



EPISCOPAL
CHURCH OF NH

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Cover Image: "North country Psalm of Ascent" by The Rev. Canon Hannah Anderson.



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News From The Vine
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Letter From Bishop Rob



Photo courtesy of
St. Andrew's, Hopkinton

God says, "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth." (Isaiah 49:6)

OUR KIDS

This year's Annual Diocesan Convention will focus on our children. Actually it will focus on what we mean by the possessive pronoun "our" in that phrase. Increasingly in our culture, when we refer to our kids, we just mean the ones who live, or who have lived, under the same roof. They are the kids to whom we gave birth or adopted. We feed them, enroll them in school, stand by the sidelines of the soccer and football fields. Pay for music and dance lessons, their braces, their tuitions. For those parents like myself, that should seem like enough, shouldn't it?

But then we read the bible. We read that just when we think the circle of our responsibility and our concern has been closed, God cracks it wide open. Who is your neighbor? It's the one outside of your religious and ethnic grouping, the Samaritan. Who is your brother, sister, your mother? Not the ones you grew up with, but the ones who seek to do God's will. To whom does God ask us to proclaim the message of God? Not just to our house, but to all the nations. "It is too light a thing that you should raise up those of your own house."

In virtually every vestry meeting I attend in New Hampshire, I am faced with the plaintive cry, "How do we get our young people to come to church on Sunday?" The question leads to the same tired responses: better Sunday School curricula, more attractive classroom spaces, hipper clergy and liturgical music, hiring the Pied Piper of a Youth Director. We've been on this hamster wheel for decades now, and let's admit it, we don't have much to show for it, do we?

So let's reframe the question. If we truly believe that God is at work in the world, and that we are called, no, commanded, by none other than Jesus, to GO out into the world to make disciples, then it behooves us to do what Jesus says. If our kids are learning teamwork, sportsmanship, artistic expression, and the wonders of their God-given physical and intellectual capacity in their sporting contests, ballet performances, and piano recitals, where is the church? Where are we? Usually absent.

OUR kids represent all the kids of New Hampshire, rich and poor, black and white, Asian and African, native born and re-settled. It is too light a thing that I have given you...

Our society is less stable and more precarious than ever before because of the widening and unjust disparities that prevent more and more children from learning how to interact healthfully with other citizens. The recent horrific event in Charleston, S.C. shows how vulnerable kids are to voices of hatred and violence through social media. In New Hampshire, if your parents have not graduated high school, chances are, neither will you, never mind attending college. Your chances of full-time, meaningful and sustainable employment are drastically reduced.

This coming Convention will be an important opportunity for us to see the faces and hear the stories of OUR kids, not only those who we see in the pews on Sunday, but also those we drive by in our towns, or see looking despondent and without purpose or guidance in our streets and marketplaces. We will examine the conditions of our youth, all of our youth, and then be shown some concrete, measureable ways that we can take part in the mission of God to

(cont. inside)

Five NH Episcopalians Ordained as Deacons, Moving towards Priesthood



Deacons T.J. Ballew, Winnie Skeates, William Cruse, Bishop Rob Hirschfeld, Deacons Kelly Sundberg Seaman, Reed Loy, Tim Brooks and The Rev. Canon Hannah Anderson

The Right Reverend A. Robert Hirschfeld, Bishop of the Episcopal Church of New Hampshire, ordained five to the Sacred Order of Deacons on Saturday, June 6. Ordinands W. Timothy Brooks, William Clayton Cruse, Reed Julian Loy, Kelly Sundberg Seaman and Winifred June Skeates were joined by family and friends at the ordination ceremony held at St. Paul's Church in Concord.

(Bishop Rob's Letter, cont.)

transform lives by forming partnerships with agencies that need our help. These efforts will not only be for the benefit of the disadvantaged, but our church will be expanded. This will be the focus of our morning together.

