



Church Life!

The Magazine of the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio

Summer 2014



Easter Vigil | Station Hope | Trinity Urban Farm | Camp Rox
B+E+S+T | Gay Games 9 | Spring Youth Gathering | ECW Annual Meeting

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The Rt. Rev. Mark Hollingsworth, Jr.

ChurchLife!

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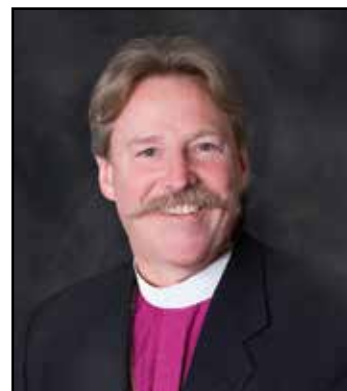
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On the Cover – Spring Youth Gathering concert by The LivingStones. More on page 17. Photo by Jessica Dickman.

Looking Back, Looking Forward



Ten years ago exactly, in the Summer 2004 issue of ChurchLife!, I wrote my first column for this space. In it, I reflected on my maiden parish visitation, the day after being consecrated a bishop. It was at the Church of the Ascension in Lakewood, where I confirmed and received a number of candidates, celebrated the Eucharist, and began the joyful process of growing together in Christ with the people of the Diocese of Ohio.

It read, in part, *“To my delight, I was able to get dressed for the service all by myself, put my crozier together, and find the right place in the Book of Common Prayer. The acolytes processed me safely to my place to begin the service, and we were underway. When the first lesson was to be read, I made my way to the Bishop’s chair. I took a seat and, to my surprise, my feet hung down, unable to reach the ground, swinging some three or four inches above the floor! I felt like Edith Ann, the wonderful character Lily Tomlin played many years ago in an oversized rocking chair on “Laugh-In.” There I sat, legs dangling down under my vestments, feeling that I was not at all big enough for that chair.*

“It was perfect because, of course, that was not the only thing for which I was feeling not at all big enough. As I sat in that bigger-than-this-bishop’s chair, I was aware of how many ways I feel not big enough for this calling, how many ways I feel not yet adequate to meet the challenges and opportunities of this time. And it felt both honest and right.

“God calls each of us into Christian vocation, not when we are big enough for it, but well before that time, so that, through each vocational phase, we might grow – grow in faith, grow in humility, grow in service, and grow into that which St. Paul called “the full stature of Christ.” For each of us, the calling to be Christian is that through which God stretches and reshapes us, making us new, making us more than we were before, making us more fully what God dreams that we can be.”

A decade later, having recently been at the Church of the Ascension for the Spring Youth Gathering, I

can confirm that the chair is still too big for me and that there is plenty of room to grow. God is today, just as then, making us new, making us more than we were before, making us more fully what God dreams that we can be.

The Camp and Retreat Ministry project is a good example of that. In the six months since the Diocesan Convention in Toledo voted to move forward, we have gone from looking at a challenge that felt very big, perhaps too big to some, to being well underway, growing into the many possibilities that lie before us. We have established relationships with a growing number of other institutions and agencies - educational, environmental, medical, conservancy, energy, and agricultural - to begin program planning and to further develop design details. We are half way to the Leadership Gifts goal, and with only three parish collaborative campaigns done, already one quarter of the way to the parish goal. Most important, those three pilot congregations exceeded their goals within four months of signing on!

St. Barnabas, Bay Village, St. Paul’s, Maumee, and Ascension, Lakewood (yes, the parish with the too-big-for-this-bishop chair) vary markedly in size, demographics, municipalities, and recent history. All three, however, were equally anxious about setting a goal based on projected capacity to give, rather than on the cost of things needing to be done. All three of them felt like the chair was too

big, and they were uncertain whether they could possibly grow into it. And all three of them have exceeded their goals and are still receiving pledges with which to grow into a future they are now able to discern afresh. They report that, as important as the increase in parish resources, the success of their campaign has been a shot in the arm, adding new vitality and increasing the confidence that they can

“God is today,
just as then,
making us new...”

become what God dreams for them to be.

Eight more parishes have now begun campaigns, and another dozen and a half are considering beginning in the fall. Katie Ong-Landini, our Project Manager, along with Matt Harrigan and Lisa McElhenny, our campaign consultants, have been meeting with parish leaders around the diocese to help them discern whether a campaign is appropriate. In addition, some of the pilot campaign chairs and clergy have volunteered to be a resource, should your parish leadership want their insights and reflections. Given the strength of our experience to date, I encourage every vestry to give serious consideration to taking advantage of this opportunity. The consulting resources, administrative and book-keeping support for the five years of campaign redemption, and momentum gained by doing this together with others are valuable assets we are able to share as a diocese.

