



CHURCH

THE MAGAZINE OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF OHIO

Life

FALL 2014

Planting for Tomorrow

*What are individual parishes in the Diocese of Ohio
accomplishing with collaborative campaigns?*



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Life

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CONTENTS

4

CONVENTION PREVIEW

The 198th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Ohio will be held November 7-8.

8

KNITTING PEARLS

In the Knitting Pearls, members and friends of Trinity who like knitting and similar crafts live out the words of St. Paul through their shared hobby.

14

EPISCOPAL YOUTH EVENT (EYE14)

Diocesan youth give their perspectives, reflections, and prayers regarding their experience at this year's EYE.

16

URBAN FARMING CAMP AT ST. ANDREW'S, CLEVELAND

In a partnership between St. Andrew's Episcopal Church and the Ohio 4H Club, they've provided kids with a unique summer camp of tending an urban garden.

18

BROTHERS' KEEPER

Youth from All Saints, Parma and St. Peter's, Lakewood traveled to West Virginia to participate in a regional mission work camp for youth groups.

20

CELEBRATING MILESTONES AT ST. PETER'S, LAKEWOOD

Rector Keith Owen and Canon Nancy H. Wittig both celebrated the anniversary of their respective ordinations.

22

LABYRINTH GARDEN

All are welcome at the St. Alban's Labyrinth Garden and Community Space.

24

PLANTING FOR TOMORROW

What are individual parishes in the Diocese of Ohio accomplishing with collaborative campaigns?



Photo by Chris Decatur



Photo by the Rev. Dr. Brian Wilbert

An EYEopener *of a* Summer



I am 60 years old. When I can avoid “selfies” and seeing my reflection in mirrors, my image of myself is much younger. Very much younger. Some years ago I was playing hockey with a guy who was wearing a practice jersey from the college I attended. He looked to be about my age, though I couldn’t quite place him and was uncertain whether he was a year or two ahead of me or a year or two behind me. So I skated up to him and asked if indeed we had attended the same school and what year he graduated. Turns out we had, 20 years apart. Two decades! In all of my goaltending equipment, I wondered whether he could see what a dinosaur I was.

By and large, I have always been happy to be whatever age I am, and this season of life is no different. I am getting used to the fact that after most exercise I am sore in places I didn’t realize I had places. I accept the frustrating reality that my memory fails me with increasing frequency. And I admit that, sometimes, young people make me feel older than I would like to feel, to say nothing of simultaneously both round and square. I am especially age-conscious when they share the music they like or use words I have never heard.

More often than not, however, the opposite occurs. Young people make me feel younger than I am. They rejuvenate me with their energy and enthusiasm and spirit. They invite me to join their bright and lively perspective on life. And they help me reconnect spiritually with what it means to be a child of God. This is not because they are childish, rather because they are often more open to God and creation. They have, as we pray in the baptismal service, “a spirit to know and love [God], and the gift of joy and wonder in all [God’s] works.” (1979 BCP, p.308)

This July I joined twenty-four high-school age communicants of our parishes and their older adult companions at the 2014 Episcopal Youth Event (EYE), a triennial gathering of young Episcopalians in grades 9-12, held this year in Philadelphia. In addition, Angela Hudnell of Christ Church, Oberlin, and the Rev. Vincent Black, Canon for Christian Formation, were there as members of the planning committee. As was the case three years ago in Minneapolis, the Diocese of Ohio fielded the maximum size delegation, as large as any in the church. In total there were some 1000 young people from across The Episcopal Church, both from this country and abroad. Their worship was sincere and lively and holy. They danced their prayers as much as they spoke them. They were embracing of their differences, and delighted in meeting peers from all over the church. They were expressive of the full range of their faith responses, from doubt to certainty, willing surrender to cautious hesitance, playful adventure to serious and thoughtful consideration of the other. They made me want to be part of the church they will become.

A month or so later I received the chilling notification that the Youth Group of All Saints’ Church in Parma had nominated me for the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge. With the

all too willing assistance of my children, I met their challenge, video proof of which is available on the Diocesan web site and our Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram accounts. Much of the success of the ALS challenge is due to the energetic participation of young people and the way they build community through networking, inviting others to let go and join their spirit. As the icy water flowed over my head, my breath stopped, my eyes opened wide, and I was fully alert to everything around me. It reminded me of how the waters of baptism repeatedly wash away the false comforts we build around ourselves to insulate us from the needs of the world and what God is challenging us to do and be.

One of the opportunities the proposed new camp and retreat program and venue will offer people of all ages is the chance for rejuvenation, physically and spiritually, reawakening the child of God in each of us. Our young people will have new opportunities to lead us in that journey, just as our elders will have the chance to mentor them in new ways. And all of us will have a vehicle through which to serve countless people beyond our congregations, sharing with them the spiritual mandates of fidelity to God’s creation, care of the natural resources God has given us, and the development of healthy disciplines of eating, exercise, and prayer. In short, we can expose to many what the EYE participants and the All Saints’ youth group rejuvenated again in me, the gift of joy and wonder that inspires our vocation as children of God and awakens us anew to the world that needs our care.

They rejuvenate me
with their energy and
enthusiasm and spirit.

198th Annual Diocesan Convention

November 7-8, 2014

Schedule at a Glance

Friday, November 7

Dinner
at Trinity Commons, Cleveland

Convention Eucharist
at Trinity Cathedral

Saturday, November 8

Convention Business
at Holiday Inn Cleveland South,
Independence

Changes for Convention

Convention Handbook

This year the Handbook will be digital. A hard copy will be available at your home parish.

Registration

Registration will take place at 7:30 AM, Saturday. We urge you to be prompt, as business will start at 9 AM.

Electronic Voting

We will be using electronic voting this year to reduce counting time. Volunteers will be available to assist delegates with voting.

Hotel Reservations

Reservations must be made by October 7.

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Holiday Inn Cleveland South, 6001 Rockside Road, Independence.

The room rate is \$89 per night, plus applicable state and local taxes. Parking is free.

A major credit card is required to guarantee a reservation, and the card is also required to be presented at check-in.

Our group rate is available for the nights of November 7 and November 8. Additional nights may be reserved at the hotel's current rate, based on availability.

Call 216-524-8050, ext. 298, and ask for the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio group rate, or look for the reservation link at www.dohio.org/registration-information.

Delegate Forms

To attend, the Canon requires that a certification be submitted for lay delegates and youth representatives no later than 30 days prior to the Convention start date (November 7). All certifications must be received by October 9, 2014.

Delegate forms are online at www.dohio.org/registration-information.

Nominations

Instructions on how to submit a nomination and detailed information about the positions may be found at www.dohio.org/nominations.

The following positions are up for election:

Diocesan Trustee – one lay or clergy (5-yr term)

Standing Committee – one lay and one clergy (4-yr term), one clergy (3-yr unexpired term)

Diocesan Council – two lay and two clergy (3-yr term)

ECS Development Council – three lay and one clergy (3-yr term), one clergy (1-yr unexpired term)

Diocesan Disciplinary Board – two lay and one clergy (3-yr term), one clergy (2-yr unexpired term) [clergy ordained at least 5 years]

General Convention Deputy & Alternates - four lay and four clergy alternates (3-yr term), one clergy deputy (2-yr unexpired term)

Province V Synod Delegates – two lay and one clergy (3-yr term)

Note: The first alternate deputy (Lay and Clergy) will attend General Convention, the expenses of which will be paid by the Diocese of Ohio.

Great Smaller Church

2014 Conference

by the Rev. Brad Purdom, Canon for Congregations

"It really helped change my focus from our budget to our mission; It's great to know we aren't alone; So good to hear we can be a smaller church and still be a vibrant, dynamic church; I benefited especially from seeing how to begin building a relationship with the people around my own church; I learned so much from others in churches just like ours."

Eighty people representing 26 congregations made these and other comments after attending this year's Great Smaller Church Conference August 23 at St. Martin's in Chagrin Falls. A second conference was held two weeks later at St. Timothy's in Perrysburg, but unfortunately came too late to meet our publication deadline.

The conference was a practical workshop on developing an authentic, two-way relationship between a congregation and its local neighborhood or community. The Rev. David Bargetzi, St. Luke's/Cleveland, led the exercises and discussion based on the transformation and vitality God brought to St. Luke's through just such a relationship. The Rev. Brad Purdom, Canon for Congregations, introduced the day with a positive discussion of the place and role of smaller congregations in the church and encouragement to be not just a small church but a great small church that brings God's life and kingdom to its neighborhood.

A special word of thanks to the people of St. Martin's and St. Timothy's for their wonderful hospitality.



Lay and Clergy Leadership Conference

The Diocese of Ohio and St. Barnabas Church in Bay Village present the 2014 Lay and Clergy Leadership Conference. This year's topic will be The Spiritual Journey of Faithful Stewardship: Exploring and Sharing with Others the Generative Experience of Giving.

Perhaps best known as the author of *The Seven Questions that Saved My Spiritual Life*, conference leader Bruce Rockwell serves as the Assistant to the Bishop for Stewardship in the Diocese of Western Massachusetts.

Registration costs \$10 and includes lunch.

Register at
<https://2014layclergyconference.eventbrite.com>

Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival

The Boar's Head committee in Cleveland is announcing the 52nd Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival to be held Saturday, December 27th, at 3 PM (ASL interpreted for the deaf community by reservation) and 5:30 PM at Trinity Cathedral, Cleveland. Plan ahead to join us for this free, Elizabethan-inspired event, and absorb the multi-sensory experience that will give punctuation to your Christmas celebrations. (Donations taken.)

