



CHURCH

THE MAGAZINE OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF OHIO

Life

WINTER 2017





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The Rt. Rev. Mark Hollingsworth, Jr.

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201st Diocesan Convention

The Bishop's Episcopal Address

Good morning, colleagues. What an honor it is to welcome to this 201st Convention of the Diocese of Ohio some treasured and long-time friends, whom I will ask to stand when I mention them. Please hold your enthusiastic greeting until the end. Our Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, the President of the House of Deputies and our Parliamentarian the Rev. Gay Clark Jennings, the Vice-president of the House of Deputies the Hon. Byron Rushing, and their colleagues Sharon Jones, Canon Michael Hunn, and our own Betsey Bell; the Tenth Bishop of the Diocese of Ohio Clark and Wendy Grew; the bishops of our companion dioceses, Maimbo Mndolwa, Bishop of Tanga and Philip Wright Bishop of Belize and his wife Carla; the Bishop of Massachusetts, our colleague Alan Gates and Tricia Harvey; the 19th President of Kenyon College, Sean Decatur; and Bishop Abraham Allende, Bishop of the Northeastern Ohio Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Each of you honors us with your presence.

And it is, as always, a privilege to gather with all of you, the lay and clergy delegates of this, the first diocese of The Episcopal Church established beyond the 13 colonies, and offer, for the fourteenth time, the Bishop's Address. No doubt the words of Hymn 637 are again echoing in your ears, "What more can he say than to you he hath said...?" You will be relieved to know that this Address will be considerably shorter than those in years past, not only because of the tight schedule of this Bicentennial Convention, nor because of the presence of our esteemed guests, but because, for the first time at a diocesan convention, my mother is here. I would like to introduce to you Carol Hollingsworth, whose gentle and firm advice is always: Get to the point.

Throughout the course of this Bicentennial year, we have had a wonderful opportunity to recall the many faithful souls who, beginning two centuries ago in fledgling towns like Ashtabula, Boardman, Medina, and Cleveland, formed congregations and, in time, sought recognition as a diocese of The Episcopal Church. Our traveling time-line banners, Bicentennial moments, and *Church Life* and e-Bulletin articles have all reminded us how we stand on the shoulders of those who went before us – lay and clergy leaders, and untold numbers of committed communicants who, with perseverance and devotion, brought the Gospel of Jesus to life since before Ohio was even a state.

As a bishop of this Diocese, I am particularly aware of the fidelity and sacrifice of the ten bishops diocesan, four assisting bishops, one bishop suffragan, and their heroic spouses, who have served with you and those who came before you. From Philander Chase on, they have served in varying contexts, through world and civil war, times of both economic prosperity and hardship, periods of church growth and church decline alike, times of societal challenge and great social change. In



spite of diverse contexts, there were consistent characteristics of both episcopal leadership and congregational engagement. To a one, the episcopacies of this Diocese were marked by sacrificial service and devotion to the church and her communicants. In the close to 500 visitations I have made so far, time and again people have voiced their appreciation for a cherished relationship with this bishop of that, laity and clergy alike, and for the staff that extends the episcopal ministry in countless practical ways. Communicants express appreciation for pastoral responsiveness, for a public witness or a personal touch, for a prophet's courage or shepherd's heart.

Because I have the privilege of succeeding the Tenth Bishop of Ohio, I regularly hear a thoughtful word of gratitude and affection for Wendy and Clark Grew, sentiments familiar to me. I know well on whose broad shoulders I stand, and have been given repeated insight into the innumerable occasions of encouragement and care, the patient listening and steadfast companionship, the thoughtful counsel and courageous presence that both Wendy and Bishop Clark provided to clergy spouses and families, clergy and lay leaders, and all the faithful of this Diocese. Doubtless, many more such acts of care and love are known to God alone. As I ask the Grews to join me here, I invite you to express on behalf of the whole church our deep gratitude and affection.

In the midst of the endless challenges that the episcopal office so generously offers, you, Wendy and Clark, gave particular attention to the spiritual, emotional, and pastoral health of clergy families. In recognition of your fidelity to all those whom and with whom both of you served in this Diocese, the very first building to be named at Bellwether Farm is being named



in honor of the two of you. It is one of the multi-room retreat residences to which clergy, their spouses, and their families will come for respite and restoration, for generations to come. (When it is completed we will send you a proper photograph of it.)

+ + +

In 1997, Bishop Grew instituted The Bishop's Medal, to be presented from time to time, at the Bishop's discretion, to laypersons who have "engaged in notable Christian service to the diocese or their communities." The Bishop's Medal is quite sparingly bestowed; only 18 have been presented in 20 years. It does not so much honor the recipient, but recognizes how the recipient's life and service honors Christ and his church. I invite all Bishop's Medal recipients present this morning to come forward. Bishop Clark, on this 20th anniversary of your awarding the first Bishop's Medal to Sterling Newell, will you please join me in presenting the Bishop's Medal to someone who has worked tirelessly, and for longer than many of us have been alive, reminding us of the true history of racism in both church and society, and the heroes who have courageously stood up against it. Through her teaching, writing, and witnessing by word and example, she has modeled for us how to meet the never-ending Gospel challenge of "becoming beloved community" through racial understanding and reconciliation. She is diminutive in physical stature only, for on her strong spiritual and prophetic shoulders, we and generations to come surely stand.

It is a singular honor for the Tenth and Eleventh Bishops of Ohio to present the Bishop's Medal to Ms. Byrdie Lee.



+ + +



This Bicentennial Year has also provided us with opportunities to stretch and explore our vocational capacity to grow as children of God. Through the “What’s Your 200?” effort, individuals and congregations have set and exceeded new goals in their prayer disciplines, practices of generosity, and service to others. Here is a small sampling of individual 200s:

- 200 bulbs planted in the churchyard
- 200 prayers said on a parish labyrinth
- 200 notes of encouragement
- 200 acts of kindness

And a few examples of parochial and Mission Area 200s:

- 200 volunteer hours at the Food Bank
- 200 miles in the Relay for Life
- 200 children’s books for toddlers and young children
- Not 200, but 570 bees for the Bishop
- 200 honey jars for the Bishop to fill
- 200 cards made by hand and sent to parishioners
- 200 pairs of underwear for shelters and hospitals, collected on Undies Sundays
- 200 art kits for cancer patients
- One parish has had a different “200” every month for the last year, including having collected more than 1300 snacks given to the Challenger baseball league for people with disabilities.
- Another had a goal of 200 diapers for the Family Promise shelter and 1500 were collected.
- Hundreds and hundreds of rolls of toilet paper have been collected, which cannot be purchased with food stamps

And the lists go on and on.

