

CHURCH

THE MAGAZINE OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF OHIO

Life

SPRING 2016

*"We are the clay, you are the
potter; we are all the work of
your hand."*

Isaiah 64:8



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

IN THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION

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

The Most Rev. Justin Welby
Archbishop of Canterbury

IN THE UNITED STATES

A community of more than 2 million members in 110 dioceses in the Americas and abroad. Established 1789.

The Most Rev. Michael Bruce Curry
Presiding Bishop

IN THE DIOCESE OF OHIO

A community of 16,000 baptized members in 86 parishes in the northern 48 counties of the State of Ohio. Established 1817.

BISHOP OF OHIO

The Rt. Rev. Mark Hollingsworth, Jr.

CHURCH LIFE MAGAZINE

E-mail: churchlife@dohio.org
The Rt. Rev. Mark Hollingsworth, Jr., *Publisher*
Jessica Rocha, *Editor & Designer*
Rita Rozell, *Assistant Designer*

©Church Life! Magazine (ISSN 8750-8613)
Published four times per year in
March, June, September, and December
by The Episcopal Diocese of Ohio
2230 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44115-2499

Postmaster: Send change of address to
Church Life! Magazine
2230 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44115

Periodicals postage paid at Cleveland, OH
and at additional mailing offices.
Member of the Episcopal Communicators.

IMPORTANT

All households of the Diocese of Ohio should receive Church Life! Magazine. If you are not currently receiving it, or if you need to change your delivery address, please contact the Communications office with your name, address, and parish.
Phone: 216.774.0459
E-mail: churchlife@dohio.org

CHURCH

THE MAGAZINE OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF OHIO

Life

SPRING 2016 • VOL. 120 NO. 1

CONTENTS

- 4 WINTER CONVOCATION**
Nearly 350 individuals attended 2016 Winter Convocation on January 29-30
- 6 Q&A WITH BROTHER BROWN**
The keynote speaker at Convocation; a priest and life-professed member of the Society of Saint John the Evangelist
- 7 HUMAN TRAFFICKING: MODERN-DAY SLAVERY**
Raising awareness and ways you can help
- 8 OLD MADE NEW AGAIN**
Barn from the late 1860's to be repurposed for the new camp and retreat site
- 11 REDISCOVERING PURPOSE**
St. Andrew's Church, Akron, reaches out to the community
- 12 SNAPSHOTS**
Stories of inspiration & ministry from around the diocese
- 14 WHAT IS HAPPENING?**
Youth respond to the question, "Why is it important to be on staff for Happening 2016?"
- 15 SHARING A COMMUNITY MEAL**
Bishop's Annual Appeal highlights "Family Night" at St. Luke's, Cleveland
- 15 CALLED TO PREACH**
The Diocese to offer the Lay Preacher's College twice a year; are you called?
- 16 SPIRIT AND LIFE - SPEAKER SERIES**
Offered at historic St. John's, Ohio City
- 17 GETTING TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS**
Testimonies from parishioners and attendees
- 18 ECW NEWS AND NOTES**
- 19 DIOCESAN CALENDAR, BISHOP'S VISITATIONS AND CLERGY CHANGES**

Cover photo by: Shelley Magyar

Contributing photographers: Ruth Martell, Kasey Vanden Bosch, and Shelley Magyar

An Easter Invitation

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

Without exception, the most commonly asked question during parish visitations, in congregational and vestry meetings alike, is, “How do we get more people to our church?”

The answer is, simply, “Invite them.”

Seriously. Just invite them.

You don’t need to explain the polity of The Episcopal Church or the Chicago/Lambeth Quadrilateral and its three-legged stool of Scripture, Tradition, and Reason. Nor must you explicate for them the structure of the Anglican Communion or the doctrine of the Trinity. You don’t need to persuade them with descriptions of how welcoming the congregation is, or how beautiful the music is, or how inspiring the sermons are. While those are things some may appreciate, they are not what people are yearning for. Rather, people are yearning for assurance of the possibility of good, even in difficult, fearful, or heartbreaking situations. They are yearning for hope, particularly when they feel helpless. They are yearning for companionship in the challenges and joys of everyday living, companionship with others who experience similar challenges and joys. They are yearning to be valued, yearning for a deeper confidence that they are loved and lovable. And while they might not articulate it this way, they are yearning for a more intimate experience of God and a greater confidence in God’s love for them.

So, invite them to the place where you get those things.

We know this is true because people tell us this every time they talk about what is going on in their own worlds and in the world around them. In everyday conversations, they tell us what they are happy about and what worries them, what they delight in and what causes them to be angry or resentful or afraid. And each time they speak of their children or their parents, of their health or their jobs, each time they discuss the economy or terrorism or the election cycle, even in passing, they reveal a yearning to be heard, to be affirmed, to find some company. We also know this is true because we do the same.

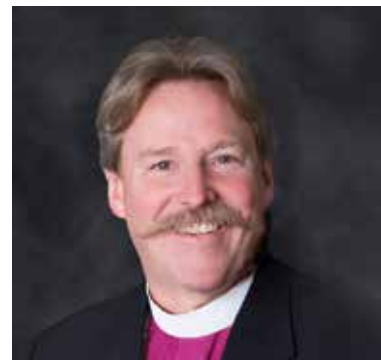
Every such conversation provides an opportunity for invitation. And the point of the invitation is not to meet our desire to fill the church. It is to meet their desire to be heard, to be valued, and to know that they matter.

