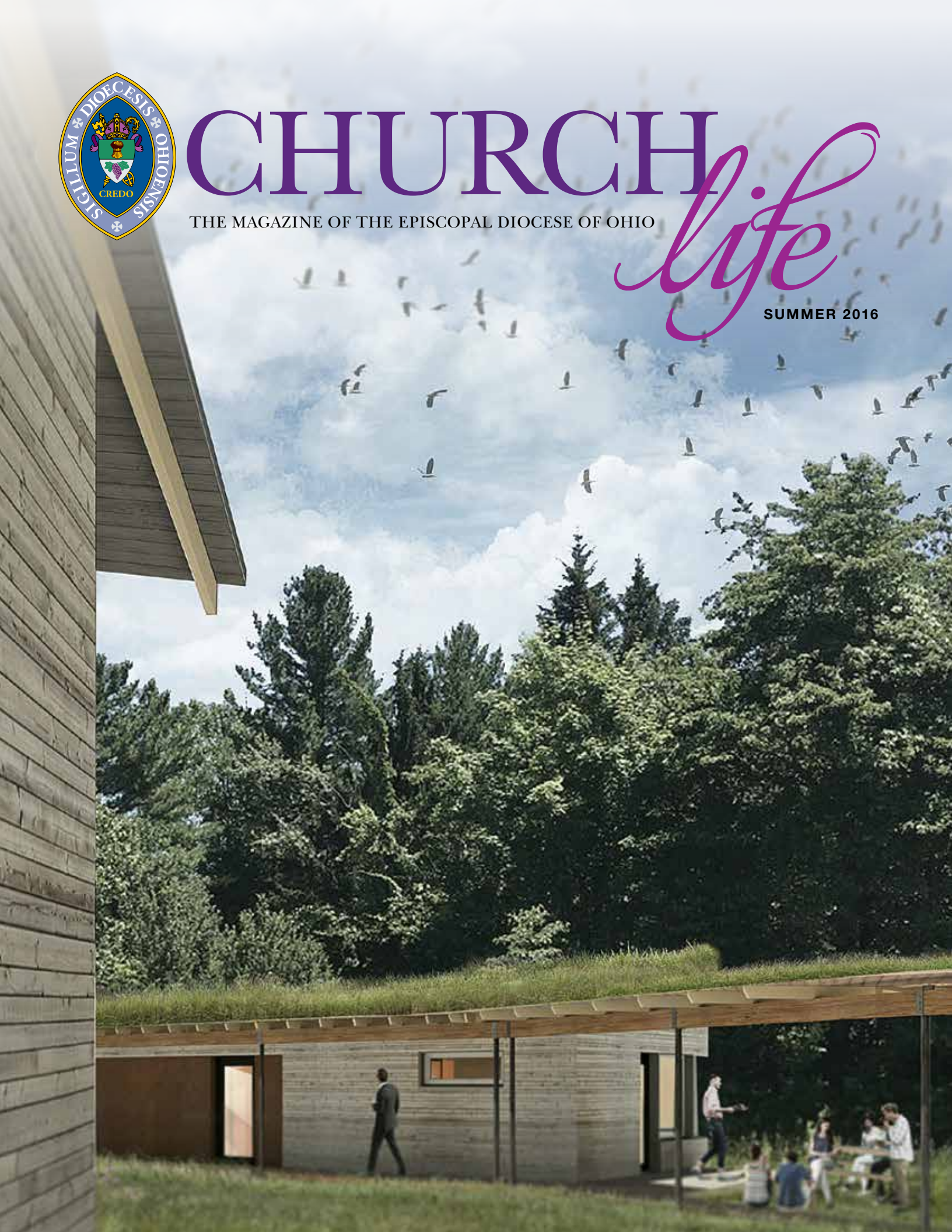


CHURCH

THE MAGAZINE OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF OHIO

Life

SUMMER 2016





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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

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SUMMER 2016 • VOL. 120 NO. 2

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Passing Places

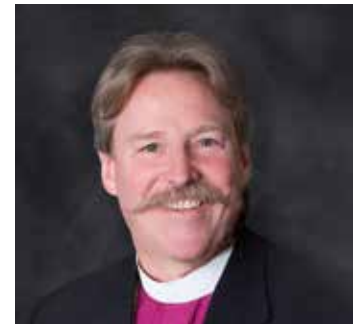
For the two-thirds of the world's population who drive on the right side of the road and from the left front seat of the car, driving in the United Kingdom presents its challenges. That, in combination with the unfamiliar etiquette of the "roundabout," might make a visitor think twice about additional rental car insurance coverage and updating her will.

In many parts of rural Scotland, particularly in places like the Shetland and Orkney Islands and the Outer Hebrides, it is more common than not to find oneself driving on single-lane roads. Not one in each direction. One lane, period. On these roadways it doesn't much matter whether you are used to driving on the right or on the left. There is only the one lane, not even a shoulder or a bike lane, and it is not any wider than the width of a car's wheelbase. Trucks travel them, even tractor-trailers, and take up every inch of space at an average speed of 50 mph. There is no alternative; these are the only roads between where you are and where you want to go. The roads often run along the edge of a cliff or above the ocean, and only sometimes have a guardrail. Oh, did I mention the sheep? In total disregard of the very occasional fence, sheep graze along both sides of the road and rest on the pavement while their lambs practice their parents' abject disinterest in oncoming vehicles.

Every so often along single-lane roads there are shallow, semi-circular pull-offs marked by square signs reading PASSING PLACE. They are located strategically, in view from both directions. When two drivers are heading toward each other, whoever reaches the Passing Place first stops and waits for the other to pass. Likewise, when one pulls up behind another wishing to pass, Passing Places provide a spot to pull over and let the other go along. There is just enough room for the vehicles to get by, so that the drivers come within only a few feet from one another. As they do, each invariably raises a few fingers off the wheel in salutation and smiles in recognition of the other. It is a momentary acknowledgement of the generosity and collaboration required to travel these narrow roads through the beautiful countryside of Scotland, and a personal recognition of the stranger as friend. Of course, on the byways of the United States, we have a similar communication between drivers. We employ a somewhat more economical wave, however, often

involving only one finger and unaccompanied by the smile.

