



CHURCH

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Life



BECOMING BELOVED COMMUNITY

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH'S LONG-TERM COMMITMENT TO
RACIAL HEALING, RECONCILIATION AND JUSTICE



"Suffer not
our trust in
thee to fail."

pg.5

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The Rt. Rev. Mark Hollingsworth, Jr.

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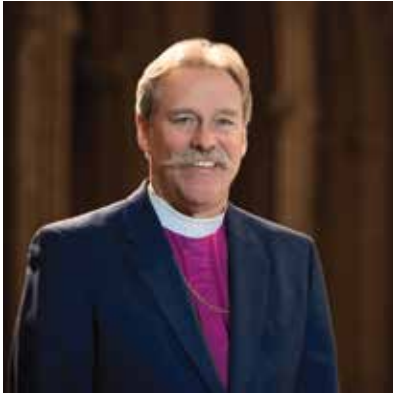
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A LETTER FROM THE BISHOP

“Suffer not our trust in thee to fail.”

Lent came early and harshly this year. As we began our forty-day fast in search of deeper self-awareness and repentance and were receiving on our foreheads the mark of humility and surrender in ashes, a 19-year-old was marking his former fellow students for death at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. Just as our ashes were an outward sign of who we are as humans, “dust and unto dust,” so did Ash Wednesday’s shooting painfully begin to reveal once again elements of who we are as a society and nation.

The events of our individual and collective lives reflect both our faithfulness and our brokenness. They are among the things God invites us to consider, humbly and vulnerably, in the discipline of penitence. Repeatedly in the Gospels, we find Jesus holding up a mirror to people – his own family and disciples, strangers, religious authorities, government officials, saints and sinners of every sort – inviting and challenging them to see themselves as God sees them. Time and again he pushes them to take account of their actions, of how they live, and of their relationships to others, and consider whether those patterns and structures that have become acceptable to them are likely acceptable to God.

Jesus repeatedly used current events and familiar historical incidents to show his contemporaries who they were in the fullness of their humanity, something he well understood,

having become fully human himself. In so doing, he politicized the actions of individuals and of the religious and civic communities to which they belonged, intending that it would cause them to ask the hard questions and take the bold actions that would build a society reflective of the will and kingdom of God. And Jesus asks us to do the same.

This is difficult work. It challenges our patience, tolerance, and humility, and makes us susceptible to polarization and demonizing. The power of evil wants it to divide us and leave us more distant from one another and from God. But God wants it to draw us closer and help us realize God’s vision of a world bound together in love. That is, after all, our vocation as the body of Christ – to surrender ourselves to God’s will and become what God dreams for us to be, reconciled to one another and to God. And this work begins with prayer.

This Lent has been particularly difficult. I have yielded at times to feelings of helplessness and despair about who we are as a society and a nation. In many areas of our common life, it seems that self-interest and defensiveness have eclipsed self-sacrifice and generosity. From both sides of any issue, we argue to endless stalemates over whether to enact ineffective technical fixes when what is needed are cultural shifts that will require everyone to give. Not to give up, nor to give in, but to give over. To give over our will to God’s will and our lives to the sacrificial and risen life of Christ.

To address my burdened spirit, I have turned to a prayer in the Book of Common Prayer and made it my discipline to pray it a number of times every day. In the section of Prayers and Thanksgivings, it is the first of the Prayers for National Life, the prayer *For our Country*. It speaks to our faithfulness and our sinfulness, to our responsibilities and our dependence upon God to shoulder them. Its daily repetition has encouraged me to meet helplessness with trust, a trust that will cost me to give over more than I will doubtless want to afford. That is, of course, the price of resurrected life.

Almighty God, who hast given us this good land for our heritage: We humbly beseech thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of thy favor and glad to do thy will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in thy Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to thy law, we may show forth thy praise among the nations of the earth. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in thee to fail; all which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP, p.820)

With every blessing of the Risen Christ,

Mark

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

Bishops' Visitations

March

- 18 St. Matthew's, Brecksville - Persell
- 18 St. Bartholomew's, Mayfield Village - Williams
- 25 St. Timothy's, Perrysburg - Hollingsworth

