



Church Life!

The Magazine of the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio

SPRING 2010



What's Inside?

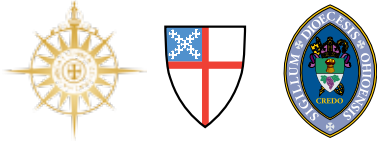
- Youth Sample a Night of Homelessness
- Each of Us Can Change the World
- Publicity Isn't a Dirty Word
- A Measure of Health: Adult Baptisms
- Camp and Conference Ministry

ChurchLife!

The Magazine of the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio

Vol. 114, No. 1, Spring 2010

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. Rowan Williams,
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. Katharine Jefferts Schori,
Presiding Bishop

In the Diocese of Ohio

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Established 1817.

Bishop of Ohio

The Rt. Rev. Mark Hollingsworth, Jr.

ChurchLife!

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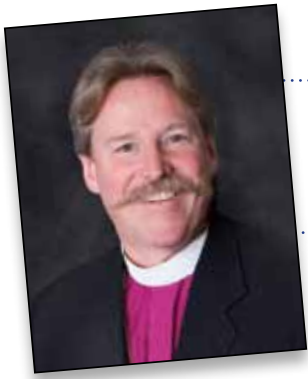
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Front Cover: Gertrude Wilson, St. Andrew's, Cleveland, conducting the Absalom Jones Celebration Choir.

Photo by Chris Holley-Starling



THE HELPLESSNESS OF GOD

AS OUR OLDER TWO CHILDREN HAVE GROWN INTO young adults, I have increasingly come to face the helplessness of parenthood. I used to be able to do so much more. From most threats and dangers I could protect them. The majority of disappointments I could heal with a hug, a kiss, or a distraction. So much of what life presented them with had to go through Sue or me, in one way or another. We could make so much happen or not happen. But as our children have progressed through adolescence and into adulthood, we seem to have regressed in our ability to spare them hurt or assure their happiness, to keep them secure or protect their hearts.

It is not easy to settle for this helplessness. I am a dad, not a spectator. Yet even the companionship I yearn to give is limited by distance, time, and the reality of their individuation. I can only imagine how this must be for parents who have endured the agony of a child predeceasing them. In my escalating powerlessness, often the most I can do is to offer compassion, suggestion, possibility, alternative perspective, or encouragement toward something new. And, doubtless, the most important thing I can do is pray.

So I do. I pray for each of them in the particular challenges of being themselves as they grow into the autonomy of adulthood. I pray for healing when they are hurt, protection when they are at risk, moderation in their excitement, caution in their adventure, courage when they are challenged, and gratitude in their joy.

And I pray for myself. I pray that I may come to an acceptance of this increasing helplessness, an acceptance that perhaps may most help me to help them. I pray that I might recognize new ways to be present to them and new

ways to present my unbounded love for them, no matter what their current situations. I pray for increased and appropriate trust—in them, in their peers, teachers and mentors, in the communities they have chosen, and in God.

My prayer for a deepening trust in God, especially in response to my growing sense of helplessness toward these treasured children, has led me to an unexpected revelation of what I can only describe as the helplessness of God. In the receptive quiet that follows the petitions and intercessions of a parent seemingly powerless over the life challenges of his children, I am presented with a tangible empathy. It is so clear that it has taken on words,

as sometimes happens when the ears of my heart are open enough. And the words are “I understand.” “I know well that same helplessness.” “That is how I relate to all of my precious children.”

There is both comfort and challenge in this. I am comforted by the knowledge that I am not alone in this helplessness, and that perhaps the godliness I seek in my own life comes through reckoning with that very helplessness and

learning to respond as God does, not in the capacity to spare the beloved the difficult and painful circumstances of life, but with an abundance of compassion and endless possibilities for goodness. It helps me make some earthly sense of a world in which hundreds of thousands are killed, injured, and left homeless by earthquake, with no power stepping into spare them, and to find some divine meaning in the global response of millions in contributions of aid, relief, and prayer, a response that I can only understand to be a manifestation of godly love. There is comfort in the notion that if this is the way God engages, then it may be what God offers and expects of me.

“I am helped to understand my own parental helplessness and the responses to which God seems always to be leading me: compassion, suggestion, possibility, encouragement, and companionship through prayer—the things of love.”

The challenge is, of course, to live up to it, to trust that it is enough, to trust that it is holy.

Particularly during Holy Week's transition from Lent into Easter, I am reminded of the language of parenthood that Jesus uses in describing God's relationship to him and to all of creation. Too often I allow myself to hear the many "your father who is in heaven" passages with a self-infantilizing ear, imagining a parent-God who can and will make all things right and safe and secure. I forget the story of the adult prodigal whose father treated him and his brother in the same way, not changing who they

were or the contexts that left both so lost in themselves, but by embracing them with his disarming love and offering each a new perspective and an invitation to new life with him.

As Jesus makes his way to Jerusalem and to what we know from this side of the empty tomb will be his death, I am profoundly confronted by the helplessness of an omnipotent God, whose own adult child is at the mercy of the life God shares with us through him, and whose power is not that of intervening in its course toward death, but of providing something new in its wake. In Jesus' crucifixion we are taken from "My

God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" through "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do," to the bold truth of resurrection: that death does not end in its own finality, but is met with new life. "He is not here; he has risen!"

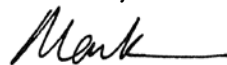
Through God's action and inaction during the Paschal Triduum, the three most holy days from the evening of Maundy Thursday through evening of Easter Day, I am helped to understand my own parental helplessness and the responses to which God seems always to be leading me: compassion, suggestion, possibility, encouragement, and companionship through prayer—the things of love.

Of course, God is not helpless. And neither, in truth, are we. But God does seem to live by the same rules of creation that direct us. One of these is that we are not able to change or control many of the things we most desperately want to in the lives of those, known and unknown, for whom our hearts ache. Yet, as with God's, our power is in our weakness. It is the power not of manipulation and control, but of love. It is the power of a love so strong it has the ability seemingly to move mountains—mountains of disappointment, anger, loss, and grief; mountains of pride, resentment, envy, and greed; mountains of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression; mountains of helplessness, isolation, inadequacy, and despair—not by removing them, but by guiding us through them into healing pathways of new life.

Thus does the road to Golgotha lead always into the road to Emmaus.

It is a privilege, as ever, to travel that road with you.

Gratefully,



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

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YOUTH SAMPLE A NIGHT OF HOMELESSNESS

BY SARAH A. CART

“And Jesus said to him, ‘Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.’”

Matthew 8.20

SIMILAR TO WALKING THE PROVERBIAL MILE IN ANOTHER’S shoes, this winter, 18 of our diocesan youth chose to spend a cold night in a churchyard on a busy street trying to sleep in what some of our neighbors have no choice but to consider home: a cardboard box.

Their purpose was to educate themselves, raise awareness and money, and make a difference.

Fourteen youth from St. Peter’s, Lakewood, and four from St. Paul’s, Medina, gathered on Cleveland’s west side on a Saturday afternoon in late January and stuck together through Sunday morning for the annual Homelessness Awareness Sleep-Out on St. Peter’s busy Detroit Avenue frontage. Under the guidance of five adult chaperones (three youth group leaders and two dads, “so there would always be an awake male” explained one youth group director), the group of 10- to 18-year-olds, grades five through 12, experienced a small taste of the desperation and frustration of homelessness. At the same time, they proved to be a visible demonstration of that condition for St. Peter’s parishioners and the larger community.

The youth service project was first sponsored by the Lakewood Congregational Church (directly across Detroit Avenue from St. Peter’s) five years ago, and Trinity Lutheran from down the street has also taken part in the past. In its present incarnation, the young people meet beforehand with a social worker to talk through what happens when people fall through the cracks; how bad luck, bad timing and unfortunate circumstances can result in an individual’s (or a family’s) loss of shelter and a safe place to live; how homelessness is not a fate reserved solely for bums and drug addicts.

After their night out, participants are debriefed and discuss what the experience was like, what they felt, and what they were thinking as darkness fell and they



St. Peter’s, Lakewood, youth group members worked into the night with their friends to collect monies from passersby in Lakewood to benefit a local homeless shelter.

were passed over or ignored by pedestrians and traffic at the church’s busy intersection, or as they tried to sleep through the cold early hours of the morning.

Don’t be heartless, help the homeless

Eleven-year-old Nicholas Coyle of St. Paul’s signed on to take part because “I thought it would help me understand how the homeless live, help me to know how it feels.” The Medina boy was surprised at how much money the group was able to raise (“We were chanting ‘Don’t be heartless; help the homeless!’”) and came away from the overnight feeling upbeat “because I was doing something good for other people.”

To prepare for the overnight itself, donations of large boxes were solicited from local retailers and the kids were told to bring warm clothes, a pillow and blankets or a sleeping bag ... and to leave their electronics at home. Once they’d gathered together on the church lawn, they staked out tarps, set up their cardboard shelters and took turns panhandling, standing on the street corner, holding up posters (“Have a Heart: Help the Homeless” and “Please Donate Here”), stopping cars and asking passers-

by for donations. Their panhandling shifts ran until 11 p.m. and then began again at 7 the next morning. They experienced people's attitudes first-hand and were impressed by the numbers who donated. They also worked hard not to allow the less-than-charitable reactions of a very few passersby affect them personally.

