

Welcome to the printable version of The Mountain. This is a printed copy of the email version along with the full text of top stories. If you would like to know more about any events or postings, get in touch with your parish leadership or contact the diocesan office at (802) 863-3431.



March 4, 2020

Welcome! You may notice this edition has a different look from previous issues of The Mountain. Rather than linking to a digital magazine, each story in this edition can be read within this email or on the [diocesan website](#).

We'd like your feedback on the design and usability of this newsletter format, and also want to hear from you about stories for future issues and other communications requests and questions. Send emails to communications@diovermont.org.

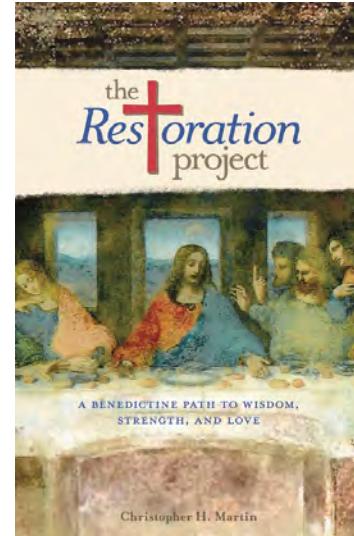
The Restoration Project Book Study Join Bishop Shannon Online on March 5

In her [Lenten message](#), Bishop Shannon issued an invitation to join her in reading "The Restoration Project: A Benedictine Path to Wisdom, Strength, and Love," by Christopher H. Martin. The book is available in print, [ebook](#) and [audiobook](#) formats. Hopkins Bookshop at Trinity Shelburne has ordered several copies. Email [Jenny Ogelby](#) to order a copy.

"My prayer is that 'The Restoration Project' will inspire us to explore new and creative ways to live and articulate our faith every day in our congregations and communities," Bishop Shannon said. "And for those who are called to go deeper, the book offers a helpful guide for starting and leading congregational discipleship groups. I look forward to reading it together."

The book discussion will include:

- March 5, 6 p.m.: Bishop Shannon will convene a video conversation about the introduction and Chapters 1 and 2. Join



the conversation using this link: <https://zoom.us/j/303377507>.

Weeks of March 12, 19 and 26: Bishop Shannon will post a

- reflection about a chapter of the book on **Facebook** each Thursday and host a conversation in the comments.
- April 2, 6 p.m.: Bishop Shannon will convene a video conversation about the book, focusing on Chapter 6. Join the conversation using this link: <https://zoom.us/j/306048033>.
- April 8: Bishop Shannon will post a final reflection about the book on **Facebook** and host a conversation in the comments.

If you do not have a computer with internet access, but would like to take part in the Zoom discussion, please get in touch with your parish leadership to see if you may be able to participate alongside someone who does.

Commonsense Coronavirus Preparations

Lindquist interviewed by The New York Times

The New York Times [talked with St. Michael's Episcopal Church Brattleboro rector Mary Lindquist](#) to learn about the precautions the church is taking against coronavirus. "Part of what makes church wonderful and special," she said, "is just gathering with other people in one place."



Guidelines and resources for commonsense coronavirus preparations in addition to Bishop Shannon's recommendations for congregations [can be found on page 10](#).

Rock Point Improvements Signal Hope for New Visitors

Since he joined Rock Point Commons last October, Executive Director Paul Habersang has been working with his staff to update the conference center and the Rock Point property.



"New signage around the property is the first clue to visitors – newly branded logos and directional indicators welcome you to this property that has long been a 'hidden gem' on Burlington's waterfront," writes Marketing and Communications Director Carrie Williams Howe on [the Rock Point website](#).

"The new signs are a symbol Rock Point's desire to welcome more visitors – from near and far – while also preserving the fragile ecosystem on which Rock

Point property sits," writes Williams Howe. "These signs...are just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to improvements that are happening on the property.

