



SHARED VISIONS

St. Luke's Episcopal & Our Saviour Lutheran

An Episcopal-Lutheran Ministry
In Haworth, N.J.

**We welcome the faithful, the seeker and the doubter, for
God's embrace is wide and God's Good News is for all!**

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Come, Holy Spirit

By Pastor Shane Phelan

As I sit here at my computer, I'm listening to chants written by the Taizé community. Most of us have heard some of these chants at one time or another. They combine older languages and contemporary translations. They are meant to be learned easily, so we don't need to stare at a page while worshipping. They make it easy to share in worship. The chants are repetitive, so we can sink in and pray while singing. They are not about artistry or individual performance; they are about praying as a community.

The Taizé community was founded in 1940 in France. It currently has approximately 100 brothers, both Catholic and Protestant. Just think about that; a religious community that crosses walls hundreds of years old. Every year, thousands of people, mostly young, come to Taize from all over the world. They come because they want to be in the presence of the Holy One, and to find meaning and purpose. They want to know how God is calling them...

cont'd. on Page 2

Adult Study with Pastor Kathleen: Where Has It Gone?

By Pastor Kathleen J. Rusnak

It's true that many a Sunday, something else is happening after worship and adult study does not take place. However, before I leave in October, we still have some weeks to make headway into our topic on the changes in Christian theology and thinking following the Second World War and the Holocaust.

We have been studying the late Episcopal Priest and Theologian, Paul M. van Buren, and his thinking on the subject, through the little pamphlet by Forward Movement Publications called, "Jesus Christ: Between Jews and Christians."

To get us back into gear, we will focus on the small Christian kibbutz (really a *moshav*—a collective agricultural community), where I lived and worked in Western Galilee, Israel from 1998-2000. Called Nes Ammim—"A sign to the nation," from Isaiah), this Christian community of mostly

cont'd on Page 3

In the midst of “secular Europe,” Taizé is a beacon for young people. People come and take their turn with the chores of the community. They share in Bible study and discussion. They are welcome as well to take silent time. It’s nothing radical. It isn’t trendy. It is grounded in tradition while always open to new forms of expression. That is the secret of Taizé.

It’s hard to sort out what is basic, what is core, and what is just overlaid habit. What makes us who we are? What is essential, and what is dispensable? The Taizé community has managed to translate an ancient tradition in ways that speak to new generations.

As we journey together, you might want to chant some Taizé chants. I don’t mean just during worship. I mean that we should keep Taizé close to our hearts. We, too, are a community crossing old boundaries between denominations. We are a community wrestling with what is core and what is not. We are a community seeking to reach out to a new generation without abandoning our history. We could use some Taizé.

One of my favorite Taizé chants is “Veni, Sancte Spiritus.” That is Latin for “Come, Holy Spirit,” one of the oldest prayers and hymns in the Church. The Taizé version is very simple, two notes. A soloist can sing above the chant, but the two notes alone are beautiful. In this Pentecost season, I invite you

to learn and chant “Veni, Sancte Spiritus” every day. Come, Holy Spirit, into our hearts and our world. Renew us, comfort us, strengthen us, guide us. Lead us to your peace and joy. Amen.



A Message from St. Luke’s Wardens

Dear everyone,

We have been very busy since our glorious Easter. Things haven't slowed down a bit. Our office is now open and a huge thanks to all involved in that. Our midweek services of Evening Prayer (Mondays through Thursdays at 5:00 P.M.) and healing service with Eucharist (on Wednesday evenings at 7:30) are nice to attend for tranquil prayer. Feel welcomed to go on the St.Luke's & Our Savior Facebook page or Web site for service times, events, calendar and more.

The Anne Connolly art show/sale was a big success.

May 13th Roberta Nobleman performed " Glory of God" and it was terrific!

cont'd on Page 3

At left: In a procession around the church and grounds, Pastor Kathleen and Pastor Shane bless the church grounds on Rogation Sunday, May 9. This brief service is a traditional blessing of our grounds and works in the season of new life. .



