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Cast Your Nets

Diocesan NetsforLife Campaign Aims to Save 100,000 Lives

Bishop Michael Curry wants Episcopalians in the diocese of North Carolina to buy 40,000 mosquito nets. He wants Holy Trinity to buy 2,300 of them.

Why do we need to buy mosquito nets? After all, we have lotions, sprays, window screens, air conditioned homes and pesticides. Mosquitos are a third-world-country problem.

That's exactly why we need to buy mosquito nets. In Matthew 25, Jesus calls us to feed the hungry, care for the sick and welcome the stranger.

At the diocesan convention in Winston-Salem in January, Bishop Michael Curry said that a church should not be concerned about its own life, but instead should follow the steps of Jesus. "Jesus was trying to get us to understand that we need to move beyond our own individual self-interest," he said. "We need to go beyond our various ideologies and go where God dreams for us to be."

According to the World Health Organization, nearly one million people die from malaria every year. Annually, there are 250 million cases of malaria infection around the world. Ninety percent of malaria deaths occur in sub-Saharan Africa. Most of those deaths are children younger than five years old. In fact, a child dies from malaria every 60 seconds.

Malaria can cause poverty and hinder economic development. In Africa, malaria costs an estimated \$12 billion in lost productivity every year.

At the 2003 General Convention, the Episcopal Church

Want To Help?

The diocesan NetsforLife Challenge aims to purchase 40,000 mosquito nets that are treated to prevent malaria – one net for every communicant in our diocese. That's 2,300 nets from Holy Trinity!

Each net costs \$12 and saves the lives of three children. Pick up an ERD catalog at the information stations or go to www.er-d.org/NetsForLife-Donate/ to make a contribution. Be sure your order contains the name of your parish (Holy Trinity, Greensboro) and the name of your diocese (Diocese of North Carolina).

dedicated itself to supporting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) developed by the United Nations in 2000 to cut extreme poverty in half by 2015.

Focusing on malaria can help make progress on all the MDGs. Ending extreme poverty can't happen when people are constantly battling sickness and death.

In 2005, a group of Episcopal Church members visited a remote community in Zambia where they found people suffering and dying from malaria because they didn't understand prevention and had no access to mosquito nets and effective treatment. The NetsforLife partnership was born, unit-

ing corporations, foundations, non-government organizations and faith-based organizations committed to eliminating malaria in sub-Saharan Africa. NetsforLife, managed by Episcopal Relief & Development, delivers nets and teaches prevention in sub Saharan Africa.

In 2009, the Episcopal Church renewed its support for MDGs by endorsing the NetsforLife Inspiration Fund and contributing 0.7 percent of its annual budget to the effort.

Bishop Curry is co-chair of the national NetsforLife campaign. He kicked off the campaign in the Diocese of North Carolina at the January convention. His goal: buy and deliver one net for each confirmed communicant in the Diocese of North Carolina by the 2012 convention. That's

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Millennium Development Goals

The UN's Plan to Reduce Poverty by 2015

In 2000, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were established to reduce, by the year 2015, the number of people who live in extreme poverty. Developed by the international community including leaders from 191 countries, the eight goals were endorsed by development institutions and religious bodies.

Each goal works toward alleviating poverty and disease by establishing targets that will directly improve people's lives. The goals are to:

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.

One billion people live on less than \$1 a day; 854 million people are chronically hungry; one child dies from hunger every five seconds. The target is to cut in half the number of people who live on so little and who are chronically hungry.

2. Achieve universal primary education.

Approximately 77 million children do not attend primary school. The target is to ensure that children everywhere are able to complete primary school.

3. Promote gender equality and empower women.

An estimated 96 million young women aged 15-24 in developing countries cannot read or write. The target is to eliminate discrimination against women in education.

4. Reduce child mortality.

Nearly 26,000 children under the age of 5 die every day, many from preventable illnesses. The target is to reduce by two-thirds the number of children who die before age 5.