As Chelsea Waschek, St. Peter's Youth & Families Coordinator, pointed out, "they got to feel the cold on their faces, what it's like to go to bed hungry." Although everyone did get a prepared meal of one bowl of soup and a roll, plus some hot chocolate right before they turned in for the night, no second servings were supplied. The kids also got only one opportunity to take advantage of indoor bathroom facilities before bedtime.

While Waschek explained that everyone arrived for the experience well prepared to sleep outside for one night, when a chaperone rolled over on (and broke) his eyeglasses, the lesson of the moment was not lost: What was in this instance a minor inconvenience (he had another pair

at home) would be devastating for anyone who was homeless.

And "It's not just the cold or the hunger," Waschek continued. "There are so many other questions that come up as the kids begin to recognize how much they routinely take for granted.

Not a campout

Speaking particularly about the first-timers, Waschek noted that, "You can prepare them to be without their electronics for a night," without their cell phones and MP3 players, but then they're surprised when not even flashlights are allowed. "Little things like that startle them as they realize the event is not a campout." She was proud of them, though, because not one complained, and she laughed as she shared that one of the younger

participants asked afterward, "Why don't we do this in summer instead?"

The teachable moment that struck Mary Anthony, youth group advisor at St. Paul's, came when the kids wanted to supply some of their own snack foods. "It led us to the question, 'If you were homeless, would you have a stash of snacks?' While the novelty of sleeping outside in January was kind of fun, the kids experienced the reality that being hungry wasn't fun at all."

"For sibling groups, the experience carries more weight because they are struck by the realities of what homelessness must mean for a family."

Chelsea Waschek

For her part, Anthony was glad to wrap herself in a quilt and many layers of clothes to sit around the fire, but she admitted being grateful when, in her role as a chaperone, she was able to take a turn sleeping for a couple hours on a sofa inside the parish hall.

As St. Peter's parishioners arrived for their church's annual meeting that Sunday morning, the exhausted youngsters caught their second wind and returned to the work of raising monies. The parishioners' positive response ensured that the renewed effort not only proved "a morale booster" for the kids, observed Waschek, but also, "made the youth very present" for the parish.

By definition, the experience the kids take away from the Sleep-Out is different each year. One factor, Waschek explained, is the make-up of the crowd that takes part. "One group will do it one year, and a different group the next, not by design, but just because their own schedules work out that way. [Then] because their other obligations are different, they'll have the opportunity to do the Sleep-Out again several years later and take

St. Peter's youth group members are down to the bare basics as they say goodnight from their shelters on the church's front lawn.



something completely different away.”

She observed that for the older kids, “the experience is more sentimental; the younger kids tend to arrive expecting simply to have fun.” And for sibling groups, Waschek speculates, the experience carries more weight because they are struck by the realities of what homelessness must mean for a family.

Another factor making each Sleep-Out experience unique is uncontrollable: The weather. While this year’s temperatures were fairly mild, in the mid-30s, last year’s highs were in the teens and concerned parents moved the female participants into the parish hall. Also last year, as they built a bonfire on the front lawn of the church a homeless man came to sit with the adults for a while, and made a deep impression when, after a long time, he asked “Where can I get a box like one of these?”

The exhaustion of homelessness

Veteran participant and lifelong St. Peter’s member Beatrice Cook, 16, confessed that, “The first time, I didn’t know what to expect; how it would feel,” but what particularly struck her this year (besides being a lot warmer) was that being homeless is continually exhausting. She explained that while for the youth group, the Sleep-Out comprises one tiring and uncomfortable night, for the people whose lives are defined by that reality, the exhaustion and discomfort are inescapable. They do not have the options the kids do: “We go home



St. Peter’s member, Maddie, prepares to try to get some sleep during her church’s annual Homelessness Awareness Sleep-Out.

when it’s over. We shower. Nap. Eat a nice meal. But they can’t.”

The Rocky River High School junior, whose 15-year-old sister Madlyn was also a returning veteran this year and younger brother James was a first-time participant, feels strongly that the overnight is “an experience everyone should have—really putting

yourself in those shoes makes you appreciate what you have.” Also, she said, “you learn good things about the community. The majority of people really do want to help.”

In January 2009, the Homelessness Awareness Sleep-Out

raised over \$700; part

of that went directly to downtown Cleveland’s Lakeside Men’s Shelter’s “Buy a Bed” campaign and some went to the purchase of dozens of

pairs of new socks and underwear for the shelter’s residents; the balance was donated to the shelter’s general fund.

As they tally the total collected at this year’s Sleep-Out and determine how to use it, Waschek explained that “We typically try to support whatever the shelter’s current campaign is” since the shelter’s personnel are the ones best equipped to understand what’s needed most at the moment. Her hope for the Sleep-Out’s future is that in years to come, more Lakewood-area churches will take part as well as parish youth groups from throughout the Diocese.

Prayer for Mission

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give thine angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for thy love’s sake. Amen.

The Book of Common Prayer, p. 71

“You learn good things about the community. The majority of people really do want to help.”

Beatrice Cook

TWO PARISHES COOPERATE TO PROVIDE FOR HOMELESS

BY BILL BENEDICT

“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me... Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”
Matthew 25:35-36; 40

THE COOPERATIVE EFFORTS OF TWO PARISHES IN Central Ohio have gone a long way toward meeting this commission from Jesus Christ.

St. Paul's Church in Mount Vernon has just completed a bathroom and shower for its evening shelter facility in the parish hall with money raised by Harcourt Parish in Gambier.

The Rev. Karl Stevens, rector at St. Paul's, said the church has had the shelter for the past year and a half. Volunteers from St. Paul's, Harcourt Parish in Gambier and students from Kenyon College and Mount Vernon Nazarene University staff the shelter in three shifts.

Last year the shelter had three or four men staying each night but this year it has been averaging two, Stevens said. Last year, some local people were using the facility, people who had been “couch surfing” at friends' homes who found themselves in need of shelter, Stevens said. This year the clients have been mostly transient men who were passing through town.

All of the social agencies in town and other churches know about the shelter and refer people.

The shelter started out with army cots for the men, but now it has four bed frames that were donated by Kenyon College and mattresses donated by Connell's Home Furnishings.

Forced to Use the Y

But the facility did not have a bathroom. The men staying there had to use vouchers from the YMCA to shower and had to walk four blocks. And putting in a shower and bathroom was too much of a task for a small church like St. Paul's. The city of Mount Vernon has only about 15,000 residents. The shelter has a limited budget that is separate from St. Paul's, which supplies the utilities.

So nearby Harcourt Parish decided to help.

“The folks felt degraded having to go to the Y to shower,” said the Rev. Helen Svoboda-Barber, rector at Harcourt Parish. “They felt a lack of privacy and the facilities may not have been the cleanest. It wasn't a great set-up.”

In 2009, Harcourt Parish decided that half of the increase in new pledges would go to outreach. The parish also made \$10,000 at its annual rummage sale.

In May, the church puts boxes in the dormitories at Kenyon College for students who are leaving. The church fills a semitrailer with the items and then in the first couple of weeks of classes, sells them back to the new students.

This past rummage sale was helped when actress Jamie Lee Curtis donated a coat that she had worn to the church to be auctioned off. She provided an autographed photo and certified that the coat was genuine. Curtis' daughter was graduating from Kenyon.

With a donation of \$5,000 from Harcourt Parish and proceeds from the rummage sale, new walls were erected in the parish

hall and the plumbing was hooked into the plumbing from a downstairs bathroom. God does provide.



St. Paul's Church, Mount Vernon, and Harcourt Parish, Gambier teamed up to build this bathroom for the evening shelter at St. Paul's.

EACH OF US CAN CHANGE THE WORLD...

BY LAEL CARTER

EACH OF US CAN CHANGE THE WORLD, OR A PIECE of it, with our care and generosity. Throughout their married lives, Burrirt and Joanne Hubbard have lived by that standard. They have tithed, giving one-tenth of their income each year to the Episcopal Church and their community. When making their estate plans, it was natural, says Joanne, that they would tithe to the Church and charities upon their deaths. When Burrirt became ill, they revisited the decision with their three children, and each child re-affirmed their plans.

Burrirt Hubbard, Jr., was born in Ashtabula of ancestors who immigrated to Ashtabula County in the 18th century. Following service in World War II and action at the Battle of the Bulge, Burrirt graduated from Babson College in Wellesley, Massachusetts, but not before he met and fell in love with Joanne White. Burrirt and Joanne were married December 20, 1950, and returned to Ashtabula to raise their family.

Joanne and Burrirt were active in many Episcopal and social causes. Joanne served as board president of the St. John's Home for Girls in Painesville, which started as an orphanage in 1909 run by the Episcopal Sisters from the Convent of the Transfiguration based in Cincinnati and later became a home for girls who could no longer live at home or had no home. St. John's closed in 1988, when the number of residents had dwindled and more professional care was needed for those who remained. The Hubbards enjoyed entertaining the young women in their

Joanne can now look back philosophically on the decision [to close St. John's Home], appreciating that the invested proceeds from closing the home benefit new generations of children.



Joanne Hubbard with a photo of her late husband, Burrirt, in the background.

home. Joanne presided over closing the facility, a difficult decision for the board and community. Joanne can now look back philosophically on the decision, appreciating that the invested proceeds from closing the home benefit new generations of children.

