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A Lenten Message from Bishop Michael

Dear Friends:

When my children were young, one of the girls asked me as Lent approached: "So, Dad, what are you giving up for Lent?" I explained to her that rather than giving up something, I try to do more. To look at me, you realize that I have not been heavy into asceticism.

So what do we do with this season of Lent? For me it has always been a very important time to be more intentional about my Christian walk.

Here in the midst of a dreary winter, we long for spring time and summer. Our longing is a blessing to us for it reminds us that our desire is for new life. Our longing as Christians is for the abundant life that our Savior promises to us.

In the Lenten journey we invite God to draw near. We remind ourselves that God is always with us, even when we allow the distractions of life to distance ourselves from God's power and presence.

The "Invitation to a Holy Lent" from our Prayer Book provides us with a variety of practices whose purpose is to help us draw closer to God. We are invited to be more faithful in worship-perhaps not necessarily that we attend more services, but that we well-attend them by focusing more attention on worshiping God while there. We are invited to pray more often-not just "Lord, give me this or that," but more "Thanks Lord for all your blessings, even the blessing of adversity." We are invited to read Holy Scripture more diligently-we never can study God's Word enough. We can always spread God's love more earnestly. Former Presiding Bishop Arthur Lichtenberger once gave this good Lenten advice:

"Fast from criticism, and feast on praise;
Fast from self-pity, and feast on joy;
Fast from ill-temper, and feast on peace;
Fast from resentment, and feast on contentment;
Fast from jealousy, and feast on love;

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and photos to:
[communication@
episcopalwny.org](mailto:communication@episcopalwny.org)

**Deadline
for March issue:**

March 1

Fast from pride, and feast on humility;
Fast from selfishness, and feast on service;
Fast from fear, and feast on faith."

The Lenten journey will remind us of our sinfulness, our propensity to separate ourselves from God and God's love; but the journey also invites us to rejoice in God's forgiveness of us and our opportunity to react with generosity to such a gift. The Biblical character that reminds me of this is Zaccheus. Remember he was small of stature and seemingly small of personality as well. Jesus invites himself into Zaccheus' life, and that so transforms him that he tells Jesus: "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much."

Jesus responds: "Today salvation has come to this house because he too is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost."

Lent is a good time to remember the Zaccheus in each of us. It is a time for us to acknowledge and celebrate our mistakes, for they lead us to affirm just how much we need this Savior who brings us new life just as assuredly as the spring flowers will soon brighten up the dreariness of winter.

Let us rejoice in this Lenten season that our Savior has come into each of our lives.

Faithfully, +Michael

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2010 -ed.



Register Now: Communicating Faith in the 21st Century

You may now register online or by mail for Communicating Faith in the 21st Century, the day-long, diocesan-wide conference taking place on Saturday, March 20, at St. Mark's, Orchard Park. The

conference is sponsored by the diocesan Communication Team. To get the most out of this conference, your congregation is encouraged to send a team of people.

You'll enjoy a wide variety of learning opportunities including a large group plenary featuring Fr. Matthew Moretz, well know for his creative videos shared on YouTube and via his own website, Fr. Matthew Presents, small group discussions, a panel discussion focused on parish communication plans and a selection of ten special interest workshops. Which ones pique your interest?

Free Classified Ads

Members of the diocese may submit text-only ads of up to 25 words free of charge.

Limit: One ad per member, per month.

Deadline: 20th day of the preceding month.

Subject line: Free CAO Ad
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Fish Dinners

Baked or Fried

4:30 - 7 p.m.

Fridays, 2/19 - 3/26

St. Mark's, N. Tonawanda

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Adults: \$9.50

Under 12: \$4.75

For more info call 716-694-7929

For Sale: Harrisville 40 Floor Loom (4-harness, jack style) \$750. Leave message at 716-675-6511.