5. Improve maternal health.

Approximately 500,000 women die every year from complications due to pregnancy and childbirth. The target is to reduce by 75 percent the number of women who die as a result of pregnancy and childbirth.

6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases.

One million people a year die from malaria. Every day 14,000 new HIV/AIDS cases are diagnosed. The target is to stop the spread of these diseases and see a decline in death rates.

7. Ensure environmental sustainability.

One billion people, one-fifth of the world's population, do not have access to clean water within a 15-minute walk from their home. The target is to cut in half the number of people without access to safe drinking water and to reverse the loss of natural resources by practicing sustainable development.

8. Develop a global partnership for development.

Unfair trade systems, crippling debt and limited access to markets prevent growth and opportunity for all people. The target is to improve levels of development assistance, promote good governance, provide access to markets, and offer solutions for indebted countries.

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40,000 nets. And Holy Trinity's part is 2,300 nets. So far our diocese has bought 2,755 nets.

In a letter to Episcopal Church Women, Bishop Curry wrote, that we could "save the lives of 100,000 people... If you believed that it was possible I suspect you might say something like, 'if we can do it, why don't we?' Well, it is possible, we can do it and we are by God's grace going to."

NetsforLife distributes bed nets treated with insecticide. The nets are effective protection for children, who haven't built up immunity to malaria, and pregnant women, whose immune systems are compromised during pregnancy. The organization works to instill a "net culture," a community-wide understanding of the protection the nets offer, how to use them and how to maintain them. With that knowledge, people know how to prevent malaria, when to get medical treatment, and how to access effective treatment.

Since 2008, NetsforLife has delivered more than six million nets across 17 countries in sub-Saharan Africa. More than 18 million people have benefitted from NetsforLife.

One net costs \$12 and can save three lives from suffering and death. Four nets at \$48 help four families; eight nets at \$96 help 8 families; and so on.

It's a small price to save lives.

—Harriette Knox

If you believed that it was possible to save the lives of 100,000 people I suspect you might say something like, "If we can do it, why don't we?" Well, it is possible, we can do it and we are by God's grace going to.

Observing a Holy Lent

We are called, for the six weeks of Lent, to a more focused, intentional "practice" of our faith. We are invited to use this time of year to go beyond our regular religious routines as a way of growing closer to God. To that end, Holy Trinity offers the following opportunities:

Lenten Weekday Worship

Beginning Tuesday, March 15, we will celebrate the Holy Eucharist on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. in All Saints Chapel. Regular Wednesday night contemporary services at 5:30 p.m. and Thursday midday healing services at 12:15 p.m. will continue.

Contemplative Prayer

Share in a community of meditation, exploring being Present to the love of God together. Offered through the Servant Leadership School, this group began meeting in January, but you may join at any time. Wednesdays from 12–1 p.m. in the Fisher Avenue Annex. Led by Ruth D. Anderson, Ph.D.

Finding Their Lives by Losing Them

Love, Service Mark 62 Years of George and Rachael Holmes' Marriage

Parishioners George and Rachael Holmes have been married for 62 years and are happy to confess the secret of their union's longevity: "We used to tell each other, 'If you want to call it off, you have to take all nine of the children with you.'"

Neither George, 92, nor Rachael, 85, ever gave up on the other or on their family. In fact, a record of commitment to people, especially to children, marks both their lives – or, rather, their joint life.

They had already gotten a start in adult life when they met. George, eight years Rachael's senior, had graduated from William and Mary while in the V-7 Naval Reserve, and when war broke out, was stationed in England to fly in the Air Corps. His duties included serving as a pilot and navigator, going ashore on Utah Beach on D-Day, and escorting General Patton's Third Army across Europe in its drive to end the war.

After his return home, George went to seminary in Evanston, Illinois at Seabury-Western, also pursuing graduate study at Northwestern University, and was ordained in 1948. Later he added a master's degree at Virginia Polytechnic Institute in Blacksburg, Virginia.

George met Rachael through her older sister, who had married his best friend. Rachael had grown up in Botetourt County, Virginia, and was living in Roanoke with her family after having recently graduated from Longwood College.

