

Young Adult and Campus Ministries Grant Helps Fund Community Building at Plymouth State University

Young Adult and Campus Ministries of the Episcopal Church has awarded a grant to a new ministry project created by the Rev. Kelly Sundberg Seaman, Plymouth, NH. The ministry, Canterbury@Plymouth, will renew a relationship between the campus community of Plymouth State University and the Episcopal Church in New Hampshire.

“Our goal is that Canterbury@Plymouth will become known and experienced by Plymouth State University students, staff, and faculty as a community offering holy rest, contemplative worship, table fellowship, authentic connection, and spiritual exploration, where all pilgrims are welcome,” said Rev. Sundberg Seaman.

Planned activities include monthly gatherings for dinner and contemplative worship, collaboration with, and monthly worship service at, Church of the Woods, and Peace Walks — monthly “holy hikes” in the Lakes Region and White Mountains.

While the activities supported by the YACM grant will be getting fully underway when students arrive for the fall 2019 semester, the Episcopal Church is already connecting at PSU, says Sundberg Seaman, collaborating with Caring Campus Coalition (C3) and the Roman Catholic Chaplaincy. C3 is hosting the Rev. Steve Blackmer, of Church of the Woods, as part of PSU’s celebration of Earth Day, to speak about the spirituality of the river pilgrimages he has led.

The annual national gathering of Episcopal and Lutheran campus ministries is taking place in Boston this June. As these leaders gather in New England, Sundberg Seaman notes, “I’m eager to share how we’re rooting our campus ministry in PSU’s local context: the woods, waters, and mountains of Northern New Hampshire.”



RenewalWorks Helps Build Thriving Congregations

RenewalWorks is a thoughtfully designed program that helps parishes and individuals focus on, and strengthen, their spiritual vitality.

A ministry of Forward Movement, and founded by the Rev. Jay Sidebotham, RenewalWorks has been tailored to the Episcopal tradition (The Rev. Jay Sidebotham will be keynote speaker for our upcoming Spring Renewal event — see the related newsletter story).

Through a facilitated process of self-reflection, sharing, and workshop discussion, RenewalWorks inspires parishes to refocus on spiritual growth and to identify ways that God is calling them to grow.

“Spiritual development in a congregation is not necessarily related to the tenure or level of activity of members in the church,” said Canon for Ministry Development, Tina Pickering. “RenewalWorks provides a facilitated process to shift the culture of the church to focus more on spiritual growth and making connections between faith and action, resulting in growing spiritual vitality in the church.”

250 Episcopal churches nationally have worked through the RenewalWorks process. “We explored it,” said Pickering, “and felt it would be a wonderful resource for congregations here in New Hampshire.”

The Diocese is completing work with a pilot group that began in September 2018 including Grace Church, East Concord; St. Andrews, Manchester; St. Paul’s, Concord; Holy Spirit, Plymouth/St. Mark’s, Ashland; and St. Thomas, Dover. This winter, All Saints, Littleton and Trinity/Prince of Peace in Claremont are

participating in RenewalWorks. RenewalWorks will be offered again in September 2019.

A participant at St. Paul’s commented, “This experience has reignited the flame of the Holy Spirit in my heart. It has reminded me of why I do what I do and caused me to be more deliberate in my actions. It has also enriched my prayer life and, of course, increased reading of the scriptures.”

Pickering added, “Heartfelt conversations opened doors for individual growth and for parish development. What participants learned about deepening their relationship with God and their community will be shared with their congregations. This is a truly exciting opportunity for growth.”

RenewalWorks™
A Ministry of Forward Movement

To learn more about participating in RenewalWorks in New Hampshire email Canon Tina Pickering, tpickering@nhepiscopal.org, or call 603-224-1914.

To learn more about RenewalWorks: Visit the RenewalWorks website: <http://renewalworks.org>

Video about RenewalWorks featuring Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and the Rev. Jay Sidebotham: <https://vimeo.com/114192493>

Transition Ministry Updates

- We welcome Bishop Rob back from sabbatical! David Deziel has also joined us as Director of Communication for the Episcopal Church of New Hampshire.

- The Search Committee of Church of the Good Shepherd, Nashua has rounded the corner. Final candidates are being considered and Vestry hopes to extend a call to their new Rector in early April. Please keep the Church of the Good Shepherd, their candidates, and clergy (the Revs. Alanna Van Antwerpen and Kate Harmon Siberine) in your prayers.

- This past winter, St. James Laconia said goodbye to the Rev. Tobias Nyatsambo and welcomed the Rev. Janet Lombardo as their

interim rector. Janet will continue to serve St. John the Baptist Sanbornville in a consultative role with Sunday services led by a great clergy team—the Revs. Randy Dales, David de Salvo, Rebecca Blair, and Annie Ryder.

- The Search Committee of Grace Church, East Concord has completed their parish profile and was presented at the Transition Ministry Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah this past March. Applications for a ½ time rector are being accepted until June 1st. If you or anyone you might know are interested in this position, please contact the Rev. Canon Gail Avery, Canon for Transition and Community Engagement at gavery@nhepiscopal.org

Celebrate a Festive REVIVAL...Reimagined!

revival:reimagined
find meaning, purpose & community

Saturday, May 4, everyone is invited to *Revival: Reimagined* — Find Meaning, Purpose & Community. This enjoyable, engaging, and free event will feature music, spirituality, and exploration.

Revival: Reimagined is thrilled to welcome special guest, the Rev. Dr. Patricia Lyons, Missioner for Evangelism and Community Engagement in the Diocese of Washington DC. We’ll learn how to share our faith, engage our communities, and find deeper peace and meaning in our lives. After dinner, we’ll gather for song and celebration, and close our day with a festive Eucharist as God’s people.