One might wonder whether the Passing Place is a behavioral expression of a culture of mutual cooperation and taking time for the other, or the converse, that people who share single-lane roads are conditioned by that regular act of stopping and patiently making room for those going in another direction. Perhaps it is both. In either case, the Passing Place on single-lane roads provides a useful image.



The vocation to be Christian challenges us to make room for the other, even and perhaps especially one whose speed or direction may not be the same as ours. It requires, from time to time, that we pull over and invest some of our own time in someone else's progress. And it encourages in us a generosity of spirit, to wave and smile, to look into the other's eyes, to seize the opportunity to acknowledge, value, and affirm another of God's beloved.

Passing Places may also remind us how the spiritual life insists that we pull over and pay attention to the movement of the spirit of holiness as it travels with us along the road of life. Perhaps they offer a useful model for a patient attentiveness in our prayer, for slowing down and discerning how God is present in our lives. They invite us to stop, now and again, and recognize the Christ among us, whose saving sacrifice puts into sometimes stark perspective the direction and speed of our own lives.

I pray that this summer you will look for places in your lives to slow down and let both the other and the Wholly Other pass close by you. Be certain to open your hand in greeting, welcome them with a smile,

and look them in the eye, for they bear the affirmation of the God who loves you. No exceptions.

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark" followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line.

Spring Youth Gathering: We Are the Jesus Movement

by Steve Ashby

On the first weekend of May, middle and high schoolers (fourteen of whom were first time attendees) from throughout the Diocese of Ohio met at St. Peter's, Ashtabula for the Spring Youth Gathering. Excitement was obvious even during the opening introductions; the enthusiasm only heightened over the two days that followed. Opportunities for prayer, service, and fun challenged the youth to question what it means to be part of "the Jesus Movement" as youth of The Episcopal Church, as invited by Presiding Bishop Michael Curry.

To explore this theme they created plays, planted gardens, prayed, and played a variation of Capture the Flag called "Romans and Christians." For most of the youth, the best part of the weekend was not a game or a skit but an act of service: the youth prepared and served lunch to members of the local community. They shared the meal and engaged in conversation about their lives and connections with God. To quote one twelve-year-old, "It was like God was sitting next to the person and also sitting next to me." After all of this, there was deep reflection on what it means to be followers of Jesus.

As an adult observer, it was clear that our youth are wise, faithful, and compassionate. They aren't afraid of being on either side of tough questions or getting their hands dirty. In watching them, I feel hopeful not only that the future of the Church is in good hands, but also that these youth are a true symbol and witness to what it means to be "the Jesus Movement" today – to love and serve all in the name of Jesus.





Growing a Rule of Life

by the Rev. Brad Purdom

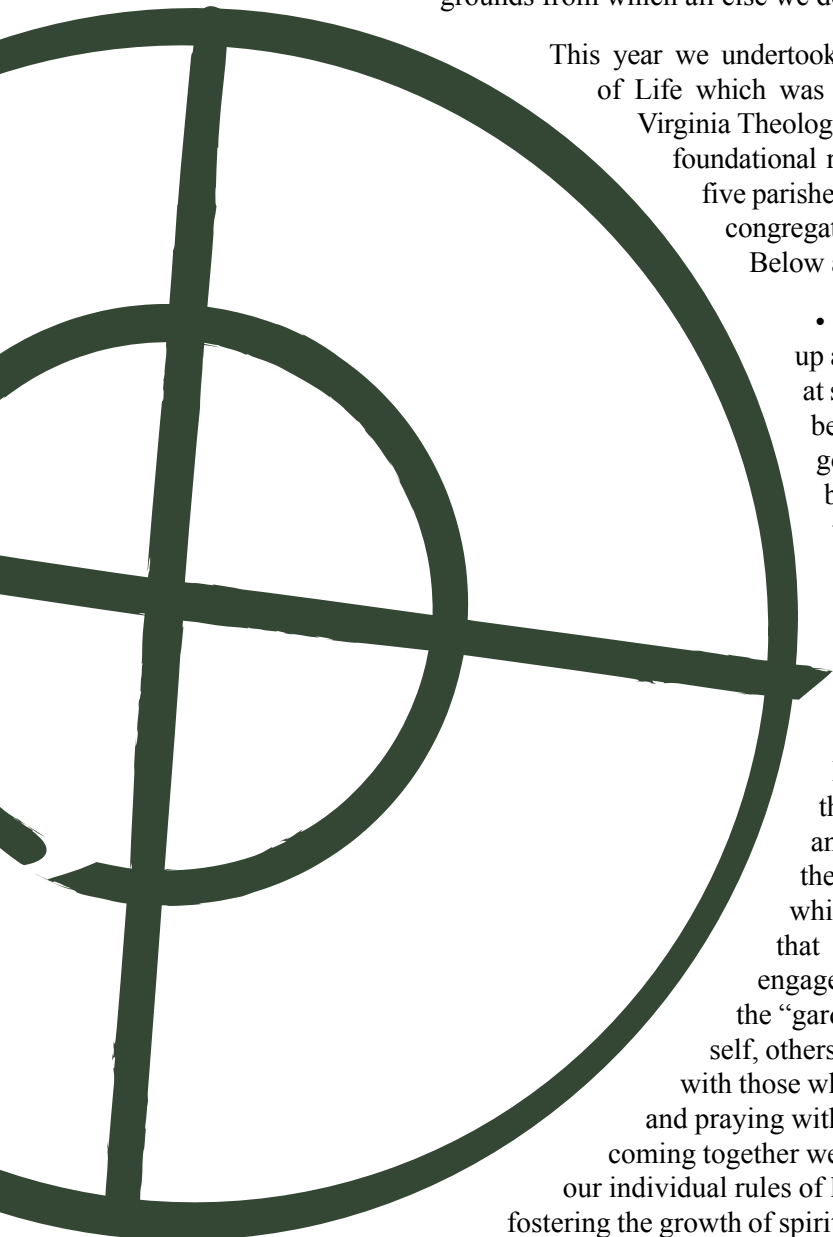
"The parish church's primary task is the spiritual formation of its people." - Michelle Heyne, In Your Holy Spirit, Traditional Spiritual Practices in Today's Christian Life

Is that right? What about worship? What about working for social justice? What about all the other things we do to join with God's mission in the world?

