

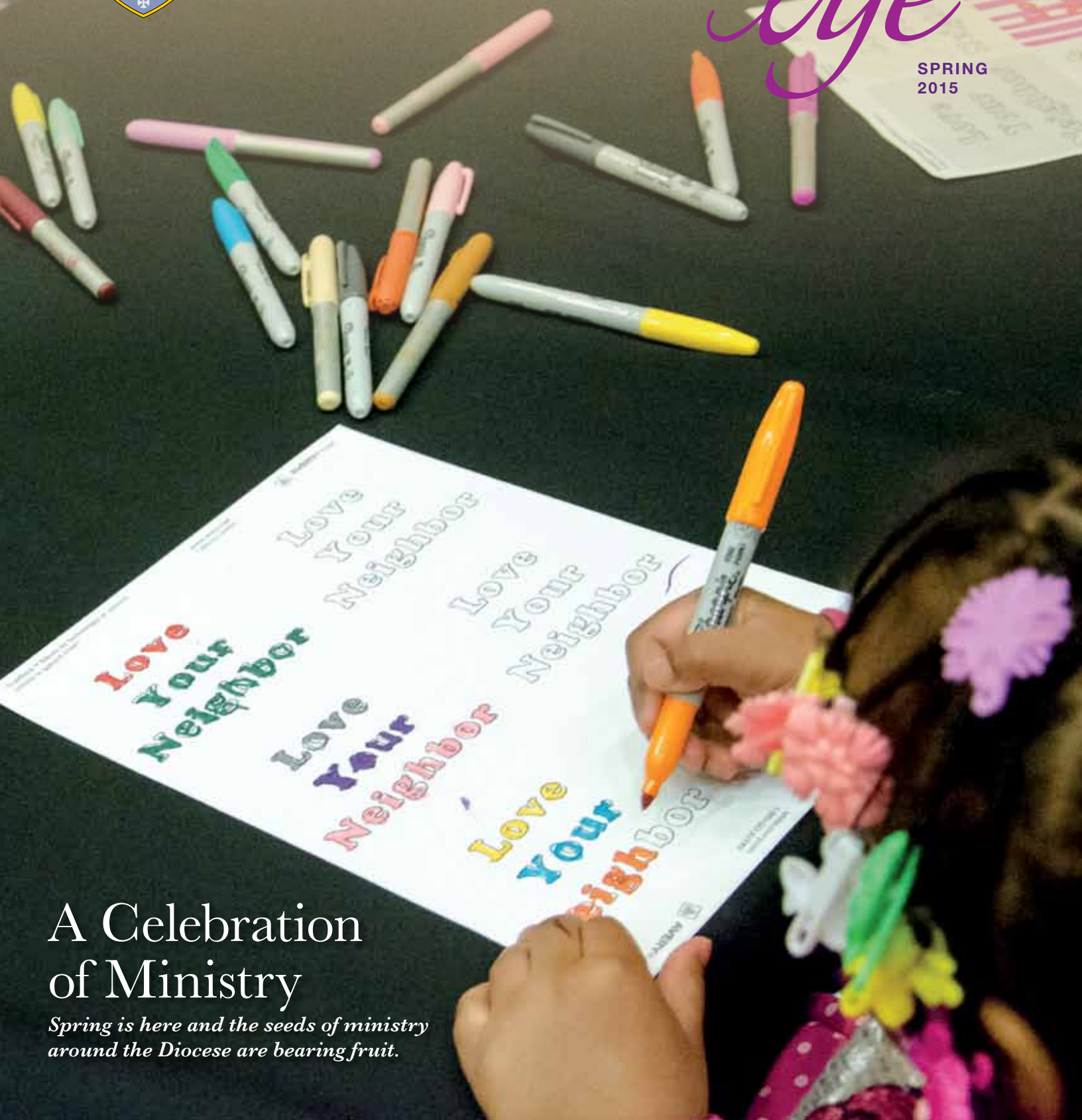


# CHURCH

THE MAGAZINE OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF OHIO

*Life*

SPRING  
2015



## A Celebration of Ministry

*Spring is here and the seeds of ministry  
around the Diocese are bearing fruit.*



# CHURCH *Life*

THE MAGAZINE OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF OHIO

SPRING 2015 • VOL.119 NO.1

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Cover photo by Kristen Milius



### 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. Katharine Jefferts Schori**  
*Presiding Bishop*

#### IN THE DIOCESE OF OHIO

A community of 16,000 baptised members in 86 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

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The Rt. Rev. Mark Hollingsworth, Jr., *Publisher*  
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# Mark Your Calendars!

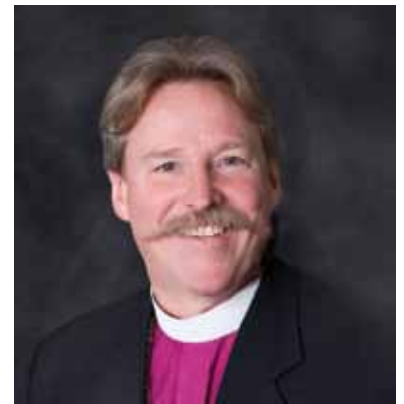
## On Saturday, June 20, we are having a party. A big one. Put it on your calendars now.

The 10th Bishop's Bike Ride will mark a decade of cycling around the diocese when it arrives at the site of our new camp and retreat facility in Wakeman Township that morning. Over the ten past years, dozens of riders will have pedaled more than 50,000 miles through Ohio countryside, to say nothing of the 4,000 miles we rode from Anaheim to New York City in 2009!

Those are impressive numbers, to be sure, but not the reason for our celebration on June 20 in Wakeman. Rather, we will gather to celebrate the accomplishments of the last 18 months in the *Planting For Tomorrow – Growing in Faith Today* capital campaigns.

### Here are some truly remarkable numbers:

- By the middle of June, 31 congregations will have completed their parish campaigns. If they continue at the pace set in the first twelve months, they will have raised \$6,000,000 for their own ministries, every penny of which will stay in the parish that raised it. That amounts to 150% of the goal we set together at the 2013 Diocesan Convention. As well, those 31 congregations will also have raised another \$2,000,000 for the camp and retreat project.
- In addition, a dozen other parishes have already committed to having an "in pew" solicitation on behalf of the new facility, with the potential to raise another \$500,000.
- Still more congregations have committed to making a gift to the project from parish resources, on behalf of all their communicants.
- The Leadership Gifts Committee continues its work inviting individual pledges directly to the diocesan project. With already more than 40 such gifts, it, too, is on track to meet its goal.
- Most importantly, with more than 750 individual contributors to the parish and diocesan campaigns already, we have a realistic chance by June to exceed 1,000 participants in this important effort to invest in the future of our church. That would be an astonishing number!



The campaign office, staffed by consultants Matt Harrigan and Lisa McElhenny, and supported by Allison Thompson and Project Manager Katie Ong-Landini from my staff, is committed to providing every communicant of every congregation in the diocese with the opportunity to participate in this collaborative effort and help fulfill the goal we together set at the 197th Diocesan Convention only a year and a half ago. It was a challenging goal, one whose success would require all of us to work together. And working together, we are well on our way to achieving it. If you have any questions or want to explore how you can participate, please contact Katie at [kong-landini@dohio.org](mailto:kong-landini@dohio.org) or (216) 774-0454.

My hope is that when we gather in Wakeman in June, we will be able to celebrate everyone's participation in this achievement, and have every congregation represented. Whether your parish has mounted a collaborative campaign, is planning an "in pew" solicitation, has pledged a parish gift, or you yourself are making a direct gift to the *Planting for Tomorrow* campaign, your part in this effort is worth celebrating.

I look forward to seeing you there!

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

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





# Winter Convocation

Hosted at Kalahari Resorts, the 2015 Winter Convocation began with a thought-provoking keynote address from the Rev. Lillian Daniel, author of *When Spiritual But Not Religious is Not Enough: Seeing God In Surprising Places, Even the Church*.