What is continually being reported is that these disciplines have strengthened relationships among communicants, relationships within the community served by the congregation, and relationships with neighboring parishes that have partnered on some 200s. Bicentennial Missioners and their communicants report “We had no idea we could do something like this,” and “There is no doubt that we will continue doing this.”

These ongoing accomplishments are the result of a diocesan wide corps of Bicentennial Missioners, supported by Bishop’s Staff member Laura Hnat. Their enthusiasm and creativity have helped all of us turn toward a new century of ministry with confidence in God and a spirit of adventure. Tonight at the Banquet, we will see a video about “What’s your 200?” and have a chance to celebrate the Bicentennial Missioners, but I ask that any present here stand and receive our great thanks.

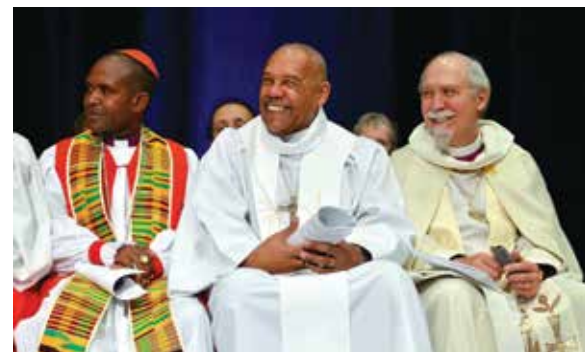
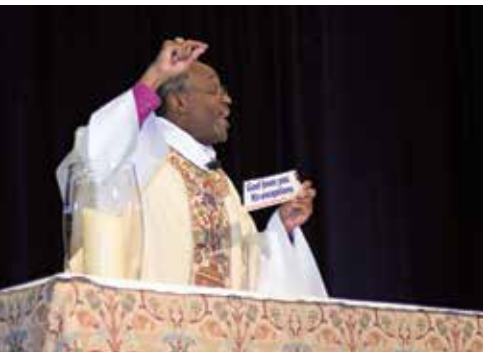
+ + +

A week ago, I received a letter from the oldest canonically resident priest of the Diocese of Ohio, the Rev. Richard Morris. From 1965 to 1985 he served as the Rector of St. Peter’s, Lakewood, where his daughter, Martha Taylor, her husband Ken, and their family remain dedicated parishioners. Richard and I became friends many years ago, long before either of us had any notion I would become his bishop. He had retired home to the Diocese of Massachusetts, at which time we became clergy colleagues. In his clear and careful hand, Richard sent a message to this 201st Convention, reporting that, in spite of recovering from a broken hip, his mind is very active at 94½ years old. He wrote: I am very active in Bible Study with a new

discovery. In the translation from Hebrew into Greek a mistake was made. There is no present tense on Biblical Hebrew. When Moses was tending his sheep on the mountain, he saw a bush burning and a voice called out to him, "I want you to go down into Egypt and free my people." Moses said, "Who shall I say sent me?" The story said "I AM sent you." That is a false translation into the present tense by some copier. The statement is future tense and said, "I will be however I will be." God promised to be with you and in you in the journey. As He always is, all the time. God is always with us if we will believe and know Him. So that is my message to each of you and to this Convention. God is with you and I am with you, as He is in me and I in God, grateful for my days in Cleveland, Ohio as your oldest ordained priest soon to be 95!! and blessed by God to be still doing Bible Study in the parish of Christ Church in

ourselves to be distracted from the needs of the world to which God has given us to minister as the body of Christ. As we celebrate how we have gotten here over the last two centuries, we must not forget for a moment why we are here, nor turn a deaf ear to the urgency of the broken world that calls out to us for help. In the last weeks of this Bicentennial year, we have witnessed the inconceivable reality that in our own society it is not possible to attend a concert, or worship in a church, or send our children to school with any real assurance of safety.

At a time when truth is so readily abandoned for fictions that serve individual desires and divisive power, we must not demur from our vocation to be a light to the nations and God's salvation to the ends of the earth. That is the vocation to be Christian. At the last meal Jesus shared with his disciples before



Lonsdale, RI, where I celebrated H.C. [Holy Communion] last year. Love and God's blessing be with you all. Richard.

Today, as we embark on a new century engaged in the mission of God who calls us always into what is yet to be, there is no more appropriate message for us to hear from a colleague who has been alive for nearly half of the life of this diocese. Just as I WILL BE sent Moses out of Egypt and into an unknown future, I WILL BE is sending us into a future that needs thoughtful leadership, uncompromising justice, and healing love. And, as Richard Morris assures us, God is with us all the time if we give ourselves to that future, without reservation and with confidence in God's love.

Amidst the joyful remembrances, thanksgivings, and aspirations of our year of Bicentennial commemoration, we must not allow

his arrest and crucifixion, he promised that we will not be alone in answering that call, but that God will give us "even the spirit of Truth...who dwells with [us] and will be in [us]."

To that holy end, spirit-filled generations before us have led the way into a future often unimaginable to them. On their shoulders do we surely stand, and their sacrifice is deserving of our own. Indeed, Christ Jesus' sacrifice demands our own.

It is a humbling privilege to serve with you at the dawn of this new era in our common life as the Diocese of Ohio. May we, in our every action, bless God who has so richly blessed this Church.

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

The Bicentennial Medal



Recipients: Andy Simons, Paul Frank, Richard Pryor, Sean Decatur, the Rev. Gay Jennings, the Rev. Dr. Brian Wilbert, Katie Ong-Landini, the Rt. Rev. Arthur Williams, Sue Leishman, and John Morley.

Bellwether Dedication & Updates

by Katie Ong-Landini

The Diocese of Ohio held a dedication service for Bellwether Farm on Sunday, November 12. The morning kicked off with a session for the youth and young adults of our diocese to join in conversation with Presiding Bishop Michael Curry. The lively dialog ranged from questions about the Presiding Bishop's background to how to keep our faith during the current turmoil across the country. Eucharist was then held in Bellwether's animal barn where the Presiding Bishop celebrated and preached.*

Visitors later had the chance to see first-hand the progress on the building construction. Diocesan staff members Claudia Wilson and Jessica Miller, who organized the event for a crowd of more than 600, set up self-guided tours at four areas of the site: a youth camp cabin, the new farmhouse, the worship barn and the main dining-meeting building. At that last stop, attendees used permanent markers to write prayers and words of thanks to the construction crew on the steel pillars and masonry walls. Although those areas will be covered with final finishes, the sentiments will remain as long as the building stands.