Of course all those and many more tasks and practices we undertake in our churches are very important. But I have become increasingly convinced that Heyne is correct: our primary task is the spiritual formation of our members. The reason is simple: our corporate and individual relationships with God are the deepest and most fertile grounds from which all else we do can possibly grow.

This year we undertook a diocesan-wide Lenten program called Growing a Rule of Life which was developed by the Society of St. John the Evangelist and Virginia Theological Seminary. The program was intended to help nurture our foundational relationships with God, self, each other, and creation. Sixty-five parishes purchased 4,000 participant books to offer members of their congregations. Churches engaged in the process in a variety of ways. Below are the experiences of three participating congregations:

- At Christ Church, Oberlin, we happily and thankfully signed up and joined members of our wider diocesan family in looking at spiritual rules of life and what a sustainable rule of life might be for us as individual members of the body of Christ. Our goal was to cast the seeds of this process as wide as we could by offering many small group opportunities. Based on those who expressed interest, we offered four different gatherings. On Sunday mornings, Robert and Barbara Pierce led sessions in between our two worship services; on Monday mornings, Barbara Pierce and I led a group at Kendal at Oberlin, a retirement community; on Mondays at noon, Midge Brittingham and I facilitated a group for Oberlin College students and faculty; and on Wednesday evenings, DeSales Harrison facilitated our fourth group. All told, forty-three members of our parish joined one of these groups and an additional five members worked through the material on their own. The process engaged those who participated in ways which surprised and delighted me. I don't know why I suspected that college students and senior saints would be hesitant to engage but I could not have been more wrong. The process gave us the "garden tools" to cultivate growth in our relationships with God, self, others, and creation. It made my heart glad to be a fellow gardener with those who walked this Lenten journey: watching the videos, reading and praying with the written material, doing the 'home work,' and faithfully coming together week by week to share with each other. In addition to growing our individual rules of life during Lent 2016, we also risked sharing our stories and fostering the growth of spiritual formation in ourselves and our community. This process was a great gift to us at Christ Church, in our diocese, and in the wider community of The Episcopal Church. - **The Rev. Brian Wilbert, Rector, Christ Church, Oberlin**



- At St. Paul's, Medina, our children participated each Sunday during Lent in Growing a Rule of Life. We started each morning by reading the children's book "The Song of Creation" with the children participating using the response of "Praise Him and Magnify Him Forever." We talked about rules: God's rules, our parents' rules, and why we need rules. We also discussed our God-given talents and made them into a picture to hang on our garden fence that we built as a class the first week. During week two, we discussed our relationships with God, God loves you, God made you, and God wants you to grow. The children drew self-portraits growing in God's garden as a flower or a tree and adding God's creation around them. These were then added to our fence. It was interesting to see how each child saw themselves in the garden. We continued to add to the fence, always discussing what we need to help it grow and what we need from God to help us grow. We explored our relationship with self through meditation and yoga in week three. During week four, we played a game by creating a web with yarn and saying who we felt most connected with and removed from amongst our family and friends. The following week, we talked about our relationship with nature and used the Godly Play story "The Parable of the Sower." This gave the children a concrete vision of planting our gardens in the good, rich soil that is needed along with sun and water. Then we planted flower seeds in little pots which would be planted around the church once they sprouted. In the final week, we talked about living in rhythm. Activities included making collages about what the children needed to grow and making self-portraits which included what they needed to grow physically and spiritually. The children could visit the "Tool Shed" if time allowed after our lessons to write prayers for themselves or someone they felt needed a prayer. These were written on post-its and attached to our fence. They could also write get well cards or notes of encouragement to someone in need or make prayer bracelets or friendship necklaces. This program was enjoyed by the children and Sunday School teachers. It really opened the children up to prayer and a sense of purpose. - **Mary Anthony, Director of Religious Education, St. Paul's, Medina**

- I began Growing a Rule of Life with high hopes and I wasn't disappointed. The deep, abiding, monastic spirituality and the poetic, natural metaphors that are the basis of the program are foundational and vocational pieces in my puzzle as well. I jumped at the chance to facilitate the six-week Lenten program in my home church of St. Alban's, Cleveland Heights. Before I could even plan it completely, Lent was upon us. And there we were, sitting in the cozy attic scriptorium with a space heater humming in the corner, asking each other the question, "How do we build a trellis in our daily, weekly, and monthly life that helps us to grow into the fullness God desires for us?" We thought we'd have to start from scratch. Surprisingly, blessedly, we found that the seeds were already there. Spending the next few weeks in that attic exploring our relationship with God, with ourselves, with others, and with creation, we saw the little things that we already do to grow into the fullness God desires for us, and not all of them "spiritual." Things like taking three breaths before we automatically say "yes" to a request, gifting a plant to someone once a week, or setting aside time to journal. Gathered together, and held before God in community, these small seeds grow into a Rule of Life. - **Josh Handley, St. Alban's, Cleveland Heights**

Here on the bishop's program staff, we also used Growing a Rule of Life for our shared Lenten practice. Each week we devote the first forty-five minutes or so of our staff meeting to Scripture, prayer, and spiritual conversation. During Lent, we committed to engage the daily videos from the Society of St. John the Evangelist (SSJE) and to spend that weekly time using the Growing a Rule of Life materials.