Burrirt served on Diocesan committees with five bishops, remembering with particular fondness his service with Bishop John Burt on the Ohio Racial Justice Committee and many years on the Diocesan Foundation. He served the vestry of St. Peter's Church, Ashtabula, and was president of their endowment foundation. The Hubbards have been generous supporters of the Bishop's Annual Appeal, the Cedar Hills Summer Camp Scholarship program, and Charter Members of the Sterling Newell Endowment Society.

A few years ago, a woman approached Joanne in a restaurant and proudly introduced her husband and two children; she thanked Joanne for the Christmas parties she had attended at the Hubbard household when she was one of the girls living at St. John's Home.



ECW NEWS NOTES

GREETINGS FROM YOUR DIOCESAN ECW PRESIDENT

All women in the diocese are invited to come to our “new and revised” Annual Meeting to be held on Friday evening, April 30 and Saturday, May 1. Your diocesan board of the Episcopal Church Women is reaching out to ALL women in the diocese; we hope that by holding our Annual Meeting on a Friday evening and a Saturday, rather than a Tuesday and Wednesday, more of you will be able to come. Please read the accompanying article about all that has been planned—with even more details to come. Each parish will receive a mailing (we call it “The Call”) with details and registration information. But in the mean time, we want you to mark the date!

Our Keynote speaker, Meredith Bowen, is a truly remarkable 28-year-old woman who has an amazing story to tell. As an added treat we may be able to see the two adorable Tanzanian babies that Meredith has adopted. You won't want to miss our evening program at the McKinley Grand Hotel on April 30.

The Episcopal Church Women will be playing an active roll in the newly created mission areas. As written in the canons adopted at the Diocesan Convention in November, the president of the newly formed ECW mission areas will have a seat and voice on the new Mission Area Councils. This will enable communication between the Mission Area Councils and the ECW mission areas. The ECW has been actively functioning in the diocese's deaneries, so we will carry our active work and collaboration over into the new mission areas. We feel we can be real role models as parishes begin functioning in mission areas!!

Several parishes have invited me to visit and meet

with the women in their parishes. I love doing this and am happy to travel anywhere in the Diocese to meet with the women. Just invite me!

I look forward to see all of you in Canton on April 30 and May 1.

Nancy Sherwin

ST. LUKE'S RECEIVES UTO GRANT, RECEIVE CERTIFICATE

By Susan Lau, UTO Chair

St. Luke's parish, a member of the Episcopal West Side Shared Ministry, submitted a grant application for Ventilation for Family Meals in their Gym/Community Room to the United Thank Offering. At the Triennial Meeting in July 2009, in Anaheim it was announced that St., Luke's would receive their grant to pay for and install ventilation in their gym.

On Wednesday, January 27, Susan Lau, the Diocesan United Thank Offering Chair, Nancy Sherwin, the Diocesan ECW President, Carol Culp, the Cleveland West Deanery ECW President, and the Rev. Mark Robinson, Diocesan Canon for Mission, went to St. Luke's, Cleveland, to present the Rev. David Bargetzi and the parish with the certificate noting their receipt of a United Thank Offering grant.

The main outreach ministry of St. Luke's to the poor and homeless is a Family Dinner held every Wednesday in the gym. A hot meal is served to 100 to 120 guests. Guests then are seated eight to a table. After prayers, volunteers serve dishes to each table “family style.” Guests share the first servings with their table-mates, and ask volunteers for seconds—just like many of us do with our families at home. Other services are



The Rev. David Bargetzi, Urban Missioner for the Episcopal West Side Shared Ministry, receiving a United Thank Offering Grant certificate.

also provided during Wednesday Family Dinner, such as health screenings, voter registrations, education programs and healing services.

The gym is part of the St. Luke's Parish Hall, which was constructed in 1928. There are no ventilation systems. In the summer months especially, temperature and humidity conditions become unbearable. Room temperature reaches over 90 degrees at times. The UTO grant for this project added two exhaust fans in the gym to existing upper window openings.

The Mission of the United Thank Offering is to invite people to offer daily prayers of thanksgiving to God and outward and visible signs of those prayers, which will benefit others.

God calls each of us to grow in awareness of God, our own relationship with God, and our relationship in community with all whom God has created. As habits of daily thankful prayer mature, our personal relationship with God grows. Daily prayers of thanksgiving strengthen our being and doing.

The UTO blue box can be a reminder of our many blessings. Uniting our own gifts of thanks with those of others keeps us in thankful relationship them and with all of creation. In sharing our thank offerings with those throughout the Communion who seek to address compelling human need and extend the mission of the Church, we deepen our sense of participation in the lives of others.

The shared prayer and money offerings help others to respond to God's call and to grow in their own deepened sense of living within the greater Christian community. Through our shared stories, God calls us to continue to grow into the fullness of the Kingdom.

GO WHERE I SEND YOU!

Change seems to be the greatest constant in most aspects of life these days, and the women of the Diocese of Ohio, through the Episcopal Church Women (yes, you are all automatically members) are not immune. So, what's changing?

We're holding the ECW Annual Meeting on a Friday evening, April 30 and Saturday, May 1. We hope this will make it possible for those of you who work, or have children in school, to attend.

We've planned programs for students and younger children that we think will interest both boys and girls of all ages.

Where is it?

The hotel is the McKinley Grand Hotel in Canton, Ohio, and the church is St. Paul's, which is within easy walking distance of the hotel. Friday evening's program

and dinner will be at the hotel and on Saturday we'll move to St. Paul's for breakfast and all the day's workshops and programs.

What's happening?

Friday evening: A buffet dinner will be served, followed by our keynote speaker, Meredith Bowen, who will share her experiences of working in Tanzania, both as a Missionary and as a Law Student. After-dinner entertainment will be provided by the "Puppet Gang" from St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Canton. The hotel swimming pool will also be available for those who wish to swim after the evening's events.

Saturday: The day will start with breakfast for everyone, followed by a brief business meeting and Eucharist. The first workshop will be held at 11.00 A.M. Lunch is at noon and workshops are available from 1:00 P.M. to 2:00 P.M. and 2:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M. Roundup is at 3:00 P.M.

Children: A series of workshop for the younger children will begin at 8:30 A.M. All are based on looking at America's history through the American Girl® Doll books. Each segment will focus on a different doll, her culture and how similar some of the challenges that her character faced are with those our children face today. The segment will be equally divided between the presentation and a different craft component. This program should be of interest to younger boys as well as their sisters.

Young People: These programs are scheduled to start at 11.00 A.M. with "How to start a "Puppet Gang"; after lunch, "Leadership and Communications Skills for Youth" is scheduled, and will be followed by "Drama and Music Ministries." Peer Ministers will lead some of the programs.

Adults: Some of the workshops to be offered are:

- **Mission:** ECSF with discussions on local outreach such as tutoring programs, medical outreach, feeding programs and youth and adult outreach to inner city programs.
- **International Outreach:** Meredith Bowen and others will speak on how to get involved in Mission work.
- **Different approaches to prayer and Bible Study:** Daughters of the King; Anglican Rosary; Yoga; and formal vs. informal Bible Study.
- **Where does the money go?** Attendees will be introduced to people from the Diocese who have benefited from our various fundraising programs such as UTO (United Thank Offering); CPC (Church Periodical Club) and the Carlotta East Scholarship recipient from St. Luke's, Cleveland.

All of the workshops (3 will be offered in each of three sessions) will be open to both adults and young people.

PUBLICITY ISN'T A DIRTY WORD

BY BILL BENEDICT

IN THE PAST, WHEN OUR CHURCHES WERE FILLED with the many families for whom church going was a normal part of their weekly schedule, not much effort was required to attract new members or to get yourself known in the community. We live in a different world, and we are learning to borrow tactics from our for-profit brethren. How do we let people know we're here? How do we get them inside our churches so that they can see for themselves what we see?

Two churches in the Diocese of Ohio, Trinity Church in Toledo and St. John's in Youngstown, have had great success in getting the word out about their activities.

Rev. Elizabeth "Liddy" Hoster, rector of Trinity Toledo, takes publicity seriously, which she demonstrated by gathering three television stations and a major newspaper to cover a bone marrow donor registry drive at the diocese's Winter Convocation in Perrysburg.

Putting a Human Face to the News

"We decided to make some noise," Hoster said. "It finally struck me that we're doing the news stations a favor. They want news and we had a story that had a human face to it."

The "human faces" were the Rev. Joe Keblesh, rector of St. Matthew's in Toledo, and his wife, Linda. Linda has bone marrow cancer and needed a donor. Joe Keblesh has multiple myeloma, a precursor to bone marrow cancer, and he may eventually need a donor, too.

Hoster went to the Web sites of the television stations and filled out the news form and contacted David Yonke, religion editor of the *Toledo Blade*.

If you convince the news people that they can make a difference by doing this story, then they are interested, Hoster said. She contacted the "Be the Match Foundation" to do the donor testing at this year's diocesan Win-

ter Convocation. And 119 people answered the call.

Every year, 10,000 people need a bone marrow transplant to survive cancer and other blood and immune disorders. A simple swab of the inside of the cheek is all that is necessary to become part of the registry and be listed as a possible donor.

The TV stations took it as a point of pride, Hoster said. "They said to us: 'We asked you to turn out and you did.'"

"We had people driving over an hour to have their cheeks swabbed. This was something that anybody could do. We had unemployed people show up. It is [an act]

that respects the dignity of every human being. It doesn't matter who gets the credit, just go do it," Hoster said.