The project team expects building construction to finish on March 1, 2018. They will take the following two months to furnish rooms and set-up for hosting the first guests from the Diocese in May. There will be a community open house and opening celebration later in the spring, before the start of the initial camp season in late June. Other groups can book accommodations for the summer and fall—and beyond.

Many thanks go to the construction team, especially Andy Simons, our construction manager, project supervisor Ron Beal, site construction manager Bob Geiger, and their construction team; David Meehan, Mike Petrucci and Shawn Johnson from A.M. Higley Co.; Ethan Miller and Mike Gerlak from Regency Construction; Dave Boch and Gary Rhoades of Erie Custom Carpentry; Jay and Joe Woodyard from C.R. Woodyard Contractors; Jim Workman, Henry Luli and Dan Luli of Workman Industrial Services; Matt Miller of Yoder Barn; Larry Scott from L.E. Scott Electric; Steve Holmes of Calypso Plumbing; and Duncan Estep and Aaron Estep from Buckeye Electric, who installed the solar array on the front barn.

The project team is also grateful to the construction tech students and assistant director, Mike Ehrhardt at Erie Huron Ottawa Vocation Education (EHOVE) in Milan, Ohio, who are working on site twice a week. Mentored by Dave and Gary of Erie Custom Carpentry, the students have hands-on experience using new energy efficient building technologies, guided by professionals in the field. The partnership with the Diocese also meets one of the overall project goals to make every phase of Bellwether Farm's development an educational opportunity.

*sermons available at dohio.org







What's Your 200?

This bicentennial year, we asked the members of our diocese to answer the question, "What's your 200?" We encouraged members to use the Diocese's bicentennial celebration as an opportunity to reflect on the past 200 years and express what we aspire to be in the years to come. We invited all of the people of the Diocese to discover their own "200." The response was astounding. Our 200s became 2,000s and in some cases 20,000s. **TOGETHER WE...**

COLLECTED: cans of yams, pounds of pasta, bags of beans, Thanksgiving dinner baskets, chocolate chip cookies, toiletry items, toothbrushes, snacks, hats, gloves, mittens, scarves, pet food, clothing, shoes, Christmas dinner baskets, diapers, school desks, school supplies, socks, underwear, toilet paper, honey jars, baby clothes, pop tops, medicine bottles and much more...

HELPED: families who are homeless, food pantries, veterans, people suffering from cancer, hospital patients, schools, adults in prison and youth in detention, immigrants, people of other faiths, our companion diocese in Belize, students in Africa, people suffering after natural disasters, friends who needed encouragement, our communities, our neighbors, each other and...

CREATED: free libraries, safe spaces for young people, places to get warm, places to cool off, nutritious meals, fresh honey, habitats for bees, parade floats, new gardens, organized storage rooms, mini art kits, notes of encouragement, and...

GATHERED TO: serve meals, pack care packages, clean churches, run races, march in parades, pray, sing and worship, learn more about each other, learn about our history, hold flea markets and sales, sit with the sick, knit, sew and crochet, volunteer in the community, cook hot dogs, pass out water, sell pretzels, do random acts of kindness, dance the chicken dance, recycle, meet "Philander Chase," raise money for chickens, goats and sheep, laugh, work hard, pull weeds, plant flowers, welcome new neighbors, invite folks to church and...

WE ARE NOT DONE YET!

It was inspiring to hear how small churches accomplish great things and make essential contributions to their communities.

Alison Ricker
Bicentennial Missioner
Christ Church, Oberlin

The biggest outcome of our participation was the opportunity to re-acquaint parishioners to the benefits of a close relationship with the Diocese and other neighboring parishes.

Linda Bird, Bicentennial Missioner
St. Martin's, Chagrin Falls

I was absolutely amazed at the effort put forth by our church family to do something to help others and in turn celebrate our diocesan 200th anniversary. We are small, but I believe that the people of my church family have huge hearts and I thank God for each one of them.

Tom Wells, Bicentennial Missioner, Christ Church, Huron

I was surprised and pleased to get help and support from members of the congregation who picked up an idea and ran with it... Many times these committed persons were off and running and I was trying to "catch up."

Meg Anderson
Bicentennial Missioner
St. Paul's, Norwalk

I would say that the great surprise of doing our 200 was to see how it challenged people to respond with more generosity than they ever would have without the stretch of reaching to 200.

We doubled our goal and it really energized people. I think it helped everyone realize how much we are capable of when inspired!

