



Bishop Rob Preaches Sermon for the Ordination of Bishop Kevin Nichols in Allentown, PA.

A Call for Mentoring

Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs.”

At our Diocesan Convention on November 3rd, Our Kids Commission will be asking us to support Resolution #3: EMBRACING THE CURRENT CALL FOR MENTORING, inviting every parish to partner with a mentoring organization such as Big Brothers Big Sisters of New Hampshire, The Circle Program, or The Friends Youth Mentoring Program. The invitation is specifically geared for adults desiring to engage in the life-affirming mission of mentorship and make a match with an area youth in need of a guiding hand.

In *Our Kids: The American Dream in Crisis*, Robert Putnam argues the importance of mentoring children, particularly those at risk. Mentoring develops relationships and resiliency, gives our youth the inspiration and confidence needed to achieve their dreams and offers volunteers the opportunity to make a big difference in someone’s life. Putnam also notes that mentoring is the single most impactful step that churches can take to close the achievement gap.

Personally, I can attest to this.

Save The Date

Saturday
May 11, 2019
Manchester
Community
College

SPRING RENEWAL

“Spring Renewal” is a spiritual renewal and ministry development event for the entire Episcopal Church of New Hampshire in order to deepen our faith and offer tools to practice the Way of Love. There will be contemplative worship with live music, workshops for spiritual growth and ministry training, and a hands-on ministry fair. All members of the Episcopal Church are encouraged to attend as both learners and as teachers. Consider offering a workshop or a ministry activity as well as participating in a workshop and worship. More information and requests for proposals for workshops and to reserve display space at the ministry fair will be available at and following Convention.

Years ago, our family took in an eight-year old child named Todd who is now 23, and serving at Yokota Airforce Base near Tokyo, Japan. At that time, my husband Kirk had a tutoring franchise where he played matchmaker, matching up students with tutors. Although he didn’t tutor Todd, Todd captured his heart. However, I didn’t have that same stirring. I was in seminary, in the middle of the ordination process, and my husband’s tutoring business wasn’t pulling in enough money to support our two children never mind my seminary education. Adding another mouth to feed didn’t make sense to me. “Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs.”

Jesus’ words finally came through loud and clear when my youngest son Miles, then 16, said this about Todd, “Mum, he’s a life. We have to go get him.”

No money. No material resources. No extra time to give, or so I thought. But, God provided.

Neighbors (who we really didn’t know) rallied around us. They bought clothes for Todd, and a bike. In the summer they pooled their resources to fund a YMCA Camp scholarship for Todd. The community also stepped up. A taekwondo studio offered to give Todd discounted taekwondo lessons. A local non-profit gave us grocery money—all modeling for me, what the fellowship of the Church ought to be.

And as the years went by, I eventually realized that our family had become church for Todd’s family—giving his estranged mother and father, grandmother, grandfather, and brother the space in which they could be ‘the best’ for Todd.

I share this story because it lifts up the opening of our hands and heart needed to grow spiritually that brings us into a deeper relationship with God and others, including a child I thought I didn’t have time to mentor.

Please consider mentoring a child. It’s bound to transform everyone involved.

*The Rev. Canon Gail Avery
Canon for Transition and Community Engagement and
Staff Liaison for Our Kids Commission*

Red Church Door

By the Rev. Colin Chapman, Rector at St. Peter’s in Londonderry



Chances are you probably know what website to go to for news, or for movie reviews, or for recipes, or for funny cat videos—but where do you go if you need to be spiritually fed? Is there a website or app you use? A podcast you listen to?

Last month, St. Peter’s Londonderry (along with help from the Mission Resources Committee) launched Red Church Door (RCD) to be that place.

Children And Church Together

Canon Tina Pickering

Sunday school parents and teachers of Grace Church in East Concord want to know what’s going on: Where are the children in church? How can the church nurture and grow the faith of their youngest members? What are other churches doing to foster the faith of families? Who else is asking these same questions? On September 12, Bishop Rob, Grace Church

RCD hopes to be a “digital front door” for Episcopal churches in New Hampshire. Simply put, it’s a place where you can come to hear incredible weekly sermons from local preachers, read original content about spiritual formation and evangelism, and catch up on good news from around the local and greater church.

Finally, you can listen and subscribe to the RCD Podcast where I have personal interviews with people who make it their lives to understand a deeper understanding of God (you can listen to our first episode with spiritual director and poet, Kimberly Clouter Green, now).

What good is the best digital content if it does not also point people to church? The hope is that readers will share sermons, articles, and podcasts, through their social media, which will then point others to the RCD website where they can find the closest church in their area. Think of RCD as the church homepage you don’t have to update.

