

2015 Lay Leadership Institute

by Judith Esmy, Canon for Lay Leadership and
Dean, Lay Leadership Institute

The 2015 Lay Leadership Institute will be held Saturday, May 9 at Rundlett Middle School in Concord. All members of your congregation willing to work in the governance and ministries of the church -- as well as all members of vestries, bishop's committees, church committees and all clergy who support the laity in their ministries -- are encouraged to enroll in this diocesan program dedicated to the preparation and formation of our congregational leaders.

All first-time Lay Leadership Institute students should enroll in the Basic Course for a broad curriculum that includes the structure and governance of The Episcopal Church; property issues both realty and fiscal; roles and relationships in congregational organizations; and the potential for personal spiritual formation. Although the core of the course remains the same, teaching materials are refreshed annually, and graduates are welcome to return to the Basic Course.

Those who have attended the Basic Course may enroll in one of five all-day seminars, each of which will include in-depth, hands-on presentations and participation. Seminars include the following:

- An extraordinary opportunity to explore a new way of being the church with Dwight Zscheile, author of *The Agile Church: Spirit-led Innovation in an Uncertain Age* and *The People of the Way: Renewing Episcopal Identity*.
- An opportunity to tap the collected experience and wisdom of members of the Committee on Mission Resources for opportunities, processes, resources, and inspiration for congregational development and financial assistance.
- A chance for treasurers, and others, to discuss compensation and benefits issues with Canon for Mission Resources and CFO Kevin Nichols, and the special team reviewing the Clergy Compensation Guidelines and Manual
- Exploration of what servant leadership really means along with examination of models of servant leadership, led by Canon Hannah Anderson
- A roundtable to allow active wardens to learn some of the most significant components of their leadership team, both from one another and from seasoned warden Dave Young.

Advance registration is now open on the Diocesan website, www.nhepiscopal.org/lay-leadership, and is mandatory for attendance. Here you will receive detailed information on seminar content and schedule.

Daniels grew up in Keene, New Hampshire, where he worshiped at St. James Episcopal Church. To honor him and the beliefs he stood and died for, the Jonathan Daniels Commemoration Committee is spearheading the planning of activities throughout the year locally, nationally and internationally to commemorate his life and death. The committee has adopted a theme for the year based on the biblical passage from Isaiah 6:8 "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." The goal is to have every person touched by Daniels' example to do one thing to make the world a better place to live. The website, jonathananderson50.org, offers information on Daniels' life and a schedule of events for this memorial year. 2015 will provide many opportunities to honor the memory and sacrifice of Jonathan Daniels. All Granite Staters are urged to join in this important commemoration.

Dinner with Dwight Zscheile

Author of *The Agile Church*



The evening before the 2015 Lay Leadership Institute, we will be joined by best-selling author of *The Agile Church: Spirit Led Innovation in an Uncertain Age*, as the Keynote Speaker at dinner on Friday, May 8 at the Audubon Center in Concord, NH. He will share his thoughts on the challenges we face as a Church, focusing on ways to participate in God's mission through innovation and experimentation.

Cost for this event is \$28.00 per person. Checks may be made out to the Episcopal Church of New Hampshire and sent to: Lynn Eaton, 63 Green Street, Concord, NH 03301. Seating for the event is limited to 100. For more information, contact Lynn Eaton at 603/224-1914, or by email at leaton@nhepiscopal.org.

The 50th Anniversary of Jonathan Daniels

A year of events commemorating the 50th anniversary of the martyrdom of Jonathan Daniels kicked off at St. James Episcopal Church in Keene this winter. Jonathan Daniels heeded the call of Dr. King to come to Alabama to register voters in 1965 and 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, Jonathan was arrested along with a number of civil rights workers. Upon being released from jail, he along with several others headed to a store to buy a cold drink. As they 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.

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Letter From Bishop Rob



When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
Thy touch can call us back to life again,
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:
Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.
(Hymn 204, Hymnal 1982)

Wintry hearts. Fields dead and bare. For many of us in New Hampshire, suffering from cabin fever and severe snow-fatigue, the springing green that accompanies the celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus is almost bewildering. What does bare ground even look like? Green leaves? Flowers? Some may even say, "I forget. What does the skin of my arms and legs even look like in the light of day?"

On my desk is a postcard reproduction of the Italian Renaissance artist Andrea del Sarto's rendering of Jesus at the moment of his returning to life from the dead in the tomb. Del Sarto's "Pieta" is the only depiction that I have found in the whole world of visual arts of that mysterious moment. Even the writers of the Gospels withdraw from that scene, choosing instead to say simply that the tomb is empty. Del Sarto instead takes us into the tomb before the first witnesses of the Rising arrive to show us a quiet Jesus contemplating both the past days and the future. Our Lord is sitting up, as though for the first time, examining the openings in his hands and feet. The wound in his side is subtly shown, but raw. The soft palette of the fresco almost invites us to hear his first breaths filling again with air, exhales echoing in hewn stone.