So really invite them. Don’t just give them the church address or the service schedule. Give them what they yearn for: companionship, assurance, and a ride.

It is an easy three-fold response:

- 1) I know what that feels like.
- 2) It helps me to go to church.
- 3) I’ll pick you up.

The Rev. Brad Purdom, our Canon for Congregations, recently gave me some interesting data about inviting people to church. It comes from Thom S. Rainer, a respected researcher and writer in the Southern Baptist Church. The survey involved asking a large pool of “unchurched” people (those who do not attend a church) questions about being personally invited to go to church. This is what they found.



For starters, 80% of the people surveyed said they would come to church if invited. So, for 4 out of 5 people who don’t go to church, all they are waiting for is our invitation. “I know what that feels like. It helps me to go to church. I’ll pick you up.”

Secondly, 80% of them said they had never been invited in their entire lives. Imagine that. IN THEIR ENTIRE LIVES! We tend

to assume that everyone has been asked and is either already attending somewhere else or not interested, thank you very much. But the research shows otherwise, that 4 out of 5 people who don’t go to church have never been invited. They have never heard those four simple words, “I’ll pick you up.”

Finally, in a national study of actual invitations, 69% of those invited visited a church when the invitation included an offer to be accompanied on their first visit. Only 12% visited without an offer to be accompanied. These are convincing numbers:

7 out of 10 people who were personally invited to church went when the inviter offered to go with them. And only 1 in 10 went when left to go alone.

We can all do the math. And we can each make the invitation. The opportunities are constant. If you don’t recognize them, then pray for them. You won’t get more, because they already come all the time. But your prayer will make you become more and more aware of the countless opportunities that we each get daily.

As we approach Easter, consider the invitation that God is giving you daily to respond to the yearning of others and invite them to church. “I know what that feels like. It helps me to go to church. I’ll pick you up.” What better time to start than Easter Day?

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark".

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



Winter Convocation

Nearly 350 individuals attended 2016 Winter Convocation at Kalahari Resort and Convention Center.

The event began with the celebration of Holy Eucharist as a community on Friday night. Bishop Mark Hollingsworth was the celebrant and Br. Mark Brown preached. Br. Brown read the poem “The Summer Day” by Mary Oliver and challenged attendees to think about what they will do with their “one wild and precious life.”

On Saturday, Br. Brown gave his keynote address about Growing a Rule of Life, a series designed to help individuals and small groups grow into the fullness God desires for us through our relationships with God, with self, with others, and with creation.

Attendees then moved onto workshops with topics such as human trafficking, prayer writing, tech strategy, vestry and lay leadership, youth ministry, social media, pottery and prayer, music for smaller congregations, and creating a culture of philanthropy.

Lunch allowed members from across 72 parishes to mingle, connect with long-time friends, and make new friends. Children who had been participating in the children’s program of Growing a Rule of Life joined their families and brought another level of life and energy into the room.

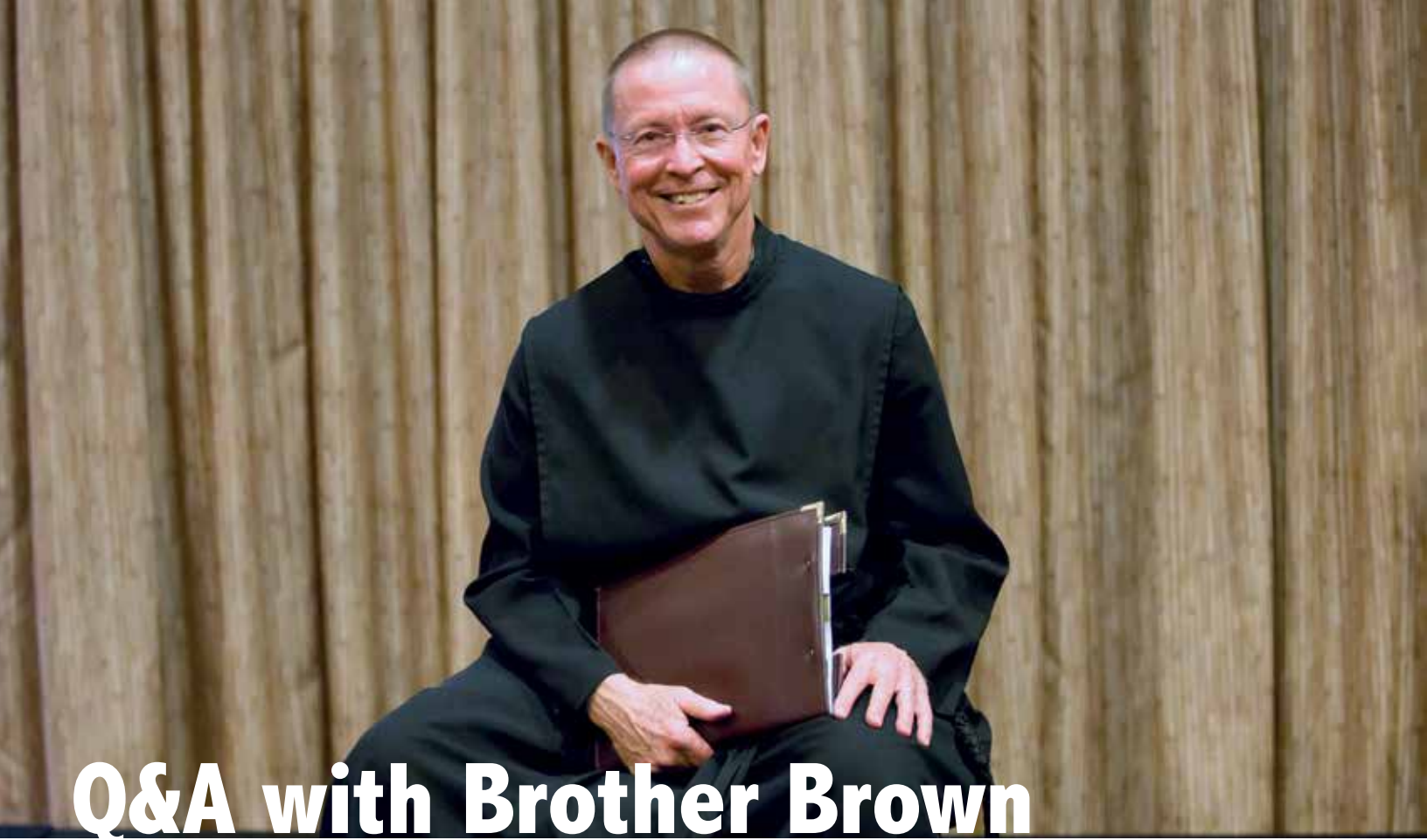
Table Topic Conversations allowed for further discussion about topics such as the Rule of Life program, parish community outreach that works, finding your spiritual direction, and more.

