



Delaware Communion is an edition of *Episcopal Life* and has been in continuous publication since 1976.

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## ON THE WEB

www.DioceesofDelaware.net

DECEMBER 1:  
WORLD AIDS DAY

### Delaware Episcopalians join the fight!

by Maureen Lyons,  
Trinity Parish, Wilmington



The 2008 AIDS Walk Delaware in New Castle and Sussex Counties enjoyed major participation and support from our parishes and schools. Walkers from Immanuel on the Green, New Castle, Immanuel Church—Highlands, Trinity Parish, Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, Ascension Episcopal Church, Christ Church Christiana Hundred, St. Peter's, Lewes, All Saints and St. George's Chapel, Rehoboth Beach, St. Andrew's School and St. Anne's School, Middletown all turned out in great numbers to keep HIV/AIDS in people's awareness as the virus seeks new populations and ages to infect.

These wonderful walkers raised more than \$20,000 as they lived out their baptismal promise to "seek and serve Christ in all people."

The 2008 AIDS Walk supports AIDS Delaware, the state's oldest and largest AIDS service organization, and its community partners in HIV/AIDS education and outreach, testing, and case management. Delaware continually ranks in the top 10 states in per capita HIV/AIDS infection. Our Episcopal organizations worked hard to stem that tide!

# DELAWARE Communion

Episcopal Life  
Edition

Episcopal Diocese of Delaware

December 2008

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## GLOBAL OUTREACH



## Home from the Sudan with Plans to Return

by Mike Chalmers,  
St. Thomas's, Newark

The first time the electricity went out in Khartoum, Judi Gregory panicked.

As business manager for the Episcopal Diocese of Delaware, Gregory had become accustomed, of course, to the reliability of things like electricity, clean running water, and phone service. She had taken for granted the ability to walk down the street without fear,

drive to the store without attracting stares, take pictures without being detained by armed men.

But now Gregory was a missionary in the capital city of Northern Sudan, an African country of 40 million people just south of Egypt. From May to August, she worked in Khartoum and nearby cities to help reorganize the finances and communications of the fractured Episcopal Church of Sudan (ECS).

So with the Internet still accessible and her laptop com-

puter running on a two-hour battery, Gregory lit a candle and frantically wrote blog entries and emails.

"I was praying the lights would come back on before my battery died," Gregory said. "That was the link to my world, my friends, my family."

Gregory's journey to Sudan began two years ago with an eight-day CREDO retreat in Orlando, Florida. She's a member of Saints Andrew and Matthew in Wilmington, but she began looking for ways to become involved in the larger

Episcopal Church. She'd considered joining the Peace Corps many years ago, so the idea of mission work was appealing. When David Copley, the Episcopal Church's Mission Personnel Officer, said he needed a CPA in Sudan, she was shocked.

"My first comment was, 'Don't they need a lot more in Sudan than just a CPA?'" she said.

But the Episcopal Church of Sudan did indeed need an accountant because it had fractured

*continued on next page (Page B)*

## DIOCESE OF DELAWARE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

### Women of Delaware Raise the Empowerment of Women in Annual ECW Meeting



by Sr. Cassandra Grace Norsworthy,  
St. Barnabas, Wilmington

Over 75 women from fourteen Delaware parishes convened for the Annual Diocesan Episcopal Church Women's (ECW) gathering on Saturday, October 18, at St. Peter's Parish in Lewes.

After opening devotions, Danielle Triello, the Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) National Church representative presented an overview of Millennium Development Goal #3: Promoting Gender Equality and Empowering Women. The group then broke into workshops, one being "The Basics of Life & Preventable Disease," presented by Teri Smith-Jones, the Sussex County ERD Representative, and the other "Economic Opportuni-

ties-Micro-Credit Loans" presented by Ms. Triello. Both workshops were extremely enlightening and inspirational, with attendees walking away amazed at what the Episcopal Church is doing to help the people throughout the world. We can make a difference!

