



CHURCH

THE MAGAZINE OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF OHIO
SPRING 2021 • VOLUME 125 • NUMBER 1

Life



“While Jesus cherishes us individually, he reminds us that we do not become complete in isolation, rather it is when two or three come together in thoughts, words, or deeds. Our wholeness and our holiness are dependent upon diverse community with others, just as they depend upon communion with him.”

pg. 4

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

IN THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION

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

The Most Rev. Justin Welby

Archbishop of Canterbury

IN THE UNITED STATES

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

Established 1789.

The Most Rev. Michael Bruce Curry

Presiding Bishop

IN THE DIOCESE OF OHIO

A community of 16,000 baptized members in 84 parishes in the northern 48 counties of the State of Ohio. Established 1817.

BISHOP OF OHIO

The Rt. Rev. Mark Hollingsworth, Jr.

CHURCH LIFE MAGAZINE

E-mail: churchlife@dohio.org

The Rt. Rev. Mark Hollingsworth, Jr., *Publisher*

Jessica Rocha, *Editor & Designer*

Beth Bergstrom, *Assistant Editor*

©Church Life! Magazine (ISSN 8750-8613)

Published four times per year in

March, June, September, and December

by The Episcopal Diocese of Ohio

2230 Euclid Avenue

Cleveland, OH 44115-2499

Postmaster: Send change of address to

Church Life Magazine

2230 Euclid Avenue

Cleveland, OH 44115

Periodicals postage paid at Cleveland, OH
and at additional mailing offices.

Member of the Episcopal Communicators.

IMPORTANT

All households of the Diocese of Ohio should receive Church Life Magazine. If you are not currently receiving it, or if you need to change your delivery address, please contact the Communications Office with your name, address, and parish.

Phone: 216.774.0445

E-mail: churchlife@dohio.org





TABLE OF CONTENTS

4 A MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP

6 WHAT'S SPRINGING UP AT BELLWETHER FARM
Upcoming spring events and happenings

8 INNOVATIVE MINISTRIES IN THE DIOCESE
Upcoming Community Kitchen at Old Trinity,
Tiffin and the Urban Garden at Church of the Redeemer,
Lorain

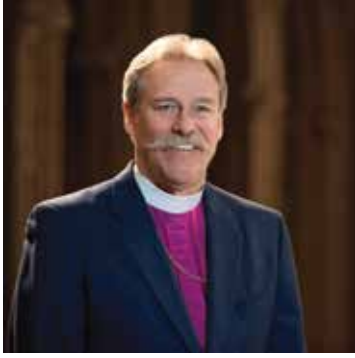
11 WINTER CONVOCATION
Members from around the diocese gathered virtually
to attend Convocation February 7-14

12 PROVINCE V LEADERSHIP COACHING PROJECT

13 VIRTUAL ANNUAL PARISH MEETINGS

13 ECW CARLOTTA EAST SCHOLARSHIP

14 THE POWER OF THE THEOLOGICAL PEN (PART 3)
A brief history of religious newspapers in the Diocese
of Ohio



A MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP

Getting Our Bearings

My father would have turned 100 in January of this year, had he not died 37 years ago of a melanoma of the liver, or of something else since, of course. When I was a couple of years old, he lost his right eye to cancer, an ocular melanoma. During the brief period between the diagnosis and the surgery, the disease likely migrated from the eye to his liver and lay dormant for more than 25 years, a gift of life for which I will ever be thankful.

For all of those years he had a glass eye. He wore an eye patch when he was sailing and skiing, as the wind made the eye cold and uncomfortable. As a kid, I always liked the pirate look.

Because he was blind on his right side, he faced the loss of two things that most of us take for granted. One was peripheral vision, the full 180 degrees of a human's field of view. With the loss of an eye, it drops to about 130 degrees. He was a very good driver, but clearly had to compensate for the reduced range of monocular sight.

The other loss was depth perception. He adapted to estimating relative space by the size of observed objects. But the ability to judge with accuracy his distance from another object, especially if either was moving, was extremely difficult. Hitting a moving ball with a bat or racquet was more luck than skill. Estimating the distance to a mark when determining whether or when to tack a sailboat was a challenge. Growing up, I used to cover one of my own eyes from time to time in order to experience what it was like for him. To this day, I find remarkable how

critically the second point of view orients me to the world. In finding ourselves physically, spiritually, and emotionally in the changes and challenges of life, and in our relationship to God, society, and one another, we are dependent upon the perspective that comes from binocular vision. We get our bearings when we see and are seen from two or more angles. Our multi-dimensional selves and the complexity of how we live as moral beings are given depth and definition when the perspectives of others inform and transform our own. From them, we gain a more accurate understanding of where we stand. By them, our subjective self-awareness is broadened and becomes more objective. Sometimes this comes from seeking another's understanding, sometimes from seeking, through prayer and devotion, how God sees us, sometimes from confession and penance, and sometimes from the humility of walking in another's shoes and looking through another's eyes.

