

God has gloriously raised Jesus from the dead, the first fruits of the new creation. The resurrection of Jesus is the picture of what God has in store for this broken-down old world. In the same way that we can participate in, or resist, this newness in our own lives, so can we

participate in, or resist, what God has in store for creation.

Herein lies God's mission, in which believers are called to participate.

The Rt. Rev. Wayne Smith  
Tenth Bishop of Missouri

## DIOCESAN FLOWER FESTIVAL, MAY 2 & 3



Come celebrate the 117th "Flower Sunday" hosted by the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri and Christ Church Cathedral.

Our Flower Festival weekends are important in the life of this diocese and in our city. The cathedral is filled with flowers and plants, and the weekend offers services, concerts, youth events, and a Saturday street fair.

This year's guest is the Rt. Rev. Greg Rickel, Bishop of Olympia. Bishop Rickel will speak at the Saturday 11 a.m. opening service, and preach at cathedral services Sunday morning (9 and 11:15) on *Asking the Right Questions: An Economic Catastrophe is a terrible thing to waste.*

In Genesis we are told that humankind is to have "dominion" over the earth. What does this mean and what has it wrought? Bishop Rickel

will explore some questions posed by our latest economic struggle, as well as suggesting some that should be coming up but aren't. "We understand this is a time for change—amid fear, reaction, and entrenching. What is the Church's role? How can we be examples to the world, instead of merely falling in with the world?"

"Intersecting with the economic crisis is our environmental crisis, and the two are deeply connected. Could this time be fertile ground for the Holy Spirit to move us to a new way of being Church and a new way of walking on this earth? And, best of all, might we have fun and actually grow closer to one another doing it?"

Music is an integral part of each festival weekend. A music event Saturday afternoon for youth groups (some spending the night at the Cathedral after the City Museum event), a Saturday evening concert of baroque chamber music with Collegium Vocale at 7:30 p.m., and a festival Evensong with the Cathedral Choir on Sunday at 5 p.m., provide additional opportunities to reflect upon the weekend's messages and conversations in our sacred space.

More information at the cathedral website  
<http://ChristChurchCathedral.us>

## YOUTH MINISTRY: HAPPENING, APRIL 24-26

"I was at crossroads, beginning to look at the world around me and decide what I stand for. I saw the turmoil around me: radical mega churches, the theatric and dressed up representations of God and faith, God existing in a building, in the singing, shouting, and momentary seizures of the spirit. I contrasted that with what I saw in my own church, an internal struggle between old and new, change and tradition. I knew I believed in God, but I didn't have a community that I felt reflected my faith. I was at a point where I wondered if my community with God was only within. That's what I found and have taken from Happening--a community, with God, with others."

—a participant from diocesan Happening #1, 2008, hosted at St. Timothy's

Happening is a Christian experience for youth in grades 9-12 and adults who work with youth. Not a retreat, it is a one-time experience of God in a unique way, presented to teenagers by teenagers, and including adults to provide support and supervision.

Happening participants listen to presentations given by members of staff and discuss their reactions and feelings in safe, small groups. The weekend includes singing, fellowship, surprises, good food, and other fun with new and old friends. Participants discover more about themselves, God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, their families, their church community, and their world.

Happening is held at a host church and everyone stays in the church the whole weekend. During the weekend, participants are asked to block out the rest of the world; to leave the outside along with its burdens, stresses and demands and simply enjoy their time with their friends and God.

Last year's Happening had 10 participants from 8 different parishes from around the Diocese. Registration required: <http://www.mohappening.org/>

For more information contact Happening coordinator, Beth Ann Bynum, [ba@mohappening.org](mailto:ba@mohappening.org)

### UPCOMING DIOCESAN YOUTH EVENTS

Complete information online: <http://diocesemo.org/youthministry>

#### Episcopal Youth Event at City Museum, Friday, May 1, from 5 - 11 PM

Youth groups of any composition and high school aged teens are invited to a night of Fun, Group Challenges, Food, and Music. We'll have our own space at Cabin Inn, plus we'll utilize the WHOLE space for challenges and play. Out of town groups and individuals are welcome to stay overnight and attend the Flower Festival next day.