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Links to Explore

[The Episcopal Church A to Z Directory](#)

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[Diocese of WNY](#)

[The Episcopal Church](#)

[Episcopal Life Online](#)

[Episcopal Books & Resources](#)

[Episcopal Cafe](#)

[Episcopal Church Foundation](#)

[Episcopal Church and Visual Arts](#)

[Episcopal Migration Ministries](#)

- Black & White & Read
- It's *Not* your Grandma's Newsletter
- Emerging Connections
- It's Not just for Business
- It *was in* the Bulletin!
- The Frugal Communicator
- How to Make Them Stick
- Shoot Digital Photos Worth Publishing
- Show & Tell
- No Website? No Money? No Problem!

To learn more about these workshops and the entire conference, visit www.episcopalwny.org/communicatingfaith today. While you're there, don't forget to register!

[Episcopal Peace Fellowship](#)

[Episcopal Public Policy Network](#)

[Episcopal Relief and Development \(ERD\)](#)

[Episcopalians for Global Reconciliation](#)

[Global Good](#)

[Image and Spirit](#)

Update from the Bishop Search Committee

Judith Lee

During the month of February, the Search Committee will be interviewing candidates by telephone. Please continue to keep the Search Committee and the candidates in your prayers. All our conversations are confidential until we present the final slate of candidates to the Standing Committee in August.

Have you every wondered . . .

- What the bishop's hat is called and why it has a funny shape with the two tails hanging down?
- What color symbolizes the bishop?
- Who the first American bishop was?
- When the Diocese of Western New York become a separate diocese from the Diocese of Rochester?
- Why we have bishops?

If so, your search for answers may be over. The answers to these and many other questions may be found at www.wnybishopsearch.org. (Follow the Education link.)

The 5-week Lenten Study Program is now also available at www.wnybishopsearch.org. Each week's program can be downloaded and it is flexible enough to be used as your congregation wishes-as Bible Study focusing on the Scripture readings for the Sundays in Lent, for a focus on the biographies of bishops and the history of the church, or as a study guide about how a new bishop will change your own personal and congregational self-understanding.

One of the most important and wonderful aspects of taking part in this program is that we are reminded that we are joined in both worship and study with people throughout the region whom we have never met, but with whom we share one faith, one hope, and one commitment to be the Body of Christ in this place.

Almighty God, giver of every good gift, look graciously upon your church and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a bishop for this diocese, and those who offer themselves as candidates, that we may receive a faithful pastor who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Bishop Brent School Offers Course



Saturdays - March 6, 13 & 20, 2010
9:00 am - 12:00 noon
Instructor: The Rev. Deacon Shirley Trail
Registration Fee: \$35

This course is a study of the last week of the life of Jesus with concentration on the similarities and differences of the Gospels' discussions of the redeeming act of Christ. No previous knowledge is required.

Visit www.episcopalwny.org/brent for more information and online registration.



Episcopal Community Services Announces 2010 Lenten Appeal

Karran Swayze---Campaign Coordinator

The 2010 Episcopal Community Services Lenten Appeal will be getting underway in a few short weeks, and ECS volunteers and staff are preparing for what we hope will be another successful campaign. This year's theme is **Acting on Faith, Rebuilding Lives**, which was chosen to coincide with our ongoing diocesan focus on community.

What better way to strengthen our Western New York community than to minister to our brothers and sisters in need across all seven counties of our diocese? Last year, our 15 human service agencies provided services to more than 50,000 men, women and children, thanks to local Episcopalians who donated over \$150,000 to ECS.

This year, parish coordinator training sessions will be provided on an "as requested" basis. If you are new as a parish coordinator and would like some help in going over the materials, give Maria a call at 881-0660, ext. 18. She will schedule a planning session for you with members of the ECS Board.

In all other cases, materials will be mailed to parish coordinators at the church address. Campaign dates are February 21st to April 4th.

From the Transition Funding Task Force

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We need your input.