Participants enjoyed a weekend of community and reflection and left with hearts and minds full of goodness and gratitude.

We look forward to growing with you through the year and celebrating again at 2017 Winter Convocation!

[See more photos from Convocation on our Facebook page](#)





Q&A with Brother Brown

Br. Mark Brown, the keynote speaker at Convocation, is a priest and life-professed member of the Society of Saint John the Evangelist (SSJE). SSJE, along with Virginia Seminary, are the developers of "Growing a Rule of Life." His ministries include spiritual direction and leading retreats for individuals, groups, parishes and dioceses in the United States and Canada. Currently, Br. Mark is the Assistant Superior at SSJE.

Q: Do you think God works only through human agency in the world? Does God act on God's own?

A: God certainly acts on God's own in creating the natural order of the universe. And God, who made us in his own image and likeness as "creators," is working through human agency, generativity, and creativity in the world. The extent to which God "fiddles" with the natural order and physical laws to make things happen that wouldn't without "divine intervention," I think, remains a mystery.

Q: What is spiritual direction? What should a person be looking for in a spiritual director?

A: There are different schools of thought regarding spiritual direction. We at SSJE tend to think of it as a kind of conversation between the director and directee that provides the occasion for a clearer sense of direction to emerge for the directee, the focus usually being on his or her experience of prayer and/or sense of vocation. Generally speaking, the director's role in the process is 1) to provide a safe and reflective atmosphere, 2) to ask questions that keep the conversation focused and moving, and 3) to offer suggestions for further reflection or reading. The director, rather than "giving directions," usually adopts a stance of contemplative listening. It is considered a professional relationship, not a friendship; situations calling for therapeutic or psychiatric intervention are referred to appropriate mental health professionals. A person seeking direction should look for a person with discretion, experience, training, and a gift for this particular ministry.

Q: Why do you live in silence? I thought Christianity was very much about how we live with each other.

A: At the monastery we observe "the Greater Silence" between 9:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m. most days. Otherwise, we tend to be quiet, rather than silent, as a way to create an atmosphere conducive for reflection, prayer, and awareness of the presence of God. And, yes, Christianity is very much about how we live with each other—but no one needs to talk all the time! Sharing a contemplative silence can be a great way to build community.

Q: What is one important message you would want everyone reading this to know?

A: What an amazing thing it is to be human: created in God's image; incorporated into his living body; empowered by the Spirit to incarnate the love, light, grace, and truth of Christ; and invited to share eternity with him.

Human Trafficking: Modern-day Slavery

by Annie Zelm

Chances are, you've come into contact with a trafficking victim without knowing it.

"Traffickers use their victims' vulnerabilities not only to recruit them with promises of better circumstances, but also to keep them enslaved and prevent them from seeking help," said Carole Rendon, acting U.S. Attorney of the Northern Ohio District. Rendon was one of three panelists who presented on human trafficking at Winter Convocation.

Human trafficking is the act of recruiting, harboring, transporting or obtaining a person for labor services or a sex act by means of force, fraud or coercion.

The 2014 Global Slavery Index estimates 35.8 million men, women, and children are victims of modern-day slavery throughout the world today. That exceeds the 25-30 million people the United Nations estimates were sold throughout the transatlantic slave trade, which lasted 300 years.

Trafficking brought in an estimated \$32 billion in 2015—more than Google, Starbucks and Nike combined, according to Fight Slavery Now, an advocacy organization.

In 2015, law enforcement officials investigated 102 cases of human trafficking in Ohio, resulting in 104 arrests, according to the Ohio Attorney General's Office. Among them were four traffickers who had forced two men and eight children to work at Trillium Farms near Marion. The workers, who were being kept in trailers without heat or running water, were forced to work up to 12 hours a day cleaning cages and debeaking chickens.