It's a pause just before the world will be turned upside down as he walks out from the tomb, the stone rolled away. Soon he will appear to the women, and then the other disciples, and then the two walking on the road to Emmaus. Soon he will set in motion the movement of Life that we move forward today. But for now, in the tomb as imagined by del Sarto, he appears himself quite possibly overwhelmed and bewildered by what has happened, even if he himself told us it would happen this way.

In many ways this pause is exactly where the Church is today. The Church has been crucified, hasn't it? It has been pushed to the side of our society and the spheres of influence, status, and privilege. In some places of the world, such as we saw on the shores of Libya, we are watching a new age of Christian martyrdom. We remember Jonathan Daniels in that same light. The days when Church did not have to compete with youth activities and programs are long gone. The days when political parties took serious notice of our witness for peace, mercy, and justice in the name of God are also fast fading. So, the image of Jesus, just waking up to what is real and true after the crucifixion is in a deep sense the image we have of the Church in our day. Not triumphant, not muscular, but no longer asleep either. What a beautifully freeing place to be! We are learning to live again, ready to step outside the stone cave, curious about what comes next.

Of course, Jesus is not only curious about his body. When he appears to the disciples after the Third Day, he starts asking questions: "Whom are you looking for? What are you discussing along the way? Have you tried putting the nets on the other side of the boat? Do you love me?" His questions lead others not merely to believing, but to belonging.

Could it be that to the extent we are not curious about what God is doing in the lives of our neighbors and our world, we remain in the tomb, gaping at our wounds? But marvelously, everywhere, the Church is curious, as we are waking up to new life, as though sitting up once again with new wind in our lungs. So I hope you will spend this Eastertide by patterning your life on the inquisitiveness of Jesus and ask things like "What's going on with my neighbors? Who lived here anyway? What are we discussing along the way? Who's hungry? Who, like our Savior, is wounded? Who are we not noticing? How is God showing up in this place?"

As it was at the first Easter, it is again time for questions such as these to lead us out of our tombs into the new life in Jesus. Then may our wintry hearts warm again to the life that springeth green!

+Rob

News From The Vine

A Publication From The Episcopal Church of NH



Celebrations of New Ministry

Peterborough's All Saints' Church hosted a Celebration of New Ministry for The Reverend Jamie L. Hamilton on January 14. The community joined to celebrate the Rev. Hamilton's ministry and a new season of life together in Christ's name.

Church of Our Savior, Milford, welcomed The Rev. Hays M. (Hank) Junkin as their permanent Rector, after serving as Interim Rector since 2013. Rev. Junkin was instituted as Rector on January 21.

The service for celebrating New Ministry is presided over by Bishop Hirschfeld and Canons Hannah Anderson and Kevin Nichols. The ceremony features a recommitment of shared ministries, a special Litany of Renewal of the Church, a Covenant of Mutual Ministry and the exchange of symbolic gifts of ministry: water for baptism, a Bible for proclaiming the gospel, keys to doors open for all people and a candle representing the light of Christ.

Transitions

- The Rev. Celeste Hemingson has been serving as Interim Rector at Christ Church in North Conway.
- The Rev. Susan Garrity is the new Interim Rector at All Saints', Littleton. The Rev. Kurt Wiesner, who served All Saints' since December, 2008, is the new Rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Salt Lake City, Utah.
- The Rev. Janet Lombardo, formerly of St. Paul's, Lancaster, is the new Interim Rector of Trinity Church in Claremont. She replaces the Rev. Susan Langle. St. Paul's has a new Interim Rector, the Rev. Jay Hutchinson, who is living in New Hampshire while on sabbatical from his role as a school chaplain in the Diocese of Delaware.
- The Rev. Angie Cipolla was ordained a priest in New York City at a service attended by Bishop Hirschfeld and the Rev. Canon Hannah Anderson. She continues to work as a chaplain with the NYC Fire Department while seeking a call that will keep her in the New York City area.
- The Rev. Mark Jenkins of St. James Church in Keene announced his retirement from parish ministry in June, following a 30-year career in ordained ministry.
- The Rev. Linda Spinella, Vicar of the Church of St. John the Evangelist in Dunbarton, has accepted a full-time chaplaincy at Hospice House in Concord, NH. She will be stepping down from her role at St. John's after Easter.