The ECW Board held its business meeting in the sanctuary immediately after the presentations. Joan Lyons of the Seaman's Center in Wilmington spoke about their program helping the seamen who bring all kinds of foods, automobiles, etc. into our port. Many of us brought gloves, hats, and scarves to give to the seamen to help them with the cold winter ahead.

The UTO presented a \$13,000 grant to the Rev. Earl Beshears for the Bishop's Mis-

sion Fund recipient, First Steps Primeros Pasos, of which he is the board chairman. Trudi Cole, director of the program, gave the group a rundown on what they do and how they help the children and their parents.

The Rt. Rev. Wayne P. Wright, Bishop of Delaware celebrated at the Eucharist, which was marked by music written

by women and a stirring sermon by Carlyle Gill, found on Page C (inside back cover).

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**Next ECW**  
**Annual Meeting**  
**Saturday**  
**October 17, 2009**



Parishes around Delaware celebrated All Saints Day in November. Here the people of Sts. Andrew and Matthew, Wilmington, lift the saints in prayer and song.

## Thanksgiving in Unsettled Times

by Wayne Wright,  
Bishop of the Diocese of Delaware

We are passing through unsettled times. Cares and concerns are on the rise. The swirl of events flying around us is both fascinating and deeply distracting. It feels almost scary to turn on the television or read the morning paper. Who wants to open the financial statements arriving in our mail boxes?



Thanksgiving is only a few days away as I write this letter. Given all that is happening, the Thanksgiving season couldn't be coming at a better time. I love this grand old holiday. It is a great American tradition that beats with a profoundly spiritual pulse. Cranberries, turkey and dressing tell only part of the story. With Thanksgiving – the name says it all.

The spirit of thanksgiving lies at the heart of a spiritual life. It is the simple recognition of how the living God touches our lives with blessing. It is an understanding of just how blessed we are in the good times and in the bad. St. Paul, always a great teacher, offers an instructive example of how to live in this spirit. As the Epistle to the Philippians concludes, Paul looks back over his life and ministry. He had experienced remarkable accomplishments and dramatic setbacks. Thinking of all this, Paul writes: "I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:12) Paul understood the spiritual freedom and power that come from living with open hands and open hearts. He understood the truth of Jesus' promise, "Lo, I will be with you always." This is the blessed spirit of thanksgiving.

This year as the holiday approaches my thoughts will be focused on just why I am thankful. The gift of good health comes to mind immediately. This time last year doctors told me that I had prostate cancer. I had to wrestle with the hard choices of how to be treated and face that treatment. Now a year later my treatments are complete. I am a cancer survivor, feeling better all the time, and well along the road to recovery. I no longer take good health

for granted. This is certainly a reason to be thankful.

In November last year the national political campaigns were moving into high gear. The field was still wide open. A seemingly endless season of politics stretched before us. No one knew, or could have predicted, the outcome. Just a few weeks ago I stood in a line at the Highlands School gym. I was one of millions around this nation casting my vote. That Tuesday night the ballots were counted. The next morning the headlines proclaimed the winners and the losers. In Georgetown, Delaware that same day barricades were

being erected on the streets leading to the town square. In other parts of the world workers set up such barriers as precautions for unruly or violent demonstrations, but not here. Georgetown was preparing for Return Day. In front of a cheering crowd the winners and the losers would "bury the hatchet" subordinating competitive ambition and personal disappointment for the common good of us all. A few days later George Bush and Barack Obama shook hands on the White House steps. The everyday miracle of a peaceful, national transition is underway.

On page 821 of the Book of Common Prayer there is a beautiful prayer to be offered for our government and our national leaders. I have been using it every day since the election. As Thanksgiving Day approaches I am both thankful and hopeful for our nation.

