

Lent 2006

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An Invitation to The Observance of a Holy Lent 2006

Dear People of God: *The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism.*

It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole

congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior; and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance of faith.

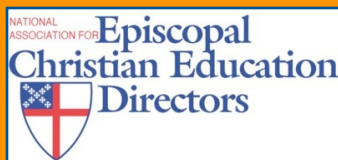
I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word. And, to make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now kneel before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.

Ash Wednesday Liturgy, 1979 Book of Common Prayer, p. 265

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NAECED Resource Packet



This resource packet is one of the benefits of being a member of the National Association for Episcopal Christian Education Directors, please do not forward without permission. If you no longer wish to receive this packet click [here](#).



How Will You Care For Yourself This Lent?

"I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent..."

These words from the Ash Wednesday service sometimes catch me unaware. I know it sounds ludicrous that I can spend weeks preparing all the details of Lenten programming and still somehow get caught off guard when I hear the words of personal invitation, but maybe that's the problem. Maybe in all my running around to make sure that program materials are in place, meeting spaces are set up, and childcare is provided... I somehow forgot to make time for my own personal observance of Lent, and here is the voice of my church... inviting me to the observance of a holy Lent.

So this year, I urge you to take some time for your own spiritual growth during Lent. I know it's easy to say you don't have time to... but trust me, you don't have time NOT to. Remember that piece of advice we hear each time we board an airplane: Secure your own mask first before assisting others.

Many people give up something during Lent like alcohol or chocolate, but what if we gave up working late in order to spend more time with our families or find some personal prayer and meditation time? What if we gave up late nights doing "one more thing" and instead went to bed early for 40 days? What if we gave up television or Internet surfing at home... how much time would that free up for other things?

Maybe instead of giving something up, you like to take on something during Lent. What about reading a book you've been interested in, but just couldn't find the time? What if you commit to connecting with a friend you haven't spent enough time with? What if you get up 30 minutes earlier and spend that time in prayer or journaling?

There are hundreds of ideas and what you do or don't do during these six weeks of Lent really isn't the point. Lent is about intentionality – about carving out time and space to be more aware of God's presence in us, around us, and through us. Find some time to nurture God's space within you... you'll be glad you did.

Tracey Herzer
NAECED President
tracey@leaderresources.org

Lenten Resources:

Have you seen these from The Episcopal Church & Visual Arts?

The Passion of Christ: A Visual Oratorio

A collaboration between an artist, Ms. Deborah Patterson, and a composer, Dr. Robert Sirota, the multimedia production involves eight paintings by Ms. Patterson set to music by Dr. Sirota.

[Website](#)

The Way of the Cross Film

Follow the Way of the Cross through bronze bas-relief sculptures created by Dorothy Gager, which is installed at St. James Episcopal Church Fresno, California. Included in the 16 minute video are the comments and prayers of Bishop John-David Schofield. [Website](#)

The Way of the Cross Sculptural

Thomas Faulkner created a sculptural interpretation of the Way of the Cross for the 2003 ECUSA General Convention, inspired by his eight months as a Chaplain at the temporary morgue at the site of the September 11, 01 terrorist attacks. [Website](#)

Walking the Way of the Cross in the 21st Century

The Way of the Cross from a number of different artists. [Website](#)

Daily Meditation

[Grace Cathedral](#) in San Francisco, California offers daily meditations on their website. They offer a selection of Readings and Prayers which are available in Real Audio.

| Dates | March | April | May |
|---|---|--|--|
| <p>Click on Links for more information.</p> | <p>4 Transform Vision into Action A Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the UN Commission on the Status of Women</p> <p>10-13 Ecumenical Advocacy Days, for Global Peace with Justice Washington, DC</p> <p>30-April 1 Children's Ministries of America Conference on the Rotation Workshop Model</p> | <p>2 The Living Church Education Issue</p> <p>29 A Day of Learning for Faith Communities about Families, Children, Worship, & Faith @ Home in St. Louis, MO. Contact Heidi Clark for more information.</p> | <p>19 Registration due for Kanuga Christian Formation Conference "Seeing the Big Picture". Look at the article in this resource packet for more info.</p> <p>23-26 Province III Christian Educators Retreat at Shrine Mont, led by The Rt. Rev. Carol Gallegher. Contact Kellee Wattenbarger</p> <p>26-27 The Labyrinth as a Living Parable The Duncan Conference Center, Delray Beach, FL</p> |

