



CHURCH

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Life



**"Occasionally,
I can think my
way into right
acting; more
often I need to
act my way into
right thinking."**

-page 4

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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A global community of over 80 million members in 44 regional and national member churches.

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Archbishop of Canterbury

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A community of more than 2 million members in 110 dioceses in the Americas and abroad.

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BISHOP OF OHIO

The Rt. Rev. Mark Hollingsworth, Jr.

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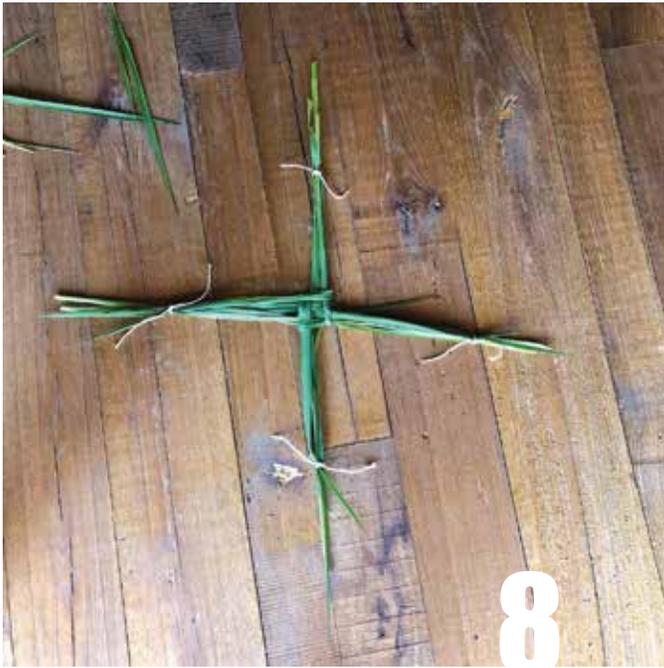
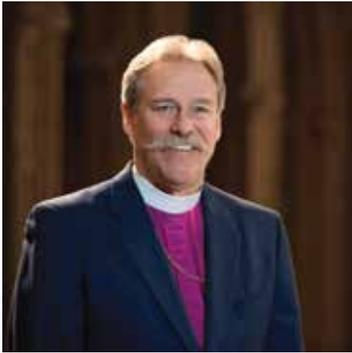


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A MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP

Calisthenics for the Soul

Recovery programs often respond to real-life challenges with what seem at first to be trite clichés. You have doubtless seen them on innumerable bumper stickers:

One day at a time.
Easy does it.
Live and let live.
First things first.
Keep it simple.
Let go and let God.

Trite they may seem, but true they are. They succinctly capture some of the essential practices that have brought hope, healing, and amendment of life to untold numbers of people struggling with addiction. They are equally good practices for anyone dealing with the day-to-day challenges of everyday life. They are not unlike the things we learned in kindergarten that serve us throughout our days: to share; to say you are sorry; to clean up; to stop, look, and listen; and my favorite, to take a nap.

One saying that is occasionally heard in recovery circles is “Fake it ’til you make it.” It garners some debate as to whether it is helpful or risks deception of self or others. Of course, it can certainly be abused, as when someone attends 12-step meetings to appease others but without any intention of working the steps and stopping their destructive behavior. On the other hand, it can encourage

one to stick with the program when motivation is elusive or the prospect of change feels overwhelming or hopeless. Sometimes, when we don’t believe ourselves capable of accomplishing something, we need just to begin, and in time we find that our thinking is changed.

The directions Jesus offered frequently addressed this same dynamic. Occasionally, I can think my way into right acting; more often I need to act my way into right thinking. That is the nature of disciplines and discipleship: we become by doing. Our hearts and minds are changed not by thinking, but by rolling up our sleeves. Especially when I am resistant, I need the disciplines of faith to lead me into healthy thinking and faithful being.

Take, for example, true forgiveness. Simon Peter knew well how hard it is to forgive – so well that he asked Jesus, “Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” Doubtless, he thought seven times was not just ample, but heroic, more than enough to prove his brother’s iniquity and his own virtue. But Jesus told him to try 490 times. “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.” I can forgive someone seven times, all the while indulging my resentment and privately keeping them in the box of disdain. After 490 times, however, there is a good chance that I will have changed, regardless of whether the other has.