Regardless of how one imagines Jesus's messianic consciousness, he plainly understood this necessity and sought the perceptions and perspectives of others. "Who do people say that I am?" he asked his disciples. "And who do you say that I am?" We tend, perhaps, to hear his questions as rhetorical tests of our faith and understanding, but in his own humanity, they may reflect the same need for insight and orientation we all have, a desire for the depth perception that comes from points of view other than our own. While Jesus cherishes us individually, he reminds us that we do not become complete in isolation, rather it is when two or three come together in thoughts, words, or deeds. Our wholeness and our holiness are dependent

upon diverse community with others, just as they depend upon communion with him. Through the challenges of this past year's pandemic remoteness, race relations and revelations, political polarization, and adjusted social disciplines, we have continually needed to reorient ourselves to life and to one another. We have been confronted repeatedly by the challenge of differing, often discouraging, and sometimes threatening points of view. And while the decisions we each make are illuminated and informed by numerous competing assessments and desires of others, the power of evil has relentlessly manipulated those diverse perspectives to divide and separate us from one another, finding considerable success in doing so. But the Spirit of Holiness has offered the same diversity of perspective to help us find ourselves anew and more rightly oriented to God, God's creation, and all of God's beloved creatures, ever more aware of who and where we are and the potential for greater godliness available to us every day.

Of all the perspectives we need in finding ourselves each new day, the most important, of course, is that of the risen Jesus who comes to us, again and again, as stranger and friend, as needing and needed, as sacred victim and divine savior. How we see ourselves is made more and more accurate and authentic by how Jesus sees us. In his companionship, we are lifted up from our self-doubt and brought down to earth from our pride. With his perception of who we are, we get our true bearings as God's beloved, and begin again the humble vocation of serving the world in his name: Christian.

Gratefully,



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

Resources for Parishes

The Diocese of Ohio provides a number of resources for parishes to utilize. They include:

Anti-Racism Trainings

Anti-Racism training is open to all members of the Diocese of Ohio and is required for all individuals in elected and appointed Diocesan positions. The Commission for Racial Justice will offer this two-day training on April 24 and 25 via Zoom video conference (Saturday and Sunday from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. both days). The cost of the training materials is covered by the Diocese of Ohio. You must commit to attending the full sessions and to doing the off-line work. Registration is required. For additional information, please email the Rev. Margaret D'Anieri at mdanieri@dohio.org.

ChurchNext

ChurchNext.tv is a high-quality online spiritual formation resource for parishes and individuals. Subscriber parishes can take courses together on a variety of topics including scripture, liturgy, and many other areas of personal and spiritual growth. Courses are taught by experts, many from The Episcopal Church, and allow members to learn what they want, when they want, and at their own pace. Participants can learn anywhere there is an Internet connection on a PC, laptop, or tablet. Your parish will develop its own "school" which will allow members to take courses by themselves, in small groups, or even as a congregation. The Diocese of Ohio will pay for a one-year subscription for any parish willing to give ChurchNext a meaningful try-out. Please email the Rev. Brad Purdom at bpurdom@dohio.org if you are interested.

Group Licensing for Music and Streaming

The Diocese of Ohio has collaborated with One License to build out a group licensing plan that covers printing and streaming music (that is covered under One License) for every parish in our diocese. This expense will be covered by the Diocese. Each parish will have unique login information to continue to report music and streaming usage. Feel free to email any questions to Jessica Rocha at jrocha@dohio.org.

TENS

The diocese maintains an annual membership with The Episcopal Network for Stewardship (TENS) that provides access to their extensive stewardship resources for all our parishes. Of particular interest each year is their comprehensive and customizable Annual Pledge Campaign. This year's campaign theme is Every Perfect Gift. If you are interested, please email the Rev. Brad Purdom at bpurdom@dohio.org.