The traffickers had recruited the children from Guatemala, promising their families they would give them safe passage, protection, and a good education.

"What they're fleeing is so awful that a mother would put her 9-year-old child into the hands of someone she doesn't know and let them go to the United States," Rendon said. "Better to let them try to have a future than to stay (in their home country), where you know what the future looks like."

Traffickers maintain their business by threatening, shaming and isolating victims. They often charge an upfront recruiting fee and then offer their victims a place to stay while taking a large portion of their paycheck in return.

"Victims—particularly those from other countries—may not even realize the arrangement is illegal," said Geneva Mason, Director of Human Resources for the Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA), which works in partnership with the Lucas County Human Trafficking Coalition. Those who

try to escape are hindered by threats, language barriers, or a reluctance to go to law enforcement because they fear arrest or deportation.

For these reasons, it can be difficult to spot a victim of trafficking. It's important to look beyond the surface.

Here are some signs that may indicate human trafficking is taking place:

- Evidence of sleeping at the workplace
- Giving scripted or rehearsed answers to basic questions, or allowing another person to answer for him or her
- Large groups of people working or living in a small space
- Signs of physical abuse or hunger
- Lack of identification or personal documents

"Pay attention to your surroundings and trust your instincts," Mason said. "If something doesn't seem right, keep watching. Engage in conversation and ask questions."

Although Ohio has made significant progress in prosecuting cases of human trafficking and connecting them with social service agencies, Rendon and Mason said more resources are needed to enable victims to make a full recovery.

The goal of the Lucas County Human Trafficking Coalition is to empower victims to not merely survive after being rescued, but to thrive. That often requires counseling, education, job training and temporary housing. These are all areas where the church can offer assistance.

ECW President Hilary Nerby challenged each of the attendees to go back to their parishes and professional organizations and find out what efforts are already underway that they could support.

"There is no community in the state of Ohio, no matter how small, that has not been impacted," Nerby said.

If your parish has ideas for how to prevent human trafficking or support victim assistance, email Hilary Nerby at hilarynerby@gmail.com.

What To Do When You Suspect Human Trafficking

- Call the National Human Trafficking Resource Center hotline at 1.888.373.7888
- Text BeFree (2333733) to be directed to specialized victim services
- Call your local police department
- Be prepared to describe details of the situation that led you to believe human trafficking was happening
- Provide names, addresses, phone numbers, license plate numbers, demographics and physical descriptions of the suspected trafficker or victim

Old Made New Again

by Katie Ong-Landini

Barn from the late 1860's to be repurposed for the new camp and retreat site



The camp and retreat center project team faced a dilemma: How do we create a space large enough to hold a large group for worship in the summer that is also flexible enough to host other types of events? Plus, it needs to fit the rural character of the landscape without overwhelming the other buildings at the center. Fortunately, the design team from GO Logic and Ann Kearsley Design found a creative approach: recycling an historic barn.

After some research, Tim Lock, the project architect, discovered a beautiful bank barn, built in 1863 in Galion, Ohio, and recently acquired by Ohio Valley Barn Salvage. The company, owned and operated by Randy Smith in Mt. Gilead, Ohio, dismantles old barns and reclaims the materials for use by contractors and homeowners across the country. This particular barn has an atypical frame that has a pair of double stack center tie beam systems that eliminate the need for central posts. This serves the Diocese's purposes well because it has a wide interior expanse to accommodate large groups of people.

The salvage crew will dismantle the timber framing immediately above the main floor to the roof and reassemble it on the Wakeman Township site at some point later this year. A general contractor will build a slab floor and add new siding and a roof, so that groups can use the space in inclement weather. However, the interior will retain the hand-hewn character of the timber-frame.

The design team is currently working with a structural engineer to determine the soundness of the building for our purposes at the new center. Stay tuned to the project website (<http://dohiocampandretreatfarm.com/>) for more news about the barn.

For details about camp and retreat ministry in the Diocese, contact Katie Ong-Landini, Project Director, at kong-landini@dohio.org or 216.774.0454.





Rediscovering Purpose

St. Andrew's, Akron, Reaches Out to the Community

You don't need to be a big parish to make an impact.

"We thought we were too small, too old, and didn't have enough money," said Ruth Martell, Outreach Coordinator at St. Andrew's, Akron. "The Bishop asked us what we thought our purpose was here in the community. He suggested we reach out to the neighborhood to find ways to help others."

St. Andrew's, Akron, started its initial outreach to the community in the summer of 2015. They reached out to the International Institute of Akron (IIA) which provides services to immigrants and refugees in Northeast Ohio. IIA was in need of additional space and is now using the classrooms at St. Andrew's as many as five days a week.

As the partnership with IIA grew, it was suggested that St. Andrew's could be a host site for the City of Akron's Summer Food Service Program. The City of Akron provided the food to serve breakfast and lunch throughout the summer to children under 18 and St. Andrew's provided the space and people-power. This led to ideas about what could be done to reach the children during the rest of the year.

One of the individuals assisting with the Summer Food Service Program, Kathy Saxon, is a teacher for the Akron Public Schools. Ruth and Kathy began to have conversations about creating a program that would provide a safe place for the children to learn life skills, build character, and be creative as well as provide some physical activity.