#### Camp Phoenix Work Day, Saturday, May 16, 2009. 9:00 am - 4:00 pm, DuBois, IL

#### Diocesan Youth Mission Trip to Mission on the Bay, June 8 - 13, 2009

#### Camp Phoenix, July 26 - August 2, 2009. Registration by July 1, or until spaces are filled.



# Sunday Seek

*The Episcopal Diocese of Missouri*

## Episcopal School for Ministry

### COURSES OFFERED FOR THE SUMMER TERM

**Liturgy** *Canon Ralph McMichael, Instructor*  
This course will consider the liturgy from the perspectives of its tradition and practice. Special attention will be given to the Book of Common Prayer, and its place in the tradition of the Church's worship and in the life of the Church. The student will learn about the origins and development of liturgy, its essential nature, and how it shapes the life of each congregation. Anyone with a desire to learn the history and meaning of worship, and how to live into the liturgical life is invited to take this course.

**Christian Spirituality** *The Rev. Rod Wiltse, Instructor*  
What is spirituality? The word spirit comes from the Latin *spiritus*, the primary meaning is breath. Spiritus has a second meaning—inspiration, or breathing in. This course explores in some depth the art of the “breathing” of the Church; the Prayer of the Church, and the Church at Prayer. Sections include How to Pray and Praying with Icons. Additionally, we spend a day in the “desert” with the desert Fathers and Mothers.

**Preaching** *The Rev. Barbara Willock, Instructor*  
This course is for anyone who has some academic background in the study of the Old and New Testaments, and who wish to explore the skills and experience of proclaiming the Good News to God's people. The course focuses on the preparation and giving of sermons within a supportive and evaluative group. Anyone involved in the ministries of conveying the Christian faith to others, or who wish to delve more deeply into how to speak of their faith, would benefit from this course.

### COURSE DATES AND REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Orientation: April 18 Closing Session: August 15  
Classes Meet: May 15&16, June 12&13, July 17&18  
Fridays 5 - 9:15 p.m., Saturday 7:45 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
Term Fee: \$400  
Detailed registration information available from:  
Cory Hoehn, ESM Registrar  
choehn@diocesemo.org 314-231-1220 ext. 1383



Photo credit: J. Jones, 2009

### RESURRECTION, CREATION AND MISSION

When the news topic turns from the worsening economy or lingering war, the next in line seems to be global climate change and the urgency of green living. These are important matters, let us be sure, but should come as no great surprise to believers in Jesus, who has come to a world worn out already. “These last days” have been with us a good long time, to use the phrase from the opening verses of Hebrews, echoed in and made familiar by Eucharistic Prayer B.

Romans 8 tells about the entire universe groaning in anticipation of that day when it will be set free from the “bondage of decay.” The salvation made available to us in Christ, Paul writes, is not a matter apart from what will happen in all of a weary creation.

Salvation is cosmic in scope, and within that scope comes your salvation, and mine. But the idea of creation broken down, in danger of falling completely apart, is nothing new. It is just rather more apparent now.

The healing of creation, and the building of a new one, is a promise woven through the New Testament, with the realization that God in Christ makes this worn-out world new. And we do not.

There is a danger in the previous short paragraph, because it might appear to invite passivity from the believer. Since only God can heal a broken creation, then there is nothing that I can do or should do about it. But here is a fatalistic stance, though not an uncommon one in American culture, secular or religious. And the fact that I cannot “fix” to perfection any given problem does not thereby let me off the hook.

Believers in Christ are called to participate in whatever God is doing in the world, to whatever extent available to us. We do not have it in us to heal all that is broken about creation. But whenever we can participate in the renewal of creation, in actions great or small, we have the potential for witnessing to Christ. For the believer, the recycling of one lousy water bottle may in fact glorify God.

*-continued*