Rev. Julie Fisher
Bicentennial Missioner
Christ Church, Kent

HERE ARE JUST A FEW EXAMPLES OF WHAT WE WERE ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH TOGETHER



86 Parishes



7000 Diapers



650 Pairs of Socks



6 Goats, Chicken and Sheep
for Bellwether Farm



School Supplies for
1,400 Children



23,000 Medicine Bottles
shipped to Belize



800 Warm Articles of Clothing
(hats, scarves, mittens)



600 Bulbs and
Flowers Planted



500 Bags of Pet
Food and Supplies



1,800 Hours
of Service



800 Toothbrushes
and other personal items



More than
1,000 Rolls of Toilet Paper



2 New Lending Libraries and more than
2,000 Books Donated

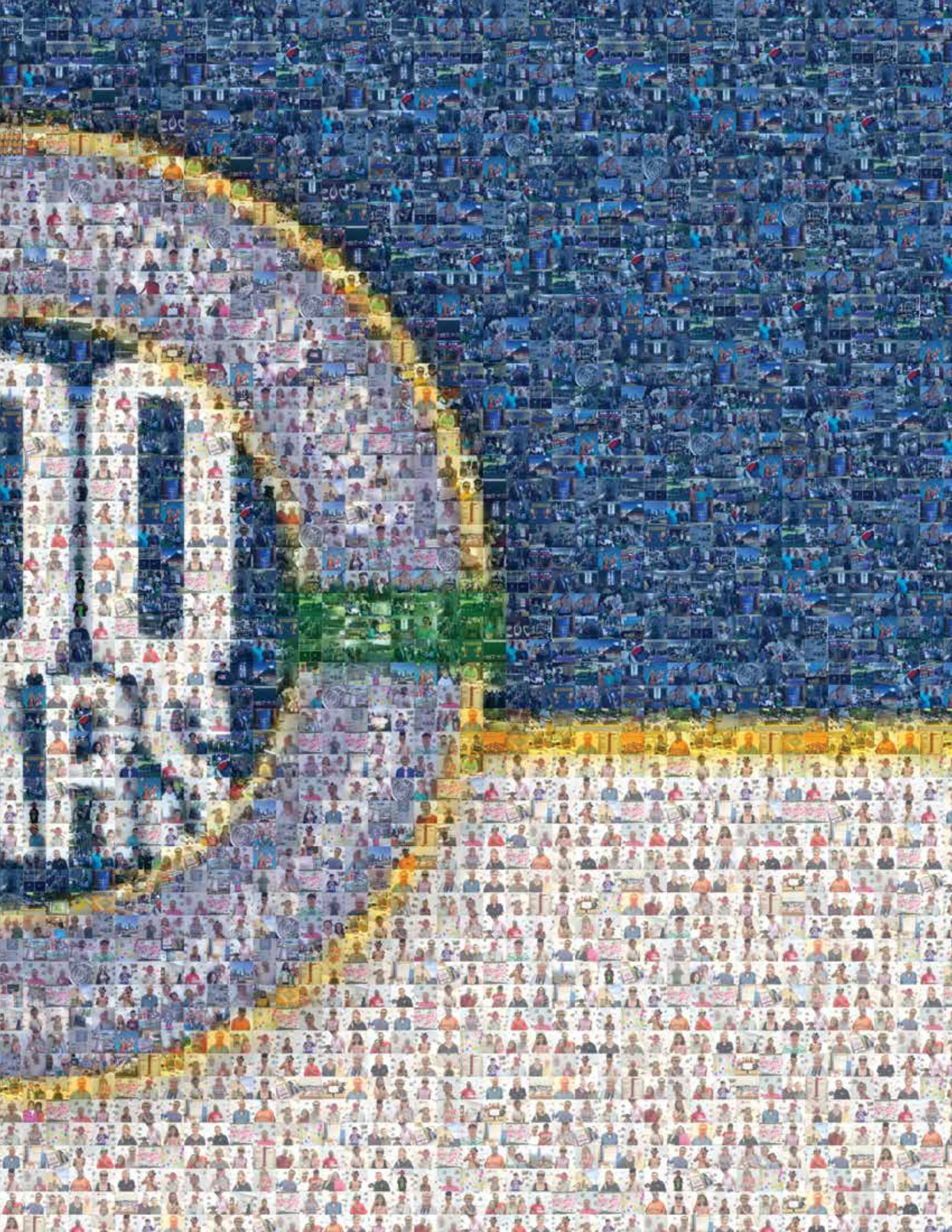


2,000 Pop Tabs Donated



COUNTLESS HOURS OF PRAYER





Pioneer Missionaries, Churches, and Bishops on Ohio's Frontier

This article was taken from a presentation for the Bicentennial Celebration of St. Paul, Medina prepared by the Rev. Dr. Brian K. Wilbert, Rector of Christ Church, Oberlin and Archivist for the Diocese of Ohio, with the assistance of Lynette Williams.

Our Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Mark Hollingsworth, Jr., continually reminded us during our bicentennial year, "We see farther and we can look and be called by God into a new century of mission and ministry because we stand on the shoulders of those who have come before us." I ponder that concept with great awe when I think that we would not be here today save for the work of God through the lives of Roger and Sarah Pomeroy Searle who arrived in Ashtabula, Cleveland, Medina, and Norwalk more than 200 years ago and founded parishes in each community. Roger Searle was born in Willington, CT on July 8, 1775. Searle's surname is English from the Norman personal name Serlo and the Germanic Serilo. It is suggested that this was probably a byname cognate of the Old Norse name "Sorli" and akin to the Old English "Searu" meaning "Armor" and also "defender" and "protector." So even a cursory reading of Searle's background information reveals that he put on the Armor of Christ for the work of ministry in what is referred to as the Connecticut Western Reserve. Although he never attained the position of bishop, he was clearly a defender and protector of the Christian faith, Episcopal style, in the forests of Ohio.

Roger married Sarah Pomeroy in Middletown, CT on August 7, 1800. Sarah Pomeroy was the daughter of Adino and Lois (Strong) Pomeroy. She was born on April 21, 1772 in Middletown.

Roger was ordained as a deacon in 1804 and as a priest in 1805 by the Rt. Rev. Samuel Seabury, the first American bishop in the Episcopal Church.

We have, in our Diocesan Archives, original letters from the early lay and clergy leaders in Ohio which describe the missionary zeal for organizing the Episcopal Church in Ohio's frontier.

We have these letters thanks to the safekeeping of the Rev. John Hall, who took over as Rector of St. Peter's Church in Ashtabula after Roger Searle resigned. From these letters and from his own recollections, Hall collected an account of the great and important labors of his friend, Roger Searle. Hall preserved these valuable documents, and at some point, it was deemed at the time that the best way to preserve the

letters was to put them between wax paper and iron them... which fortunately worked.

Searle's penmanship is challenging to read but fortunately, some sainted soul, whose name is known to God alone, transcribed the letters in March of 1904. They were bound in leather for safekeeping.

In a letter dated September 25, 1816 from Searle (who is in Plymouth) to the Rt. Rev. John Henry Hobart (the third Bishop of New York), we find the following thought which identifies the need for the church in Ohio:

"It has lately been stated, among other things, that the present population of the State of Ohio, falls nothing short of 400,000 souls. It is also estimated by a number of the enlightened and worthy Episcopalians, in that state, that no less than one-eighth of the whole population are Episcopalian emigrants from the Atlantic states, and from Europe. Also, that the Episcopalians are planted in the different settlements all over that fertile region—all of whom are wholly destitute of Christian ordinances. Not a parish organized, nor a single regular clergyman to preach the Gospel of salvation, or give them the holy sacraments. But we will suppose this too high an estimate, and take one half from the number. There will then remain 25,000 Episcopalians in that state, who are, emphatically, bone of our bone,— are partakers with us of the same common faith, but are now sheep scattered without a shepherd...So extensive is my acquaintance with the Episcopalian Emigrants, from the New England States, now planted in the state of Ohio; and so ardent are their solicitations for the services of the church to which they belong; I cannot but pray most devoutly, for their relief. Letters from both the southern and northern parts of the state of Ohio, are now before me, in which the writers plead, with all their ardor of enlightened and most fervent piety, for the holy ordinances of the church."