Ruth and Kathy developed and outlined a mentoring program, now called North Hill Community Mentoring Program (NHCMP), which is supported by a grant from the Diocese. Each session has a detailed program which focuses

on themes such as respect, responsibility, safety, honesty, and anti-bullying.

More than twenty children have been participating actively in the sessions which are held bi-monthly. The sessions are led by teachers Kathy Saxon and Terri Humm. Crafts are led by Judy Newhall, a retired art teacher who is a parishioner at St. Andrew's.

NHCMP has coordinated a variety of community educators and safety professionals to educate and inspire the children including representatives from First Tee, the City of Akron Police Department, and Art Sparks.

The neighborhood is comprised of numerous immigrants. Many of the children are English as a Second Language students and many of the parents cannot speak English. A partnership with bilingual students from North High School has been built to help overcome any of these language barriers.

"We are so excited and energized by these outreach programs," said Martell. "And we hope they will have a positive effect on our neighborhood."

Through outreach and relationship building St. Andrew's was able to find meaningful ways to serve their neighbors in need. And in doing so, they rediscovered their purpose:

Love God.

Love your neighbor.

Change the world.[®]



Snapshots: Stories of Inspiration &



At **Christ Church, Warren**, the Children's Chapel Service is one of the main focuses of the Sunday School program. During Children's Chapel, which occurs the fourth Sunday of each month, the Sunday School students have the opportunity to take an active role in the service: from readers, to preachers, to ushers, and greeters. This is a service that is for the children, led by the children. The children have the opportunity to learn about each part of the service (the lighting of the candles, homily, prayers of the people) and why it is important. The service is designed to show how each part leads to the Eucharist and to give Sunday school age children an opportunity to experience and understand what is going on in the adult service. During their time in the chapel, the students are taking part in a condensed liturgy of the word. In all, the service takes about twenty minutes with an opportunity for prayer and questions to take place. At the end of the service, the children return to the adult service for the Great Thanksgiving, where they sit together as a class, so they can be a part of what happens and receive communion together.



St. Peter's, Ashtabula, has added a new twist to their Hope and a Future Food Pantry and Dinner Program – a Crock-Pot Cooking Club. The 300 families typically served are invited to join in fun-filled conversation and a sampling of slow cooker recipes (often made from the ingredients that are available for distribution from the food pantry). Many individuals and families in the community do not have a kitchen. However, they often have access to an electrical outlet. Slow cookers allow them to prepare hot foods for their families at minimal costs. Participants and parishioners submit recipes which are then compiled and made into a low-cost cookbook. Each recipe is credited with the name of the person who submitted it, once again giving recognition to those who often are overlooked. Special thanks to Northeast Mission Area Council for their support in procuring slow cookers for those in need so that they can also participate and make home-cooked meals for their families.



In 2009, **St. Timothy's, Perrysburg**, opened Clothesline, a community clothing bank. Clothesline gives free, clean, gently-used clothing and shoes to men, women, and children in the community. The items are donated by parishioners and community members. A recent visitor shared, "I just wanted to thank you for having Clothesline. I am on my way into work, and just dropped off some clothes that no longer fit my children. My circumstances have greatly improved, but it wasn't like that just a few years ago. I was out of work. My girls and I were really struggling. And then I heard about Clothesline. We really needed the help. I brought my girls in, and we were all able to get clothes that I could not have afforded." Clothesline is open Fridays from 9:30-11:30 a.m., closed holidays.

Ministry From Around the Diocese

The Little Saints began praise dancing 8 years ago at **All Saints, Toledo**. Little Saints dances as a way to share joy, love and God with others. The original group was comprised of Jasmin Valentine, Shirell Nash, Aasiyah Taalib-Deen, Raqual Nash, Aneesah Taalib-Deen, Shiron Nash, Ronnie Nash, and Loretta Nash. After two years, three members joined the group: Jurry Taalib-Deen, Akeem Nash, and Tahlil Taalib-Deen. The first performance was at All Saints, followed by a performance at the Diocesan Convention. Little Saints has performed at various church extravaganzas and at different churches throughout the community as well as at other organizations such as The Elk's, Masonic Orders, and Central Catholic High School. The group continues to dance even with only four members left. The Little Saints work hard to put all their love and dedication in giving praise to God.



The St. Thomas Adult Recreation (STAR) Program serves seniors and adults living independently and in senior living facilities. STAR, currently in its 10th year at **St. Thomas, Berea**, provides a monthly musical program and free lunch to guests the first Wednesday of each month, September through June. Since St. Thomas is situated in the midst of Baldwin Wallace University (BW), most of the musical entertainment is provided by BW's Conservatory of Music students. There is also a program presented by Cuyahoga Community College's choir and two programs presented by local entertainers. Approximately 120 people attend the concert and lunch each month. The STAR program has been so well received in Berea and the surrounding communities that maximum capacity is reached at each event. STAR is very dependent on the many wonderful people that volunteer their time to help with the cooking, serving, set-up and clean up.



Church of Our Saviour, Akron, is a partner with Habitat for Humanity of Summit County through the Common Mission Coalition – a consortium of 12 churches, including **St. Paul's, Akron**. The churches of the Common Mission Coalition donate funds towards the house under construction, participate in the building process and/or feed the volunteers on build days. This year, Church of Our Saviour is extending its involvement by making quilts for the family of six who will live in the house that is currently being built.