Looking for Good News

If your church is doing something that emphasizes outreach, if you can make the news people see that they can be a part of making someone's life better, they will take part, Hoster continued. "Most stations are looking for good news, especially in these hard economic times."

"We had people say, 'When I heard that couple's story, I had to help out.'" Hoster said. "It was a kind of thing that shows that churches are really there to reach out to communities, to reach the world."

But churches don't always have such dramatic stories. In Youngstown, St. John's has also been successful in getting publicity. Priscilla Hays, secretary at St. John's in Youngstown, said the advice she would give is simple. "Get to know the religion editor," she said.

Linda Linonis, the religion editor at the *Youngstown Vindicator* interviewed the Rev. John Horner when he was retiring as rector and did a feature story for the church's sesquicentennial. She also covers the church's an-



A table at the Diocesan Winter Convocation in Perrysburg for a bone marrow donor registry drive.



The Rev. Elizabeth "Liddy" Hoster, rector of Trinity Church, Toledo, being interviewed by a local television news station.

nual Boar's Head Festival and always lists the services for Holy Week.

Horner's retirement was newsworthy because he was involved in the community with the library and the art museums.

"St. John's pastor was involved with the Smoky Hollow Restoration Initiative and with fixing up the neighborhood around Youngstown State University. But they also do a lot of neat programs," Linonis said. The religion editor also invites churches to send her their newsletters, which she culls for ideas for feature stories.

"We have a very faith-invested community," Linonis said. Churches are committed to helping the community with food pantries and outreach programs. "They don't stay within their walls. That's why the *Vindicator* is still committed to the coverage."

Hays would agree. "Youngstown is a city, but it's kind of a small town too," she said. But she still tries not to abuse her relationship

with Linonis. "I don't call or e-mail for little things. I don't try to take advantage of her."

When churches have programs that reach outside their walls and connect with other segments of the community, they are much more likely to get publicity.

The youth group at St. John's also participates in the Interdenominational Youth Co-

alition that is made up of St. James in Boardman and some Lutheran, Baptist and Catholic churches. St. John's has gotten publicity for participating in a Super Bowl event, where money is raised for the poor. And the youth group has provided gift bags, along with other churches, to be sent to nursing homes. The connection with other churches and the communitywide aspect of the ministry has added to its newsworthiness.

At Trinity, the church has also gotten publicity for its blanket blitz,

in which 500 blankets were distributed to homeless shelters, a safe house and homeless veterans. The project was done in conjunction with the Cub Scouts and Key Bank.

Wayne Anthony, music director at Trinity, recently did a half-hour interview with radio station WSPD AM/1370 about the collaboration the church is doing with the Ballet Theater of Toledo. The church also hosts a concert series.

"It really works for us in getting us publicity, simply because we are willing to be open to host parts of the community," Anthony said. The church's outreach also has helped it connect with the arts editor with the *Blade*. Its collaboration with Perrysburg Symphony Chorale has resulted in publicity in Bowling Green and Perrysburg. It also works with the Masterworks Chorale of Toledo.

The church's participation in the arts has resulted in an increase of visitors and even a few more parishioners. "So it has been good for developing the congregation as well," Anthony said.

Planning great activities is one way to assure publicity, but the church still has to know how to communicate what it is doing to the community.

"One person in each church needs to know how to write a news release,"

Hoster said. "Then go to news Web sites and type in what you are doing."

"News people are often not churchgoers and you have to spell it out for them. They don't understand how the Episcopal Church works and we use all of these words that they don't understand."

The Rev. Elizabeth Hoster

“News people are often not church goers and you have to spell it out for them,” Hoster said. “They don’t understand how the Episcopal Church works and we use all of these words that they don’t understand. Sometimes it’s like trying to explain a toaster to a Martian.”

Churches need to know where to submit information. Linonis said the *Vindicator* runs a page and half of religion news every Saturday. She takes religion news, but the newspaper runs items about community events and fundraisers at churches in its society section.

“They need to know where to send information so that it doesn’t get lost in the process.”

The Internet has made a difference in Linonis’ newsgathering. She said that she gets probably half of her news releases by e-mail, but many of the churches’ publicity people are older and don’t feel as comfortable working with the newer technology.

Teach Your Successor

She said it would be helpful if when a church has a change in the person doing the publicity, that the person leaving would help the transition of the new person by cluing

them in on how to do things.

“That way they wouldn’t be starting from scratch,” she said.

Yonke said newspaper space is often tight, but some things can be put on the newspaper’s Web site, where space is unlimited.

And some churches may be fortunate enough to have a local religion editor like Bonnie Santos

of the *Elyria Chronicle-Telegram*, who considers her job to be a ministry.

“Make sure you give me the basics: who, what, when where and how,” said Santos. She will take care of wording things to fit the newspaper’s style.

The *Chronicle-Telegram* runs news items on special events, concerts, vacation Bible schools, revivals

and basically anything that churches are doing outside of a listing of normal services. Notices of regular services have to run as an ad. Santos said she is also interested in getting photos of special events and she will do feature articles on news that she feels is worthy.

“This is what I do,” she said. “I want this stuff. I want to push the Word.”

When churches have programs that reach outside their walls and connect with other segments of the community, they are much more likely to get publicity.

Priscilla Hays, St. John’s, Youngstown

CLERGY NOTES

The Rev. **Dena Cleaver-Bartholomew** has been called to serve as rector at Christ Church in Manlius, New York. Her first day there was February 1, 2010.

The Rev. **Kip Colegrove** began a new ministry as Priest-in-Charge of the **Our Savior, Salem, and Trinity Alliance**, shared ministry on November 29, 2009.

The Rev. **Merritt Greenwood** began a new ministry as the Interim rector of St. Michael’s Church, Brattleboro, Vermont, on December 1, 2009.

The Rev. **Wilie Mebane Jr.** was ordained to the priesthood on Saturday, January 16 at Trinity Cathedral. He is serving as the Curate at **Trinity Cathedral**.



The Rev. **Jeremiah Williamson** talks about energy saving bulbs at St. John’s to the Youngstown *Vindicator*.

TWO OHIO PARISHES PREPARE TO TACKLE THE ‘E’ WORD

BY LINDA KINSEY

THE REV. MARTHA GRACE REESE IS THE FIRST to admit that evangelism, for most mainline churchgoers, is a “horrific” topic that conjures up images of “Tammy Fay Bakker batting her eyelashes” and “people forcing tracts into the hands of strangers.”

Reese, an ordained Disciples of Christ minister and president of GraceNet, Inc., literally wrote the book—actually, a series of books—on evangelism. She believes that when done well, it can enrich lives in unimaginable ways by drawing people closer to God.

“This is about helping people fall in love with God again,” Reese says. Her books, the *Unbinding the Gospel* series, serve as a platform for what some believe is a revolutionary way of carrying out the Great Commission to spread the good news of Jesus Christ.

St. Thomas, Berea, and St. Mark’s, Sidney, have already begun the “Unbinding the Gospel Project” that starts with small groups reading the *Unbinding the Gospel* book. Individuals within the groups read, reflect and pray with each other. Ideally, Reese says, those groups represent 20 percent of the parish and

often are identified as the leaders within the parish.

In the fall, the parishes will immerse themselves in the project. The goal will be to have every member read *Unbinding Your Heart*.

Reese says that parishes that truly commit to the project can expect their congregations to become impassioned Christians who, with the assistance of coaches, will be empowered to share their faith with others. In 2011, parishioners will turn their focus to the outside world and the growing number of people who have no religion or church affiliation.

While the process may sound involved, the Rev.

“We need to teach people how to tell their stories that reflect the real depth of their experiences.”

The Rev. Gayle Catinella, rector, St. Thomas, Berea



Gayle Catinella, rector of St. Thomas, says it boils down to individuals “telling their faith stories.”

How it works

With funding from the Lilly Endowment, Reese put together the project, the aim of which is to usher mainline churches into the work of evangelism that builds on growing relationships with God and ultimately brings people into the church.

The plan starts with about 20 percent of the congregation reading the first book, *Unbinding the Gospel*. Designated leaders within the church participate in special conference calls where they receive guidance from a trained individual who will support the entire process.

Eventually, the project takes center stage in the parish, as the entire congregation is immersed in a six-week study and discussion of *Unbinding Your Heart*.

And central to the project’s success, as Reese notes throughout her books, is prayer. People are encouraged to pray in groups, alone, and in pairs, forming prayer partnerships.

Overcoming the fear of evangelism and realizing that it is not necessary to buttonhole people on the status of their salvation is part of the process, Reese points out. “People learn new habits. We have conversations that are

real and natural.”

What’s more, Catinella says, “We need to teach people how to tell their stories that reflect the real depth of their experiences.”

Both St. Thomas and St. Mark’s will be participating with seven parishes in the Diocese of Bethlehem (Pennsylvania). One of those is Christ Church, Reading, where the Rev. John Francis serves as rector.

Participating parishes are involved in conference calls with Nancy Lee Gauche, a coach from the Reese organization.

“We’re going right by the book,” Francis said of the project. “It’s fabulous. There’s nothing out there like it. Nothing!”

Unbinding an idea

Catinella first became aware of the possibilities of the project when she read *Unbinding the Gospel* in 2008. Captivated by the message the book contains, including the possibilities of growing the parish, she asked the vestry to read the book last year.