OPEN TABLE

After our Eucharist and the lunch that follows, we will deliberate about more internal church matters. We have long delayed an intentional conversation about our understanding of the Holy Eucharist and its relation to Holy Baptism--full inclusion into the risen Body of Christ--in our Church. It comes as a surprise to many that, by the Constitution of the Episcopal Church and the polity of The Book of Common Prayer, baptism is a requirement for admission to Holy Communion. Though that's "the rule," many priests have adopted a practice known as "Open Table" in the spirit of generous hospitality to those who have not been baptized.

There are bishops who are both strongly opposed and many who are strongly in favor of that practice. Since my first interviews for the role of Bishop, I have expressed what I called my own "raging ambivalence" about this, pledging two things: first, not to discipline priests who offer communion to all, and second, to

Being ordained as a Deacon is a requirement before ordination as a Priest in the Episcopal Church. Ordinands will serve as Deacons for at least six months before becoming Priests.

"Being able to ordain these five so eager to build communities of prayer, love, and service to a world in need gives me such hope for the future of God's mission in the Church," said Bishop Hirschfeld.

The Ordinands were sponsored by their home parishes in the Episcopal Church of New Hampshire, and have received the following assignments for the start of their Diaconates:

- W. Timothy Brooks, from St. Paul's, Lancaster, now serving in Lancaster and Colebrook NH,
- William Clayton Cruse, from Christ Church, North Conway, now serving at the Kaleidoscope Institute,
- Reed Julian Loy, from St. James, Keene, now serving in Maine,
- Kelly Sundberg Seaman, from St. Thomas, Hanover, now serving at Church of the Epiphany, Newport, NH and St. Andrew's, New London, and
- Winifred June Skeates, from All Saints', Peterborough, now serving at St. John's, Dunbarton.

initiate a robust conversation about the meaning of baptism's relation to communion and vice versa, and the effect these decisions have on how we form disciples of Jesus Christ.

This is an important discussion, and I would like to take advantage of our Diocesan Convention to at least begin it. Yep, you read that right. We are actually going to do theology in a Diocesan Convention. Buckle up. That conversation will be a success if our delegates come away with preconceived attitudes disturbed, and with greater appreciation for both sides of the issue.

To be honest, I would like to invite more people into a sacred comprehensiveness, a wideness of God's truth that so often embraces two contradictions in balance that waits for the Spirit to resolve the tension. Who knows how God may surprise us once we invite the Holy Spirit to guide us as an assembled church?

And finally, as usual, we will consider the budget for the 2016 program year in Christ's service. Please come to the presentation in your Convocation to hear more about these matters and more.

Gratefully Yours in Christ's Service,
+Rob

DRAWING HOPE Episcopal Church funds Prison Art Program

A grant from the Outreach Commission of The Episcopal Church of New Hampshire, in collaboration with the Arts Alliance of Northern New Hampshire, was used to offer art classes in Berlin, NH's State Prison. The Prison Art Program was launched through the vision and effort of parishioners at St. Barnabas Church, Berlin, NH.



A local artist in the region, Andre Belanger, led pastel classes at the Northern New Hampshire Correctional Facility. "Our vision is that arts experiences can expand the outlook of inmates, and encourage inner growth through self discovery and self expression," Belanger explained. "Through these art classes we not only draw pictures, we draw hope." Inmates have participated in woodprinting, charcoal and pastel classes.

The seed grant of \$1000 from the Outreach Commission paid for instruction. "These classes can expand the outlook of the students, something that can be invaluable and rare in prisons," said The Rev. Rosalie Richards, a leader in the Prison Art Project. She added, "Based on the incredible response by inmates and by staff at the Berlin State Prison, an initial class was offered at the Federal prison in Berlin, and the staff and men are grateful and enthusiastic about the program." In July, art lessons began at the NH State Prison for Women in Goffstown. Plans are already in place to offer classes at the NH State Prison for Men in Concord, as well.

The inmates are required to pay an entire week's salary of \$10 in order to take the 8-session class. At the State of NH facilities, the cost of supplies is paid out of the Inmate Recreation Fund, which is money received by the phone company for collect calls made from the facility and which is returned to the prison to help fund enrichment programs.