April

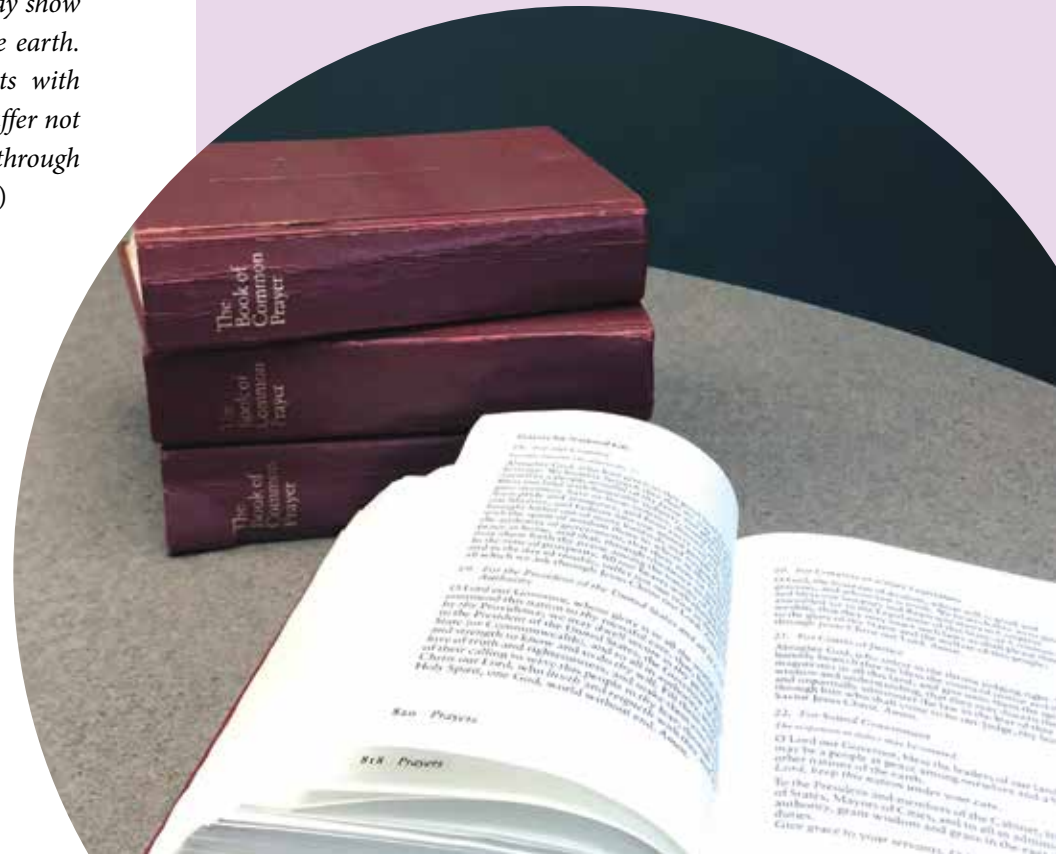
- 8 St. Paul's, Bellevue - Persell
- 8 St. Mark's, Canton - Williams
- 8 St. Mark's, Wadsworth - Hollingsworth
- 22 St. Patrick's, Brunswick - Persell
- 22 St. Mark's, Sidney - Williams
- 22 St. Matthew's, Toledo - Hollingsworth
- 29 Good Shepherd, Lyndhurst - Hollingsworth

May

- 6 St. Andrew's, Barberton - Persell
- 6 St. Paul's, Cleveland Heights - Hollingsworth
- 13 St. Alban's, Cleveland Heights - Hollingsworth
- 13 St. Michael's-in-the-Hills, Toledo - Williams
- 20 Ascension, Lakewood - Williams
- 20 St. Andrew, Mentor - Persell
- 20 St. James's, Painesville - Hollingsworth

June

- 3 St. Hubert's, Kirtland Hills - Hollingsworth
- 17 Trinity, New Philadelphia - Hollingsworth





Winter Convocation

We had a great turnout at the 2018 Winter Convocation which was held at Kalahari Resort and Convention Center on February 2-3. More than 370 people attended from 52 of our parishes.

Heidi Kim, the Episcopal Church's Staff Officer for Racial Reconciliation, kicked off the event on Friday evening focusing on "Becoming Beloved Community: the Episcopal Church's Long Term Commitment to Racial Healing, Reconciliation, and Justice."

As Heidi discussed in her presentation, the plan states "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. As you continue to read about this strategic vision, we encourage you to imagine a labyrinth. On the road toward reconciliation and healing, we move around corners and double back into quadrants we have indeed visited before, each time discovering a fresh revelation or challenge ..." The four interrelated commitments are: Telling the Truth, Proclaiming the Dream, Repairing the Breach, and Practicing the Way of Love.