Sign-in begins 12:30 PM, at Windham Middle School, Windham, NH. Come for all of the day, or some! This is a free event that includes dinner and refreshments throughout the day. It is organized in partnership by St. Christopher’s in Hampstead, and St. Peter’s in Londonderry.

To learn more and to register, visit *Revival Reimagined’s* event page at nhepiscopal.org/events/revival, or search “revival: reimagined” on Facebook.



The 217th Annual Diocesan Convention

Waterville Valley Resort Conference Center
56 Packard’s Road, Waterville Valley, NH

Information about Convention including overnight accommodations, updates on the preconvention journal, and details from last year’s Convention can be found on our website at www.nhepiscopal.org/convention



Our Website: www.nhepiscopal.org
On Facebook: [Episcopal Church of NH](https://www.facebook.com/EpiscopalChurchofNH)
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[#tendingthevine](https://twitter.com/tendingthevine)



All Are Invited to Attend Spring Renewal

So what is *Spring Renewal*?

Spring Renewal is a celebration. It is a day of spiritual renewal, ministry development, and connection for the entire Episcopal Church of New Hampshire.

Come to enjoy worship with live music, wander through a hands-on ministry fair, and choose from a wide selection of workshops that offer tools for living and practicing the Way of Love.

The day will begin with breakfast, contemplative worship, and a keynote address featuring the director of RenewalWorks, the Rev. Jay Sidebotham. Rev. Sidebotham also serves as associate rector at St. James' Parish in Wilmington, NC. He is well known for his cartoons about church life and his animation work on the television series *Schoolhouse Rock!*

In the afternoon, a variety of workshops will be offered, with a break for lunch and time to explore the ministry fair.

Workshops will be offered in three blocks consistent with the mission of the Episcopal Church of New Hampshire – Renew, Revitalize, and Reconcile – including topics such as Green

Guidance for Your Spiritual Home, Supporting Your Marriage and Family Life with the Five Love Languages, Mindfulness: An Introduction, Holding Courageous Community Conversations Across Difference, Parishes Welcoming Recovery, RenewalWorks, Creating Faith at Home, Vital Conversations, Crossing Boundaries as a Way to Encounter Christ, Spiritual Direction: Is it for You, The Upside Down Week: Reclaiming Sabbath, Stories

of Humble Chutzpah, Reflections on Spiritual Authority, and more.

The day will conclude with Revival Worship.

All members of the Episcopal Church are invited and encouraged to attend. Don't miss this exciting opportunity for connection, growth, and renewal!

Spring Renewal will be held at Manchester Community College on Saturday, May 11, 2019 from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. Please register to attend *Spring Renewal* today! Registration, and other updates, can be found on the event page on our website: www.nhepiscopal.org/spring-renewal

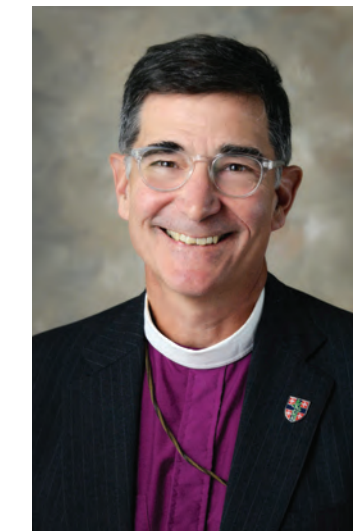
With questions about this event, please contact **Jessi Quinn** at (603) 224-1914 or jquinn@nhepiscopal.org.



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Letter from Bishop Rob | A Community of Weavers



Much has been written about our torn social fabric. So many in our society wake up feeling cut off from any sense of family, community or neighborhood. Belonging is on the wane. Isolation is on the rise. In such a fragmented culture as ours, it is no wonder that there are nearly 50,000 suicides every year in America and over 70,000 deaths to drug addiction, almost double the number of casualties during the whole of the Vietnam War.

Recently I read a powerfully truthful and hopeful piece by columnist David Brooks who reported on attending a conference called "Weave: The Social Fabric Project." Its first core idea is "that social isolation is the problem underlying a lot of our other problems. The second core idea is that this problem is being solved by people around the country at the local level who are building community and weaving the social fabric."

The Church has benefited society because Jesus calls each of us to a holy weaving. Every time we see a person as a bearer of God's image, we weave. Every time we pigeonhole someone into the isolating labels of gender, ethnicity, nationality, race, sexual orientation, or even political party, we are rippers. To seek to fulfill our Baptismal Vow to "uphold the dignity of every human being" is to weave.

This weaving is done in so many of our churches. When we welcome the homeless into our spaces through Family Promise, volunteer to be mentors or tutors at local public schools or for at-risk children, when we simply have lunch at the local soup kitchen, or visit those in prison or in hospice or the homebound, we are weavers. We weave when we faithfully keep vigil with one who struggles to recover from addiction. We weave when we participate in book groups or discussions across differences of opinion. We weave when we pick up the trash by the side of the road or from our river banks and are cautious about our carbon footprint.

When I say this is holy work, I speak from the depths of our Christian tradition. The theological word that describes the love and adoration that moves among the Three Persons of the Holy Trinity is perichoresis, meaning, an interweaving, a dancing flow, among three distinct identities. More simply, God is a weaver. God's love is known not in isolation, but in community. As he washes his disciples' feet, Jesus says, "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:35) Being created in God's image means sharing in this eternal identity and mission wherever and among whomever we find ourselves.

The torn body of Jesus is mended by God in the Resurrection. May it be so with us in the Risen Body of Christ this Easter!

The Rt. Rev. Robert Hirschfeld

Spring 2019

News From The Vine

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