What's Springing

by Kyle Mitchell

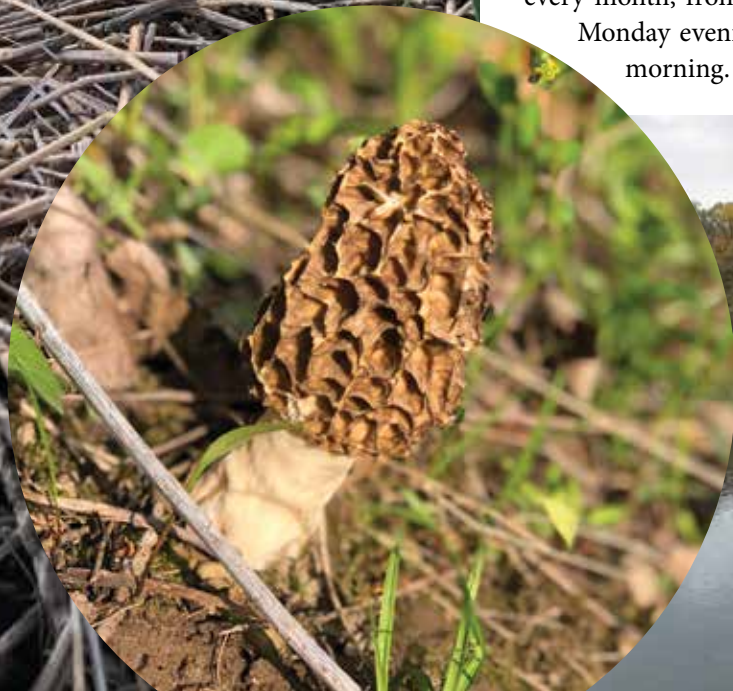
Spring is in the air and there is hardly a more magical spring setting than the fields and forest at Bellwether Farm. The forest floor is bursting with life. The birds are busy with renewed vigor. The chickens are enjoying fresh pasture. Even the tiny soil critters are waking up as the ground warms, poised for a new season of growing food.

Garlic is one of the first crops to pop up on the farm in spring. It's best to plant it in the fall before the ground freezes which allows the roots to become established before winter. We like to plant it 2 inches deep in a fresh layer of compost, covered with about 6 inches of straw mulch. Last fall we planted over 3,000 garlic cloves with help from Diocesan staff and other volunteers. It's just now starting to poke up through the straw and looks to be a promising harvest. As with much of last year's vegetable crop, we look forward to sending a large portion of the harvest to local parishes through our Feeding the Beloved Community partnerships. Keep an eye out for volunteer opportunities on the farm with Farmer Kyle including vegetable seed-starting and transplanting.

Our second full season of maple sugaring is just now winding down as the buds on the trees begin to pop. We're grateful for the many volunteers who pitched in to help with the sugaring process which included collecting maple sap in buckets, splitting firewood, monitoring the evaporator in the sugar shack, and the most important task, tasting the syrup. We have lots of fresh syrup and hope to share some of our harvest with you at the farm this year.

As the pandemic continues to present all of us with new challenges, we expect to continue using our successful COVID-safe model for hosting, which we implemented for personal, family, and Advent retreats last year. Beginning in April, we are offering Clergy retreats the first Monday of every month, from now through the liturgical year. Retreats will begin

Monday evenings at dinner and last through breakfast Wednesday morning.



Up at Bellwether Farm

We're also looking forward to our first catch-and-release fishing competition on April 24. Bellwether has a 4-acre pond, stocked with lots of fish! Immediately following the competition we'll have a fish fry for all those in attendance.

Last but not least, mushrooms! Have you ever heard the saying that April showers bring May flowers? Well, they also bring morel mushrooms, a spring delicacy sought by mushroom foragers everywhere. Join us each Saturday in May for "You pick, we sauté." We'll hike the trails together in search for the famous cone-shaped morels. Mushrooms found on site will be brought to the kitchen for Chef Lonny to sauté and share with everyone. If no morels are found, we will at least have the satisfaction of having spent the afternoon in the forest, which is itself a springtime gift. As Margaret Atwood suggests, "In the spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt."

Upcoming Events:

- Clergy Retreat – Beginning in April, first Monday of every month through the liturgical year – Monday evening beginning with dinner through Wednesday morning ending with breakfast
- April Spring Seeding – Keep an eye out for our spring seeding dates in the greenhouse with Farmer Kyle
- April 24 - Fishing Competition – Catch and release fishing competition with a fish fry
- Morels in May "You pick, we sauté" – Help us hunt for morel mushrooms – Chef Lonny will prep





Interior Rendering

THE COLLABORATIV

06-25-2020

Old Trinity Episcopal Church Kitchen

Innovative Ministries in the Diocese

by Beth Bergstrom

Through a generous estate gift left to the Old Trinity, Tiffin, the parish was able to renovate a portion of the undercroft, a space that is used by several support groups. At the following annual meeting, a parishioner asked about plans to renovate the kitchen. As the Rev. Aaron Gerlach and the vestry began to discuss the idea, they decided to see what community interest there would be to have an upgraded kitchen space before money was invested into the project. After an enthusiastic response from the community, internal discussions, and planning, they decided to pursue the addition in lieu of renovating the existing kitchen. However, to do an addition, they would need to purchase the county parking lot behind the church. While they did not think the county would sell a downtown lot, they decided to try. After many months of discussions, the county agreed to sell the lot to Old Trinity.