The Transition Funding Task Force was established by Diocesan Council in September, 2009. Since that time we have been busy with a variety of duties that were given to us as we prepare for the Call of our 11th Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Western New York. We are also looking at the transition period as it

relates to budget and finance matters.

We have a unique opportunity to look for a better method of funding the diocese before our new Bishop is called.

It is important for our committee to understand what the Diocese means to each of the congregations and their congregants, so please let us know what you think either by completing our survey online at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/XHDWXG9>.

It is our desire to receive as many responses as possible by the end of February.

Thank you in advance for your concern and input in this process. We realize that this is on a fast track and appreciate the time and thought that each of you is putting forth. We will provide a summary of the responses.

On behalf of the Transition Funding Task Force,
Jim Eaton, Chair



Cocktails*
Formal Dinner
Dancing to
Buffalo Swing
Ticket Auctions

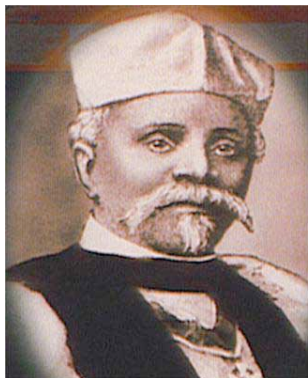
THE 2010
BISHOP'S GALA
SALVATORE'S ITALIAN
GARDENS
6461 TRANSIT RD.
DEPEW, NEW YORK
APRIL 16, 2010
6:00 PM - MIDNIGHT
All proceeds benefit

Tickets only \$65.00
Call Richard Witt
(716) 845-6080 Days
(716) 822-9769 Evenings
Or call Diocesan House
(716) 881-0660 Bus. Hrs.
Credit Cards accepted

Help us bid Farewell to
Bishop G. Michael Garrison.
This will be his final Bishop's Gala.



Cathedral Hosts a Celebration of the Ministry of Haiti's First Episcopal Bishop



As part of our continuing responses to the appeal for help in Haiti, a special service in Celebration of the Life and Legacy of Bishop James Theodore Holly will be offered at St. Paul's Cathedral at noon on Saturday March 13. Bishop Holly was the first black bishop in The Episcopal Church and was the founder of the Diocese of Haiti.

Bishop Garrison will be the celebrant and preacher. All proceeds of the Collection will be dedicated to the ERD-Haiti Fund. Everyone is invited.

We look forward to a glorious celebration of Bishop Holly's legacy which is so very evident in the hearts of the Haitian people today even as they struggle to rebuild their lives in the wake of the tragic earthquake that struck on January 12.

The website of St. Philip's, Buffalo offers more information about Bishop Holly. Visit http://specbuffalo.bfn.org/bishop_holley.htm

Niagara Deanery Youth News

The Niagara Deanery Youth Group recently sent a check for \$364 to the Diocesan Disaster Relief Fund. The donation represents roughly half the total the group raised through their annual Gifts for Life collection held in January. The remaining \$376 to purchase shares in a and a cow, flocks of chickens, drought-resistant seeds, tools and the provision of food to "little scholars" through Episcopal Relief & Development.

In December the youth caroled at the Lockport Presbyterian Home and lent their muscle power to the ringing of the the bell at Grace, Lockport as part of a call to action on global warming sponsored by the world Council of Churches in conjunction with the Copenhagen Summit on Global Climate Change.

Trinity Medical Brigade Prepares for Another Trip to El Salvador

Catherine Gillespie & Pat Maloney

Nine members of Trinity Church left for a week-long mission in El Salvador on January 2. Some were friends, some acquaintances, some strangers. Seven days later nine friends returned, changed for life. More are preparing to go.

The group, led by Dr John Gillespie and his wife, Catherine, has already taken down over \$30,000 worth of donated medicines and medical supplies. During the week long January brigade, the medical crew saw over 600 patients, individuals

who have little or no access to medical care.

