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† *In a changing church
and world, EES serves as
a catalyst and resource
for innovative witness to Jesus
Christ.*

Directors' Awards Recognize Outstanding Grant Work

The board of Directors of the Evangelical Education Society of the Episcopal Church (EES) honored the outstanding work of two grantees by awarding the Rev. Dr. E. F. Michael Morgan Director's Award to the Rev. Emily Bloemker and Mr. Andrew Van Kirk. The Rev. Bloemker is a 2009 graduate of the Berkeley Divinity School at Yale and serves St. Timothy's Episcopal Church in Creve Coeur, MO. Mr. Van Kirk, of the Diocese of Dallas, is a 2009 graduate of the Princeton Theological Seminary and serves All Saints' Episcopal Church, Princeton, NJ. The EES Board met at the Desmond Tutu Center at the General Theological Seminary October 14-15, 2009.

The Rev. Bloemker's grant took her to Lui Diocese in Southern Sudan in December '08 with a group from the Diocese of Missouri. She interviewed six women leaders – priests, a teacher, an NGO coordinator, and the wife of the Archbishop – who have survived the twenty-one year civil war. *Women's Work / Women's War: Voices from Episcopal Women in Southern Sudan* is a compilation their stories of war and faith in the context of stories from the life of Jesus and from women in the Bible. The Board recognized that the Rev. Bloemker's work is innovative gospel proclamation at many levels. The contextualization of sacred story in the experience of Sudani women, along with giving voice to the female leadership in the Episcopal Church of Sudan, inspires and strengthens the companion relationship on both sides.

Continued on page 3*Mr. Andrew Van Kirk.*▼ *The Rev. Emily Bloemker.*

From the Executive Director

A warm thank-you to the many who stopped by the EES booth at General Convention. I enjoyed meeting former grantees and hearing tales of the good old days of EES. Convention was exciting and inspiring; I came home excited about the opportunities for evangelism and innovative gospel proclamation in our great church, and inspired to celebrate the EES sesquicentennial in 2012.

It was a crisp and beautiful fall weekend when I visited the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, MA in September. I enjoyed meeting the Very Rev. Katherine Ragsdale and hearing her plans for the seminary. Students are thrilled with the financial opportunities generated by the partnership with Lesley University, and I was greatly amused by the sight of undergraduates playing Frisbee on Brattle Street. My visit coincided with the EES-sponsored Seminarian Leadership Conference, where EDS hosted students from ten seminaries for an exploration of Collaborative Leadership. Conference coordinators Amanda Akes (M.Div. '10, Diocese of New York) and Sean Slack (M.Div. '10, Diocese of Pennsylvania) did an exemplary job of planning and executing the conference, which included worship, workshops, and fellowship opportunities such as the cookout pictured below. At the conference Eucharist, preacher Fredrica Harris Thompsett called for an end to competition among seminaries, seminarians and church leaders following Jesus' model in calling disciples and delighting in the equality and mutuality of vastly different ministries.

The EES Board met in October at the hospitable and comfortable Desmond Tutu Center at General Theological Seminary. The Board welcomed new members the Rev. Jimmy Bartz and Mr. Mark Miliotto and approved Directors' Awards for the Rev. Emily Bloemker and Mr. Andrew Van Kirk. Biographies of the new members and descriptions of the work of Directors' Awardees are included elsewhere in this edition of the *Lantern*.

A review of EES finances was led by Ms. Linda Curtiss, Finance Committee Chair. EES resources have been challenged by the economic downturn and we hope our readers will prayerfully consider a financial contribution to support the *Evangelism for the Twenty-first Century* grants program.

I am excited about launching our fall grants cycle in 2010. The timing of the spring cycle will be unchanged, with applications due in February and notification in April for disbursement beginning in May. But the introduction of the fall cycle, with applications due in early September for November notification and disbursement beginning in December, will allow seminarians greater flexibility in applying for EES funding and planning their grant work. I plan to visit some seminaries in the spring, rather than making all my visits in the fall, in order to highlight the availability of the *Evangelism for the Twenty-first Century* grants program throughout the year. As always, prospective applicants are encouraged to contact me well in advance of the due dates to discuss their proposals.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our work. It is a privilege to execute the work of EES.



Day Dodson, Executive Director
daydodson@ees1862.org
(703) 807-1862



EES at General Convention: Executive Director Day Dodson, left, explains the Evangelism for the Twenty-first Century grants program to Julia Messer, M.Div. '10, Virginia Theological Seminary.



The Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, MA hosted the 2009 Seminarian Leadership Conference. Above, the EDS community hosts guests from other seminaries for a cookout and picnic.

EES Board News

Meeting at the Desmond Tutu Center of the General Theological Seminary October 14-15, 2009, the Board of Directors of EES elected the Rev. Jimmy Bartz of Los Angeles and Mr. Mark Miliotto of Evanston, IL to three-year terms.

