



Ash Wednesday, March 6, 2019

NEWS and INFORMATION for the clergy and leadership of

The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts

138 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02111 / www.diomass.org

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**Presiding Bishop Curry
to make Massachusetts
visit April 26-29**

Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry will be making a visitation in the Diocese of Massachusetts, *Friday-Monday, April 26-29*. In addition to several ministry visits and meetings with designated groups that Bishop Curry will be making around the diocese over the course of the weekend, there will be public gatherings with him on *Saturday, April 27 and Sunday, April 28* to which all are welcome.

Saturday, April 27

• **“PB & J”: Youth Jamboree with the PB, 1:30-3:15 p.m.**

Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston. Special conversation program with Bishop Curry for middle and high school youth and their adult mentors. Register in advance at www.diomassyouth.org.

• **Ministry Fair, 3:15-4:30 p.m.**

Leading up to the “Way of Love” Rally at 5 p.m., the Cathedral Church of St. Paul will host community gathering space and a Ministry Fair showcasing the good work of ministry programs across the diocese. Those interested in having a table exhibit are invited to contact Martha Gardner, Missioner for Networking and Formation (617-482-4826, ext. 403 or mgardner@diomass.org).

• **“Way of Love” Rally, 5-6 p.m., Boston Common** (exact location to be announced): Gather and be inspired, challenged and blessed as Bishop Curry proclaims the transforming power of walking the “Way of Love” with Jesus. Everyone is welcome.

Sunday, April 28

• **“Our Episcopal ‘Big Tent’: How Big Is It?” 3-4 p.m.**

Grace Church (133 School Street) in New Bedford: How well does the Episcopal Church measure up to its “big tent” ideal? Come for a provocative panel discussion with Bishop Curry, Bishop Barbara C. Harris and House of Deputies Vice President Byron Rushing. Seating will be first come, first served. Reception follows.

More details and publicity materials to help congregations spread the word will be available soon at www.diomass.org/pb-visit.

**Presiding Bishop Curry
to open annual Clergy
Conference**

Register by March 29 for Clergy Conference to avoid late fee:

Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry will open this year’s Clergy Conference on *Monday, April 29, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.*

The conference takes place *Monday-Wednesday, April 29-May 1* at the Ocean Edge Resort in Brewster. Conference guest presenter will be the Rev. Dr. Kelly Brown Douglas, Dean of Episcopal Divinity School at Union Theological Seminary. Find more information and online registration [here](#).

FOR INFORMATION: Jennifer Garrett, Events Coordinator (617-482-4826, ext. 421 or jgarrett@diomass.org).

“Mission Match” invites congregations to map their assets

As part of the diocesan mission strategy, subgroups formed in 2017 have been working on implementation recommendations for embracing brave change by reimagining our congregations, building our relationships and engaging our world.

One of these subgroups has been working to implement “Mission Match,” a diocesan version of Episcopal Relief & Development’s online asset mapping tool to connect people and congregations and the good work of their programs and ministries with the needs of communities in this diocese and beyond. The asset map can also serve a vital role in disaster preparedness and response.

In upcoming weeks, Mission Match working group member Hilary Greene of St. Mary’s Church in Barnstable and diocesan staff member Martha Gardner, Missioner for Networking and Formation, will be contacting deanery leadership to set up meetings to present the Mission Match asset map and the features available to all. Their goal is to have every congregation update its profile so that the search capability for the Diocese of Massachusetts becomes more robust and truly helps build our relationships. *FOR INFORMATION: Hilary Greene, Mission Match Working Group (508-737-4542 or hgreene78@comcast.net) or Martha Gardner, Missioner for Networking and Formation (617-482-4826, ext. 403 or mgardner@diomass.org).*

New disaster preparedness coordinator named

James Thomas has been appointed the new diocesan disaster coordinator. He succeeds the Rev. Elizabeth “Jay” Jordan, who has served in the role for the past four years.

As coordinator, Thomas is responsible for organizing disaster preparedness programming and training opportunities and, in the event of a disaster, to coordinate response efforts in concert with the canon to the ordinary on the bishop’s staff and with Episcopal Relief & Development.