Bishop Douglas Cameron and his wife, Pat, will be our guests for Thanksgiving dinner. Bishop Cameron is the retired bishop of our companion diocese in Scotland. The Camerons are here in Delaware for our annual weekend retreat at Memorial House for clergy partners and spouses. They are staying on to share an "American" thanksgiving dinner with us. Our friendship with the Diocese of Argyll and The Isles has been a great blessing over these last years. Their presence at our thanksgiving table will be another sign of the blessings we share with them in Christ.

Our son, Parker, will be home from college for Thanksgiving. He left in August for his freshman year at Wittenberg University in Ohio. He is off to a good start in college and is enjoying the experience. Seeing him do well, reminds me again of the formative role teachers and schools play in our lives. Being an educator is not easy work. The best teachers give so much of themselves for other people. This is a reason to be thankful.

Being thankful is a life-changing gift from God. The world needs thankful people – especially in these days. My hope is that each of us will find ways to share these many blessings generously and faithfully with others. This is the way that God changes our world.

## Back from the Sudan continued from front page (Page A)

into three parts during the civil war that ended with the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in 2005. (The Sudanese church adopted the American model of an Episcopal church when the country broke from the United Kingdom in 1956.) Gregory made a ten-day orientation visit in February and returned in May to the conservative and predominantly Muslim northern part of Sudan.



"I fell in love with the country and with the people," Gregory said.

The house where she lived was one of hundreds clustered around a rectangular, dirt courtyard the size of two soccer fields. In the evenings, boys would come out to play soccer, and Gregory would be the only woman watching them and cheering them on. Through soccer, though, she came to know other people in the neighborhood.

"It's strange that the thing they call football and I call soccer was the one thing that was familiar and the thing we had in common," Gregory said.

The streets are packed with taxis, buses and motorized rickshaws, all rumbling, honking and ignoring the traffic laws. "No one pays attention to traffic lights, traffic signs, lines on the road," she said.

One day she made the short drive to the store without a male escort and attracted the stares of nearly everyone she passed. The sight of a white woman driving a car by herself was just too bizarre to ignore.

"I was loving it, but I was breaking so many social rules," she said.

By the end of her time in Sudan, Gregory had agreed to be a financial consultant to the new archbishop there, Daniel Deng

Bul, and make up to two trips a year to continue her work. Recently, she found out that the Global Mission Committee at St. Peter's in Lewes would send \$1,500 to Sudan for strategic needs in honor of Gregory's work.

Whatever change she brought to Sudan, Gregory said the experience changed her forever. For instance, she actually learned to enjoy power outages.

"I came to really appreciate that down time," she said.

Visit the Blogs page of the diocesan website for a link to Judi's blog of her Sudan experience.

### Need A Great Gift?

Try the  
Gifts for Life  
on-line catalog on  
the Episcopal Relief and  
Development website:

[www.er-d.org](http://www.er-d.org)

### THE BISHOP'S CALENDAR: DECEMBER

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>3 Wednesday:</b> Bishop's Day in Georgetown                                 | <b>18 Thursday:</b> Trustees' Meeting, Cathedral Church of St. John          |
| <b>7 Sunday:</b> Morning Visitation, St. Philip's Church, Laurel               | <b>21 Sunday:</b> Morning Visitation, St. James Mill Creek, Wilmington       |
| <b>8 Monday:</b> Executive Committee, Bishop's Office                          | <b>24 Wednesday:</b> Christmas Service, Delaware Correctional Center, Smyrna |
| <b>10 Wednesday:</b> Church Publishing Board Meeting, New York                 | <b>24 Wednesday:</b> Christmas Eve Service, Cathedral Church of St. John     |
| <b>14 Sunday:</b> Morning Visitation, Christ Church, Milford                   | <b>25 Thursday:</b> Christmas Day  |
| <b>15 Monday:</b> Bishop & Council Meeting, St. Nicholas' Church, Newark       | <b>25 Thursday – 26 Friday:</b> Christmas Holiday, Bishop's Office Closed    |
| <b>16 Tuesday:</b> Standing Committee Meeting, St. Andrew's School, Middletown | <b>31 Wednesday:</b> New Year's Eve Holiday, Bishop's Office Closed          |