Visit redchurchdoor.com today and we hope you find something there that gives you fuel for the journey.

and Formation Network NH hosted a dinner open to everyone in our churches who wanted to talk about children and church together. 15 people, representing 10 churches across the state, gathered together, shared their own faith stories and studied Luke 5: 1-11. We talked about the “new nets” we need and the “deep water” where we have to go to make

Transition Ministry Updates

- The Search Committee of Church of the Good Shepherd, Nashua is reviewing application packages of potential candidates in their search for a new rector. Know a good candidate? Deadline for accepting names is October 31st.
- The Rev. Tobias Nyatsambo, Rector of St. James in Laconia, will be retiring December 30th. Join us in wishing Tobias and his wife Rose a good retirement.
- It’s official. Eleven o’clock on September 15th, The Rt. Rev. Kevin Nichols was consecrated IX Bishop

of the Diocese of Bethlehem. We miss you Bishop Kevin, but blessings abound as you step into your new call.

- We welcome our new Episcopal Service Corps—Assisi Program members Amanda Henes and Landon Leiker. Amanda is serving at Second Start’s First Start Children’s Center located in Concord, NH. Landon is serving at Granite State Organizing Project in Manchester, NH. Please introduce yourselves to these amazing Assisi Fellows.

disciples. We talked about how meaningful it was to us as young people when adults demonstrated their care for us by showing up when they didn’t have to. We talked about the power of ritual and senses – candle fire, water, polished wood, music, and bread – to inspire our imagination of God as children. We talked about formation being “life-long, life-wide, and life-deep” for all of us, not just our children. We talked about “ageless worship” and the power of storytelling. St. Paul’s Church shared “Family Time” – a weekly email sent to families that includes a bible verse, a prayer, an activity and a recipe for eating together. [To sign up to receive “Family Time”, please contact the Rev. Drew Courtright at curate@stpaulsconcord.org.] Linnae Peterson, coordinator of Formation Network NH, shared a variety of ideas for “coffee hour” formation, intergenerational activities, and online resources for use in planning. Her handouts are posted at www.nhepiscopal.org/christian-formation/ and she is available for consultation with churches. In the end the group decided to share a meal together again in the spring, to encourage others to join, to keep sharing ideas through the Formation Network NH Facebook page, and to share ideas with the diocese to highlight children and church in diocesan communications.

St. Christopher’s Youth Group in Action Thanks to Mission Resources Grant

By the Rev. Zac Harmon
Rector at St. Christopher’s in Hampstead

The Mission Resource Grant to our youth group has given needed momentum to youth formation at St. Christopher’s in Hampstead, NH and helped re-start our youth program at the parish. While not huge in numbers, the teens have great hearts for mission and questioning minds of spiritual inquiry. The grant has helped make service projects, expeditions and study possible. The teens’ service also has impact in our area of New Hampshire where human service resources can be thin and where much relies on volunteer work.

In the spring we were able to take our teens to organize children’s clothing at a new donation center in Salem, NH with Isaiah 58. This came as a capstone to a four week unit in youth group focusing on understanding issues of housing insecurity and how homelessness extends from people on the streets in Boston or Manchester to families couch surfing from place to place locally.

In the summer our youth took on two service projects. One

(Cont. on Pg.5)

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- Blogs: The Bulletin, our news blog nhepiscopalnews.org
Bishop Rob’s blog tendingthevine.org
- For Assisi Program: Episcopal Service Corps in New Hampshire escnh.org

Lydia Pendleton (pictured on cover) is a Young Adult Service Corps (YASC) missionary serving in the Episcopal Diocese of Puerto Rico from 2018-2019. The Diocese of Puerto Rico - nicknamed “the Diocese of Hope” after hurricanes Irma and Maria devastated the island- is doing incredible work responding to the needs of the island; including medical clinics, construction projects focused on rebuilding the diocese and the island, disaster relief and management, and much more!

To learn more about the Diocese of Hope and Lydia’s experiences as a YASC missionary, check out Lydia’s blog and follow her service journey. <https://yascl Lydia.wordpress.com/>

The 216th Diocesan Convention to take place on November 3, 2018 at Christ Church Exeter

Convention Resolutions, Pre-Convention Journal, Election Information and more can be found on the Convention page of our website www.nhepiscopal.org/convention please check back for updates in the days leading up to, and following Convention!



Youth from St. Christopher's with the Rev. Zac Harmon

involved preserving grassland in town conservation lands (a vital and diminishing habitat for songbirds and turkeys) and involved a lot of sweat, dodging poison ivy and cutting back saplings which were trying to overrun the grassland. This project complimented our programs regular emphasis that environmental stewardship is part of our call as Christians.