The result is a 2.7 million dollar project to complete expansion of the current church building to create the Tiffin Community Kitchen. The Tiffin Community Kitchen is a community-wide project that will allow the community to work with local farmer's markets, host cooking cooperatives, promote culinary arts, partner with health professionals, host hands-on cooking lessons, facilitate service projects, and much more. The kitchen is being built in partnership with Seneca Common Ground.

"The ministry is really one of connection and building relationships, it just happens to be around food. A traditional model would have been a model of saying there's hunger in our community so how do we give people food. What we found was there's a hunger for connectedness and we can do that around food, together," said the Rev. Gerlach.

Through a grant from the Office for Congregations, the parish was able to hire a consultant to help with the capital campaign. If the capital campaign goes perfectly, the groundbreaking for the kitchen will be in April 2022 and the kitchen will open that fall. If the campaign takes longer, the groundbreaking would be in fall 2022 and the kitchen would open the following spring.

The Tiffin Community Kitchen also offers potential for partners outside of the city itself. "We've had lots of conversations with Bellwether Farm about food ministry and as we are planning, we are keeping open the possibility of being partners with Bellwether, and how Bellwether

might connect to our community and our community to Bellwether through this project," said the Rev. Gerlach. "We truly believe that this is something we can do together with our neighboring parishes and the diocese as a whole."

There will be a separate entrance so that no one who wants to use the kitchen will have to walk through the church; the kitchen is being built almost as a separate entity. "We're just trying to set up a model where the community is an equal partner at the table. It's not something that we're doing for the community and it's not something the community is doing for us, but that we're doing together, and that went into the design," said the Rev. Gerlach. "The community can come in and meet us in this space with its own separate entrance. If they want to come in and be part of our spiritual space they can, but there's no expectation of that."

At Church of the Redeemer, Lorain, the expansion of an existing community meal led to the creation of an urban garden. The Urban Garden serves three primary purposes: it provides food for the community meals as well as a place to compost the waste from the meal; it allows for produce to be sold at farmer's markets and to local restaurant (the proceeds from which all go back into the ministry); and when there is excess food, little boxes are put together to give to the families near the garden.

"The main goal has always been how do we incorporate all of our values into what we do and local food is generally healthier for the environment and the people ingesting it," said the Rev. Alex Barton. "So, trying to have some aspect of our community meal be farm-to-table was sort of a goal of ours from the beginning, it was just harder to realize."

The process started with the Rev. Barton's involvement in ChurchLands, an initiative that seeks to inspire and equip church leaders who are tasked with the care of church-owned land, where he was able to discuss ideas with other participants. After deciding to start an urban garden, the next step was to find the land itself. A parishioner had recently bought some plots of land and agreed to have the parish sign rent-free lease to use the plot on Lexington and 12th. At the same time, Jim Goforth, an urban farmer, was looking to transition from for profit to non-profit work and was looking for partners. The Rev. Barton reached out to Goforth and, after many others spoke highly of the parish, the partnership began.



The garden is cared for by Goforth as well as volunteers. A volunteer night was held every Wednesday during growing season and seven or eight volunteers would routinely come to help. “Having something good and healthy to do, where we’ve also built a community, has attracted more volunteers,” said the Rev. Barton.

The program grew beyond the capabilities of the original plot so the parish purchased two additional plots from the City of Lorain. All three plots will be used for The Urban Garden. “I think if you do it in an open and dignified manner it gives you the most intimate access to people you ordinarily wouldn’t be able to through worship or just doing church as normal because you’re breaking bread together,” said the Rev. Barton. “Also, with the garden not only do we do the food stuff together but we’re also engaging with people helping us with the garden and just getting to know our neighbors over there. So, it has in many ways allowed us to have close relationships with folks we didn’t before.”

For other parishes looking for innovative ways to engage the community, the Rev. Barton encourages them to just do it, and avoid spending too much time trying to see all the ways it could go wrong. “A lot of things you’ve got to figure out because every context is unique but the only way to actually figure them out is to start doing it. My biggest thing is that a lot of this stuff is actually much simpler than we think,” said the Rev. Barton.

More information about the Tiffin Community Kitchen can be found at oldtrinityepiscopal.com and more information about the Urban Garden can be found at churchoftheredeemerlorain.com.