Dr. David Krafchak joined the entourage for the first time and offered eye exams which were invaluable. In the past hundreds of pairs of eye glasses had been distributed, but no one in the brigade had the expertise or equipment to do a thorough optic exam. We concentrated on reading and sunglasses this year, both incredibly important.



Another first-timer, Lucia Almeida, RN, saw many women and children with a wide variety of concerns. We have learned that sometimes education about stretching exercises and "simple" remedies make the most sense in the long run.

Over 100 El Salvadorians are enrolled in our hypertension program, established by Dr. John Gillespie several years ago. Cash donated by Trinity parishioners is used to

purchase enough medication to supply each of these patients for one year.

Catherine Gillespie, aided by a wonderful El Salvadorian friend, distributes the medications that the various providers prescribe. Christina Crabtree serves as the primary interpreter and has been part of the medical brigade from the beginning 4 years ago.

Trinity partners with a small El Salvadorian NGO (non-governmental organization) that concentrates on health issues and organizing communities to make the most of their resources. Non-medical missionaries help with whatever jobs need to be done in the community. First time missionary Pat Maloney fell into this category.

"Having never been to El Salvador, speaking not a word of Spanish, and not having the strongest constitution in the world, I had no idea what to expect from my week long sojourn," reports Pat. "What I got was more than I ever could have imagined. I gained insight into what it means to live in community, to really live in community.

I taught a group of men to cut tiles with the grinders we brought with us and felt a sense of pride as I looked over at my daughter Meghan teaching a group of women the same skills with the same tools. The ages of our students ranged from 12 to 70+. They all worked with enthusiasm, amazing endurance and learned quickly and with joy in their hearts. We all beamed at the end of the day with the pride of accomplishment.

"I listened to a young man, my new friend Romel, tell his story of having to leave his home at age one and then not be able to return for nine years while the war raged. After his return he told me of having to join the guerillas at age 11 to avoid being conscripted into the army. He showed me a picture of him holding a semiautomatic weapon that was as big as he was. Romel worked with me and learned from me and I from him.

"We attended a vigil to mourn the deaths of two community members who were assassinated because of their participation in the environmental research team that

was uncovering the destruction and contamination of their water supply by the Pacific Rim Mining Company. We cried along with local leaders as they told their story."

"We joined a community as they began the restoration of a long abandoned sugar mill for which the community had received a grant. Everyone from the community arrived, and together we cleared fields with machete's and moved sand on our backs in bags from the nearby river. Cam and I marveled as a small frail appearing to be 70 years old made two trips for our every one.



We laughed and we worked. We made rocket stoves and carried sand. We worshiped and sang with the people. We shared their lives. We shared their stories. We wept."

Both the Americans and the El Salvadorians have grown and learned from each other. "We have been impressed over the years by the hope and joy that we see, even in the face of such overwhelming poverty," says Catherine.

The Trinity Medical Brigade will head to El Salvador for the second time this year on March 7-13. The group is currently collecting medicines, especially vitamins, antibiotic and anti fungal ointments. Prescription medications that you no longer need may also be donated - a far better idea than flushing them!

Toothbrushes and toothpaste are also needed (often a family of 7 to 9 people share one brush), as are reading glasses, sun glasses and cash donations.

If you have any questions please feel free to call Catherine Gillespie at 716-881-2199 or email Gillespie.cath@gmail.com.



Nothing Better than a Hot Cup of Tea on a Cold, Winter Day

A "Snowflake Tea" was enjoyed on Saturday, January 23, by 38 members of the Church of the Advent, Kenmore. The tea, held at the Hodgepodge Tea Room in North Tonawanda, provided a time to talk and enjoy a fun activity together. Pictured

here from left to right are Carole Woomer, Judy Csonka, Judith Voit and her two daughters, Sarah Winson and Rebecca Kiel.