As we mark a decade of serving together, this feels once again like a time of new potential. Making my way about the diocese, I sense in many places a renewed spirit of anticipation. The chair seems big for all of us, but not because the challenge is beyond us, rather because there is room to become more, in ministry and service and intimacy with God.

It remains a singular privilege to serve you and serve with you.

Gratefully,



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

St. John's Easter Vigil

by Jeffrey Fowler | Photographs by Emanuel Wallace

Imagine a driver heading down Church Street in Ohio City on any given night. The dark, gothic revival church at 2600 might appear to be as abandoned as some of the factories and warehouses in Cleveland's old industrial districts. What might our passing driver have thought on Holy Saturday?

This marvelous and holy flame

Shortly before 9 PM a fire was kindled in the courtyard on the west side of St. John's Episcopal Church. Shivering worshippers congregated nearby as Bishop Hollingsworth lit the Paschal Candle and proclaimed the Lord's victory over death, then winding down the sidewalk to the vestibule, each worshipper received a candle that was lit from the Paschal flame, and took a seat in the otherwise dark pews. Stories of the history of God's salvation taken from Hebrew Scripture were recalled. Hymns of praise, like punctuation for the readings, rang throughout the church and into the street from the doors that stood open. Baptismal vows were renewed. And then, as the Bishop shouted out "Alleluia! Christ is Risen!" all lights came on.

What might our passing driver have thought? She might have thought that this 168 year old church, the oldest consecrated building in Cuyahoga County, a former stop in the underground railroad, a church without a congregation, seemed to glow brightly with the light and flame of new life.

Darkness has been vanquished

This is the second consecutive year that Bishop Hollingsworth celebrated the Great Vigil of Easter at St. John's since its closing in 2007. Alex Barton, the Episcopal Service Corps intern hired in 2012 to direct the redevelopment and re-envisioning of the space as a community asset in this vibrant near west Cleveland neighborhood, delivered a homily that drew its inspiration from the parallels between the Easter story of light shining in the darkness and St. John's story of resurrection and renewal.

The building, like the Holy Week story, may seem like the final act of the story to some people, said Barton. But "there is always more. Jesus in the Garden is the end of one story... and the beginning of a new one."

"Scripture reaches out to us because all of us are the scripture of flesh and blood," said Barton in his homily. "Scripture is not simply words on paper, just as this building is not simply stone and mortar. It is a courageous stand. It is the restoration of dignity. It is a love that cannot be contained."



Bishop Hollingsworth lighting his candle from the Paschal flame.

Barton is constantly challenged to not become lost in the day-to-day details of the renovation project. He sometimes forgets to practice his personal spiritual discipline. But God continues to remind him, often through those who offer their help and support, that God is present in the work.

Reflecting on the Vigil a couple of weeks later, Barton was thankful for the help and guidance from the parishes that supported the event. Reminded of the original spiritual intent of St. John's, he went on to observe that St. John's "is not just a refuge for the community. It is also a space of worship and thankfulness. To hear our songs once again reverberating off the old stone walls gives me hope for the future, not necessarily in packed churches, but in our unbroken relationship with God."

The festival of everlasting light

Lonny Gatlin of St. Luke's Cleveland, and first time visitor at St. John's, was inspired by the liturgy and the tarnished beauty of the space. "I am grateful to those who came before us," he said, "who left this remarkable building to us. I pray that we will have the wisdom to pass it on to future generations."

It appears that God has blessed us with this wisdom. The spiritual legacy of St. John's will continue, shining its light of hope into the surrounding darkness.



Lit candles served as a reminder of Christ's victory over death.

St. John's Station Hope

by Alex Barton, St. John's Project Developer | Photographs by Bob Perkoski, Fresh Water Cleveland

Our Diocese, in partnership with Cleveland Public Theatre, Ward 3 Council Office, and Ohio City Incorporated, hosted the first of a hopefully annual event. Station Hope at Saint John's Episcopal Church, Cleveland was advertised as a block party with a purpose. For a number of months, the Cleveland Public Theatre (CPT) gathered regional artistic talent for a series of meetings to talk about pieces that would fit to the history of Saint John's as a stop on the Underground Railroad.

The overarching theme was liberation over oppression. All of the artists had to apply to be part of Station Hope to ensure overall cohesion and flow of the performances. Other plays spoke of the struggles in immigration and the oppression of women. Each piece's purpose was to contribute to a creative think tank that moved the attendees closer to a final production.