Thomas is a candidate for ordination to the diaconate, sponsored by St. John’s Church in Sandwich, and a sworn deputy in the Barnstable County Sheriff’s Office, where he serves as agency instructor and officer-in-charge in the Public Safety Division. He can be reached 508-246-2600 or jamesmccormackthomas@gmail.com.

See page 7 for upcoming Episcopal Relief & Development Disaster Preparedness Training on April 6 in Marshfield.

NOTES:

- **Holy Tuesday Service with Renewal of Clergy Vows and Blessing of Holy Oils:** Bishop Alan M. Gates will preach and Bishop Gayle E. Harris will preside at this special Holy Tuesday service, *April 16, 11 a.m.*, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston. All are welcome. Clergy are invited to stay for lunch with the bishops (\$12 per person, payable the day of). To ensure there is the right amount of food, RSVP by e-mail to the cathedral administrator, Kevin Vetiac, at kvetic@diomass.org.
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● **Lenten Preaching Series:** Pilate’s question to Jesus, “What is truth?” (John 18:38), resonates through the ages, as we each stand before God wrestling with questions of meaning and identity. In our time, the idea of truth is under attack in new ways, challenging our coherence as a society and the witness of the church. This Lent, the annual preaching series at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston will feature bishops, scholars, a poet and a journalist engaging the question, “What is truth?” All are welcome.

The series takes place on *Thursdays, March 7-April 11, 12-1:30 p.m.*, featuring a simple worship service with guest sermon, followed by a light lunch and conversation with the preacher:

- *March 7:* Bishop Gayle E. Harris;
- *March 14:* Dr. Sally Haslanger—Ford Professor of Philosophy and Women’s and Gender Studies, MIT;
- *March 21:* Regie Gibson—Poet, writer, educator and National Poetry Slam champion;
- *March 28:* Dr. Jonathan Cavillo—Assistant Professor, Boston University School of Theology;
- *April 4:* Matthew Bell—Reporter, Public Radio International’s “The World”; and
- *April 11:* Bishop Alan M. Gates.

A poster, for downloading and sharing, is available [here](#).

FOR INFORMATION: Cathedral Church of St. Paul (617-482-4826, ext. 221 or kvetiack@diomass.org).

● **“Encounters in the Holy Land”:** Join Bishop Gayle E. Harris and the Rev. Debbie Phillips for a mission pilgrimage in Israel and Palestine, *Oct. 1-15*. The mission pilgrimage will combine visits to holy sites with opportunities to learn about active mission in the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem through its school, healthcare and peacemaking ministries.

The registration deadline is May 15.

The group will meet three times before the trip for orientation and community building. Estimated cost is \$4,100 per person (double occupancy), with all payments due by July 15.

FOR INFORMATION: David Ames, Office of the Bishop Suffragan (617-482-4826, ext. 445 or dames@diomass.org).

● The diocesan **Global Mission Commission is hosting a “Speed Partnering” event** on *Saturday, April 13, 1-3 p.m.*, at St. John’s Church (74 Pleasant Street) in Arlington. This is a matchmaking opportunity for congregations and organizations with established global mission efforts to connect with other congregations and individuals who would like to join them. Congregations with established mission partnerships are invited to come and be prepared to talk about the joys and challenges of this ministry. There will be space to display photos, handouts or other items. *FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Holly Hartman (617-482-4826, ext. 351 or hhartman@diomass.org) or The Rev. Marilyn McMillan (617-482-4826, 422 or mmcmillan@diomass.org).*

● **Congregational Leadership Reports and Lay Delegate Certification Forms for 2019**

were e-mailed to all congregations in January. The forms and instructions are also available on the diocesan website [here](#). Completed forms are due no later than *Friday, March 29*.

FOR INFORMATION: Chelsea Smith, Governance and Administration (617-482-4826, ext. 406 or csmith@diomass.org).

● **Online filing for the 2018 Parochial Report** for all Episcopal Church congregations is available [here](#). In addition to the form, the page also offers step-by-step instructions and workbooks to guide filers through this process.