She noted, as well, that the diocesan staff last fall began reading *Unbinding the Gospel* and praying together.

St. Thomas vestry members followed its instructions to keep prayer journals and link themselves with prayer partners.

Meanwhile, the parish’s Evangelism Committee was revitalized, and Catinella and its members began shar-

ing their faith stories, many of which were profound and deeply moving.

When she suggested that the parish consider taking on the evangelism project under the tutelage of Reese’s association, the committee was enthusiastic. “Of course we’ll do it!” Catinella recalls one of the members saying.

In addition, the parish’s Daughters of the King chapter began reading *Unbinding Your Heart*, as part of a Lenten study.

With three groups within the church studying the materials and praying, Catinella says the parish will be ready with leaders who can help deliver the project’s message to all parishioners in the form of small-group studies and prayer.

The purpose, from her perspective, is about developing the spiritual side of people. “I want St. Thomas to be known for the presence of Jesus Christ and prayerful people.”

The Rev. Aaron Gerlach, who was recently named priest-in-charge at St. Mark’s, Sidney, is equally enthusiastic about the “Unbinding” project and

its potential to transform lives both inside and outside the church’s doors.

While St. Thomas has a weekly average attendance of 131 (up from 119 in 2008), St. Mark’s recently grew from a tiny gathering of just eight people to 35. Lately, that number has been inching closer to 40, Gerlach says, with some children’s faces also in the congregation.

Gerlach, who has been with St. Mark’s since January 1, said there is keen interest in “sharing our faith, why God and why Jesus make a difference in our lives, and how that makes a difference in our parishes.”

“The way I look at it, the book helps us learn how sharing our faith works in the Episcopal Church. So we’re discovering what that means for us at St. Mark’s,” he says.

Already one group within the parish has read *Unbinding the Gospel*, and a second one is expected to start soon.

As with St. Thomas, St. Mark’s parish will plunge into the project this fall with what he describes as a

“parish-wide immersion.”

Gerlach says “the only thing we’re going to do is share why our faith matters to us for that six weeks.”

Reese agrees that sharing faith stories is at the heart of evangelism and is nurtured through prayer. “Evangelism arises out of prayer and really loving God. It

comes out of that and

is motivated by it. It’s the means by which people talk about their faith, and it’s completely natural.”



Martha Grace Reese, author of the *Unbinding the Gospel* series.

[T]here is keen interest in “sharing our faith, why God and why Jesus make a difference in our lives, and how that makes a difference in our parishes.”

The Rev. Aaron Gerlach, priest-in-charge, St. Mark’s, Sidney

Not the “e” word!

Catinella acknowledges that the mere mention of the word “evangelism” can make people shrink and shy away.

“I see it when I’m standing up there (during sermons). I see the looks on their faces when I talk about evangelism,” she says.

But learning to evangelize well, she contends, will change lives by bringing people into a closer relationship with God. Eventually, those people will draw others to God, as well.

Reese backs this notion up with a massive study done of mainline Protestant denominations throughout the country that testify to the power of faith sharing.

“This is about learning how much God loves us and having faith lives that are real. Most of us live in this shadow land of faith,” Reese says. “But so much more is possible.”

While statistics reveal that mainline churches have been in serious decline, those who take on the project can expect to see their congregations grow, according to Reese. That happens, she says, by people “being in love with Jesus.”

What parishioners will discover, she says, is that through the project they learn to have “real and natural” conversations about their faith and are energized by that learning process.

“It’s like a growing peat fire,” she says, adding that before long people are saying “Oh my gosh! I had no

idea it was possible to have conversations like this in church.”

Reasons for hope

The news isn’t good regarding church attendance in the U.S., Reese points out in her book.

“I truly am getting more excited and more hopeful for these churches, no matter how grim the statistics look. I see God doing stuff with people in situations that looked dead, absolutely dead.”

Martha Grace Reese

Reese notes that mainline churches have been sinking fast, with alarming declines in membership since 1986. At the same time, the number of individuals who claim no religion continues to climb.

In her book, *Unbinding Your Heart*, she writes: “Only 4 percent of people who were born in the U.S. between 1910 and 1919 say they have no religious preference.

That number rises to 27 percent of those born between 1980 and 1984.”

In addition, she writes, “...we found that only one-half of 1 percent of 30,000 mainline churches studied were doing a significant job reaching unchurched people.”

But the Spirit of God, she says,

seems to be moving in new and exciting ways. Well over 12,000 congregations around the country are reading the books and learning how to share their faith stories with each other, Reese adds. “Thousands and thousands are taking this seriously. They are offering it to God and asking ‘what can you do with us?’”

As people focus on prayer and sharing their faith, dramatic changes begin to unfold, she says. People become passionate about God and their church, and they draw others into the fold.

“I truly am getting more excited and more hopeful for these churches, no matter how grim the statistics look. I see God doing stuff with people in situations that looked dead, absolutely dead.

“People are responding, and, yes, this stuff is real.”

In a forward to the book, *Unbinding Your Heart*, Professor George G. Hunter III, of Asbury Theological Seminary, writes: “What a promising project! Martha Grace Reese’s ‘trilogy’ may be the most useful resource for awakening slumbering churches that has come along in a very long time.”

Both Catinella and Gerlach are hopeful about the future of their congregations.

And it’s not a gimmick, Catinella says. “What we’re ‘selling’ is Jesus Christ. Prayer and Jesus Christ.”

Save the Date!

Presiding Bishop to Lead 2011 Winter Convocation

The Presiding Bishop, Katharine Jefforts Schori, will be our guest and lead speaker at the Winter Convocation on **February 11-12, 2011** at the Holiday Inn French Quarter in Perrysburg, Ohio.



A MEASURE OF HEALTH: ADULT BAPTISMS

BY LINDA KINSEY

THE NUMBER OF ADULT BAPTISMS A CHURCH CONDUCTS is a good indicator of its health and vitality, according to the Rev. Martha Grace Reese, author and ordained Disciples of Christ minister.

Churches where members share their faith stories and are enthusiastic about the life of their parish are the ones that are growing and attracting unchurched people from their communities, she says.

Her findings come from an intensive four-year study called the Mainline Evangelism Project, in which 30,000 parishes were surveyed, and statistics such as growth or decline in attendance and number of adult baptisms were analyzed.

A detailed account of the study is found in her book—*Unbinding the Gospel*—part of a series of books being used by some Episcopal parishes in the Diocese of Ohio and elsewhere to launch parish-wide evangelism programs.

Four parishes within the Diocese of Ohio have been identified as having the largest number of adult baptisms from 2004 to 2008: St. Thomas, Berea, with 16; Trinity Cathedral, Cleveland, at 15; St. Paul's Church, Cleveland Heights, 11, and St. Luke's, Niles, stands at 10.

And in each case, the parishes have seen a growth in average Sunday attendance, as well.

The Very Rev. Tracy Lind, dean of Trinity Cathedral, points to the congregation's culture of "radical hospitality" as at least one reason for the number of adult baptisms at the cathedral.

"In our bulletin," Lind says, "we say all are welcome at God's table. . . it says we are young and old, rich and poor, urban and suburban and gay and straight."

Baptism isn't a prerequisite to taking Communion at Trinity, she says, because she believes, "people experience conversion through the Eucharist."

At Trinity, altar calls are not unheard of. She isn't

shy, either, about asking people if they would like to be baptized.

And at Trinity, baptism is taken "very seriously," she says. "We give baptismal certificates the size of an ordination certificate."

In addition, the baptismal covenant is recited at many of the cathedral's services, she says. "I also preach about it a lot."

Lind, herself, was baptized as an adult, having been raised in a Jewish and Christian home, where her parents

felt she should make her own decision about religion when she was older.

She empathizes, she says, with people who are baptized as adults in a church where most are baptized as infants. "It was hard," she admits, recalling her own baptism at 22.

The fact that St. Thomas, Berea, leads the diocese in the number of

baptisms "wasn't a statistic I was aware of," says the Rev. Gayle Catinella, the parish rector.

"I've Wanted to Do This Forever"

Often she hears from the baptismal candidates that they've been waiting for an opportunity for a long time. "They tell me, 'it's time. I've wanted to do this forever.'"

Like Lind, Catinella points to the parish's hospitality and the practice of "random acts of kindness" as key reasons adults start coming to church and eventually decide to become baptized.

Special programs such as the campus ministry to Baldwin-Wallace College students has helped, as well, she says.

The number of adult baptisms in his parish also surprised the Rev. Alan Gates, rector of St. Paul's, Cleveland Heights.

Gates says he researched the figures and found that four people were in their forties, four in their twenties

The Very Rev. Tracy Lind, dean of Trinity Cathedral, points to the congregation's culture of "radical hospitality" as at least one reason for the number of adult baptisms at the cathedral.

and seven were high-school students.

“Out of the four in their forties,” says Gates, “the precipitating moment for two of them was having their children baptized. “I always find that a moving thing, to baptize a child and parent at the same time.”

Adults in their twenties often seek baptism because their future spouses are baptized members of the church, he says. “It’s always interesting to me and a very positive thing when a spouse is brought into the church.”

Involve Young People

Like the other parishes, having special programs open to the public has been a draw, especially programs that involve young people.

St. Paul’s youth program, Gates says, has been an open door for teens with no church affiliation.

“We do have a very active young adult ministry,” Gates says, and parish teens often invite their friends to various music and drama programs in the church.