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**224th Convention  
of the Episcopal  
Diocese of Delaware**

**Christ Church  
Christiana Hundred  
March 27-28, 2009**

For details, contact Pat Hall  
**656-5441**  
[PatHall@DioceseofDelaware.net](mailto:PatHall@DioceseofDelaware.net)



DELAWARE  
**Communion**

The Episcopal Diocese of Delaware

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## Prophetic Ministry

Sermon given at the Annual Gathering of the Episcopal Church Women in Delaware by the Rev. Carlyle Gill

Today is the feast day of St. Luke, the annual gathering of the Episcopal Church Women of the Diocese of Delaware, and a day of special emphasis on the third Millennium Goal: the Empowerment of Women. Quite a day! These are not disparate events but profoundly related. My sermon will be about how they are related—how the Spirit is at work knitting them together.

In Luke's gospel, Jesus' first sermon in his home town synagogue is based on a text from the prophet Isaiah. It is Luke's intention to show us that Jesus embodies these prophetic words: that Jesus is the fulfillment of Isaiah's words, that Jesus is anointed to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives, recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. This, Luke wants us to know, is Jesus' ministry, his mission statement, as it were. This ministry is prophetic ministry.

Prophetic ministry has a long and glorious history beginning with Moses and Miriam, his sister. Moses stood up to Pharaoh and said, "Let my people go!" Miriam celebrated the miraculous crossing of the Reed Sea with her song, "Sing to the Lord a new song...!"

When Israel had succumbed to another oppressive monarchy of its own making, prophets arose to challenge the regime and warn of impending doom if things did not change. These were people faith and passion. But the rulers did not listen and Israel fell to the Babylonians. Isaiah and others were prophets of hope telling the people that even in exile, even when all seemed lost, God had not forsaken them. That they, now captive and oppressed, would be set free.

Years later another Miriam, known to us as Mary the mother of our Lord, spoke to the Israelites with an impassioned and hopeful voice as they endured oppression under Roman rule. You remember what she said, "He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty...."

Passionate, faithful, hope filled, courageous people willing to give voice to their faith, willing to speak the truth no matter what it cost, willing to speak of hope when everything around them spoke of death.

But this ministry, this prophetic ministry is also ours by baptism. By baptism we are members of the Body of Christ, incorporated into his ministry. We are Christ's voice in the world.

Oh, but you might ask, prophetic ministry, us? A prophet, me? I don't know about you, but I didn't wake up this morning, look in the mirror and say, "Hmmm prophet...How shall I release the captives and let the oppressed go free today?"

What a voice that would take! Many of us were raised in a time when women's voices were supposed to be

soft, gentle, not assertive, never direct, definitely not anything close to prophetic. Our ministry was to help Jesus in the background. One of my mother's favorite admonishments was, "Carlyle, be a lady!" That was code for be good, be quiet, be coy.

But that is not the voice of baptism, the voice of those incorporated into Christ's Body, the voice of Christ in the world, the voice of those joined with Jesus Christ in bringing in the Kingdom, those joined with Jesus Christ in the ministry of justice and compassion to those who

have neither. Millennium Development Goal Three, The Empowerment of Women, is not about some people (often men) empowering women, finally giving women something, but about all women – you and I – claiming our voices, claiming our baptism voices in order to proclaim, to bring about:

Good news to the poor;  
Release to the captives;  
Recovery of sight to the blind;  
Freedom for the oppressed;  
The year of the Lord's favor.

I have seen this prophetic ministry, this baptism voice at work and I am one of its beneficiaries. The Women's Triennial at three successive General Conventions in 1970, 1973, and 1976 threw their resources and influence behind the debate and final change of the canon that allows women to be ordained to the priesthood and episcopate. I remember hearing an impassioned Episcopal Church Woman at one of the ordination debate open hearings quote another Isaiah passage when she said, "Behold, I am doing a new thing. Do you not perceive it?"