All congregations should have received their 2018 Parochial Report packet in the mail, which included an explanatory letter along with the congregation's log-in information. Congregations in the Diocese of Massachusetts that did not receive the 2018 Parochial Report mailing should contact Trish Superville in the diocesan Treasurer's Office for their log-in information (617-482-4826, ext. 555 or psuperville@diomass.org).

All reports are to be reviewed and marked complete by dioceses to the Executive Office of the General Convention by May 1.

● **Beware of e-mail gift card scams:** E-mail impersonation scams that involve gift card requests were prevalent over the past Christmas holiday season, and some dioceses, churches, clergy and other congregational leaders continue to be targeted.

A common tactic in these scams (also known as "phishing") is to send e-mails that appear to be from the recipient's employer or a leader of an organization that the recipient is affiliated with (or, in church contexts, the e-mails might appear to be from the rector or a bishop). The scam e-mails say that urgent help is needed and request that the recipient buy and electronically send gift cards from a specific company, commonly Amazon, iTunes or Google Play. These scam requests appear to come from a legitimate e-mail account of a known person. They usually convey a sense of urgency. They often incorporate a signature line that looks legitimate at quick glance.

What to do:

- Inform your congregation about these phishing scams and reinforce the message that clergy and church leaders will never ask for emergency aid or donations in this way.
- Be skeptical of unexpected e-mail requests to send or spend money.
- Read with caution any e-mail that asks for gift cards. Look for tell-tale typos and grammatical mistakes, and double-check sender e-mail addresses for authenticity.
- If you believe a request may be authentic, phone the requester to confirm.
- Find more information about phishing scams, including how to report them, [here](#).

- The **Diocesan Altar Guild Annual Meeting and Luncheon** takes place on *Saturday, May 11* at Christ Church (12 Quincy Avenue) in Quincy. Guest speaker will be the Rev. Tim Schenck, Rector of the Parish of St. John the Evangelist in Hingham, whose topic will be “Holy Grounds” and the place of coffee in world religions. All are welcome. Registration begins at 10:30 a.m., with Holy Eucharist at 11 a.m., followed by the luncheon at 12:30 p.m. and the annual business meeting.

FOR INFORMATION: Diane Grondin (dmgrondin@comcast.net).

- The diocesan **20s and 30s Task Force** has formed working groups organized around the key framing questions identified in their first meetings. (The organizing questions are still available for review and comment [here](#).) Some members are gathering stories from successful ministries with young adults, as well as looking at what additional supports and resources are needed. Others are listening to stories from young adults more broadly, about their spiritual lives and their experiences with church, to hear what they are seeking and to identify ways the church’s culture needs to change in response, as well as to identify the unique gifts that young adults have to offer the broader church.

The task force is charged with reporting its findings and recommendations to the Diocesan Convention in November. Those interested in helping in the work of this task force or participating in one of its focus groups may contact the co-chairs, Sarah Neumann (sneumann3@gmail.com) or the Rev. Suzanne Wade (revsuzannewade@gmail.com), or the Rev. H. Mark Smith (617-482-4826, ext. 215 or hmsmith@diomass.org).

- **Life Together recruitment for 2019-2020** is ongoing: Know someone who might be a good fit for Life Together or another Episcopal Service Corps program? The Episcopal Service Corps online application is available at www.EpiscopalServiceCorps.org.

Life Together is a 10-month fellowship program based in Boston and surrounding areas, focused on cultivating the next generation of prayerful and prophetic leaders, through spiritual practice, social justice, leadership training and community building. Fellows range in age from 21 to 32 and come from a diverse range of backgrounds. Housing and utilities, health insurance and a modest living stipend are provided. Learn more about Life Together by visiting www.lifetogethercommunity.org, following on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#), or e-mailing apply@diomassintern.org.

CHURCHWIDE:

- **Lenten call to reclaim Jesus through prayer, fasting and action:** Episcopal Church Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry and the Rev. Jim Wallis of Sojourners joined with faith leaders to issue on Feb. 14 a letter “*Reclaiming Jesus: A Call to Prayer, Fasting and Action*” urging national prayer and fasting through the season of Lent. Find the full text of the letter [here](#). It follows the “[Reclaiming Jesus](#)” declaration that the faith leaders issued last year.