Winter Convocation

As with many things over the last year, the 2021 Winter Convocation looked different this year as it took on a virtual format. Instead of a Saturday filled with workshops at Kalahari, this year's Convocation was five different speakers over five nights holding their workshops via Zoom, bookended by recorded sermons offered by Bishop Hollingsworth. The five nights of workshop included 329 participants.



Monday night, the Rev. Sean Steele presented on church without doors. The Rev. Steele is the founding church planter of St. Isidore's Episcopal Church, a mission church in Spring, Texas. In less than five years, St. Isidore's has created 12 communities. These communities include Pub Philosophy, Taco Church, Warrior Church, Laundry Love, and more. The Rev. Steele discussed the importance of offering church and community beyond church walls. This workshop included a presentation from the Rev. Steele and a curated Q&A session.



On Tuesday night, the Rev. Rosalind Hughes (Church of the Epiphany, Euclid) offered a workshop centered around her new book, *A Family Like Mine: Biblical Stories of Love, Loss, and Longing*. The Rev. Hughes discussed her book, participated in small breakout room discussions, and listened to a curated Q&A session. All participants of this session will also receive a copy of the book.

The Rev. Anna Sutterisch, Canon for Christian Formation, offered a Soultending workshop on Wednesday night. The Rev. Anna Sutterisch, assisted by the Rev. Noah Sutterisch (All Saints, Parma), walked the participants through a series of activities designed to help them enter, recognize, honor, embody, and remain in God's presence. These activities included creating a color wheel, breathing exercises, making salt dough, and more.



Bellwether Farm's Chef Lonny Gatlin and Farmer Kyle Mitchell shared how they experience God and their faith in their vocations of hospitality, cooking, farming, and husbandry. The workshop included a brief clip from a Bellwether Farm video, small breakout room conversations, and a Q&A session moderated by Dr. Kate Gillooly (St. Luke's, Cleveland).

On Friday night, youth from around the Diocese led a Game Night. Each youth was paired with an adult and led either Show and Tell, Would You Rather, Charades, or Scattergories. Each group had approximately 10 minutes to play each game. The night ended with a youth-led compline.

Province V Leadership Coaching Project

by the Rev. Percy Grant

There is a new resource in the Diocese of Ohio for the leaders and members in the Province V Leadership Coaching Project (LCP). The LCP offers coaching to individuals and groups to enhance their leadership and untangle their priorities. What is coaching? "At its heart, the coaching approach is walking with another person in a way that is highly relational, deeply intentional, and always contextual to lead toward transformation. That is what Jesus did. That is what ministry is. That is what the skill of coaching can help all of us do," according to Chris Holmes and George Howard, Coach Approach Skill Training.

Several years ago, the Rev. Heather Barta, the Province V Coordinator, attended a church leaders conference, and one of the speakers was Chris Holmes, the founder of Holmes Coaching Group. In his presentation, he led them through the first part of the CAST Coaching Course, a program he wrote with fellow coach George Howard. Heather began to wonder what the church would look like if every leader, lay or ordained, had a coach. What was needed to be able to provide this resource to leaders? Leaders often feel stretched thin in their ministries and alone and are wondering what to do next. Heather had an idea that she wanted to make an actuality, so she went to a coach to help her work through the possibilities and process.

Heather began to look at different groups (e.g. a small group of clergy vs a diocesan group). Heather decided the larger provincial group would work better and have more people to be both coaches and coachees. Now it was time to find funding, looking at different resources and different grant ideas, working together with the Province V Executive Board and the Diocese of Fond du Lac, after applying for several grants, landed a Roanridge Grant. The grant helped her define what has become the Leadership Coaching Project. The Roanridge Grants are given out for rural and small-town ministries. The LCP offers scholarships for a leader from small communities to become coaches, from each of the dioceses. Once the person has taken the course, they are available for free coaching to anyone from a town of fewer than 20,000 people. Coaching is an excellent resource for some of our smaller congregations, especially those without a clergy person. Each diocese was encouraged to have one participant be a Roanridge Scholar and any other people from the diocese who wanted the training.



This summer, the Province V newsletter announced the formation of the Leadership Coaching Project. They were offering a chance to train and be coached by an ongoing group. I work with a group of transition consultants who go out to the churches and work with the search committees. I knew that a coaching course would give a consultant another set of tools. Together with Bishop Hollingsworth and Canon Brad Purdom, we came up with a Roanridge scholar, the Rev. Matt Walgren; a consultant, the Rev. Aaron Gerlach; a candidate for ordination, Dr. Robin Woodberry; and myself. We put together the Ohio Coaching cohort.