 The Rev. Lillian Daniels, Keynote Speaker

At Saturday's Holy Eucharist, all were welcomed by an innovative and beautiful worship experience designed by the Rev. Aaron Gerlach, Rev. Jan Smith Wood, and the Rev. Dr. Brian Wilbert. Rev. Daniels preached while Bishop Hollingsworth acted as celebrant, bringing those in attendance into a space of reflection and gratitude before workshops began.

With over 50 parishes represented, attendees participated in workshops on topics such as vestry & lay leadership, creating growing & vital congregations, studying scripture, praying through movement & visual art, exploring charitable giving, finding financial resources for your local community ministry, discussing elder abuse, and having a frank conversation on racism.

Instead of the usual lunch, there were tables available for Table Topic Conversations. Each table held about 8 people, allowing for lively discussion on subjects such as Expanding Your Volunteer Base, Local Community Engagement, and more. Attendees took the opportunity to talk about how these things can affect or improve their parishes.

We look forward to seeing you in 2016 at Winter Convocation!



◀ Attendees having roundtable discussions.



◀ Kids at Convocation decorated water bottles and then handed them out to people around Kalahari as an act of service.



▲ Discussion at the Begin the Conversation workshop led by the Commission for Racial Understanding.



▲ Setting the worship experience for Holy Eucharist.

# A Moment with Deacon Lizbeth Tulloch

by Ashleigh Johnson, Director of Communications



▲ (Left to right) Deacon Lizbeth Tulloch, the Rev. Albert Jennings, and Deacon Anne Pillot.

At Winter Convocation, I had the pleasure of meeting Lizbeth Tulloch, a deacon in the Anglican Diocese of Belize. Growing up with a mother who constantly served her church and community, Lizbeth took that giving spirit through practicing law, serving as a hospital chaplain, and now living & working in Belize. She graciously agreed to give some insight about Belize and the partnership between our dioceses. Here's an excerpt from our conversation.

## What is happening in Belize right now?

I'm working on a countrywide chaplaincy program that will be both ecumenical in nature, working with the Council of Churches. It's exciting; it's going to serve a lot of people because currently we don't have anything that broad in the country and there's a lot of support from the churches.

We're working on our health ministry within the church to educate people on some of the basic health issues. We're hoping at some point to get a health van and be able to go out into the communities, so we're looking forward to that.

I'm working now on an idea that came out of Ohio; I went into St. Timothy's in Macedonia and I noticed on the stall of the women's restroom a number for a hotline to stop violence. The Violence Hotline [is what] I think is what it would be called, and I thought that would be a great idea in Belize. I'm in the process of implementing that so everyone is on board. I'm making up the stickers as we speak. I hope to distribute those at our clergy conference so we can distribute it throughout the country and put them not only on our church stalls, but also restroom stalls and go to some of the local businesses and areas where we feel that it would be most useful. So there are a lot of things to do.

I'm serving with St. Andrew's and St. Hilda's up in the Cayo district, the western part of Belize, and we have three schools attached and there's just a lot of wonderful things happening up in the Cayo region on outreach and serving.

In Belize City we have our soup kitchen and we also have our clothesline ministry for the homeless and disadvantaged, [which] is mirrored off of St. Timothy's in Perrysburg. And then when I was at St. Timothy's Macedonia they presented the soup kitchen with a very generous gift (donation) that's going to keep the soup kitchen going for a couple of months.

## You participated on a panel for the book *Toxic Charity at Convocation*. What does the book represent to you?

Discussing the book *Toxic Charity*, we had about 40 people attending. The idea behind that book, in a nutshell, is when you're out doing mission work is it more about you or about the people you are trying to help? When does mission become dependent? I think the old-fashioned view and a lot of the current views about mission work is, "Oh, we come down and we help the poor." And there is that element but it's really how can we come down and our beliefs come up?

I felt it was a good discussion. People seemed to be on board and get it and get the whole thing. That's what I love about what I'm seeing in Ohio; it is truly a friendship, truly a companionship. We have a lot more to do to develop that but the good news is it seems like we're both willing to do that.

## What are the things that make the companionship between Ohio and Belize such a positive one?

You know, I met Bishop Mark for the first time and I find him an incredibly generous man who seems very dedicated to this companion relationship. And not just from the extent of Ohio giving to Belize but a mutual partnership. How can we support one another in [a] journey together to spread the gospel? And I find that to be the attitude of the commission (CGDM) as well, with Beth Frank and David Kendall Sperry and Hilary Nerby that it's a journeying together. How can we spread the gospel everywhere but particularly where it's most needed? I find that that kind of journeying together is so much more robust and so much more ...contagious is the word that comes, but I think if people get on board in most dioceses they want to work together to spread the good news. I think that the whole idea behind a companion relationship is creating sustainable relationships, creating sustainable friendships. And we're in the process of doing that and that's only going to grow, I hope, over the years.

# Catching Up with Fr. Luiz Coelho

Last year's keynote speaker



The Church of the Most Holy Trinity (MHT) was one of the first Anglican congregations founded in Brazil for Portuguese-speaking Brazilians. Although there had been English Anglican Chaplaincies in Rio de Janeiro since the early 19th Century, the parish was the second Anglican congregation to be founded as a congregation to serve the needs of Brazilian people in the neighborhood of Méier, in Rio's northern zone. It was originally founded as an Evangelical, Low Church parish for the mostly White, upper middle class. However, about 10 years ago, the parish had reached an all-time low, with an average Sunday attendance of 10. Méier, its neighborhood, had also changed. Starting in the seventies, the area fell into intense decay. Violence increased and many richer families fled to new affluent neighborhoods. What once used to be a flourishing area of the city, with bucolic houses and promenades, had turned into a set of mixed-use neighborhoods, with subdivided houses and apartment buildings. The parish is now a place for the working class. The average parishioner is much poorer than decades ago.



A new church replant was needed. Working with the diocese, church leadership intentionally embarked on an intentional shift of Church orientation. The congregation adopted a more Catholic profile, with a commitment to reaching out to the poor and disenfranchised. Méier has long been a neighborhood with a strong Catholic profile, but in the 2000s, it ceased to be the hotbed for traditionalism in Rio. This shift is reflected in the attitudes of many of their new parishioners who come from a Roman Catholic background, after having grown frustrated with the narrow-mindedness of some Roman bishops and priests. Thus, in order to reach out and engage in Mission with the Greater Méier region and with the people they are called to serve, Most Holy Trinity decided to reinvent itself and reach out to the people who live next to it.



"As of now, MHT has around 100 members, and an ASA of around 40. We are a mix of people coming from all sorts of backgrounds. We are young and old; black, white and multiracial; of four different nationalities; straight and gay; students, professionals and retired people. We still have four members who were born and raised in our church, and who saw it go through its heydays in the 60s and the terrible schisms that followed when the church boomed with Charismatic movement. As a child, I used to attend this church with my parents. I still remember it had no candles on the altar! But most importantly, the people who remained, and the people who have come in the last few years, are all united with the goal of turning this place into a beacon of Christlight in this neighborhood, and in order to achieve that, we must reach out to the people who surround us," says Fr. Luiz Coelho, priest in charge. Fr. Coelho was keynote speaker at the Diocese of Ohio 2014 Winter Convocation. He is also an iconographer, and took to Ohio several pieces that were sold in order to raise funds and help MHT with its most pressing need: physical renovations.

"Our church building is from 1921. The roof is original. It has never been replaced. Over the course of the years, parts of it have collapsed five times. The congregation would try to raise immediate funds, but all that could be done was cover it with patches. Last time it happened was in 2010. There was not enough money to restore the church to its original design. Overall, we have 3 roofs: one, from 1921, which covers the main sanctuary; another one, from 1940, which covers the apse, sacristy and vestry, and the one over Cappadocia Building, also from 1940," adds Fr. Coelho. But thanks to a



capital campaign, a grant from St. Margaret's Episcopal Church in Annapolis, MD, and generous donations from Diocese of Ohio parishioners, MHT was able to kick-start what it called the "Nehemiah Project" - a multiyear renovations plan, which will gradually turn its campus fully accessible, multipurpose and welcoming to the community.

