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DELAWARE Communion

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A STORY OF STEWARDSHIP

St. Philip's Goes Geothermal

by Jen Mason, editor

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ON THE WEB

www.DioceesofDelaware.net



The Rev. Jennifer Andrews-Weckerly



The Rev. Dustin Trowbridge

Celebrating Ordinations!

Join Bishop Wright as he, God willing, ordains the Rev. Jennifer Andrews-Weckerly of Christ Church Christiana Hundred, Greenville, and the Rev. Dustin Trowbridge of Trinity Parish, Wilmington, to the priesthood on Saturday, January 9, at 11:00 a.m. at Trinity Church.

She was just sitting at her desk, working and minding her business when, if she hadn't been in a church, she would have wondered if all Hades had finally broken loose. There was a bit of startling noise – nothing terribly dramatic, but just enough to capture her attention for a moment – and then the smoke . . . lots of it, dark and sooty. One of the two 26-year old boilers serving the historic buildings had exploded, wreaking all manner of havoc in the process.

That's how it began for Laurie Anderson, parish administrator, and her church of St. Philip's, Laurel.

But that wasn't the really exciting part. What happened next was way more of a disruption, way more of a challenge, way more of a stretch than the parish could have imagined or wished upon themselves. And the rewards for stepping down this demanding road have been manifold.

Fortunately the other boiler



Contractors drilled twenty 300-ft looped wells under the parking lot at St. Philip's, Laurel, for their geothermal heating and air conditioning system. Parishioners, like Len Hickman (foreground) and Fr. Howard Backus (background), put in hours of sweat equity to accomplish the project.

still worked well enough to make it through the winter, allowing the parish to undertake a thoughtful, deliberate decision-making process. This in itself was not terribly remarkable – lots of churches are very effective in their discernment processes, but diocesan and parish leadership alike reported that the people of St. Philip's



demonstrated a notable sense of unity and generosity of spirit as they worked through the decision-making and implementation processes together.

First they gathered data on the available options: remaining oil-fired, switching to natural gas, and geothermal. They also took into consideration the fact that a significant portion of

the facility was not currently air conditioned, making their great hall, kitchen, and church school rooms virtually unusable in the summer months and pervaded with a musty dampness that hung on throughout the year.

Next, with the data in hand and experts from various geothermal contractors lined up to help parishioners understand this lesser-known alternative, the vestry hosted an open parish meeting. As Fr. Howard Backus, parish priest, put it, "The church hadn't had a major capital project since the early '50s, and we really wanted to discuss this 'out loud' with parishioners."

The cost estimate for the system was staggering for this parish of 58 pledging units: \$150,000. "It was two times as expensive as the alternatives," said Backus, "and unless someone is doing an excellent job of hiding them, this parish doesn't have any deep pockets." The disruption to the facility also promised to be much greater

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NATIONAL YOUTH WORKER'S CONVENTION



Youth leaders from five Delaware parishes joined Teri Valente, Diocesan Youth Ministry Coordinator, in attending the National Youth Workers Convention in Cincinnati, Oct. 30–Nov. 3. L-R, back row: Lynne Jensen, Mark Harris, and Britta Bimbi; front row: Teri Valente, Sally Price, and Kat Caudle.

Changing Times

by Teri Valente, Diocesan Youth Ministry Coordinator

Youth Specialties (YS) is an organization that has been around since the '60s, providing vital resources, support, and inspiration to youth workers across denominational lines. Every year the organization hosts a convention where youth leaders come to talk, hear, think, pray, and worship together as they step back from their own work to look at the bigger picture of ministry to youth and the church.

This year's theme was *Time*; and, though we Delawareans got quite a kick (and a couple favorite running jokes) out of Tony Campolo's talk on God and time, most of the speakers shared about change. I don't believe in coincidence, so it

really resonated a chord within me, as my ministry here in Delaware and in the wider Episcopal Church is all about how to traverse the roads of change before us – roads that are imperative and roads that promise to be challenging, to say the least.

I came away from the conference and from my time with my fellow Delaware youth leaders with an affirmed conviction that we're on the right path and that the most exciting and challenging work is ahead of us.

Here are a few of the lessons that I learned:

1. Sometimes change just happens. In 2003, I attended the convention in Charlotte, NC and finally met the co-founder and then president of

YS, Mike Yaconelli. We literally ran into one another in the book store. He could have brushed it off and walked away, but instead asked about where I was from and how my convention was going... and he listened.