Shared Visions, the newsletter of St. Luke’s Episcopal & Our Saviour Lutheran Church, is published 11 times per year. Submissions for the upcoming month’s issue should be *mailed* to Shared Visions, St. Luke’s Episcopal & Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Massachusetts Ave. & Grant St., Haworth, NJ 07641; *placed* in the Shared Visions mailbox in the church office; or *e-mailed* to claudiasmith@msn.com. Firm deadline for submissions is the 20th of each month. **Shared Visions Board:** Editor: Janet Beddoe. Editorial Staff: Janet Beddoe, Claudia Smith. Photography: Carole MacDonald, The Finckenauers, Paul Nobleman. Advertising: Jo Stephenson.

Wardens, cont'd. from Page 1

Pastor Shane and several vestry members went on a retreat through the Diocese of Newark. Saturday May 15th. I believe we set a good example of a group willing to take on challenges like "change" and "willingness."

The Vestry had extremely tough decision to come up with only two members to be nominated for a lifetime achievement award. The two are Jim Wilkie and Junius Stephenson who put in so much heart and time.

On a cold and windy May 9th, Pastor Shane blessed our new office, our memorial garden, the Sunday school building and kids, the rectory, the parking lot and yes, Joe's car got a blessing as well.

Next Sunday Pentecost begins. Please wear red. After the service we will be taking a group photo. With confirmations going on there should be a nice amount of people, so squeeze in and be nice to the photographer. Please bring yourselves and whoever else to enjoy our services.

Saturday May 22nd I will be attending a - "listening: The best part of Discipleship" meeting at St. Paul's church in Paterson. Bishop Beckwith will be in attendance and I will bring back the ideas and good news.

Thank you for all the efforts with *Shared Visions* and those who have taken on sponsorship of World Vision children. Thank you to the groundwork people who have done a great job, planting, cutting trees, grooming etc. The church grounds are beautiful.

The choir is looking for new members. This could mean anyone from the congregation or if anyone knows someone outside the congregation who you think would enjoy singing with us. The only commitment is to meet at 9:30 a.m Sunday for rehearsal. In regards to the choir please see Claudia Smith

Looking forward to a nice summer of worship together. Alleluia!
God bless!

-- Paul Nobleman, Warden



I write this a few days before leaving on our family vacation. I could wait until I return and type the *Shared Visions* article, however, things get crazy once you arrive home after being away. This would involve catching up on what went on at work and going through your mail (the mail...where does all that mail come from?) etc. As I turn yet another page on my calendar, I realize that it is now officially the summer season. During this time at church, we notice many of our friends coming and going, doing this and that, seeing perhaps a new face of a visitor passing through. Oh, those lazy hazy days of summer.

As warden, I must remind you that there will only be one service at 10:00 starting on June 20th and to please keep up to date with your pledges because Saint Luke's Our Saviour church never takes a vacation. If you happen to be traveling in the upcoming months you should consider perhaps stopping into the local church. I can recall a vacation taken on a Maine island that did not allow cars and the only way to get onto the island was by their mail boat. They did have a boat dock and a tiny supply store and a chapel on the top of the hill. That was it. On Sundays, you were

asked by the pastor, who lives on the island, to come to church and bring a pot luck plate. Well, it was lovely. What few people live on the island became instant friends. We even participated in their evening talent show on Thursday nights. It didn't hurt either to get to know one of the lobsterman that live here. If you wanted a fresh lobster that night for dinner, you would go to his house and sign up on a clip board hanging on his front door. You would then have to decide how many and what size lobsters you would want, ride your bike down to pick it up and then enjoy. I wish all of you a safe and happy summer whether you are traveling or working on the garden in your backyard. May you all recharge and renew your spirit within. Godspeed
-Carol Maxfield, Warden

Pastor Kathleen, cont'd. from Page 1

European Christians, lives out what we are studying in theory/theology. I suggest we resume our study with this community, a community where Paul M. van Buren came to give his lectures before they became part of his books.