What is Happening?

Happening is a spiritual weekend for youth which is led by youth, with the support of adults. The weekend is spent in a relaxed, informal, loving environment where youth can enjoy fellowship and share their faith. It's a time to get closer to God and to continue to grow in the Christian faith. The sacraments of the church also play an integral part throughout the weekend.

Why is it important to me to be on the staff for Happening 2016?

"It's important for me to be on staff because I know the impact that it has on so many youth. Happening was one of the most important weekends of my life and I want to ensure that other youth have a similar experience to mine."

-Richard Pryor, III,
Happening Rector, Christ Church, Kent

"Happening was such a pivotal experience for me that drew me closer to God and taught me about what it means to be in Christian community. Giving others the same opportunity for growth is one of the biggest pleasures of being on staff for Happening as well as the spiritual development it continues to build in me."

-Callie Swaim-Fox,
Happening Observing Rector, Christ Church, Shaker Heights

"I believe it is important for me to be on staff for Happening because I am able to help share the light of the Lord to others who only see the darkness. Happening staff is like another family that is still essential to my life."

- Erin Sample, Holy Gopher, St. Paul's Church, Maumee

"For me, being on staff for Happening is very important in so many ways. The main reason I am part of Happening staff is because I had a very moving and eye-opening experience when I participated. I wanted to share that experience with others and help make this year's Happening even better. Being on staff is also spiritually rewarding. Each participant comes with their own experiences and things they can teach everyone. Overall, being on Happening staff is important to me because I can help others grow in their faith while they are shining new light on the world that helps me grow."

-Brittany Close, Head Gopher, St. Patrick Church, Brunswick



Sharing a Communal Meal

Bishop's Annual Appeal

by Laura Hnat

Wednesday nights are Family Night at St. Luke's, Cleveland. The program brings together people from the neighborhood along with the church family for educational programs, children's activities, fellowship and a communal

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Luke 12:34

meal. Everyone who attends wears a name tag so they can get to know one another and no one feels out of place. These meals have become a fixture in the neighborhood, and are followed by programs as diverse as tax preparation courses, health screenings, bicycle maintenance classes, and basketball games in the gym. Children often make up more than half the people in attendance and many regulars come back each week.

The meal, which is served family style with table cloths, is modeled after a family Thanksgiving - joining together people from the neighborhood, congregants, and volunteers, some of whom come from other diocesan parishes like St. Bartholomew's, Mayfield Heights, and St. Paul's, Cleveland Heights.

The Rev. David Bargetzi, St. Luke's Rector, says, "It is a centering program for our congregation and is as much a

part of St. Luke's identity as our Sunday worship services. In fact, many of St. Luke's regular parishioners first came to the church for the communal meal."

Across the diocese, vital ministries like this are feeding the hungry, educating children and young adults, providing spiritual freedom for people who are in prison, giving hope to those who are struggling, and carrying out God's work in a myriad of other ways. The programs provide crucial help to those in need but more than that, they allow us to embody our Christian values and grow spiritually together.

Your support of the Bishop's Annual Appeal makes these programs possible. This year, the appeal will provide \$100,000 to Episcopal Community Services (ECS) to carry out these ministries. Funds raised through the appeal will also help to underwrite mission trips and leadership development for members of the diocese, provide summer internships for high school and college students, and help to train and place newly ordained clergy.

Pledge forms for the Bishop's annual appeal will be distributed through your parish. You may also give online at dohio.org/bishops-annual-appeal. For questions or more information, please contact Laura Hnat, Chief Development Officer, at 216.774.0463 or lhnat@dohio.org.

Called to Preach

The Lay Preachers' College began in 2012 as a way to support and equip people in lay ministries through education and community. Members of the church, whose gifts for preaching and leading worship have been recognized, are trained and then authorized to lead services of worship.

"I believe that some people are preachers, but not priests, and the church benefits from hearing them," said the Rev. Percy Grant, Canon for Ministry, who created the program.

The 2-day workshop provides hands-on training to teach individuals how to proclaim the Word of God in ways that will inspire people to follow Christ, bring them into relationship with God, and/or strengthen their relationship with God.

"Everyone wants to do a good job. But we can only learn so much by reading books and online resources. The Lay Preachers' College gives us the opportunity to try it - to

engage in preaching within a community of peers, and then to reflect together on that experience. This action/reflection process helps to make sense of the endless commentaries and texts and tailors the learning to where we most need work. The feedback offered is constructive and supportive and brings out the best in each person," said Kate Gillooly, licensed lay preacher.

Nearly 40 people attended in the Fall of 2015 - making it the largest session yet. Due to the high level of participation, The Lay Preachers' College will now be held twice a year. The next workshop is April 8-9 at Christ Church, Warren.

If you feel that you may have a gift for preaching and leading worship and want to explore this further, you are encouraged to speak with your rector and then attend this workshop. For more information, contact Betty Kondrich at 216.774.0466 or bkondrich@dohio.org.

Spirit and Life - Speaker Series

Listen, learn, experience, and talk with women and men whose spiritual understanding changes how they live their lives, how they create, and how they make a difference in our world.