Days later Mike tragically died. It changed YS. It changed the National Youth Worker's Convention. And yet, they both kept moving forward.

Last year I finally met the new president, Mark Ostreicher (known affectionately as Marko). I read his newest book, *Youth Ministry 3.0*, and even based our first youth ministry training in the diocese on it.

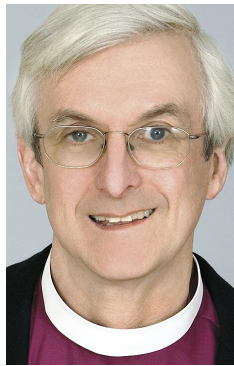
Within ten days of this year's convention Marko was let go,

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Gratitude Opens Our Eyes

by Wayne Wright, Bishop of the Diocese of Delaware

In our house on Thanksgiving Day we usually eat in the early evening. Preparations for the big meal take most of the day. After all there isn't room in the oven to do it all at once. My wife, Holly, is the baker. She starts making the pies in the morning. My son, Parker, and I prepare the turkey. I actually learned how watching my grandmother years ago. Parker will likely carry on the tradition from me.



Christ includes all people. As Jesus reminded us, "When I am raised up, I will draw all people unto myself."

It isn't a coincidence that at the heart of the Lord's Prayer is the simple, heartfelt request, "Give us this day our daily bread." As we partake of this daily miracle, we are called to feed others. This gesture may be as simple as bringing a bag of groceries for

the Sunday collection. It may involve serving a meal at a local feeding program. It could mean writing letters and urging international, state, and local authorities to end or at least reduce the scandal of hunger and malnutrition afflicting so many millions around the world. Being thankful changes the way we see and think about the world around us.

Modern food production and distribution methods do obscure a very basic fact about life. Everything we eat and everything we drink comes from the earth. The food we eat is the result of a cooperative relationship between the natural creativity of the earth and the very human skills of farming, milling, brewing, and baking. Just as bread and wine are transformed into the Body and Blood of Christ to feed us, we are challenged to care for the rest of creation by the way we live our lives and use our resources. We are a part of this world and responsible for it.

This Thanksgiving Day, as I join with friends and family around our table, my prayer will be to remember that being thankful opens our eyes. Being thankful helps us to see the people and the world around us. Being thankful always asks us to recognize the want and the suffering of others and to bless this world by thoughtfully using the gifts we have been given.

Wayne

While the turkey roasts, the guests begin to arrive. The television in the den is turned on. There is Thanksgiving football to watch. As the afternoon lengthens, Holly fixes the casseroles and vegetables. The rolls rise imperceptibly, warming on top of the refrigerator. They go in the oven last. In the end everything comes together. I guess that's part tradition and part Holly's careful planning – something that I try never to take for granted.

Just before dinner is served the most wonderful moment of Thanksgiving Day happens. We have a long wooden table in the dining room. Friends and our family gather round the table. Commotion gives way to silence. We pause to give thanks to God for our very many blessings. This is the memory of Thanksgiving Day – past and present – that will always stick with me.

I learned long ago how important it is to be thankful. The simple grace of being thankful can potentially transform our spirits, our thinking, and our lives. Sadly, being thankful isn't the natural human tendency. I don't really understand why that is. But, I certainly know how it feels to focus on what we don't have or on what isn't going well. Ultimately, this becomes a one-way street heading toward disappointment, frustration, and resentment. There is nothing good about it. Unhappiness is its inevitable outcome.

Thanksgiving changes lives. The disciples must have sensed this spiritual truth when they ate and drank with Jesus in those early days beside the Sea of Galilee and on the road up to Jerusalem. Later, when Christ ascended into glory, they continued to gather to keep this living memory of him. In his Name they blessed the bread and cup at the beginning and end of their meals. No doubt they told and re-told the stories of feeding hungry crowds in the wilderness and of God giving manna to the children of Israel. They did this while gathering around a table with him. Down through the ages all who eat this bread and drink from this cup become a part of Christ's Body. We see ourselves and this world in a different way.

This new vision is vividly depicted in the Gospel of Matthew. "Lord, when did we see you cold, hungry, poor, naked, or in prison?" they ask Christ seated upon the throne of glory. "Inasmuch as you have done it to the least of these my brethren, you have done it to me," is his reply. The community of

New On Our Website

- Coping with Money Problems: Learn about debt settlement and credit counseling.
- Reaching out to others: Susan Phillips and her many ministries.
- It's time for teens to register for Wintercamp!
- Papal announcement of new provisions which will accept former Anglicans into Roman Catholic Church.
- Episcopal Church responds to Papal announcement.
- Video of Catholic and Episcopal representatives responding to questions about new Catholic policy.
- H1N1 and Arthritis is one of many items on our Health Ministries page.