There are almost always costumed non-singing roles available for those interested. For more information, contact us:

E-mail: boarsheadfestival@hotmail.com

Facebook: Cleveland's Boars Head and Yule Log Festival

Web: www.boarsheadcleveland.org

Phone: 216-771-3630 ext. 392



The Terminal Tower in Cleveland was lit in rainbow colors for the Gay Games



The procession at the Gay Games Interfaith Service



The Gay Games Interfaith Service at Trinity Cathedral featured the participation of local, national and international faith leaders

Gay Games 9

The Diocese acted as a Faith Community Partner in conjunction with several denominations from the Cleveland/Akron area to form a Religious Committee, which resulted in the creation of the Spiritual Center Booth. Several of our priests volunteered to staff the Spiritual Center Booth at Festival Village, where they and other clergy & lay spiritual leaders provided an ecumenical space for participants to engage in conversation, but not conversion.

Cleveland is the first site in the history of the Gay Games to host a Spiritual Center, and we are proud that we were part of it.

The Gay Games Interfaith Service took place at Trinity Cathedral where over 300 people gathered to share music, prayers, and messages grounded in the values of equality, justice, and human dignity.



The Rt. Rev. Arthur B. Williams, Jr.; the Very Rev. Tracey Lind; and the Rt. Rev. Martín De Jesús Barahona, Bishop of the Anglican Episcopal Church of El Salvador

Photos by the Rev. Dr. Brian K. Wilbert

Having a Relationship with God

What does it mean to have a relationship with God?

by Lindsay Bailey, Diocesan Intern

What does it mean to have a relationship with God? Does having a relationship with God provide us with peace and comfort in times of despair and turmoil? Is God our “somebody” or “something” to thank when our lives are going good, or the source of blame when life treats us poorly? Is having a relationship with God a form of social exchange, in which we maximize the benefits for our own good, without placing ourselves in a vulnerable spot that could heighten the potential for loss? What is it like to feel God’s love? If someone comes to you and says, “So, tell me about your relationship with God,” what are you supposed to say? Is it supposed to be something that can be defined in one or two sentences? Defining our relationship with God is a constant struggle for all Christians. We live in a society that wants clear and specific answers, but God does not fit within these parameters. We wrestle with the insurmountable power and presence of God because it cannot be defined in simple terms.

I recently served as a counselor at Trinity Lutheran Seminary’s “Summer Seminary Sampler” program in Columbus, Ohio. It is a program for high school students discerning their vocational call by experiencing seminary life and participating in service projects and other ministry opportunities in the community. I attended this program as a student two years ago, and it is where I felt a call to ordained ministry in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

A question that seemed to reappear over the course of the two weeks was, “What does it mean to have a relationship with God?” Embedded in this overarching question were more inquisitions as to what that relationship looks like, how do you know if you have one, and what does it mean for your life as a Christian.

People often think of a relationship with God as something that is tangible and easy to describe. The moment it becomes abstract or unclear is when we begin to worry and question its strength or even its existence. Just like any other relationship, a relationship with God depends on trust and a firm foundation in our faith.

Stemming from our conversation on what it means to have a relationship with God, the Sampler students and I talked

about what it means to be more ecumenical and what that looks like for the future of the Church, a topic of concern for all generations and leaders of the Church, but specifically pertaining to our own generation and the leaders we are in the process of forming. We observed throughout our time together that being ecumenical and Christ-like is not just about tolerance, but also looking at the lives of others and wondering how we can live as one body without so much separation.

Having a relationship with God means something different for everyone. Our relationship with God is very personal and individualistic in nature. It is what we make of it. There is no definitive explanation of what it means to have a relationship with God because the other half of that relationship belongs to and is the responsibility of the individual.

However, the most significant part of this relationship is that God loves us. The very phrase “God loves you. No exceptions,” exemplifies ecumenicalism in the most real and holistic sense. It is saying that you have a relationship with God no matter who you are, what your story is, or where you come from.

From my time as an intern with the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio in the Communications Office and at Historic St. John’s Episcopal Church in Ohio City, my understanding of having a relationship with God has continued to strengthen and reformulate itself. As a Lutheran working with Episcopalians, I have learned more about what it means to be ecumenical and how to use that knowledge in my own life and future call to ministry. I have learned that the best way to live out my call and relationship with God is to serve others and to show unconditional love to them.

The love we receive as God’s children does not end at our personal relationship with God, but rather it continues in the ways we show love and acceptance towards others as witnesses to the Gospel, and in the ways we provide service and comfort to those in the larger community.

Just as God loves us and cares for us, we are to love others –with no exceptions.

Knitting Pearls

Stitching together community

by April Miller, Trinity Cathedral Communications Manager



Beyond the work of knitting infant blankets for baptisms, scarves and mittens for elementary school children and the many other projects that the Trinity Cathedral Knitting Pearls undertake each year, the group of knitters, crocheters, needlepointers and coffee and tea drinkers weave together a strong community.

"It was the first thing I joined and it's absolutely been a lifeline for me," says Beth Billings, Friday morning group leader. "There are days when I think I don't want to do a lot of things, but I would never give up on Knitting Pearls. We rely on each other and are in community with each other."

Formed in 2006 by Trinity's curate at the time, the Rev. Judith Alexis, Knitting Pearls began with a Friday morning meeting. Those unable to attend Fridays formed a Monday evening group and that schedule continues today with the lay-led group offering workshops and knit-ins in addition to the weekly meetings.

"When Rev. Judith started the Knitting Pearls it seemed like an opportune time for me to pick up that particular skill again. I rarely knit for myself but here was a perfect opportunity to practice my skill and make things for others," says Toni Ponzo, Monday evening group leader. "Prayer shawls and baby blankets are really great because they can be as simple or as complicated as you want to make them. I love the fact that while I am improving my skills and enjoying fellowship with some amazing people I am also making something to help someone else."

In addition to the Knitting Pearls on-going work, the group also takes on special projects. Back in 2010 a discussion about recycling led to the Knitting Pearls collecting used plastic shopping bags. The bags were cut into loops and joined to make 'yarn' and used to create liturgical hangings and vestments for the Cathedral's 2011 Earth Day service. The Rev. Rosalind Hughes also knitted a recycled vestment that was presented to the Most Rev. Dr. Katharine Jefferts Schori when she visited Trinity that spring. Four hundred bags were needed to make a vestment and double that to create an altar cloth.

"People still ask us today if we need plastic bags," jokes Toni.

"It became a huge project for the group and after it was over, we sold leftover balls of plastic yarn," Beth adds. "I don't think there's a single member of the group that didn't become a much more avid recycler." Knitting Pearls used the money to fund several ongoing microloans for women entrepreneurs in developing countries. The loans have continued with a focus on women in textile-related industries.

Regular meetings for both groups are held at Trinity Commons, but a few years ago Beth suggested the Friday group meet at an assisted living facility for the season of Lent. Pearls and residents of the former Sunrise Assisted Living in Shaker Heights gathered each Friday to knit and visit. "My mother had lived in a nursing care facility before she died and I knew that regular visitors are always encouraged," explains Beth, who has continued to visit the facility weekly on her own.

>
The Most Rev. Dr. Katharine Jefferts Schori is presented with a stole made of used plastic shopping bags, part of a special project sparked by a discussion on recycling



This year, Knitting Pearls have pledged to make 150 hats as Christmas gifts for guests at Trinity's Sunday lunch program, A Place at the Table. They plan to bring that project to a close at the Annual diocesan-wide Knit-In, Sunday, Nov. 2 from 1-5 pm. The First Sunday Knitting Workshops will resume in October and run through May, (except for April, when it falls on Easter Sunday). The time for the workshops this year is 3-5 PM to allow participants to attend the Solemn Sung Eucharist afterwards if they wish. All events are free. "There's an opportunity for people all over the diocese to come together," adds Toni. "Everyone can participate since there is no charge."

Newcomers are welcome to drop in to any meeting and attendees are encouraged to bring friends. One need not be an expert knitter to join. Those wanting to learn the skill are just asked to call Beth or Toni in advance so materials will be available. "We will happily teach others to knit, even if they don't want to join the group," says Beth.

More than learning or improving upon a skill, the group offers a wonderful way to connect with others—choir members, those on Vestry and Cathedral Council, ushers, Daughters of the King, infrequent church goers—can all be found amongst the Knitting Pearls. "It is very special in the life of the Cathedral," says Beth. "For me, it is the thing that makes church very real."

Learn more at:

[trinitycleveland.org/
knitting-pearls](http://trinitycleveland.org/knitting-pearls)

Monday Group – 6-8 PM

Weekly September to May

Monthly June to August

Leader: Toni (Antoinette) Ponzo
 amp1of5@gmail.com

Friday Group – 9-11 AM

Weekly September to May

(except the Fridays after Thanksgiving,
 Christmas, and Good Friday)

1st and 3rd Fridays June to August

Leader: Beth Billings
 216-543-2980
 billings13@gmail.com

KNITTING PEARLS MISSION STATEMENT

In the Knitting Pearls, members and friends of Trinity who like knitting and similar crafts live out the words of St. Paul through our shared hobby. As we meet together in small groups, we come to know one another more intimately and share in one another's lives. In a safe and friendly environment, beginners and experts alike support one another with creativity, advice and empathy. As we present our work to those in the congregation and beyond who are in need of celebration or condolence, we grow those bonds and knit others to ourselves. The completed and given work can even take on a role of its own in starting conversations about faith and church ("Where did you get that blanket?"), extending the connections still further. So the pattern grows.