Save the Date

May 9, 2015
Lay Leadership Institute
Rundlett Middle School, Concord, NH

Episcopal Church Leaders Attend Mediation Skills Training

The Rev. Canon Hannah Anderson, The Reverends Gail Avery, Janet Lombardo, Mark Pendleton, Bill Peterson and Anne Williamson attended the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center's Mediation Training Skills Institute for Church Leaders held at Camp Calumet in Freedom, New Hampshire from March 2-6, 2015.

Lombard Mennonite Peace Center has trained hundred of church leaders from a wide range of denominations in the skills that are needed to deal with conflict in the church setting through lectures, discussion, and guided practice in roleplays.

General Convention Preview

The 78th General Convention will take place from June 22 – July 3, 2015 in Salt Lake City, UT. General Convention is the governing body of the Episcopal Church. The Convention meets every three years and has the authority to amend the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church; adopt the budget for the church for the next three years; authorize liturgical texts and amend the Book of Common Prayer; adopt communions and covenants with other churches; set qualifications for orders of ministry and office-holders; elect officers of the General Convention, the Executive Council, and members of boards; and delegate responsibilities to the committees, commissions, agencies, and boards of the Episcopal Church.

At this General Convention, delegates will choose a new Presiding Bishop to replace The Most Reverend Katharine Jefferts Schori. The Episcopal Church of New Hampshire's delegates are Bishop Hirschfeld, the Rev. Canon Kevin Nichols, the Reverends Kate Atkinson, Randy Dales, Bill Exner and Jason Wells, lay leaders Sarah Ambrogi, M. Bonnie Chappell, Margaret Porter, and Lynn Tyler, with Rebecca Goodwin as alternate.

A website with all schedules, reports and resolutions may be viewed at www.generalconvention.org.

Clergy Comp and Benefits

This winter, Canon for Mission Resources / CFO Kevin Nichols convened a Compensation & Benefits Team with participants drawn from each of the six Convocations. This Team was formed to assess current clergy and lay compensation & benefits and develop an integrated manual that includes guidelines for clergy and vestries. Areas of review include the 2012 Clergy Compensation Manual, Medical Plan options and cost sharing for 2015, and beyond. The Team will examine guidelines from other dioceses and the private sector, retired clergy and lay staff benefits, and other tools. (continued)

THE FIVE PRACTICES

How are we Tending the Vine in New Hampshire? These are The Five Practices, the activities that express how we share the work of God, The Divine Vinedresser.

1 We Show Up

- As Christ's presence in the Church and in the World.
- As committed worshipers, connectors, gatherers, senders, forgivers, reconcilers.
- As servants, disciples, learners, listeners.

Our worship happens any time of the week. Our service happens always. Like Jesus, we are at home in contemplative action.

When Abraham saw them, he ran from the tent to meet them, and he bowed down to the ground. (Genesis 18:2). Then Mary said, "Here I am, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." (Luke 1:38).

2 We Tell The Story

- Of creation, fall, deliverance.
- Of God's passion for justice, peace, holiness, humanity, life.
- Of Jesus and the disciples.

We know how those stories are woven into our stories, here and now. We study because we are disciples, learners. We find our life hidden with Christ and reveal it through storytelling—our evangelism.

The Word is very near you... (Deuteronomy 30:14). In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (John 1:1). But there are also many things that Jesus did; if every one of them were written down, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that could be written. (John 21:25)

3 We Splash Water

- Water purifies and cleanses.
- Water can also destroy and drown.
- Water is the source of life and creation.

(Clergy, Comp and Benefits, cont.)

Members selected by Bishop Rob include Sarah Ambrogi (Southern Convocation), Steve Baker (Central), Bonnie Chappell, Chair (Western), Alice Claflin (Northern), Gloria Gallant (Lakes & D-house), the Rev. Hank Junkin (Southern), the Rev. Sue Poulin (Lakes Region), and the Rev. Jason Wells (Central). Additionally, representatives from prior Compensation Committees and Task Forces have been asked to serve as consultants to the process.

The Compensation & Benefits Team has been meeting monthly since early January. They led the March 19 Clergy Day and are scheduled to hold a similar event for lay leaders at the Lay Lead-

Baptism separates us from humanity and creation, but also immerses us, in the same water God created and chose to enter in Jesus Christ. The font does not hide us from the pain of the world, but expels us into the world to listen, love, and serve, knowing we are being raised from sin and death.

Do you not know that all who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ has been raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. (Romans 6:3-4).

4 We Share Food

- With each other, at the Altar and in the parish hall.
- With the hungry, going out among them, who are often us.

We behold what we are in the broken bread, the Risen Christ. We work for a more just society.

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines... (Isaiah 25:6). While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it and gave it to the disciples... (Matthew 26:26)

5 God Surprises

- Through communities in Christ, growing beyond their walls.
- Through new ministries in new places, some without any walls at all.