Its first step was finished a couple months ago. Thanks to these donations, the entire first floor of Cappadocia Building was turned into a single, wide parish hall, with a new and refurbished kitchen and bathrooms (including a wheelchair-accessible bathroom). This hall is already being used as a venue for community events, MHT's human rights and ministries and 12-step groups the church partners with. MHT's homeless ministry will also be able to expand its services, with a new and up-to-code industrial kitchen. Currently, it feeds up to 40 people every Sunday. Also, a medical office was added, which will allow the church to start a parish nurse ministry, and also help the poor with basic medical needs. Finally, the church building was extended and connected to Cappadocia, adding room for an enlarged sacristy, columbarium, and covered ramp connecting both units. The roof, which used to cover the apse, was completely replaced. It used to be the most compromised one. The sanctuary changed a bit as well. All altar and chancel steps were removed, thus turning the whole worship space fully accessible. Pews were rearranged in an antiphonal setting and the baptismal font was moved to the entrance of the church.

Fr. Coelho explains there are still a lot of challenges: "There are a lot of challenges still. We still have two roofs to replace, a major electrics update and Cappadocia's second floor to redo. We intend to turn this second floor into four small apartments, which could host an intentional community composed of missionaries from Brazil and abroad. Last year, we received one Young Adult Service Corps missionary, Nina Boe (from the Diocese of Olympia) and an ecumenical group of 10 missionaries. We have already applied for another YASCer and would love to have a group of up to four long-term missionaries living and working among us. Also, we still do not have parish offices. In the future, the former sexton's house (which is currently rented) will be converted into offices and a community library. But, most importantly, we were able to start it. And some generous people from Ohio are part of this resurrection story."



Visit MHT's website at [www.trinidademeier.org](http://www.trinidademeier.org). You can also find them on Twitter, Facebook, or Instagram at [@trinidademeier](https://www.instagram.com/trinidademeier)



# The 78th General Convention of the Episcopal Church

The 78th General Convention of the Episcopal Church will take place June 25 to July 3 in Salt Lake City, Utah at the Calvin L. Rampton Salt Palace Convention Center.

With the election of a new Presiding Bishop and a host of legislative issues to tackle, this year's General Convention will be full of historic moments. We will be covering General Convention news via social media and the Diocesan website.

We are proud to note the Rev. Gay C. Jennings continues to serve as President of the House of Deputies as the first ordained woman to hold the position. Rev. Jennings also serves as Vice-Chair of the Executive Council, which is an elected body representing the whole Church given the duty to carry out programs and policies adopted by General Convention. Bishop Hollingsworth is also a member of the Executive Council.

Want to know what's happening in the Diocese of Ohio at GC 2015? Use the hashtag **#DOhioGC** to stay informed of what our Bishops, deputation, and youth are up to.

Facebook – [facebook.com/dohio](https://facebook.com/dohio)

Twitter – [twitter.com/dohio](https://twitter.com/dohio)

Instagram – [instagram.com/edohio](https://instagram.com/edohio)

## Ohio Deputation of General Convention

### CLERGY

The Rev. Gay C. Jennings  
The Rev. Dr. Brian Wilbert  
The Rev. Jeremiah Williamson  
The Rev. Debra Bennett

### CLERGY ALTERNATES

The Rev. Priscilla (Percy) Grant  
The Rev. Heather Hill  
The Rev. Dr. Eric Funston  
The Rev. Jan Smith Wood

### LAY

Mr. Bill Joseph [Chair]  
Ms. Kristen Pungitore  
Mr. James Simon  
Ms. Jane Freeman

### LAY ALTERNATES

Ms. Anne Yug  
Dr. David Gemmill  
Mr. Dennis Coughlin

# Official Youth Presence at General Convention

This year the Diocese of Ohio will be represented at General Convention not only by its deputation and Bishops, but also by the youth and those who support them.

As part of the Official Youth Presence, two youth are chosen from each Province of the international church. The 18 youths selected (from the nine Provinces) are given seat and voice in the House of Deputies. Representing Province V and the Diocese of Ohio, Richard Pryor III (St. Paul's, Medina) will be attending General Convention as part of the Official Youth Presence.

Rev. Canon Vincent Black, Priest-in-Charge at Church of the Ascension, Lakewood and Canon for Christian Formation, has been given the honor to serve as Chaplain to the Official Youth Presence. He has previously served as Chaplain at GC 2009 and also as a Chaperone. His involvement as well as Richard's is a testament to our Diocese's growth in youth engagement and continued leadership at the denominational level.

## When faith and politics intersect, what happens?

*by Julia Robinson (GC 2012), Christ Church, Oberlin*

The First Amendment to the United States Constitution states that religion will never be a requirement for any public office. Thomas Jefferson coined the phrase "separation of church and state" and voila! Here we are over two hundred years later.

So there you have it—the church and the state don't intersect. But politics and faith, on the other hand, have everything to do with one another.

Everyday, politicians are informed by their faith. Their perception of justice and the decisions that they make are all based on their sense of morality. Something often, if not always, decided by faith—and there are a host of religions that faith can come from.

I was blessed with the opportunity to serve as Official Youth Presence at General Convention in 2012. Chosen along with seventeen other teenagers (two from each province), we were on the floor of the House of Deputies with freedom to speak but not to vote.

When I reflect back on my time at General Convention, the memories that sing clearest to me are ones of my admiration. Even as people disagreed, the loudest chords were of love. The people I experienced wanted one thing: to celebrate Christ as honestly as they could—as their faith informed them to.

As a first-year college student, I find myself arguing often about justice. Especially as a Community & Justice Studies major, I engage in regular conversations about racism, sexism, classism, ableism and homophobia—but rarely do I encounter people disagreeing with love in their hearts.

Episcopalians—or Christians, in general—set out to love one another as Christ loved them. They seek and serve Christ in all people.

Since Convention, my faith has transformed. But my admiration for the democracy that Episcopalians create every four years is still strong, because to me, it's the proof behind the preaching.

Even as people disagree, General Convention is all about creating the best Church that they can—it's about seeking and serving Christ in all people.

There is hate and ignorance in the world, but its place is not at General Convention, or in the Episcopal Church at all—and that realization is the memory I cherish most.

So although our national government may separate church and state, at Convention, we blend together our politics and our faith. And it's awesome.

## South East Mission Area To Launch Combined Youth Ministry

On **April 17th** students in grades 6-12 from the South East Mission Area will converge on St. John's, Youngstown to launch SEMA Youth. SEMA Youth, under the direction of Brent Whetstone, will kickoff with a glow party, featuring the music of Christian Rock band, Scarlet Raven, a rock band in the style of Skillet and Creed. Scarlet Raven will be joining us from Fort Wayne, Indiana. Also featured that night will be the illusions of local magician, Casshan Wallace. Wallace was recently featured on SyFy Channel's *Wizard Wars*, where he was challenged by Judges Penn and Teller to use everyday objects to create new illusions as he competed against other contestants for a cash prize. After the launch party, students are invited to stay for a lock-in that will have all-you-can-eat Taco Bell, an opportunity to compete for prizes and lots of games.



The SEMA Youth Launch party is open to all students in grades 6-12. For more information or to register to attend please contact Brent Whetstone at 330-979-8647.

## Clergy Conference

For clergy residing or serving in Ohio, save the date of **May 5-7** for the Clergy Conference. The conference will take place at The Lodge and Conference Center at Geneva State Park.

This year's presenter will be Dr. Norman Wirzba, Professor of Theology & Ecology at Duke Divinity School. Dr. Wirzba's research and teaching interests live at the intersections of theology, philosophy, ecology, and agrarian and environmental studies.

All full-time active parochial clergy are expected to attend.

Register at: <https://2015clergyconference.eventbrite.com>. For more information, contact Betty Kondrich at [bkondrich@dohio.org](mailto:bkondrich@dohio.org) or 216-774-0466.

## Station Hope

The second annual Station Hope will take place on **Saturday, May 9 from 6-10:30 PM** at St. John's, Ohio City (2600 Church Street, Cleveland, OH 44113).

This is a free one-night-only multi arts event designed to celebrate the victories of the Underground Railroad, Cleveland's social justice heritage as well as the struggles for freedom and justice that carry on to this very day. Performances will take place on a rotating basis throughout the church and adjoining buildings, as well as outdoor spaces surrounding the church.