TrebleFest

Bringing choristers together to glorify God

by Evelyn Ting, Diocesan Intern



Every spring, there is a day when sixty young voices resound throughout Trinity Chapel. They come from the west and the east and from large choirs and small choirs. TrebleFest has arrived.

TrebleFest is an annual Diocesan event that invites choristers from all over the diocese to come together and sing an evensong for the glory of God. Choirs that have participated in the past include those from St. Paul's in Akron, St. Paul's Cathedral in Erie, Pennsylvania, St. Michael's-in-the-Hills in Toledo, and St. Paul's in Cleveland Heights. The day starts at 9 AM, but many hours have already gone into learning the music. Then follows a series of rehearsals, breaks, and lunch—where children from different parishes have the chance to chat and connect with each other through their faith. The day ends at 3 PM with a gorgeous evensong.

The first TrebleFest was held in 2010. St. Paul's in Cleveland Heights (at that time led by Rev. Alan Gates, now Bishop of the Diocese of Massachusetts) initiated the project with the goal of supporting young choirs in the Diocese. Dr. Rick Nelson of St. Paul's describes it as musical outreach. "We know that choirs for young people are imperiled (there are just not many of them around anymore), and we know young people like to sing and like to participate in liturgy. So, we wanted to provide a nice opportunity for young people to come together and do all of that."

In fact, two years ago, TrebleFest provided that very opportunity. A young choir in Toledo contacted Dr. Nelson, asking if they could participate in TrebleFest even though they had just started a choir program. Since that day, they've been coming back year after year with more kids and as a stronger choir. The director credits TrebleFest for being one of the sparks that helped get their program off the ground.

In addition, Bishop Hollingsworth added that many participants "sing in choirs and parishes in the Diocese that don't have as many people as the combined choir of the

TrebleFest, so it's a wonderful experience for them to be a part of and hear what a large choir of their voices can produce." He enjoys officiating at the evensong every year and sharing in the exuberance of the young choristers. One such chorister is Anna Turner, who is eleven and a three-time participant in TrebleFest. She wrote, "TrebleFest is a great way to meet other young people of all ages who love to do the same thing--sing!" She also mentioned that, "We get to work with many conductors from all over the country/world. Each one gives you something memorable or a technique to think about."

And indeed, TrebleFest provides a wonderful opportunity for young people to learn from very distinguished choral directors in the church. In 2013, Ben Hutto, Organist and Director of Music Ministry for St. John's Church, Lafayette Square in Washington D.C., was invited to direct Treblefest. When Ben came, President Obama had just been inaugurated for his second term and one of the descants sung at Treblefest had just been sung a few weeks before at Pres. Obama's prayer service in St. John's Church. This year, James O'Donnell, Organist and Master of Choristers at Westminster Abbey, will lead the combined choirs. He has previously won the Gramophone Award for Record of the Year and Best Choral Record, and he serves as a fellow of the Royal School of Church Music.

TrebleFest is made financially viable through the Petrey Family Foundation. In addition, this event would not be possible without the support of Bishop Hollingsworth, Todd Wilson, Trinity Cathedral, Rick Nelson, and St. Paul's Episcopal Church. TrebleFest 2015 will take place at Trinity Cathedral on March 7th, 2015. If you would like your choir to participate, please email Rick Nelson at richard.nelson@cim.edu by December 20th.


Goodbyes and Hellos

Changing seasons at St. John's, Ohio City



This has been a fruitful year for St. John's, Ohio City. This summer we said a bittersweet farewell to Alex Barton, Project Developer at St. John's, as he heads to General Theological Seminary in New York. However, we say welcome back to the Rev. Patricia (Pat) Hanen, Ph.D., the new Vicar and Project Director at St. John's, with full confidence that she is the best person to take Alex's vision forward.



 Alex Barton unveiling a statue of St. Francis in the garden at St. John's, Ohio City

 The Rev. Pat Hanen, Ph.D., Alex Barton, the Rev. Brad Purdom

Interns in the Archives Office

God's praiseworthy deeds come alive from one generation to another

by the Rev. Dr. Brian K. Wilbert, Archivist



Due in large part to generous contributions to the Bishop's Annual Appeal, a number of summer interns found themselves working in the Diocesan Archives this past summer. Faith Roberts, a rising Junior at Oberlin College and Adam Wakefield, a rising Senior at Miami University came on board as archival assistants. Their primary task was working to build up the beginnings of a digital archive and assisting with the oral history project in preparation for the bicentennial of our Diocese in 2017. While in the office at Trinity Commons Faith and Adam worked with two ongoing tasks: 1) scanning current archival holdings and 2) sorting through boxes and boxes of material from the Church of the Transfiguration. Faith was dubbed the "Scanning Maven" for the endless hours she put into scanning and organizing scanned images and documents. Alex had this to say about his sorting experience "When I read through all of their files from the early 1980s until the early 2000s, I was able to live the same experiences as the parishioners had three decades earlier, which was a very cool experience."



But these two industrious interns did not stay locked up in the third floor archival suite during their tenure this summer. At the time of the 2014 Bishop's Bike Ride in late June they joined me in visiting three parishes on the eastern end of our diocese: Christ Church, Warren; St. Peter's Church Ashtabula; and St. Luke's Church, Chardon to scan historical data and interview "senior saints" in each congregation. At the end of July we traveled to the western end of the diocese where we enjoyed the hospitality of the Rev. Jeffery and Kay Bunke, St. Timothy's Perrysburg. Their home was our base camp and home away from home. After working with material and senior saints from St. Timothy's we visited St. John's, Bowling Green; St. Paul's, Maumee; St. Andrew's, Toledo; Trinity, Toledo; All Saint's Toledo; and St. Matthew's, Toledo. In each parish we were warmly welcomed and given access to material which makes our diocesan digital archives richer. In each parish we met wonderful souls whose broad experience of the church in Ohio spans over eight decades and our last seven bishops! Again, Adam had this to say about conducting interviews "Before this experience, my life with the Episcopal Church only involved my parish, All Saints' in Parma. The closest thing to a universal experience I had involved the Bishop coming around every few years. After these trips and interviews, I see that there are many other people who, in their own parishes, have had similar experiences in, and feelings about, their parishes as I do. This has been an emotional experience unmatched by any other circumstance I have been involved in."

Additionally, interns Matt Gesicki, Alena Lassen, and Catherine Wilson worked in the archives for Alex Barton doing research on St. John's Episcopal Church. This historic church, located in Ohio City, is the oldest consecrated building in Cuyahoga County and is believed to have been a final station on the Underground Railroad. The earliest document that mentions escaped slaves being in St. John's was a series of notes written by a historian between 1890 and 1905. According to these notes and to other



>
*Interviewing two
 senior saints from
 All Saints, Toledo*

sources, fugitive slaves hid in the bell tower of St. John's until it was safe to travel across Lake Erie to freedom in Canada. These three interns have spent the summer reading through and transcribing vestry minutes, papers, letters, and transactions in order to gather more information about St. John's architectural changes, community involvement, and overall history. Matt just recently graduated from Baldwin Wallace University and is headed off to Boston with the Episcopal Service Corps. This fall Alena will attend Denison University as a first year student. Catherine will return to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in August for her junior year.

It was a joy to have these young adults around the archives over the summer months and a joy to see their interest in the history of our churches and our diocese as well as their appreciation for the voices of varied experiences from Companions on the Way. In the words of the psalmist:

- 1 Hear my teaching, O my people; *
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
- 2 I will open my mouth in a parable; *
I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.
- 3 That which we have heard and known,
and what our forefathers have told us, *
we will not hide from their children.
- 4 We will recount to generations to come
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the LORD, *
and the wonderful works he has done.

- 5 He gave his decrees to Jacob
and established a law for Israel, *
which he commanded them to teach their children;
- 6 That the generations to come might know,
and the children yet unborn; *
that they in their turn might tell it to their children;
- 7 So that they might put their trust in God, *
and not forget the deeds of God,
but keep his commandments...

(from Psalm 78, BCP pages 694-695)

EYE14

What Diocesan youth are saying about the Episcopal Youth Event

EYE'14 was not my first Episcopal Youth Event; I attended EYE in 2011, as well. Going into EYE'14, I wasn't sure what to expect even though it would be my second EYE, but I can say that looking back, it was just as, if not more, inspiring. This time around at EYE, I was motivated to go out into the world and spread God's unconditional love and to be God's hands and feet. I am so glad that I got to participate in EYE'14 before going off to college and I'm so lucky that I got to go with the best diocese in the church.

Marisa Hahn— St. Matthew's, Brecksville

Dear Lord, I thank you for the life I'm living, for the chances I'm given. For your endless love that shines brighter than the stars above. Sometimes it feels like every day's the same, I fight to find my way. I hurt, I break, I hide and try to pray... But I know that I'll be just fine, because you hear me when I cry. When I'm with you my biggest insecurities become my greatest beauties. I have scars, but so does Christ... I have fat, but so does Christ... I have been labeled, but so has Christ... The most perfect man to ever exist faced things that I too face. Thank you Lord God for helping me find my inner beauty. AMEN

Lauren Flanik— St. Bartholomew's, Mayfield Village

EYE helped me be more proud to be an Episcopalian. Seeing so many others who had the same faith as me made me realize that it's not just my church and that it's not just the diocese of Ohio. But it's even bigger. It's the world. We're all under one faith one love and one God.