Having identified a need, Searle then humbly suggests a response:

"Therefore, Rev'd Sir, however inadequate I feel myself to an undertaking, in every view so important; yet having been



The Rev. Roger Searle



The Rev. John Hall



The Rt. Rev. John Henry Hobart



The Rt. Rev. Philander Chase

repeatedly and earnestly requested to embark with a view to the accomplishment in part, at least, of the above object—I have some time since, deliberately, soberly, and in the fear of God, determined, that with his permission, and under his Almighty protection—with your appropriation of the measure, and the decided confidence and support of the elderly clergy of this Diocese — as early as possible, in all November next, I will go, and in the name of the great Head of the church, plant the standard of your holy communion in the centre of the widely extended forest of Ohio. There unfurl its hallowed cross, and under the protecting shad of its sacred banner, in God’s name reunite the many dispersed members of our church. And by the consecrated seal, gather the many exposed and wandering lambs of the flock, into their proper fold...The general plan of operation will soon be made known to you, for the time is short. Gladly considering you, virtually, my Bishop, and being deeply impressed on the one hand, by the pathetic representations of the spiritual wants of those people,— and equally so, on the other, by an increasing sense of the awful responsibilities of the undertaking, I have been induced to be thus lengthy and particular, in placing the whole subject before you.

And here I pray you to consider me as resting my apology.
 With the most dutiful affection,
 I am, Right Rev. Sir, very respectfully
 Your Humble Servant
 Roger Searle."

And there it is.

The beginning of the Diocese of Ohio can in fact be traced to the work of four missionary priests (and their wives who get almost no mention) who came into the state before and after the war of 1812. These four clerymen are: The Rev. Dr. Joseph Doddridge (who first read prayer book services in Steubenville

as early as 1796), the Rev. James Kilbourn, the Rev. Roger Searle, and the Rev. Philander Chase.

It is nothing short of miraculous that these pioneer clerics and their spouses, Roger and Sarah Searle in particular, were able to accomplish what they did in laying the foundation for the Episcopal Church in Northern Ohio—all without the aid of telephones, electricity, automobiles, or the internet. Although the Rev. Dr. Doddridge was the first priest to begin the process of evangelism in Ohio, Searle was the organizer of at least a dozen and a half parishes in Ohio, five of which survive to our time: St. Peter’s, Ashtabula; St. James, Boardman; Trinity Parish (now Trinity Cathedral), Cleveland; St. Paul’s, Medina; and St. Paul’s, Norwalk. And as we all know, life in the frontier was difficult. The early priests in Ohio did not receive anything that would be recognized as a salary, though Searle was given a very small sum of money by the Pennsylvania Missionary Society.

Archive Predecessor George Franklin Smythe, who wrote *The Essential History of the Diocese of Ohio from its Beginning until the Year 1918*, writes about Searle’s last years saying, Searle and his family were repeatedly visited with "severe and prolonged sickness." They were poor even to the point of destitution. Yet they continued their mission until "worn out by his excessive labors for Christ and Christ’s church" and "completely broken down at the age of 52, Searle died on September 6, 1826 in Ashtabula and was buried there." It would be meet and right for a delegation from every parish to make a pilgrimage to Searle’s gravesite in Ashtabula and to offer a litany of thanksgiving for his labor and for the repose of his soul. I must again quote George Franklin Smythe who writes about widows of Joseph Doddridge and Roger Searle: "These women shared their husbands' fortunes and were in no degree inferior to them in courage, devotion, labors, and sufferings. Their industry and

economy made it possible for their families to live on the next-to-nothing that was paid to their husbands. Their affection, faith, and good cheer held up their husbands' hearts. Little is said in history, or anywhere, of the wives of Ohio clergymen, but it must be that in the book of remembrance which is written before the Lord, the names of ministers' wives shine among God's peculiar treasures."

After her husband's death, Sarah Pomeroy Searle returned to family in New York. She joined her husband in death on January 17, 1849 and is buried in Ogdensburg.

I want to offer two final vignettes into the pioneering spirit and soul of Roger Searle. The first from a paper "The Early Church in Ohio" by the Rev. Whiting Griswald (24 years of age,) read first before the Domestic Committee of the Missionary Society of the General Theological Seminary in January 1839 and again in April 1839. Griswald writes:

"In February 1817, the Rev. Roger Searle entered the State of Ohio at Ashtabula on the Connecticut reserve and after organizing a parish there traveled over the reserve and formed parishes at Cleveland, Medina, and Boardman. In April following, the Episcopalians of Worthington heard of Mr. Searle's presence in Ohio and immediately hired a man and sent him on horseback 130 miles in pursuit of him to invite him to visit their place. Their messenger was fortunately successful and returned with the object of his pursuit to Worthington..."

When he arrived in Worthington, Searle gave a report in which he stated that he had baptized 284 adults and children and administered communion to 83 persons between February and April that year...(that year being 1817). Now, there are several priests in our diocese who have enjoyed long tenures at their parishes. I won't presume to speak for any of them, but in the 22 years that I have had charge of Christ Church in Oberlin, I have not baptized anywhere near 284 adults and children.

The second vignette comes once more from the writing of Dr. Smythe who records that after one false start, the provisional organizational convention took place in Windsor, Ohio in the parish community of Christ Church. The purpose of this provisional convention, on April 2, 1817 at the home of the Honorable Solomon Griswald, was to invite other Episcopal parishes and societies in the geographical boundary of Ohio to form a diocese. Roger Searle was in charge of the Windsor Convention, Philander Chase was the secretary, and the minutes do survive. Roger Searle, who was canonically resident in Connecticut, was asked to represent the fledgling diocese at the next General Convention.

That General Convention met at Trinity Church, NY on May 20, 1818 with the Rev. Roger Searle as a member of the House

of Deputies. Searle made a pitch on Ohio's behalf to the House of Deputies and the House of Bishops. On May 22, the House of Bishops adopted a resolution allowing a diocese to be formed and a bishop elected in the State of Ohio. The Diocese of Ohio is the first diocese organized outside of the original 13 colonies.