- The Episcopal Church's annual **Good Friday Offering** is a way to help connect the love of Christ on the cross with support for the ongoing ministry of love and compassion carried out by Anglicans in the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East, Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry writes in his annual [Good Friday Offering appeal letter](#). "Whether funding a hospital in Gaza or the West Bank, or an eye clinic in Aden, or women's programs, or summer camps and leadership training for young people, the Good Friday Offering is making a difference in the lives of so many," Curry writes. "I believe our partnership with those who keep the faith of Jesus alive in the region, where our Lord walked and began his movement, is a significant aspect of our work as part of the church catholic."

Materials to support congregational participation, including bulletin covers and inserts, are available [here](#).

FOR INFORMATION: The Rev. Canon Robert Edmunds, Episcopal Church Middle East Partnership Officer (redmunds@episcopalchurch.org).

Upcoming youth ministry events:

Questions about these events may be directed to the Rev. H. Mark Smith (617/482-4826, ext. 215 or hmsmith@diomass.org).

- The diocesan Office of Youth Ministry has scheduled two Friday-Saturday **Pre-Confirmation Retreats** to help prepare young people for Confirmation: *March 22-23* and *April 5-6*. Both retreats will be held at the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center in Greenfield, N.H. Confirmands and their mentors will gather to meet other young people and explore their call to Confirmation, its promise and challenge. Members of the Diocesan Youth Council will lead small groups and give reflections on their own spiritual journey, and one of the bishops will attend each retreat. Advance registration is required. Register online [here](#). A recruiting flier is available for download [here](#).
 - **EYE20 Planning Team applications due soon:** Every three years, young people from across the Episcopal Church come together for an international gathering of worship, workshops, exploration and fun. The next Episcopal Youth Event (EYE) is in the summer of 2020, organized by a youth planning team. Team members must be mature in their faith and able to commit to the work and commitments necessary for the yearlong process of developing an international event of this scale. Planning team applications are now being accepted and are due by 5 p.m. on March 17. Find more information [here](#).
 - **"PB & J": Youth Jamboree with the PB, Saturday, April 27, 1:30-3:15 p.m.** at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston. Details are still being confirmed, but plan to bring middle and high school youth for this special conversation program with Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry. Register youth groups in advance at www.diomassyouth.org. Find more details about Bishop Curry's full weekend visit to the Diocese of Massachusetts at www.diomass.org/pb-visit.
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TRAINING & LEARNING:

- **Congregational Business Practices Workshops** offered by the diocesan Congregational Consultants are important learning opportunities for vestry members, officers and clergy—anyone involved in the business matters of the congregation. Click on the date links to register online. Workshops take place on *Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.*:

- [March 16](#), Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston;
- [March 23](#), Trinity Church (131 West Emerson Street) in Melrose;
- [March 30](#), Trinity Church (One Blue Hill River Road) in Canton;
- [April 6](#), Church of the Good Shepherd (74 High Street) in Wareham.

FOR INFORMATION: *Chris Meyer, Consultants Coordinator* (cmeyer@diomass.org) or *Jennifer Garrett, Events Coordinator* (617-482-4826, ext. 421 or jgarrett@diomass.org).

- A **Safe Church Training**, open to all, will be offered on *Saturday, March 23, 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m.*, at Trinity Church (81 Elm Street) in Concord. Find more information and register online [here](#).

The spring **Clergy Safe Church Refresher Training** takes place on *Tuesday, May 14, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m.*, at St. Gabriel's Church (124 Front Street) in Marion. All clergy canonically resident or licensed in the Diocese of Massachusetts are expected to attend Safe Church Training once every three years. There is no fee for this refresher training but pre-registration is required. Find information and register online [here](#).

FOR INFORMATION: *Martha Gardner, Missioner for Networking and Formation* (617-482-4826, ext. 403 or mgardner@diomass.org).