Volunteers are needed for this event. If interested, please contact the Rev. Dr. Patricia Hanen at [patriciahanen@gmail.com](mailto:patriciahanen@gmail.com) or 216-406-5819.

## Ordination of Shawn E. Dickerson

God willing and the people of God consenting, the Rt. Rev. Mark Hollingsworth, Jr., Bishop of Ohio will ordain Shawn Evan Dickerson to the Sacred Order of Priests in Christ's One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church on **Friday, May 15, 2015 at 6 PM** at St. James' located at 7640 Glenwood Avenue in Boardman.

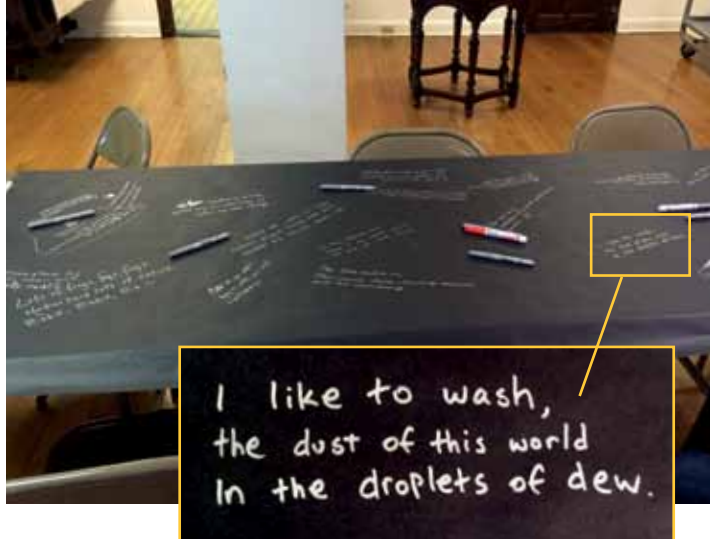
Your prayers and presence are requested. Clergy wear red stoles. Reception following.

## Clergy Changes

- The Rev. Daniel Orr has accepted a call to work as Associate Rector for Mission of Grace, Mansfield.
- The Rev. Rose Ann Lonsway has accepted a call as Rector of Grace, Willoughby.

## Editor's Note

In the Winter 2014 Issue of *Church Life!*, the name of the celebrant at Virginia Krumholz's funeral liturgy should have been spelled as the Rev. Peter Faass.



# Middle School Poetry Slam

by The Rev. Gayle Catinella, Rector at St. John's, Youngstown

St. John's, Youngstown is a downtown church. Our neighbors are Youngstown State University, the main branch of the public library, museums and businesses. So we have to think strategically about how to welcome in new visitors. Because of our beautiful building, we are trying to connect with the arts—hosting concerts and other events to bring people into our space. This strategy invites adults and increases our recognition in the community. But we also wanted to do something that invited children, and their parents, to come to St. John's.

A Middle School Poetry Slam seemed to capture both our focus on being a place that supported the arts and our desire to host families. It also helps that we have three middle school English teachers from three different schools among our members. As we began to dream about what God might be stirring up, we got excited about the prospect of young people being their creative selves and feeling supported and cared for in the process. A poetry slam is an opportunity to perform poems, preferably original, before an audience.

We decided on a Sunday afternoon time slot as the most convenient for families and least likely to have sport or school conflicts. Our teachers came up with a list of all the English middle school teachers in our area—14 in all. We sent them a letter of invitation and a flyer in late November, asking them to mark their calendars for this unique opportunity for their students.

The event would invite students to create original poetry. We also thought some art activities would be fun and a good balance. Tours of our stained glass windows and statuary would add history and give the students a chance to move around. We offered food and also a gift card drawing for anyone who recited a poem. We wanted to make it fun and educational. Parents were also welcome.

In the beginning of January, we sent reminder postcards, followed by a registration form and student handouts in the middle of the month. Our teachers also talked the event up to their colleagues and students. We purchased our art supplies and lined up volunteers in January as well. The “slam” took place on February 8.

At the event itself, we were in our Great Hall, which has a stage on which we set a microphone. For the first half hour, students recited their poetry. After each poem, instead of clapping, the students snapped their fingers above their heads. The variety of topics and the talent of the kids were exceptional.

At the first break, half the group took a tour of the church. The other half worked at four possible activities. We had a cookie decorating table and a table with stained glass window pictures to color. We also had a table with a long sheet of black paper and silver pens (which is a very cool look by the way) where people, students and parents, wrote haiku. Finally we had long sheets of paper hung around the room with different topics that the students were to write 10 words about (ex. Snow days, bananas, racism, bullying, zombies...).

The parents who stayed ate and took the church tour and wrote haiku. Some had their cameras to record their child's poetry debut. They were excited about the activity, amazed it was free and very impressed with the church. We tried to visit with everyone and invite them to come on Sundays as well.

In total we had about 25 students, 10 parents, 3 teachers, and 7 volunteers. The entire event cost us \$250, with some of the art supplies still in use. The students were asked for their feedback as they drew or colored, and they were very positive. Many were asking for the date of the next Poetry Slam. We have decided to make it an annual event!

# Why read the Bible?



During the past year, Advent to Advent, a group of disciples from Church of the Epiphany read the Bible from start to finish, using Forward Movement's *The Bible Challenge* 365-day program as a guide.

## What could possibly go wrong?

It was a challenge. Even those of us who had regular schedules and time set aside found days where the text was so dense, or the day so intense, that it was difficult to keep going. Assurances were given that it was the reading that was important, not the schedule; the time spent with God, not the check mark in the box marked "Mark chapter 10."

A surprise was how many people found the Psalms hard going: whiny, complaining, melodramatic. In the original Bible Challenge schedule, the Psalms are read through not once, but twice. In light of almost certain mutiny, we devised a plan to replace the second reading with a schedule to take us through the Apocrypha, filling in the middle of the Book in the second half of the year. Or, we said, we could use the time to catch up on all of the readings we've missed so far.

We had various ways of keeping up with one another and encouraging one another. Monthly check-ins at coffee hour were supplemented with casual conversations at Bible Study and wherever two or three challengers gathered together. A closed Facebook page offered safe space for online discussion, while a daily blog was our public witness to the whole wide world. A few months into the year, we heard of a group in another state who had decided to join the challenge using the blog as a guide, and a few strangers signed up to follow it, although they mostly did so very quietly. I think everyone was too busy reading to talk much online, although the coffee hour conversations buzzed.

All of us, by the end, had found ourselves changed by the experience, and most significantly, most of us wanted more. We wanted to go back to parts we had skimmed for lack of time, or wrestle with questions that had haunted us as we moved on. We wanted to read different translations. We wanted to continue our conversation with Scripture, with our spiritual ancestors, and with the God who had informed their writing and whispered through our reading.

About 22 people signed up for the challenge. Some are still at it. All who were present, ready or not, received certificates at the end of the year, and a letter from the Bishop was read commending them on their efforts at biblical discipline.

Peggy confirmed, "It was a very rewarding experience ... It was a discipline." She wants to read it again, in another translation, although she might skip all of the details in the building of the temple. But for Andreas, all of that detail "was God's way of showing love and power;" love is in the details. Peggy agreed, "God's love comes through."

It was a challenge, though, said Sheilah. "I would fall behind sometimes, but I didn't get discouraged. I would just pick up where I left off." Cyrus would find himself stopping short to find out, "What are you telling me? I can see what you're telling the people of that time, but bring it to this time: what are you telling me?" Sheilah was surprised how many of the stories reflected the news of our time, in some of the same places: "It was very brutal, but that's what's happening now; it comes full circle."

Cathy summed up the whole challenging, rewarding journey. "At first, I really struggled with the Old Testament. Half of it, I couldn't understand. The other half, they were just killing people, destroying towns; it was hard. But I always found hope. In all of the readings, in the Old Testament and the New, I always found hope. When I had the stroke last summer, that was the hope that sustained me, and still does."