When Searle returned from the General Convention, it was just in time to attend a third organizational convention for our diocese. Previously, the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church were ratified, a diocesan constitution was framed, and a Standing Committee was appointed. The minutes of this official gathering, which took place on the first Wednesday in June, record that all four clergy persons in the State of Ohio were present: Chase, Kilbourne, Searle and a newbie, Samuel Johnston, the rector of Christ Church, Cincinnati. Doddridge was also present, but because he didn't reside in Ohio, he wasn't formally recognized as a member of the convention. The minutes further show that this was a central Ohio convention. Ten parishes were represented: five of them (Columbus, Worthington, Berkshire, Delaware and Norton) were under the care of Chase, four parishes (Zanesville, St. Clairsville, Morristown, and Cross Creek) were under the care of Doddridge, and the parish from Chillicothe had no minister in charge. Notably absent were any of the parishes under Searle's charge. The election of a bishop was sprung on the convention delegates who thought they had gathered to discuss how to fund the Office of Bishop. Nevertheless, an election took place. Kilbourne, Searle, and Johnston voted for Chase. Chase voted for Doddridge. Although many of the parish communities in the Western Reserve and the delegates from central Ohio at the convention had hoped Searle would be elected, and although Searle had hoped he would be elected, Chase was duly elected the first Bishop of Ohio. Of the election Smythe writes: "Either Searle, Doddridge, or Johnston would have made an admirable bishop; Chase was certain to make a remarkable one."

Still Searle's work as a priest stands as a testament to this good and faithful servant of God.

So ends this brief look at the beginning of our diocese and the debt we owe Roger Searle and his beloved, Sarah. We are invited in our time and era to be the torchbearers of the Gospel. We have received it from those who have come before us and we are to pass it off to those who are to come after us. Having just finished our bicentennial year, and as we continue to discern how God is calling us into our third century, the words of the great Massey H. Shepherd, priest, liturgical scholar, and historian, ring true: "To move forward, look back." Indeed, may our past inform the future into which God is calling us and may the herculean efforts by our pioneer fathers and mothers inspire us to use the resources we have to build up Christ's church in Ohio.

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

The Bishop's Annual Appeal

Your support of the Bishop's Annual Appeal is truly changing the world. Through your generosity, ministries across our diocese are ensuring that people who are hungry can get a nutritious meal, people who are homeless can find shelter and support, people who feel hopeless will find comfort and care and many others in need will receive life changing help.

Your generosity helps to make this possible. Annually people in the Diocese give more than \$265,000 to the appeal putting into action the commitment to love God, love our neighbors and to change the world. This support helped to fund vital ministries in our parishes that are feeding the hungry, educating children and young adults, giving hope to those who are struggling, and carrying out God's work in a myriad of other ways. The programs provide crucial help to those in need but more than that, they allow us to embody our Christian values and grow spiritually together.

The impact of your gifts to the Bishops Annual Appeal can also be seen in our spiritual formation. Funds raised through the appeal also help to underwrite mission trips and leadership development for members of the Diocese, provide summer internships for high school and college students, and help to train and place newly ordained clergy.

If you have already made your gift, please accept our gratitude on behalf of the lives you are changing. If you have not yet given, please consider making a gift today.

You may also give online at dohio.org. For questions or more information, please contact Laura Hnat, Chief Development Officer, at 216.774.0463 or LHnat@dohio.org.

ECW News *and* Notes



The Carlotta East Scholarship Fund was established in 1945 to provide financial aid to Episcopal women who need assistance in completing their education, upgrading their skills before returning to the workplace, or to take religious training. With a generous bequest from the late Carlotta East, and a \$5,000 transfer from the Carlotta East liquid assets, the scholarship operates from the dividends, investment interest, and additional donations received from parishes and individuals in our diocese. Candidates need to be at least 21 years of age and have attained junior ranking in a college or university to qualify for the scholarship aid. Grants are usually \$500.00; however, exceptions can be made by the scholarship committee. The grant money will be issued for fall 2018 or as requested by the candidate. Deadline for 2018 applications is March 31, 2018. Forms are available on dohio.org and listed under Ministries and ECW. For further inquiries, please contact susanliddle@neo.rr.com.

Save the Date: ECW Annual Meeting

Date: Saturday, May 19

Place: Bellwether Farm

Special Guest: National ECW President Lisa Towle

Diocesan Youth Event

by Anna Sutterisch

Turns out St. Martin's, Chagrin Falls is a great place to play "Romans vs. Christians." At least that's what we discovered at the Diocesan Youth Event (DYE) in early October. About 40 youth from across the Diocese of Ohio, as well as a number of adults, gathered for three days to meet, play, pray, and build relationships and connections across our church.

We started out on Friday night with a make-your-own-pizza station and some team-building games, led by the Rev. Greg Stark of St. Andrew's, Elyria and Christ Church, Oberlin. After establishing some ground rules, we were interrupted by two "pirates" who led us in brain-bending puzzles and games in order to find the treasure—which we never could figure out. Turns out we're much better at Romans vs. Christians. With the lights of the church off and a "jail" established, undercover "Romans" tried to capture and jail Christians, who could tag each other into freedom. By the grace of God, there were no injuries but there was a lot of laughter.

Bright and early on Saturday morning, we breakfasted and prayed with Bishop Hollingsworth, who came by to say hello and talk about the Church, the Diocese, Bellwether Farm, and whatever else was on our minds. It was a great way to get closer with the Bishop and to have a more candid conversation with him. We took advantage of the beautifully warm autumn day to take a field trip to Patterson Fruit Farm where we picked apples and pumpkins. After a big lunch and some rest, we took off once again into the beautiful Metroparks which surround St. Martin's. Teams of new friends hiked, climbed, played in the river, and participated in a "nature bingo" activity in the sunny woods. One youth said, "I liked doing all the activities, especially the hike!"

Back at the church, groups wrote, directed, and starred in a series of skits centered around vocation, figuring out what we are called by God to do in the world. The skits were creative, funny, deep... and a little bit weird! Despite all of this excitement, after a taco dinner, there was still enough energy for a series of activities. We painted the pumpkins we had collected that day, made our apples into delicious turnovers, and participated in a mystery spy game led by the Rev. Zeke Coughlin of St. John's, Cuyahoga Falls. Then—you guessed it—another round of Romans vs. Christians.