Kanuga 2006

This year's Christian Formation Conference at Kanuga is "Seeing the Big Picture: Creating a Formational Path" from June 11-16, 2006. It will focus on working together "to put the pieces of a complete program in Christian Formation." The conference will focus on four questions. How do we involve all the leaders of the parish in Christian Formation? What do we do for the unchurched? How do we prepare parents and children for baptism? What is our program for confirmation preparation?

Workshops and study group topics will include training teachers, calling others into ministry, nursery, youth programs, intergenerational events, adult formational opportunities, *faith in the home* ministries and curriculum.

It will truly be a NAECED filled event. Our new President Tracey Herzer is the conference keynote, while the conference is coordinated by NAECED members Laurie Bailey and Malinda Harris. For more information visit the conference [website](#)

Alphabet Soup: CEPVA

Ever wonder what all those abbreviations stand for? Keep up here!

The Colloquium of Episcopal Professional and Vocational Associations (CEPVA) is an umbrella organization representing the varied

groups called to vocational ministry in the Episcopal Church. The representatives from the member bodies (including NAECED) meet on a regular basis for communication, common learning and action. Through these meetings we grow in our awareness that the health of the church lies in our ability to work together, each offering our own unique gifts to the ministry we share.

CEPVA had its beginnings in the mid-1990's with the encouragement of Presiding Bishop Edmond Browning. From its start, CEPVA has been an important meeting ground for associations called to vocational ministry in the church. It was thought that these groups had much in common and could benefit from the sharing of ideas from their various perspectives. Areas of concern continue to be: the creation of a church workplace that speaks to high standards of conduct, accountability, and justice as hallmarks of the church at its best; development of a theology of work; and service as a resource to dioceses and to one another in the mission and ministry of the church.

CEPVA operates as a voluntary association. It is sustained by donations from member organizations and by the budget of the Office for Ministry Development.

The first CEPVA conference "Ministry for the Future: Discovering the Energy of All Vocations" was held in June 2005. The conference

addressed issues of growing spirituality, valuing the ministry of others, setting boundaries, and hiring practices. The next CEPVA conference will be in 2007.



Advocating for Children from the Pulpit

This spring the College of Preachers at the Cathedral College of Washington National Cathedral is offering a very special course called *Advocating for Children from the Pulpit*. This course is designed to help people find and enhance their



prophetic preaching voices. The course will be taught by Shannon Daley-Harris who is on the staff of the Children's Defense Fund and other child advocates. The course will conclude with a worship service in the National Cathedral with Marian Wright Edelman as preacher.

One of every six children in our rich nation lives in poverty. Every 35 seconds a child is confirmed as a victim of abuse or neglect. More than 9 million children lack health insurance. This course will offer substantive information about the urgent plight of children in our nation today, explore the history, practice and theology of the church as it relates to children and child advocacy, and engage participants in developing a prophetic and pastoral voice for preaching on children's needs and our call to respond. This course will also prepare participants for observing the Children's Sabbath in October.

The course takes place at the Cathedral College June 26-30, 2006. The course cost is \$750 for double occupancy room, meals and course materials.