The United Thank Offering begun by Episcopal Church Women in 1889 is one of the most practical and successful ministries that proclaims good news to the poor all around the world. There are women all over this diocese, sitting in St. Peter's Church right now who are engaged in Christ's ministry, engaged in this prophetic ministry.

Imagine if women all over the world joined together with their empowered, prophetic voice. I believe we could end hunger. I believe we could drastically reduce malaria deaths. I believe we could bring much needed help to those suffering from HIV/AIDS. I believe we could end the oppression of women, the oppression of people in all minorities.

Oh, Carlyle, you may be saying to yourself, it's not that easy. These problems are so complex and they can't be solved just because women stand up to them. But I want to say that speech is very important and can make a huge difference. We know what silence can do. We have seen that in many places, including Nazi Germany. The Civil Rights Movement started with speech, with words of passion and hope. Our voice, our voice as baptized members of the Body of Christ, our

prophetic voice can make a difference. So think about this when you look in the mirror next time:

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me.  
She has anointed me to bring good news to the poor,  
She has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

Think about this prophetic ministry at your next ECW meeting. Our voice matters, for we are Christ's voice in the world.

### 2009 ECW BOARD

Honorary President: **Holly Wright** • Chaplain To The Board: **The Rev. Sarah Nelson** • President, **Rose Sombar**, St. John the Baptist, Milton; • Vice-President and Church Periodical Club Coordinator, **Florence Keith**, St. John the Baptist, Milton • Recording Secretary, **Stumpy Moore**, St. James Parish, Newport • New Castle County Representative, **Ginny Wingate**, St. Anne's, Middletown • Kent County Representative, **Phyllis Kemp**, Christ Church, Milford • Sussex County Representative, **Lorraine Bozman**, St. Phillips, Laurel • Church Women United, **Charlotte Hunt**, St. Paul's, Camden • United Thank Offering, **Beth Fitzpatrick**, Church of the Ascension, Claymont • Claymont • Christian Social Relations, **Dottie Vuono**, Christ Church, Milford • Episcopal Relief and Development, **Barb McKee**, St. James Millcreek, Wilmington • Province III President, **Helen Whitson**, Cathedral Church of St. John, Wilmington • Historian, **Ellie Hoffman**, The Cathedral Church of Saint John, Wilmington • Parliamentarian, **Stella Williams**, Church of the Ascension, Claymont • Member-at-Large, **Claudia Pistek**, St. Thomas's, Newark • Member-at-Large, **Mary Parsons**, St. Mary's, Bridgeville • Member-at-Large, **Gloria Conner-Bungy**, Sts. Andrew and Matthew, Wilmington

### SHARING AT CHRISTMAS

## Giving that Gives Back

With the holidays upon us, consider choosing some gifts from organizations – both here in Delaware and beyond – that benefit our communities and the world.

**Episcopal Relief and Development's Gifts of Life** catalog is available once again this year. Help us reach our goal of one malaria net for every family in the diocese by purchasing one from the bishop's office for just \$12. Or help a family in a developing country build a farm with livestock or seeds or water. Visit [www.ER-D.org](http://www.ER-D.org) for details.

On a local level, **Seekers, Spiritual Treasures at St. Peter's Square in Lewes** offers books and gifts for people of all faiths. Many of the gift items are procured from faith communities, with the proceeds helping their organizations, while others are "fair trade" items, providing direct income to the artisans, their families, and communities to aid in their rise from poverty.

As the shop is entirely volunteer-run, all proceeds are re-invested in the community to benefit those in need. Seekers also serves as a purchasing resource for faith communities, providing quantity discounts on books and reference material, quick turn-around times for orders, and peace of mind that proceeds are helping the less-fortunate.

