



E-SPIRIT

The e-newsletter of the
Episcopal Diocese of West Missouri

December 14, 2010
Hugh Welsh, Editor

"Messiah" Singalong celebrating 30 years



Featuring a professional orchestra, professional soloists and Conductor Jack Ergo, the "Messiah" Singalong will be held at 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 18, at Grace & Holy Trinity Cathedral in Kansas City. George Handel's entire work will be sung. There is no cost to attend; singers can bring their own music or purchase a score at the door.

Open house and tours at Grace & Holy Trinity Cathedral



Grace & Holy Trinity Cathedral, located at 13th Street and Broadway in Kansas City, is hosting an open house 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 26. Guided tours will be led through the nave, which will feature floral designs and Christmas decorations by Trapp & Company. Refreshments will be served in

Founders' Hall. There is no cost to attend. For more information, please call 816-474-8260.

House of Grace conference to feature renowned author



The Rev. Dr. Margaret Guenther, professor emerita of ascetical theology at General Theological Seminary in New York, will lead "Wisdom in the Church: Reigniting Ascetical Theology." (Ascetical theology is the practice of prayer in our relationship with God.) The event will offer perspectives on the experiential component of our prayer life.

"Wisdom in the Church" will be held 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 22. House of Grace is located at 16808 Holmes Road in the Village of Loch Lloyd in Kansas City, next to St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church. For more information, please visit the following link: www.houseofgraceatmarymag.eventbrite.com.

Bishop's Ball



Nearly 200 teenagers are expected to attend the annual Bishop's Ball the evening of Saturday, Jan. 29, at the Civic Center in Carthage. Buses will be available to transport youth from all areas of the diocese to the event. The Bishop's Ball will feature dancing, food and special recognitions. For up-to-date information, including registration, please visit the diocesan

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Submissions for the E-Spirit should be emailed to:
westmo_spirit@swbell.net

Wishing you a very

Merry Christmas

and a

Happy New Year!

**The next issue of the
E-Spirit will be emailed
Jan. 11, 2011.**

youth Web site, www.wemoyouth.org.

Companion Diocese Committee planning spring trip to Botswana



The Companion Diocese Committee is planning a group trip to Botswana for late April to early May and has space for additional participants.

The Rev. Steve Wilson, rector of Grace Church, Carthage, is the chief organizer, and Bishop-elect Marty Field says he will attend as well. Jeff Smith of St. Paul's, Maryville, will act as tour guide after the group's visit to Gaborone and Palapye, an area where the diocese is planning a day care center as a ministry to orphans. Smith's tour will include places where he knows the people and where local customs can be observed, as well as animal sanctuaries. The trip will be organized by the end of December. Anyone who is interested in joining should contact Wilson. His e-mail is frwilson@gracecarthage.org.

The Rev. Greg Hoover's ordination to the priesthood



The Rev. Greg Hoover of Shepherd of the Hills, Branson was ordained to the priesthood on Wednesday, Dec. 8. He is now the church's priest in charge.

ERD helping with long-term rehab in Sri Lanka



Sri Lanka continues to recover from the devastating Indian Ocean tsunami of 2004, which killed at least 35,000 people, and left an estimated 1 million people homeless. Rebuilding the country is made even more challenging by the fact that Sri Lanka had been embroiled in a bitter civil war that only ended in mid-2009. The war claimed more than 65,000 lives in its 25 years, and during the last phase about 300,000 people were displaced. This caused a humanitarian crisis in a country that was still recovering from the tsunami and previous periods of war.

As part of the long-term tsunami rehabilitation initiative in Sri Lanka, Episcopal Relief & Development is partnering with the Diocese of Colombo and other organizations with specialized expertise. ERD also supports the diocese's efforts to care for people affected by the war. Through a partnership with other area organizations, more than 350 self-help groups have been formed in six tsunami-affected communities. By participating in these groups, people (and in particular, women) can access low-interest loans to start small businesses and receive training.

To make a donation, please call 800-334-7626, ext. 5129 or visit <http://www.er-d.org/donate-select.php>. Gifts can be mailed to Episcopal Relief & Development, PO Box 7058, Merrifield, VA 22116-7058.