EYE reminded me how blessed I am to be a member of the Episcopal community. Not only did I meet dozens of amazing youth who share the same faith as me but I also heard sermons

given by some of the adult leaders in the Church. Together these experiences reaffirmed my commitment to the Church, and my desire to remain engaged in the church after I graduate high school.

Lexi Hubbel— St. James, Painesville

I had an amazing time at EYE meeting new people from different states, dancing to awesome music during really fun services, and awesome spiritual connections. I feel like the people I met at EYE helped me build a stronger spiritual connection because they had some of the same spiritual

blocks as I did. I feel like I encountered Christ throughout the whole event of EYE for example bonding with people from my own diocese who I knew and didn't know, meeting new people who were just like me, going to church services that are like no other, finally I found Christ in one of the most amazing event I have ever been to. I know I will be at EYE 2017.

Eli Hollingsworth— St. Paul's, Cleveland Hts.

The sense of community and discipleship experienced during the Episcopal Youth

Event is unlike any other. Being in worship with a thousand or so other Episcopalians is the closest I've ever come to being in touch with Jesus Christ. I truly felt that Christ was there, in the space alongside us, singing and worshipping and praying with every one of us. I've been confirmed, but I could honestly say before EYE I could not tell someone what I really thought God was, but after coming home and having time to reflect I can truly say I understand what "God is Love" means for me and how it influences my life every day.

People always ask how God can let bad things happen, but EYE has helped me realize that God is not in the event but rather in the healing and the solution. EYE made me truly appreciate my life as an Episcopalian, through communion, companionship, and theological exploration. I am so grateful for being able to have this opportunity to grow as a Christian and participate in God's mission. Amen.

Helen Bruckner— St. Paul's, Cleveland Hts.

Going to EYE this summer was a really good experience for a few reasons.

One was because I went in 2011, when I was just 14. This time when I went I was 18 and a woman. I felt like I had come full circle in my teenage spiritual growth. It was also really nice to go right before college because I know that's a time a lot of peoples' outlook on God changes and I think with the help of my EYE family my faith in God will only grow stronger.

Vivian Thomas— Good Shepherd, Lyndhurst

The expression of Christ was with everybody being together and recognizing who we are as a whole through Christ within him. Knowing that there are other people out there who have the same beliefs as me was really cool because where I'm from you don't find a lot of Episcopalians.

Roja Schuster-Little— St. Andrew's, Elyria

EYE was a way for me to encounter Christ and a confirmation to me that others feel the same way. And it was a confirmation to me that this Church has a long lasting place in this world, as long as we continue to do right by people and love others as Christ loved us.

Drew Gittins— Trinity Cathedral, Cleveland



Youth and adults departed Cleveland by bus



24 youth and 6 adults from the Diocese of Ohio participated in EYE14



Singing with the band, Live Hymnal



Removing pews from the church at St. Paul's Episcopal School in Philadelphia



EYE: An Unexpected Surprise

By Lauren Jackson, Our Saviour, Akron

My expectation of EYE (the Episcopal Youth Event held at Villanova University in Philadelphia) was that we would do nothing but have church services all day every day, and that everybody would be stuffed into a church with breaks for food and sleeping.

My expectations were very wrong, we had church services in the morning and evening and they were always very fun. We did workshops, and had free time where we had the opportunity to meet people from different dioceses. All of the speakers were incredible, but the speaker that I liked the most was the Rt. Rev. Michael Curry, Bishop of the Diocese of North Carolina.

I made friends from the Dioceses of Southern Ohio, Louisiana and Ohio. They were all very nice and were a lot of fun to be around.

I thought the worship services we had in the mornings and evenings were amazing. We always had live music, and they were great. I especially loved the St. Thomas Gospel Choir from Historic African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas. That's the church where Absalom Jones was the first African-American priest and rector.

I really enjoyed participating in mission work at the St. James Episcopal middle school in Philadelphia. What touched me the most was that everything we did allowed the money that would have gone to that project, to be returned to the school. So the school can save the money to buy the things they need for the children. Also you could tell that the kids appreciated it because whenever they passed us in the halls they said hi and thank you.

Yep, EYE was an unexpected surprise and I had a great time.

Urban Farming Camp

at St. Andrew's, Cleveland

by Nubyjas Wilborn, photos by Emanuel Wallace



Students share enriching experiences that give them a deeper understanding of nature, food, and the impact that making thoughtful, healthy choices has for themselves and the environment

In a partnership between St. Andrew's Episcopal Church and the Ohio 4H Club, they've provided kids with a unique summer camp of tending an urban garden. The Rev. Himie Budu-Shannon and 4H program manager Robert Isner collaborated to create a program that consists of seven one week sessions that is free for children in the community. During the camp the kids learn how to grow fruits and vegetables such as okra, collard greens, lettuce, strawberries, and pumpkins.

The kids even have the opportunity help raise chickens and rabbits. "It's really fun to see the kids care for the chicks & rabbits; each morning they feed them and help aerate the land." Isner said. "They learn the whole cycle of farming; they help with the compost and see crops grow from the beginning".

Students share enriching experiences that give them a deeper understanding of nature, food, and the impact that making thoughtful, healthy choices has for themselves and the environment. In the program, students spend their time in the garden learning the science behind gardening, writing, and creating art in the natural setting that surrounds them.

"The kids are learning about creation, agriculture and are becoming more disciplined." Rev. Budu-Shannon said. "It takes time and effort for the crops to grow; it teaches them patience with a payoff." "We are able to show them that they if follow a plan and see it through they can build something special together."

Campers are also given the opportunity of creating healthy lunches for themselves and their peers with the foods that they are growing with their own hands. "The kids come to the garden ready to work in order to later literally enjoy the fruits of their labor." Isner said.

In order to eat some fresh strawberries off the vine or enjoy some radishes the kids know they will be weeding and making sure the animals are fed. It's a true farming experience in the middle of the inner city. "They work hard and play hard." Isner said. "We want the kids learn the value in a hard day's work, while still enjoying themselves." Isner said.

Students are also able to experience small business practices and utilize math skills in the farm stand where they learn to market, price and sell the farm goods. In an area that is otherwise considered a food desert the lesson learned while creating organic food is invaluable. "They get really excited when I tell them that not only can they eat food as God intended them, but they can also make money doing it." Isner said. "It's very rewarding to see kids realize that organic food isn't just for rich people, everyone can eat healthy if all work together." Isner said.

The parents have noticed a difference in their children after the summer camp. "It's good to see my daughter coming home and asking for vegetables instead of chips and pop" Denise McBee said. "Not only is she eating veggies more often, she's also asking



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Children enjoy
many activities
during the
summer camp

for different types, I could never get her to try kale before, but now she loves it.” McBee said.

Denise’s daughter Shelby is one of the kids who came back for several of the one week sessions during the seven week time frame of the camp. Shelby has become very engaged and learns something different each day. “I never ate tomatoes before and now they’re one of my favorites.” Shelby said. “Collards are really fun, too I didn’t know what they were before, but now I want them all the time.”

The garden on East 55th has been great for the kids and has had a positive effect on the community surrounding the church as well. “I was given warnings to not leave things out because they would get stolen.” Isner said. “But it’s been the exact opposite; the neighborhood has been very supportive and makes sure to look for the garden.”

Rev. Budu-Shannon’s and Isner’s vision has had a positive effect on the kids, their parents, and the surrounding neighborhood. However, it’s only the beginning of what will hopefully be a long term healthy success.

“We want to make a year-round experience where the kids and community are learning how to see God’s work while becoming stronger in their minds, body and soul.” Shannon said.



Brothers' Keeper

Raising community awareness of the plight of the homeless

by Jeffrey Fowler



The take home message was “Wake up every morning and ask ‘What can I do to show love and serve God’s Kingdom today?’”

“TODAY WAS HOT! We tarred a roof, repaired a porch, and then installed a metal awning over it,” wrote Dana, a 13 year old member of the youth group of All Saints, Parma, in her journal.

So went the week of July 6th for 17 missionaries from All Saints and St. Peter’s, Lakewood. These two lively Cuyahoga County parishes, with a history of joint youth ministry activities, traveled together to Ripley, West Virginia, to participate in Brothers’ Keeper, a regional mission work camp for youth groups.

The partnership between the youth groups began in January of 2012. On a frigid Saturday night, All Saints’ youths joined their counterparts at St. Peter’s, sleeping out in cardboard boxes and “begging” for money at a busy intersection in Lakewood. Together they raised more than \$1,100 for local homeless programs and helped to raise community awareness of the plight of the homeless. Television crews covered the event.

The bonds forged that winter have deepened. The groups repeated the homeless sleep-out event in January 2013 and 2014. Last year they also kicked off a summer ministry with Brothers’ Keeper, repeating it again in July of this year.

Brothers’ Keeper, launched in 2001 in Jackson County, West Virginia, assists a sector of the public who, due to physical or financial hardship, might be unable to maintain their homes. Jackson County, which covers 464 square miles of Appalachian foothills in north-central West Virginia, has a population of approximately 29 thousand. About 18% of county residents live below the poverty level and 19% are age 65 or older.

To respond to the plight of these people, the West Virginia Baptist Convention and its Parchment Valley Conference Center (PVCC), in collaboration with Community Resources, annually identify households in need of assistance. Area businesses, individuals, and churches donate most of the materials used for the home repairs. In some cases, residents pay for the materials needed to repair their homes. West Virginia and Ohio youths in seventh grade and above, along with their adult chaperones, are invited to come together at Parchment Valley to provide the labor.