Gates cites the parish’s proximity to Case Western Reserve and the Cleveland Institute of Music as other reasons adults decide to attend St. Paul’s.

Meanwhile, St. Luke’s, Niles, experienced a surge in adult baptisms, especially in 2004, 2005 and 2007.

The Rev. John Wigle, who served as St. Luke’s supply priest for eight years, starting in 1999, says the parish is especially warm and welcoming to everyone.

Wigle says parishioners host three dinners each year and the church hall is “jam packed with people. They come from everywhere.”

The people of St. Luke’s, he says, are genuinely welcoming. “They are a very down-to-earth group of people.”

In addition, the church has formed “great relationships with all the other mainline denominations in town, including the Roman Catholics.”

The relationship is so close, in fact, that the parish joined with seven other churches in the area to obtain a federal grant to build a retirement home for seniors, the second such home they have built.

All this has added up to growth in parish numbers and subsequent adult baptisms, he says, “But you can’t put your finger on just one element. There’s the ecumenical dimension, the outreach dimension and the welcoming dimension and the pastoral care they supply.”

BILLBOARDS AND YARD SIGNS COMING TO YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

BILLBOARDS HAVE BEEN MOVING AROUND THE diocese since February advertising The Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Ohio, with messages of

- Love God. Love Your Neighbor. Change the World.
- Welcome ... regardless!
- God loves you. No exceptions.
- If you’re looking for a sign from God, here it is!

The signs were so popular among our own church members that we’ve turned two of the messages into yard signs for churches or individuals. Yard signs say either “Love God. Love Your Neighbor. Change the World,” or “Welcome ... regardless!”

A more permanent yard sign will be available soon that will allow a church to add a hanger, giving the church name and service times. All messages include our familiar slogan: “The Episcopal Church Welcomes You.”

If you are interested in these free yard signs, please call Kristin Crites 216-774-0462 (kcrites@dohio.org) or Martha Wright 216-774-0456 (mwright@dohio.org) for more information.



CAMP AND CONFERENCE MINISTRY IN THE DIOCESE OF OHIO: TELL US WHAT YOU WANT!

IN THE SUMMER OF 2009, BISHOP HOLLINGSWORTH appointed a Camp and Conference Study Committee in order to ask a fundamental question: What kind of Camp and Conference Ministry would best serve the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio? The committee was not appointed to make specific recommendations about the facility and programs of Cedar Hills; rather, it is to explore the fundamental question for which Cedar Hills is our current diocesan answer.

We, the committee, have spent considerable time studying successful camp and conference programs to discern how their practices might instruct us: what kinds of needs and desires for camp and conference ministry exist in our own diocese, and how can we imagine programs that are “outside the box?”

We have met monthly and studied extensively, contacting many existing camp and conference programs and visiting several. We have studied stories of success and looked carefully at programs that had to close. We looked at everything from diocesan programs that rent space, to seasonal camps, to full-blown camp and conference center facilities. We talked with the bishop to get a sense of what his vision might be.

Our next step is to gather input from the diocesan family about its needs and desires. We gathered some data at the Diocesan Convocation in February. In this issue of

ChurchLife! you will find a survey intended to gain more information. The survey is also available online through the diocesan website (www.dohio.org). We hope to have a place on agendas at Mission Area Council meetings in the coming months. We’re looking for answers to such questions as:

- How many of our parishes make regular use, or might make regular use, of a conference facility appropriate for adult programming?
- How many of our parishes have youth group programs that would make use of a youth conference facility or camp if available?
- How many children and youth in our parishes participate in any kind of summer camping program? What programs are they looking for?
- What kinds of programmatic offerings are not currently available in our diocese that might be possible with a diocesan conference center?

Our study so far has shown two things with clarity. First, a remarkable proportion of the leaders in our church (active lay leaders, bishops, clergy) share a common story: a deeply significant experience at a church summer camp, or youth conferences, or both. Second, successful camp/conference ministries invariably enjoy broad-based support in their dioceses, in addition to strong interest and involvement from diocesan leaders.

With this second fact in mind, we appeal to you for

your input. Please take a few moments to complete and return the survey on the next page, or complete it online. Our hope is to have a report and recommendations to Diocesan Council by June and to Diocesan Convention in November. Please give us your thoughts and ideas, and please stay tuned!

The members of the committee are Tom Austin, Ruth Morris, Jim Rich, Danielle Weiser-Cline, Dick Wilkison, and the Revs. Kay Ashby, Elizabeth Hoster, and Keith Owen. Chet Bowling chairs the committee.

Camp Cedar Hills




16th Year Of Camp,
Cedar Hills Celebrating Its 60th Year Of Ministry

- June 13-18** - Counselor in Training Week (Hired Camp Staff Only)
- June 20-25** - Senior High Event (Grades 9, 10, 11 and 12)
- June 27-29** - Children Session I (Grades 3 and 4)
- June 30-July 2** - Children Session II (Grades 3 and 4)
(Children Session I & II & Wednesday between)
- July 4-9** - General Session I (Grades 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8)
- July 11-16** - General Session II (Grades 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9)
- July 18-23** - General Session III (Grades 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9)
- July 25-30** - General Session IV (Grades 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9)




5811 Vrooman Road, Painesville • 440-352-6363

CAMP & RETREAT CENTER SURVEY QUESTIONS

This survey is also available online through the diocesan website (www.dohio.org).

Please send completed survey to: Jim Rich, 2499 Kingston Road, Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118

(PLEASE CIRCLE THE APPROPRIATE ANSWER[S])

1. Have you personally attended a church camp (Episcopal or other) within the past:

- a) 20 years or more
- b) 10 years
- c) 5 years
- d) Never

2. If so, please briefly describe what would you would consider the most positive aspect of your camping experience.

3. What criteria did you use to choose the camp you attended (circle the most important)?

- a) Location
- b) Price
- c) Program
- d) Activities
- e) Accommodations
- f) Staff
- g) Food
- h) Mission
- i) Denomination affiliation
- j) Other _____

4. The church camp you attended is affiliated with which denomination?

- a) Episcopal
- b) Lutheran
- c) Catholic
- d) Baptist
- e) Methodist
- f) Presbyterian
- g) Other _____

5. If you did not attend a camp what would you choose as the main reason for going (circle the most important)?

- a) Location
- b) Price
- c) Program
- d) Activities
- e) Accommodations
- f) Staff
- g) Food
- h) Mission
- i) Attended a secular camp
- j) Not interested in camping
- k) Other _____

6. If you are a parent, have you sent your children to a church camp within the past:

- a) 5 years or more
- b) 3 years
- c) 1 year
- d) Never

7. If so, please briefly describe what you would consider the most valuable aspect of your child's experience.

8. What would your child say was the most positive aspect of his or her camping experience?

(Continued on next page)

9. What criteria did you use to choose the camp you sent your children to (Please circle the most important)?

- a) Location
- b) Price
- c) Program
- d) Activities
- e) Accommodations
- f) Staff
- g) Food
- h) Mission
- i) Denomination affiliation
- j) Other _____

10. The church camp your child attended is affiliated with which denomination?

- a) Episcopal
- b) Lutheran
- c) Catholic
- d) Baptist
- e) Methodist
- f) Presbyterian
- g) Other _____

11. If you did not send your children to camp what would you choose as the main reason for not sending them?

- a) Location
- b) Price
- c) Program
- d) Activities
- e) Accommodations
- f) Staff
- g) Food
- h) Mission
- i) Attended a secular camp
- j) Not interested in camping
- k) Other _____

12. If you could create any kind of Camp and Retreat Center for the Diocese of Ohio what would it look like? Who would come there? What would its mission be?

13. I am male female (*please circle*)

14. I am _____ years old

15. I live in _____ county

A WEEKEND WORTH REMEMBERING

BY ZACHARY AND BENJAMIN CLARK

A COUPLE WEEKENDS AGO I ATTENDED THE HAPPENING, which essentially is a church retreat for teens led by teens. The Happening took place at the Church of our Saviour in Akron, Ohio.

My first day started off on the wrong foot because I found myself sitting in the wrong church for 2 hours. I walked outside of the church then noticed Father Tom (the Rev. Thomas E. Hawkins) 20 feet to my left at the correct church. After my brother and I picked up our sleeping bags and pillows from the pews of the Gospel Church, we headed to the Church of Our Saviour. We met many of the adults that would be overseeing Happening. We then met the rector of Happening who was a teenage boy.

All of the Happeners were split up into three groups. When we were in these groups, we would do activities that would bring us closer to God or help us illustrate a point that God wanted us to know. For example, my group had to act out one of the parables. I grew very close with my group and we talked about everything during the weekend.

The list of fun things we did is endless. The meals we ate were outstanding, and I won a couple of eating contests. We all came together in the sanctuary to sing worship songs. These were very entertaining and different from the hymns that we sing in church. During breaks, the Happeners would dance to music, play checkers and Uno and even play Hide and Go Seek in the massive church. Every night the boys would stay up late and talk about everything under the sun. All seven of us were crammed into a room smaller than the nursery at St. Mark's.

All in all, the Happening was the best weekend that I can remember. I became friends with everyone there and got everyone's number. I still talk to people that I met there. I encourage any high school student who hasn't gone to Happening to attend next year.