ECW Updates

Jesus doesn't spend as much breath telling people what to *think* as he does suggesting what to *do*:

- Cast the net on the right side of the boat.
- If anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well.
- Feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, care for the sick, visit the imprisoned.
- Ask, seek, knock.
- When you pray, say...*thy* will be done.
- Take, eat.
- Come, follow me.
- Love God.
- Love your neighbor.
- Love your enemies.
- Love one another.

That is what it takes: doing. Over and over again. Discipleship is a matter of disciplines: repeated practices that change us, sometimes even against our own will. They are calisthenics for the soul. They make us fit to bring heaven to earth today, in this life. Jesus does not seem to be overly worried about what we think, but that we are doing what he asks of us. Perhaps this is because he knows from his own humanity that right actions will lead to right thinking.



The Rt. Rev. Mark Hollingsworth, Jr.
Bishop of Ohio

United Thank Offering

From the Episcopal Church national website: "The United Thank Offering (UTO) is a ministry of The Episcopal Church for the mission of the whole church."

UTO ingatherings finance UTO grants, several of which we have received in the Diocese of Ohio. We traditionally hold fall and spring ingatherings. For this fall we suggest a date closest to All Saints' Day. If your parish needs information or assistance with your UTO effort, please contact Diocesan UTO Coordinator Lorie Scheer at lscheer44145@gmail.com or 216.973.9893.

The 2022 UTO grant theme is Care of Creation: Turning love into action by caring for God's creation to protect the mosr vulnerable – who will bear the largest burden of pollution and climate change – through justice, advocacy, environmental reparations, and the development of formational materials.

Applications are already available on the national website at <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/grants-and-scholarships/united-thank-offering-grants/> and are due on February 4, 2022.

144th Annual Meeting: Save the Date!

The 144th Dioscesan ECW Annual Meeting will take place April 29-30 at Bellwether Farm.

Convention Nominations

Dear People of the Diocese of Ohio,

Each year, at this time, we are called to assess our skills and gifts and determine how we might support the work of the Diocese of Ohio. One of the ways that our ministries can grow, our spiritual life can evolve, and our commitment to serving Christ in all persons can continue is through service. It is through the acts of service that change occurs and we live into our baptismal vows.

You will find summaries of position descriptions for five diocesan governing bodies that further the work of ministry on the following page. Please prayerfully consider how you might serve at this level and encourage members of your parish and your mission area to submit their names for election at Diocesan Convention in November. You may certainly self-nominate or nominate another communicant with their permission.

The more detailed explanations for each position are found at dohio.org/nominations. If you have further questions, please contact Bill Powel at wpowel@dohio.org or Beth Bergstrom at bbergstrom@dohio.org.

We value your time and your participation in these ministries. Thank you for your consideration.

Your Diocese seeks nominations for the following positions:

- Diocesan Council: two lay and four clergy (two clergy for 3-year terms; one clergy for a 2-year unexpired term; one clergy for a one-year unexpired term) (Incumbents eligible to be re-elected for one additional term)
- Episcopal Community Services Development Council: three lay and one clergy (3-year term)
- Standing Committee: one lay and one clergy (4-year term)
- Diocesan Trustee: one lay or clergy (5-year term) (Incumbent eligible for re-election for one additional term)
- Regional Disciplinary Board: one clergy (3-year term, must be ordained at least 5 years)

All persons who serve in leadership roles in the diocese must take the anti-racism training offered by the diocese, Seeing the Face of Each Other, preferably early in their term of office.

Diocesan Nominating Committee Co-Chairs
Dianne Audrick Smith - St. Andrew's, Cleveland
Robert Clarke Brown - St. Paul's, Cleveland Heights



Job Description Overviews

Full descriptions can be found at dohio.org. Nominations can be submitted on the website and must be received by September 15 for inclusion in the convention handbook.

