

The NEWS

• WOMEN from Page 5

Delaware) and Barbara Boxer (D-California) has been drafted and is ready for circulation, with an adaptation for anyone to send to her or his own representatives.

Other women are starting Beijing Circles, a method to facilitate prayer and discussion, in their churches and communities to start grassroots movements. Still others are making plans to bring about the Fifth World Women's Conference in 2010, which would bring thousands upon thousands of women together to share, learn and show our solidarity.

Many of us are writing articles and giving presentations in our congregations, communities and dioceses. We all continue to read, to learn and, most importantly, to keep spreading the word about the problems we all share and the ways we can make a difference. We stand together, united in mission, helping each other to bear our crosses.

As the Rev. Joyce Kariuki, an Anglican priest from Kenya, told us in one of her inspirational talks, it is good to cry when hearing about the suffering and needs of others, but tears alone are not enough; we must then get up and walk through our tears, joining hands with our sisters in prayer and in service.

Anita Sherman was one of two delegates from Southeast Florida to this year's UNCSW gathering. A graduate of American University with a BA in International Relations, she worked for two international health projects funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development. She is married to the Rev. Andrew J. Sherman, rector of St. Gregory's, Boca Raton, and is the mother of Jacob, 11, and Hannah, 4.

Southeast Florida says farewell to a diocesan "legend"

The Miami Herald described her as "a legend in the Episcopal Church."

Canon Verneka Antoinette Sturup Silva, who died Feb. 19 at age 87, left a legacy of leadership and "firsts."

Born Aug. 19, 1919, into a pioneer Bahamian family in Coconut Grove (Miami), she served in the Miami-Dade County Public Schools for 40 years, 20 as an assistant principal at Coral Gables Senior High. After she retired in 1986, the high school established a scholarship in her name, to be awarded to a black senior who enrolls in an historically black college.

She was a mainstay of many community and national organizations that promote education and social justice. In 1991-92 she chaired the Miami-Dade County Community Relations Board.

In her home parish, Christ Church, Coconut Grove, she served at various times as parish secretary, treasurer and

Episcopal Church Women (ECW) president, and then, like both her father and her brother, became senior warden.

She was one of the first women in the diocese to be licensed as lay reader/chalice bearer, and later as a Lay Eucharistic Minister.

She served as diocesan ECW president and ECW representative to the diocesan Commission on Ministry, and was the first black woman to be appointed secretary of Christian Education for the diocesan ECW. In 1994 the ECW named her their "Most Honored Woman."

In 1990, she was the first black woman elected to the Standing Committee of the diocese.

She served twice on the diocesan Executive Board.

She was a founding member and two-term president of the Theodore R. Gibson Chapter of the Union of Black Episcopalians (UBE), and was honored by the national UBE in 1995 for her service to the church, the community and the organization.

On Feb. 24, 2001, Silva became the first laywoman — and only the second layperson (diocesan Chancellor Emeritus Fred Stanton was

the first) — to be named an honorary canon of Trinity Cathedral.

Trinity's Dean Emeritus Donald W. Krickbaum recalled Silva as "a good friend and a wonderfully committed Christian and friend of the cathedral."

"One of my great privileges was to install her as a canon of Trinity Cathedral," he said.

More than 300 people — including three bishops: Frade, Ottley and Schofield — attended her funeral on Feb. 28 at Christ Church.

Fr. Bernard Griffith, rector of Christ Church, told the congregation, "Her influence was not spread thinly — wherever she went there was a significant presence."

"Many people in the community can say 'I am what I am because Canon Silva cared about me.'"

According to Silva's wishes — a request he said he "wouldn't dare" refuse — Bishop Leo Frade was the preacher for the service.

Frade reminded the congregation of the legacy of Silva and her generation: "Hers was a

generation of eyewitnesses that participated in a struggle that began to defeat segregation and discrimination... Verneka was also an instrument in breaking the prejudice and a multitude of barriers that women faced in our society. We owe her and her generation a debt of gratitude that we will never be able to pay unless we continue the struggle that they started."

He called Silva "a woman who always put the heavenly priorities in daily practice."

"...With unshakable confidence she held to her beliefs and changed a system that needed to be transformed both in our church and society."

"She was a silent helper that guided me through difficult situations and through tough times," he said.

He urged all who loved Silva to honor her by carrying on her work to "build a better church, a better Miami, a better America, a better world where there is room for all and where no person will be discriminated against or put down."

Silva is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Antoinette "Toni" and Frank Simmons and grandsons Brian and Mark.



Silva

Bishop Frade will lead Holy Land pilgrimage in January 2008

Bishop Leo Frade has announced that he is planning another pilgrimage to the Holy Land; the trip is scheduled for Jan. 15-29, 2008.

After his return from this year's pilgrimage the bishop said that he would like to make the trip an annual event.

The 2008 pilgrimage will include

visits to Jerusalem, Nazareth, Cana, Capernaum, Mt. Nebo, Jericho and other significant biblical sites. There will also be a day in Jordan and a day in the historic city of Petra.

In addition, pilgrims will have an opportunity to visit the Israel Museum, to attend services at St. George's Cathedral in Jerusalem, to

meet leaders of the Episcopal Church in the Holy Land and to have lunch in the home of a Palestinian family.

The cost is \$3,845 per person, double occupancy (additional \$595 for single accommodations); included in the cost is a \$200 tax-deductible donation to Our Little Roses Ministries.

A deposit of \$250 per person is due at the time of booking; the reservation deadline is Nov. 13.

For complete information and a reservation form, call Globe Travel, 305-823-3939.

A complete itinerary and a reservation form will also be posted at www.diocsef.org.

• PAINT from previous page

beyond bread delivery; improve church signage and lighting; improve property lighting; joint training for greeters and ushers; improve written communications for visitors; centralization of information to be disseminated to visitors with increased visibility as to where visitors should go for information; improvement of church website.... So far we have made the most progress on the website. Our new more user-friendly URL is stjoesweb.org. In addition, all our email addresses will have the same suffix. We are also working with a contractor on repairing some broken concrete pillars on our campus fencing that fronts the main road where visibility is highest...."

— St. Joseph's, Boynton Beach

Let us know how you're implementing your "Magnetic Church" inspirations — email the changes you made, and how they're working, to episcorat@aol.com. Your congregation's good ideas could be published in a future issue of The Net.

"PAINT SOMETHING"

• After "The Magnetic Church" workshop, Trinity Cathedral, Miami, literally painted something, adding bright color to the concrete columns of the perimeter fencing, the patio walls near the garden and even the door of the cathedral offices.