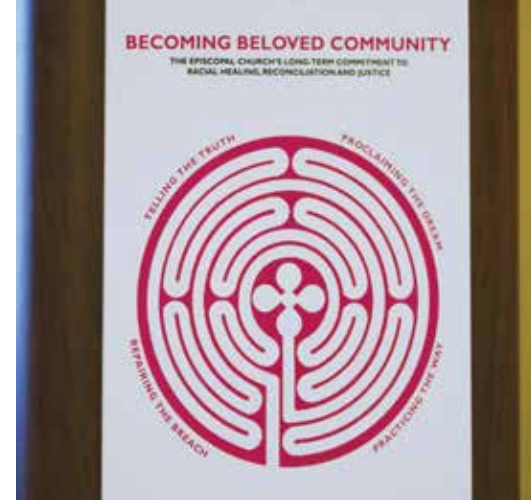
Attendees were then led through a lively musical worship by Ana Hernandez, an accomplished music leader and performer. People sang with each other, to each other, and even in rounds. Ana's lively presence brought a great energy to all who participated.

On Saturday morning, participants gathered to celebrate Holy Eucharist as a community.

Everyone then moved onto morning workshops that focused on topics such as prayer through the ancient practice of walking a labyrinth, ways to use music to empower congregational singing during worship, lay leadership in the church, and how to work towards preventing sex trafficking.

During this time, youth and children had the opportunity to engage in activities regarding "Becoming Beloved Community" that were tailored to their age groups.

Lunch followed the morning workshops which also allowed for time for



community and conversation. For those interested, Table Topic Conversations were made available for discussion about: Making the Most of Flocknote, After Your 200, Bellwether Farm, and Creating a Lay Pastoral Team.

During the break, many individuals visited the exhibit tables, including a new addition which was selling Bellwether Farm merchandise. (This merchandise is available to purchase online at the new Bellwether Farm website: bellwetherfarm.com. The shop link is located at the top of the page.)

Convocation then resumed with afternoon workshops that included presentations about liturgical art, rethinking community outreach, Daughters of the King, the refugee crisis, and more.

It was an opportunity for people to come together from across the diocese and



become engaged and inspired with ideas and information to help us move forward into the future together.

Photos can be found on our social media pages as well as on our website, dohio.org.

Save the date for next year: February 1-2, 2019. We look forward to celebrating with you again!



Meet the New Faces of Bellwether Farm

Brandon Gooch joins us from Oxford, Mississippi where he has worked and taken on many roles at Camp Lake Stephens for the past 14 years. While working at Camp Lake Stephens, Brandon began an Environmental Education program at the camp. Through this program he was able to develop a large camp garden, a barn with a variety of animals, beehives, a greenhouse, and a large composting facility. He now brings that same passion for camping ministry and healthy environmental practices to Bellwether Farm. Brandon will direct the summer camp program and guide the team in the day-to-day operations of Bellwether Farm.



Bellwether Farm is incorporating many new technologies, ranging from solar panels to water reclamation systems, that are complex in the way they function individually and collectively. Isaac Hollingsworth, the Sustainability Fellow, is tasked with learning how these systems work and developing curricula for educating Bellwether visitors and program participants. By providing teaching models for sustainable living that incorporate the renewable energy and resource reclamation systems in use at the facility, Bellwether intends to inspire and equip all who visit it to apply sustainability disciplines in their own lives.



Jessica Miller, the Land Stewardship and Program Manager, has been developing adult and youth programming and enacting a land management plan to maintain the highest possible ecological fidelity. Since Bellwether Farm is a place that we build together, there will be many opportunities in 2018 to get involved in making the land healthier and more beautiful, as we learn together how to promote wellness in ourselves and our communities. For example, youth will help with tree planting for Arbor Day during the Spring Youth Event. In addition, she looks forward to inviting Diocesan congregations to participate in Bellwether-hosted compost and water-conservation workshops later in the season where parishes will be equipped with practical resources to care for the earth in their own places.





For the past five years, our new farm manager, Kyle Mitchell, has grown food in Cleveland with two different urban farming initiatives, balancing food production, education, and social outreach. He is planning to cultivate two acres for vegetable production this year, as well as set up the two hoop houses, install the irrigation system, and expand the fruit orchard. He will also work with Brandon to care for our farm animals, including a Jersey cow, two sheep, several goats, and a flock of chickens.