6 Saturday, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., **St. Barnabas' Church Bazaar, Wilmington.** White elephants, used books, cookie walk, baked goods and pantry items, woodwork, floral arrangements, pecans and more. Lunch available. Details: 994-6607.

6 Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. **St. George's Annual Christmas Fair**, located at 20274 Beaver Dam Rd. (Rt. 23), Harbeson. Handicrafts, live greens, white elephant tables, handpainted Christmas ornaments of local scenes, beaded jewelry, hand-crafted purses, aprons, baked goods, lunch, and a raffle. Our historic Chapel, established in 1719, will be open for tours.

7 Sunday, 3:00 p.m. **A Candlelight Christmas Carols and Prayer Service** at Old Christ Church in Laurel, featuring the Southern Delaware Choral Society. (Bring a blanket; the building, which dates to 1771, is unheated.)

7 Sunday, 5:00 p.m., **Choral Evensong, Christ Church Christiana Hundred, Greenville.** The Christ Church Choir and the Reverend Ruth Lawson Kirk sing the service of Evensong from The Book of Common Prayer. Music by Finzi and Holst, with the anthem, *I Look from Afar*, by Anthony Piccolo. Information: 655-3379.

14 Sunday, 3:00 p.m., **Handel's Messiah, Christ Church Christiana Hundred, Greenville.** Presented with orchestra; donations of at least \$25 per person requested. Mail checks to P.O. Box 3510, Wilmington, DE 19807 to secure reservations (tickets held at door).

14 Sunday, 4:00 p.m., **Advent Lessons & Carols, Christ Church, Dover.** Presented by Christ Church and Holy Cross Catholic Church, with music by the combined adult choirs and additional musicians under the direction of Jon Rania, Christ Church and Mike Perza, Holy Cross. Refreshments following in the parish hall. Free-will offering taken to benefit the Dover Interfaith Coalition for Housing. Details: 734-5731 or [JRania.ChristChurchDover@verizon.net](mailto:JRania.ChristChurchDover@verizon.net)

21 Sunday, Noon – 4:00 p.m., **Fifth Annual Nativities Display, Church of the Ascension, Claymont.** An antidote to the stress of the holidays! Features more than 80 Nativities from Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Americas, along with beautiful music, tea and angel cookies, and a gift for the children. Admission is free. Details: 798-6683.

## Diocesan Leaders Renewed at Youth Worker Convention

by Teri Valente,  
Diocesan Coordinator  
for Youth Ministry and  
Camp Arrowhead  
Program Director



Youth leaders from all over the world wandered, wondered, and worshiped together in Pittsburgh, October 30 through November 3, for the Youth Specialties National Youth Worker Convention. Lynne Turner from Christ Church Christiana Hundred, Greenville, Sally Price from St. Thomas's, Newark, and I were fortunate to be three among the three thousand gathered.

Youth Specialties was conceived in the '60s by two young youth workers who borrowed money from their in-laws to write and print their own resources and hold youth ministry training events. The face of the company has come a long way since then, but the Youth Specialties leadership is still committed to providing quality resources, training, and encouragement for youth workers in churches and other youth-serving organizations throughout North America and the world. Based out of sunny El Cajon, CA, they serve more than 100,000 youth workers annually through their training seminars, conventions, website, and other resources.

This extended weekend might look like a vacation from afar – rock bands leading worship, comedians, an illusionist, a ventriloquist, the disco ball, but this could easily lead you to be mistaken. The heart of Youth Specialties trumps all of their trappings. It's an extended weekend jam-packed full of seven general sessions and more than eighty seminars to choose from. It's sprinkled with prayer times in the sanctuary, opportunities to share artistic expression, late night conversation forums, and even various entertainment options. This year Phyllis Tickle, Mike Pilavachi, Andrew Marin, Margaret Feinberg, and Francis Chan, among others, challenged and admonished from the main stage with far too many bits of food for thought to share in one *Communion* article. You'll just have to ask me about Slow Club sometime.