Individual contributions to the program are also being accepted. Checks made out to St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, 2 High Street, Berlin, NH 03570, and marked "Prison Art" on the memo line may be mailed, or you can go to the Arts Alliance of Northern New Hampshire webpage (www.aannh.org) and click "Prison Art" to pay by PayPal. Please put "Prison Art" and your address in the notation box. This will ensure that the money is sent to support this program, and that you will receive acknowledgement of your tax-deductible donation.

Mind, Body and Tea

Author, humanitarian, and nationally acclaimed speaker, The Rev. Becca Stevens made her first visit to New Hampshire to offer insights how we can help heal the deep brokenness associated with women in crisis. She shared her experiences and transformational stories of oppression and the growing movement of women's freedom and our own spiritual lives. "Heal the women, heal the whole community," Stevens preached.

Her work includes founding the Magdalene Program, a residential community for women who are survivors of sexual abuse, domestic abuse, addiction, prostitution, and trafficking. She also began Thistle Farms, a self-supporting program, which employs nearly 50 Magdalene residents, helping survivors gain skills, work experience, and earn an income with a line of natural body care products; a paper and sewing studio; the Thistle Stop Café, and the Shared Trade initiative linking 14 women's social enterprises around the globe.



Becca Stevens' visit to New Hampshire was organized and sponsored by St. Andrew's-by-the-Sea, in Rye Beach, New Hampshire, with help from St. John's Episcopal Church, Portsmouth, who hosted a "Justice Tea Party" with The Rev. Stevens for 200 guests.

For more information on the Magdalene Program or Thistle Farms, visit www.thistlefarms.org.

New Hampshire at the 78th General Convention of The Episcopal Church

By Margaret Porter

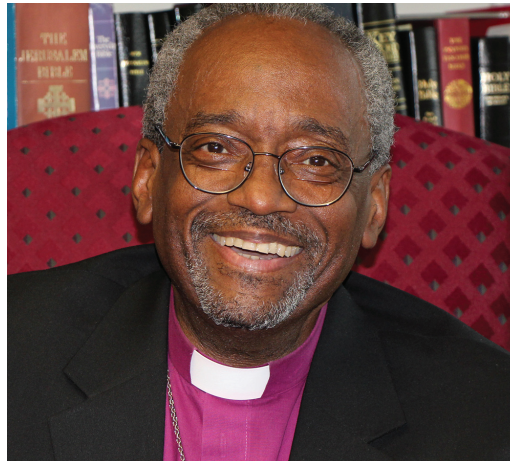
From the 23rd of June until the 3rd of July, lay and clergy Deputies to the triennial General Convention and delegates to the Episcopal Church Women Triennial Meeting descended upon Salt Lake City. The weather was extremely hot, over 100 degrees, but inside the very chilly Salt Palace Convention we were fired up by the Holy Spirit. Our NH contingent was large—not only elected representatives, but individuals who attended in other capacities.

For this “paperless” convention, every deputy and first alternate and bishop was issued an iPad loaded with our Virtual Binder, consisting of proposed legislation, committee hearing schedules, the daily worship bulletins, and so much more. Its portability and ease of use was a great improvement over the giant 3-ring binders used at past conventions.

A few of many significant developments:

- Election of the first African-American Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry of North Carolina
- Canonical and liturgical changes providing for same-sex marriages
- Joint discussions of the House of Deputies with House of Bishops on Mission, Structure, and Budget
- Approval of the TEC budget for the next triennium with alterations to church governing structures
- Passage of resolution C005 on decreasing gun violence (NH was involved with this one!)
- Preparation for future hymnal and prayer book revisions
- Recognition of the detrimental effects of alcohol and alcoholism within the Church.

“We did well individually and collectively,” reports The Rev. Bill Exner. “The rookies shined and the grizzled veterans kept it real.” First-time deputy Becky Goodwin adds, “This experience has been profoundly moving, exhilarating, exhausting and I dare say formative in so many ways. I am grateful for the relationships I forged . . . and for the constant support and encouragement I received.” Sarah Ambrogio, another first-timer, came home ready to “embark on the



The Rt. Rev. Michael Curry, Bishop of North Carolina, was elected our 27th Presiding Bishop, photo courtesy of The Episcopal Church

work of the Episcopal Church of New Hampshire with joy and a sense of hope,” and appreciated the “inspired preaching each day and an opportunity to experience a wide cultural array of music.”

