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SERVING THE SIX-COUNTY DIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES

FEBRUARY 1, 2015



PHOTOS / JANET KAWAMOTO

Jerusalem Epiphanies: Above: Retired U.S. Ambassador Warren Clark, executive director of the Washington D.C.-based Churches for Middle East Peace, speaks on “Jerusalem Epiphanies” at the first Birdsall Lecture on Jan. 24. Clark, who is an Episcopalian, outlined the history of Israel and Palestine and some of the historical forces that have led to divisions today, and engaged the audience in a discussion of efforts to facilitate peace in the Holy Lands. Top right: Bishop J. Jon Bruno describes his experience working with Palestinian Anglicans in the Diocese of Jerusalem and the Middle East, with which the Diocese of Los Angeles shares a companion relationship. Center and right: Trent Pettit of St. James’ Church, South Pasadena, and Summer Torrero of St. Athanasius’, Los Angeles, describe their experiences as part of, respectively, the 2014 young adult pilgrimage and the 2011 youth pilgrimage to the Holy Lands.

The Birdsall Lectures are named for the first priest of the congregation of St. Athanasius, which is celebrating its 150th year of ministry in Los Angeles. The second lecture, titled “The Episcopal Church and the American Experience,” will focus on church history. It will be held on Saturday, Feb. 28, 10 a.m. at the Cathedral Center of St. Paul. For information, contact the diocese’s office of community relations at media@ladiocese.org or 213.482.2040, ext. 240.



DIOCESE OF CHESTER

Bishop of Southport Libby Lane poses with friends and colleagues from the Diocese of Chester.

Church of England ordains Libby Lane first woman bishop

In a packed service at York Minster Jan. 26 attended by more than 100 bishops from the Church of England and women bishops from across the Anglican Communion, Libby Lane was ordained and consecrated as the first female bishop in the history of the Church of England.

Lane became the eighth bishop of Stockport and will serve as a suffragan bishop in the Diocese of Chester.

She was anointed with oil by Archbishop of York John Sentamu, who later gave her a Bible. Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby attended as did other senior Christian pastors and faith leaders, according to a release from the Diocese of Chester.

The service was interrupted by a lone protester, the Rev. Paul Williamson, the Associated Press reported. He stepped forward and objected when the congregation was asked if it was their will that Lane be ordained. Williamson said “No!” and asked to speak, arguing there was no precedent in the Bible for women bishops.

Lane remained stoic. Sentamu seemed prepared, according to the AP report, and answered with a statement, a nod to the controversy that led to this moment.

Sentamu then simply moved on, asking the packed church once again if they approved. This time, the response was a thunderous “Yes!”

Bishop Lane will be installed in a separate ceremony March 8 at Chester Cathedral.

— Excerpted from an Episcopal News Service story; full text is at bit.ly/1y3C10Q

‘Radical Compassion’ is topic of 12-week program

“Face-to-Face Weekly Way of Radical Compassion,” a 12-week program that forms participants in the practices and principles of engaged compassion, will be offered on Wednesday evenings, Feb. 18 - May 6, 7 - 9 p.m., in Grace Chapel at Church of Our Saviour, 535 W. Roses Road, San Gabriel 91775. The program, led by Triptykos and Claremont School of Theology faculty member Frank Rogers, will include:

- ◆ skill-based face-to-face instruction on compassionate living;
- ◆ spiritual practices designed for daily use;

◆ small group interactions with others who are practicing radical compassion;

◆ practices and skills for working with difficult others;

◆ face-to-face practice and group interactions, optional reading and written reflection.

Cost for the 12-week program is \$300. To register for the certificate program go to the registration page here, or email to Cate Wilson at cate.wilson@cst.edu. The program is co-sponsored by Prism, the diocese’s ministry for restorative justice. A flyer with more information is at bit.ly/1ztQUA8. †

— SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7 —

8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. **Deanery 7 Education Day: 'Sunday with never be the same'**

Trinity Episcopal Church
419 S. Fourth Street, Redlands
Registration: bit.ly/Deanery7EdDay2015

8 p.m. **Concert: The Broadway Boys**

The Cathedral Center of St. Paul
840 Echo Park Avenue, Los Angeles
Tickets: OvationTix, 866.811.4111

— SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8 —

4:30 p.m. **Solemn Evensong & Organ Concert**

St. James' Episcopal Church
3903 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles
Information: 213.388.3015

5 p.m. **Contemplative Evening Eucharist**

All Saints Episcopal Church
132 N. Euclid Avenue, Pasadena
Information: 626.583.2750

6 p.m. **Evensong: 'A Rare and Mystical Beauty'**

Church of the Messiah
614 N. Bush Street, Santa Ana
Information: 714.543.9389

— SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14 —

7 p.m. **'Songs of a Lifetime' with John Reese**

St. Mark's-in-the-Valley Episcopal Church
2901 Nojoqui Avenue, Los Olivos
Information: 805.688.4454

— SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15 —

5 p.m. **Jazz Vespers with Joe La Barbera**

All Saints Episcopal Church
132 N. Euclid Avenue, Pasadena
Information: Melissa Hayes, 626.583.2725

— TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17 —

7 p.m. **Concert: Bob Bennett, singer/songwriter**

Emmanuel Episcopal Church
1145 West Valencia Mesa, Fullerton
Information: 714.879.8070

More event listings and program details may be found at www.ladiocese.org (select "Calendars").

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Casting out demons

By Mary D. Glasspool

Today's Gospel lesson from Mark (1:21-28) tells the story of Jesus' first miracle (in this Gospel): an exorcism! It can be challenging in the 21st Century to understand the biblical language of demon possession. But this is not the only mention of unclean spirits or demons in the gospels. When Jesus sends out 70 of his disciples in Luke's Gospel (10:1-20), they come back bragging that "in your name even the demons submit to us!"

Today, with modern science and medicine and our psycho-therapeutic ways of understanding so much of our behavior and even mental illness, it becomes questionable whether the use of the concept of "demons" is even helpful. Whether it is or not, there are at least two things of which the biblical use of demons can remind us. The first is that in scripture, demons named parts of people's lives over which they had no control. In scripture, if a child had epilepsy and had a seizure, people would say that the child was possessed of an evil spirit — a demon. Through a modern lens, we could say that the man in today's Gospel lesson had multiple personality disorder. Jesus' casting out of the unclean spirits was seen as an exorcism, but could also be seen as a healing. We don't choose to be epileptic, to have particular genes, to be born a certain way or in a certain place, and there are many aspects of our lives over which we have no control, some of which can be barriers to a life lived in the fullness of God. Where these barriers exist, we pray to overcome them through God's grace.

The second aspect of demon language that might in fact help us can be illustrated in a brief story that I call "The Rattlesnake Parable." Once upon a time, there was a family of wayward church members who, after many years of active church membership, had

grown cold and indifferent. The family included a father and three sons: Jim, John, and Sam. The rector, vestry, and others from the church had visited them time and again, inviting them to turn from their backslidden condition and come back to the church. But none of their efforts seemed to impress the wayward family.

One day the boys were out working in the pasture when a big rattlesnake bit John. He was rushed to a doctor. After doing all he knew how to do, the physician told the family: "It is up to God now; all you can do is pray." So the father phoned the rector of the church and asked him to pray for John to recover. This is the prayer the preacher is reported to have prayed:

O wise and righteous God, we thank thee that thou in thy wisdom sent this rattlesnake to bite John in order to bring him to his senses. God, this is the first time he has felt the need to pray in years. Please, let this experience lead him to genuine repentance. And now, God, wilt thou send another rattlesnake to bite Sam, and another to bite Jim, and a real big one, Lord, to bite the old man. O God, this family understands rattlesnakes. So Lord, send us bigger and better rattlesnakes. Amen.

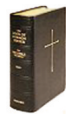
I don't mean by this parable that we should be literally praying for demons or rattlesnakes or unclean spirits to come! Just that there are times when powers over which we have no control can serve to remind us of our ultimate dependence on our loving and gracious God. †



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MONDAY - FRIDAY: 9AM - 4PM • SATURDAY: 10AM - 2PM

FEATURED ITEM:

THE 1979 BCP AND NRSV BIBLE

Did you know?

The Diocese of Los Angeles has a full-service Credit Union.

The Episcopal Community Federal Credit Union has been in existence since 1994, and any Episcopalian in the diocese can join.

ECFCU offers a full line of financial products:

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