those, pool our resources, what would that look like?"



He believes the mission hubs have the potential to revitalize Episcopal churches on the South Coast and across the diocese by connecting them with one another and with their wider communities. "There are opportunities in this for every deanery in the diocese. I hope people see it as not just another thing to do but as a great thing that we're going to do," he said.

—Tracy J. Sukraw

From the Director of Development



THANK YOU FOR
your gifts and
for all that you've
given. Thank
you for the ways
you've connected
with us and with
one other. And,
most importantly,
thanks be to God.

When we began the Together Now campaign more than two years ago, I never would have imagined the stories of connections that we'd see. I assumed that God would reveal joyful surprises along the way, but the scale on which we've seen new relationships built and commitments to stewardship renewed has truly amazed me and every member of our campaign team. We've been emboldened as we've worked alongside and connected with all of you—individual donors, vestries, diocesan and parish campaign committees—in this shared endeavor to invest in the future of the Episcopal Church in eastern Massachusetts. Members of our team have been welcomed to more than 400 meetings with clergy, wardens, executive committees and vestries, as we've told the story of this campaign, and how, together, we can strengthen our congregations and empower all of us for bolder mission, both in our local communities and beyond.

We've seen all of you connect more richly to one another too. Through the discussions of how your congregation will participate in the campaign, through the collaborative campaign case writing process and through individual conversations with volunteers asking for support, thoughtful and authentic

discussions about shared values have taken place. They have been conversations about the importance of our congregations in our lives and what kind of presence we want the Episcopal Church to be in our local communities. I am absolutely certain that in all things, these conversations and connections have been profoundly undergirded by prayer and lovingly guided by the Holy Spirit.

The work of the campaign is far from over. Some of our congregations will conduct their in-pew or collaborative campaign in the coming months. Yet, as many of us begin to move to a different phase of campaigning, our storytelling will now take on a different purpose: to consistently thank donors and to be informative of the magnificent work enabled by the more than 2,100 gifts offered. To that end, I hope you enjoy reading here (and in previous editions, available at www.diomass.org) about all you've helped to accomplish in your congregations and at the diocesan level to bring glory to the God who loves each of us beyond the measure of our understanding. So, thank you. Thank you for your gifts and for all that you've given. Thank you for the ways you've connected with us and with one other. And, most importantly, thanks be to God.

—Lynd Matt

PARISH PARTICIPATION

Visit www.diomass.org/together-now-campaign for more information on parish participation options.

"SOMETHING BIGGER THAN OURSELVES"



As rector of **ST. BARNABAS'S CHURCH** in Falmouth, the Rev. Patricia Barrett tries to preach often about God's abundance and generosity and the call to Christians to serve God, not only with time and talent, but also through the giving back of financial resources. Never did she imagine how deeply her words would be taken to heart as the parish approached its Together Now

in-pew commitment weekend. In a congregation that sometimes struggles to feel connected to the rest of the diocese, the parish goal of \$68,000 seemed quite lofty. Yet, Barrett knew it was within in her congregation's reach, especially as she described the ways that St. Barnabas's and its entire deanery will benefit from the campaign. "This was an opportunity for us to live our commitment to stewardship and to outreach. It was a way for us to make real both our thanksgiving to God for the bounty of all we have here and our love for the Episcopal Church, as well as our desire to see it be vital and relevant for many years to come," Barrett said.

The commitment to partnership and connectedness embedded in this campaign called deeply to the parishioners of St. Barnabas's. "Through this effort, we began to see that we are much, much bigger than just our parish here on the Cape. Our story

is interwoven with Episcopal churches all over eastern Massachusetts, and the Together Now campaign has shown us that there are other Episcopalians around the diocese and on the diocesan staff who are thinking about the future of the church. This was our way of standing up to be counted as part of that story," Barrett said.

When advance gifts and those given at the early service were totaled, St. Barnabas's had raised a little more than \$50,000 toward its goal. Barrett is certain that the announcement of that total during the 10 a.m. service inspired those worshipers to dig deeper. "I know the Holy Spirit was moving in our midst that Sunday as we offered almost \$96,000 in gifts and pledges," she said. "Not only were we inspired by what we raised that day, but I know our parishioners walked away emboldened about our future as a diocese and as a church."

"NOT A SPECTATOR SPORT"

"Our parish is a relevant part of our lives, where we find encouragement and community—we want it to be around for years to come." This is how Rick Eaton, co-chair of the collaborative campaign at **ST. MARK'S CHURCH** in Burlington, responded when asked what he believes motivated parishioners to support the campaign. Leaders in this relatively small parish—with an average attendance of 60 and a plate and pledge budget of \$75,000—were initially skeptical of the \$190,000 goal, especially because of the nature of the campaign initiatives, he said. "The projects funded through this campaign are about the drainage system, the roof, and exterior painting and re-siding, and resurfacing the parking lot. In some cases, it's work that's already been completed. While none of these are particularly exciting projects to describe, the conversations that they've driven have been very moving and quite healthy for our parish," Eaton said. He reported that many in the parish have begun to think

about how this campaign will allow St. Mark's to be vital in the Burlington community and beyond.

When approached to co-chair the campaign, Eaton was initially hesitant to accept: "The goal was daunting, but with prayer and consideration, I realized that this effort would allow me to develop a skill set I didn't know existed, while giving me the opportunity to offer a variety of my own gifts to St. Mark's." Campaign volunteers have reported inspiring stories about the willingness of parishioners to meet request amounts, and in some cases exceed them. On more than one occasion, donors have responded to a request with "We can do more than that."

Eaton noted that he has seen a real recognition on the part of parishioners that everyone has a stake and a role in this campaign. "Church is not a spectator sport. This is not a club where members are able to sit on the sidelines. We all have a part in doing



the work that God has called us to do as a community."

To date, St. Mark's has raised more than \$175,000, of which \$52,500 will be offered to the diocesan Together Now campaign. "For parishioners who don't have an understanding of what the diocese does, this campaign has been a fantastic educational tool. We've learned how much more we can accomplish when we work together within our parish, and with the diocese," he said.

TOGETHER NOW CAMPAIGN

TOGETHER NOW CAMPAIGN GOAL

Amount raised from leadership gifts

\$20,000,000

\$10,567,280

Diocesan share from collaborative campaigns

\$4,976,025

Parish pledges to date

\$695,975

Amount raised to date from in-pew collections

\$1,487,906

Gifts to diocesan campaign from independently run parish campaigns

\$919,500

Total amount raised to date

\$18,646,686

Total amount raised in parish collaborative campaigns
*30% of this amount is offered to the overall diocesan goal,
while 70% stays in the congregations*

\$16,586,750

Total number of gifts to Together Now

2,137

Average gift to in-pew collections

\$1,046

Average gift to parish collaborative campaigns

\$11,567

Average parish pledge

\$19,885

Statistics as of 10-25-12



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