Jimmy is the founder and leader of Thad's, an experimental community of the Diocese of Los Angeles (www.thads.org). A 1999 graduate of Virginia Theological Seminary, he has ministry experience with youth, with college students and in the traditional parish setting. Jimmy is married to Cindy Bartz and is the father of Jas (7) and Jade (3). Jimmy will serve on the Grants Committee and brings experience and knowledge of the emergent church movement to the task of evaluating and recommending grant proposals.

Mark comes to us from Seabury-Western Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois, where he has been the Director of Finance and Administration since 2006. Prior to his arrival at Seabury, he had spent 14 years working in the banking industry in Denver, Colorado. In addition to his seminary finance knowledge, Mark brings many years of church treasurer experience. Mark is married to Beth Taylor, who is a seminarian in her final year at Seabury. Mark and Beth have two kids, Gianni (7) and Sofia (4). They live in Evanston on the Seabury campus and attend All Saint's Episcopal Church in Chicago. Mark will serve on the Finance Committee.

The Board vacancies were created by the retirements of the Rev. Susan Burns of Bethesda, MD and the Rev. Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows of Syracuse, NY. Susan and Jennifer have served faithfully for six years each, and will be sorely missed.

In other Board news, Ms. Ariel Miller of Cincinnati, OH was elected to the office of Secretary and Ms. Linda Curtiss of Hoboken, NJ will chair the Finance Committee.



The Rev. Jimmy Bartz of Los Angeles.



Mr. Mark Miliotto of Evanston, IL

Continued from page 1

Mr. Van Kirk used EES funding to develop a four-week typology curriculum for use in parish adult education: ***Reading Stories, Reading Christ: The Bible, Typology, and History***. The program offers a cohesive treatment of scripture, doctrine and church history and includes video segments and a comprehensive study guide. He has taught and revised the curriculum at two parishes. The curriculum offers an engaging and intellectual approach to parish adult education, raising difficult questions and drawing participants into a deeper exploration of scripture and faith formation.

The Morgan Directors' Award is named for the Rev. E. F. Michael Morgan, Ph.D., who served on the board of EES for many years until his retirement in 2007. It is awarded annually to grantees whose work is deemed an exemplary fulfillment of EES objectives for innovation and gospel proclamation. For more information on these projects, or the work of any other EES grantee, contact Executive Director Day Dodson (daydodson@ees1862.org) or visit the website www.ees1862.org.

Japan

"We have forgotten how to feed ourselves," writes Andy Barnett of the Berkeley Divinity School at Yale, in his proposal to develop a theology of environmental stewardship for Yale Divinity School. His EES grant took him and Sarah Politz to Japan to study sustainable farming at the Asian Rural Institute, where they also learned a great deal about leadership and communication. The experience has been applied to the establishment of a 2,000 square foot organic garden on campus, recruiting and training volunteers to sustain the project in the future. The garden provides produce to the YDS community and is a focal point for achieving the community's ecological objectives.



Grantee Ellen Charry to Publish *God and the Art of Happiness*

Dr. Ellen T. Charry of Princeton received an E-21 grant in 2006 to write *God and the Art of Happiness*, which will be published by Eerdman's in 2010. Charry described the book for *The Lantern* as follows:



Dr. Ellen T. Charry is Associate Professor of Historical and Systematic Theology at Princeton Theological Seminary.

Western Christian theology is skittish about happiness. There is a venerable conversation about eschatology that hopes for future happiness, but not a vibrant conversation about temporal happiness. *God and the art of Happiness* addresses this lack in two stages. First it traces the main outline of the conversation about happiness that we do have. Then it proposes a theological doctrine of temporal happiness to balance the eschatological teaching.

Part 1 begins with a review of pre-Christian moral philosophy on happiness and then examines the teachings of Augustine, Boethius, Aquinas and Bishop Joseph Butler on happiness on the topic. The conclusion of part 1 is that the eschatological teaching on happiness vanquished concern for temporal happiness.

Part 2 offers a constructive proposal to revive a theological doctrine of happiness for this life. The theological presupposition is that God created for his own enjoyment and wants creation to flourish. The specific proposal is asherism, from the Hebrew *asher*. It is the claim that happiness is a Christian way of life in obedience to edifying divine commands construed as guidance for the flourishing of communities and individuals.

Chapters on Deuteronomy, selected Psalms, Proverbs and the Gospel of John illustrate asherism. This biblical way of life forwards the happiness and joy that accompany an obedient life that enhances one's own life and that of others. Living in the beauty of holiness not only advances the well-being of creation, but, when creation flourishes, God delights with, in and for us. In joyful obedience to God's guidance for our flourishing, we and God enjoy one another. We take pleasure not only in our own flourishing but also in God's delight at creation's flourishing and God delights at the success of the creation in achieving the flourishing for which he created it.