[Read the update on page 12.](#)

Bishop Ely Speaks at Faith Climate Action Day

On February 20, Vermont Interfaith Power & Light and Vermont Interfaith Action held a climate crisis advocacy event. Bishop Tom Ely represented Bishop Shannon:

Good morning: My name is Thomas Ely. I served as the Episcopal Bishop of Vermont for 18 years until my retirement in October 2019, and now live in Newfane, Vermont. I was also a founding member of Vermont Interfaith Power and Light. This morning, I also have the privilege of speaking on behalf of my successor, Bishop Shannon MacVean-Brown, who is not able to be here in person.



The Episcopal Church in Vermont, along with the wider Episcopal Church, has a long history of commitment to environmental stewardship and creation care. Creation care is a priority for all of our congregations in Vermont, and we are committed to helping our churches develop sustainable practices that reduce their carbon footprint. I believe that more than 20 Episcopal congregations, along with the diocese, are members of Vermont Interfaith Power and Light.

[Read the full statement on page 16.](#)

Save the Date: Diocesan Convention October 30 and 31 in Burlington

Save the date! Diocesan Convention 2020 is tentatively being planned for October 30-31 in Burlington. Watch upcoming issues of The Mountain for more details.



St. John's, Randolph, Cathedral Welcome New Clergy

St. John's, Randolph has called the Rev. Christine Ann Jones as

priest in partnership. She began at St. John's on February 25.

The Cathedral Church of St. Paul has called the Rev. Greta Getlein as dean and rector. She will begin at the cathedral on May 4.



The Rev. Greta Getlein



The Rev. Christine Ann Jones

Save the Date: Clergy Day March 28 10 a.m to 2 p.m at St. John's, Randolph

Watch for a letter from Bishop Shannon with more details coming later this week. Please RSVP via email to [Pamela Van de Graaf](#).



Online Worship Guide



A guide for congregations interested in offering online worship on Zoom or Facebook Live is now available [on the diocesan website](#).

Engaging the Enneagram Rock Point Retreat Center, Burlington

From March 12-15, Rock Point Retreat Center will host "Engaging the [Enneagram as Wisdom Practice](#)" with [Jeanine Siler Jones](#) in collaboration with the Rock Point Wisdom Community. The retreat will begin with arrivals and registration, starting at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 12, and will conclude with lunch on Sunday, March 15.



[Read more and register](#) and [download a flyer](#).

St. Paul's, White River Junction to Screen Philadelphia Eleven Film: "Witness to History" March 29 at 2 p.m.

On March 29 at 2:00 p.m., in honor of Women's History Month, **St. Paul's, White River Junction** will host a screening of the film "Witness to History." The film recounts the story of the **Philadelphia Eleven**, the women who were ordained priests at the Church of the Advocate, Philadelphia, on July 29, 1974 -- two years before General Convention authorized the ordination of women. The screening will be followed by discussion and refreshments. Call the St. Paul's parish office at 802-295-5415 with questions.



[Download an event flyer.](#)

Register for the 2020 Global Mission Conference

April 29-May 1 in Indianapolis

This year's **Global Episcopal Mission Network (GEMN)** conference will take place from April 29 to May 1 at **Christ Church Cathedral in Indianapolis**. The conference is titled "Earthkeeping: Creation Care in Global Mission," and participants will explore how Christians can confront the climate crisis with mission companions in other parts of the world.

Keynote speakers include former Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori, Leon Sampson, Rachel Mash and Orlando

Gomez. For questions about the conference, contact Titus Presler, GEMN representative for the Diocese of Vermont, [via email](#) or at 802-326-3157.

[Read more and register](#) and [download a conference packet](#).



Become a Disaster Case Manager

Training March 12-13 in Williston

On March 12-13 at the FEMA Joint Field Office in Williston, **Vermont VOAD (Vermont Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters)** and the Vermont Agency of Human Services will sponsor a training program for volunteer disaster case managers who want to work with Vermonters impacted by disasters.



The Diocese of Vermont is a member of Vermont VOAD and has been asked to recruit volunteers who may be interested in helping with disaster relief and attending the training. Interested volunteers can email either **Lynn Bates** or **Harry Kendrick**, diocesan disaster coordinators.