On Sunday morning, families joined the congregation at St. Martin's for Eucharist. Two youth read Scripture, yours truly (Anna Sutterisch, the seminarian at St. Martin's) preached, and then we blessed a variety of pets in celebration of St. Francis' feast day. What an exciting service! We thank the Rev. John Cerrato of St. Martin's for hosting us all and Canon Vincent Black and Rita Rozell for planning such a wonderful weekend.

The youth that gathered at DYE made it clear that the next generations are not the future of the church but are the church today, right now. They were thoughtful, kind, intentional, generous, and hospitable to one another. They were helpful, respectful, and energetic throughout everything. One participant even noted they did not expect to love it, but had fun making friends and building community. With everything they did and said, our youth embodied and emanated that the Episcopal Church, especially in the Diocese of Ohio, is alive and well!



Unique Dinner Conversation

by Johnny Williams

On September 14, nine young people, along with their families, had the opportunity to engage in a lively, spirited, and respectful exchange with local police officers in an event titled, "Young People/Safety Forces: In Conversation." The Historic St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Outreach Ministries presented the encounter with assistance from the Diocese. The three-hour event took place at Trinity Commons. The evening began with time to mingle followed by a dinner with the young people, their families, police officers, and guests.



The dialog started with a statement made by Detective Anthony Spencer. He talked about the manner in which many youth respond when approached by a member of the police, which is often perceived by safety forces as provocative and disrespectful. Officer Anna Marcado followed. She discussed her approaches to diffuse tension and achieve peaceful resolutions with minimal confrontation. The youth participants were extremely articulate in sharing their individual perspectives and posing their concerns and responses. Perhaps the most touching testimony was made when one young man recounted the time he was attempting to rob a house with some other youth when an officer (who just happened to be one of the representatives present from the Third District) caught him during the crime. He went on to say that the incident was a pivotal turning point in his life. His family got him involved with the Golden Ciphers Youth Outreach Center which brought him (and his parents) to the St. Andrew's workshop. All of his accomplices from that night are now currently incarcerated or deceased.

This collaborative partnership between The Historic St. Andrew's Episcopal Church and Key Bank of Cleveland began in 2007. The primary focus is to educate high school students and their families about how to make informed decisions related to money. It was started by Johnny Williams and Dr. Giesele Greene, who assisted us in securing support from the Sisters of Charity Foundation, as well as Episcopal Community Services. Four to five workshops are offered annually which focus on topics such as credit, college selection and financing, time and money budgeting, checks and related terminology, etc. Golden Ciphers Neighborhood Outreach Center joined the program earlier this year. The collaboration has formed an effective vehicle for the growth and development of Cleveland's young people.

Give the Gift of Wonder

Camp will be in session next summer providing youth with a place for discovery, leadership development, and hands-on learning.



Give the gift of wonder by helping kids to experience all that the farm has to offer. Simply choose a gift to sponsor from our catalog. We will notify the person of your choosing that you made a gift in their name. More info and opportunities can be found at dohio.org.

Snapshots: Stories of Inspiration &



St. Paul's, Medina has held their annual Homeless Awareness Sleepout every year for at least eight years. Each year St. Paul's welcomes participation from other churches. This year, and in years past, Trinity Cathedral, Cleveland assisted in the project. The participants included those from 6th through 12th grade. The overnight event was held November 18-19. The intent is not just to raise funds for organizations, like Operation Homes, that offer aid to homeless families, but is also to raise awareness about homelessness and hunger. The event offers youth the ability to engage in service projects, raise funds, and sleep outside in the cold to experience the feeling of displacement. The sleepout also provides a forum to discuss topics around homelessness.



Trinity Church, Toledo is participating in the Christmas Angel program. The program gives the church cards with wishes and needs for Christmas from families in the area. Parishioners take a card and buy presents for the family the card is describing. This year, Trinity Church sponsored 31 individuals: seven women, two men, ten boys (ages 3-13), and twelve girls (ages newborn to 18). Each person receives two gifts: one need and one wish. Each parishioner can buy any of the numerous things on the card for the families. The gifts go to Leading Families Home client families. The gifts were distributed the week of December 4.



St. Mark's, Shelby has a bike repair shop that they use to contribute to the Christmas program. The bikes are fixed up in the repair shop and donated to the area's Christmas program to be dispersed to families in need. Every Monday, a group of bicycle riders meets at St. Mark's to have breakfast and discuss where they will ride that Thursday. During one of these meetings, the riders were asked to fix up used bicycles. The first year they fixed 20 bikes, the next year 40, and then 70. The fourth year they fixed and donated nearly 100 bicycles. This year they've fixed and donated 48.

Ministry From Around the Diocese

Grace Church, Ravenna makes twiddle muffs to donate to a local nursing home. Twiddle muffs are sleeves, or muffs, that can be made in a variety of ways. The sleeves can be sewn, knitted, or crocheted. After they are created, members of the Twiddle Muffs Project embellish the sleeves with buttons, ribbons, zippers, and beads. The muffs, when donated to the nursing home, go to residents that suffer from Alzheimer's and Senile Dementia. The twiddle muffs prove to be helpful to these residents because the muffs give them something to play, or twiddle, with. The members of Grace Church made and donated more than 30 twiddle muffs to the nursing home.



St. James, Wooster participated in Wooster's annual Alternative Gift Market. The market offers shoppers the ability to tour different displays related to 30 different humanitarian projects and aid. Shoppers can purchase \$5.00 shares in the various projects to give to friends or family in lieu or in addition to material gifts. This year, St. James joined in offering the ability to give the gift of food, medicine, livestock, or education through humanitarian and charitable agencies both in the United States and around the world. St. James had volunteers working at the December 3 market as help in the kitchen, cashiers, or at the parish's display table.



St. Thomas, Berea hosts a Veterans Meet and Greet Lunch at the parish on the last Friday of every month. Originally, 16 veterans came to the lunch and the program has grown to include 72 spaces being set every month. Veterans from every branch of the military come together and recall stories and experiences while eating a luncheon provided by a Diocesan grant and other donations. Some of the attendees also provide entertainment, ranging from singing along with a guitar to a magician. St. Thomas welcomes any veteran, from any branch, in the area to come to the luncheon. The veterans all leave the luncheon with a little treat package, a poem of the month, and, frequently, leftovers for that night's dinner.