You are invited to Trinity's 7th Annual Auction

Snowflakes & Starlight

Friday, February 5, 2010
Trinity Chapel, 371 Delaware Ave., Buffalo

6:00 pm Silent Auction | 8:00 pm Live Auction
— Elegant winter hors d'oeuvres & wine —

ADMISSION \$10 | WWW.TRINITYBUFFALO.ORG | 852-8314

Bring your friends!

SABRES • THEATRE & BFO TICKETS • ANTIQUES • A WEEK IN ST. CROIX • FURNITURE • JEWELRY • GETAWAYS • ART • GIFT BASKETS



BAKER VICTORY SERVICES HOST TO ADOPT PROGRAM

The Host to Adopt program will give Columbian children ages 8 to 13 an opportunity to experience American culture in your family setting, while giving couples and singles an opportunity to get to know a child or sibling group they may later adopt. Baker Victory provides training and support throughout the hosting and adoption process. Adoptive parents receive a tax credit of \$12,150 for qualifying expenses.

If interested, call 716-828-9636 to reserve your spot at an informational meeting to be held at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, February 18. (If interested, but unable to attend meeting, please call to schedule a phone conference date.)



Telling the Story of The Episcopal Church

[January 27, 2010] The important and significant news and information of The Episcopal Church - ranging from breaking news like Haiti relief, to people features and commentaries on relevant topics - are readily accessible to Episcopalians, Anglicans and those seeking to learn more about The Episcopal Church.

"The Office of Communication is committed to providing news and information about The Episcopal Church in a fair and balanced way," explained Anne Rudig, Director of Communication at the Church Center in New York City. "We remain committed to sharing the good work of our Church and its people through our award-winning news produced by Episcopal Church Office of Communication."

Episcopal News Service

Episcopal News Service - commonly known as ENS - continues reporting the news of the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion through breaking news and in-depth coverage. Articles are posted daily online at www.episcopalchurch.org/ens

Anyone can sign up for a free daily subscription to ENS at www.episcopalchurch.org/ensdaily

Episcopal News Monthly

Episcopal News Monthly, a print product, focuses on the in-depth reporting and analysis of local, regional, national and international news. It's pages are compiled from Episcopal News Service online postings. For subscription information, contact Larry Moore at lmoore@episcopalchurch.org

Episcopal News Quarterly

Episcopal News Quarterly offers a 12-page compilation of news and analysis from Episcopal News Service, starting March 2010.

Quarterly Magazine

A new quarterly magazine for The Episcopal Church will make its debut in the fall of 2010. The feature-focused magazine is intended to inspire people of faith into action. Thought-leadership and longer-format articles will be hallmarks of this innovative publication.

Weekly Bulletin Inserts

The Episcopal News Service Weekly Bulletin Inserts, available in English and Spanish, are teaching tools specifically designed for congregations. With a new topic and focus each week, the Weekly Bulletin Inserts provide news and information about the Episcopal Church and its mission and ministry. The Weekly Bulletin Inserts may be easily downloaded at www.episcopalchurch.org/95270_ENG_HTM.htm



On Health & Wellness

As part of its 2010 initiative to help foster a culture of wellness throughout the Church, the Episcopal Church Medical Trust has

produced a 20-minute video featuring Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori discussing her views on health and wellness in the Church today.

Speaking with author and fitness lifestyle expert Peter K, creator of the technique "5 Minutes to Fitness" (part of a holistic approach to living a healthier life through healthy eating, exercise, and mind/body success), the Presiding Bishop explains how the teachings of Jesus and the Bible have inspired her to view fitness as a means of gaining the strength to serve the Church to her fullest capacity.



As The Episcopal Church's chief pastor, the Presiding Bishop discusses the need for people of faith to integrate the life of the mind, body, and spirit in a holistic way, as well as the growing need for clergy to take care of themselves while encouraging their congregations to take a healthy approach to living.