I'll bring pictures from the community and maybe even a video, plus a map of that part of Israel. If you would like a head start before we meet, go to my Web site at www.thebrickwall2.com and on the menu, click articles. You'll find an article I published on Nes Ammim there. Read it online, or print it out to read.

When will we meet again? Stay tuned for that. Still, some important events follow worship in the next few times I am there. We will decide together if we meet.



OUTREACH UPDATE: World Visions Kids in Mozambique

Are you sponsoring a child? Twenty of us are. When you receive your first letter from your child, you might consider sharing it with others in Shared Visions, along with a picture of your child. On a Sunday in the near future, we will all gather to share our pictures and stories, but sharing some along the way with others can help us keep abreast of the region of Mozambique that we are supporting and to know on a regular basis how our support is bettering the lives of our children and their families.

In the last issue, I mentioned Celumusa, my teenager in Swaziland. A gift of money that I sent them is helping them to be self-sufficient and helping them meet



their daily needs for living. The picture you are viewing is of Celumusa the cow the family decided to buy with my money gift. They now have milk for themselves and sell milk to others. They grow maize for their own food, and the

cow helps this too by plowing. This picture is worth a thousand words. See Celumusa's new shoes, too, the ones on his feet and the ones in his hands. He is growing into a wonderful young man.

Our World Vision contact, Millie, has returned from our region of Mozambique, with pictures and a story to tell us about our community and its needs. She also took gifts and pictures from us to them. Stay tuned in the next Shared Visions for her update.

-- Pastor Kathleen



SIMPLE WAYS TO BENEFIT THE WOMEN'S CENTER, Englewood, NJ

Every year around Valentine's Day, members of the Cresskill Woman's Club collect and decorate coffee cans and fill them with cookies and candies. Spearheaded by Our Saviour's Eileen Farrell, the treats are distributed to disadvantaged women who visit the Women's Center looking for job training, a safe, affordable housing situation, peer counseling or to find solutions for a myriad of other barriers preventing them from achieving economic equity in our community. This little gesture gets big smiles and genuine gratitude -- A gift from people who don't know them or their problems.

Every so often, St. Luke's Jim Wilke hands me a bunch greeting cards he receives in the mail from organizations soliciting donations.

It's an easy thing to do but to people who count pennies to put food on the table not having to spend money on a birthday card helps them stay within their already tight budget.

The Center participates in a fair for the homeless every year. We collect toiletries, tooth brushes & paste, deodorant, soap, shampoo, combs, dental floss, shaving cream, nail clippers, razors, - all new -- all small or sample sizes.

In the early part of August we will be assembling school supplies for the children of our low income clients. The list includes but not limited to crayons, Crayola markers, pencils, pencil boxes, simple calculators, scientific calculators, wide ruled loose leaf paper, 1-2 inch binders, 3

subject spiral notebooks, plastic page protectors, pocket portfolios, composition books, assignment pads, erasers, pencil sharpeners, back packs appropriate for kindergarten to high school seniors.

I read a study done recently where subjects were each given \$5.00 and told to either spend it or give it away. Those who chose to keep the cash reported feeling no differently than before they were given the money. Those who gave it away overwhelmingly reported feeling happier.

Please be in touch with me if you would like to donate.

Sincerely,
Joan Grzenda

OUTREACH UPDATE: World Visions Kids in Mozambique

Letter from Millie Vanderpool of World Vision to Pastor Kathleen

All went very well and I was able to meet two children that are being sponsored from your church. I'll be sending you pictures as soon as I download them to my computer.

I met **Angela Sentinela** who is sponsored by **Corrine Kassis**. This child was so precious as she is around 12 years old. She was on her way to church and had a small bible. She goes to a Seventh Day Adventist Church and as it was Saturday she was on her way to church when we went to visit her. She is in her church children's choir. She sang us a Christian song. The child monitor who translated said that she is a very successful student who studies hard. He was excited to see her so dedicated to her studies as many of the girls her age are not that interested and many become mothers around the age of 14. Married or not in some cases. We saw many young mothers on our trip.