This year’s work began long before July. Money had to be raised to cover expenses, which included food, housing, fuel, and the rental of a very large van. The youth groups of All Saints and St. Peter’s spent countless hours hosting meals, washing cars, and selling chocolate, pizzas, bakery, sandwiches, and flowers. Supportive parishioners and local businesses contributed money, and the Diocese of Ohio wrote two generous grants. By the beginning of July, all expenses were covered. On the morning of Sunday, July 6th, 14 adolescents and 3 adults left for West Virginia in a caravan of vehicles.

By Sunday evening nearly 200 enthusiastic missionaries from two states checked in at Parchment Valley and each was assigned to one of 23 project crews. Crew leaders, some recruited upon arrival, were selected to supervise at each work site. At least one experienced adult leader was assigned to each crew. After the formalities, a variety of



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*Missionaries from
 All Saints, Parma,
 and St. Peter's,
 Lakewood work on
 home repairs*

group activities helped the missionaries to become acquainted with one another. On Sunday night, and on the following four nights, they slept in cozy cabins, most of which sat atop a treacherously steep hill.

The motto of Brothers' Keeper 2014 was "Building the Kingdom of God in Four Days." Each morning, Monday through Thursday, the campers rose early for a brief prayer service followed by breakfast. At about 8:30 they joined their crews and departed for work sites scattered across a fifty mile radius.

Over the next four days the 23 crews worked 7,000 hours on 50 projects. They built or repaired roofs, porches, and lattices. They built stairs, wheelchair ramps, and a stone path. They caulked windows, cleaned gutters, landscaped, and even repaired a pigpen! They tarred roofs and power-washed trailers.

Returning to Parchment Valley every afternoon, the campers swam and played games until dinnertime. After dinner, all joined in an evening worship service, then played more games until after dark. Some of the games were surprisingly creative. A strip of tarp, covered with soapy water, provided hours of sliding fun. Throwing a wet marshmallow, covered in colored whipped cream, is all you really need for a lively game of paint ball. Some, however, opted for more relaxing activities, such as talking with new friends and listening to guitar music provided by talented fellow campers.

Snacks and singing around a campfire followed until about 11:00. Some campers were so tired from the day's work that they were barely able to climb the hill to their cabins.

Each of the evening worship services, which lasted for about an hour, was led by an inspirational speaker. The theme of Thursday night's service, the last of the week, was "Maturing in the Body of Christ." Many of the homeowners who received help throughout the week were invited to attend as well. "The speaker encouraged us to carry a servant's heart within us, not just this week, at Brothers' Keeper, but every week until we come together again next year," said Michelle Killin-Keith, Coordinator of Children and Youth Ministry at St. Peter's. The take home message was "Wake up every morning and ask 'What can I do to show love and serve God's Kingdom today?'"

The homeowners who attended the Thursday service were deeply moved and thankful. "Many had just 'given up' on life, and we brought them something priceless - hope," continued Killin-Keith. "When you do something to help someone in need, God is standing beside you, and a miracle happens before your eyes."

An exhausted group of missionaries returned to their home parishes on Friday. Ben, a 16 year old from All Saints, wrote in his journal on the three hour trip back: "I'm homesick and tired, sore and enlightened. I completed life-changing jobs with my group and I feel blessed to have helped build God's kingdom in his name."

St. Peter's, Lakewood

Celebrating Milestones

by Lorna Jordan

St. Peter's, Lakewood is having a busy year celebrating some momentous occasions on the part of its clergy. Rector Keith Owen celebrated his 25th anniversary of his ordination and 10 years of ministry at St. Peter's. Assistant to the Rector, Canon Nancy H. Wittig celebrated the 40th anniversary of her ordination.

Keith was ordained in the Diocese of Southern Virginia at St. Stephen's, Newport News after graduating from General Seminary in New York.

After arriving at St. Peter's, Keith says he found the church to be "a little behind in terms of computers, business, etc. and that things seemed kind of old-fashioned and rigid."

After getting a handle on the business side of things, Keith took a hard look at spiritual aspects of the 100-year old church. He emphasized that St. Peter's hadn't found its liturgical or community identity but he added that "the building had been well kept, clean and in good repair, but unbelievably archaic."

He points to his biggest challenge in last 10 years, which has been to recognize and try to be creative in the face of cultural changes. Keith notes the strangest statistic he's found is that membership has gone up a little bit every year; finances have improved to the point that we are in the best place we've ever been in, but average Sunday attendance has decreases slightly. Keith says he has tried program after program to create a real sense of fellowship.

During his time at St. Peter's, Keith continued to develop his spiritual connection with the Holy Land. His first trip was in 1987. He has been 7 times including an extended stay during part of his sabbatical in 2011. In June 2014, he led a pilgrimage of 18 people to the Holy Land.

Looking back on the last 25 years in the Priesthood, Keith has seen many changes. "Overall," he says, "The church is reflecting the change in the American Middle Class." However, he notes some things have stayed the same. "There still is a desire for people to come on Sunday morning to be given some hope and comfort."

While Keith is marking 25 years in ministry, St. Peter's Assisting Priest, Canon Nancy Wittig is looking back 40 years to a historic event. She was one of 11 women ordained in Philadelphia in 1974—the first female priests ordained in the Episcopal Church. At the time, it was seen as a radical act since it occurred before the Church authorized the ordination of women to the priesthood. Known as the Philadelphia Eleven, the women defied Church law and went forward with the ordination ceremony at The Church of the Advocate in Philadelphia on July 29, 1974.

Nancy says women in the Church were spurred to action after the 1973 convention where the ordination of women was defeated. After that Nancy says, "The only way this was going to happen was if a group of women just went forward [with] ordinations. Eventually three Bishops stepped forward for the laying on of hands.

Originally the ceremony was under wraps but it was leaked to the press and captured the headlines across the country despite the news that same summer of President Nixon's resignation. Nancy points to the importance of the news media keeping the issue before the people were because the Bishops met later that summer and basically said nothing had happened despite the fact that 2,000 people attended the ordinations. Eventually the bishops declared the ordinations were "irregular."



◀ Pictured, left to right, the Rev. Alison Cheek (Philadelphia 11), retired Bishop of Costa Rica Antonio Ramos (who assisted at the Philadelphia 11 ordinations but did not participate in the laying on of hands), the Rev. Carter Heyward (Philadelphia 11), Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori (whose election in 2006 made her the first women primate in the Anglican Communion), the Rev. Merrill Bittner (Philadelphia 11), the Rev. Betty Powell (one of the Washington Four who were ordained in September 1975), the Rev. Marie Moorefield Fleischer (Philadelphia 11), the Rev. Nancy Wittig (Philadelphia 11) and retired Massachusetts Bishop Suffragan Barbara Harris (who is this year celebrating the 25th anniversary of her consecration as the first woman bishop in the Anglican Communion). Photo: Mary Frances Schjonberg, Episcopal News Service.

Ordination of women was approved at the next convention in 1976 but it did not require the Philadelphia Eleven to be reordained. Each Bishop where the women were serving decided how to handle their particular situation. In Nancy says, in her case, the ceremony [was] low-key. Describing the event, she says they "knelt and confessed that hurt each other [sic]."

Nancy served as the Rector at St. John the Devine in Hasbrouck Heights, New Jersey and then went on to serve at St. Andrews in The Field in Philadelphia. She was one of only two of the Philadelphia Eleven to serve as a parish priest.

Wittig retired in 2006 and decided to move to Cleveland to be near her daughter and grandchildren. While calling herself "very part time" at St. Peter's, she preaches at least once a month, runs a prayer group, heads up Adult Formation and takes communion to shut-ins. She also volunteers with Hospice of the Western Reserve. At the same time, she splits her time as a Grammy available at times to babysit.



▲ Pictured are the Rev. Liddy Hoster, Rector, Trinity Toledo; the Rev. Keith Owen, Rector, St. Peter's, Lakewood; and the Rev. Eric Funston, Rector, St. Paul's, Medina, celebrating the Eucharist in Emmaus with a group of pilgrims on a trip to the Holy Land in June.

Prayer Writing Workshop

Prayer is responding to God, by thought and by deeds, with or without words. Christian prayer is response to God the Father, through Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit. Attend this workshop to help with your own prayer writing and strengthen your prayer life.

Save the date: This workshop will be held on November 1 at St. Bartholomew's Church, Mayfield Village.

Watch for more information at your church.

Lay Preaching College

The Lay Preaching Conference and Licensing will be held October 25-26 at River's Edge Retreat Center in Cleveland. The cost of the training is \$175, which includes overnight accommodations and all meals. Each person is responsible for purchasing books.

Applications must be received no later than Wednesday, October 1. For additional information, please contact the Rev. Percy Grant at 216-774-0457 / pgrant@dohio.org or the Rev. Margaret D'Anieri at mdanieri@ncwcom.com.

All Are Welcome

A labyrinth, garden, and community space at St. Alban's

by Anna Risch, Agape Community Member



At the corner of Euclid Heights Boulevard and Edgehill Road in Cleveland Heights is a sign that reads "Labyrinth. Garden. All Are Welcome."

The sign reads "Labyrinth. Garden. All Are Welcome." The corner of Euclid Heights Blvd and Edgehill Rd is a high-traffic area for Cleveland Heights runners and cyclists, elderly couples, moms with strollers, and students. And until about April, it sat as an empty, grassy triangle in front of St. Alban's Episcopal Church.