2600 Church Avenue, Ohio City
Cleveland, OH 44109
www.stjohnsohiocity.org

April 3

Drumming as a Way to Peace: Baba Jubal Harris, drum-maker, performer, and teacher; 2015 Ohio Heritage Fellow in Material Culture

May 15

Placemaking: Marika Shiori-Clark and Graham Veysey, neighborhood redevelopers and entrepreneurs in Hingetown

June 26

Singing the Gospel: The Rev. George Baum, founder and principal of the 2014 John Lennon Gospel Songwriting Award-winning band, Lost and Found

July 24

Zen: Awakening to Our True Nature: The Ven. Shih Ying-Fa, abbot of the CloudWater Zendo, The Zen Center of Cleveland

July 31

Drama for All People: Raymond Bobgan, Executive Artistic Director, Cleveland Public Theater

August 28

Hearing and Sharing Music: Tom Welsh, Director of Performing Arts at the Cleveland Museum of Art

September 25

Speaking for Justice: Dr. Rhonda Williams, founder and Director of the Social Justice Institute at the Case Western Reserve University; inventor of the "monoWelog"

October 23

Dancing for Universal Peace: Subhana Cathy Graf, teacher and mentor in Northeast Ohio Dances of Universal Peace

All sessions held at St John's Church, Ohio City, at 4 pm.

Free and open to the public. No reservations required.

Sponsored as part of the spiritual outreach to Northeast Ohio by
The Episcopal Diocese of Ohio and St. John's Episcopal Church, Ohio City.

Getting to Know Your Neighbors

Profiles and Testimonies from the People in the Pews

Daniel Catalano

Trinity Church, Toledo

I was born and raised in Parma Heights, Ohio and attended All Saints Church. I was active in many of the ministries including youth group, Liturgy Helpers, and music. I gave my first sermon on Christmas morning when I was sixteen years old. After graduation, I attended the College of Wooster where I received my Bachelor of Music in Composition. During my studies, I was hired as a choral scholar at St. James Episcopal Church in Wooster. Within two years of singing in the choir, I was elected to serve on Vestry.

I graduated from the College of Wooster in May of 2014 and I was in search for music jobs all over the country. After a summer of applications, I ended right back in the Episcopal Church. I was graciously hired as the Associate for Music and Liturgy at Trinity Episcopal Church in downtown



Toledo. I am now entering my second year at Trinity and it has been an enriching experience.

I have always felt connected to the Episcopal Church. I have been very fortunate to have this community in my childhood, education, and employment. Being an Episcopalian means being open about conversations in spirituality. It means that I can read Holy Scripture and Darwin and know that both are different angles of God's goodness. It is not to say that God is an "Episcopal God," but this community allows me to see God with an endless perspective.

Seeing the love that is professed and done in this church is life-changing because I no longer have to say "God loves you, but only if you are straight, white, rich, or smart." Being an Episcopalian means being inclusive because God is inclusive. It means God loves you. No exceptions.

Barbara Canary

Trinity Cathedral

I was born and raised Catholic. When I divorced in 1993, things changed in their minds but not mine – I was not welcome. My beliefs stayed pretty constant – be kind, help those in need, and remember we are ALL beloved children of God, all loved by God in the same way. My search started for another community of faith. Through a couple of twists and turns I landed in the Lutheran Community, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. I was welcomed and loved. My spirit was renewed and awakened; I dove in head first.

Well, lo and behold, while enrolled in a spiritual growth class, I meet a crazy, fun, and wonderful man – John. He happened to be a Methodist pastor serving, struggling, and searching just like the rest of us. A pastor – who knew I would fall in love with a pastor!



His retirement in June from the United Methodist Church meant time to connect anew. I had visited the Brown Bag Concert Series through the years at Trinity Cathedral. I knew it to be a welcoming place for all; and I knew it was concerned about the City of Cleveland.

These are both important to me/us. I have been impressed that whether the Very Rev. Tracy Lind or the Rev. Kay Rackley is the celebrant, the invitation to communion is that all are welcome, and we mean it – "All are welcome."

We had friends who enjoyed worship at Trinity so it was one of the first places we visited. Summer worship had a welcoming balance. Fall was a time to connect with the mostly jazz service and the community forum. The solid sense of traditional faith with a progressive flavor has been a source of nurture and strength.

Do you or someone you know have a testimony to share? Email: jrocha@dohio.org. Subject: Getting to Know Your Neighbors.



ECW News *and* Notes

by Elaine Willis

139th ECW Annual Meeting

Please join us on Saturday, April 23 for the 139th ECW Annual Meeting at Christ Church, Oberlin. We have decided that this year's annual meeting will be comprised of short, informative, interactive sessions about activities in which our members are involved. We hope that these sessions will interest you and perhaps inspire some of you to get involved. YOU can make a difference as new ideas and approaches are what keep programs alive!

The Diocese of Ohio has commissions and committees that focus on various aspects of its work. In an effort to raise awareness about what these groups address and accomplish, we've invited active members to speak with us and address any questions or concerns. The President of ECW is one of three ex-officio members of Diocesan Council. ECW is also represented on a number of other committees including Commission on Domestic and Global Mission and Episcopal Community Services. Among our speakers will be an educator who works with children who have suffered from abuse and a representative from a group which is involved in a very successful prison ministry program.

This is truly meant to be an interactive program. If you are active in a community group or ministry and would like to present, please contact us. We still have space for more speakers. New additions will be included in the Diocesan weekly update. We will also be electing a new President, Vice-President/President elect, and Treasurer.