We began the CAST training in September and met for eight hours a week by Zoom. We learned and practiced on one another, individual coaching, team coaching, and group coaching. Learning to listen fully, ask short, strong questions, expand possibilities, keep on task, and require accountability while recognizing the whole, creative person, group, or team. Through coaching, we helped one another talk through work problems, issues with worshipping electronically, and all sorts of questions about how to play during a pandemic.

Three of us have started the next course in coaching with mentor training. We have continued guidance in how to coach, and the Rev. Beth Frank has begun the CAST training. The interim consultants have had conversations about the value of coaches. The offer of coaching is going out through Mission Area Clergy, and the Commission on Ministry has found a place for it in the Discernment Process. Would you like to have a coach for yourself or your vestry or another Church group?

For more information, go to www.provincev.org/lcp.

Virtual Annual Parish Meetings: a “New Thing”

by Bill Powel

Since March 15, 2020, when public worship was suspended in the Diocese of Ohio due to the COVID-19 pandemic, parishes in the Diocese of Ohio gathered remotely and crossed a number of milestones, including pre-recorded Easter and Christmas services, streaming weekly Sunday worship, and participating in a virtual Diocesan Convention. Along the way, we as a diocese became more and more familiar with online worship and meeting on Zoom. Parishes continued to worship in creative ways, following the words of the prophet Isaiah: “See? I am doing a new thing!” (Isaiah 43:19).

As the calendar turned to 2021, however, there was yet another ‘new thing’ for parishes to confront: how to hold annual parish meetings during a pandemic. In 2020 and in prior years, the major hurdles for annual meetings were the “usual” seasonal flu and the prospect of bad weather. A congregation would typically worship (in a combined service) on the third Sunday in January (which the Diocesan Canons provide as the date) and then regather as the parish body (after refreshments) to elect Vestry members and Convention delegates, as well as hear reports on the finances and the health of the church.

The annual meeting is one of the few times during the year when an entire congregation meets as one body—like a homecoming celebration in the month of January.

Earlier this year, a number of thoughtful conversations took place with parish clergy with questions about how to gather in a virtual environment, how to do business, and tally votes.

The model of the 204th Virtual Diocesan Convention that took place in November 2020 was a helpful guide. On one level, the discussions centered on the interpretation of the language of parish bylaws, which were not written with a pandemic in mind. The conversations with clergy focused on the best way to achieve the goal of a streamlined meeting (and complying with the parish’s bylaws) without getting sidetracked by procedural issues.

On a deeper level, however, the priests’ time and attention to annual meetings is to accomplish a greater purpose: the ritual of gathering as a community to hear about the outreach ministries of the parish, listen to the financial report, the health of the body of Christ.

The annual meeting is about the necessity of achieving a quorum of Qualified Electors (those who can vote) and handling vestry nominations, elections, and the budget approval. It is also about sharing (or being reminded of) the accomplishments in furthering God’s work that the parish has achieved and yearns to do. At their best, annual meetings encourage members of the parish to be inspired to do more in God’s name in and from that place.

As parish clergy prepared for annual meetings in 2021, it was clear that they not only wanted to showcase the important work they and the members had accomplished in an extraordinary year, but they also wanted the annual meeting to restore and inspire the body.

ECW Carlotta East Scholarship

Applications are now being accepted for the Carlotta East Scholarship. This scholarship fund was established in 1945 to assist Episcopal women who need aid to complete their education, upgrade skills before returning to the workforce, or complete religious training. Interest and dividends, in addition to other donations, are used for the scholarships each year. The usual grant for scholarship aid is approximately \$1,000 per applicant. Exceptions in amounts granted may be made by the Carlotta East Scholarship Committee.

Applications may be obtained from Susan Quill, the Carlotta East Scholarship Committee Chair (planetquill@roadrunner.com) or online at the Diocese of Ohio ECW webpage. Written references will be required from your rector and from two other persons who are familiar with your need and qualifications. If your parish has no rector currently, the reference should come from the Senior Warden. The deadline for receipt of applications and references is March 31, 2021.

The Power of the Theological Pen - Part 3

A Brief History of Religious Newspapers in the Diocese of Ohio

by the Rev. Dr. Brian K. Wilbert



In the middle of the United States involvement in World War II, the format of *Church Life* changed to 5.5 by 7 inch book format in order to save paper. The June 1943 edition rolled out the new design just in time to announce plans for the General Convention which would be meeting in our diocese in October of that year. *Church Life* was listed as the “Official organ of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Ohio.” Clifford C. Corwin served as Editor of this

issue. *Church Life* would remain in this format for 19 years.