Join Partners in Resilience

**Episcopal Relief & Development
US Disaster Team**

The Episcopal Relief & Development US Disaster Team is looking for new people to join Partners in Response and Resilience (Partners). Partners are volunteers who work closely with US program staff and diocesan leaders as they prepare for and recover from disasters.



Disasters have a disproportionate impact on historically-marginalized communities, and Episcopal Relief & Development believes in centering the experiences of these people in preparedness and response programming. Partners play an important role in ensuring that our programming serves the most vulnerable people in disaster-impacted communities.

Learn more and apply by April 15.

February Report from Diocesan Council

Diocesan Council met on February 20. **Read the meeting report.**

EVENTS: NEW & FEATURED

Creation Care Events at Trinity, Shelburne April 21 and April 26

On April 21, **Trinity Episcopal Church, Shelburne** will host a panel presentation on the effects of climate change in Vermont. Kathryn Blume will moderate and panelists include members of the **Vermont Climate Caucus**, including Senator Chris Pearson. Program begins at 7:00 p.m.; snacks available at 6:30 p.m.

On April 26 at 4:00 p.m., Trinity will host "From Grief to Hope: A Gathering to Give Thanks for Our Beautiful Planet, Name our Fears and Sadness for Her Future, and Move to a Place of Hope."

Rock Point Intentional Community Wisdom Practice Circles, which are small groups that meet for contemplative prayer or meditation, chanting, lectio

divina and other wisdom practices, meet from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on the first Thursdays of the month and from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. on the fourth Mondays of the month. [Learn more](#).

CYCLE OF PRAYER

March 8: St. Paul's, Canaan and Province de L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo

March 15: St. Luke's, Chester and the Church of England

[Find the cycle of prayer on the website.](#)

BISHOP SHANNON'S VISITATION SCHEDULE

The Bishop's visitation schedule is subject to change.

- March 8 - Trinity, Shelburne
- April 5 - St. Peters, Lyndonville
- May 3 - Church of the Good Shepherd, Barre
- May 10 - All Saints, South Burlington
- May 17 - Holy Trinity, Swanton
- May 24 - Grace Church, Sheldon
- May 31 - St. John's in the Mountains, Stowe
- June 7 - Trinity, Rutland
- June 11 - St. Barnabas, Norwich
- June 14 - Christ Church, Montpelier
- June 21 - St. Martin's, Fairlee
- June 28 - St. Paul's, Windsor
- July 12 - St. Luke's, St. Albans

EVENTS CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

[\(See the Diocesan Calendar for details.\).](#)

March 4 at 10:00 a.m., Standing Committee Meeting

March 4 at 6:15 p.m., the first Wednesday of every other month Church of the Good Shepherd, Barre, hosts a Connections for Change dinner/discussion for anyone concerned about or struggling with substance use disorder.

March 5 at 5:30 p.m., Rock Point Intentional Community Wisdom Practice Circle at Rock Point.

March 5 at 6:00 p.m., The Restoration Project Lenten Book Study Zoom Meeting

March 10 at 6:30 p.m., Let's Talk About Reparations, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 273 Vermont Route 15, Jericho .

March 12-15, Engaging the Enneagram as Wisdom Practice, Rock Point Center, Burlington.

March 13 at 12:00 p.m., Rock Point Community Eucharist, Chapel of St. Michael & All Angels at Rock Point, Burlington.

March 18 at 7:00 p.m., Diocesan Council Meeting

March 18 at 7:00 p.m., Celtic Evensong at St. Mark's, Newport.

March 23 at 5:30 p.m., Rock Point Intentional Community Wisdom Practice Circle at Rock Point.

March 28 from 10:00am-2:00pm, Clergy Day at St. John's, Randolph.

March 29 at 2:00 p.m., Film Screening "Witness to History," St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 749 Hartford Ave, White River Junction.

April 1 at 6:30 p.m., Civil Right and a Conservative Supreme Court, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 273 Vermont Route 15, Jericho.

April 6 from 7:00-8:00 p.m. Taizé Evening Prayer at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, 2 Cherry St., Burlington.