When I asked Angela how we can pray for her she answered that we can pray for a bike. She has to walk many miles a day to and from school and it takes a very long time. I was concerned about her safety and protection as she is becoming a young lady.. so after asking World Vision the pros and cons about giving her a bike they replied there are only pros-a bike would help her get to school and not be so tired as well as be the only transportation her family will have. No one will take it as crime is taken care of very seriously. A bike would be a big blessing to her and her family and

also be an encouragement to her to stay in school and church. They said her school was miles away...

Anyway, I was given money by some friends to use as needed and to help children or families and was able to leave enough to provide a bike for her. So, I want to make sure The Kassis family is aware of this in case they receive a letter mentioning the bike. Angela will not know who gave her the bike just that someone from US gave it to her. I also gave her some clothes and a bracelet and necklace and a few other things. She wrote a letter for me to give to her sponsor.

The other child I met was **Telma Agostinho**. She is sponsored by **Christine Emerizy**. I'm so glad I was able to meet this child as she is an orphan living with an aunt. She looked very sad and I can tell has had a tough life with sadness. She didn't have the smiles and hope I saw in other children like with Angela. I read the letter that Christine wrote and gave her the gifts from her. I also gave her some clothes I brought to pass out and a small girls purse with small toys. I left money with the staff to buy her shoes (she didn't have any on and may not have any) and some clothes and food for her and her aunt and family. I wanted to make sure the aunt knew this was a special child and thanked her for raising her and taking care of her.


I know that God picked out this child in advance for me to visit. I left all the other gifts behind to give to the children and put some baseball hats

and soaps and stuff in some of the envelopes that had room. It was a blessing to share a little with these precious children.

It is our hope to get malaria nets for all the children in this area. Please pray as malaria kills more children and adults than HIV-AIDS in this area. We have programs for malaria support but the needs are great and we are just starting to raise the funds.

I would appreciate you sharing these stories with your congregation. We are making a difference... one child at a time. Thank you for your prayers and for being a voice for these precious children. One by one we will get them help.

World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice.



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Soul Food

We would love more people to submit meditations for this column. Do not think that they have to be original, lovely as they would be. We also invite you to submit a favorite prayer, poem or a photo of a place that has touched you with God's goodness.

As some of you know Roberta Nobleman is a Companion of a lay community of women, the Society of the Companions of the Holy Cross, of which I am now a Discerner. Every morning at their house in Byfield, Mass. at 7 A.M. Companions and visitors gather at the balconies and chant antiphonally St. Francis of Assisi's Cantic of the Sun. Praising God is a wonderful way to start the day, bathed and dressed or in your nightclothes. I offer some of its verses to you with photos from my recent trip to England where, in so-called "post Christian" Europe, people still praise Creation in their own way, returning to the woods of their childhood in Spring to celebrate our Mother, the Earth, in the glorious abundance of bluebells everywhere, or rejoicing in Brother Sun

on its return in the first warm days by splashing in Sister Water offered with its artwork free to all by a London museum that "gets it" and, instead of posting Keep out of the Water signs, encourages you to get in.



Cantic of the Sun



"O Most High, Almighty, good Lord God, to thee beong praise, glory, honor and all blessings!

Praised be my Lord God through all his creatures, and especially through our brother the sun, who brings us the day and who brings us the light; fair is he and shines with a very great splendor. O Lord, he signifies thee!

Praised be my Lord through our sister the moon and through the stars, the which he has set clear and lovely in heaven.

Praised be my Lord through air and cloud, calms and all weather by the which thou upholdest life in all creatures.

Praised be my Lord through our sister water which is very serviceable unto us and humble and [precious and clean.

Praised be my Lord through our mother the earth, the which doth sustain and keep us and bringeth forth divers fruits and flowers of many colors and grass."

Your favorites anyone?