Currently, Claudia Wilson helps to manage the Planting for Tomorrow campaign, supports Bellwether Farm construction administration, and assists with development efforts for Bellwether Farm. This year, Claudia is transitioning into an events and development management role. She will plan and manage events held at Bellwether Farm, while continuing to support development efforts. Claudia is already meeting with parish leaders and others to plan events, manage program registration, and coordinate activities with the rest of the team.



Updates: Although the frigid temperatures in December and January slowed the pace, construction on the buildings has moved ahead and is scheduled for completion in May. Many crews, representing a variety of trades, are on site each day working to enclose the structures, frame the interiors, and install the electrical, plumbing and HVAC lines. Work in March and April will focus on the interior finishes.

For our first event, we will host the ECW Annual Meeting on May 19. Women from across the diocese will gather for the day in the Worship Barn, which is a reconstructed barn frame originally built in 1863. The building features a large expanse of windows with views of the wooded hillside down to the recreation area and pond. The national ECW President will offer the keynote address. Members will also hold their annual meeting, followed by a luncheon and a worship service.

In addition, to help spread our message of a responsible, redemptive relationship with the land, we recently launched Bellwether Farm's website: www.bellwetherfarm.com. At this site you can learn more about Bellwether Farm, including: sustainable and regenerative farming practices, our mission and history, construction photos, upcoming events, and so much more. Check the website to learn more about this year's summer camp program and more details about the program offerings for 2018.



Rethinking Parish Outreach – Moving To

Over the last decade or so, I have come to understand God’s mission in the world – and therefore our mission as the church – is fundamentally about the quality of our relationships with God, each other, and all creation.

That theology is not original to me. The Bible begins in Genesis with God, humanity, and creation in perfect relationship each with the other, and it ends in Revelation as the heavenly city reunites with the earthly city, thereby restoring God, humanity, and all creation to that same perfection of relationship.

Between those bookend visions of the fully realized kingdom of God, and recognizing that such reconciled relationships are not usually present in the world in which we live, the rest of the Bible is the story of God working in the world to return kingdom of God relationships to all creation in the here and now. That’s what we mean when we talk about the “kingdom of God breaking in” and “experiences of the kingdom of God

in our lives today.” The Book of Common Prayer acknowledges this when it says that the mission of the church is “to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ.” And in recent years, this mission of reconciliation has found its way into how I think about parish outreach.

In Episcopal churches, the word “outreach” is often used interchangeably for the events and programs through which we offer help to those without food, housing, medical care, and the like; and the ways we seek to connect with people who do not already belong to a church. Our mission of reconciliation applies equally to both kinds of outreach, but for our purposes here, we’re just going to look at how it affects parish outreach in the first sense: that of helping people who lack a necessity of life.

Food ministries are a good example. There is no doubt that feeding the hungry is a good and Christian thing to do. Our



ward Relationship

by the Rev. Brad Purdom

question is can we rethink the ways in which we do it so that it also specifically advances our mission of working with God to build and reconcile human relationships?

Take a stereotypical soup kitchen. Good people stand behind long spoons and put scoops of food on plates that shuffle by in a long line. At the end of the line, the beneficiaries of the gift go into a large room and sit, usually pretty quietly, and eat. The people behind the long spoons talk and eat with each other in a circle in the kitchen, or at their own table in the big room, clean the place up, and everyone goes home. (Please remember, I'm talking stereotypes here.)

Now let's do what many of you have already done: work to turn the soup kitchen into something more like a genuine community meal. Care is taken to fix meals that are both healthy and delicious. Grace is always offered. The food is served either family or buffet style (everybody using the long spoon for themselves).

No parishioner is allowed to work in any capacity at the meal unless they get a plate, go through the line, and sit down at a table full of guests to eat and talk. (No kitchen circles or church tables.)

Someone comes around to ask guests if they have any prayer requests and – this is important – asks them to please pray for the concerns of parishioners as well, standing ready with a list of such requests. When the scheduled day for the meal falls on a holiday, the parish doesn't cancel it, but instead prepares something special for it. Guests are always personally invited to other events, programs, or worship that the parish has coming up soon. Flyers on the tables reinforce that invitation. Members are made available for prayer or conversation. Guests are invited to help put the tables away, or bring a dessert next time if they like.