Zachary Clark



WHEN I FIRST LEARNED THAT I WAS GOING TO the retreat, I will admit that I was a bit skeptical. I had a four-day weekend ahead of me, so the last thing that I wanted to do was to go to a church retreat for the three days.

The weekend did not start off too well, because my brother and I went to the wrong church. After singing some gospel and dancing around for two hours we made it to the right church.

I was put into a small group of six people. In our small groups we were asked to complete tasks. We would go upstairs and a "gopher" (teen that runs Happening) would give us a talk. These talks were about reality, prayer and anything about life. After the talks we would go into small groups to discuss the talks.

Overall I think this was an amazing experience. I met some really cool kids that I still keep in touch with. I am really looking forward to going back next year to be a gopher. I would also recommend Happening to any high school student.

Benjamin Clark

UPCOMING EVENTS

CELEBRATION AT KENYON FEATURES WALTER BRUEGGEMAN

The 2010 Ohio Episcopal Celebration at Kenyon (OE-CAK) will be held this summer on the campus of Kenyon College from Thursday, June 24 through Sunday, June 27. Keynote speaker for the event is Walter Brueggemann, McPheeters Professor of Old Testament Emeritus at Columbia Theological Seminary and author of over seventy books. The theme for the conference is “Great Moments in the History of Power.” Over the course of the three-day conference Professor Brueggemann will discuss:

1. Truth Speaks to Power: Moses
2. Power Overwhelms Truth: Solomon
3. Truth Has Its Day: Elisha
4. Truth Impacts Power: Josiah

Special programs for children and youth will be available, and the youth will be making a YouTube video of highlights of the conference. They will also participate in a forum with Bishop Breidenthal of the Diocese of Southern Ohio, Bishop Hollingsworth, and Professor Brueggemann. Plenty of recreational time is also planned.

Cost is free for children 12 and younger when accompanied by a parent or guardian. Visit the OECAK Web site (www.episcopalcelebration.diosohio.org) for more information and links to various resources regarding Walter Brueggemann. Scholarships are available for OECAK. To find scholarship information and register for the conference go to: <https://diosohio.wufoo.com/forms/ohio-episcopal-celebration-at-kenyon/> or call the Rev. Vincent Black at 216-774-0453.



RIDE WITH US AND LOOP ALONG THE LAKE

The Fifth Annual Bishop’s Bike Ride will cover a loop along the lake. The event begins Sunday night, June 27, 2010 and finishes Friday about noon on July 2, just in time for the Fourth of July weekend. Riders will spend their first night at St. Paul’s, Put-in-Bay. Monday morning riders will circumnavigate the island before taking the ferry to Sandusky around noon. The ride will continue to Elyria on Tuesday, running south of Cleveland to Chagrin Falls on Wednesday. Leaving Chagrin Falls on Thursday morning, the riders will head to Painesville on Thursday night and end in Ashtabula about noon on Friday.

As in other years, riders may choose to ride part or all of the trip. Dinners are usually provided at the host church, and parishioners provide lodging. Support vehicles are always on hand for snacks, rests, repairs, and any other problems.

All—young and old—are welcome on the Bishop’s Bike Ride, and bring your friends, too. You don’t need to be an Episcopalian to ride. Donations go to fund youth mission trips. As a rider you may ask friends, family, fellow parishioners, or others to sponsor your miles with financial donations, prayers, help along the way, and food.

This year’s route is relatively flat and should not be too difficult. The Rev. Kelly O’Connell, rector of St. Mark’s, Toledo, will again set the exact route along little used roads, and she has provided a training guide for those needing assistance to get in shape before June. If you start now, with short 5-mile trips, and increase your distance each week, you will be able to do this ride. Don’t miss the fun!

Questions about routes, distances, bikes, help with support vehicles and other issues should be directed to Martha Wright, Director of Communications, at 216-774-0456 or mwright@dohio.org.



SPRING YOUTH GATHERING IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

Youth programs are alive and well under the direction of the Rev. Vincent Black, canon for Christian Formation in the Office of Congregations and Christian Formation.

This year's Spring Youth Gathering for the Diocese of Ohio will coincide with a statewide pilgrimage, known as Ohio Day to the National Cathedral in Washington, April 23 through 25. The National Cathedral designates certain days of the year to honor a particular state, and many dioceses celebrate by sending busloads of participants from their parishes. This year the Diocese of Ohio will be doing this in cooperation with the Diocese of Southern Ohio.

Youth in grades 8 through 12 will travel on their own bus—there is also an adult bus—leaving from three locations after school on Friday. The bus will pick up participants starting at 3:30 p.m. from St. Timothy's, Perrysburg, approximately 5:30 from St. Matthew's, Brecksville, and from St. James', Boardman at about 7:00 p.m. The bus will arrive in Washington about 1:30 a.m. Lodging will be provided at St. Mary's Church in Arlington, Virginia.

There will be various activities on the bus ride, and sightseeing in Washington including Arlington National Cemetery, some of the museums of the Smithsonian, and other sights on the mall. On Sunday, the group will worship at the National Cathedral and tour the building and grounds before leaving the city at about 1:30 p.m. Youth who serve as acolytes may vest for the service at the National Cathedral. If you are an acolyte and wish to participate, please call the Rev. Alan James, canon to the ordinary, at 216-774-0449.

The cost for the weekend is \$35 and includes meals, lodging, transportation, and sightseeing.

Space is limited to the first 45 youth registering and submitting all the necessary forms. Registered youth will then have 14 days to submit payment or scholarship assistance form and the signed parental consent.



GOOD SHEPHERD ESTABLISHES MICRO-ENTERPRISE FUND

By Mary Davis

THROUGH THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, generosity and a little hard work, the Church of the Good Shepherd, Lyndhurst, has connected with the Village of Thingan, Nepal, by establishing a micro-enterprise fund for the village.

In 2009 the Reflections Women's Book Group read *Dangerous Faith* by Joel Vestal. Vestal describes his adventurous life in the developing world as he established ServLife International, Inc., an organization dedicated to rescuing children from human trafficking, empowering people to develop businesses, and training church leaders. ServLife works through the local churches so that the recipients of services always have spiritual support. A local, indigenous committee is established to choose projects and provide business support to the recipients of the microloans, known as the Hope Fund.

The women of the Reflections group were so moved and inspired by *Dangerous Faith* that they decided to do something more. They contacted ServLife with the intention of raising a few hundred dollars among themselves to support a loan for a single enterprise. A few days later they received an email from the author, Joel Vestal, who said that he would like to come to Cleveland to meet with them.

With the author coming, the women decided to bring the event to the Vestry and the Rector and expand to a larger event. So, on Saturday, March 6, Good Shepherd hosted a fundraiser for ServLife, which was attended by 60 people from Good Shepherd and 6 other area churches of various denominations. Instead of raising a few hundred dollars for a single loan, Good Shepherd set out to raise \$5,000 to establish a revolving loan fund for a village. ServLife has identified 40 villages in Nepal where Hope Funds will be established. The Village of Thingan is the first.

So what began as the seemingly random choice of a book in the spring of 2009 culminated in spring of 2010 as a major fundraiser and the creation of a personal relationship between the Church of the Good Shepherd and the Village of Thingan, Nepal. Truly an example that "God, working through us, can do infinitely more than we could ask for or imagine." For information about ServLife International, Inc. or to order *Dangerous Faith* for your book group, see www.servlife.org. The Reflections Women's Book Group meets the fourth Wednesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Lyndhurst.

TWO TO BE ORDAINED TO THE PRIESTHOOD

THE REV. VINCENT BLACK, CANON FOR CHRISTIAN Formation in the Office of Congregations and Christian Formation and the Rev. Paul Gaston, will be ordained to the priesthood at Trinity Cathedral on April 10, 2010.

Black has worked on the bishop's staff since last September. He works closely with the Rev. Brad Purdom, Canon for Congregations. Formerly an English as a Second Language teacher for grades 6, 7, and 8 in the Lakewood schools, he also taught ESL to immigrants and refugees of all



ages at the International Services Center, in addition to helping his students find helpful resources in the area. He also lived in Japan for four years where he taught English in a Japanese public school, and he has served as adjunct faculty at Tiffin University.

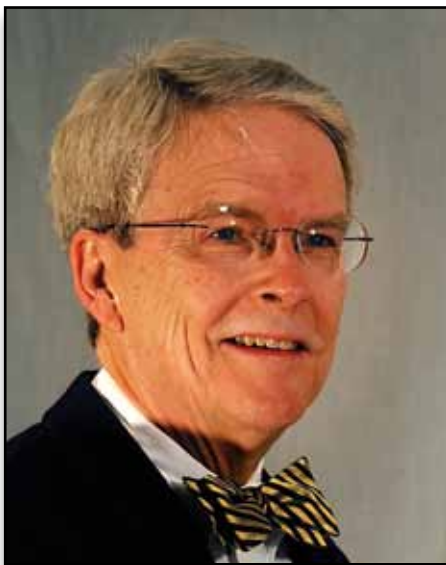
Black says he is committed to teaching about the Christian faith as it is lived within the Episcopal church, and has taught confirmation classes, book studies, and been involved with campus ministry and adult education at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church and University Center in Columbus. He also brings a passion for Christian and spiritual formation. As a student at Bexley Hall Seminary in Columbus, his Fridays were dedicated to exploring what it means to be formed for spiritual development, an experience he values highly. He was president of the Bexley Society providing oversight for community activities and ecumenical activities with Trinity Lutheran Seminary.