-- Janet Beddoe

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Our Saviour Lutheran
on Facebook!**

Confirmation Sunday on The Day of Pentecost



Confirmation Sunday on May 23, The Day of Pentecost, was a glorious occasion at St. Luke's & Our Saviour. The wearing of red to symbolize the flames of the Holy Spirit, festive balloons, lots of love and support from the full congregation and the sharing of a feast fit for three lovely princesses! Pictured at left (l-r) Pastor Kathleen, Samantha Monaco, Kristen Finckenauer, Corrin Kassis and Eucharistic Minister Christine Emerizy. Lower left: The Finckenauers. Lower right: Yes, we let them eat cake!



From Roberta Nobleman's Play, "God's Glory": On the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius



PRAYERS FOR ST. LUKE'S & OUR SAVIOUR PARISH FAMILIES

*Please keep in your thoughts
and prayers the following
parishioners and members of
our extended families:*



Pat Stephenson, Lillian Nelson, Penny Elie, Bill O'Daniel, the Gonci family, Pauline Pedreira, Lawrence H. Horn III, Rita Wagner, Zack Dochnahl, Jeb Magda, George Stubbs, Murray & Roberta Nobleman, Deb Riede, Darren Garrish, Carol Maxfield, Jean Turner, Kimberly Roig, Marrine Romaine, Doris Rosa, Erica DeLuca and her family, Bill Repp, Charlie & Fran Napolitano, David Storicks, Nancy Smith, Noel, Jeffrey, John Casper, Betty Meyer, Jeanne & Peter Chraplewski, Laura Reutlinger and family, Bishop Mark S. Hanson, Presiding Bishop of ECLA, Bishop E. Roy Riley, Jr., Bishop of New Jersey Synod, ECLA, James Penney, Jamie, Laura Smith, Linda Brescia, Venetta Smith, Pat Kay, Muriel Andersen, Jimmy Russell, Beverly Pitsenberger, Jane Denny, Caroline Kouta, the family of Louis Egan (nee: Rusnak), Cathy Klie and her family, Dave Gemnel, Adolfo Salvatore Magnifico, Muriel Bauer, Roxanne Gabriel, Keith, Betty-Ann & Jim Wilkie, Anne Caloz, Alma Gottlieb, Krysta Williams the family of Debra Shanley, and Zahra, Khansa Abeerah and their family.



**PRAY FOR
ONE ANOTHER**

SAVE THE DATES: Special Services & Events Coming Up

Recognition Day

On Sunday, June 6, please be sure to congratulate all those who will be honored during the services: our corps of young acolytes, Betty-Ann Wilkie with the Rector's Award and Junius Stephenson and Jim Wilkie, who were selected by the vestry to be honored by the Episcopal Diocese of Newark at a special luncheon.

ECLW Meeting & Luncheon

Following the service on Sunday, June 6, the Episcopal-Lutheran Church Women will hold a meeting and luncheon at Rudy's Restaurant in Closter. First, it's get down to biz with ideas for the November Fair (and no, it's not too early to think about it!) -- and then it's pizza, soda and wine! Please join the fun and share your bright ideas for the biggest fundraiser of the year!

Annual Outdoor Service of Holy Eucharist and Picnic

On Sunday, June 13, please join us for our annual outdoor service and picnic. The church will provide hot dogs and hamburgers; please fill in the sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall to indicate what you will bring.

Celebrating the 30th Anniversary of Pastor Kathleen's Ordination

On Sunday, June 27, Pastor Kathleen has invited the parish family to join her in celebrating the 30th Anniversary of her ordination. She is hosting a catered lunch following the 10 AM service. All are welcome to join the fun!

Coming Events

Sunday, June 6

2nd Sunday After Pentecost
8:30 AM Contemporary Eucharist
9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist
Noon - ELCW Meeting & Lunch
At Rudy's Restaurant/Closter
6:00 PM Parish Fun Night

Monday, June 7

5:00 PM - Evening Prayer

Tuesday, June 8

5:00 PM - Evening Prayer
7:30 St. Luke's Vestry Meeting

Wednesday, June 9

5:00 PM - Evening Prayer
7:30 PM - Holy Eucharist &
Healing

Thursday, June 10

5:00 PM - Evening Prayer

Sunday, June 13

3rd Sunday After Pentecost
NO 8:30 SERVICE
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist
Followed by the Annual Picnic

Monday, June 14

5:00 PM - Evening Prayer

Tuesday, June 15

5:00 PM - Evening Prayer
7:30 St. Luke's Vestry Meeting

Wednesday, June 16

5:00 PM - Evening Prayer
7:30 PM - Holy Eucharist &
Healing

SUMMER SCHEDULE

Starting Sun., June 20, there will be ONE service of Holy Eucharist at 10:00 AM. Pastor Shane will continue to offer weekday services. Check Coming Events!