The Rev. Kate Atkinson gained a broadened perspective: “Attending the wide variety of public hearings gave me a whole new understanding of the importance of ‘sharing our stories’. The Episcopal Church touches lives in miraculous ways—and our ‘neighborhood’ has no boundaries.” The Rev. Jane Van Zandt identified the daily community eucharist as a highlight.

The NH deputies will give a briefing at the September 17th Clergy Day. The deputation’s illustrated blog is at nhgeneralconvention.blogspot.com, with links to other sources of information. To read Bishop Rob’s personal reflections of the 78th General Convention, visit his blog, www.tendingthevine.org.

(Margaret Porter is a three-time Deputy to Convention who divides her time between diocesan work and writing fiction and nonfiction.)

TRANSITIONS

- The Rev. Richard (Dick) Matthews is the Interim Rector at St. Peter’s, Londonderry.
- The Rev. Caroline Hines is the Interim Rector at St. James, Keene.
- The Rev. Luis Rodriguez has been called as the new Rector of St. Andrew’s, Hopkinton.
- Any clergy who are canonically resident in NH who would like The Rev. Canon Hannah Anderson to present their names at the Transition Ministry Conference in September as part of a search, should contact Hannah by the first week of September and send a resume.

The 50th Anniversary of Jonathan Daniels

*'I heard the voice of the Lord saying whom shall I send?
Who will go for us?
Then said I, 'Here Am I, Send Me'.'* *Isaiah 6:8*

This summer marks the 50th anniversary of the death of Jonathan Daniels, a saint and martyr in the Episcopal Church, who was assassinated on August 20, 1965 at the height of the Civil Rights movement. Daniels, a seminarian at the Episcopal Theological School in Cambridge, Massachusetts, went south that summer answering the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s call for clergy to help register black voters. While there, Daniels was arrested along with a number of Civil Rights workers. Upon being released from jail, he headed to a store to buy a cold drink. As he approached, a local deputy sheriff, Tom Coleman, raised his gun and fired. Jonathan shoved SNCC (Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee) worker Ruby Sales out of the way, taking the fatal shot himself.

Jonathan grew up in Keene, New Hampshire where he worshipped at St. James Episcopal Church. To honor him and the beliefs he stood and died for, a Jonathan Daniels Commemoration Committee has hosted activities throughout the year locally, nationally and internationally to commemorate his life and death, with the theme, "Here I am, Send Me," encouraging others touched by Daniels' example to do one thing to make the world a better place.

From August 11 – 15, Bishop Hirschfeld will join the St. James, Keene, youth group on a Pilgrimage to Hayneville, Alabama, where Daniels was assassinated. The trip includes immersion in the history of the Civil Rights movement with a walk across the famous Edmund Pettus Bridge, tours of the National Voting Rights Museum, The Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, the Rosa Parks Museum and visits to the sites of slave markets. The week will culminate with a youth lock-in on April 14 and a march and Eucharist on August 15 with Presiding Bishop-elect The Rt. Rev. Michael Curry in Hayneville, attended by bishops and youth groups from across the country. You can visit Bishop Rob's blog, tendingthevine.org, to read his reflections.

On Sunday, August 23, a Commemorative Worship Service will be held at St. James, Keene, officiated by Bishop Rob Hirschfeld. Ruby Sales, whose life was saved by Daniels, will offer the sermon. St. James is located at 44 West Street in Keene and all are welcome to attend the service, followed by a Walk of Remembrance to Jonathan Daniels' grave, and a celebratory luncheon. RSVP's are required for the luncheon only, by emailing jonathandanielscommittee@gmail.com or calling (603) 355-4760. Visit the calendar at <http://www.jonathandaniels50.org> to view additional events being planned.

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Bishop Rob's blog
tendingthevine.org

Canon Hannah's blog
thepurplefinch.org

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