To register for the course contact Joan Roberts (202) 537-6381, jroberts@cathedral.org. Or register [on-line](#)

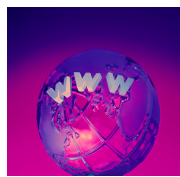
NAECED Board

Summary of NAECED Board Meetings
January 30 - February 2, 2006
APCE Convention, St. Louis, Missouri

Carolyn Chilton, Tracey Herzer, Missy Morain, Susan McDonald (& Esme), Polly Redd, Laurie Bailey, Heidi Clark, Kathy Stout, and later Judy Kane and Kate Gillooly of the NAECED Board, joined by first Kesha Brennom and then Jeffri Harre from the National Church's office of Children's Ministry and Christian Education, met several times before and during the APCE Convention where our 2006 Annual Meeting was held. Led by President Carolyn Chilton, we looked at our abundance and all that we as an organization offer to the church. That abundance in-

cludes our hospitality and being an open place for discussion, our respected voice in the area of education and formation, and our collective wisdom and knowledge from being "forming people". 2007 marks our 10th year in existence and we talked about our dreams for this next year leading up to that milestone which included promoting increased membership among our peers beginning with offering every bishop a complimentary membership, working to get the area of education and formation moved to the ministries section of the national office to better reflect what we do as a ministry of the church, being strong advocates for Christian Education and Formation with the candidates for Presiding Bishop, the deputies to General Convention from our own dioceses, and with the new Presiding Bishop when elected, updating our web site, getting a paid staff member to help the volunteer board to function, and being a deployment tool for jobs for the membership. The board is at the end of the process of staggering the terms of the 12 board members for continuity and we recommended a bylaw change to ask individuals to serve one year on the board before being eligible for election as an officer. We heard reports on a possible job description for our paid staff person and on the work of the Church Pension Fund and the Task Force on Employment Policies and Practices in the Church (equity and parity issues), the Standing Commission on Ministry Development (strengthening theological education in area of CE), the Colloquium of Episcopal Professional and Vocational Associations (CEPVA of which we are a part), PEALL (Proclaiming Education for All) and their work with the Wrestling with the Big Questions Consultation, and ECCE (Episcopal Council for Christian Education). We are well represented on all these groups which helps to keep the work we are all doing in the forefront.

Polly Redd
NAECED Secretary



NAECED List Serve

If you're not a member of the NAECED list serve conversation group send an email to:

Majordomo@justus.anglican.org

An editorial word about the list-serve: many of you have recently joined NAECED and signed up for the list-serve conversation group. Thank you! But, unfortunately, many of you have also removed yourself from the group because of the large volume of responses. E-groups or list-serves like ours are a valuable resource when used properly and

efficiently. Members are reminded to respond to the full group ONLY when appropriate, and otherwise to the individual directly. This requires a moment's thought before hitting the 'reply' button. Despite our mistakes in using this - and we all make them - the group is proving invaluable in the sharing of resources and new ideas, and most importantly in connecting us to each other so that we are not working in a vacuum.

The use of the 'subject line' is very important. When it is a clear notice of the theme of the email you can choose whether or not to open the email based on your interest in the subject. Keep those postings going!

NAECED Resource Packet

Ever wonder where all of the great information in these resources packets comes from? Well now it comes from you! one of the great gifts of NAECED is the wealth of information carried by the members. So I would like to invite you to help produce the newsletter.

This resource packet is produced six times per year at Epiphany, Lent, Easter, twice during Pentecost, and at Advent. Each newsletter will explore a particular topic as well as let you know about NAECED news. Some of the features will be regular while others will change. Upcoming themes will include General Convention, Preparing for Fall, Baptism, Stewardship, and Caring for the Caregivers. If you have resources, articles, book reviews or events that you would like to submit please send them to the packet editor Missy Morain, mmorain@cathedral.org I look forward to your offerings.

NAECED Diocesan Representatives

"NAECED has been the most valuable resource to my ministry since I began! I would be happy to do whatever I can (beyond talking about you wonderful members!) to others in the Houston (Diocese of Texas) area." -Lisa Puccio

We are looking for people who think and feel like Lisa who might like to serve as local NAECED representatives for their diocese. These people would become the local face and voice for NAECED reaching out to local educator, inviting them to be a part of NAECED. Please contact Polly Redd pollyredd@charter.net if this is a ministry that you would be interested in exploring.

Wrestling with the Big Questions...