A runner, hiker, climber, former oceanographer, and active instrument-rated pilot, Presiding Bishop Jefferts Schori is a remarkable role model. In this video, she outlines her strategies for maintaining optimal wellness despite her busy schedule. DVD copies of the video were sent to all diocesan bishops and administrators, and to Canons to the Ordinary.

"We hope they will share the video with their clergy, staffs, associates, and congregations," said Libby Miller, Vice President of Clinical Management and Member Education, the Medical Trust. *"It's a great educational tool."*

The video can be viewed on the CPG website at www.cpg.org/productservices/healthplans.cfm.

"We invite everyone to see it and be inspired by the Presiding Bishop's simple and practical messages of achieving a healthy balance in life and of caring for ourselves so that we can be well to serve," said Libby Miller.

Just for Fun: The Prayerbook is a Girl's Best Friend

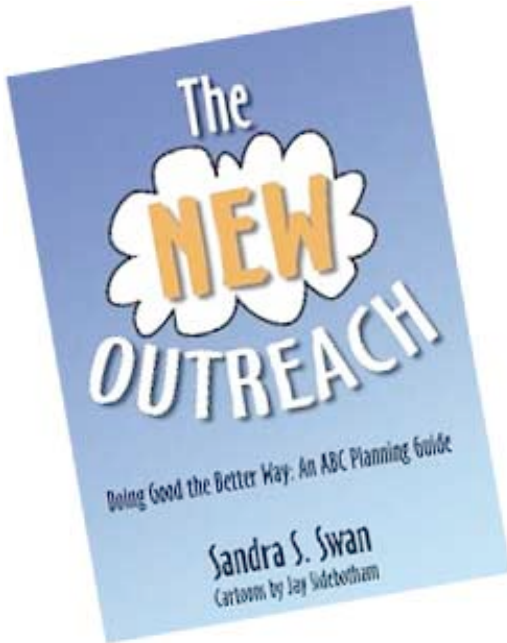
If you have a sense of humor and aren't opposed to parody, Suzanne Guthrie, an Episcopal priest, offers a different perspective on our cherished prayerbook in [The Prayerbook is a Girl's Best Friend](#) on YouTube.



Guthrie's more serious endeavors include two books-[Praying the Hours](#) and [Grace's Window](#), a blog entitled [Come to the Garden](#) and "a kind of visual and thematic itinerary of the interior life" for

beginners of all ages published online at www.edgeofenclosure.org.

Guthrie currently serves as the chaplain of [The Melrose School](#) in Brewster, NY. She is a former university chaplain, the mother of four grown children and a retreat leader.



THE BOOKSHELF

The New Outreach: Doing Good the Better Way

"This book is not written for the expert," says author Sandra Swan, "but for each one of us who has the passion and the courage to tackle those miserable conditions that are shackling persons to lives of little promise and much pain."

The New Outreach is an ABC planning guide to help you create outreach partnerships that provide better aid and assistance, more efficiently and responsibly. Written in clear, concise language and complemented by practical worksheets, it explores the

entire step-by-step process of outreach, from motivations and documentation of available resources, to desired outcomes and proven methods to achieve goals. With humorous topical illustrations by noted cartoonist Jay Sidebotham, Swan also instructs how to avoid common "do-gooder" mistakes and how to avoid waste and unintended consequences, such as creating a new problem in the quest to address an old one.

"The New Outreach is for anyone who wants to make sure that their good intentions translate into good results," said David Beckmann, president of Bread for the World. "Sandra Swan offers encouragement, clear strategies, and examples to plan advocacy and charitable programs that bring about real change."

The New Outreach can be ordered through any Episcopal, religious, or secular bookstore, any online bookseller, or direct from the publisher by calling 800-242-1918 or by visiting www.churchpublishing.org.