DIOCESAN COUNCIL

The Diocesan Council serves as an advisory group to the Bishop and the Diocesan staff on financial and other matters. Council oversees the development of the Diocese's operating fund budget and recommends the budget to Diocesan Convention for approval. The group also provides guidance and oversight for the Diocese between conventions as well as works in committees to support Diocesan staff and Diocesan ministries. Members of Council serve as liaisons to parishes of the Diocese. In 2020-2021, much of the work of Council has focused on anti-racism and exploring racial injustice throughout the church and the broader world.

EPISCOPAL COMMUNITY SERVICES

Episcopal Community Services (ECS) Development Council builds Episcopal identity through strategic grant making focused on outreach. ECS reviews proposals for Bishop's Annual Appeal funds awarded through ECS and oversees the resulting grant awards.

STANDING COMMITTEE

The Standing Committee serves as the Bishop's Council of Advice, bringing diocesan concerns to the Bishop's attention and responding to the Bishop's own thoughts and concerns. The committee also deals with property matters. All parish decisions to sell or encumber property must be approved by the Bishop and Standing Committee. This group gives consent to candidacy and ordination of deacons and priests and to the election of bishops in other dioceses of The Episcopal Church. The Standing Committee is also involved with disciplinary matters pertaining to clergy and designs and manages the search and election process when a new bishop is needed.

DIOCESAN TRUSTEES

The Diocesan Trustees, a group of five lay people and clergy, manage and have fiduciary responsibility for the Diocese's Joint Investment Fund (JIF) and Real Property of the Diocese. The Trustees meet quarterly with the Fund's investment advisors and evaluate their recommendations for the Fund regarding asset allocation, types of investments, and the spending policy. As needed, the Trustees work with the Bishop on the disposition of real estate and allocation of the proceeds.

REGIONAL DISCIPLINARY BOARD

If there is a case involving potential clergy misconduct, the Regional Disciplinary Board is the pool of individuals from which people are selected to serve as members of a conference or hearing panel. The current Title IV canons seek to provide for appropriate and transparent accountability when clergy are accused of having committed some sort of infraction or misconduct. It also seeks to be built upon a model of reconciliation and healing, as opposed to confrontation. Each of the six dioceses that participate in the Regional Disciplinary Board elect one lay and one clergy person to a three-year term.

Practices and Prayers of the Celtic Tradition

by the Rev. Percy Grant

*“You, God, have brought us to this thin place
Where earth and heaven embrace...”*

This is one of the prayers from the *Iona Abbey Worship Book* that was used at the opening worship of the Celtic Retreat held the first week of August at Bellwether Farm. During the gathering, the Rev. Sally Goodall guided us through a retreat of prayer and reflection using the practices and prayers of the Celtic Tradition and the Celtic use of nature and creation to bring the spiritual into concrete reality of their days. The participants brought their experience and understanding, plus their own favorite brand of Celtic people, from Ireland, Scotland or Wales, each different shades of the same belief in the palpable presence of God in the Creation.

Reflecting on the Celtic Saints, from Patrick to Alban to Aidan, looking for spiritual challengers and guides, time was taken for reflection on both their lives and our own. We came together to share and learn while going out into the nature of the farm to listen again for God's voice. In the afternoon, we looked at the way everyday tasks are taken into prayer and then there was time for writing prayers for our own everyday lives.

No study of Celtic religion would be complete without a little music and so in the evening we were joined by the wonderful Joanne Van Wormer and her granddaughter Hannah, led by the indefatigable Rev. Dr. Brian Wilbert. With Brian giving us the history behind each hymn and playing the violin, we sang beautiful old tunes with words written by modern Celtic musicians. It was a joyous evening.

Each retreat must end and one must journey home. Peregrination is the journey taken, perhaps literally, but certainly spiritually that leads one from where you are to where you belong, or home. In preparation for leaving, we wandered around Bellwether, each finding our own path, our own journey, reflecting on what we needed to do in our journey with God.