From January 13-16, 2006 over 300 Episcopalians from 71 dioceses representing all nine Provinces, gathered in Indianapolis to begin addressing the "big questions" about the 21st century vocation of theological education in the Episcopal Church. This consultation brought together various stakeholders in our Church who have a passion for Christian education and formation for all ages: bishops, seminary deans and faculty, diocesan and parish Christian educators, clergy, diocesan Commission on Ministry members, youth and young adult leaders and staff from various ministry areas at the Episcopal Church Center. Many members of NAECED were also present, as participants as well as small group facilitators or scribes.

Dr. Parker Palmer, author of "A Hidden Wholeness: The Journey Toward an Undivided Life," facilitated conversations across these varied disciplines. The Rev. Juanita Palmerhall from the Diocese of Minnesota served as the "Weaver" blending stories of how Christian formation at its best is lived out in community and faithfulness.

Participants met in small groups of 8-12 people, each group representing a microcosm of educational leadership in the Episcopal Church. Following Dr. Palmer's model of creating "circles of trust" through the use of personal story-sharing and reflection on poetry and scripture, four group sessions were held:

1. Christian Faith & How We Learn to Live It
2. Hospitality in Teaching & Learning: Embracing Questions, Challenges, Doubts & Diversity
3. The Stranger as Spiritual Guide
4. Leadership for Community & Abundance

Some of the small group recommendations included the need and desire to:

- Move out of a "program" based ministry to one of building relationships
- Make more use of personal storytelling in formational ministry
- Train all levels of leadership (diocesan, seminary, parish) in creating circles of trust, safety and listening skills
- Embrace intergenerational learning and multi-cultural diversity
- Build more collaboration between theological schools and congregations
- Develop communities of discernment at all levels of the church for all ages
- Develop a common language of formation and education shared by seminaries, dioceses and congregations

- Respect the gifts and ministry of ALL the baptized
- Break down the barriers of clericalism and empower the laity for ministry
- Reclaim the importance of life-long formation
- Reclaim our identity as followers of Christ and proclaim the Gospel – in our churches and the secular world

Information collected at this consultation has been given to the Office of Ministry Development, the Episcopal Council for Christian Education (ECCE), and a national body, "Proclaiming Education for All" (PEALL), charged with studying theological education in the church and making recommendations in 2009. PEALL will be making their first report to the 2006 General Convention in Columbus, Ohio in June. The materials used and learned at this consultation will soon be available for anyone to access at www.TEforAll.org, the "Theological Education for All" website of the Office of Ministry Development at the Episcopal Church Center. There will be many resources and learnings posted on this site; its posting will be announced on the NAECED list-serv.

The ultimate goal of this consultation is ongoing: to equip our church on the national, diocesan and local level to fully attend to the formational needs of those who come to the Episcopal Church seeking God and a fuller knowledge of our call to live out our lives as God desires. As we "wrestle with the big questions" we desire to "love God with our mind as well as our heart and soul."

Sharon Ely Pearson
Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut
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What are the "Big Questions"?

Prior to this event, various "pre-consultations" were held throughout the Episcopal Church, seeking to learn the "big questions" that pull at the hearts of people as they seek answers from the faith community – or not. The data collected in these conversations were shared with Dr. Palmer. Many of these questions were posted in the plenary gathering room of the consultation. Questions raised by children tended to focus on concerns for their immediate surroundings: Why doesn't God help my Mommy get better? Why are there bullies at school? What is heaven like? Why am I lonely? Why do I do wrong things? Who made you? Children were more open to asking questions following a story, in simple conversation and expressing their thoughts through art responses.

For adults throughout the country, themes were very similar: What is the purpose of life in this world and the next? What is my reason for being? Does God really exist and listen to each of us? Why is there evil, violence, personal suffering and worldwide discord? Why did you create such imperfect human beings? While adults are comfortable going to others for help and sharing many things with friends and family, they are longing for ongoing spiritual relationships and communities where they can explore their faith and questions. Adults who had participated in EFM (Education for Ministry) were most likely to have engaged in such conversations and have found a safe environment for doing so. The church and clergy were not generally perceived to be the source of primary nourishment for most adults, whether they were active members of a faith community or not.