That's when Agape (the mostly young adult community at St. Alban's) members Jessica Miller and Josh Handley attended a workshop on straw-bale gardening at a local plant store. They soon dreamed up a way to incorporate food, beautification, sacred space, and a community project all in one by arranging a straw bale garden in the form of a labyrinth. As Josh recalls, "we immediately got pretty excited about the idea of a low-maintenance garden. We thought how building a labyrinth out of [the bales] would make it something that we'd be more likely to spend time on and work with. And then we thought of how we could all use it to easily become a more visible part of the neighborhood." Jessica, an environmental educator at the Shaker Lakes Nature Center, explains, "straw-bale gardening involves planting or seeding plants directly into conditioned bales where their root systems expand and thrive in the decomposing straw medium. We constructed our Labyrinth Garden to explore the possibilities of straw-bale gardening not only to produce an edible crop, but also to facilitate community, bring beauty and curiosity into our neighborhood, and to provide a peaceful and centering reflective space to walk, sense, and partake."

The rest of the Agape community was eager to jump right in. With full support of the vestry and Rev. Lisa Hackney, priest-in-charge at St. Alban's, Agape members acquired leftover straw bales from the Wade Oval ice rink and a local farmer, wood chips from a Cleveland Heights construction dump site, and seeds from Jessica's extensive collection. It took part of a Wednesday night Agape service to arrange the bales into the labyrinth design, and about two weeks to prepare them with organic nitrogen fertilizer and compost.

The labyrinth immediately caused a stir in the streets of Cleveland Heights, with drivers often calling out comments like "Why are you watering that hay?!" or "How long have you been lost in that maze?!" After planting the seeds (started inside under grow-lights,) it wasn't long before the labyrinth looked less like a hay maze and more like a lush garden. Agape hosted a Rogation Day service on May 27 to bless all of the gardens at St. Alban, with Rev. Hackney administering communion at the center of the labyrinth.

Now, the space continues to grow and provide opportunities and ideas for the community. At the center of the labyrinth, a glass-topped box, built by Agape community member and skilled carpenter Rob Abban, holds poetry, information on the labyrinth and centering prayer, seeds and found objects. A notebook in the box holds messages from neighbors who have reached the center of the labyrinth, like "It's my first weekend in Cleveland and I feel SO welcomed! Thank you!" Other stamps and signatures record those who have discovered the registered geo-cache site (an urban orienteering recreation.) Children from nearby Roxboro Elementary learned about how vegetables are grown and helped plant and water at a St. Alban's back-to-school event

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The labyrinth
garden



in August. Neighbors are encouraged to reap the harvest as they walk by: the bales are overflowing with vegetables, herbs and flowers like basil, strawberries, cucumbers, kale, okra, broccoli, all kinds of squashes and peppers, and hundreds of grape tomatoes! The success and momentum of the labyrinth project has even inspired the Cleveland Heights Gardening Network to request a workshop on straw-bale gardening. St. Alban's will host this on September 9th at 6pm.

The labyrinth garden has been a true community success, with many members offering their own unique skills—from digging ditches and spreading mulch to cooking, canning and eating the bounty! Agape Member Wiley Smith is sure to articulate the importance of the spirituality of the labyrinth garden: "it's not just a really awesome, novel way to garden and a clever layout,

it draws participants into an appreciation of God's creation and a living manifestation of the spiritual journey through life, death, resurrection, and twists and turns."

A quote by Simone Weil from her "Waiting for God" has become an important prayer for the keepers of the labyrinth: "The beauty of the world is the mouth of a labyrinth...If he does not lose courage, if he goes on walking, it is absolutely certain that he will finally arrive at the center of the labyrinth. And there God is waiting to eat him. Later he will go out again, but he will be changed, he will have become different, after being eaten and digested by God."

Together, as a community, we walk this labyrinth. We weed the garden. We encounter God at the center. And we are changed.

Clergy Changes

- The Rev. Alan James has been called as Rector of the Church of the Holy Spirit in Lake Forest, IL. He began his new ministry in late August.
- The Rev. Paul Johansen retired from Trinity, New Philadelphia on September 1.
- The Rev. Kelly Kirby ended her time at St. Andrew in Mentor to become Rector at St. Matthew's Church in Louisville, KY in August.
- The Rev. Ann Kidder started as the Rector of St. Christopher's by the River on September 1.
- The Rev. Dr. Harold Lewis started as the Interim Rector at St. Paul's, Cleveland Heights in August.
- The Rev. Helen Svoboda-Barber ended her time at Harcourt Parish in August to become Rector at St. Luke's Church in Durham, NC.

Planting for Tomorrow

Fundraising for the Camp and Retreat Ministry and parishes

by Katie Ong-Landini, Camp and Retreat Ministry



The Campaign is on! Back in November 2013, delegates at the Diocesan Convention approved a resolution to move forward with a capital campaign to support the new center for camp and retreat ministry that focuses on sustainable living. Since that vote, the Diocese has formed a campaign team to manage this effort. Volunteers from across the Diocese are skillfully guiding the effort through their service on the campaign advisory and leadership gifts committees. Officially named, Planting for Tomorrow – Growing in Faith Today, the campaign is managed by Matt Harrigan and Lisa McElhenny of CCS Fundraising, who have been working in the Diocese since December 2013 to direct all campaign activities.

One unique aspect of our fundraising model is to assist individual parishes with meeting their own capital needs. Lisa, as Parish Campaign Director, has spent her time managing multiple “collaborative parish campaigns” that support parish needs, as well as camp and retreat ministry. Four parishes have already completed campaigns, and six more are currently underway.

All four parishes that have completed their campaigns (St. Barnabas, Bay Village; Church of the Ascension, Lakewood; St. Paul’s, Maumee; and St. Paul’s, Put-in-Bay) have surpassed their goals, with each parish using the same formula to set a goal (2.5 times the average annual plate and pledge). Sarah Shofstaff, Priest-in-Charge at St. Barnabas, recalled: “For us, it was leap of faith to say, ‘OK, we are going to give this a shot.’ This was a major spiritual exercise to let go of control and trust that God would provide—and it worked!” This early success has provided great momentum to the other parishes currently in the midst of their campaigns. An additional ten parishes have signed on to start campaigns this fall.

Although some parishes were not ready to pursue a collaborative campaign with CCS, they have opted to participate in the overall campaign in other ways. These include making a parish gift (to be paid over five years) or planning an “in-pew appeal” to offer parishioners a chance to decide for themselves how to support the effort. All of the funds raised from these options will go directly to the camp and retreat ministry project.

In addition to the parish efforts, the Bishop and his leadership team have been busy for the past year meeting with individuals, families, and foundations to educate them about the project and request support. Thus far, the reaction has been encouraging. Damon Hickey of St. James in Wooster first started working on the project in one of the master plan working groups and has been an early supporter of this effort. (He has since volunteered for his parish’s collaborative campaign.) When asked why his spouse, Mary, and he pledged to the campaign, Damon noted:

"We're supporting this ministry... because it's about the future of our church, a future filled with possibilities God is creating for us, our children, and our world. Our part is to respond faithfully and generously. And finally, we're supporting it because we've been inspired by Bishop Hollingsworth's vision and leadership. For us, this is a once-in-a-lifetime chance to move forward together into God's future for our diocese, and we're grateful for it!"





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A concept drawing
of farm fields for
the proposed camp
and retreat center

Conversations with these supporters have also connected the project team to other organizations and experts that share the values inherent in this vision. Eric Barbato, a member of St. Paul's, Cleveland Heights, has been working with the project team on identifying partner organizations that will work with us to design programs for the new center. Eric, a registered nurse who is currently studying for a PhD. in neuroscience at Case Western Reserve University, conducted a research study in his CWRU undergraduate program on the nutritional value of food that students in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District bring from home to eat during the school week. What he learned in this study impassioned him about nutrition's impact on the obesity epidemic, particularly for children.

He envisions that the new center will allow the Diocese to help the communities of northern Ohio address issues around health and nutrition, and much more. Eric reflects, "How we eat as Christians will impact the health and well-being of the communities we serve, and this ministry will provide us with a new opportunity to understand that issue on a profound level."

During this November's Diocesan Convention, the campaign team will report on the status of the campaign, updating delegates on how we are progressing toward the fundraising benchmarks set at last year's convention. The Diocese needs \$8 million to complete the project, and the resolution approved last year stipulates that we must have one-third of that goal (\$2.67 million) cash-in-hand, and another \$2.67 million in pledges (for a total of \$5.34 million) in order to proceed.

Thanks go to the team of volunteers, representing parishes across the Diocese, who have ably guided these efforts:

Tom Austin – Treasurer, Diocese of Ohio	The Rev. Albert Jennings – St. Timothy's, Macedonia	John Morley – St. Paul's, Cleveland Heights
Bill Conway – St. Paul's, Cleveland Heights	The Rev. Gay Jennings – House of Deputies	Bill Mulligan – St. Paul's, Cleveland Heights
Paul Frank – St. Paul's, Akron	The Rev. Evelyn Manzella – St. James, Wooster	Christina Rouse – Christ Church, Shaker Heights
Tom Hartland – St. Paul's, Cleveland Heights	Ann McConnell – St. Hubert's, Kirtland Hills	Mary Sabin – St. Paul's, Maumee
Bill Heywood – St. Paul's, Maumee	Tina Monreal – Christ Church, Hudson	The Rt. Rev. Arthur Williams – Diocese of Ohio
Damon Hickey – St. James, Wooster		Lynette Williams – Diocese of Ohio

The parishes that are currently wrapping up their campaigns include:

Christ Church, Huron	St. Andrew's, Toledo
Christ Church, Oberlin	St. James, Wooster
Christ Church, Shaker Heights	

For more information about the campaign, contact Matt Harrigan at mharrigan@dohio.org and 216-774-0459, or Katie Ong-Landini at kong-landini@dohio.org and 216-774-0454.