The point is obvious. Soup kitchens are good things for hungry people, but a community meal like the one described invites conversation, respect, and reconciled human relationships across boundaries otherwise rarely crossed. This kind of outreach offers at least the opportunity for the kingdom of God to break in and for relationships to develop that heal and reconcile.

One last thought: imagine that right after the meal, or the next Sunday for ten minutes during coffee hour, members of the congregation who took part in the community meal share with at least one other person a moment during the experience in which they experienced a glimpse of the Kingdom; a moment of God's beauty, grace, or challenge. What might God do in those people and that congregation through such a spiritual practice of relationship building, reconciliation, and reflection?

The soup-kitchen-to-community-meal is a helpful example because the differences between the two can be so clearly described. But I am convinced that every kind of outreach – be it helping people short on necessities or connecting with people who do not yet know God – can be reimagined to include intentional movement toward building new and reconciled relationships between our congregations and the people we encounter.

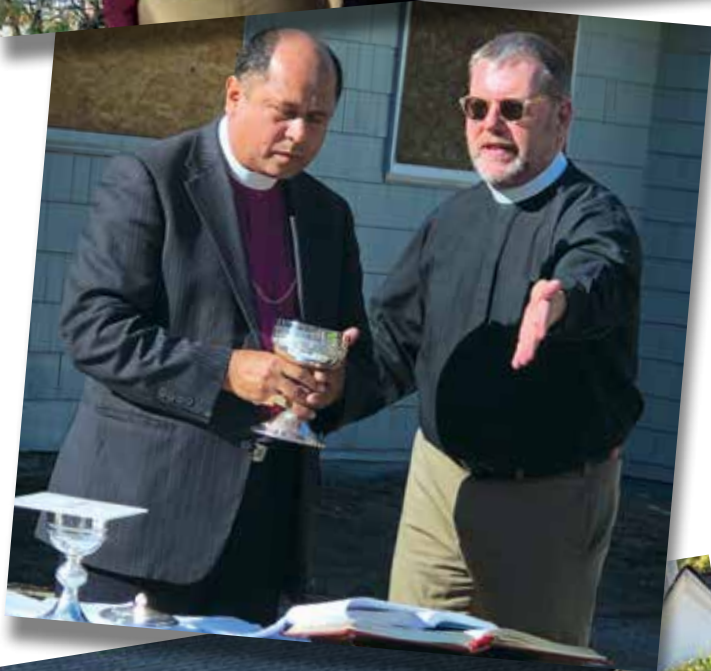
From Twelve Step groups, parish picnics, and food pantries to Oktoberfests and Town Festival booths; pet blessings to Christmas Pageants; prayer walks to sewing groups; and in everything else we do, churches are rethinking how to reach out in fresh ways that work alongside God in bringing in the Kingdom of God little bit by little bit. If I can help your congregation think about this a little more for your particular context, please send me an email (bpurdom@dohio.org). I'd love to come visit.

Los Amigos Hosts the

Los Amigos Episcopales (LAE) hosted a whirlwind tour of the Diocese of Ohio for the Rt. Rev. David Alvarado, Bishop of the Episcopal Anglican Church of El Salvador, when he visited in October 2017. LAE is a 501(c)3 non-profit peace and justice organization in the Diocese of Ohio which has supported the vocational, educational, social, and humanitarian programs of the Church in El Salvador for more than 25 years.

Bishop Alvarado was met at the airport by several members who knew him from their own earlier visits to El Salvador. They spirited him off to a delicious dinner and meeting at the home of member Lydia Caraballo. After dinner, the Bishop gave a video presentation showing his vision and mission for the schools in the diocese as well as descriptions of the needs for each of the four schools. He said the Diocese of El Salvador is small and young. The Diocese will celebrate its 50th anniversary this year. It has 18 churches with 3,000 members. He emphasized how vitally important the work of groups such as LAE is in his country—especially for the schools.

Saturday evening found Bishop Alvarado greeting those who were attending the LAE Soup Supper fundraiser as well as those who had come for the 5:30 p.m. worship service at St. Thomas, Berea. After enjoying several kinds of soups and desserts, he spoke about the Church in El Salvador. Presently, the Church develops its ministry in three main areas: evangelization, education, and justice. He showed videos of the schools and discussed the challenges the churches face in his country. He also gave each attendee colored drawings that the Salvadoran children had made in thanksgiving for the support of their schools.