- On *Saturday, March 23, 9 a.m.-12:15 p.m.*, Brothers Jonathan Maury and Sean Glenn will offer a workshop entitled **"Praying Our Common Life"** at the monastery of the Society of St. John the Evangelist (980 Memorial Drive) in Cambridge. This program will provide an introduction to *The Book of Common Prayer*, its spirituality and its usefulness as a resource for personal and corporate spiritual growth. Cost is \$40 (\$20 for students).

FOR INFORMATION/TO REGISTER ONLINE: www.ssje.org.

- An Episcopal Relief & Development **Disaster Preparedness Training** will be offered on *Saturday, April 6, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m.*, at Trinity Church (229 Highland Street) in Marshfield. The training will facilitate the development of a ministry that assists congregations in anticipating and preparing for local, unexpected disastrous events. At the conclusion of the session, participants will be prepared to function as the Episcopal Relief & Development point person for the congregation. Lay participation is encouraged and clergy are welcome. Lunch will be provided. RSVP by e-mail to jamesmccormackthomas@gmail.com (please indicate any food restrictions).

FOR INFORMATION: *James Thomas, Diocesan Disaster Coordinator* (508-246-2600 or jamesmccormackthomas@gmail.com).

- The Rev. Dr. Cheryl Minor, Co-Rector of All Saints' Church in Belmont and Director of the Center for the Theology of Childhood, will lead a special workshop, "**Stories of God at Home: A Workshop for Parents and Grandparents (and Godparents, Aunts and Uncles!) on Celebrating Easter at Home and Preparing for Pentecost,**" on *Sunday, April 7, 11:30 a.m.*, at the Church of Our Saviour (21 Marathon Street) in Arlington. All are welcome, but please register by e-mailing fvidalwhite@gmail.com.

- In keeping with the desire to provide regional offerings, two **stewardship trainings for congregational lay leaders** will be offered in May:

- *Saturday, May 11, 9:30-11:30 a.m.*, at St. Paul's Church (127 Summer Street) in Lynnfield, and

- *Saturday, May 18, 9:30-11:30 a.m.*, at St. Andrew's Church (17 Church Street) in Hanover.

All are welcome. Participants will share experiences of stewardship best practices and review available resources for congregations.

FOR INFORMATION/TO RSVP: Bliss Austin Spooner, Office of Development (617-482-4826, ext. 515 or baustinspooner@diomass.org).

DIOCESAN GRANTS & LOANS:

- With the expected completion of the Mission Tithe Matching Grants program, two new global mission grants have been established: **Mission Tithe Relationship Grants**, to support congregations entering new global mission partnerships (application deadline: *April 29*) and **Sustainable Development Grants**, to support existing relational mission partners carrying out projects that address the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (application deadline: *March 15*).

Find grant applications and more information [here](#).

Questions about qualifying for a grant may be directed to the deacons for global mission partnerships, the Rev. Holly Hartman (617-482-4826, ext. 351 or hhartman@diomass.org) and the Rev. Marilyn McMillan (617-482-4826, 422 or mmcmillan@diomass.org). Application process questions may be directed to the grants administrator, Lauren Zook (617-482-4826, ext. 306 or lzook@diomass.org).

- **Children of clergy** canonically resident or licensed in the Diocese of Massachusetts (and their widows/widowers) are eligible to apply for **scholarship grants** for undergraduate degree programs for the 2019-2020 academic year. Applications are due to lzook@diomass.org by *Monday, May 13*. Applicants will be notified of award decisions by June 21. The Statement of Policy and Procedure, which is the basis for making awards, and the Student Personal and Financial Profile, which all applicants are asked to complete, are available online [here](#).

FOR INFORMATION: Lauren Zook, Grants Administrator (617-482-4826, ext. 306 or lzook@diomass.org).

DIOCESAN COUNCIL ACTIONS:

For more information visit the [Diocesan Council webpage](#).

At its Feb. 21 meeting, the Diocesan Council:

Voted to approve the charter for the Mission Strategy Committee.

Voted to approve the 2020 assessment formula, unchanged from 2019.