Our experience was similar to many I heard from congregations: like any other such program there were moments that spoke deeply to some of us and less so to others. Sometimes we followed the program exactly and sometimes hardly at all. We joked about hearing the bell ringing in our sleep. We wondered at times if we were going anywhere at all while at other times shared fresh and lasting insights. There were a couple of "aha" moments as far as the process itself went, one of which was right where you would hope it to be: at the very end. For us, all the reflection and conversation came into focus when we finally expressed it in terms of actual and personal Rules of Life. We found ourselves making individual commitments to do things like spend additional time in daily prayer, move away from damaging self-talk, engage in a personal ministry of service, seek to be more mindful of God's daily presence, and even move to organic lawn care.

We agreed to jointly revisit our rules periodically to encourage and support each other. Too often experiences like this end up as one-time, pleasant church events rather than genuine tools that move us toward deeper relationships with God and each other in Christ. Together, let's pray and act so that the work God's Spirit did in us this Lent ends up not only agreeable but transformative. The opening invitation from SSJE was, "Join us to dig deep and dream big about ways to live into a more abundant life with Christ." That's what we all want for ourselves and each other. Let's not only talk our rule but live it so that abundant life increasingly overflows through us into God's good world.

Steps to Discernment: Kelly's Journey

Born in California, Kelly Aughenbaugh spent the majority of her life growing up in the small town of Wooster, Ohio. There, Kelly attended St. James.

“My whole faith journey has been made up of small steps. I remember sitting in the pews [at St. James, Wooster] coloring. I then began acolyting, then I was a lector, and then a Eucharistic minister,” said Kelly. “With each step, I took a deeper step in my faith.”

After graduating from The College of Wooster, Kelly served with the nonprofit City Year for two years. During her third year in Cleveland, Kelly also worked as the youth leader at Christ Church, Hudson and attended Trinity Cathedral. Her work with others confirmed her call to help people in some form or fashion.

In April 2011 Kelly was invited to the Diocese of Ohio's Ministry Discernment Day by the Rev. Evelyn Manzella.

From that day, Kelly entered into the discernment process.

“I needed to discern what I wanted to do with my life and how I wanted to help others. I spent the next couple of years praying and meeting with people around the diocese. I thought there might be red flags along the way, but there weren't,” said Kelly. “The community really helped to encourage me. I never felt pressured. Just encouraged. I felt at peace. I felt this is where God is leading me.”

Kelly met with Bishop Hollingsworth in January 2012 to begin discussing her options. After a lot of conversation, thought, prayer, and a visitation to Church

Divinity School of the Pacific (CDSP), Kelly decided CDSP was the right fit for what she was seeking.

Based on Kelly's demonstrated exceptional leadership for the future church, Bishop Hollingsworth nominated Kelly as a recipient of the Bishop's Scholar Program, a program he had initiated during his time serving as a trustee for CDSP. Due to his recommendation and commitment to hire Kelly for a minimum of three years post-graduation, Kelly was granted one of ten full tuition scholarships to attend seminary in the Fall of 2013. She was one of two of the first Bishop's Scholars.

“I am so thankful to have the cost of classes covered,” stated Kelly. “It was such a blessing to go to school in a new and different place and still be able to come home and have a job ready. Even though I will miss many people at CDSP, while being away I realized how much I appreciate being close to family and friends in Ohio.”

Kelly graduated in May and received The Right Rev. Richard Millard Prize for Excellence in Preaching. On May 28, she was ordained a Transitional Deacon at St. James, Wooster.

Kelly's desire to help others has not changed over the course of her journey.

“I feel called to love, serve, and be in community with people. Talking with others about God, reading the Bible, and prayer are all things that God has grown in me to be passionate about. I feel called to serve God in this way; and to share God's love, forgiveness and grace with others because I have been on the receiving end and want others to know how much God cares for and loves them. When I see someone in need, I feel I connect with them on a different level – seeing them as a member of my family – and I care for them,” Kelly had stated during the discernment process.

Her driving force is very much the same today.

“I want to work ‘with’ the community. The base is just loving people and reminding them that God loves them and that they can have hope. And I want to encourage other people to do that in their life,” shared Kelly.

Kelly's next step in her journey will be participating in the new, upcoming curates program for the Diocese. She will be a curate at St. Peter's, Lakewood as well as serving at St. John's, Ohio City.



Planting for Tomorrow



The Planting for Tomorrow campaign, which raised \$19.1 million, is a stewardship and financial campaign created to provide the necessary resources to build the new camp and retreat center in Wakeman, Ohio. This facility will offer programming for children, teens, and adults; the focus will be on food and farm work and the interconnecting themes of environmental sustainability, social justice, and spiritual growth. Twenty-nine parishes from across the diocese participated in collaborative campaigns, committing 30% of funds to the camp and retreat center and keeping 70% for projects within the parishes. Below, three parishes share stories of some of the improvements they have successfully completed or are in the process of starting.