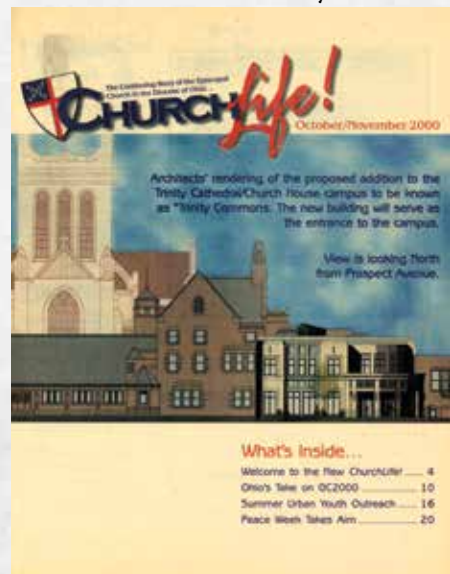
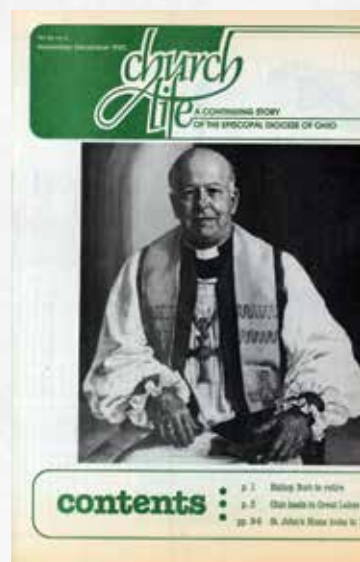
The July 1962 edition of *Church Life* rolled out new changes to the format yet again. The monthly diocesan journal took on the style, size, and form of a newspaper but was printed on heavier stock than newsprint. The Rt. Rev. Nelson M. Burroughs served as Consulting Editor, Maxton R. Davies, Jr. was the Editor, and the Editorial Associates were Polly C. Bond along with the Rev. William J. Haas, Columnist. At this stage in *Church Life's* history, it was published eight times yearly in January, March, April, May, July, September, November, and December.

The 1974 January-February issue of *Church Life* announced that it was “the continuing story of the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio.” It was published bi-monthly. The Rt. Rev. John H. Burt was the Editor. Polly Bond served as Editorial Associate—which meant that she really did the lion's share of putting each issue together. Polly first came to the Diocese of Ohio in 1958. Eventually she became the first paid Director

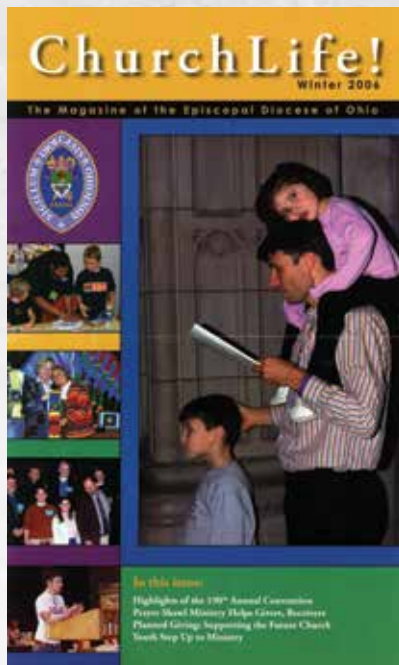
of Communications. Among many other accomplishments she helped to establish what would become the Episcopal Communicators Network. Just prior to her death from cancer in 1978, an award was created in her name, The Polly Bond Award, which is given out annually for excellence in communication because Polly believed that effectively communicating the gospel was part of what it meant to be a Christian.

The 1983 November-December issue of *Church Life*, while still being issued in newspaper style, also began to be printed on newsprint quality paper—which regrettably, from an archival standpoint, does not at all hold up well with age. This edition announced Bishop Burt's retirement. Dana C. Speer served as Editor. The January 1984 issue of *Church Life* reported on the Diocesan Convention and the Rt. Rev. James R. Moodey's ascension from Bishop Coadjutor to Diocesan Bishop.

The next “facelift” for *Church Life* occurred with the October-November 2000 issue. The design went back to magazine format which continued to be printed on newsprint quality paper. An “Up Front” editorial from the new editor, R. Stephen Gracey, promised “a new look with a new focus—looking ahead to the important issues and events in the life of our diocese and how they relate to the life of your parish.” The Rt. Rev. J. Clark Grew was listed as Publisher, R. Stephen Gracey was Editor and Marj Schlaeppli served as Managing Editor. *Church Life* was still a bi-monthly publication.