ISBN: 978-0-89869-644-8 \$24.00 Paper 144 pgs 8.5X11

BEYOND OUR BORDERS



Judge Orders Property Returned to the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh

Mary Frances Schjonberg

[Episcopal News Service] A judge has told the organization headed by former bishop Robert Duncan that claims to have withdrawn from the Episcopal Church in 2008 that it must turn over control of the [Diocese of Pittsburgh](#)'s assets.

In a Jan. 29 [order](#) County Court of Common Pleas Judge Joseph M. James accepted as accurate an inventory of diocesan property submitted by a "special master" he had appointed earlier and told Duncan's organization it must transfer the assets.

The inventory includes \$22 million in cash, cash equivalents, receivables, and investments including about \$2.5 million in pooled parish investments and real estate and other real property.

"The diocese plans to quickly make arrangements so that all parishes may again have access to their investment funds that were frozen by financial institutions during the legal proceedings," according to a [news release](#) from the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh.

On Oct. 4, 2008 a majority of the delegates to the diocese's 143rd annual convention [approved](#) a resolution by which the diocese purported to leave the Episcopal Church. The leaders who departed have said that they remain in charge of an entity they have been calling the [Anglican Diocese of Pittsburgh](#) that is now part of the Argentina-based [Anglican Province of the Southern Cone](#). And they say that in that capacity they control all the assets that were held by the diocese when they left.

Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas Judge Joseph M. James, however, [ruled](#) Oct. 6 that all diocesan assets must be held by the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh that is recognized by the Episcopal Church. James' opinion and order are [here](#).

The group led by Duncan [said](#) Oct. 29 that it would appeal the ruling once the court issues a final order directing it to transfer the property to the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh of the Episcopal Church of the United States of America.

In a Jan. 30 e-mail, Duncan told the diocese he leads that he wanted "to assure you that we will continue to work diligently for the protection of all our parishes and

for the good of our mission and ministry."

James' order says that financial institutions and repositories, trustees and fiduciaries must only act on instructions from the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh, that no real property can be sold or its current occupants removed without a court order, that holders of "altar artifacts" are answerable to the diocese as to their use (and that they cannot be sold or transferred to another location without a court order) and that people or entities who have borrowed money from the diocese (close to \$1 million) are answerable to the Episcopal diocese.

Duncan's diocese has 20 days from Jan. 29 to give the Episcopal diocese the financial records, documents and other electronically stored information it needs to hold and administer the property.

There are two versions of the order: a confidential version and a public version from which financial account information has been removed.

The suit arose out of a 2003 complaint by [Calvary Episcopal Church](#) in Pittsburgh after a [special diocesan convention](#) passed a resolution stating that all property in the diocese, which under Episcopal Church canons must held and used for the mission of the church, would be held free of that obligation.

The proceedings in the suit led to an October 2005 stipulated court order in which Duncan and the other then-leaders of the diocese agreed that the "Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh of the Episcopal Church of the United States of America" would continue to hold or administer property "regardless of whether some or even a majority of the parishes in the diocese might decide not to remain in the Episcopal Church of the United States of America."

After the 2008 diocesan convention vote, Calvary Episcopal Church asked James to enforce his 2005 order.

In his Oct. 6 opinion James said that "regardless of what name the defendants now call themselves, they are not the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh of the Episcopal Church of the United States of America." He ruled that the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh "did not cease to exist" after the 2008 convention vote because it was created by the Episcopal Church and the church now recognizes that those Episcopalians who did not follow Duncan now make up the Episcopal Church's continuing diocese.

The property held by or administered by the Pittsburgh diocese has been reviewed and evaluated by a "special master" James appointed two days before Duncan's [removal](#) as a bishop of the Episcopal Church. The special master, Pittsburgh attorney Stanley E. Levine and the Campbell & Levine law firm, gave James an inventory of the property involved in the suit on Jan. 27. James said in his order two days later that his acceptance of the inventory does not preclude other property being added to his order.

All of the public documents in the 2003 case including the Jan. 29 order are available [here](#).

[Forward to a Friend](#)