If you could ask God three big questions, what questions would you ask? How does your faith, church or the Bible help you with these questions? How do you wish they helped you more?

To learn more about this "Retreat Process" and a copy of how you might replicate it in your parish, contact Sharon Ely Pearson at 860-233-4481x126 or spearson@ctdiocese.org

Episcopal Council for Christian Education (ECCE)

Province I: Sharon Ely Pearson (Connecticut) and Janice Yancy (Maine)

Province II: RuthAnn Collins (Long Island) and Donna Devlin (New Jersey)

Province III: Debra Kissinger (Bethlehem) and MaryLou Crifasi (Southern Virginia)

Province IV: Sarah Sartain (Alabama) and Gus Boone (Western Tennessee)

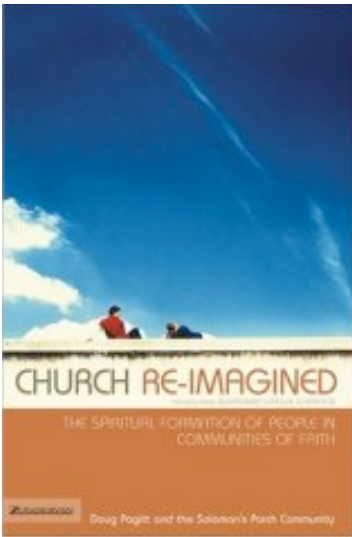
Province V: Vicki Garvey (Chicago)

Province VI: Helen Barron (Colorado) and MerLynne Byrne (Minnesota)

Province VII: Lou Taylor (West Texas)

Province VIII: Greg Larkin (Los Angeles) and Nancy Tennyson (Northern California)

Province IX: Margarita Santana and Moises Quezada (Dominican Republic)



What am I Reading? - The NAE-CED Board of Directors

In preparation for our board gathering prior to the APCE/NAECED conference in February the NAECED Board of Directors agreed to read *Church Re-Imagined: The Spiritual Formation of People in Communities of Faith* by Doug Pagitt. This book follows a week in the life of Solomon's Porch, an Emergent Church in Minneapolis, MN. Solomon's Porch describes itself as "A Holistic, Missional, Christian Community". This book is not to be confused with Pagitt's earlier work *Re-Imagining Spiritual Formation: A week in the Life of an Experimental Church*. *Church Re-Imagined* is an extension of this earlier work, and is more informative and more cohesive than *Re-Imagining Spiritual Formation*.

Along with the writing of Pagitt, comes journal entries from six members of the Solomon's Porch community. These journal entries were written from January 2003 - April 2003 through Lent and Easter and give a unique view of people who are living and exploring their faith through their lives at Solomon's Porch.

Solomon's Porch describes itself as "A Holistic, Missional, Christian Community". The book explores not only what that means to them but how they have changed the structure of their church to adhere to this statement. Spiritual Formation is explored through the many ways that we are formed as Christians, through; worship, physicality, dialogue, hospitality, belief, creativity, and service. Each chapter covers one of these topics and takes the reader through how decisions are made in the community.

You can check out Solomon's Porch at their website www.solomonsporch.com

Offering the Gospel to Children

Gretchen Wolff Pritchard's *Offering the Gospel to Children* (Cambridge, MA: Cowley Publications, 1992) is a mother and Christian educator's vision to tell the biblical story to children without sugar-coating or editing it to protect them. Interspersing stories of her own spiritual journey along with being a parent of three girls, Pritchard shares her vision of including children in the life of the Church, through its worship, storytelling and rituals of the seasons. Using art, music and drama, she presents ways in which to engage children in the Sacred Story so that the Story will become part of who they are. She criticizes the pattern of segregating children from the parish community in "Sunday School basements" and offers her dream of formational parish education for all ages.

Sharon Ely Pearson
Children's Ministries & Christian Education Coordinator
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If you are interested in more Book Reviews go to the NAECED website and look at more book reviews by Sharon on the Resources, Tools and Information page. The look here next month for more book reviews by NAECED members.