The Winter 2006 edition of *Church Life* debuted in large newspaper format but printed on magazine quality paper. The Rt. Rev. Mark Hollingsworth, Jr. was the Publisher, Martha Wright served as Editor, and Kristin Crites was the Graphic Designer. With this change, *Church Life* became a quarterly publication.



The Winter 2009 edition of *Church Life* returned to a magazine format with a magazine quality front and back cover and inside pages printed on newsprint. With this issue *Church Life* became “The Magazine of the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio.” The Rt. Rev. Mark Hollingsworth, Jr. was the Publisher, Martha Wright was the Editor, and Kristin Crites was the Graphic Designer.

The next and most recent transformation of *Church Life* came with the Fall 2014 issue. *Church Life* returned to magazine size format printed on magazine quality paper and published four times a year: March, June, September, and December. The Rt. Rev. Mark Hollingsworth, Jr. was the Publisher, Ashleigh Johnson was the Editor, and Karyn Callaway was the Graphic Designer.

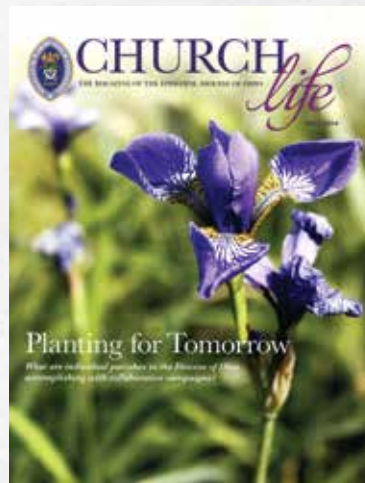
The current issue of *Church Life*, Spring 2021, is Volume 125, Number 1. It is still “The Magazine of the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio.” It is now printed on magazine quality and archival paper. The internal pages were reenvisioned and updated with a new design, adding more color and photos. The Rt. Rev. Mark Hollingsworth, Jr. continues to serve as Publisher, Jessica Rocha is the Editor and Designer, and Beth Bergstrom is the Assistant Editor.

When *Church Life* and its predecessors were first published they were vehicles by which to report on the beginning and growth of our diocese and our churches. Because there were no other ways of communication, such as those we enjoy today (websites, e-bulletins, and social media), these publications were very much the mouthpiece of our bishops—sharing the exciting and challenging mission and ministry of the early church in Ohio. From the time Bishop Chase received that first printing press back in 1830, our bishops used the power of the theological pen to address the needs of the churches in Ohio in addition to mission work in the rest of our country and around the globe. Because the print media in Ohio through our 200-year history told the story

of The Episcopal Church in Ohio, much of the content documented what occurred as opposed to promoting what was yet to come. As we continue into our third century, everything from the onset of electricity through the birth of the internet has allowed our Diocesan publications to both record history and promote mission and ministry in real time.

Throughout the years, our diocesan publications have included everything from advertisements to letters to the Editor. Changes have been made from the size and frequency of publication to content all in an effort to best tell the story of our diocesan branch of the Jesus Movement (to quote Presiding Bishop Curry).

Each of our bishops have used Diocesan publications to offer theological teachings and reflections. Bishop Chase published



sermons and recorded his efforts to establish congregations and build churches. Bishops MacIlvaine and Bedell used this medium to preach against “Romish liturgical ways.” Bishop Leonard included his daily diary each month cataloguing, in great detail and with theological underpinnings, his labors on behalf of our diocese. Bishop Rogers continued this process until *Church Life* was suspended during the Great Depression for financial reasons. When *Church*

Life resumed publication, Bishops Tucker and Burroughs really began to use it as a vehicle for promoting evangelism, church planting, and fundraising. Bishop Burt continued this trend with the addition of our participation in Christian Social Witness around issues of economic justice and racial inclusion. Bishop Moodey added to this element of inclusion in the spirit of Presiding Bishop Browning’s announcement that we would be a church of “no outcasts.” Bishop Grew utilized *Church Life* to promote not only spiritual formation and stewardship but also the renovation of Trinity Commons as the hub of our diocese.

And to bring us to the current day, Bishop Hollingsworth’s *Church Life* has become the Magazine of the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio. It includes a monthly message from the Bishop and articles of interest which speak to the many ministries the people and our churches embrace to tell the old and yet ever new story of Jesus and his Love.

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

LOVE GOD. LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR. CHANGE THE WORLD.™

THE 2021 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

Every day, people in our diocese help to change the world by 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.

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

MAIL YOUR GIFT

The Bishop's Annual Appeal
Episcopal Diocese of Ohio
2230 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44115-2499

GIVE ONLINE

www.dohio.org/give-now

CONTACT

Betty Kondrich
216.774.0466