- Suspense was growing in the weeks before Christmas at Church of the Epiphany, Euclid. The only gift we wanted (apart from the baby Jesus) was our new lift working in time for Christmas Eve. We have a narrow ramp to get from the back parking lot into the church at sanctuary level. But to access the undercroft, a person would have to take the ramp back to their car, drive around the building to the other parking lot, and go down the steep driveway into the garage, in order to disembark on the lower level without using the stairs. Only one car would fit at one time. Our AA groups and other building users have found great relief to their knees and nerves in using the lift. At our community meal, the addition of a young lift attendant to ride people up and down has brought many a smile. The lift was not just about accessibility. It was an offering of dignity, hospitality, and welcome. The continuing dedication and generosity of parishioners has opened up our space in ways beyond the simple mechanics of getting up and down stairs. We have been richly blessed to work this campaign together. - **The Rev. Rosalind Hughes, Church of the Epiphany, Euclid**



- When diocesan leadership approached us in 2014 about a possible collaborative Planting for Tomorrow campaign, we saw a natural synergistic fit. We executed our campaign in the Spring of 2015 with a goal of \$2.5 million. We were overjoyed to secure pledges of almost \$2.7 million. This Spring, we embarked on the architectural and engineering planning process towards a groundbreaking sometime in the next two years. God willing, our new building will feature a large multi-purpose/chapel space, large multi-use spaces for use by St. Peter's Child Care Center and our parish programs, new office spaces for staff, and a roof-top garden/playground/outdoor gathering space. Further improvements will be made to the sanctuary, undercroft, and garden, especially where these connect old and new buildings. The entire facility will provide easy access for people with mobility issues. Extensive use of "green" technology, glass exteriors, and passive solar technologies are anticipated. - **The Rev. Keith Owen, St. Peter's, Lakewood**



- Bishop Hollingsworth visited St. Martin's, Chagrin Falls in early 2015. During the visit, he encouraged those present to consider participation in the Planting for Tomorrow campaign as a way of addressing the parish's debt. The vestry responded by setting a Planting for Tomorrow goal of \$150,000.00. The silent phase, led by me and wardens John Meade and Rick Wilson, began in May 2015. Soon the parish had pledges of almost \$260,000.00. The campaign embodied significant parish goals, including debt retirement, renewed impetus for regional outreach, bridge building with the diocese, restored morale and momentum in the transitional period, cohesion of the leadership, and an open door for wardens and clergy to reconnect with community around stewardship and mission. St. Martin's is delighted to say: Thanks be to God for the generosity of God's people and for our diocesan leadership. - **The Rev. John Cerrato, St. Martin's, Chagrin Falls**

Camp & Retreat: Marks of Sustainability

by **Katie Ong-Landini**

From the very beginning of envisioning the new camp and retreat center, Bishop Hollingsworth and the project team have worked to incorporate environmentally sustainable systems wherever possible. Areas of focus, originally articulated in the master plan, include: buildings and energy demands, water resources, site ecology and wildlife, construction materials, and agricultural production.

Our first task was to secure a design team that could create buildings of high environmental standards that also fit well within the site and sustain or improve the health of the encompassing ecosystems. The team chosen for the project had a proven history of developing projects that meet Passive House standards while incorporating ecologically based landscaping. Indeed, one of the distinctive features of the partnership between GO Logic and Ann Kearsley Design is that they work collaboratively from the beginning of each project. The landscape architect team guides much of the site construction to ensure that impact on the site is minimal and landscape elements are incorporated in all phases of the site construction.

For our project, the civil engineer, Jim Demboski from Environmental Design Group in Akron, and Ann Kearsley, the lead landscape architect, have jointly designed the stormwater systems to be visible and part of the aesthetic landscape. Features will include vegetated swales, which are rain gardens of beautiful and functional plants that collect storm water and slowly drain it back into the ground or to underground cisterns.

The cisterns are key to another strategy: to capture available water resources to use for agricultural and property management purposes. The Farm and Land Stewardship Committee, which includes Chet Bowling from St. Paul's, Norwalk and Mary Holmes from St. Christopher's-by-the-River, Gates Mills, is advising the engineer and landscape architects on how to provide water resources for the farm that make sense both environmentally and financially. The plan entails capturing rainwater from the farm buildings into an underground cistern that will store the water until it is needed for drip irrigation to the vegetable crop fields located behind the farmhouse. That water will also provide water for animals we house at the farm. Two existing wells and an old cistern will provide additional water resources for the farm.

The site contractor will install a second cistern closer to the new dining/meeting building. We will capture stormwater





coming from that building's roof and those of the adult retreat buildings for use in the children's garden that we plan to build near the kitchen entrance. That water may also be accessed for additional landscaping needs. In excessively dry weather, the farm team can access public water through the water line that will provide potable water to all the center's buildings.

With a tight landscaping budget, the design team is creatively using the existing landscape as the aesthetic landscape. This is exemplified in the summer camp area. They sited the sleeping cabins within the canopy of the white pine forest on the southern-most slope down to the Vermilion River valley. Looking through the windows at the back end of each cabin, campers will feel as if they are in a tree house, tucked into the shade and green of the woods. Not only will this keep the temperature comfortable in the cabins during the height of summer, but the position of the cabins on the slope of the hill will provide ventilation and moisture control.

In addition, the project team enlisted the services of Frank Lupino, the forester that advised us in the master planning process, to edit the dead and non-native species in the camp area, so that the design team could site each of the 16 cabins in places that would minimize disturbance of the tree canopy. Frank will continue to edit other areas of the property that the project team has identified as gathering spots. We can then continue to take advantage of existing trees and shrubbery that will define outdoor spaces and offer shade and texture.

A crucial aspect of green building is to incorporate environmentally sustainable and repurposed materials into new structures. The design team has long emphasized sourcing materials that meet a high standard, not only in manufacturing,



but also in longevity and maintenance. Much of the material the project team is considering is natural, non-toxic, and sourced responsibly. That includes reclaimed wood from local sources.

When the structural engineer examined the Galion barn timber frame that we are repurposing as a worship space, he recommended using the rest of the wood from the barn as finish material in other buildings. The project team will find someone local to mill the old boards for reuse. Other materials choices include: cement board for the new farmhouse, cedar siding on the camp cabins and the adult retreat buildings, steel roofs, and recycled plastic decking and boardwalks.