At the time, George was serving in a parish in Mecklenburg County, Virginia, with eight little churches requiring his attention. Sometimes he would ride on horseback to visit his parishioners. Although he had to travel over 100 miles to see Rachael, by the third date, he told her he was going to marry her.

George's 52-year ministry took him and his wife to a number of par-



Parishioners Rachel and George Holmes on their wedding day 62 years ago (left) and today. The secret of their long marriage? "We used to tell each other, 'If you want to call it off, you have to take all nine of the children with you.'"

ishes in Virginia and North Carolina. While George expanded his interest in emotionally disturbed children with his parishioner Dr. Edward Bond, mental health clinics were established down the coast of North Carolina while he served as rector of St. Paul's Church in Edenton.

Like George, Rachael has always been there for children, and not only for her own. The nine Holmes children made so many friends that liked to hang around the rectory that a rule was made prohibiting non-Holmes children from staying past five o'clock.

Children in trouble found their way to Rachael and George's home and often stayed during difficult times in their lives.

The Holmeses sent all nine of their children to college, as well as three other children who had no other help in getting an education. "I never bought stocks and bonds," says George. "What we've earned, we've invested in our children."

Rearing nine children on a pastoral salary was a challenge. Rachael

had no washing machine until her third child was born. Such a large household might have proved overwhelming had not Rachael adopted a sensible approach: Each of her seven daughters spent one day per week helping her mother to cook and serving dinner at the rectory.

"In this way, I made sure that I gave each of my girls my full attention for that whole day," Rachael said. In addition to rearing children and running a parsonage, Rachael found the time to pursue her own education at East Carolina University, then to serve as director of adult education at the College of the Albemarle.

The Holmeses are proud of their family, both present and past. George in particular has been a prolific family historian, writing 14 books of memoir and family history. Today, the family is flourishing, with 11 grandchildren, three step-grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

The most difficult time of their

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A Place of Their Own

“Crafty Conversation” Helps Refugee Women Bond and Learn

In April of 2006, Porter and Marty Halyburton moved to Greensboro and joined Holy Trinity Episcopal Church. Marty says that what attracted them to Holy Trinity was its welcoming spirit at worship and its active engagement in the Greensboro community. For the past two years, Marty has been involved with refugees in our community, and, seeing a need to fill, formed a fellowship group for refugee women. Marty talked to Ruth Anderson about her experiences with Crafty Conversation.

What is the history of Crafty Conversation? How did it get started?

Two years ago, I began working with the recently arrived Vietnamese elders living at Avalon Trace Apartments in southeast Greensboro. Immediately I noticed that they seemed very isolated and lonely. They do not own cars, do not speak English, and are particularly unaccustomed to and affected by our cold winter temperatures. Also, they have left family members and all that is familiar to them in their homeland for the hope for a life free from oppression and persecution in our country. Employment is unlikely for many of them due to their age and lack of English and job skills. For many, their only outing was their English classes and there were long breaks over Christmas and during the summer.

To fill this void, my husband Porter and I decided we would hold a tea and conversation class two afternoons a week in the Community Center at their apartment complex during one of these breaks over a year ago. It was very successful and well-attended. Out of that I saw a special need for the women.

Why work with the women?

Recently arrived Vietnamese refugee women seem particularly lonely and isolated. Their husbands visit each other and talk about their “war” experience, but Vietnamese women traditionally live among extended family. They do not have what we might call “girlfriends.” I would visit their apartments and they would be sitting alone, watching the same Vietnamese language video over and over with little else to occupy the long hours. This was so different from the hustle and bustle and entrepreneurship I witness when



The newest additions to Crafty Conversation include young women from Burma, who bring their babies.



Crafty Conversation gives refugee women the opportunity to make new friends and learn new skills. “I would visit their apartments and they would be sitting alone, watching the same video over and over with little else to occupy the long hours,” says parishioner Marty Halyburton. Pictured left to right are group members Luot, Khanh, Het and Huong.