*We used [The Bible Challenge](#) online resources and book (Marek P. Zabriskie, ed) published by Forward Movement. The alternative Apocryphal schedule is available for the asking from Church of the Epiphany. Our blog is archived at [www.epiphanyeuclidbiblechallenge.wordpress.com](http://www.epiphanyeuclidbiblechallenge.wordpress.com).*

# Spring Youth Gathering

## May 1-3, 2015



Planting for **Tomorrow**  
Growing in Faith **Today**

Put on your best overalls or farming attire and walk in the Oberlin parade as our bishop shepherds us. Come to explore and learn more about the site of the new camp and retreat center. We will also attend the Oberlin College Organ Pump. This will be performed on the mighty C. B. Fisk Pipe Organ in Finney Chapel. The Organ Pump will contain a lively mix of total wackiness and legitimate musical performance.

By faith we understand that the universe has been created by a word from God so that the visible came into existence from the invisible.

Hebrews 11:3

**Support Our Youth at  
The Big Parade in Oberlin on  
Saturday, May 2 at 11:00 a.m.**

Christ Church  
162 S. Main Street  
Oberlin, Ohio



# Happening 2015

Happening is a youth-led weekend retreat for teens and by teens, full of talks and discussions on the basic elements of Christian life and its application to daily living. The sacraments of the church also play an integral part throughout the weekend. This year it was held at Cedar Hills Camp and Conference Center in Painesville.

Hannah Rucinski of St. Paul's, Medina acted as the rector for the retreat. Youth walked a handmade labyrinth they've been using for the last 10 years and performed the Stations of the Cross. The beautiful cross used was made by a parent of one of the attendees, and will continue to be used for future Happenings.

In addition to leading the direction of the weekend, youth also led worship along with the Rev. Peter W. Nielsen III. This particular Happening was the last youth event held at Cedar Hills, where Rev. Nielsen has faithfully served as Executive Director for 22 years. The youth honored his dedicated service and presented him with a priest's stole.

The Rev. Vincent Black and Linda Heitger of New Life, Uniontown served as adult mentors of the retreat. Heitger says, "Happening is one of the hidden secrets of the Diocese of Ohio for high school age youth." Youth at high school age do not need a chaperone to attend Happening, which gives youth the chance to independently explore their faith among their peers.

Heitger adds that Happening allows youth to "make lasting friendships from across the Diocese. It can be one of those mountaintop experiences that give [them] peace when life gets hard."



# Planting for Tomorrow

## Parish Projects Move Ahead

While the Planting for Tomorrow – Growing in Faith Today campaign heads into its second year, several of the parishes that ran collaborative campaigns last year are already seeing the rewards of their efforts. Projects that have long been on the proverbial back burner because of lack of funding are now coming to fruition.



▲ The new prayer walk that surrounds St. Barnabas, Bay Village.

As part of the agreement to work with the Campaign Office, parishes receive their share of whatever funds their parishioners and other supporters contribute every three months, depending upon the date parishes officially finished their respective campaigns. Starting with an initial distribution in September 2014, the first two parishes to finish campaigns, St. Barnabas, Bay Village and Church of the Ascension, Lakewood, have already received three quarterly distributions of campaign contributions. St. Paul's in Maumee and St. Paul's, Put-in-Bay have received two allotments, and six more parishes have their first quarterly payment in hand. As of March 2015, over \$725,000 has been distributed to parishes. Twenty-one additional parishes are still running campaigns, and they will start to see funds later this year.

Suddenly flush with resources for capital and ministry needs, parish leaders have commenced, and in a few cases completed, some important, and long-anticipated, projects. At St. Barnabas, the parish installed a beautiful outdoor prayer walk that circumnavigates the church building. Priest-in-Charge, the Rev. Sarah Shofstall noted, "We have adopted the mission statement: Love God. Love your neighbor. Change the world. We related each project we want to accomplish directly to the mission statement."

The Vestry of Church of the Ascension finally replaced the boiler and air handlers for the church's heating system, which has brought much relief from cold temperatures especially this winter. Parishioner and member of the Ascension House, Allison Thompson commented, "Tackling these crucial projects has been an important part of reenergizing this congregation. People can sense that we are truly building a warm and welcoming place for our neighbors to gather and work together. The temperature difference is especially welcome during this cold, cold winter!"

In addition to the new heating system, the church replaced a flat roof over the parish hall, and they have installed protective glass around the historic stained glass windows in the main sanctuary. None of these projects would have been possible without the success of their collaborative campaign, through the hard work of their campaign volunteers, including Senior Warden, Gil Newlands, and the Rev. Vincent Black.



◀ Construction workers laying a new flat roof over Church of the Ascension, Lakewood's parish hall. The roof was completed in November 2014.

Already finished with several smaller projects, St. Paul's in Maumee is currently preparing to renovate their parish kitchen. Construction will start after their renowned annual rummage sale, May 4-6, 2015, and they expect the renovations to commence over the summer, while the Elizabeth Wayne Preschool is not in session. Other projects for this first phase of work include remodeling the office space, the women's bathroom and the Skylight Room. They plan to upgrade the rear entrance to the building, located off the parking lot, so that it looks like a main entrance, as well as add air conditioning to the upstairs. The vestry is working with the architectural firm, The Collaborative, to design the renovations for this initial phase. In Phase Two, they will repair the organ in the sanctuary.



▲ Bishop Hollingsworth presents the children of St. Paul's, Put-in-Bay with their first quarterly check.

St. Paul's, Put-in-Bay > used their first quarterly check to replace their old and outdated furnace.



▲ A bird's-eye-view of St. Paul's, Put-in-Bay during the winter. (Photo taken by Billy Market, 2015.)

For St. Paul's in Put-in-Bay, the campaign took on special meaning as the parish prepared to celebrate its 150th anniversary. According to the Rev. Mary Staley, "We set out to raise \$150,000 in honor of our 150th Anniversary (Fall 2014 through fall 2015). We knew we wanted to have the campaign before our anniversary year began so we could focus on the special events tied to our history in 2015. We were pleased we could be one of the first churches to participate." During an official visitation on November 9, 2014 to kick-off the anniversary celebration, Bishop Mark Hollingsworth, Jr. presented the first check to the parish. "The first check was used immediately to replace the aging heating system before we faced another cold winter. In the spring we are looking at painting the church interior and replacing the undercroft windows. Other restoration and maintenance projects to the church and rectory will take place in the next few years as we receive the funds from our five-year pledges." To date, the parish has raised over \$ 181,000, moving ever closer to a new, challenge goal of \$186,400, commemorating the congregation's establishment in 1864. Campaign volunteers are still talking with parishioners and other community leaders to reach that goal in the coming weeks.

With thirty-one parishes running collaborative campaigns, and more holding In-pew appeals, the Bishop's office has extended the *Planting for Tomorrow* campaign through June 2015 to accommodate the additional effort. Campaign Director, Matt Harrigan, and Director of Parish Campaigns, Lisa McElhenny, from CCS Fundraising, will remain in the Diocese for just a bit longer. Matt and Lisa have become regular fixtures and cherished colleagues in the Bishop's Office, and the staff is thrilled to keep them here for a few more months.

**Mark your calendars for a big celebration: Saturday, June 20, 2015 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Hostile Valley Park (new name to come) in Wakeman Township.** All members of the Diocese and campaign donors are invited to join us for a day of family activities, tours of the site, swimming, music, and dining at the place that will become our new camp and retreat center. Please celebrate with the campaign and project team—and learn more about what will happen next.

For more information about camp and retreat ministry at the Diocese, contact Katie Ong-Landini, Project Director, at konglandini@dohio.org and 216-774-0454.

Renovation has commenced at St. Paul's, Maumee: asbestos tainted tile is removed and a section of the building is taped off in preparation for updates. >




# St. Peter's Ashtabula Food Pantry

The idea for a food pantry at St. Peter's Episcopal Church was born this past May, when the congregation learned that its beloved interim rector Father David Evans was leaving.

by Hazel Phillips, St. Peter's, Ashtabula



Lorraine & Father David Evans 

“When Father David announced that the time had come for us to begin our search process for a full-time permanent rector, we were devastated,” Julie Clayman, parishioner of St. Peter's, said. “We had come to love him and his wife, Lorraine, so dearly.”