Viriditas

Expressing a relationship with God through art

by The Rev. Nancy Roth



Register for
Viriditas online at:
[https://viriditas14.
eventbrite.com](https://viriditas14.eventbrite.com)

The name Viriditas was originally coined by the 12th-century mystic Hildegard of Bingen, whose visions of God were expressed through her music, her art, and her passion for healing and justice that came out her experience of God's all-encompassing love. In her songs, the word "viriditas," with its strong association with the Latin words for "green growth" and "strength," was applied both to Mary, the mother of Jesus, and to the Holy Spirit.

Three women—The Rev. Nancy Roth, Denise Stewart, and the Rev. Lydia Bailey—met in early summer to discuss creating a present-day opportunity for Christians to express our relationship with the holy through the arts.

This is not a new idea, but has been built on the church's long tradition of using the arts as an alternative theological language, through architecture ("sermons in stone"), stained glass, music, and liturgical action. These "languages beyond words" not only deepen the believer's relationship with God, but also serve to draw in people from outside the faith community.

In the process of actually using these "languages beyond words" ourselves, we grow in our identity as creatures made in the image of our Creator God. Since the arts appeal to the senses, we also discover our bodies as "temples of the Spirit," part of the intricacy and beauty of the natural world. Appreciating our creatureliness leads to an increased sense of stewardship of our earthly home: we notice that the natural world itself can reveal God, and are likely to grow in compassion for the other members of God's creation who share life on this planet.

The first Viriditas retreat will be held on Saturday, October 4, from 10 am to 4 pm at the Red/Oak/Red Barn camp (adjoining the Holden Arboretum), 9057 Kirtland Chardon

Road, Kirtland, Ohio. Sponsored by the North East Mission Area, it is open to all.

The presenters will be the Rev. Nancy Roth, Assisting Priest at Christ Church, Oberlin, Denise Stewart, Resident Artist at Zygote Press in Cleveland's Art District and member of the Church of the Good Shepherd, Lyndhurst, and the Rev. Lydia Bailey, a Deacon in our Diocese and the creator of the exhibit "Portraits of Homelessness".

Nancy's session will include an exploration of the concept of the body as "temple of the Spirit"—how our bodies can both prepare for prayer through gentle stretching, relaxation, and attentiveness to the breath, and how simple movement, such as meditation walking, can itself express prayer, and also be used to interpret Scripture.

Denise will lead a session titled, "The Creative Spirit in Nature." Inspired by the work of artist Andy Goldsworthy, participants will create small installations using materials from nature. This hands-on activity requires no former art background.

As an option for the day, Lydia will lead a meditation walk in the old growth forest that surrounds Red Oak Camp.

We visualize Viriditas as a moveable feast; this event will be available to other areas of the Diocese in the future. Interested groups can contact the Rev. Lydia Bailey at 440-525-3219 or the Rev. Nancy Roth at 440-774-1813.

People of all artistic ability levels, all ages, and all degrees of fitness are welcome. Wear comfortable clothes for both indoors and outdoors.

The cost of \$32.00 includes continental breakfast, lunch, and registration fee. Register at: <https://viriditas14.eventbrite.com>

Bishop's Bike Ride

Over 30 riders and SAG (support and gear) drivers gathered in June to participate in the 9th Annual Bishop's Bike Ride.

The ride went from Christ Church, Warren to Christ Church, Hudson to Church of the Epiphany, Euclid to St. Peter's, Ashtabula to St. Luke's, Chardon and looped back to Christ Church, Warren. We are immensely grateful to all of the parishes, priests, volunteers, hosts, and riders for making this year's ride a success.

All funds raised for the Bishop's Bike Ride will go to fund youth mission trips around the Diocese.



Companion Relationship

The Diocese of Ohio and the Diocese of Belize

by Mary Shepherd



“Come now and see
the works of God, how
wonderful He is in
His doing toward all
people.” Psalm 66:4

In July 2013, eleven educators from all parts of the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio embarked on a trip to Belize. Our mission was to work alongside Belize teachers in a week-long rigorous literacy program called “Summer Reading Boot Camp.” The goals were to teach and act as role models for Belizean children as well as to develop relationships with our Anglican sisters and brothers in the Anglican Diocese of Belize, a companion diocese to our diocese. Our ten-day trip allowed us to do just that, plus a whole lot more!

Relationship building began with a two-day planning workshop for the “Boot Camp” with Belizean teachers at the Diocesan office in Belize City. Together we developed lessons in the areas of storytelling, writing, phonics, vocabulary and reading. The following week we team-taught the lessons to about 75 children aged 6-10 at Queen Square Anglican School, an urban school located in the heart of Belize City. Our five-day boot camp began at 9:00 AM with prayer and song. At the end of each of the five 40-minute classes held each day, the teachers would move from class to class while the students remained in their rooms – in that way, we were able to teach and interact with all of the students each day during the week. Teachers ate lunch with students in the classrooms. When the last class ended at 1:20 PM, the students walked home while the teachers touched base with each other to make preparations for the next day. By 2:30 PM the teachers parted for home, and the grounds were locked.

The Belizean teachers learned from us, and we from them. We helped each other in planning and preparing lessons. Lessons modeling literacy strategies were written and videotaped to be shared with other teachers in the Belizean schools. We learned from our host teachers about the power of song in reinforcing lessons, and found that singing together is a great way to get kids to work together. We celebrated with our Belizean hosts at a fabulous dinner party at Bird’s Isle, an outdoor restaurant on the Belize River. We brought our life experiences, professional skills, abilities, compassion and faith with us to share, and received friendship, appreciation, insight and life lessons from the staff, teachers, students and families of Belize.

Cindy Shaffer, a member of our diocese’s Belize sub-committee, not only participated as a teacher at Boot Camp, but thoughtfully planned the 10-day trip to Belize for us, including experiences that would broaden our understanding and appreciation of the country and people of Belize. We spent our first three days at the Black Orchid Inn in Burrell Boom, and got to experience the flora and fauna of this lush and exotic country. We spent the first weekend in Dangriga, a small city two hours south of Burrell Boom, where the Rev. Lorna Sampson, rector of Christ the King Anglican Church, and her husband hosted, entertained, and worshipped with us at their beautiful beach-front property and church. We visited the Mayan ruins of Altun Ha, sailed to a Caye Caulker, a key off the coast of Belize, and toured the Tropical Education Center which houses injured and orphaned native animals in a natural environment. We found friendly, caring, hospitable people who provided companionship and blessings to us.

>
Eleven educators from the Diocese of Ohio spent 10 days in Belize, teaching alongside Belizean teachers in a week-long literacy program



Back row left to right: Richelle Wardell, Christ Church Kent; Sarah Core, St. Paul's Akron; Lizzie Metzger, St. Mark's Shelby; Cristina Gonzalez Alcala, Christ Church Kent; Mary Collins, Good Shepherd Lyndhurst; Anne Harmon, St. Paul's Akron; Beth Huebschman, St. Paul's Akron; Allison Thompson, Trinity Cathedral Cleveland; The Rev. David Kendall-Sperry, St. Paul's Mt. Vernon. Front: Mary Shepherd, St. Paul's Akron; Cindy Shaffer, Grace Church Defiance.

Our time in Belize was also a spiritual journey, and daily group prayer and devotion was special. Before breakfast was prayer and reflection time, and after dinner we had compline, evening prayer, or devotional discussions led by members of the group. We attended several Eucharistic services presided by The Right Rev. Philip Wright, Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Belize, the Rev. David Kendall-Sperry of Ohio and the Rev. Lorna Sampson of Dangriga. Praying together helped us to personally bring our daily activities into perspective and allowed us the opportunity to collectively offer our work to God.

The companion relationship between the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio and the Anglican Diocese of Belize grew last summer on many personal and spiritual levels. Our time in Belize was a blessing to us all.

A TRANSFORMATIVE EXPERIENCE

Gianni Valentina Martinez, a native Belizean, has taught for 7 years in the Anglican Diocese of Belize. Cindy Shaffer and I met Gianni during Summer Reading Boot Camp in July 2013, where we team taught storytelling at Queen Square Anglican School. Gianni shared with us a children's story she wrote and illustrated called "The Adventures of Herbert the Hickatee." Herbert, a sea turtle or "hickatee," is in search of the perfect home, which he finally finds in a clump of mangroves after experiencing some harrowing adventures in less-than-perfect habitats. We used Gianni's story with the students during Boot Camp. Later on we discussed with Gianni the possibility of publishing the story in book form to be used in schools in Belize and in Ohio as a way to share cultures and promote the companion relationship between our two dioceses.