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PETIT PARIS

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Coming Events

Thursday, June 17

5:00 PM - Evening Prayer

Sunday, June 20

4th Sunday After Pentecost

SUMMER SCHEDULE BEGINS

NO 8:30 SERVICE

10:00 AM Holy Eucharist

6:00 PM Parish Fun Night

Monday, June 21

5:00 PM - Evening Prayer

Tuesday, June 22

5:00 PM - Evening Prayer

7:30 PM - Craft Night

Wednesday, June 23

5:00 PM - Evening Prayer

7:30 PM - Holy Eucharist & Healing

Thursday, June 24

5:00 PM - Evening Prayer

Sunday, June 27

5th Sunday After Pentecost

10:00 AM Holy Eucharist

Followed by Celebration Luncheon for the 30th Anniversary of Pastor Kathleen's Ordination

Monday, June 28

5:00 PM - Evening Prayer

Tuesday, June 29

5:00 PM - Evening Prayer

Wednesday, June 30

5:00 PM - Evening Prayer

7:30 PM - Holy Eucharist & Healing

PLANTINGS

If you've noticed some new planting around the grounds, thank Heidi & Bob Plinio -- the couple with the busy hands and the green thumbs. Kudos for the beautiful work!

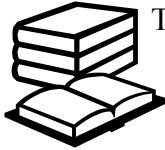
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BOOK CLUB MEETS



The next book club meeting will be Thurs., June 17. We are reading *Beach House* by James Patterson.

There are a few copies of books still available at the Dumont Library. Our next selection will be *The Innocent Man* by John Grisham. If anyone has any ideas for future readings, please talk to Carole MacDonald or Gladys Astorga with the titles. The library suggests that book club readings not be new releases as libraries will not release their copy for book clubs as soon as a new book comes out, Call Carole MacDonald at 201-724-0627 or Heidi Plinio at 201-387-7438.

CRAFT NIGHT

Come out and help us with ideas for items to sell at the Fair on Tues., June 22 at 7:30 Please bring ideas and/ or supplies. All are welcome...no experience needed.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Christian Coleman
- 2 Gladys & Alfred Astorga
- 4 Ken Kuehnrich
- 7 Hannah Riede
- 11 Carole MacDonald
- 12 Jack Kuehnrich
- 12 Alice Ingebretsen
- 13 Betty & Herman Meyer
- 18 Norman Cardine
- 21 Trish Kuehnrich
- 21 Harry Smith
- 22 Karen Hamlin
- 25 Gladys Astorga
- 28 Jeanne & Jim Griffin

TECHNO-EVANGELISM

Pastor Kathleen has dubbed me the techno-evangelist. I have to laugh. I've discovered through my full-time work that if you don't keep up with the technology, it will overtake you and pass you right on by. Soooo.... I've been keeping up by having fun on the Web...

1) Greenery: IF you are on our e-mail list for *Shared Visions*, please take a printed copy from church ONLY if you want to share it with someone who does not have e-mail or Internet access. We want to print and mail fewer copies to save time, effort and postage costs.

2) Our Church Web site at www.stlukeshaworth.org has PDFs of *Shared Visions*, links to Pastor Shane's blog and our Facebook page and other new content. Thanks to Greg Paller for some really good suggestions for improvement!

3) We have 32 Friends on our Facebook Page. Let's keep it going! There are daily Bible readings and links to meditations on them, links to Pastor Shane's blog plus other prayers and thoughts. I would love suggestions for topics of interest to post, especially in our new discussion board area. Send photos for the albums that will be posted on Facebook and linked to our Web site. Become a fan yourself and share it with your friends!