Meanwhile, Councilman Joe Cimperman spread the word about the event, looking for investors to support this year's production. Holding several meetings at Saint John's to tell the story of the space and our tradition in the neighborhood, he emphasized the importance of a community project to support the justice in our history as not just a note of pride, but also a drive for justice in the present.

Holding up our end at Saint John's, we worked tirelessly to get the building in good shape for the public. In meetings, we collectively came up with the final picture of the production day. We started with the idea of incorporating a greater part of northern Ohio City and a walking experience. By the end, we scaled down to the church buildings and the street in front.

We closed off Church Avenue for the outdoor performances, which included two entrance tents filled with volunteers. On the street, there was a choir stage with rotating musical performances from Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority's choir



Community members viewing historic figures and civil rights activists at Station Hope.

and the Megachurch's choir. There were food trucks set up and an eerie performance piece that occurred throughout the night mimicking slave catchers.

The garden on the side of the church was turned into a labyrinth of luminaries, celebrating freedom and important civil rights activists. Three main entrances into the church—the Parish Hall, Sanctuary, and church basement—were available for the rotating schedule of artistic pieces, along with various rooms of the church being used for other performances. We were delighted to see media presence from The Plain Dealer and local TV news. Station Hope was featured on Kickin' It with Kenny, the Emmy Award winning morning show on Fox 8 News in Cleveland.

Representatives from the Cozad-Bates House, another Underground Railroad stop in Cleveland, provided a safe space for open discussion about race and slavery. It was important to the production to provide information about our region's history as well as asking tough questions through art.

Once the event was over, more than 2,000 people had witnessed the results of our effort: Station Hope as an arts & community project that showcased the work of 150 local artists at Saint John's Episcopal Church, Cleveland.

A Space to be Heard

by Alex Barton, St. John's Project Developer | Photographs by Bob Perkoski, Fresh Water Cleveland

Once again, we welcomed the Easter Season at Saint John's with the Easter Vigil. However, this year we did not stop praising the risen Lord with only one event in the Easter Season. We have been working for a number of months with some of Cleveland's greatest artists to create an event that would speak not only to Saint John's history, but the role of justice informed by our tradition. As we are called to remember and renew each Easter Season:

*Will you strive for justice and peace among all people,
and respect the dignity of every human being?
I will, with God's help.*

For the past couple of months, ideas of justice and peace have been very far from my mind. What has been central is something I think many church

leaders can relate to—the bathrooms in the basement were infested with black mold, the boiler system was having every possible issue, and the interior would never stay clean. The resolution of these issues remained a moving target. There was always another leak or another roof issue.

But it was a blessing too and I can write that now knowing the event is behind us.

Through all the days I wished the heat problems would be over or I swept the undercroft for the twentieth time, I was not alone. A whole host of theatre and artist groups were helping me or moving through the space. The energy was a palpable one of camaraderie for a common goal. One of my favorite moments was when I enlisted help from my friends to listen to the hot water pipes upstairs while I was downstairs. Thirty minutes of listening



Luminaries created a pathway in the garden with images of civil rights activists.

for that very particular sound of a break in the pipes was time well spent. The entire building was heated for the event.

It was not too long ago that in a brief meeting we came up with the idea for an event at Saint John's to celebrate its role in the Underground Railroad. We came up with a list of potential sponsors and participants. We had no idea what to expect because it was such a fast process with little time for preparation. We should not have been worried. The artistic community came out in full strength from the beginning of the project to the end.

Together, we gave the event the name Cleveland had during the time of the Underground Railroad, "Station Hope". Every room in the building and the outdoor garden space would be a performance space. The road in front of the Church would be blocked off for outdoor choral performances and food trucks. And, every performance would be centered on liberation and freedom. With the amazing theatrical leadership of Cleveland Public Theatre, we were ready to present to the public not only our shared history, but also our present shared struggle.

On the day of the event, April 26th, Saint John's was alive with the busyness of preparation. Artists were setting up their installations and making last minute adjustments. We were doing one last clean through the space and learning how to use walkie-talkies for the night. Signs were being posted to help direct foot traffic and welcoming tents were being put up. There is nothing I love more than a church in preparation whether it is for Easter or for an event.

I also had the distinct pleasure of hanging up signs titled with one of our diocesan messages—"God loves you. No exceptions." All the community members coming that night would know how we encounter God in the Episcopal Church.