Episcopales Bishop of EL Salvador

by Fran Hummer

On Sunday morning, many enthusiastic parishioners welcomed Bishop Alvarado to St. Hubert's, Kirtland Hills with a sign in Spanish (made by the Sunday School children). It was a warm, sunny day so the service was held outside. Spanish hymns were sung and the Bishop preached and celebrated the Eucharist. Parishioner Gloria Gibbons, whose family was in the diplomatic corps of Panama, translated for him. The parishioners were impressed with his love for his country and his mission of peace, justice, and education.

A highlight of Bishop Alvarado's time in Ohio was a tour of Bellwether Farm led by our Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Mark Hollingsworth, on that beautiful Sunday afternoon. Bishop Hollingsworth shared his vision for the camp, retreat, and education center which features a working, sustainable farm and teaching kitchen. About a dozen members of Los Amigos, led by LAE President Gretchen Tucker, accompanied the two bishops around the grounds while appreciating the sustainable design elements and optimal use of the natural attributes of the site. Bellwether was of special interest to Bishop Alvarado as his diocese has had a practical and sustainable agricultural and training program for 18 years. (In addition, the Diocese of El Salvador has a forestry program that harvests trees for construction lumber.)

Monday began with a visit to the Montessori Children's School in Westlake, since presently two of the church schools in El Salvador are now using the Montessori educational method. After lunch in Ohio City, a small group of members took Bishop Alvarado to historic St. John's, Cleveland to tour the beautiful old church building and view the 200th Anniversary Historical Timeline banners. While he enjoyed seeing the Diocese of Ohio's history and pictures, he was especially happy to see LAE and the Diocese of El Salvador represented several times on the banners.

Then we were off to St Luke's, Cleveland to learn of their community outreach programs that consisted of a food pantry, a clothing closet, and free Wednesday night dinners.

Monday night, Bishop Alvarado attended a potluck dinner and meeting at St. Paul's, Cleveland Heights that was sponsored by their Global Missions Action Group (GMAG) and Third World Books (TWB). GMAG has supported the schools and the work of the Diocese of El Salvador for many years. TWB has been involved with LAE for many years and has generously matched half the cost of sending children's Bibles and books. Bishop Alvarado was delighted to be able to carry an extra suitcase of books back with him the following day.

Tuesday morning began with a delicious brunch of Spanish and American food at the home of Charlotte Rodriguez, a member who had lived for many years in Argentina. This meeting was our final opportunity to share ideas, ask questions, and give mutual thanks for our time together.

While education is only one area of ministry of the Church in El Salvador, the Bishop stressed the importance of LAE in supporting the schools in a country suffering from natural disasters, poverty, and organized crime. The schools provide a safe haven for the children: the support of LAE is a reminder that they are not alone and have not been forgotten.

We deeply appreciate those who accompanied and hosted Bishop Alvarado during his time with us. Also, we offer special thanks to the many interpreters who smoothed communication for all. We welcome more parishes and individuals to join in this demanding – but very rewarding – work. We usually meet at St. Matthew's, Brecksville on the second Friday of the month at 6:30 p.m. See our website for more information: www.losamigosepiscopales.org.



Henry Kuhn M.D.
1800-1878.





ECW

News & Notes

Carlotta East Scholarship Reminder:

The deadline for 2018 applications for the Carlotta East Scholarship is March 31, 2018.

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.

The Carlotta East Scholarship Fund was established to provide aid to Episcopal women who need scholarship assistance to complete their education, to upgrade their skills before returning to the workforce, or for religious training.

The fund, established in 1945, is invested with the Trustees of the Diocese of Ohio. 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.

Forms are available on dohio.org. They are listed under Ministries and ECW. For further inquiries, please contact susanlitttle@neo.rr.com.

Save the Date: ECW Annual Meeting
Date: Saturday, May 19
Place: Bellwether Farm
Special Guest: National ECW President
Lisa Towle

Facade Enhancement: \$10,000 Grant Awarded

by Beth Bergstrom

The downtown Tiffin Facade Enhancement Grant Program granted Old Trinity, Tiffin a grant of \$10,000. The Grant Program began in 2014. Since then, the program has distributed more than 1.2 million dollars towards revitalizing the town of Tiffin. The grant typically goes to businesses, but this year the committee broke the norm and granted Old Trinity the maximum amount. The grant provides a 50 percent match of funds for eligible exterior improvements throughout the downtown Tiffin historic district. Old Trinity will use their grant money to restore the stained-glass windows and to install storm windows to protect the glass.