I did however want to share one highlight of the weekend from Mark Yaconelli's talk on Sunday. He was speaking about the soul – that thing we mention often but rarely dig into deeply. He shared that the soul is the place that holds suffering, but also waits for joy, because the soul not only believes but knows that suffering is not the last word, joy is. He shared about



This was a retreat that left people convicted, convinced, affirmed and refueled.

the pain of his parents' divorce when he was in middle school and how God comforted him in those days through the K-Tel Greatest Disco Hits eight-track he got for his birthday. He wasn't allowed to watch movies or television – so he made up his own dance moves to the music in his bedroom at night. His middle school held the annual night dance - girls collected on one side with the boys frozen on the other – there was no talking, no eye contact, no movement. Somehow it was still the most spectacular thing Mark had ever seen. The deejay turned up the lights to end the painfulness early when something called out from the bottom of Mark's soul, "NOOOOoooooo!

This is my only dance!" The deejay explained that no one was dancing so Mark said he would. Then adult Mark of today pulled off his clothes to reveal a satin shirt and disco pants and called for the guy in the sound booth to, "HIT IT!" The disco ball on the stage started spinning and "The Best of My Love" blasted in the air.

... Have you ever seen three thousand people laugh hysterically, rise to their feet, and dance with abandon? It was pretty amazing. Aren't you glad that joy comes in the morning?

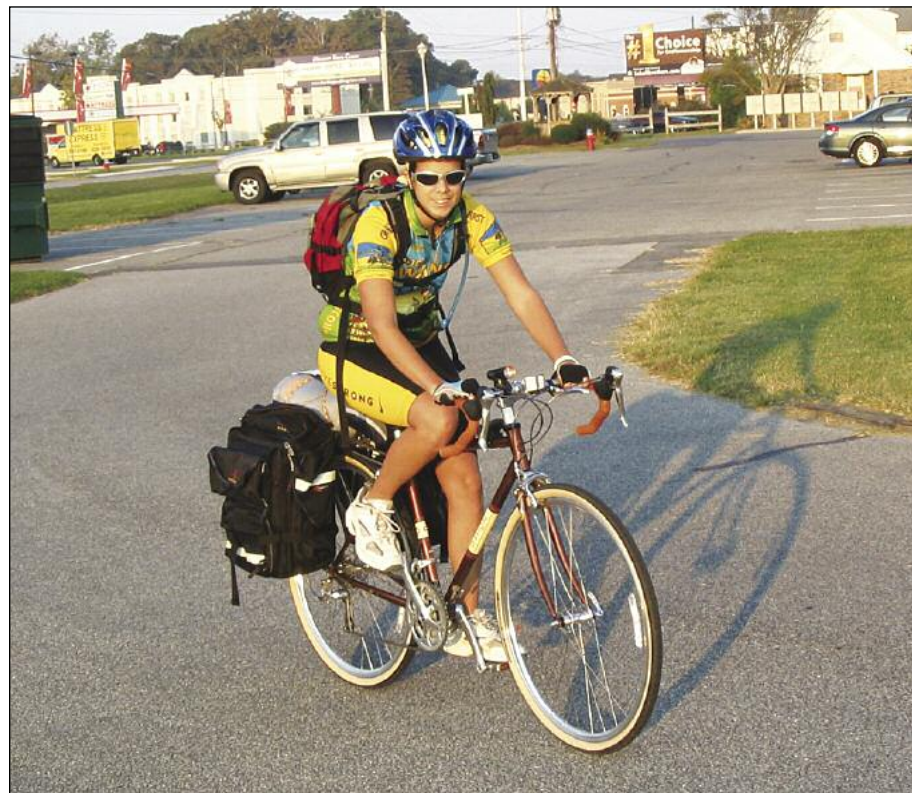
Personally, I've come back to Delaware from this event convicted, convinced, affirmed, refueled, equipped, understood, cared for, and encouraged. The list of books I need to read has expanded yet again, and perhaps I am even a little more tired than I was before I left, but I wouldn't trade it for the world. Thank you for supporting youth in the diocese. Thank you for supporting me and all those who work with the youth in our parishes.