The more and more I have worked for Saint John's, the more I have realized that the building's vocation has been one of translation. Throughout the preparation for Station Hope, I was in conversation about my faith, about Jesus and God. And, if anyone feels that our billboards are maybe not so revolutionary, my experience tells me the opposite is true. Not one person I talked with thought the experience of a loving God was normal. Not one person thought opening our doors as a church for multiple theatre pieces dealing with race and class was normal.

We closed on the night of Station Hope with African drumming and dancing. I saw how our shared openness to God, who is revealed in a multitude of ways, could bring hope and a sense of belonging to so many. On April 26th we as a diocese strove for justice and peace among all people as we have and will do as followers of Jesus Christ until the end. And, the narratives so often overlooked in our nation were given a space to speak, a space to be heard. We will continue to respect the dignity of all human beings at Saint John's Cleveland with God's help.



Growing Hope

by April Miller, Communications Manager, Trinity Cathedral | Photographs by Sam Hubish



Michael Martin lives in the neighborhood and regularly joins Trinity volunteers on Saturday mornings.

Since 2006, volunteers working at the Trinity Cathedral Urban Farm have harvested more than 18,000 pounds of food to feed Cleveland's hungry and homeless.

Once a sight of devastation, the corner of E. 35th and Cedar Avenue in Cleveland now brims with life. Cucumbers, green beans, cabbage, onions, peaches, apples, herbs, tulips and irises have replaced the bricks of a torn-down apartment building, car parts, rocks and garbage that once filled the inner-city lot.

Trinity Cathedral volunteers have been hard at work on the land since 2006 when Trinity member Scott Blanchard contacted the City of Cleveland's Summer Sprout program coordinated by OSU Extension to

inquire about starting a community garden. Blanchard had been volunteering with the Cathedral's Sunday lunch program, A Place at the Table (APATT), but wanted to be of service beyond cooking and serving. Living in the city he had a rooftop container garden raising tomatoes and peppers that he donated to APATT, but "thought how great it would be if we had some land that we could work and really make a significant food contribution going forward."

Summer Sprout put Blanchard in touch with Father Jim O'Donnell of St. Malachi Catholic Parish who lived across the street from the lot and had started many community gardens. "Fr. Jim gave me a tour, we got the permission of the land owner and we were

able to get started on the project in less than a month," Blanchard says.

From the beginning the primary focus has been to grow as much food as possible to feed the hungry and homeless in Cleveland—100% of the crops raised at the urban farm are donated to hunger ministries. In addition to Trinity's A Place at the Table and Food For Families ministries, fruit and produce has also been donated to Cedar Central Senior Center, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church hunger program, St. Herman's Orthodox House of Hospitality and the Cleveland Food Bank. Funding for the farm has come from Neighborhood Connections, the Thatcher Family Fund and the City of Cleveland's

Cityworks grants. “Summer Sprout is proud of gardens like Trinity,” says Jim Thompson, program coordinator for OSU Extension, “because they ensure that our neediest of residents are getting fed with healthy food on a regular basis.”

The fact that those who rely on donations may not always have access to fresh produce had always bothered Anastasia Pantsios so when Scott told her about the farm, it immediately resonated with her and she’s been volunteering since the beginning. “I think quality food is a core issue, which feeds into so many other social justice issues including health and education,” Pantsios says. “And Cleveland is at the epicenter of the local, sustainable food movement. The Trinity farm was actually one of the first (if not the first) of the current wave of larger scale urban farms in Cleveland.”

Volunteers gather on Saturday mornings from March to November, typically working from 9 AM to noon. And each year, they push themselves harder—setting a new harvest goal and making improvements to the farm. The urban farm is built on environmentally sound practices such as composting, organic farming and recycling. In 2009, it was named a recipient of the Fiskars Project Orange Thumb—an international award given to only 20 projects per year in the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. In 2011, Trinity member Steve Roberts spearheaded the installation of a drip-irrigation system that makes water efforts more efficient, crops more plentiful and reduces water consumption. OSU Urban Agriculture staff taught volunteers methods to extend the growing season, allowing for the planting of cold-weather crops such as radishes, broccoli, collard greens, spinach and garlic. And over the years, public artwork has been added to the landscape.

Back in 2006, the Trinity urban farm produced 1,200 pounds of food. The all-time high year was 2011 with 3,141 pounds and last year saw volunteers harvest 2,929 pounds of food. To date, more than 18,000 pounds have been harvested. Not an easy task at all, because as Fr. O’Donnell likes to say, “we did not pick this land because it was good soil and would be easy to grow crops. It was an ideal corner because people in a neighborhood of devastation need to have some hope.”