Currently, the church's windows are covered with plexiglass. However, some experts are saying that the plexiglass, instead of protecting stained-glass windows, could actually lead to eventual damage of the ornate glass underneath.

The rector of the parish, the Rev. Aaron Gerlach, said the key to earning grants such as this is getting involved with the community. Gerlach and others in the parish have been actively involved in the city for years. Gerlach believes the church's involvement in the community made it far easier for them to be awarded the grant.

"The downtown community sees us as an integral part of the community because we've been involved," Gerlach said. He believes that this involvement caused the community to want to improve the facade of everything, not just businesses in downtown Tiffin. "It doesn't have to and shouldn't just be the priests out there getting involved with the community."

The head of the program, Amy Reinhart, also recommended a grant for sacred spaces to Gerlach. While Gerlach does not believe that Old Trinity would qualify for this grant, he thinks other parishes in the Diocese of Ohio might. While grant information can be found fairly easily, the best way to be considered for various types of funding, according to Gerlach, is through interpersonal communication and relationships that are built through community involvement. "Try to find synergies in the community that your parish can work with," Gerlach said. Gerlach and Old Trinity are excited to begin the project on their stained-glass windows.

snapshots:

stories of inspiration & ministry from the diocese



Several members of **Grace, Ravenna** and the Rev. Carol Evans saw information regarding “Blessing Bags” posted on Facebook and thought it was a wonderful idea. Members of the church have made about 20 “Blessing Bags” so far. They are kept at the church, but members are encouraged to keep a “Blessing Bag” in their car in case they find someone in need. The bags include items such as: gloves, thermal socks, beef sticks, crackers, candy bars, toothpaste, toothbrush, wipes, deodorant, snacks, lip balm, hand cream, and other items that may help someone who is homeless or in need. The group believes that random acts of kindness can change people in the world.



St. Paul's, Medina has been donating to the Battered Women's Shelter since the summer of 2000. The Outreach Committee decided to form a relationship with them and established a collection box to receive needed items for the shelter. The requested items are published in the shelter's monthly newsletter along with an article about various topics relating to domestic abuse. Annually, in August, they make a special request for school items such as crayons, pens, pencils, notebooks, notebook paper, scissors, glue, and binders for children who may be in the shelter. Depending on donations received, they make at least one visit every month with the donated items. The Battered Women's Shelter also provides crisis intervention, education, case management, support, and referrals via different programs geared towards victims' needs.



Last fall, **Trinity Cathedral** began the process of getting 580 new sanctuary chairs. During the November clergy and warden's luncheon before Convention, Dean Paul Gaston sat at the same table as the Rev. Stephanie Pace, rector at St. Matthew's, Brecksville. During the luncheon, the topic of the sanctuary chair replacement project was discussed. Pace told Gaston that St. Matthew's, Brecksville was interested in the current sanctuary chairs for interim use at the parish. On December 17, volunteers from St. Matthew's, Brecksville came to collect the chairs. Trinity saved several chairs for archival purposes. Any broken chairs were given to the Old School Architectural Salvage Company so that they can be repurposed.

PROFILES

Michael Drivas
Trinity Cathedral



I remember walking up the front steps and being mesmerized by the sight and sounds of this Cathedral, beyond the architecture and the choir. The faces of every color, age, and creed. The sound of children laughing during Chapel Chat, 20's and 30's greeting each other under the organ, a beacon of hope, peace, respect, and love radiating out of the pulpit through doors and into the city streets. These sights and sounds brought me in, but the love for God and the love for me has kept me coming back! Knowing that I have the support of every Trinity member and knowing that every time I walk through those doors I will be welcomed for who I am without question of my sexuality, age, size, shape, or color is truly amazing. I have smiled, laughed, cried, sang, and danced. I have kicked the can, I have prayed, I am blessed. My thanks to Trinity and the Episcopal Church that I now call home!

Linda Bird
St. Martin's, Chagin Falls



Born a "cradle Episcopalian," I was baptized at Richardsonian Romanesque Trinity Episcopal Church in Watertown, N.Y. My parents were married in that beautiful stone church. When we moved, I attended Gothic Revival Trinity in Syracuse, N.Y. and then St. Stephen's, Delmar, N.Y., where I was confirmed. I met my husband at St. Stephen's and we were married there 53 years ago. Our married life took us to Glen Ellyn, IL and then St. Charles in St. Charles, IL where I served on vestry and as ECW President. Our daughters were confirmed and married there. I worked for almost 30 years in the middle school and took students to Washington, DC for 26 years. We often included National Cathedral on our tours. One memorable Sunday, four of my students were invited to carry the Eucharistic Elements to the altar. Upon retirement, my husband Don and I "followed the grandchildren" to the Cleveland area and joined St. Martin's, Chagrin Falls 14 years ago. Our grandchildren were confirmed there. I serve on vestry, Parish Life, and was our Bicentennial Missioner. We are active in VFW, my husband serving as Vice Commander of the Aurora Post.