The Path of Right

My walk this day with God,
my walk this day with Christ,
My walk this day with Spirit,
The threefold all kindly: Ho! ho! ho! the threefold all kindly. *Carmina Gadelica*

Iona Abbey Worship Book, Wild Goose Publications, the individual contributors. Glasgow, 2016.
Carmina Gadelica Hymns and Incantations, collect Alexander Carmichael. Floris Books, Edinburgh, 1992.

Intergenerational Camp at Bellwether Farm

by the Rev. Anna Sutterisch

Even with trying to navigate the challenges of the coronavirus pandemic, we were so excited to be able to find a way to still offer a camp experience at Bellwether Farm this year. In addition to the variety of programming offered throughout the summer, we included two full weekends of Intergenerational Camp, an opportunity for “pods” of all ages to enjoy Bellwether Farm that were held in July.

“Pods” participated in traditional camp activities like fishing, nature arts and crafts, hiking, swimming, large group games, campfires, and making s’mores. Adults recalled their friendship bracelet skills to pass on to the next generation and children taught gaga ball to the adults. Instead of reaching for our phones, we learned to play together using basketballs, dodgeballs, beach balls, and kick balls. We also sang, worshipped, and prayed together, using body, mind, and spirit in some creative morning and nighttime services, and reflected on our common shared values.

One of the favorite activities was using giant slingshots to launch potatoes far and high across the farm. The first week, we cleared the fence over the sheep pasture—no small feat which required creativity, muscles, many people, and physics. The second week, we cleared the retention pond from the worship barn, and successfully avoided hitting the sculpture that graces the lawn in front of the barn.

The pinnacle of the weekends were a cooking competition hosted by Chef Lonny. Teams competed throughout the day to make it to the finals on Saturday night, with the rest of the campers creating a live studio audience. Chef Lonny stocked the mystery bags with some of the farm’s best produce, as well as surprise ingredients like Lucky Charms and ground goat meat (week one) and Hershey’s chocolate syrup and ramen noodles (week two). Surprisingly, all the teams were able to create delicious dishes—the competition was close.

Between the two weekends, 52 participants (including infants, toddlers, school-aged children, teens, young adults, parent-aged, and grandparent-aged) created a beautiful and trusting shared community. “Inner children” emerged from adults and young folks felt safe to share their voices and spirits in the community. There was even some celebratory dancing! Intergenerational Camp was an absolute success.



Learning and Playing the Ukulele

by the Rev. Percy Grant



June 26 was a lovely, warm day, and Bellwether Farm was at its best when a group of novice ukulele players gathered under the tree outside the Worship Barn. Each of us brought a ukulele. Some were new, some were gifts, and some had been bought years before with great intentions that gathered dust. We ranged in ages and musical knowledge, but each came with a willing heart. We were joined by Chelsie Cree, the director of the Ukulele Choir at Trinity, Toledo. Chelsie began at the very beginning by asking us if we could identify what kind of ukulele we had, explaining the difference between all the different varieties available. As a group, we mainly had concert or soprano ukuleles along with

one bass, making us feel a bit more like a gathering of musicians than the straggling beginners we were.

Chelsie patiently led us from that point, through chords and strumming and then back through chords and strumming until we were ready to play a few simple songs. As we gained experience and confidence, she encouraged us along, and before our new player fingers gave out, she handed us music! This little band of newbies proudly played “*Down by the Riverside*” and “*Amazing Grace*.” There is a special feeling being part of any group playing music together, but for those in the group who had started at the very beginning and were now playing with others, it was noteworthy.

It is true, of course, that we did take a break for lunch and enjoy Chef Lonny’s turkey wraps and wonderful chocolate chip cookies, and to take home vegetables from Farmer Kyle and the Bellwether Farm produce stand. However, the promise we made to each other at the end of the day was to practice and come together again to play and learn under the tree outside the worship barn.

THE 2021 BISHOP’S ANNUAL APPEAL

Every day, people in our diocese help to change the world by putting into action our shared commitment to love God, to love our neighbors, and to change the world.

The Bishop’s Annual Appeal supports parishes’ response to people in need, clergy and lay formation opportunities, youth leadership development, outreach ministries, and many other important initiatives that further God’s Mission to heal the world.