In the planning for a farewell party, the congregation wrestled with an appropriate gift. Church members also wondered what would happen to the needy in St. Peter's neighborhood.

“Father David and Lorraine worked tirelessly to help the poor and needy members of the community, so often giving from their own pockets,” Clayman said. “After much prayer and discussion, it was decided that the most poignant farewell gift we could give them was our promise to work hard to continue their work.”

“We promised that we would hold tightly to each other and God; to be faithful and put into practice what we learned being in the presence of Father David and Lorraine,” she continued. “Although St. Peter's has always cared for the community and the poor or needy, we wanted to do something on a bigger scale—something that had the potential to reach as many people as possible.”

After attending a conference on hunger in Ashtabula County, presented by the Cleveland Food Bank, the congregation learned 43 percent of residents in Ashtabula County qualify for food assistance. There was no longer a doubt as to the need for ministries like St. Peter's in Ashtabula.

And while the concept of helping was not a new one for St. Peter's, we rolled up our sleeves and got to work,” Clayman said. “We cleared out a room being used for storage in the lower level. We gave it a good cleaning, new paint and started the process of becoming a food pantry.”

The St. Peter's congregation held fundraisers, and asked for donations of food and money. The team completed its inspection process on September 3, signed a contract with Country Neighbor Program Inc., a branch of the Cleveland Food Bank, and became “Hope and a Future Food Pantry at St. Peter's Ashtabula.”

“We named the pantry “Hope and a Future” because a Bible verse kept coming up at church,” Clayman shared. “When we were fearful and uncertain of our future without Father David and tearfully expressed this to him, he quoted Jeremiah 29:11 — ‘For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord. Plans to prosper you, and not to harm you. Plans to give you hope and a future.’”

Hope and a Future is the only food pantry in Ashtabula County with evening hours, open 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. every Tuesday, affording working families access to emergency food assistance.



▲ Volunteers (from left) Wayne Pelton, Debbie Nelson, Julie Clayman, & John Korb

Hope and a Future is staffed completely by volunteers, who do everything from loading and unloading trucks, to stocking shelves, to seeking funding for the purchase of food items. More help is needed: Donations may be sent to St. Peter's Episcopal Church – Food Pantry, 4901 Main Ave., Ashtabula, OH 44004.

Inspirations from recipients such as: An 11 year old girl approached one of our volunteers and thanked us so sincerely for helping her family in their time of need. Also, when our volunteer, Carol Wardell, was asked 'Why? Since we were already providing food, we also share our dinner and coffee with waiting families'. Carol replied, "because that is how we do things at St. Peter's."

"Father David and Lorraine's legacy of love for the people of Ashtabula and St. Peter's continues," Clayman said. "Although it hurt to say good-bye, we believe we are better Christians and a stronger congregation because of their time here."

The total number of meals served for October alone was 3,438—wow!!!



“After much prayer and discussion, it was decided that the most poignant farewell gift we could give them was our promise to work hard to continue their work.”

# Los Amigos Episcopales visits El Salvador

by Jennifer Boswell



*The Right Reverend David Alvarado, Bishop of the Diocese of El Salvador*

...we felt the power of Christ working through us to embrace a new chapter in the relationship between Los Amigos Episcopales and the Diocese of El Salvador...

On January 31, Anne Anderson (St. Paul's, Cleveland Heights), Debi Lindemeyer (St. Matthew's, Brecksville) and I (Church of Our Saviour, Akron) had the privilege of attending the consecration of The Right Reverend David Alvarado as the incoming Bishop of the Diocese of El Salvador. We represented the membership of Los Amigos Episcopales at this momentous event.

Los Amigos Episcopales (LAE) is a peace and justice ministry of the Diocese of Ohio and is led by members from several churches in the Diocese. For over twenty years, LAE has shared a steadfast relationship with the Diocese of El Salvador. Our primary focus has been walking with the Diocese of El Salvador in their mission to operate high quality schools for children in some of the underserved communities in which they have churches. Over the years, LAE has observed growth and progress in the operation of five schools. Sadly, the economic downturn in the U.S. a few years ago had a major impact on the ability of some Salvadoran families to afford even a modest tuition. San Andrés Apóstol School and San Mateo School were closed.

On February 1, Anne, Debi, and I happily attended a blessing in honor of the re-opening of San Andrés School celebrated by the new Bishop David Alvarado! We also met Angela Smith, Director of TELA Women (To Empower Lives for Action), during our visit. Angela and her organization coordinated the re-opening of San Andrés School under the Montessori model of education and are actively involved in the empowerment of a women's cooperative near the school. Los Amigos Episcopales hopes that the new collaboration with TELA at San Andrés will grow and expand. LAE would like to help San Mateo School re-open in January 2016!

Also on our visit to El Salvador we were able to express our deep appreciation and friendship to outgoing Bishop Martín Barahona. Bishop Barahona was the Diocesan Bishop of El Salvador at the time Los Amigos Episcopales was formed. Over the years he visited the Diocese of Ohio many times, including the consecration of Bishop Mark Hollingsworth, and most recently, as a member of the Episcopal presence in Cleveland for Gay Games 9. His sermon at Trinity Cathedral was consistent with the leader we have known for over twenty years emphasizing inclusion, love, acceptance and justice. He remains our dear friend and we wished him well in his retirement on behalf of Los Amigos Episcopales and the many friends he has made in the Diocese of Ohio.

Anne, Debi, and I were only in El Salvador for a few days on this trip, but we felt the power of Christ working through us to embrace a new chapter in the relationship between Los Amigos Episcopales and the Diocese of El Salvador as we celebrated the consecration of Bishop Alvarado. We have known him and his wife, Irma (also



▲ (Left to right) The Revda. Irma Alvarado (wife of the Bishop), Debi Lindemeyer (St. Matthew's, Brecksville), the Rt. Rev. Juan David Alvarado, Jennifer Boswell (Church of Our Saviour, Akron), and Anne Anderson (St. Paul's, Cleveland Heights)

an Episcopal priest) for many years and are excited to walk beside them in their new roles.

LAE would be happy to visit any church in the Diocese of Ohio that would like to hear more about our ministry in El Salvador. Also, we hope members from all over the Diocese of Ohio will attend our fourth annual Sundown Soup Supper fundraiser on Friday, October 23, at St. Paul's, Cleveland Heights. It is a great opportunity for us to share our news about our friends in Christ in El Salvador, and enjoy some wonderful soup and dessert! All are welcome to our monthly meetings, usually held on the second Friday of each month. For meeting location and further details please visit our website [www.losamigosepiscopales.org](http://www.losamigosepiscopales.org) or FaceBook group.



▲ Bishops from Central America and the U.S. gather to support Bishop Alvarado (first row center). To Bishop Alvarado's left is retiring Bishop the Rt. Rev. Martin Barahona.

# In Grateful Memory

## Marguerite Blanchard Sands, St. Andrew's Parish Organist For 77 Years

Until December 21, 2014 Marguerite Blanchard Sands had the honor and distinction of serving just short of 77 years as parish organist at the Historic St. Andrew's Episcopal Church on Cleveland's eastside—a ministry she embarked on at the tender age of 15. Mrs. Sands had served under 16 priests before passing away on January 20, 2015.

Mrs. Sands was born on April 13, 1922 to the union of Jerry and Kate Blanchard. The first of ten, she had outlived seven of her siblings at the time of her passing with the two remaining, Lois "Flossie" Wallace (Elliott) and Frederick Douglass Blanchard (Katrina).

Marguerite attended Cleveland Public Schools where she graduated from the Old Central High School in 1940 with the distinctive honor of salutatorian—a "B" in math was her downfall. Shortly after, she married Vernon Eugene Williams (deceased) and gave birth to five children: Vernon Eugene Williams, Jr. (deceased); Eloise Williams Morrison (deceased); Marguerite Williams Henry; Johnny Hubbard Williams, and Janet Williams Allen. In addition, she leaves to mourn seven grandchildren, eleven great-grandchildren, and is currently expecting one great-great grandchild—that is in addition to a host of nieces and nephews, friends, and extended family members.