Over 100 Camp Arrowhead alumni gathered in October for a three-day reunion. Though it was chilly and wet outside, the campers enjoyed the warmth of years of memories and friendship together. The reunion followed a successful 2009 camp season, particularly in light of these challenging times. A few highlights include:

- camp enrollment remained steady from 2008, with 844 campers;
- of those, 202 were Delaware Episcopalians and 41 were from the Diocese of Pennsylvania; and
- 296 campers received tuition assistance from the diocese or a diocesan parish.

Read about plans for Camp Arrowhead 2010 in the coming months, and secure a spot for a lucky child in your life!

Thinking about a New Year's resolution?

Consider this: The Third Annual Winter Feast for the Soul, a global daily spiritual practice for people of all faiths.

JANUARY 15 TO FEBRUARY 23, 2010

Practice Peace: Forty minutes a day for forty days

Visit www.WinterFeastForTheSoul.com for more information, including suggestions for various spiritual practices, a guided online daily meditation, and a four-minute daily practice for children.

"We will not have peace on our planet until there is peace in the heart of every person." —Pope John XXIII, *Pacem in Terris*

THE BISHOP'S CALENDAR: DECEMBER

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 Tuesday , Clergy Continuing Education Day, Immanuel Highlands | 16 Wednesday , Bishop's Group, Baltimore |
| 2 Wednesday , Bishop's Day in Georgetown | 17 Thursday , Trustee Meeting, Cathedral Church of St. John, Wilmington |
| 5 Saturday , Deacon Ordination, St. Stephen's Church, Harrington | 20 Sunday , Morning Visitation, Christ Church, Milford |
| 6 Sunday , Morning Visitation, St. Nicholas' Church, Newark | 24 Thursday , Christmas Service, Delaware Correctional Center, Smyrna |
| 7 Monday , Bishop & Council Meeting, St. John the Baptist, Milton | 24 Thursday , Christmas Eve Service, Cathedral Church of St. John |
| 9 Wednesday , Church Publishing Board Meeting, New York | 24 Thursday – 25 Friday , Christmas Holiday, Bishop's Office Closed |
| 13 Sunday , Morning Visitation, St. Martin's in the Field, Selbyville | 25 Friday , Christmas Day |
| 15 Tuesday , Standing Committee, St. Andrew's School, Middletown | 28 Monday – 30 Wednesday , Bishop's Office Closed |
| | 31 Thursday , New Year's Eve Holiday, Bishop's Office Closed |

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Choir School Adds Choral Tutor

The Cathedral Choir School of Delaware recently added John Howell to its faculty roster as choral tutor. In this position, he will be working with individual students and small groups to tailor specific vocal instruction according to their needs.

Mr. Howell also joins the Cathedral Choir for specific concerts and liturgies as an accomplished tenor. He received his training at the renowned Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University, earning a Master's Degree in Music (voice performance), and is currently completing a Doctorate of Music at Indiana.

Before moving to Wilmington, Mr. Howell lived in New York City, where he continues to perform with New York City Opera at Lincoln Center, Early Music New York, The Choir of Men and Boys at St. Thomas Fifth Avenue, and New York Virtuoso Singers.

While in New York, he was a regular soloist at The Church of the Holy Apostles and The Church of St. Luke's in the Fields, and taught voice at the Diller-Quaile School of Music.

He has recently performed with the John Howell Opera Company of Philadelphia and The Philadelphia Singers, and is a regular soloist at Trinity Episcopal Church in Wilmington.

In addition to his work with the Choir School, Mr. Howell is accepting students in his studio for private voice instruction, from ages 13 and up.

Please contact Dr. Darryl Roland at the Choir School for additional information at 654-6279, ext. 3 or DRoland@CathedralChoirSchoolDE.org.



John Howell

Changing Times

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without much public explanation. It was abrupt. His name was still printed everywhere. What will happen? I don't know, but I do know that remarkable things can happen if we stay awake and rise to the occasion when change is thrust upon us.

2. Real change happens at core levels – not cultural ones. Reggie Joiner pulled out an old computer – a Mac Plus from 1986 – and then pulled out a modern MacBook Pro. Did you know there were nearly 80 upgrades between the two? He said, "If you want to build a program that lasts, you have to be willing to change what you build." He suggested that the best way to move your team toward your mission is to continually upgrade your system, and that when we fail to upgrade we lose our capacity to be relevant.