Taylor Robustellini
St. Paul's, Norwalk



Everyone needs a place to go and just take off the mask and be themselves. Especially growing up in the world we live in kids need a place where they don't need to worry about what to wear or who to be like. That's why I love going to my church, because right when I walk in the door all that weight is off my shoulders and I don't need to be this strong person; I can just be me. Growing up my faith really wasn't that strong until my grandmother got sick. That's also when going to church was a constant. After she passed, my faith was really at risk until I realized that I'm not alone. I walked back through those doors and all the weight and sadness wasn't so heavy and I could actually bring down my wall and let people in. Faith is a funny thing sometimes. My faith now allows me to just be me even if I'm not in a church.

Love God. Love your neighbor. Change the world.®

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

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

How will you change the world?



THE BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

Your support of the Bishop's Annual Appeal helps people to make positive change in the world. Since its inception, generous donors have given more than \$3.2 million. Thank you.

The 2018 Bishop's Annual Appeal will be sent to your homes and parishes beginning this spring. Please consider making a gift.

For more information, please visit: <http://dohio.org/offices/development/bishop-s-annual-appeal>
or contact Laura Hnat, Chief Development Officer at 216-774-0463 or lhnat@dohio.org.

Third Century Scholarship Fund for Bellwether Farm

"Between every two pines is a doorway to a new world." -John Muir



There are many doorways to the world at Bellwether Farm, our camp, retreat, and education center. The fields, forests, lake, river, and nature trails are an outdoor classroom where both youth and adult visitors will be educated about environmental conservation, sustainable living, and personal wellness. As we begin our third century as a diocese, we want to ensure that every child is able to experience formative and transformational events at Bellwether Farm.

The Third Century Scholarship Fund for Bellwether Farm was formed during our Bicentennial Celebration to help ensure that all children, particularly those from underserved communities, may attend camp and other activities. Generous donors have already committed nearly \$50,000.

We invite others to join us in making a gift to the Third Century Scholarship Fund for Bellwether Farm. On behalf of the children who will benefit, we thank those of you who have already made a commitment. For more information, please contact Laura Hnat, Chief Development Officer, at 216-774-0463 or lhnat@dohio.org.



UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH

March 15

Diocesan Council Meeting
Trinity Commons

March 16-18

Happening Retreat
Church of the Ascension,
Lakewood

March 18

Commission on Racial
Understanding
St. Paul's, Maumee

March 19

Diocesan Standing Committee
Meeting
Trinity Commons

March 26

Clergy Renewal of Vows
St. Andrew's, Toledo

March 27

Clergy Renewal of Vows
Trinity Cathedral

March 30

Diocesan Offices Closed

APRIL

April 15

Commission on Racial
Understanding
St. Timothy's, Perrysburg

April 16

Diocesan Standing Committee
Meeting
Trinity Commons

April 21

ECS Spring Workshop
St. Paul's, Akron

April 27-29

Spring Youth Gathering
St. Andrew's, Elyria

April 28

ECS Spring Workshop
St. Timothy's, Perrysburg

MAY

May 1-3

Clergy Conference
Geneva State Lodge, Geneva on
the Lake

May 5

Creating A Culture Of Generosity
in Your Church
Christ the Redeemer Lutheran,
Brecksville

May 17

Diocesan Council Meeting
Trinity Commons

May 19

ECW Annual Meeting
Bellwether Farm

May 21

Diocesan Standing Committee
Meeting
Trinity Commons

May 28

Diocesan Offices Closed

JUNE

June 18

Diocesan Standing Committee
Meeting
Trinity Commons

June 21

Diocesan Council Meeting
Trinity Commons

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



SAVE THE DATE

Spring Youth Gathering

Celebrate Earth Week and Arbor Day
April 27-29, 2018

Youth in Grades 6-12

**St. Andrew's Church, Elyria
including time at Bellwether Farm**