Voted to approve the formation of an ad hoc committee to review and consider possible changes to the assessment formula to be used in the formation of the 2021 diocesan budget.

Heard an update from the Diocesan Council youth representatives about relationship-building tactics.

Heard an update from the Diocesan Mission Initiatives Committee (formerly known as the Strategic Ministry Committee) about roundtable discussions it has convened regarding college chaplaincies and funding.

Voted to approve the proposed Mission Initiatives funding application.

Next Diocesan Council Meeting: *Thursday, March 21, 5:30-8 p.m.*, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul (138 Tremont Street) in Boston.

FOR INFORMATION: *Chelsea Smith, Governance and Administration* (617-482-4826, ext. 406 or csmith@diomass.org).

JOB POSTINGS:

Go to www.diomass.org
(Resources for Congregations & Clergy > [Employment](#)).

Among the jobs currently posted on the diocesan Web site:

[financial administrator](#) for Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries;

[organist-pianist](#) at St. Peter's-San Pedro Church in Salem;

[parish administrator](#) at Christ Church in Cambridge; [director](#)

[of development](#) at Esperanza Academy in Lawrence; [organist-](#)

[music director](#) at Emmanuel Church in West Roxbury; and [parish](#)

[administrator](#) at St. Bartholomew's Church in Cambridge.

CLERGY SEARCH & CALL REPORT:

Transition ministry is overseen by the regional canons:

•The Rev. Martha L. Hubbard,
Northern and Western Region

•The Rev. Kelly A. O'Connell,
Southern Region

•The Rt. Rev. Dr. Carol J.
Gallagher, Central Region

Inquiries may be directed to
them by e-mail to:

regionalcanons@diomass.org.

CHURCHES INITIATING PROCESS:

BRIDGEWATER, Trinity Church

CHARLESTOWN, St. John's Church

FALL RIVER, Church of the Holy Spirit

NEW BEDFORD, St. Andrew's Church

NEWTONVILLE, St. John's Church

WHITMAN, All Saints' Church

WINCHESTER, Parish of the Epiphany

CHURCHES IN SELF-STUDY:

ACTON, Church of the Good Shepherd

MELROSE, Trinity Church

NATICK, St. Paul's Church

NEWBURYPORT, St. Paul's Church

SOMERSET, Church of Our Saviour

SUDBURY, St. Elizabeth's Church

Continued on page 10

*Continued from page 9***CHURCHES COMPLETING PROFILE:**

HARWICH PORT, Christ Church
 LYNN, St. Stephen's Church
 NEWTON LOWER FALLS, St. Mary's Church
 WATERTOWN, Church of the Good Shepherd

CHURCHES RECEIVING NAMES:

LINCOLN, St. Anne's-in-the-Fields Church

CHURCHES NO LONGER RECEIVING NAMES:

CAMBRIDGE, St. Peter's Church
 TAUNTON, St. Thomas's Church
 WALTHAM, Christ Church

OTHER OPEN POSITIONS:

BEVERLY FARMS, St. John's Church: [Curate](#)
 CAMBRIDGE, Episcopal Chaplaincy at Harvard: [Chaplain](#)
 NORTH ANDOVER, Brooks School: [Minister](#)
 SUDBURY, St. Elizabeth's Church: [Assistant Rector](#)
 WELLESLEY, St. Andrew's Church: [Assistant Rector for Youth and Families](#)

CLERGY CHANGES:

On Feb. 13, the Rev. Carol Morehead was installed as rector in a celebration of new ministry with the people of Grace Church in Medford.
 On Jan. 30, the Rev. Kevin Sparrow was installed as rector in a celebration of new ministry with the people of St. Andrew's Church in Hanover.
 On Feb. 23, the Rev. Tamra Tucker was ordained to the priesthood at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston by Bishop Alan M. Gates.
 On Feb. 2, the Rev. Diane Wong was installed as rector in a celebration of new ministry with the people of St. John's Church in Arlington.

NEXT *fyi*:

fyi is published the first Wednesday of each month. The deadline for the April 3 issue is **Wednesday, March 27 at noon**. E-mail submissions to tjs@diomass.org.