I’m in Vietnam.

The formation of a group just for women that would give them pleasure and also a way to keep their hands busy seemed worth a try. Crafty Conversation was born with the help of some craft-savvy volunteers – including parishioner Caroline Shogry, who has been wonderful – and donations of knitting, crocheting, sewing and other handicraft materials by individuals and Holy Trinity’s knitting group, Knit One, Pray Too.

What is in your background that “drew” you to this?

I have had a long affinity with the Vietnamese people, beginning during the Vietnam War where their suffering was a regular picture on television. I have been to Vietnam six times, beginning in 1998, only a few years after normalization of relations between the US and Vietnam took place. The first time was as a tourist, but since then I have taught English in two high schools, consulted with US-based charities working in Vietnam and led university and private tours there. I understand a little of their culture, customs, traditions and history, and I respect their gentleness, ability

to forgive and accept their fate, and their work ethnic and tenacity. This is my opportunity to get my “Vietnam fix” right here at home, and I can help them negotiate all that is strange and difficult here in America.

Did you have any experience with refugee populations before your travels and work in Vietnam?

When I was growing up, my family taught us to contribute to our community. As a child living in Florida, I witnessed my mother providing medical services to migrant farm workers and this had a great impact on me. I went to high school in Miami with Cuban refugees.

What has surprised you about the Crafty Conversations?

African and Burmese refugee women living at Avalon have joined our group. Crafty Conversation is breaking down the barriers of separation between cultural and ethnic groups – which is huge. Where there had been fear and lack of trust, we’re seeing friendships form. These women are poor and have no jobs or job prospects, so they are currently focused on making items they hope to sell at churches, festivals and other retail outlets. They are working together and they have been successful in the sale opportunities we have had from August through December in 2010.

Tell us about what the women are making and where they are selling their items.

The women make beautiful necklaces sold at The Sacred Garden Bookstore and other beautifully crafted items. I am proud to say that our very first sale in August was at Holy Trinity’s Arts & Crafts Fair to benefit Haiti, and we grossed \$484, netting the women \$237. While this doesn’t sound like much, it was the first and only money any of the women had made since coming to America. Since then we have had a sales event at Ten Thousand Villages, a table at the ECW Diocesan Conference and a Holiday Open House at my house. Our total income for these 4 events was slightly over \$2,500.

Holmes *continued from page 3*

marriage was the loss of their youngest daughter, Shirlee, to colon cancer at age 44. Most of their eight surviving children and their offspring live in North Carolina or in the southeast. One daughter, a nurse (six of the Holmes children went into medically related fields) insists on acting as an advocate for her parents when one is in the hospital. There is a lot of e-mailing, and phone calls come every day. “Our children are very supportive,” says Rachael.

Their retirement is surrounded not only by a large and happy family eager to repay them, but also by the many friends they have made in the parishes they have served.

How might people at Holy Trinity help you?

We are always looking for volunteers to join our Monday Crafty Conversation program at Avalon Trace and the new Wednesday program to begin at Glen Haven on Greenbriar Road. It is especially nice to have women who are adept at knitting, crocheting and machine sewing and want to share a craft that makes use of our donated supplies of yarn and fabric and to introduce the women to some new projects and skills.

Are there specific volunteer skills you need?

We are desperate for someone who knows a bit about marketing and communication. I am looking to set up a marketing committee that can help find retail outlets for the items the women make, provide transportation and help man tables at festivals, churches or other events, and even provide ideas for projects shop owners would like to buy or take on consignment. It has been suggested we open an etsy.com account. Needless to say, this takes time, energy, computer savvy, digital photography skills and creativity.

Is there anything else you would like us know about Crafty Conversation?

The women are so appreciative of any little thing. It is pure joy to be in their midst. I have been reminded over and over again when I am with the women about what is really important in life.

–Ruth Anderson

Want To Get Involved?

Crafty Conversation needs volunteers to assist refugee women with crafts on Mondays at Avalon Trace apartments and Wednesdays at Glen Haven on Greenbriar Road.