This next part was key: If the plan is to get our youth to *come* to church, that's easily outgrown and irrelevant. But if our plan is to help our youth *be* the church, well, that's entirely different. When we do upgrade, we often tweak our worship services or Sunday school programs – but not the things that change how we live out loving our neighbors. The transition from a "serve us" parish to a service parish requires several upgrades beyond the cultural surface.

As Denise Van Eck put it at the convention, our communities of faith are like icebergs. Our artifacts (the things we put out in the open to show who we are, like what hangs on our walls, how we dress, our worship spaces, and liturgies) sit above the water. Just below the surface are the things we say we value. Deeper and broader are the things we actually value. And deeper and broader still are the assumptions that underlie them all – these are the core things that we believe. These are the things that manifest without our ever having to think about them. These determine how we love God and our neighbors. If we're not willing to examine and change these things, then the changes we make to our liturgies and Sunday school programs can't last.

3. You can choose to change your story. One speaker was the writer Donald Miller, and in his latest book, *A Million Miles in a Thousand Years*, he says what makes a good story is a character wanting something and overcoming conflict to get it. Without a struggle, no one cares what happens to the characters.

Don realized this when a depressed friend had retreated from life, proclaiming life was meaningless. Don found himself asking, what if life isn't meaningless and it's just that you've let yours become so? If you don't know

what you really want and continually avoid conflict and challenge, your life can't possibly tell a meaningful story. If we want beautiful things, we must be courageous about conflict.

We in the Episcopal Church have lagged behind in the youth ministry "upgrade" cycle. We're caught in a "we've always done it that way" loop that is repeatedly graduating most of our youth right out of our parish doors.

There's a logical, broad, and well-lit upgrade path that the rest of the wider church chose that we could go down: the "build it and they will come" approach to youth ministry. They built bigger, flashier, and "relevant" youth programs that were ultimately impressively successful in bringing in numbers of kids and keeping them largely out of "trouble." But this approach ultimately failed because those deeper core levels didn't support transitioning youth into the ministry and Body of Christ. Joiner says that "relevant" is connecting timeless truth to the matter at hand. So that's great for now, but the matter at hand always has an expiration date.

We need a strategy that gets us to the really vibrant, meaningful, Church-becoming youth ministry upgrades that are now visible on the horizon without taking the same disastrous route. Staying where we are is no longer an option: change is going to happen. We must claim a stake for change at those core levels – dig our heels and fight for it in face of conflict. This journey does not promise to be easy – but it does promise to be worth it.

Now this is huge, and the resistance will come from multiple angles. It will be difficult, but it's what I really want – and the story I believe God has called me to so I am committed to doing it. I am small, but God is not. Join me.



Reggie Joiner



Don Miller

See Current News of The Episcopal Church and The Anglican Communion

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A Celtic Expedition of Poetic Proportions: A Pilgrimage to Ireland

Join Sisters Barbara Jean Brown and Julian Wilson of the Anamchara Fellowship for a tour of Ireland's important ancient and modern Christian sites from May 7 – 17, 2010. Visit www.DioceseofDelaware.net for a detailed itinerary and cost information or call Sr. Barbara Jean for more information at 420-7117.

DELAWARE EVENTS

See the list of special holiday services and concerts at www.DioceseofDelaware.net.

Advent Musical Offerings:

4 FRIDAY
• **Brown Bag Concert:** Brandywiners Ltd. Chorale, Grace Church, Wilmington – 12:15 p.m.

6 SUNDAY
• **Lessons and Carols**, St. Anne's, Middletown – 4:00 p.m. with Choir of the Cathedral Church of St. John
• **Lessons and Carols**, Immanuel Highlands, Wilmington – 4:00 p.m. with combined choirs
• **Lessons and Carols**, St. Thomas's, Newark – 5:30pm
• **Selections from Handel's Messiah**, St. Andrew's School Choral Scholars at Engelhard Recital Hall, Saint Andrew's School – 6:00 p.m.
• **Opus One Vocal Jazz Ensemble's Annual Holiday Concert**, St. James Mill Creek, Wilmington – 7:00 p.m. Benefits Family Promise of Northern New Castle County.

11 FRIDAY
• **Brown Bag Concert:** Concord High School Madrigals, Chorale, and Brass Choir, Grace Church, Wilmington – 12:15 p.m.