-- Claudia Smith



Haiti cathedral's murals could be resurrected, experts say

Trinity Sunday celebration will mark diocese's second collection toward rebuilding

By Mary Frances Schjonberg, May 27, 2010



[Episcopal News Service] Some of the world-famous murals that adorned the walls of the Episcopal Diocese of Haiti's Holy Trinity cathedral prior to the Jan. 12 earthquake, and gave Haitians of all faiths a vision of their place in the stories of the Bible, could be preserved and possibly even restored.

That's the assessment of a team of art experts who have surveyed artworks and other cultural artifacts that were damaged in the magnitude-7 quake. However, they said, decisions about the murals' fate need to be made soon.

"The murals are running out of time," said Corine Wegener, a curator at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts and president of the U.S. Committee of the Blue Shield, which is dedicated to the protection of cultural property worldwide during armed conflict. A retired Army officer, she was posted to Iraq just after the looting of the Iraqi National Museum.

"They're really, really at risk and there are going to have to be some decisions in order for us to move forward," Wegener said of the murals. "What nobody wants to have happen is that while we are making these decisions, a small aftershock [occurs] and they're gone."

Richard Kurin, Smithsonian Institution undersecretary for history, art and culture, echoed those concerns. "If we leave them in their current state, they will indeed suffer increasingly more damage," he said. "They are not going to last for a very long time."

Episcopal Diocese of Haiti Bishop Jean Zaché told ENS by phone from Haiti May 27 that "it is so important that we keep them and preserve them, so even though we will rebuild the cathedral where it was" the question is, indeed, how to protect the remaining murals in the meantime. Duracin said he envisions the survivors being incorporated into a new cathedral.

"When we have the design of the plan of the [new] cathedral, we will protect them," Duracin said. Meanwhile, he said, he believes the murals can stay in place due to work that has already occurred to begin to stabilize them.

Duracin hopes to convene a meeting in Port-au-Prince soon to discuss rebuilding plans with representatives of the many groups that cherish the cathedral and are eager to help in its rebuilding. One of those representatives is Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe Bishop Pierre Whalon, whom Duracin asked earlier this year to help guide those

efforts. Duracin said that an architectural firm is already helping the diocese in the planning process.

"It is the will of Haitian people to rebuild the cathedral because the cathedral has been for us our mother church here in Haiti," he said.

The cathedral is still operating on the site, albeit without walls in what Duracin calls the "open-air cathedral." It consists of plastic sheeting stretched over a frame of two-by-fours that shelters some pews rescued from the cathedral ruins.

The diocese will celebrate Trinity Sunday at the site on May 30 and take up its second diocesan-wide offering for the rebuilding effort.

"That will be our second symbolic but very important effort to rebuild the cathedral," he said.

The first offering, collected during the diocese's April 6-8 synod meeting, netted \$6,000.

Kurin, who returned from Haiti on May 25 after negotiating a cultural-heritage recovery plan with Haitian government officials, told ENS that he had not seen the Holy Trinity murals prior to the earthquake, despite having been in Port-au-Prince many times.

"It was incredibly striking and sad and in some ways strangely uplifting to see those murals in their current state," he said. "When you see the ruins of those walls and the murals still standing, they are standing there proudly amidst the destruction."

Kurin said he was also struck by what he called the "Haitization" of biblical stories portrayed in the murals. "In that fact, there's a respect for the people of Haiti in those murals ... the art of those

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murals incorporates Haitians in that story and that's very moving," he said. "Those murals represent a coming together of different cultural traditions and making them particularly and especially Haitian. They're unique; they're beautiful."

Kurin and others hoped to include the murals in the Smithsonian's Haiti Cultural Recovery Project. The project will operate in a 7,500-square-foot, three-story air-conditioned building in Port-au-Prince that once housed the United Nations Development Programme, according to a Smithsonian news release. It will be a place where objects retrieved from the rubble can be assessed, conserved and stored. Haitians will be trained to take over the conservation effort in a few years.