Also after graduation she became the resident organist at Boyd's Funeral Home for a period of 20 years—and at the House of Wills on occasion. Immediately following, she became a U.S. Postal employee for 25 years before retiring from her position as a mail handler. During that tenure, she extended her lunch hour and made up lost time on alternate Sundays in order to maintain her role as organist at St. Andrew's.

During the 70s, her extraordinary talents as pianist and organist brought her many honors in the community at large as she shared her gift of artistry. During the tenure of Father Austin Rellins Cooper, former rector of St. Andrew's and president of the Cleveland Chapter of the National Association of the Advancement of Colored People, she was featured on numerous occasions as the pianist and organist for the "Andrewites," a choir formed and supported by Father Cooper. Also during that time period, she served as the organist for the installation of



Arthur B. Williams, Jr., current suffragan bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio.

During the decade of the 80's, she appeared as accompanist on many occasions at Cuyahoga Community College performing with local and nationally acclaimed musicians, Earl "Neal" Creque, John Fleming, and Sharolyn Malvin Ferebee. For several years during that same period, she played at the graduation ceremonies of Warrensville Schools and the Cleveland Schools at the Masonic Temple in Downtown Cleveland.

In the late 80s and the early 90s. Ms. Sands was also instrumental in the resurgence of the Ohio Chapter of the Union of Black Episcopalians. In an effort to expand the Episcopal music liturgy to fellow Anglicans, she traveled with some local UBE members and former president, Wilma Ruth Combs. to a small village in South Africa where the hymn book, *Lift Every Voice and Sing* (LEVAS), was introduced to fellow South Africans. The hymnal is the official songbook in the African-American music liturgy in the Protestant Episcopal Church.

In later years, she served on occasions as pianist for the internationally famous choir, Heritage Chorale, directed by the late Sylvia Perry. On occasions, she accompanied the Arthur B. Williams, Jr. Choir directed by Lawrence Hill.

For her long and dedicated service, Ms. Sands received many plaques in her lengthy and illustrious ministry of music mostly for her ministry at St. Andrew's. She also held distinctive membership in John C. Davis Chapter of the Daughters of the King, an organization dedicated to prayer and service.

The family gratefully acknowledges contributions in lieu of flowers. Any donation can be made to The Music Ministry of Andrew's Episcopal Church.

The Right Reverend Arthur B. Williams Jr., Suffragan Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio and the Reverend Father Himie-Budu Shannon Sr., Rector of the Historic St. Andrew's Episcopal Church were the celebrants. The interment was held at Lake View Cemetery.

# Cleveland Youth Discuss Excessive Force With Local Police

by Johnnie Williams, St. Andrew's, Cleveland

To honor the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr., the Brotherhood Guild of the Historic St. Andrew's Episcopal Church sponsored a dialog session primarily between police and the youth of the church. The focus was on concerns of young people residing in communities of color and those of patrol officers in response to the growing problems and tensions.



**A** Pictured from left to right: Charles E. Bradford (Employment Specialist; Harbor Lights), Detective Kelvin Barrow, Rickey Smith, III, Shavonne Smith, Jordon Smith, Lexie Fultz, Officer Kevin Walker, Antonio Smith, and Bwana Hansford.

Patrolman Kevin Walker, fellow member of the Brotherhood Guild, led the conversation. Officers Stephanie Maye, Eric Poole, and Detective Kevin Barrow joined Officer Walker, answering questions of the youth and others in attendance.

During the session, youth were given the opportunity to field their concerns as they related to the use of excessive force as well as ways they feel relations could be improved. In response, officers presented their perspectives as they start each shifts, encounter potential violations and challenges, and approach the end of each shift.

Officers Maye, Poole, and Walker engaged the youth with a role-playing activity. There, conversations emerged that offered opportunities on how to react when stopped by the police for questioning, stopped in your car, when the police enter your home, and if you are taken to the police station. In all cases, youth—in this simulation—have the right to remain silent! A reference checklist prepared by the ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union) was distributed to each attendee.

Several youth attendees called on the police personnel for suggestions on how they can improve community relations at large. In response, the Cleveland police officers shared their requirements to attend sensitivity training sessions in an effort to improve relations. Youth responded positively to hearing the life-changing stories of Detective Barrow and Officer Maye.

A lunch was prepared by the Brotherhood Guild, and ably assisted by Shirley Carter, Daisey Carter, Cynthia Duke, Pearl Culbreath, and others. It is highly suggested that more sessions occur with the effort of increasing, understanding, and engaging in direct, positive dialog.



**A** Det. Kelvin Barrow speaks to the youth and facilitates discussion on interacting with the police.



# Baptisms, Babies, and the Bishop

by Carol Diedrichs-Himes, Good Shepherd, Lyndhurst



**A** Bishop Hollingsworth holding the littlest confirmand of the day. Photo by Walt Himes.

“I tell you...there is rejoicing among the angels of God over one sinner whose heart is changed”  
(Luke 15:10, J.B. Phillips New Testament).

On Sunday February 22, there was much rejoicing in heaven, and a fair share at Church of the Good Shepherd, Lyndhurst too. Rector Fr. Paul Collins welcomed the bishop and guests. During a service of Baptism, Confirmation, Reception, and Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows, Bishop Mark Hollingsworth ushered a baby, two adults, and a family of six into a closer relationship with Christ. The babies weren't tearful, but one little girl giggled, “That man got my hair wet! It tickles!”

The nine candidates received candles and prayer books, as well as blankets, which were handmade by the knitting ministry. Likewise, Fr. Paul gave Bishop Hollingsworth a prayer shawl for Bishop David and Nancy Bowman. The blanket conveys Good Shepherd's thoughts and healing prayers; it has special meaning because it was the last blanket made by Mary Davis, a recently deceased parishioner. Some of Mary's passions were knitting, hiking, and serving as a missionary to Nepal and to children.

That morning, following the processional and the introductory words, the Good Shepherd bell choir performed two musical pieces: “Fanfare” and “Meditation.” The bishop stated that he'd never seen or heard such a variety of techniques. The musicians rang with the normal hand motion, but tapped the bells on the tables (called

“martellato”), and also used other styles. The combination produced a variety of different sounds, all presented as an offering to God.

In his homily, Bishop Hollingsworth referred to the Old Testament reading about Noah and the Ark. He noted that in the shape of a weapon, a bow, God had created His promise. The rainbow was not primarily a symbol to people, but rather a reminder to God that He would never again destroy the earth. God judges us and, like an attentive parent, is aware of what we’re doing all the time; however, our Father loves us and accepts us, just as we should accept others.

During announcements Alana Hill read a public thank you to Bishop Hollingsworth and the Diocese on behalf of the vestry. Last winter in a “perfect storm” of crises, Good Shepherd suffered broken pipes, flooded rooms, furnace issues, gas issues, and sewer issues. The Diocese responded with a grant and a loan, providing both financial support and much needed moral support.

Music continued to be a focal point in the second half of the service. During offertory, members of the youth group joined the adult ensemble singers for a lively Peruvian song. The music during Communion and the stirring recessional, “Lift High the Cross,” helped to round out a service that was knit together with faith, reason, and celebration.

Afterwards during the potluck, Bishop Hollingsworth answered people’s questions. Then with the official business done, good food and fellowship were enjoyed by all.

Who says Lent can’t be joyful? After all, we know the Good News; we know how The Story ends!

*The bell choir dedicated their performances to the glory of God.*  
Photo by Joe Thomas.



*Candidates, godparents, loved ones, and ministers gather around the font as the rite begins.*

Photo by Walt Himes.