Finally, the project team wants to use the upcoming construction period to showcase sustainable agricultural practices, as farming will become the focus of the programming at the new center. This year, the Land and Farm Stewardship Committee is working with two farmers who will help us transition the farm fields from conventional soy and corn crops to certified organic vegetable and fruit production. We will also create capacity to raise farm animals. Shawn Belt, who previously worked at Ohio City Farms, the Cleveland Botanical Gardens' Green Corps farms, and Spice Acres in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, is working with the project team this season to guide some of that transition. Shawn has already pruned the apple trees in the orchard along State Route 60 and has tended to the grape vines that sit along the orchard's western edge. He will work with the project interns this summer on building and tending a couple of vegetable garden beds that the project team can use for hands-on demonstration activities throughout the summer. Intern Grace Gamble from St. Paul's, Cleveland Heights and a student at The College of Wooster, will develop a curriculum for using the gardens that the project team can easily adapt for future use. Shawn and Grace, with help from Natalia Perkins, a second intern from Christ Church, Shaker Heights and a student at Smith College, will plan activities using the garden for various events this summer and fall, including the groundbreaking ceremony now scheduled for Saturday, October 1 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

In addition, neighboring farmer Chris Hilaman will implement a cover crop planting plan, designed by Chet Bowling who operates an organic farm in Wellington. These plants will build important nutrients in the soil that we will need to support organic vegetable production and pastureland. In addition, they will prevent soil erosion, especially along the bluffs down to the river, and suppress weeds naturally. The seeds planted will include sorghum-sudangrass, alfalfa, buckwheat, and winter rye.

Stay tuned to the project website, dohiocampandretreatfarm.com, for more news about activities planned for the summer, as well as the progress of the construction. For details about camp and retreat ministry in the Diocese, contact Katie Ong-Landini, Project Director, at kong-landini@dohio.org and 216.774.0454.



Snapshots: Stories of Inspiration &



St. Paul's, Maumee has begun a puppet ministry. Puppeteers of all ages and abilities have presented three puppet skits this school year during worship services. The skits help to tell the stories of God's people using a different and engaging medium. Members of all ages love to see the puppet shows! When a date and a coordinating skit have been selected, the puppet team meets after regular Sunday services for 4-6 rehearsals to prepare. The performers may change with each skit depending on their availability. Several parishioners participate in the ministry by operating puppets, making backdrops and props, sewing clothing, or donating new and diverse puppets. Some of the senior high youth group members recently enjoyed performing the story of the disciples' reaction to the news that "Jesus rose!"



For eight years, **St. Paul's, Cleveland Heights**, Global Mission Action Group (GMAG) has sponsored its Baby Bundle Project in cooperation with Central American Medical Outreach (CAMO). Through the generosity of parishioners and friends, hundreds of mothers in poverty-stricken Honduras have received a Baby Bundle. Using fabric provided by GMAG, the women of the Marysville Reformatory for Women "Stitching Post" make receiving blankets and tiny kimonos. Donations of cloth diapers, diaper pins, soap, baby shampoo, and other baby supplies are collected from members of the parish. Members of **St. Timothy's, Massillon** and **St. Hubert's, Kirtland Hills** pitch in as well. Members of St. Paul's Eliza Backus Guild and GMAG assemble the Baby Bundles. They place the donated items inside the baby blankets, tightly roll them into bundles and secure them with diaper pins. After the bundles are blessed at the worship services, they are delivered to CAMO which makes the delivery to the new mothers in Honduras.



On April 27, **Christ Church, Shaker Heights** celebrated the rededication of the newly renovated steeple, known as "The White Spire." Originally dedicated in the late 1940s to honor the members of the parish that had died serving in the armed forces during WWII, the steeple had fallen into disrepair. The renovation of the White Spire is one part of the parish's contribution to the redevelopment of the Van Aken District in Shaker Heights, in whose heart the church property sits. The City of Shaker Heights is partnering with RMS Investment Corporation, the firm that owns the shopping center across the street from the church, to build a new mixed-use development with housing, retail, and office space. The plans for the church building include repurposing it as a performing arts center for the district. The next phases of the project will upgrade the facilities to host multiple performances throughout the year, while maintaining an active congregational life. The steeple is once again a beacon at the heart of the city.

Ministry From Around the Diocese

At **St. John's, Youngstown**, parishioners want to get to know their neighbors, to hear their stories and understand their lives. The goal is not to just be effective providers of charity, but to have the ability to engage in genuine relationships, especially with people who might consider themselves different from the “average parishioner.” One strategy has been a monthly women’s coffee, which occurs at the same time as the Red Door Food Pantry. Women from the neighborhood are invited into the parish's beautiful parlor for coffee and conversation. There are donuts and sometimes even homemade bakery. There are also goodie bags, like you might receive at a party. The women are invited to choose from a variety of offerings to fill their bags, not assuming what they need. The response has been transformational for everyone involved. Relationships and trust are growing. Sharing comes easier. Offering this hospitality has been a blessing!



St. John's, Ohio City celebrated the Great Vigil of Easter for the third consecutive year on Saturday, March 26. This church - without its own congregation - brought together five parishes from across the diocese as well as a number of community members to rejoice in the Lord's victory over death. The service began in the courtyard with the kindling of the new fire. More than 120 individuals renewed their baptismal vows that evening, including parishioners participating from **St. Barnabas, Bay Village; St. Peter's, Lakewood; St. Hubert's, Kirtland Hills; Church of the Ascension, Lakewood; and St. Luke's, Cleveland**. Bishop Hollingsworth was the celebrant. The Rev. Patricia Hanen was the preacher. There was a festive reception following the service in the newly refurbished parish hall.



Grace Church, Willoughby has recently become invigorated to reach out and connect with the community. Over the past year, Grace Church's new Evangelism Committee brought back the “Bakers and Takers” program which has welcomed 17 new individuals who now worship with the parish. When a visitor signs the guest book, arrangements are made to take a welcome bag to the person or family with information about Grace, along with a freshly baked loaf of bread. If they require a gluten-free option, they receive a plant instead. Grace's Pastoral Care Committee has also been revitalized and is helping to be Mother Rose Anne's eyes and ears. In the event of an illness or a pastoral emergency, the committee coordinates a “Loaves and Fishes” meal. The intention is to help the family or individual during their time of difficulty and to provide love and support from their parish family.