### VBS Workshops from the IRC!

The first cold weather is a reminder for Paula Hartzell and Madeline Beall at the Interfaith Resource Center to start planning Vacation Bible School workshops around Delaware and the Eastern Shore. Although dates and locations haven't been set yet, we are thinking Dover, Easton and Wilmington in late January.

Compare publishers and themes, hear the music, and learn special tips about choosing and using the 2009 offerings. Best of all, you can take advantage of the deep discounts of Cokesbury Value Days. We will release details as soon as we get them on our website: [www.interfaithResourceCenter.com](http://www.interfaithResourceCenter.com).

## God Sends Angels To Help Cyclist Along Her Way



by Teri Smith-Jones,  
All Saints' and St. George's,  
Rehoboth Beach

Abby Eibin, a 22 year old from Rehoboth Beach, graduated from Arcadia University in May, with a degree in biology. She spent three semesters studying abroad, and says that her time in Africa made her very aware of the struggles endured by families in the developing world.

After graduation and a summer internship, Abby was living with her mom in Rehoboth while studying for her graduate records examination and preparing for a triathlon (her first). She bought a new bike (named it Donkey), and, when the exam and triathlon were over, she decided it was time for a road-trip to visit her sisters in North and South Carolina. By the time she told her mom, she had already planned her route and contacted Episcopal churches to arrange for places to stay along the way (Abby's dad is an Episcopal priest in Ohio, so she knows that rectories are usually welcoming).

With everything else in order, Abby needed a cause. Coincidentally (another word for God's plan), Abby's mom was working with her parish (All Saints' Church and St. George's Chapel) to support the Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) Nets for Life campaign. Abby learned that 3000 children a day die of malaria in sub-Saharan Africa, and that a \$12.00 mosquito net can save a life. Abby also learned that the Diocese of Delaware wanted to raise enough money to send one life-saving net to a family in Africa from every family in the diocese. Abby had her cause, and so the journey began.

The journey was not without its setbacks. It started a day late after Abby's packs were delayed in shipping and the rack fell off of her bike as soon as she started riding. She got caught in a down-pour on day-two, got a flat tire and then severed a cable while chang-

ing it on her first day in North Carolina, and was clipped by a car as she was leaving Raleigh. She got lost several times, ran out of water once, had to walk up a number of hills, and almost lost her race against the sunset as she entered South Carolina. But every time, God sent an angel to her rescue.

Abby says that the her angels are too numerous to count: All the people who prayed for her; everyone who made donations; those who fed her, opened their homes to her and helped her manage her logistics; the bike shop owners who fixed her bike for free; the man who helped her spread her message by setting up a newspaper interview (find a link to it at [DioceseofDelaware.net](http://DioceseofDelaware.net)); the man who stopped after her accident and drove her back to Raleigh, and the woman who saw her struggling past the South Carolina border and felt called to return to check on her just as she was reaching the end of her reserves.

The journey is now complete, and Abby says that it was a life-changing experience. She says that she was awed and humbled by the goodness of God's people. She wants everyone to know how much of a difference we can all make in each others' lives, even in the lives of strangers who we touch for only a moment. Abby doesn't really know how much money her ride will ultimately bring to the Nets for Life campaign (so far, she is aware of about \$350.00 in donations), but her hope is that her efforts will encourage others to find their own ways to reach out to our neighbors around the world.

For more information about Nets for Life visit <http://www.ER-D.org>, or contact Wayne McKee, the Diocese's ERD representative, to arrange for a presentation at your church. For more details about Abby's Ride, check out her blog at <http://Abby.AvianGroup.org>. Donations in support of Abby's Ride may be sent to All Saints' Church and St. George's Chapel, 18 Olive Street, Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971.