Details and registration information will be mailed mid-March. Please watch your mail, check the Diocesan website or speak with your parish ECW President after that time. The registration deadline is April 13.

ECW Province V Annual Meeting

The ECW Province V Annual Meeting will take place at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island, Michigan, from May 13-15. For this year's outreach project, we will be supporting the

Diocese of Northern Michigan in providing school supplies and backpacks to children in need. Northern Michigan is very high on the rural poverty scale and these items are greatly needed. Your generosity will be much appreciated.

Carlotta East Scholarship

Do you know an Episcopal woman who needs help paying for continuing education? If so, please let her know about the Carlotta East Scholarship. The Carlotta East Scholarship Fund was established to provide aid to Episcopal women who need scholarship aid to further their education, to upgrade their skills before returning to the work force or to take religious training. The usual grant for scholarship aid is approximately \$500.00 per applicant. Exceptions in amounts granted may be made by the Carlotta East Scholarship Committee. The deadline for applications is April 15. Applications may be found online at <http://www.dohio.org/episcopal-church-women-0>.

Mission Area News

The Cuyahoga Mission Area ECW will be meeting on March 26 from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at Christ Church, Shaker Heights, to assemble Easter flower tray favors for distribution to patients at Hospice of the Western Reserve, the Veteran's Administration Hospital, Metro General Skilled Nursing, and the Shaker Gardens Nursing Home. Please come and help – bring scissors and a smile!

The Summit Mission Area ECW has been making baby blankets for new babies at Akron General Hospital. They are also collecting new and gently-used bras for distribution to women in need and box tops for the Lilian Vallely School.

Does your parish or Mission Area ECW have a project you're particularly proud of, like a very successful fundraiser or an outreach project like these? We'd like to hear about it! Share it with the Diocese by emailing an article to Elaine Willis at ewillis1254@gmail.com or calling 440.930.5291.

Calendar | *full calendar at* DOHIO.ORG

MARCH 2

Fresh Start
Trinity Commons, Cleveland

MARCH 4-6

Happening 2016 Retreat
St. John's Church,
Cuyahoga Falls

MARCH 17

Diocesan Council
Trinity Commons, Cleveland

MARCH 21

Clergy Renewal of Vows
St. Timothy's Church,
Perrysburg

MARCH 22

Clergy Renewal of Vows
Trinity Commons, Cleveland

MARCH 22

Standing Committee
Trinity Commons, Cleveland

MARCH 25

Diocesan offices closed for
Good Friday

APRIL 5

Part-time Clergy Lunch
Trinity Commons, Cleveland

APRIL 8-9

Lay Preaching College
Christ Church, Warren

APRIL 13

Vibrant Faith Conference
St. Timothy's Church,
Perrysburg

APRIL 14

Vibrant Faith Conference
Trinity Commons, Cleveland

APRIL 18

Standing Committee
Trinity Commons, Cleveland

APRIL 23

ECW Annual Meeting
Christ Church, Oberlin

APRIL 29-MAY 1

Spring Youth Gathering
St. Peter's Church,
Ashtabula

MAY 3-5

Clergy Conference
The Lodge at Geneva State
Park, Geneva

MAY 13-15

ECW Province V Meeting
Grand Hotel
Mackinac Island, Michigan

MAY 16

Standing Committee
Trinity Commons, Cleveland

MAY 19

Diocesan Council
Trinity Commons, Cleveland

MAY 20

Ordination of Mike Floyd
St. Timothy's Church,
Perrysburg

MAY 21

Small Church Conference
TBD

MAY 30

Diocesan offices closed for
Memorial Day

JUNE 1

Fresh Start
Trinity Commons, Cleveland

JUNE 16

Diocesan Council
Trinity Commons, Cleveland

JUNE 20

Standing Committee
Trinity Commons, Cleveland

Bishops' Visitations

MARCH

6 Brunswick,
St. Patrick Church
Bishop Hollingsworth

20 Barberton,
St. Andrew's Church
Bishop Hollingsworth

APRIL

10 Gambier,
Harcourt Parish
Bishop Persell

10 Steubenville, St.
Stephen's Church
Bishop Williams

24 Maumee,
St. Paul's Church
Bishop Williams

24 Steubenville,
St. Paul's Church
Bishop Persell

MAY

1 Bay Village,
St. Barnabas' Church
Bishop Persell

8 Put-in-Bay,
St. Paul's Church
Bishop Persell

8 Shelby,
St. Mark's Church
Bishop Williams

22 Parma,
All Saints Church
Bishop Persell

JUNE

5 Alliance,
Trinity Church
Bishop Williams

12 Akron,
St. Paul's Church
Bishop Persell

Clergy Changes

- The Rev. Kathryn P. Clausen has been hired as extended supply priest at Trinity, Coshocton.
- The Rev. Beverly A. Moore-Tasy has resigned as priest-in-charge of All Saints, Toledo.
- The Rev. Jeremiah D. Williamson has resigned as rector of St. Andrew's in Toledo.

Episcopal Diocese of Ohio
2230 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44115-2499

Spring Youth Gathering (SYG)



St. Peter's Church
4901 Main Street
Ashtabula, Ohio

Spend a weekend with
youth from around the
diocese doing work in the
community.

Additional information available at www.dohio.org.

April 29 - May 1, 2016