The possibility became a reality one year later! With the approval of Debbie Domingo, General Manager of Anglican Schools in

Belize, The Right Rev. Philip Wright, Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Belize, and the Diocese of Ohio's Committee on Global and Domestic Ministries (CGDM), Cindy found a publisher for the book and a volunteer graphic artist, Alex Tasy, son of All Saints Toledo Rector Beverly Tasy and her husband Sandy, who electronically enhanced Gianni's drawings for publication. We received financial support from the Summit Mission Area Council, the West Mission Area Council, and the CGDM to print 500 copies of the 20-page paperback book. Cindy and her husband Dick packed 250 of the books in their luggage, flew to Belize City in June 2014, surprised Gianni with 50 copies of her book in print, and presented the remaining 200 books to Debbie Domingo for the children of Belize.

Much has happened to Gianni since then. The Image Factory, an art institution in Belize City dedicated to the promotion, exhibition and documentation of Belizean art, hosted a book launch for Gianni on July 17, 2014. As a result, Gianni was asked to collaborate in making an interactive coloring book. A company also wants her to write a story about a manatee. Gianni plans to go back to school to complete her bachelor's degree while continuing to teach art at St. Mary's Anglican Primary School in Belize City. Herbert's journey as well as Gianni's has only just begun!

Two hundred fifty of Gianni's books remain here in Ohio. These will be shared throughout our Episcopal Diocese of Ohio. Gianni believes that her books should not only be shared across schools in the Anglican Diocese of Belize, but the books "should be a part of any school and any church, since it is an opportunity for people to learn about the Belizean culture." Gianni states, "I think that even though our worlds may be far apart, I know that we can make a bridge to a better united world." Isn't this what a companion relationship is all about?

"Lord you call us to your service..."

The Bishop's Annual Appeal

by the Rev. Mary C. Carson, Rector, Redeemer, Lorain



A schizophrenic, homeless man from Lorain received treatment and moved into an apartment because of the Bishop's Annual Appeal. Sounds like a stretch, but there is a direct connection.

An Episcopal Community Services (ECS) grant six years ago made it possible for the Church of the Redeemer to begin a community hot meal. A regular feature of the meal on the 3rd and 5th Thursdays of the month is piano music, initially provided by a parishioner. She befriended a homeless man whom we also discovered was a talented pianist. Her encouragement led to his accepting treatment, filing for Social Security disability, and getting off the street. Without the grant, this wouldn't have happened.

Miracles happen on a regular basis at meals and increasingly on Sunday mornings as we have befriended our neighbors. As a small congregation in a city with a poverty rate of 29%, we need support from the rest of the Diocese of Ohio to do the work of Christ in our neighborhood. We know that between grants for Redeemer's Community Meal and the Lorain Cooperative Ministry (we are one of 7 member congregations), we receive far more from ECS than we give to the Bishop's Annual Appeal.

That is the beauty of being part of a diocesan community. As Paul says, while our gifts differ, we each have gifts to offer one another. One of our gifts is sharing stories of how the life of our church continues to be transformed by those we now consider to be our friends, not just our neighbors. The gift of others—hopefully you!—is to provide the financial resources needed to fund Redeemer's meal and the other vital ministries supported by the Bishop's Annual Appeal.

LORD
YOU CALL US TO
your SERVICE

Miracles happen. Use the envelope to give today.



ECW *News* Notes

by Elaine Willis

The ECW has responsibility for two important ministries in the Episcopal Church, Church Periodical Club and the United Thank Offering. Here is a closer look at these two ministries for which Episcopal Church Women here in Ohio and across the country work countless hours to make sure they remain well-funded.

CHURCH PERIODICAL CLUB

The Church Periodical Club provides free literature and related materials, both religious and secular, to people all over the world who need and request them and who have no other source for obtaining them. Prayer Books, books for seminarians, educational materials, medical textbooks, agricultural manuals and books for those in local and global mission are some of the publications The Church Periodical Club supplies. The Church Periodical Club is funded by voluntary contributions from all levels of the Church by people in the pews. Here in Ohio the Diocesan ECW Board has responsibility for collecting and administering CPC funds.

Linda McCorkle is a beneficiary of the Church Periodical Club. She is in the Anglican Studies program at Bexley Hall-Seabury Western. Linda completed her Master of Divinity in 1996 and is now a Postulant for Holy Orders, working towards meeting the requirements for ordination to the priesthood in the Diocese of Ohio. Here is what she had to say about how important CPC is to her, and others who receive print materials through CPC:

I am grateful to have received a grant from the Church Periodicals Club, administered by Episcopal Church Women of the Diocese of Ohio. This important ECW ministry honors our tradition of valuing learning and believing that tools for learning should be available to all. The grant reminded me that I am benefitting from gifts made in the past by individuals, parishes, and groups who believed in the importance of the printed word. The CPC grant strengthened my sense of connection to the larger church.

The grant was an important gift for practical reasons as well. Because I am not in a residential program, I do not have access to a traditional campus bookstore. The books required for my classes can be difficult to find and, because seminary students tend to keep their books for their personal libraries, used copies

are rare. Depending upon my course load, the cost of books for a semester can be several hundred dollars. The financial assistance the grant provides is a welcome gift.

Prior to receiving my grant, I knew about CPC only because I had attended ECW annual meetings and heard the reports; I never imagined that I would benefit from this program. Many thanks to the Diocese of Ohio ECW and to all who have contributed to the book fund.

In the future if your parish takes a collection for CPC, please consider giving to this important ministry!

UNITED THANK OFFERING – FALL INGATHERING

The United Thank Offering (UTO) is an outreach ministry of the Episcopal Church. Founded 125 years ago to enable the missionary work of the church, UTO is entrusted to promote thank offerings, to receive the offerings, and to distribute UTO monies to support mission and ministry throughout the Episcopal Church and in provinces of the Anglican Communion in the developing world.

UTO encourages us to give thanks for our blessings and share them with others. Every penny donated is granted. Even the smallest donations, when added together, can make a huge difference in the lives of others. In 2014, over \$1.5 million was awarded in grants.

Congregations are invited to hold both a Spring and Fall Ingathering for UTO. This year, the traditional date for the Fall Ingathering is November 2, 2014 (the Sunday closest to All Saints' Day).

The Diocese of Ohio UTO Coordinator (2014 – 2017) is Barbara Jones. She may be reached at (330) 793-0540 or shadowoak2199@zoominternet.net.

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

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

CALENDAR | *Full calendar at* DOHIO.ORG

October 3-5 Diocesan Youth Event (DYE) <i>Christ Church, Warren</i>	November 1 Prayer Writing Workshop <i>St. Bartholomew's, Mayfield Village</i>
October 4 Lay and Clergy Leadership Conference <i>St. Barnabas, Bay Village</i>	November 7-8 198th Annual Diocesan Convention <i>Trinity Cathedral, Cleveland / Holiday Inn Cleveland South, Independence</i>
October 4 Viriditas, a Retreat for Artists <i>Red Oak Camp, Kirtland</i>	November 14-15 BACAM <i>River's Edge Retreat Center, Cleveland</i>
October 7 Clergy Day <i>St. Paul's, Medina</i>	November 25 Interfaith Thanksgiving Service <i>Trinity Cathedral, Cleveland</i>
October 10 Celebration of New Ministry <i>St. Andrew's, Elyria</i>	November 27-28 Diocesan Offices closed for Thanksgiving
October 12 125th Anniversary Celebration <i>St. Paul's Oregon</i>	December 9 Clergy Advent Retreat
October 13 Safeguarding God's Children Training <i>St. Paul's, Medina</i>	December 24-January 2 Diocesan Offices closed for Christmas and New Year's Day
October 18 Ministry Discernment Day <i>St. Paul's, Akron</i>	December 27 Boar's Head & Yule Log Festival <i>Trinity Cathedral, Cleveland</i>
October 18 Celebration of New Ministry <i>Our Saviour, Akron</i>	January 19 Diocesan Offices closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
October 21 Celebration of Ministry <i>Redeemer, Lorain</i>	January 30-31 Winter Convocation <i>Kalahari Resort & Convention Center, Sandusky</i>
October 25-26 Lay Preaching College <i>River's Edge Retreat Center, Cleveland</i>	

BISHOPS' VISITATIONS

OCTOBER

5	Trinity, Findlay <i>Hollingsworth</i>	19	St. John, Napoleon <i>Bowman</i>
12	St. Christopher's, Gates Mills <i>Hollingsworth</i>	19	St. Paul's, Steubenville <i>Hollingsworth</i>
12	Harcourt, Gambier <i>Persell</i>	26	St. Timothy's, Macedonia <i>Persell</i>
12	St. John, Bowling Green <i>Williams</i>	26	Christ Church, Hudson <i>Williams</i>
19	St. Mark's, Canton <i>Williams</i>		

NOVEMBER

2	St. Luke's, Niles <i>Bowman</i>	16	St. Michael's, Toledo <i>Bowman</i>
2	St. Paul's, Put-in-Bay <i>Hollingsworth</i>	16	St. Paul's, Cleveland Hts. <i>Williams</i>
9	St. Philip's, Akron <i>Persell</i>	23	St. Mark's, Shelby <i>Hollingsworth</i>
9	St. Andrew, Mentor <i>Hollingsworth</i>	23	Ascension, Lakewood <i>Persell</i>
16	St. Paul's, Maumee <i>Hollingsworth</i>		

DECEMBER

7	St. Barnabas, Bay Village <i>Hollingsworth</i>	14	St. Matthew's, Brecksville <i>Williams</i>
7	St. Paul's, Norwalk <i>Williams</i>	21	Our Saviour, Salem <i>Hollingsworth</i>
14	St. Peter's, Lakewood <i>Hollingsworth</i>		