April 10 at 12:00 p.m., Rock Point Community Eucharist, Chapel of St. Michael & All Angels at Rock Point, Burlington.

May 5 at 6:30 p.m., Being Native American in America, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 273 Vermont Route 15, Jericho.

May 8 at 12:00 p.m., Rock Point Community Eucharist, Chapel of St. Michael & All Angels at Rock Point, Burlington.

May 19 at 6:30 p.m., People of Chinese Descent in America, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 273 Vermont Route 15, Jericho.

June 2 at 6:30 p.m., Where Do We Go from Here? A Conversation with Young People of Color, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 273 Vermont Route 15, Jericho.

June 7 from 7:00-8:00 p.m. Taizé Evening Prayer at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, 2 Cherry St., Burlington.

June 12 at 12:00 p.m., Rock Point Community Eucharist, Chapel of St. Michael & All Angels at Rock Point, Burlington.

July 10 at 12:00 p.m., Rock Point Community Eucharist, Chapel of St. Michael & All Angels at Rock Point, Burlington.

August 2 from 7:00-8:00 p.m. Taizé Evening Prayer at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, 2 Cherry St., Burlington.

August 14 at 12:00 p.m., Rock Point Community Eucharist, Chapel of St. Michael & All Angels at Rock Point, Burlington.

Publication Dates / Submission Guidelines

The Mountain is distributed every other Wednesday. The next edition will publish March 18. Please submit content by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, March 16 to communications@diovermont.org.

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Commonsense Coronavirus Preparations

February 28, 2020 , 11:51 am , News & Announcements

On Tuesday, federal health officials urged Americans to begin preparing for the spread of the coronavirus, also known as COVID-19. Churches can play an important role in sharing accurate information and educating people about commonsense measures to slow the progress of the virus. Here are some resources to help clergy and lay leaders make decisions about how their congregations and community programs can respond to coronavirus:

Episcopal Relief & Development is posting current information and guidelines on its website. Find reliable information about the symptoms of the virus, how it spreads, and what you can do to prevent it on [this page](#).

The best prevention measures include:

- Washing your hands frequently with soap and warm water, including after coughing, sneezing, handling diapers, preparing food or using the bathroom.
- Not touching your face — especially your nose, eyes and mouth — unless you have just washed your hands immediately before that.
- Using alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Staying home when you feel sick.

Bishop Shannon recommends that congregations consider these measures as ways to prepare for limiting the spread of the virus if it should come to Vermont:

- When celebrating the Eucharist or distributing the elements, use hand sanitizer visibly and have hand sanitizer available for worshippers to use.
- Avoid intinction (the dipping of the host or bread into the chalice).
- If worshippers are concerned or are feeling unwell, remind them that the Eucharist is complete when it is received in only one kind—in this case, the bread.
- Encourage worshippers to greet one another during the peace with waves, elbow bumps, bows, or peace signs rather than handshakes or hugs.
- Encourage people who are ill to stay home and assure them that the congregation will pray for them.
- Remind coffee hour volunteers to wash their hands and handle food with plastic gloves or utensils.

If the [Vermont Department of Health](#) reports coronavirus cases in our state, we anticipate taking the following actions:

- Encouraging congregations to cancel in-person meetings and worship if their local school districts have closed due to coronavirus concerns.
- Holding Sunday worship via online video.
- Assisting congregations with ministries to hungry, unhoused and homebound people in working with their local health departments and emergency management officials to care safely for those they serve.

Bishop Shannon and her staff are monitoring the situation closely and will be in touch with clergy and lay leaders with additional recommendations if necessary. Email Canon [Lynn Bates](#) with questions or concerns.



A welcoming sanctuary in the heart of Burlington

General Information: 20 Rock Point Road, Burlington, VT 05408 krobinson@diovermont.org

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Rock Point Property Ushers in a New Era



Rock Point Staff Team 2020

If you have visited the Rock Point Property in Burlington in the last year, you may have noticed that changes are afoot at this nonprofit natural area and conference center owned by the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont. New signage around the property is the first clue to visitors – newly branded logos and directional indicators welcome you to this property that has long been a “hidden gem” on Burlington’s waterfront.