13 SUNDAY
• **Handel's Messiah**, Christ Church Christiana Hundred, Greenville – 3:00 p.m.
• **Lessons and Carols**, Christ Church, Dover – 4:00 p.m.
• **Lessons and Carols**, Immanuel, New Castle – 4:00 p.m.
• **Lessons and Carols**, St. Andrew's School, Middletown – two services: 2:30 p.m. & 5:30 p.m.

18 FRIDAY
• **Brown Bag Concert:** Robert Welch & Friends, Grace Church, Wilmington – 12:15 p.m.

20 SUNDAY
• **Lessons and Carols with Handbells**, All Saints', Rehoboth – 4:00 p.m.
• **Lessons and Carols**, St. Peter's, Lewes – 5:00 p.m.

Other December Events:

4 Thursday through 6 Saturday, **St. Thomas's, Newark, Artisan Craft Fair.** This year, the Fair goes back to its roots and sells only handmade items. For details, call 368-4644.

5 Saturday, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., **St. George's, Harbeson, 4th Annual Christmas Fair.** This small country fair will include Christmas greens for sale. For details, call 227-7202.

5 Saturday, 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., **St. Barnabas, Wilmington, Annual Christmas Bazaar.** Join us for a fun day, whittle down your Christmas gift list, and enjoy a light lunch. For details, call 994-6607.

5 Saturday, 10:00 a.m., **Claymont Christmas Parade and Visit from St. Nicholas, at Ascension Episcopal Church.** Ascension will again host the end of this annual parade. For details, call 398-6683.

5 Saturday, 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. **2nd Annual Holiday Craft Fair, St. Albans, Wilmington.** Offers the work of many local craftspeople, a cookie swap, and refreshments. Details: 478-7778.

12 Saturday, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon, **Integrity Chapter Forum, Christ Church, Dover.** Details: contact Jon Rania at 734-5731.

12 Saturday, 10:00 a.m., **Walk the Labyrinth during Advent at St. Barnabas, Wilmington.** We will prepare you for your walk with meditations. We will also have hand-held Labyrinths and some ideas on how to make them yourself. This is a good way to become centered while awaiting the celebration of the birth of Christ. The introduction and presentation will be given by Sr. Cassandra Grace and Sr. Kara Aidan of Anamchara Fellowship. For details, call 994-6607.

20 Sunday, 11:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. **Nativities from around the world, Church of the Ascension, Claymont.** Take a break from holiday stress and enjoy nativities from around the world on display in the parish hall (enter from the parking lot behind the church). Small gifts will be given to children, and tea and cookies will be served to all. Details: 798-6683.

Giving Time and Talent can lead to Church Treasures

by Sheila Bravo

Christ has no body but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours, yours are the eyes with which he looks compassion on this world, yours are the feet with which he walks to do good, yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.

—St. Teresa of Avila

It is no secret that your church needs your help. But did you know that you can make a big difference by giving your time? Growing a church requires resources. And although dollars and cents are necessary in today's economy, it is the talent of church members that ultimately ensures a church community remains healthy and strong. It is the members who make church life vibrant, and the church leadership who graciously empower their members to enrich that life with their unique gifts and time. Welcoming visitors, singing in the choir, cleaning the church yard, promoting church events, or visiting shut-ins are just a few ways one can help support the church.

But the blessings of this giving exceed what the parish receives: volunteers who participate in the life of the

church find they benefit greatly by giving their time. Friendships are forged, new skills are developed, and good feelings about making a difference are fostered - all reasons church members cite as to why they give their time. There is no age limit when it comes to being an active member of your church community. The youth of the parish can acquire leadership skills and training for future careers, while retirees make a significant contribution through their years of experience.

New and innovative programs are started by volunteers who have a passion for a particular ministry or mission. At St. Peter's in Lewes some enterprising volunteers conceptualized and created a new interfaith gift and book shop called Seekers. Its mission to provide spiritual resources for people of all faiths has galvanized others in the community. Now over 20 people from St. Peter's and other churches in the area volunteer by working in the store, coordinating a spirituality workshop series, or helping with publicity.

Though many may only give three hours of time a month, collectively they have helped this new ministry get off the ground and make a difference in the local community. Over 800 people have attended the spirituality events, and, even with all of the typical start up expenses, a cash donation from the net proceeds of the ministry was made to the local food basket one year after its inception.