We also took on a project doing necessary yard work and upkeep for a small house used by Isaiah 58 for people struggling to find housing and who often are elderly and unable to keep up with the yard work. The lack of yard

maintenance was also putting the housing unit in jeopardy with the housing complex it was in. In 90 minutes the teens had it all squared away. One neighbor commented upon observing our youth group at work: "Whoa, this is like something you see on TV."

The grant money has made all of these outings possible and helped us acquire teen-centered CEB Bibles to aid in discussion and integrating service with our faith in Jesus Christ. Through the Mission Resources Grant, our youth group has gained momentum and a strong re-start.

Meet our New Assisi Fellows!



LONDON LEIKER

Born and raised in Kansas, Landon is a 2015 graduate of Kansas State University with a degree in Communication Studies and a minor in Leadership Studies. After graduating from K-State, Landon stayed

and worked at his alma mater for three years as a university admissions representative traveling, advocating, and recruiting for K-State. He also worked a semester as an 8th grade special education paraprofessional.

While wrestling with his future aspirations and calling, Landon was drawn to the opportunity to join the Assisi Program, which he felt was "the right next step." Landon says he is excited for this year of adventure with new experiences, meeting new people, and for this year of discernment.

In his free time, Landon enjoys spending time in creation, whether hiking, fly fishing reading, yoga or running. He is also an avid volleyball player, passionate about anything K-State, and he absolutely loves to travel. "I haven't been everywhere, but it's on my list."—Susan Sontag



Assisi Fellows, Landon and Amanda with our Canon for Finance and ESC Program Manager, Gloria Gallant, and our Canon for Transition and Community Engagement the Rev. Gail Avery.

AMANDA HENES

Amanda was raised in Wisconsin. She is a 2015 graduate of Cornerstone University in Grand Rapids, MI with degrees in Biblical Studies and Art of Ministry. Amanda has been active in a variety of ministries including: a youth group leader, ministry intern, pastoral visitor, camp counselor, and children's formation leader.

Amanda is participating in the Assisi Program as an Episcopal Service Corp second year fellow. She hopes this second year opportunity will allow her to develop new skills, continue to stretch her outside her comfort zone and further develop and engage her ministry gifts, including those yet to be discovered.

In her free time, Amanda enjoys baking, reading, sewing, crafting, board games, and time with her family in CT.



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Letter From Bishop Rob



Something Is Stirring



In a recent parish newsletter to All Saints' Church, Peterborough, the Rev. Jamie Hamilton reflected with deep gratitude on the spiritual growth of that congregation. She quoted late Brazilian Archbishop Dom Helder Camara who said, "If you will live your religion, you will become different." Jamie goes on to say,

"...I do believe we are all becoming different because we are living our religion... We are all being formed by each other's faith, by trusting in the leading of the Holy Spirit, and by believing that together we can make a difference...No matter how dire the news or traumatic the tragedies, we can find ways to be witnesses to love and to grace and the power of prayer..."

There is something new stirring in many of our congregations. Many of us are taking seriously the call to focus on what it means to follow Jesus into the neighborhoods where our churches were originally planted. We are more and more "coming alongside" those who are struggling with addiction to opioids and other substances and habits. The attention and care we are giving to children at risk who may or may not be members of our congregations is truly astounding. Today, I am so grateful by the witness of several of our sister clergy who have signed a letter of rebuke to a powerful and prominent priest who callously dismissed the witness of women who were the victims of past sexual and emotional abuse by privileged men. Their witness echoed words from the Song of Mary in her world-overturning anthem—"God has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly." Something holy is stirring.

More of our members are asking for spiritual directors or for opportunities to learn more what it means to be a disciple--simply defined as a student--of Jesus in 21st century New Hampshire. A number of our parishes are committing themselves to the arduous and hopeful work of spiritual growth begun by participating in the Renewal Works self-assessment. We are hearing of our people intentionally seeking to form or to join Bible Studies and prayer groups. Vestry and Bishop's Committees are committing themselves to beginning their meetings with biblical or spiritual reflections, not led by the ordained Rector or Vicar, but by lay persons. To live our religion, a religion that seeks to restore and strengthen the bonds of love between us and our neighbors, is to bear a hopeful light in these times when fear and injustice dominate the news. Something is stirring. I am convinced it is of God.

I'm looking forward to this upcoming Diocesan Convention when we'll gather to hear more of how and where the Holy Spirit stirs among us, changing us to be more deeply and unmistakably the Body of Christ, the joyful Beloved Community through which God is renewing, revitalizing and reconciling us for the life of the world.

In Christ,
+Rob

Bishop Rob will be on sabbatical beginning November 15, 2018 and returning February 15, 2019. While he is away, please direct calls and emails to his assistant, Lynn Eaton by phone (603) 224-1914 or by email at leaton@nehiscopal.org.



News From The Vine A Publication From The Episcopal Church of NH



FALL 2018