Although religious commitment has played a big role in his life since childhood, he dates his call to the priesthood after he started attending Trinity Cathedral in

2003. Black lives with his partner, Roger Barnhard, and their two nephews in University Heights.

Paul Gaston, who will also be ordained to the priesthood on April 10, is currently Trustees Professor at Kent State University, where he teaches English literature and higher education administration. He was first ordained a vocational deacon in the Diocese of East Tennessee in 1990. He has also served as a deacon in the Diocese of Lexington (KY), while he continued to pursue an academic career. His dissertation is on the theology of grace in seventeenth century England.

In the Diocese of Ohio, Gaston has served as a deacon at Christ Church, Hudson, and Christ Church, Kent, and as a visiting, preaching deacon at St. Paul's, Akron. Much of his diaconal work, in addition to his sacramental role, has involved Christian formation and adult education. His decision to pursue the priesthood began when some parishioners wrote to Bishop Hollingsworth saying they believed he would be more effective as a priest. Gaston said, "I believe the process of discernment works in two directions." With positive signs from the Commission on Ministry and the Standing Committee, he began to consider the priesthood. "I see this ordination as a way to serve in additional ways and to serve the diocese more fully. I see myself exercising my priesthood in every part of my life," he said. He will continue to work in academia and serve as a part-time priest.



Gaston is married to Eileen and has one daughter. He has just published a book, entitled, *The Challenge of Bologna: What United States Higher Education Has to Learn from Europe and Why It Matters that We Learn It.*

BOOK REVIEW

BY MAE PELSTER

LET YOUR LIFE SPEAK: LISTENING FOR THE VOICE OF VOCATION

Author: Parker J. Palmer

ISBN: 0787947350

Format: Hardcover

Publisher: John Wiley & Sons Inc

Release Date: September 24, 1999

One of my first conflicts with formal education came from within. I didn't think I needed to waste all that time sitting in a classroom. I also thought the small truths the teachers did impart had very little practical life-application and were unnecessarily ambiguous.

On the up side, however, I learned that I didn't want to be an artist and didn't like crayons. I also learned that I wasn't meant to be an athlete based on my inability to connect properly with a baseball in three tries.

On the down side, I learned my life was often the property of others and not myself. What I failed to realize was how far they were taking me away from my God-given self and the mission I had in my heart to fulfill. Let's face it, the educational system often has more to do with other people's agendas and the gross national product than listening for the voice of vocation calling us into life.

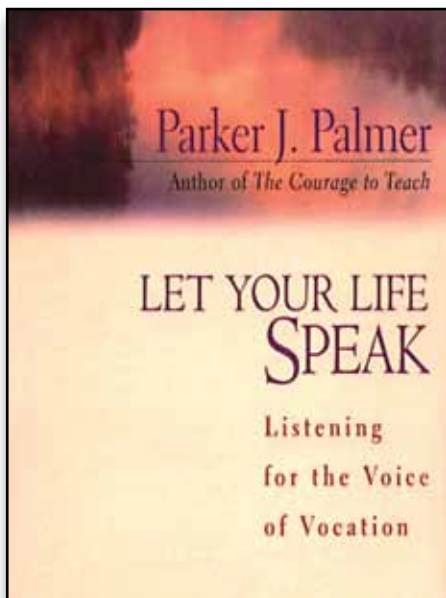
If any of you can see yourselves in my tirade, you'll love Parker Palmer's sweet series of essays called *Let Your Life Speak: Listening for the Voice of Vocation*. The book is about reconnecting with our God-given inner voice, the voice many of us have lost touch with for a number

of reasons. This may mean a journey into the depths of our lives where our selfness has been buried by the social structures of work and education and basic economics and, yes, even faith. Palmer points out that it isn't selfish to take care of this inner person first because this is our primary obligation of stewardship—to nurture and care for this gift from God.

We cannot take good care of others and achieve the potential good from that gift if we deny its existence, stifle it with external demands, or violate our own nature out of a false sense of duty. It is a matter of coming to terms with the ought-to-dos of life and the strengths and weaknesses of our inner self. It is a journey that requires some honest evaluation of where we are in our lives, where we've been, and where that voice is leading us. Maybe a little courage too!

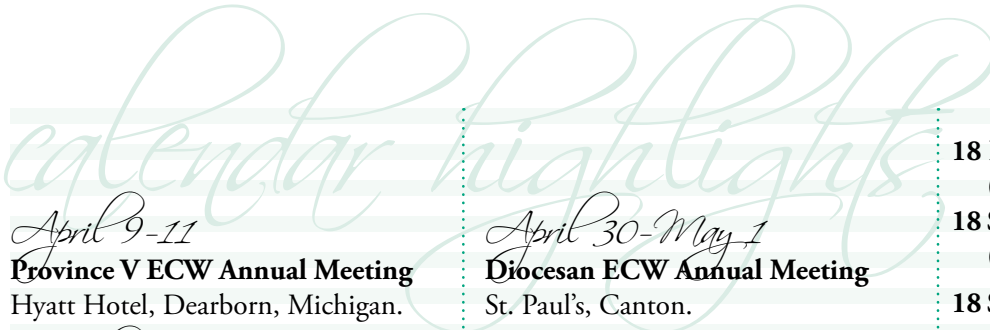
For those of us who suspect there is so much more to our life mission than what we're doing, who see our gift of life and personality as a God-given treasure we were meant to use, Parker Palmer's book, *Let Your Life Speak: Listening for the Voice of Vocation*, may provide just the reminder and the guidance we need to realize He has been with us all along. Life is about learning to respond to the "yes" in our lives, says Palmer. There would be nothing sadder than standing before the Throne of God and having to admit we never responded to that yea, that we'd simply done everything others expected of us. The book is an illuminating perspective on life's most fundamental decision to live the gift of life fully.

Parker J. Palmer is founder and senior partner of the national Center for Courage & Renewal, which oversees "Courage to Teach" and "Courage to Lead" programs for people in the serving professions, including education, medicine, ministry, law, and philanthropy. He has published a dozen poems, some two hundred essays and seven books, including several best-selling and award-winning titles: *A Hidden Wholeness*, *Let Your Life Speak*, *The Courage to Teach*, *The Active Life*, *To Know as We Are Known*, *The Company of Strangers*, and *The Promise of Paradox*. A member of the Religious Society of Friends (Quaker), he lives with his wife, Sharon Palmer, in Madison, Wisconsin.



ChurchLife!

Trinity Commons
2230 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44115-2499



April 9-11

Province V ECW Annual Meeting
Hyatt Hotel, Dearborn, Michigan.

April 10

Ordination to the Priesthood
Deacons Vincent Black and Paul Gaston will be ordained to the Priesthood at 10:00 A.M. at Trinity Cathedral.

April 17

Diocesan Confirmations
10:30 A.M. Trinity Cathedral. Bishop Hollingsworth will meet with candidates at 9:30 A.M. Contact Eva Cole, 216-774-0457 or ecole@dohio.org.

April 17

Los Amigos Episcopales Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser
St. Thomas Church, Berea. For reservations and tickets, phone Mary Jane White at 440-234-2636.

April 23-25

Celebrating Ohio Day at Washington National Cathedral
Go to www.dohio.org for more information.

April 23-25

Diocesan Youth Gathering
Youth in grades 8-12 will travel by bus and stay at St. Mary's Church in Arlington, Virginia. For more information go to www.dohio.org. Contact Rita Rozell, 216-774-0460 or rrozell@dohio.org.

April 30-May 1

Diocesan ECW Annual Meeting
St. Paul's, Canton.

May 4-6

Clergy Conference
Contact Rita Rozell, 216-774-0460 or rrozell@dohio.org.

May 8

Ordination to the Priesthood
Jennifer Leider will be ordained to the Priesthood at 10:00 A.M. at St. Paul's Church, Medina.

June 5

Diaconal Ordinations
Trinity Cathedral, Cleveland.

June 13-18

Peer Minister Training
Contact Rita Rozell, 216-774-0460 or rrozell@dohio.org.

June 28-July 2

Bishop's Bike Ride
Loop Around the Lake. To be added to the mailing list and receive registration information, contact Kristin Crites, 216-774-0462 or kcrites@dohio.org.

Bishops' Visitations

April

11 Church of the Ascension, Lakewood (Hollingsworth)
11 St. John's Church, Youngstown (Persell)

- 18 Harcourt Parish, Gambier** (Hollingsworth)
18 St. Timothy's Church, Perrysburg (Williams)
18 St. Paul's Church, Put-in-Bay (Persell)
25 St. Mark's Church, Shelby (Williams)
25 St. John's Church, Cuyahoga Falls (Bowman)
May
2 St. Paul's Church, Akron (Hollingsworth)
2 St. Mark's Church, Toledo (Persell)
9 St. Paul's Church, Marion (Hollingsworth)
9 All Saints Church, Parma (Bowman)
9 Trinity Church, Toledo (Williams)
16 St. Paul's Church, Canton (Hollingsworth)
16 Christ Church, Geneva (Williams)
23 Church of the Good Shepherd, Lyndhurst (Bowman)
23 St. Paul's Church, Medina (Hollingsworth)
30 St. Hubert's Church, Kirtland Hills (Persell)
30 Grace Church, Mansfield (Hollingsworth)

For the complete
calendar of events visit
www.dohio.org