Women with knitting, crocheting and machine sewing skills are especially needed, as well as volunteers with marketing, communication and computer savvy.

Contact Marty Halyburton, 540-1535 or martyhaly@gmail.com.

The Holmeses continue to make friends in retirement by being active at Holy Trinity. Rachel likes nothing better than to be in her flower and vegetable gardens, “growing things.” She can tell you who gave her each plant, flower and shrub planted in the grounds of their home near Haw River State Park. Finding their lives by losing them in love and service of others has proven the best investment they could have made.

–Ellen Summers

The Rev. Timothy J. Patterson
Rector

The Rev. Virginia N. Herring
The Rev. Joshua H. Varner
Assistants

Return service requested

“He, She, We and God”

Workshop for Tweens, Parents Helps Families Discuss Faith and Sex

Have you had the birds and bees talk yet? Many parents dread it, but it's actually a great opportunity to share your values with your children.

But how do you start that conversation, and when?

Jenny Beaumont, an educator on the staff at Christ Episcopal Church in Charlotte, has designed a program called “He, She, We and God” to help with the conversation. Holy Trinity co-sponsored the program in the fall.

“He, She, We and God” is a comprehensive faith and human sexuality seminar based on the universal needs of tweens (older elementary children) and their parents. Beaumont believes parents should be the primary sexuality educators for their children.

Holy Trinity parishioner Kelly Pryswansky was immediately drawn to the program.

“When I saw the information on the program it struck a chord with me,” she said. “My son had his first introduction to health ed in the fifth grade, but it was in the Guilford County schools, and they have a strict set of guidelines on what they teach. It's really just the nuts and bolts. So I thought how neat it was that this was a faith-based program in a safe environment.”

The program, which starts on a Friday evening and continues on Saturday, gives tweens the chance to discuss sexuality as a gift of God; changing relationships with family and friends; media, peer and family pressure; male and female reproductive systems; prenatal development and birth; physical and emotional changes of puberty;

Want To Learn More?

“He, She, We and God” will be offered again at a future date. Watch The ePistle, Holy Trinity's email newsletter, for details.

Questions? Contact Anne-Barton Carter, coordinator for children and youth, at 272-6149 ext. 221 or anne-barton@holy-trinity.com.

and assertive behavior.

Parents examine their attitudes about sexuality, clarify their values so that they can share them with their children, and talk about communicating with tweens about sexuality.

“He, She, We and God” aims to go beyond basic information about sex. The program demonstrates to tweens that their faith community is a trustworthy place to grow and mature and learn about the faith connection between developing sexuality and God.

The discussions and exercises “brought a sense of normalcy that everything is ok, that these topics are ok to talk about,” Kelly said.

“I walked away with a valuable tool kit and my son did, too,” said Kelly. “It opened the door to have on-going conversations. As things pop up at school, he is comfortable asking about them. He feels perfectly comfortable asking questions now.”

The workshop leaders model the openness that tweens should find at home. They emphasize that all questions are good questions.

If tweens ask if something is right

or wrong, the facilitator asks them to think about how the culture, God and parents would view that topic. The participants are encouraged to talk about the issue with their parents.

Tweens get age-appropriate information. Because there can be a wide range of beliefs and opinions about controversial topics, parents are empowered to teach their children according to their values. Boys and girls generally stay in the group together to learn about the experience of the opposite gender.

Parent participation is required because parents are the primary educators of their children.

Parishioners – often youth leaders – are trained to help facilitate the program.

Parents consistently learn as much or more from the program than their tweens.

“It was a huge commitment,” Kelly said. “But I learned a lot. There are so many different dynamics at play now than when we were young. The other parents and I compared notes and felt that the kids all had fun and learned things and felt comfortable around each other. It was time well spent for all of us.”

“He, She, We and God” teaches that all creation is of God and is good.

Kelly said, “We all got a better idea of how God is at the center of all of this. It's perfectly normal to feel the way we feel. What a wonderful thing God has done for us in how we are made!”

–*Harriette Knox*