The Rt. Rev. Mark Hollingsworth, Jr.
Bishop of Ohio

MAIL YOUR GIFT

The Bishop’s Annual Appeal
Episcopal Diocese of Ohio
2230 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44115-2499

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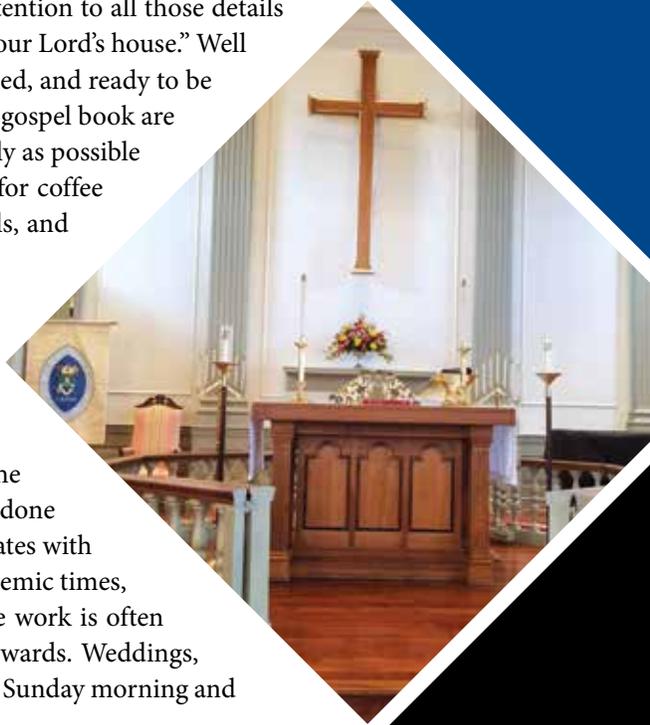
WHY DO WE DO THAT?

[Altar Guild]
by the Rev. Charlotte Collins Reed

My southern mother taught me that good hospitality begins long before the guests arrive. The table should be set and the meal as ready as possible by the appointed hour so the guests know that they are expected and feel welcome. While I rarely achieve that level of hospitality in my own home, the Altar Guild has made that hospitality possible in each church I have served. Christ Church Altar Guild member Dot Lang says, "Altar Guild truly is all about hospitality and attention to the details for the linens, the vessels for the serving of the body and blood of Christ, the candles, the hymn board, the readings, etc. It is hoped that the attention to all those details results in a reverent welcoming to any parish member or stranger who enters our Lord's house." Well before the service begins, the candles are ready, the vessels are cleaned, polished, and ready to be set on the altar, there is plenty of bread and wine available, the altar book and gospel book are marked, and the altar party can step in to begin a service that runs as smoothly as possible and looks effortless. Once the service is over and the people have departed for coffee hour, the process is reversed, reverently clearing the table, cleaning the vessels, and putting everything away so we are ready for the next service.

Christ Church Altar Guild member Marti Young says, "Altar Guild is a ministry of quiet service. It's behind the scenes, but a most critical act of service to the church. The objective is the same for any weekly or special service: to make each service as perfect as possible." The work is the sacred work of preparing the altar to greet the risen Lord as our guest and making the church ready for those who will be Jesus' guests. At Christ Church, that work is done by a team of about a dozen people. Each month there is a leader who coordinates with me and invites other Altar Guild members to help with a Sunday. In non-pandemic times, we have both a chapel and a church to prepare for Sunday morning and the work is often divided between those who set up for the services and those who clear afterwards. Weddings, funerals, Holy Week services, Christmas Eve, and other services fall outside of Sunday morning and are also tended to by the Altar Guild.

Why serve on your church's Altar Guild? Dot Lang's experience is this: "Altar Guild has been a ministry so near and dear to my heart because the quiet, reverent time spent in the care of the Lord's house and things have been some of my most spiritually connected moments ... and I have been so grateful for the fellowship and support that other AG members have extended to me over the years." Hospitality to the guests is at the heart of the ministry of the Altar Guild.



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November 12-13 205th Annual Convention

Save the Date

More information at
dohio.org/2021convention