There are so many ways one can make a difference. Geraldine Taylor, a



(L-R) Mary Ann Galoppa, Geraldine Taylor, Marge Starr, Mary Ann Fasold, and Sue Ann Backus of St. Philip's, Laurel, bag over 1,300 cookies to thank the teachers of the Laurel School District.

parishioner from St. Philip's Laurel, brought a terrific idea to her friends in the ECW to show support for those who tirelessly educate our children. The women baked four dozen cookies each (over 1300 total), placed them in baggies, added pretty ribbons and an appreciation message; which stated: "The ability to teach is a special gift. We want to thank you for sharing that gift with the students of Laurel. - The Women of St. Philip's Church." Each teacher and support person in the district received cookies. Nancy Hitch, ECW president, said, "The teachers were so surprised and overwhelmed by the gesture. We're definitely doing this again for National Teacher Apprecia-

tion Week in May!" The Rev. Howard Backus, parish priest, added, "I continue to be amazed at the love expressed within this parish. Sharing and caring is what St. Philip's is all about."

Churches throughout Delaware are blessed with many examples of parish vibrancy and the contribution that volunteers make to help sustain that energy. As you reflect on what you may give this holiday season and into the new year, consider giving a little time - something your church community will truly treasure.

Bravo is a management consultant and doctoral student in leadership who has worked with several parishes in the diocese.

ST. GEORGE'S



St. George's Chapel, Harbeson, kicked off the new program year with a Family Fall Festival on September 20. The festival, organized by the St. George's Dragons men's group, attracted youngsters and their parents on a beautiful day. Besides outdoor games and contests, the children enjoyed hamburgers, hot dogs, cotton candy, and snow cones - with even a cooking contest hosted by the ECW for the grown-ups. "We wanted to celebrate our children as Sunday school and regular school began," said David Risseuw, event chairman.

A STORY OF STEWARDSHIP

St. Philip's Goes Geothermal

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than the other options. But, despite these obstacles, the response from the parish was unequivocal: geothermal was the way to go.

What swayed them? "While the benefit to the environment was certainly a major factor," said Bill Hitch, senior warden, "the primary motivations were replacing the substantial maintenance and fuel costs of the oil-fired system with marginally higher electric bills, plus having a system that addressed the needs of the entire facility, giving us the ability to use all of our buildings in the summer months." "The people of St. Philip's were really unified in their enthusiasm and support for this project," added Fr. Backus.

Then, in the face of the 24-hour news networks' speculation about the next Great Depression, parishioners matched their "vote" for the geothermal system with equally unequivocal financial support, quickly responding to a mailed appeal with over \$80,000 in pledges. "The most astounding part of this whole experience was the pledging," said Hitch. "The parish's response really gave us confidence that we'd made the right decision."

The diocese was equally supportive, with the Advance and Development Committee responding to the parish's detailed request with both a challenge grant and a loan. In addition, the parish

was able to obtain a \$15,600 grant from the Delaware Green Energy Program.

With funding securely in hand, the project began in May. They started by removing the old systems, including two underground oil tanks, and removing generations of church treasures from depths of the facilities (they even found a long-forgotten four-foot bronze and copper cross from their former altar). Then they removed and saved the surface of their parking lot to allow for the drilling of twenty 300-foot loop wells for the system.

This part of the process proved to be messy in a couple of ways. First of all, it rained nearly every day during this phase, creating a gigantic mud pit. And then, mid-way through, the back hoe struck the foundation of a house that stood on the property many years before. They discovered that the house's basement was filled with demolition debris and an odd collection of bicycles and vehicle tires that had to be excavated. And then the contractors undertook the hardest work - cutting through the cement block walls of the education building to install the new air conditioning duct work.

Finally, on July 25, all of St. Philip's was air conditioned with geothermal energy. Some of the best parts of the system according to the rector and senior

warden are that it runs silently and extremely true to temperature. Plus, they keep their thermostat set at the same temperature all the time, allowing for the facility to be used at any point without having to crank up the heat or air. A further benefit is that their electric bills have not skyrocketed by doubling the air conditioned space. "We're already beginning to see a savings in our budget," said Backus, "and we're already getting to expand the use of our building for our ministries, like housing Habitat for Humanity workers in air conditioned comfort this August!"

The Rev. Jeff Ross, who served as the liaison from the Advance and Development Committee to the parish commented, "I am very excited about St. Philip's going geothermal. I applaud them for thinking 'outside the box' and pursuing an energy alternative that will not only allow them to be stewards of the environment and have better control of the heating and air conditioning throughout their physical plant but also free up financial resources that will enable them to expand their own mission and ministry in the community. I think they have offered a model to other parishes for strong viable alternatives during tough economic times. I think they did a superb job!"