Getting to Know Your Neighbors

Profiles and Testimonies from the People in the Pews

Mary Anthony

St. Paul's, Medina



I have been at St. Paul's, Medina as a parishioner since 2000 and as their Director of Religious Education and Youth Advisor since August 2001, after moving to Medina in July of 1999 from Edmond, Oklahoma. My husband Bob had been transferred here by his job with Michelin. Our youngest of three daughters, a junior in high school, also came with us as did our two grandchildren, ages 2 and 16 months, while their mother finished up technical school in Oklahoma City. We had been active members of St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Edmond. It was important for us to find a new church home.

I am a cradle Episcopalian having been baptized at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Paterson, N.J. and growing up at and married at Christ Church, Ridgewood, N.J. Two of our daughters were baptized at Christ Church, Ridgewood and our third daughter at St. John's Episcopal Church, New Milford, CT. From Connecticut we were transferred to Overland Park, Kansas where we attended Christ Church and a year later transferred to Atlanta, Georgia, where we attended Christ Church, Norcross, GA. Are we seeing a pattern here? From there we were transferred to Oklahoma and then here to Ohio.

I taught Sunday school in Connecticut, Kansas, Georgia, and here. I was and have been very involved with the ECWs in the last four parishes, having served on the board in Connecticut as Secretary and here at St. Paul's, Medina as Vice-President twice, and Worship Chair for both our Summit Mission Area and on our Diocesan Board. I have also sung in the church choirs, been and am on Altar Guild and I am a LEM and LEV.

I feel very blessed and privileged being able to work with our Sunday school children and to work with and mentor our youth both here at St. Paul's and at the Diocesan level. We have an amazing group of youth in the diocese and amazing and talented youth leaders and Diocesan staff. I have been lucky enough to attend several Diocesan youth events, including Happening, which was hosted here at St. Paul's in 2017. I have been able to attend EYE three times as a chaperone and planned and attended numerous mission trips with youth from St. Paul's and other parishes in the Diocese. Working with the children and youth has helped me to grow in my own faith. They are not the future of the church but are the Church now.

Josh Handley

St. Alban's, Cleveland Heights

I was confirmed at St. Alban's in Cleveland Heights in early 2011, but my spiritual journey started about five years earlier in the coastal desert of Peru.



Though I hadn't spent much time in church up until that point, my experiences there showed me that life was much different than my upper-middle class education in computers had led me to believe and that following and learning more about God was the way to open beyond myself into a fuller life.

Since then, I've found some of the best tools for that opening in programs like Education for Ministry at St. Paul's in Cleveland Heights, on a farm with a handful of Episcopal nuns in the Hudson Valley of New York, and in fellowship with others throughout the Diocese of Ohio.

These days, following that path has led me from my beginnings as a computer engineer to becoming an urban farmer and homesteader in the Cleveland area.

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

Diocesan Calendar

December

- 1-2 Diocesan Council Organizing Meeting, Trinity Commons, Cleveland
- 18 Standing Committee, Trinity Commons
- 25-Jan 1 Diocesan Offices closed in observation of Christmas and New Year

January

- 15 Office closed in observation of Martin Luther King Day
- 18 Diocesan Council, Trinity Commons
- 22 Standing Committee, Trinity Commons

February

- 2-3 Winter Convocation, Kalahari Resort, Sandusky
- 15 Diocesan Council, Trinity Commons
- 16-18 Happening Staff Retreat
- 19 Standing Committee, Trinity Commons

March

- 15 Diocesan Council, Trinity Commons
- 15-17 Commission on Ministry Gathering with Seminarians, River's Edge, Cleveland
- 16-18 Happening Retreat
- 19 Standing Committee, Trinity Commons
- 26 Clergy Renewal of Vows – West, TBD
- 27 Clergy Renewal of Vows, Trinity Cathedral
- 30 Office closed in observation of Good Friday

Bishops' Visitations

December

- 3 St. Barnabas, Bay Village - Hollingsworth
- 10 Trinity Cathedral, Cleveland - Williams
- 10 St. Peter's, Lakewood - Hollingsworth
- 17 St. Christopher's by the River, Gates Mills - Hollingsworth

January

- 7 Trinity, Alliance - Hollingsworth
- 14 Christ Church, Geneva - Hollingsworth
- 28 St. John the Baptist, Bowling Green - Hollingsworth
- 28 St. Andrew's, Elyria - Williams

February

- 11 St. John's, Cuyahoga Falls - Hollingsworth
- 18 St. Peter's, Ashtabula - Williams
- 18 St. Paul's, Canton - Hollingsworth
- 25 St. Philip's, Akron - Hollingsworth

March

- 4 St. Augustine, Youngstown – Hollingsworth
- 4 St. Stephen's, East Liverpool - Persell
- 18 St. Bartholomew's, Mayfield Village – Williams
- 18 St. Matthew's, Brecksville - Persell
- 25 St. Timothy's, Perrysburg – Hollingsworth

Clergy Changes

The Rev. Michael S. Floyd has accepted a call to serve as priest-in-charge at Christ Church, Huron.

The Rev. Elizabeth Frank has accepted a call to serve as interim rector of St. Mark's, Canton.

The Rev. John R. Hagan has accepted a call to serve as part-time interim rector at St. Michael's in the Hills, Toledo.

The Rev. Nancy H. Wittig has accepted a call to serve as interim rector at All Saints, Parma.

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

2018 Winter Convocation Becoming Beloved Community

Our Keynote Speaker - Heidi Kim

Heidi Kim is Director of “Becoming Beloved Community,” the Episcopal Church’s long-term commitment to racial healing, reconciliation, and justice. Becoming Beloved Community represents not so much a set of programs as a journey, a set of interrelated commitments around which we as Episcopalians may organize our many efforts to respond to racial injustice and grow a community of reconcilers, justice-makers, and healers. It builds around four long-term commitments: 1) Telling the Truth, 2) Proclaiming the Dream, 3) Repairing the Breach, and 4) Practicing the Way of Love.

Our Music Leader - Ana Hernandez

Well known throughout The Episcopal Church, Ana writes of herself, “I am a composer/arranger, workshop facilitator, author, and mischief maker. I work with people to create beautiful liturgies in many different styles; from early music to contemplative, to drummy and participatory.” Ana’s focus these days is in leading and teaching music that brings people together through singing.

Register online: <https://2018dwc.eventbrite.com>

February 2-3, 2018
at Kalahari Conference Center - Sandusky