



e-mich

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an e-bulletin from the episcopal diocese of eastern michigan

HERE'S WISHING YOU A BLESSED EPIPHANY

"I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth." Isaiah 49:6b

PRAYER NEEDED

prayers are requested for Isla Schumaker, seriously ill mother of the Rev. Sharon Naughton.

HEADS UP

the Parochial Report Forms are being mailed this week. Don't be afraid to open the envelope; it's not as bad as getting a letter from the IRS. but don't just put it in the "to do" stack; get right on it.

RADICAL ABUNDANCE

St. John's, Midland will be a high-speed downlink site for Trinity Institute's 2009 National Theological Conference — *Radical Abundance: A Theology of Sustainability*. it's January 21-23, 2009. save the date. [details](#).

ABOUT THAT ABSTINENCE ONLY STUFF

the Washington Post reports that recent [research](#) finds that abstinence only programs (with the Purity Pledge promoted in some churches) had no effect on sexual activity except in reducing the use of birth control among teens in the program.

THE ARCHBISHOPS NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE

as we face a new year full of economic turmoil, the Archbishop of Canterbury [asks us](#) to consider where our real treasure lies. if you like you can watch the Lambeth Palace's YouTube version.

CURRICULUM CHARTS

Sharon Pearson, the person behind the *Living IN-Formation* newsletter, has developed a series of nifty charts that compare a wide variety of curriculum offerings. [For children and youth](#). [For adults](#). [For Confirmation preparation](#).

opportunities for you and your congregation

1/21-23-09 — *Radical Abundance*
1/30-31/09 — *Formation workshop*
3/9-11/09 — *Spiritual Directors*
4/17-18/09 — *Diana Butler Bass*

the Cycle of Prayer

...for the first quarter of 09 [here](#).

news sources

Anglican Connections

[This month](#)
[archived](#)

Episcopal Life Online

Anglican World

AC News Service

Old stuff... but it still might be useful.

THE CHURCH'S ANNUAL REPORT

[The Report of Mission and Resources](#) tells the story of how The Episcopal Church lives out the Gospel and engages in God's mission in the world as we support church-wide ministries and programs.

PB CALLS FOR END TO HOSTILITIES IN GAZA

[a story and link](#) to the Presiding Bishop's statement. There are [things we can to do](#) to advocate for peace.

THE OLDEST MODE OF EVANGELISM

The [Economist reflects on a recent Pew study](#) on the links between religion and fertility.

FUNDAMENTALISTS NOT HAPPY

the Pew people have [survey](#) us and found that 80% of Americans believe that Christ is not the only way to heaven. Haven't they read John 14:16 or Acts 4:12?

THE BISHOP RECOMMENDS

[this article](#) by Alice Mann from the Alban Institute titled *Ministering to the Soul of a Community*. "...an excellent piece for our congregations as they continue to define who they are and what they are called to do."

ONLINE EFM

Education for Ministry is now available through online seminars. [A group is forming](#) now with the intention of beginning weekly online meetings in March or 2009.

ADDRESS FOR THE UNITED THANK OFFERING

the Diocese no longer collects the UTO offerings. instead send them directly to: United Thank Offering, DFMS, P.O. Box 12095, Newark NJ 07101 make checks payable to "United Thank Offering" and include the name of the Diocese on the check.

MAKING YOUR CHURCH SAFE

most of us are familiar with the two workshops offered by the Diocese called *Safeguarding God's Children* and *Safe Church*. *Safeguarding God's Children* is now available online. here's [a letter from the Bishop and instructions](#) on how to get started.

FORMING CHRISTIANS

the Diocese of Western Michigan is hosting a [two day workshop](#) on Christian education and formation featuring Ruth Ann Collins, associate program officer at the Episcopal Church Center, January 30-31, 2009.

FOR SPIRITUAL DIRECTORS

there will be a colloquium for spiritual directors on March 9-11 at the Dominican Center for Religious Development in Detroit titled *God Is Into Groups: Thinking Systemically about Spiritual Direction*. [Flyer](#)

CHRISTIANITY FOR THE REST OF US

Diana Butler Bass is coming to the Horizon Conference Center, Saginaw, on April 17-18, 2009. Bass, an Episcopalian, is an author, speaker and scholar specializing in American religion and culture.

Minutes and Notices

- Blue Water Convocation
- Flint River Convocation (unapproved) [Minutes](#) for 8-08
- Northern Convocation [Minutes](#) for August
- Saginaw Valley Convocation [Minutes](#) for 11-08

e-mich is news you can use from the diocese of eastern michigan—contact us at:
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