Vacation Bible School

The Virginia Theological Seminary has again posted their valuable resource for choosing Vacation Bible School resources. You can visit the VTS website for reviews of more than twenty VBS resources. Included in the reviews are many of the latest curricula for 2006 along with old favorites from the past. To read the reviews, go to www.vts.edu and click on the tab for Center for the Ministry of Teaching. On the opening page look for the VBS information, which can be downloaded with Adobe software in a PDF format. Thank-you to Lori Daniels, Curriculum Specialist at the Center for the Ministry of Teaching for bringing this to our attention!

Conference 2007:

Tapestry

Your NAECED board is hard at work planning for the 2007 NAECED conference scheduled for January 25-28, 2007. Although the weather in St. Louis this year was lovely we are heading back to our traditional warmer climates.

The annual conference is a great time for building support within a community of people who share your passions. Come to find new resources for your ministry and new energy for your work.

Put the dates on your calendars now to join us for "Tapestry"!

CONNECTICUT IN-Formation

Sharon Ely Pearson, Children's Ministries & Christian Formation in the Diocese of Connecticut produces a fabulous monthly Christian Formation e-newsletter. This newsletter is designed to be used by those involved in the formation of children, youth & adults. To subscribe to this newsletter visit the Diocese of Connecticut [website](http://www.ctdiocese.org)

NAECED Board of Directors

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Great Resources

Groundwork II

Based on the Year B readings for the five Sundays in Lent, "Groundwork II" invites congregations to reflect on how they invite people into their midst and into the Episcopal Church.



"Groundwork II" follows up on the work of last year's "Groundwork", which was distributed to each congregation. Each chapter sets the theme of the Sunday's readings and then offers reflections

from various voices. Activities based in three tracks round out each chapter. The tracks can either be used continuously or mixed and matched as is appropriate to each congregation and its context. Head to the website to download the resource and get more information [Groundworks II: Digging Deep for Change and Growth](#)

NAECED Website

Have you checked out the NAECED website recently? There are fabulous resources there for Lent including reading lists, suggested lenten resources, recipes, and other great offerings. Look us up on the [NAECED Resources, Tools, and Information](#) page.

We are thinking about updating our website. If you have web development skills or know of someone who does please contact a NAECED board member.

Diocesan Bishop Search Curriculum

The Diocese of California is in their first bishop search in more than 25 years. To assist those who will elect the bishop, and those who will elect those electors, the Bishop Search Committee Curriculum Team has developed a curriculum for parishes. "Seeking a Shepherd: Finding Our Bishop in the 21st Century" is designed to be used in the Diocese of California for their current search but can be easily adapted for use in other dioceses. "The choice of title for this curriculum reflects the belief that the bishop search presents an unique opportunity to reflect on what the Episcopal Church understands its episcopacy to be from historical and modern perspectives, from the perspective of particular church in the world-wide Anglican Communion, and a particular diocese within the ECUSA and learn together about what we desire in a bishop and what issues might engage us and our new bishop in the future."

The format is a "four-part curriculum with themes, prayers, scripture readings, content materials, optional readings, Episcopal biographies, and liturgical prayer." It also includes optional materials for parishes or individuals with time and interest.

The Bishop Search Committee Curriculum Team includes Julia McCray-Goldsmith, Rod Dugliss, Carol Luther, Laura Toepfer, and Dennis Tierney. This resource is available on the Diocese of California Bishop Search website [Bishopsearch.org](#)

NAECED

Lent 2006

This resource is for members of the National Association for Episcopal Christian Education Directors. PLEASE DO NOT FORWARD WITHOUT PERMISSION

Submissions



The NAECED Resource Packet is distributed six times a year at Advent, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost 1 & 2. Submissions for the Easter packet are due

Friday April 7, 2006.

General Convention 06



The next issue of the NAECED Resource Packet is the Easter issue. This issue will not only focus on the joy of the Easter season but

also on the upcoming General Convention of the Episcopal Church in June 2006. Meeting in Columbus, Ohio from Monday, June 12 - Wednesday, June 21, the focus of the Convention is *Come and Grow 2006*.