## ECW *News* Notes by Elaine Willis

### DIOCESE OF OHIO ECW ANNUAL MEETING MAY 8-9, 2015 (WESTLAKE, OHIO)



What is the ECW (Episcopal Church Women) all about—is there more to it than your parish or the Diocese of Ohio? The Rev. Deacon Nancy Crawford, National President of the Episcopal Church Women, will be the keynote speaker for the 2015 Annual Meeting of the Diocese of Ohio ECW. Nancy is a lifelong Episcopalian who was ordained Deacon at Trinity Cathedral, Portland, Oregon, in 2006. She will bring to the women of the Diocese of Ohio news from the wider church, including plans for the Triennial Meeting which will be held in Salt Lake City this summer, at the same time as General Convention. Nancy Crawford has recently begun a President's Blog (on the ECW web page – [ecwnational.org](http://ecwnational.org)) where she and others comment on the book *Bible Women: all Their Words & Why They Matter*, by the Rev. Lindsay Hardin Freeman. She'll have some interesting news and views to share with us!

The Cuyahoga Mission Area ECW is the host for this Annual Meeting – May 8 and 9. Our Bishop's wife, Sue Hollingsworth, has graciously invited us to have dinner at the Bishop's home in Shaker Heights on Friday evening, May 8. The Rev. Deacon Nancy Crawford will speak briefly that evening, in addition to our having some very special music!

On Saturday, the Annual Meeting will be held at the newly renovated Doubletree Hotel in Westlake (near the Crocker Road exit off I-90). In addition to the business meeting, we will hear our Keynote Speaker, choose from two breakout sessions in the morning and two in the afternoon, concluding at 3:00 with the Eucharist during which the knitted items for the Seamen's Church Institute's Christmas-at-Sea will be blessed. A program for children will run concurrently. Yes—this is an opportunity for all women of the Diocese to gather, be informed, share ideas and bring children with you! The breakout offerings will include Altar & Flower Guilds; Human Trafficking—how to get involved in your community; Outreach ideas; and the Lillian Vallely School.

There will be something for everyone—of all ages!! Registration packets will be mailed to every parish. Contact Nancy Sherwin ([nanhshe@yahoo.com](mailto:nanhshe@yahoo.com)) 216-321-5016 with any questions. The Cuyahoga Mission Area ECW looks forward to seeing you all on May 8 and 9.

*Does your parish or Mission Area ECW have a project you're particularly proud of, like a very successful fundraiser or an outreach project? We'd like to hear about it! Share it with the Diocese by emailing an article to Elaine Willis at [ewillis1254@gmail.com](mailto:ewillis1254@gmail.com) or calling 440-930-5291!*

# Clergy Fellowship tackles big issues

by Kay Kerezy, *The Brecksville Magazine*

It is a breaking of the bread, a sharing of ideas and the building of a fellowship of faith, and it happens the fourth Thursday of every month. "It" is the monthly gathering of twelve local churches and it has been building a united community of faith since 1977.

The Clergy Fellowship group includes religious members from St. Basil the Great Catholic Church, St. Joseph Byzantine Catholic Church, St. Matthew Episcopal Church, Brecksville United Church of Christ, Brecksville United Methodist Church, Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church, Triune Lutheran Church, Independence Presbyterian Church, Independence Methodist Church, St. Michaels Catholic Church, Assumption Catholic Church and Unity Church. Much larger than when Dick Lindner, pastor of St. Matthew Episcopal, and Bob Springer of Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church began meeting in 1977, the group welcomes churches south of Cleveland, including Richfield and North Royalton. Brecksville United Methodist Church (BUMC) Music Director Joy Parker is representative for BUMC and the communications liaison for the Clergy Fellowship. Parker has been involved with the group for three years. "We talk quite a lot about finding creative ways to communicate with everyone who is in the congregations of every church," she said. "The purpose of our group is to open meaningful dialogue between different faith traditions and different denominational backgrounds, such as between Catholic and Protestant, amongst different Protestant denominations, and between Muslim and Christians. We try to point out what we all have in common over and above our differences."

The goal, Parker said, is for the group to build friendships, educate the community, and provide outreach to the community. The meetings rotate to a different church every month and the host sets the tone and serves as facilitator. Meetings could be centered on dialogue or a day of action.

Reverend Bruce Riebe, pastor of St. Joseph Byzantine Church in Brecksville added, "I joined the group when I came to St. Joseph's in 1993. We all learn from each other and gain insights which we then can share with our congregations." Riebe said the group shares their views on, "anything from 'Obamacare' to homosexual ministry. Even if we do not have a designated topic we always end up talking and sharing ideas," he added.

In lieu of their May meeting, the group and members from their associated churches participated in a Stop Hunger Now food-packing activity in which 25,000 meals were packed and shipped to the Dominican Republic.

In August a Saint Basil's lay member gave a presentation on a group he wants to create for older men to open dialogue for interfaith traditions. He asked the clergy fellowship for support, suggestions on how he could get his group started, and strategies for success.

On Saturday, Oct. 18, the Unity Center in Brecksville held an event to educate the community on Islam in an effort to create a dialogue between the Christian and Muslim community. The clergy fellowship promoted this event at their own churches by encouraging their congregations to attend.

Parker said, "Part of the education also is that we as Christians have to take ownership of our own history and our own traditions. If we want to open the Bible and find parts where people are running around killing each other we can. So we should not take someone else's sacred text and take violence out of context. Our group talks about dealing with violence in general and our human addiction to violence. The human community, together, needs to learn how to pursue peace."

Pursuing peace and working together to make that happen throughout the local area helps binds these clergy members of different faiths together.

"Although we do not, as of yet, have a unified platform on any one issue, we all respect each other's beliefs and listen to each other," said Riebe.

Another issue the group discusses frequently is social media. Parker said that people have so many things in front of them so the group strategizes on how to cut through it and get good messages to congregational members. She said they have discussed how to better use technology and improve communication so people can get to the educational events.

Parker added, "We are relatively grass roots and we're always looking for ways to grow and get more voices at the table. We're a small group of people with a big mission." For more information contact Parker at [music@brecksvilleumc.com](mailto:music@brecksvilleumc.com).

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

## CALENDAR | *Full calendar at* [DOHIO.ORG](http://DOHIO.ORG)

April 20  
**Standing Committee**  
*Trinity Cathedral, Cleveland*

April 24  
**Urban Renewal Camp  
Application Deadline**

April 25  
**Bishop's Easter Retreat**  
*Grace, Sandusky*

May 1-3  
**Spring Youth Gathering**  
*Christ Church, Oberlin*

May 2  
**Christian Education  
Workshop**  
*TBD*

May 5-7  
**Clergy Conference**  
*Geneva Lodge and Conference  
Center*

May 9  
**Commission on Ministry**  
*TBD*

May 9  
**Station Hope**  
*St. John's, Ohio City*

May 18  
**Standing Committee**  
*Trinity Cathedral, Cleveland*

May 30  
**Christian Education  
Workshop**  
*TBD*

May 30  
**Province V Pre-General  
Convention (Tentative)**  
*TBD*

June 6  
**Commission on Ministry**  
*TBD*

June 15  
**Standing Committee**

June 16-20  
**Bishop's Bike Ride**

June 18  
**Diocesan Council**  
*Trinity Cathedral, Cleveland*

June 20  
**Planting for Tomorrow  
Celebration**  
*Hostile Valley Park, Wakeman*

July 3  
**Diocesan offices closed for  
Independence Day**

## BISHOPS' VISITATIONS

### APRIL

26 Christ Church  
Huron  
*Bishop Hollingsworth*

26 St. Paul's Church  
Marion  
*Bishop Williams*

### MAY

03 St. Paul's Church  
Akron  
*Bishop Persell*

10 St. Andrew's Church  
Akron  
*Bishop Hollingsworth*

10 St. Paul's Church  
Medina  
*Bishop Persell*

17 St. Thomas's Church  
Berea  
*Bishop Williams*

17 St. Paul's Church  
Mount Vernon  
*Bishop Persell*

17 Trinity Church  
Toledo  
*Bishop Hollingsworth*

24 St. Matthew's Church  
Ashland  
*Bishop Williams*

31 All Saints Church  
Toledo  
*Bishop Hollingsworth*

### JUNE

7 St. James's Church  
Painesville  
*Bishop Williams*

14 St. Paul's Church  
Oregon  
*Bishop Hollingsworth*

21 Grace Church  
Defiance  
*Bishop Hollingsworth*

### JULY

5 Christ Church  
Warren  
*Bishop Hollingsworth*