People who have walked in darkness have seen a great light. (Isaiah 9:2). He answered... "The blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them." (Luke 7:22)

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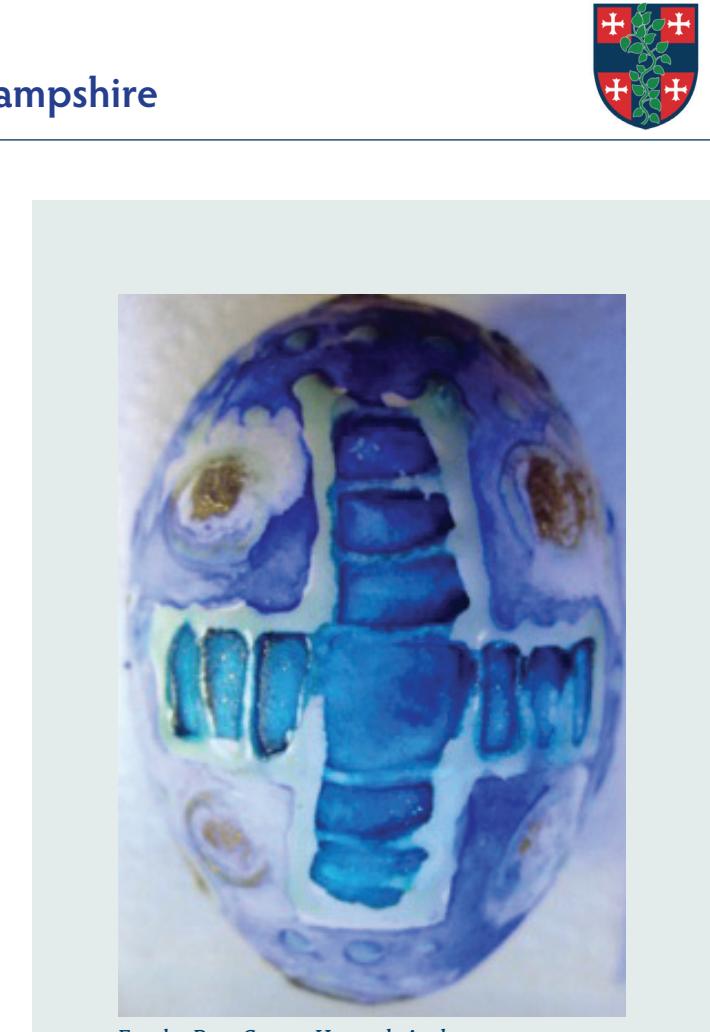
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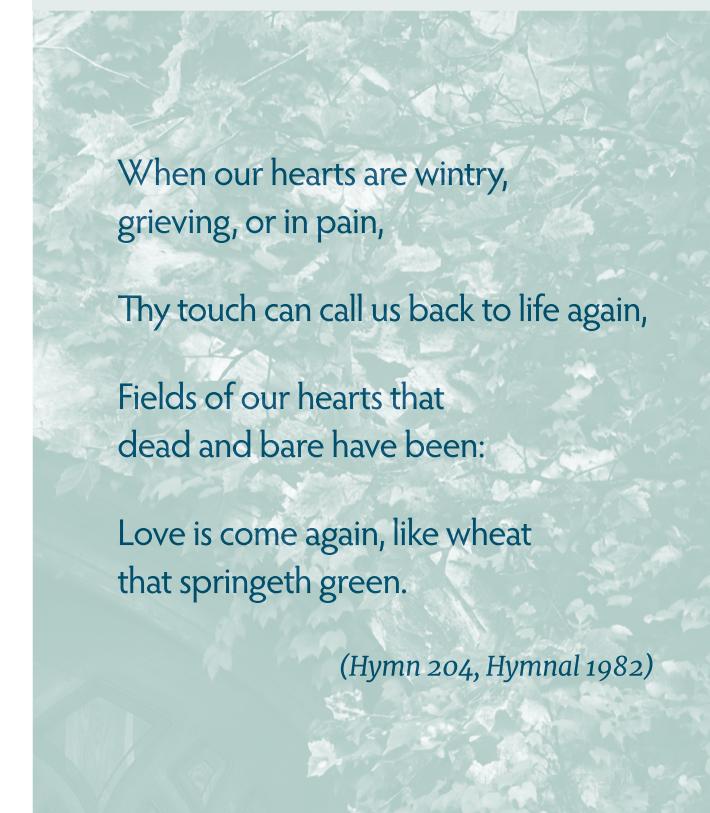
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Egg by Rev. Canon Hannah Anderson



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