Love God. Love Your Neighbor. Change the World.®

by **Laura Hnat**

It's more than just a slogan. It is the way in which we in the Diocese of Ohio have chosen to live our lives as Christians: through prayer, through acts of kindness, and by paying it forward. By giving of yourself and by giving to others, you are changing the world.

Each year more than 650 families commit to making the world better by giving to the Bishop's Annual Appeal. Gifts to the appeal have a major impact across the diocese. The raised funds support a myriad of outreach programs in parishes and provide education and formation opportunities for clergy and lay people.

If you have not already made a gift, please consider making a gift today. Your generosity will change the world for the people it touches and it just may change your world as well.

For more information, please contact Laura Hnat, Chief Development Officer, at 216.774.0463 or lhnat@dohio.org.

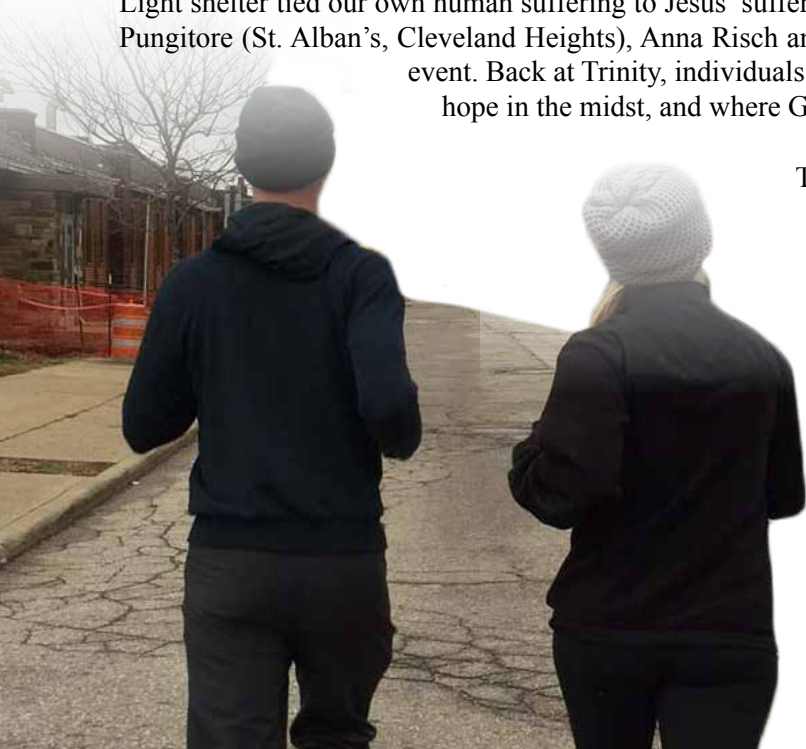
Stations of the Cross Run

by **Anna Risch**

On March 12, more than 30 friends and members of the Diocese of Ohio convened at Trinity Cathedral to walk or run the Stations of the Cross around Cleveland. Participants stopped to pray and reflect at nine stations that mark a social justice issue. Sites such as the Justice Center, St. John's Cathedral, Care Alliance Health Center, and Salvation Army at Harbor Light shelter tied our own human suffering to Jesus' suffering on his journey to the cross. Deacon Lydia Bailey, Kristen Pungitore (St. Alban's, Cleveland Heights), Anna Risch and Noah Sutter (Church of the Ascension, Lakewood) led the event. Back at Trinity, individuals reflected on what touched them personally, where they found hope in the midst, and where God might be calling them in response.

The event had a natural sense of community and participants expressed desire to gather again. The next outing, Stations of the Terrain, will occur on June 18 from 4:00-8:00 p.m. This time, the natural world will be the focus, the event will be held at the future camp and retreat center in Wakeman. Physical exercise (either trail running or hiking) will be combined with reflection and prayer. There will be a potluck supper to close. For those who wish, there will be the option to camp overnight and have morning Eucharist on Sunday.

Families, individuals, and friends are welcome to attend. Contact the Rev. Lydia Bailey at lbailey@lutheranmetro.org or 216.649.7723 with any questions or to RSVP.



Getting to Know Your Neighbors

Profiles and Testimonies from the People in the Pews

Amy Saylor (& Dennis Degnan)

Trinity Church, Toledo

No one was more surprised than I when we discovered the Episcopal Church. Frankly, it was one of the last churches on our list to try.

When we talked about what was important to us in a church, the top item on our list was a place where we could bring everyone we knew. I thought a church with a formal liturgy would be too uncomfortable for some of our “unchurched” friends.

So we kept trying different denominations and non-denominations hoping for a fit. While Christ



was central in all of them, there was always something tagged onto the gospel that excluded us or friends of ours.

Finally, as a last resort, we walked into Trinity one Sunday morning and knew we were home. Even though the liturgy was all new to me, the beautiful service which focused on the Eucharist touched every part of my body and soul. I’m not sure what I expected from the sermon, but was surprised to discover that I agreed with everything. My husband, who was raised Catholic, felt at home instantly. The best part is, everyone we know would be welcome. It turns out we may have been Episcopalian all along.

Allison Thompson

Church of the Ascension, Lakewood

I am a “cradle Episcopalian” who was christened in the same church in San Francisco as my two older brothers, father, and grandfather.

Despite my strong Episcopal ties, wearing my religious beliefs on my sleeve has never been part of my character; going to church was just something I did. In August 2007, I moved to Dallas, Texas to attend Southern Methodist University and was completely taken aback by the ferocious display of religion. Overwhelmed and often disgusted by the exclusivity, I only attended church when I went home to California.