The effort is being conducted in partnership with the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities with assistance from three U.S. federal agencies: National Endowment for the Humanities, National Endowment for the Arts and the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Additional money is coming from the Broadway League.

Both Kurin and Wegener said that the cathedral murals' importance reaches far beyond the diocese.

"Of all the Haitians I've spoken to about some of the most at-risk and most-important cultural heritage, without exception the Holy Trinity murals are mentioned time and time again as such a critical part of Haiti's cultural identity and heritage," Wegener said.

"Whether you're Episcopal or not, everybody realizes that that was such an important moment in the development of Haitian art and that those have to be preserved if we can do it."

Holy Trinity was established in Port-au-Prince on Pentecost, May 25, 1863. Its church building has since been

destroyed six times, often by fire and once by an earthquake in the 1920s. The paintings, completed in 1950-51, portrayed biblical stories in Haitian motifs and were crafted by some of the best-known Haitian painters of the 20th century.

"It has been said that Bishop [Alfred] Voegli had his Bible in his hand with the painters and he explained the Bible to them and asked them to how to put the Bible in the Haitian context," Duracin told ENS. To do so meant that elements of Voodoo, so pervasive in Haitian culture, were included, and Voegli was severely criticized at the time.

"Many people had left the church because they could not understand that," he said. It took years for people to realize the value of the murals, he added.

Some progress has been made toward stabilizing the murals in the ruins, according to Kurin, Wegener and Susan Blakney, an art conservator from Skaneateles, New York, who trained in emergency conservation efforts after Hurricane Katrina.

Wegener said that during her first visit to the site in early March, the murals were free-standing and exposed to the elements. By her return in late March, she said, Haitian artist and architect Patrick Vilaire had purchased materials and erected scaffolding around some of the murals and draped some of the remaining walls.

"The murals right now are very fragmented. There was one mural that was very tightly buttoned up with a blue tarp. I climbed up to look at it, but they had closed it up so tightly that I couldn't even peek in," Susan Blakney told ENS, describing her early May visit to the cathedral with the Smithsonian team.

"What we've got now is fragments" of varying sizes, Blakney said, ranging from the relatively intact Baptism of

Christ and Last Supper murals to more roughly damaged murals to piles of rubble. Parts of some of the murals, which are painted on an approximately one-inch thick coating that had been applied over rough walls "have already started to delaminate or shear" from the walls, she said.

However, she added, "what's there could be saved" and there are many options for that work.

The three conservators said that the walls and their murals could remain in place, possibly with a shelter built around them in which on-going conservation and/or restoration work could be done. They could be removed, requiring a not-impossible but very complicated effort that would combine engineering with art conservation. They could then be taken offsite for additional work.

Part of the decision, they said, depends on whether the diocese wants to restore the murals to their pre-Jan. 12 state, preserve the murals in their current state as relics of the quake, forego any work with an eye to creating new murals in a new cathedral building or consider some combination of those choices.

"We have to have those decisions from them before we can go forward," Wegener said.

Even at a time when Haiti is still struggling to house and feed earthquake survivors in the face of the oncoming hurricane season, Kurin said efforts such as the Smithsonian's project is humanitarian work.

"Culture feeds the soul," he said. "Things that stir and inspire the soul are part of being human."

-- *The Rev. Mary Frances Schjonberg is a national correspondent for the Episcopal News Service and Episcopal News Monthly editor.*





Confirmation Sunday on The Day of Pentecost was a wonderful occasion at St. Lukes & Our Saviour! Pictured (l-r): Pastor Shane, confirmands Kassis, Kristen Finckenaue and Samantha Monaco, and Pastor Kathleen. Check it out inside!



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Our Saviour Lutheran Church
Massachusetts Ave. & Grant St.
Haworth, NJ 07641



We welcome the faithful, the seeker and the doubter, for God's embrace is wide and God's Good News is for all!
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Evening Prayer, Mon.-Thurs. at 5 P.M. • Healing & Holy Eucharist, Wednesdays at 7:30