Rock Point’s Executive Director, Paul Habersang, says that the new signs are a symbol Rock Point’s desire to welcome more visitors – from near and far – while also preserving the fragile ecosystem on which Rock Point Property sits. These signs, says Habersang, are just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to improvements that are happening on the property.

Rock Point Property encompasses 130 acres, just north of North Beach on Lake Champlain in Burlington. Originally gifted to the Episcopal church as a permanent home for the diocese and for educational purposes, the mission of the property has expanded to include a focus on building

community beyond the church as well. The property now includes a conference center, summer camp, community gardens, solar array, and a trail system open to the general public. It is also home to partner organizations like the Rock Point School and Crow's Path (an alternative outdoor education program).

Over the last decade, the Board of Rock Point Commons recognized a growing need to support the long-term sustainability of the property and began to make systemic changes to ensure that future. Habersang, hired in October of 2019, is one of those changes. Whereas before the organization had been run by a team of committed people wearing various hats, the staff is now formalized under the leadership of Habersang, the Executive Director. Carrie Williams Howe, Rock Point's Marketing & Communications Director, was also hired to strategically develop the organization's outreach and manage client interactions at the conference center, and the caretaker's role was expanded to include a more comprehensive property management and security role. Other staff on Rock Point's team manage bookkeeping, land use, and the summer camp.

"The staff is simply more unified and professional, and we work as a collaborative team more so than we have in the past," says Habersang, "and this makes us more effective as we look toward the future."

Habersang and the Rock Point team have made dramatic improvements to the [Conference Center](#) itself, both hidden and visible to visitors. From newly painted and furnished rooms, to de-cluttered meeting spaces, and a new dishwasher, the Center aims to be more inviting to guests in a physical sense. A new venue management software system implemented by Williams Howe aims to make client interactions more smooth and transparent. With 90% of the Conference Center's clients coming from the nonprofit and education fields, staff point to a fine balance between necessary improvements and maintaining the simple, rustic feel of Rock Point.



Guests enjoy the newly refinished dining room

"It should be a welcoming place and affordable to those who are using this center as a place to do their good work," says Williams Howe, "but we also need to run the Center at a professional level so that we can make the best use possible of this resource, for as many groups as possible."

[Rock Point's Summer Camp](#) is also making improvements to its programming. The almost 90-year-old camp is holding on to its roots as a supportive, family-like environment, but also bringing in a focus on the natural world through environmental activities. This year, the camp announced additional day camps to respond to the needs of working families, while also maintaining their affordable overnight programs.

Julie Garwood, Rock Point's Summer Camp Director, says that Rock Point Camp needs to evolve with the times and meet families where they are at, but also hold onto its roots as a camp that was built around mindful practices and care for community.

"As we continue to grow our camp and offerings," says Garwood, "we remain committed to ensuring that each child is known and seen at Rock Point. Our unofficial motto, 'big camp experience, small camp atmosphere' is evidenced through our 5:1 camper to staff ratio, our emphasis on mindfulness, and our variety of outdoor activities that help campers experience summer as it is intended."



Rock Point Summer Camp adds Day Camp Sessions

Rock Point's ongoing focus on maintaining its natural environment has been strengthened through two conservation easements accomplished in partnership with the Lake Champlain Land Trust. By placing 114 acres into permanent conservancy, the two organizations, along with the Vermont Housing Conservation Board and the City of Burlington, have partnered to ensure that Rock Point will not be lost to development. Trail work at Rock Point continues to be a focus, ensuring that visitors are not only welcome at Rock Point but seen as part of the effort. Rock Point is also a part of Burlington Wildways, a larger Burlington network aiming to link and conserve open spaces throughout the City, and welcomes volunteers as trail stewards.



Trail signs direct visitors on conserved land

Signage and safe trails are a priority when it comes to guiding public access at Rock Point, says Craig Smith, a long-time employee. "We want to welcome the public as much as possible, but also need to ensure that our visitors are educated and see themselves as stewards of the land and property." To that end, visitors are required to obtain a [guest pass](#) via the Rock Point website and to follow posted trail rules whenever visiting the property.