Western Tanzania

The Rev. Emmanuel Bwatta, MTS '10, Sewanee, received EES funding for a program to introduce lay liturgical ministry in the Diocese of Western Tanzania. He found himself challenging the cultural expectations of both clergy and laity but believes that clarifying the role of the laity and equipping lay leaders for expanded ministry will enrich the church. He quotes a vestry member: "This project is like a lamp that has entered in a dark room. It has ushered us a way and now we see the light and from here we can go".



Sudan

The Rev. Dr. Jo Bailey Wells, Director of the Anglican Episcopal House of Studies at Duke Divinity School, enriched her commitment to theological education in Sudan by teaching courses in Anglicanism, Pastoral Care and Counseling, and Conflict and Reconciliation at Renk Theological College. Dr. Wells co-directs the Renk Visiting Teachers' Program, along with Dr. Ellen Davis of Duke, and they participated in the Lambeth Roundtable Meeting in February 2009 where proposals were developed to facilitate cooperation among the five Sudani theological colleges. After her course work was complete, she travelled to Juba to attend a meeting of the Theological Commission, which will follow up on the proposals and with the goal of creating a degree-granting institution in Sudan.



Seminarians Document Partnerships in Malawi

Seminary of the Southwest MDiv. Seniors Eric Hungerford and Stephen Kidd spent the summer of 2009 in Malawi, exploring programs in the areas of healthcare, malaria prevention, agriculture, clean water projects, building projects, literacy programs, education, and evangelism. The goal of their *Evangelism for the 21st Century* grant was to research and document the effects of partner relationships. They discovered that “the relationships we build within our churches really can and do have profound effects around the world.”

Hungerford and Kidd conducted over forty individual interviews and are preparing a video to share the story of how partnerships within the Anglican Communion are supporting Gospel proclamation in Malawi. One such interview was with a woman who had received a micro-loan from the Diocese of Southern Malawi to raise pigs. Her pride was evident as she showed them her pigpen and explained that she had already repaid the loan. The seminarians explored and documented all aspects of the micro-loan program, interviewing American representatives from the parishes providing the seed money and the local program coordinator. The success of the partnerships goes beyond the aid provided, they attest; the partnerships “bear gifts for all those involved; in the form of new relationships with people of other cultures and situations, expanded perspective on worldwide problems and a more clearly articulated vision of what it looks like to truly be the church.”

The video will be shared widely within the SSW community and the Church. Through it, Hungerford and Kidd hope to raise awareness of the acute needs of Christians in Malawi and to encourage ongoing participation in programs such as the women’s literacy project, whose graduates are pictured below. Most importantly, they hope to share the deep connection between service, evangelism and discipleship that they perceived in the Church in Southern Malawi.



Stephen Kidd, the Rt. Rev. James Tengatenga, and Eric Hungerford



▲
Stephen Kidd and Eric Hungerford discuss future funding for the Women’s Literacy Program, with the Chairwoman of the Mother’s Union for the Central African Province.

◀
Graduation festivities for the Women’s Literacy Program, which has taught over 5,000 women in the past three years.

Evangelism for the 21st Century Grants

2010 – 2011 Calendar

Spring Cycle:

Applications Due: February 1, 2010
Notification: Mid-April
Disbursement: May 1, 2010 – August 30, 2011

Fall Cycle:

Applications Due: September 7, 2010
Notification: Mid-November
Disbursement: December 15, 2010 – March 31, 2012



EVANGELICAL EDUCATION SOCIETY OF THE PROTESTANT
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
P.O. Box 3674
Arlington, VA 22203

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Family Ministry

Beth Wyndham, Seminary of the Southwest, is using an Evangelism for the Twenty-first Century grant to develop a parish curriculum and retreat for family faith formation. She writes that, "through the retreat and curriculum, parents are encouraged and exposed to wondering and imagining along with their children. They are learning to be open by accepting their child's thoughts on faith and learning to offer their own thoughts without the fear of having to be an expert or whether or not they "should" feel or say something. A deeper relationship is formed through this openness to one another. It is as if a new triad has been formed between God, parents and child."

Download an Application at www.ees1862.org

Mexico

The Rev. Deborah Noonan, MDiv. '10, Berkeley Divinity School at Yale, spent eight weeks last summer living in Agua Prieta Sonora, Mexico, working with Episcopal Border Ministries and serving two parishes in the Diocese of Arizona. With Episcopal Border Ministries she participated in the planning for a new clinic in Mexico, including meeting with Mexican health officials, and provided pastoral care at a resource center for deported migrants. At St. Stephen's, Douglas and St. John's, Bisbee, she preached in Spanish and in English, organized a potluck dinner to bring together Spanish- and English-speaking congregations. She writes that she "discovered that I feel very much at home in the in-between place that is the border.



My experiences over the summer affirmed that I am called to be a bridge builder between these two cultures, and especially to create opportunities for Anglos to experience life on the other side of the border and to see the border from another perspective."