Moving to Cleveland in August 2012 to participate in the Episcopal Service Corps completely re-defined my



tainted perspective on religion and made me question my passiveness towards my Episcopal heritage. There was no sudden beam of light, strike of lightning, or big booming voice that restored my diminished religious beliefs. Rather, it has been a slow compilation of people, places, events, and conversations that reformed my faith. From mopping the flooded basement at Church of the Ascension at midnight with my housemates to sitting around the lunch table with my colleagues and laughing, my faith has become deeply rooted in community, companionship, acceptance, and love.

The Diocese of Ohio showed me that faith does not have to be exclusive or judgmental. As I venture back down to the South for graduate school this fall, I hope to continue to embrace and share that God does love everyone... no exceptions.

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 Hilary Nerby

The 2016 ECW Annual Meeting is now a thing of the past! We had a full house at Christ Church, Oberlin on Saturday, April 23. Judging by the comments we received, it was a successful, busy meeting in spite of the fact we had no sound system.

The day began with a period of prayer and reflection in the Sanctuary under the guidance of the Rev. Nancy Roth. We learned about the history of worship in the church from our hymnals, starting with the plainsong used in early worship to today. We learned about the writers and composers of the hymns we sang and how circumstances impacted their works.

A board meeting was held to address the proposed 2016/17 budget, approve two resolutions (the first to renew an earlier Human Trafficking resolution and one to ask the State of Ohio to remove the tax on feminine hygiene products). We elected Barbara Jones (St. John's, Boardman) as the President Elect; Rose Ann Brennan (St. Luke's, Cleveland) as Treasurer; and Elaine Willis (St. Thomas, Berea) as Worship Chair.

We had three wonderful speakers throughout the day who spoke of different options for volunteering.

Ms. Beth Cardina, LSW, Summit County CASA/GAL program, gave us insight into the special role her volunteers play in the lives of vulnerable children. This program struck a chord with several of the attendees; we had one member who had volunteered with the program after her retirement.

Fred Fogle likened his work with the Ecumenical Prison Ministry as that of being a missionary. The success of this program is very evident in the low percentage of participants who re-offend.

Marjorie McDougle, using her own special needs classroom as an example, spoke about the pressing need for volunteers in classrooms. This is particularly essential in city school systems. As an example, at her school there are over 60 different nationalities represented, meaning that English is a second language for many of the children.

Throughout the day, we were honored to have Bishop and Mrs. Williams with us. At the request of members of the Board, the Bishop's presentation was focused on the Anglican Communion. He spoke of the separation from Rome and the way in which it evolved from Tudor times to today. He paid special attention to the devolved power that exists within the Communion as it has evolved into a worldwide community of individual national churches.

The bishop officiated at our worship service which incorporated the United Thank Offering ingathering, the blessing of items for the Christmas at Sea program, and the Installation of Officers. He was assisted by the Rev. Brian Wilbert and the Rev. Nancy Roth; the Rev. Jane Trager gave the Homily.

We extend our thanks to all those that attended and all those who supported us, especially the people of Christ Church. Special thanks goes to those in the kitchen who fed us well and cheerfully – always a must for Episcopalians!



Diocesan Calendar of Events

June

- 1 Fresh Start, Trinity Commons
- 16 Diocesan Council, Trinity Commons
- 18 Stations of the Terrain, Wakeman
- 20 Standing Committee, Trinity Commons
- 21 Interim Team Meeting, Trinity Commons
- 25 Title IV Training, Trinity Commons

July

- 4 Diocesan Offices Closed
- 9 Commission on Ministry, TBA
- 18 Standing Committee (if needed)
- 18-22 Diocesan Offices Closed

August

- 4-6 Education for Ministry Training, Loyola Retreat House, Clinton
- 15 Standing Committee (if needed)
- 27 Deacon Formation Retreat, Trinity Commons

September

- 5 Diocesan Offices Closed
- 8 Diocesan Council, Trinity Commons
- 13 Commission on Ministry, Trinity Commons
- 19 Standing Committee, Trinity Commons
- 30-Oct 2 Diocesan Youth Event

October

- 1 Groundbreaking Ceremony, Wakeman
- 4 Clergy Day, TBD
- 8 Clergy and Vestry Leadership Conference, St. Andrew's, Elyria
- 14-16 Deacon Formation Retreat, River's Edge, Cleveland
- 15 Commission for Global and Domestic Mission Outreach Fair, Our Saviour, Akron
- 15 Ministry Discernment Day, TBA
- 17 Standing Committee, Trinity Commons
- 20 Diocesan Council, Trinity Commons
- 28-29 Lay Preaching College, Trinity, Toledo

Bishops' Visitations

June

- 5 Trinity, Alliance – Williams
- 12 St. Paul's, Akron – Williams

September

- 4 St. Luke's, Chardon – Hollingsworth
- 11 Christ Church, Geneva – Williams
- 25 St. Peter's, Lakewood – Persell
- 25 St. Mark's, Sidney – Hollingsworth

October

- 2 St. Michael's in the Hills, Toledo – Hollingsworth
- 2 St. John the Baptist's, Bowling Green – Persell
- 9 St. John's, Cuyahoga Falls – Williams
- 9 St. Paul's, Marion – Hollingsworth
- 16 St. Paul's, Canton – Persell
- 23 St. Philip's, Akron – Hollingsworth
- 23 St. Timothy's, Perrysburg – Williams
- 23 St. Augustine's, Youngstown – Persell
- 30 St. Paul's, Medina – Hollingsworth

Clergy Changes

- The Rev. John A. Drymon will begin as rector of Trinity, Findlay, on June 1, 2016.
- The Rev. Charlotte C. Reed has been hired as rector by Christ Church, Hudson, as of May 1, 2016.
- The Rev. Stephen R. Sedgwick has resigned as interim rector of St. Thomas, Berea, and is retiring to North Carolina.



On April 5, 2016, the Right Reverend Arthur B. Williams, Jr., Assisting Bishop in the Diocese of Ohio, ordained Michael S. Floyd to the sacred order of priests in Christ's One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church at Christ Church, Huron.

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