

# News From The Pews

Quarterly Newsletter of the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania



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## *St. Paul's, Columbia*

### **Cookies and Community** by Barbara Clark

The Second Annual Saint Paul Cookie Sale took place on Saturday, December 8 from 10:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. in the Mary Elizabeth Bair Parish Center. This was a great way for people from the local community as well as from the St. Paul's community to get Christmas cookies for the holidays while sharing some social time. Several members of the parish made and donated cookies for this great event. There were many different varieties of cookies to select from.



Danielle Peters welcomes members of the local community to the St. Paul's Cookie Sale.



Thank you to all volunteers who baked cookies, helped with the display, selling and clean up.

*A special thank you to Beth Runkle, St. Paul's, for organizing this event.*



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## Sacred Stitches group hopes to heal with Teddy Bears by Jeannie Zeller

A Diocesan Sacred Stitches gathering was held Saturday, January 19 at St. John's, Lancaster.

Flo Waldron, a speaker and activity leader from St. Peter UCC in Lancaster was the guest speaker. In keeping with the Acts of Kindness movement in our country, the group knitted/crocheted small teddy bears. Currently, the bears are being sent to at least four facilities in the Lancaster area to be given to children.

Wendy Day, Church of the Nativity, will be knitting a collection of thirteen bears plus one smaller bear that will be sent to a contact at Fort Hood to be auctioned off in early March. On November 5th, 2009, thirteen people, including a pregnant soldier, were murdered at Fort Hood, Killeen, Texas. The purpose of the auction is to raise funds to complete a memorial in memory of the thirteen people killed which included an unborn child, hence the one smaller bear.

The group also hopes to discover a way to provide these little bears to others like the police, who would then distribute them to small children in trauma situations. Another need is at Dover Air Force base, where the small bears are handed out to the children of slain soldiers.



*You can find the patterns of the teddy bears on the Diocesan website—[www.diocesecpa.org](http://www.diocesecpa.org).*

*Scroll across the tool bar to Mission and Formation and select the drop down—Sacred Stitches*



Sacred Stitches will be hosted by the Church of the Nativity in Newport on Saturday, April 13th for their spring gathering.



## Anti-Racism Province III by Arnold and Cynthia Gee

Anti-Racism trainers from across Province 3 met in Harrisburg on November 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> to discuss the state of Anti-Racism training in the Province, and to help coordinate plans for future training. Province 3 encompasses the states of Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia, and the District of Columbia. Trainers from many of the Province's 13 dioceses were in attendance. The Rt. Rev. Nathan Baxter, Bishop of Central PA, and his wife, shared dinner with the attendees before the meetings convened.

The meeting, chaired by Province Anti-Racism Coordinator Nancy Travis Bolden, covered budgetary concerns, news from the various dioceses, and methods and materials for training. Most notable was the diversity of training being carried out in the various dioceses. A 14-hour training excerpt from the Episcopal Church's program "Seeing the Face of God in Each Other" is the standard for anti-racism education in the church. In one diocese, videos are shown weekly, followed by discussion. In another, a two-and-a-half day long program from a sister denomination is used. In other dioceses, unfortunately, little or no training is taking place. When that is the case, there usually aren't enough qualified trainers to carry out the training required by the General Convention resolutions. At the 2009 General Convention, it was revealed that only 77 of the 100 dioceses offered anti-racism training, and that there were only 60 certified trainers.

The need for more trainers was a topic of discussion, as well as how best to make use of funds allocated by the General Convention of 2012 for the purpose of anti-racism training. Many of those funds will be used for travel and hotel expenses for multi day "Train the Trainer" workshops and for instructional videos. Trainers also shared free internet videos and book titles.

Another topic for discussion was 2012 General Convention resolution A128, which broadened the scope of a similar resolution made at General Convention 2009 repudiating the Doctrine of Discovery.

Under what was called Manifest Destiny, it was believed throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century that the United States, specifically those citizens of Anglo-Saxon descent, was destined to expand across the continent. The Doctrine of Discovery refers to international laws, ecclesiastical documents, and policies that were understood to set forth the ways colonial powers laid claim to newly "discovered" territories, beginning in the early 1500s and continuing through the 1800s. The Doctrine gave the church's full blessing and sanction to the slave trade in Africa and in the New World, the killing of the indigenous people in the Americas, the taking of native lands, and the overall attempt to destroy indigenous cultures.

The 2012 resolution expanded the wording of the 2009 document to repudiate not only offences perpetrated against America's Native population, but against "all people of color who have experienced and continue to experience oppression because of policies and practices grounded [in] the Doctrine of Discovery".

The trainers exchanged addresses, and agreed to meet by teleconference early next year, with a personal meeting to come later in the year.





## Diocese of CPA takes action on Super Storm Sandy by Linda Arguedas

Diocesan deacons answered a request made by Bishop Nathan D. Baxter to reach out to their fellow deacons in the diocese of New Jersey in response to Hurricane Sandy. In less than two weeks, seven deacons collected more than 500 stuffed toys and almost 70 boxes of personal hygiene items.

Deacon Pete Gdula, delivered teddy bears to the Diocesan office which were collected by St. Luke's, Mechanicsburg.



On Dec. 15 Deacon Jack Hoffer of Trinity Church in Tyrone and volunteer Bob Jones, (not pictured) of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in State College, delivered the items to a warehouse in New Jersey for future distribution to those in need with hopes that the children who have lost much may have a teddy bear or toy at Christmas.

The Episcopal churches of the Lancaster Convocation gathered cleaning supplies and delivered them to a volunteer fire company in New Jersey for distribution to communities along the NJ coast. This mission was called "Operation Sandy Cause" .

The Rev. Jonathan Currier, St. Thomas, Lancaster, blesses the buckets of cleaning supplies with The Rev. Canon Pete Greenfield.