Habersang reiterates that all of these changes, though surprising to some who have been coming to Rock Point for decades, are a necessary part of ensuring its future. "We want this place to be around for our community for decades to come, and in order to do that we have to make some important changes to how we operate," he says, "Those changes are what will help us survive and continue to meet our mission to be a 'welcoming sanctuary in the heart of downtown Burlington.'"

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Faith Climate Action Day Statement

February 20, 2020 , 2:22 pm , News & Announcements

Faith Climate Action Day Statement from
The Rt. Rev'd Shannon MacVean-Brown – 11th Bishop of the Episcopal Church in Vermont
The Rt. Rev'd Thomas C. Ely – 10th Bishop of the Episcopal Church in Vermont (retired)

Good morning: My name is Thomas Ely. I served as the Episcopal Bishop of Vermont for 18 years until

my retirement in October 2019, and now live in Newfane, Vermont. I was also a founding member of Vermont Interfaith Power and Light. This morning, I also have the privilege of speaking on behalf of my successor, Bishop Shannon MacVean-Brown, who is not able to be here in person.

The Episcopal Church in Vermont, along with the wider Episcopal Church, has a long history of commitment to environmental stewardship and creation care. Creation care is a priority for all of our congregations in Vermont, and we are committed to helping our churches develop sustainable practices that reduce their carbon footprint. I believe that more than 20 Episcopal congregations, along with the diocese, are members of Vermont Interfaith Power and Light.

Perhaps our most demonstrable commitment is the Solar Array on Rock Point, our church property in Burlington. The array provides all the electric energy for that property and its many ministries; and remains, I believe, the largest solar array on any religious property in Vermont.

In fact, creation care is so central to our faith as Episcopalians that it is one of our three churchwide priorities. Many of us across the Episcopal Church have taken the Creation Care Pledge, in which we have promised to place the care of God's Creation at the heart of our common life, to safeguard the integrity of Creation, and to sustain and renew the life of the Earth. [1] That is why today, we stand with other faith leaders and people of faith to urge action in the face of the climate crisis facing God's world.

Now, most preachers like to have a text as their reference point when speaking. And while there are many passages from the Bible we might have chosen as our text for today, Bishop Shannon and I have chosen instead a quote from H.688, which is now before our Vermont Legislature, where we read: *"A climate emergency threatens our communities, State, and region and poses a significant threat to human health and safety, infrastructure, biodiversity, our common environment, and our economy."* [2]

This threat we are facing is why we are here today. However, environmental issues are not just scientific, political, or economic, but are also profoundly moral and spiritual. In the face of the current climate crisis, people of faith cannot remain silent. It is our conviction that we are called by God to engage, by word and action, in the healing and reconciling work of protecting and caring for, as we say in the Episcopal Church's Book of Common Prayer, "this fragile earth, our island home." (BCP page 369)

Today, we urge people of faith throughout our state and others who care deeply about the environment to rise up and appeal to Governor Scott and the members of our State Legislature to support the full Climate Solutions Caucus platform including:

- **The Global Warming Solutions Act – H.688** – which will turn our climate goals into law with binding requirements, aiming to make Vermont net zero by 2050.
- **Instituting a 100% Renewable Energy Standard for Vermont by 2030** that will put us on track to

power Vermont with entirely clean electricity sooner than any other state in the country.

- **Modernizing our energy efficiency utilities**, like Efficiency Vermont, to focus their work on reducing climate pollution, and developing our clean energy workforce to grow jobs and our economy while improving building efficiency and saving Vermonters money.
- **Participation in the Transportation and Climate Initiative** that will provide Vermont with millions in new revenue to put towards efforts to transition off of fossil fuels, particularly for low-income and rural Vermonters.

The crisis is real. The time for action is now. Please join us!

Thank you,

+Bishop Shannon and +Bishop Tom

February 20, 2020

Vermont State Capitol

[1] <https://episcopalchurch.org/creation-care>

[2] <https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2020/Docs/BILLS/H-0688/H-0688%20As%20Introduced.pdf>

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