“The neighbors see flowers and vegetables and it creates joy. Their heads pop up and they don’t feel their life is so bad after all. I had a resident say to me, ‘God must love us if you all would do this here,’” he adds. “Yes, God does love you.”



Trinity members Steve Roberts and Bill DiTirro work together to construct new raised beds.



The new, raised vegetable beds should last a decade or more and are designed to accommodate the urban farm’s drip irrigation system.

To learn more about the Trinity Urban Farm, email leader Scott Blanchard at scottwblanchard@roadrunner.com or call Trinity staff member Ginger Bitikofer at 216-774-0407. The urban farm is located at the corner of E. 35th and Cedar Avenue in Cleveland and volunteers are welcome any Saturday morning from 9-noon. You need not stay the entire time - even a half hour is helpful! Call to arrange work on other days.

Camp Rox

by Jeffrey Fowler | Photographs by The Rev. Lisa Hackney

For more than a year, the two Episcopal congregations in Cleveland Heights searched for a way to engage their neighborhood, and one another, in meaningful outreach ministry. The Rev. Lisa Hackney, Priest in Charge at St. Alban's and Associate Rector at St. Paul's, has utilized an Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF) community organizing model, learned from her involvement with Greater Cleveland Congregations, to build a relational network between her two parishes and the local elementary school that sits between them, Roxboro Elementary. She and her parishioners, along with PTA Co Chairs Rosemary Pierce and Jen Holland, wanted to do "one big thing" in service to the school before the 2013-2014 academic year ended.

Moved by her deep conviction that God invites us "to step outside of our churches and begin conversations that identify our common interests with the civic institutions around us," Hackney initiated a listening campaign with Roxboro Principal Michael Jenkins, teachers and parents, as well as parishioners from both congregations. She

identified a common concern as an area of focus – building a unified student and parent community.

Roxboro students come from diverse social and economic backgrounds. Some of the students live near St. Paul's. Others are transported from the North Coventry neighborhood, close to St. Alban's, and more than a mile to the north of St. Paul's. A top concern of parents, teachers and administrators is the lack of community between the two groups of students. Additionally, the absence of public transportation between North Coventry and the school prevents some parents from attending school events. Because of its location, St. Alban's emerged as a desirable venue for reaching out to the families of North Coventry.

During one of Hackney's meetings with Jenkins a particular concern of his arose. Due to the high number of calamity days last winter, the Ohio Department of Education had rescheduled the mandatory Ohio Achievement Assessments (OAA) for the week following spring break. Fearing that his students would fall out of "testing mode" during



Students having fun while learning at Camp Rox.

vacation, Jenkins and his staff were seeking a way to mitigate this risk. Hackney suggested “What if we were to run a sort of Spring Break Camp – part math camp - modeled in part on Vacation Bible School games and activities?” Jenkins was excited by the idea, later dubbed Camp Rox, and appointed administrative intern Cornelia Meier as the school’s liaison with St. Alban’s.

Meier and Hackney first met in the fall. “We discussed various options, and the camp idea looked like it was going to fulfill a number of concerns that the school wanted to address, such as providing extra support for our at-risk students and reaching out to the parents living in the North Coventry area,” according to Meier. She said that many of these parents come to the school only for discipline or academic failure issues.

Hackney recruited two key parishioners to help design and run the camp: Jonathan Fairman as the master teacher and Jennifer Steinfurth to design VBS style activities and games.

Fairman, St. Alban’s Senior Warden, is a 36 year retired veteran of Cleveland Municipal Schools. Because he once served as a member of a state test committee, Fairman’s job was to select the primary learning focus for the students.

“Fractions and measurements are weak areas for kids during testing,” Fairman said, “so we designed our activities around them.” Fairman believes that focusing on teaching strategies rather than relying solely of problem solving improves a child’s success. There may be more than one way to solve a given problem. “When a student knows the approach that is most comfortable for him, the chances of correctly solving the problem increase,” he continued.

Meier recruited 16 students (recommended by their teachers) while St. Paul’s administrative assistant Janet Ribovic coordinated the recruitment of volunteers. More than twenty volunteers signed up for 5 days of activities, each day consisting of 6 half-hour sessions. In all, over 70 volunteer slots were



Children at Camp Rox learned fun and unique ways to problem solve.

filled by members of both parishes, community volunteers, and family members of the campers.

Camp Rox launched the day after Easter.

The children were divided into groups of 2-4 students. Every day each group had 2 sessions of formal tutoring, 2 sessions of games, one session at the ‘Big Screen’, and one session of relaxation at the Camp Store. Lunch was provided.

Ntianu Cloud, a science teacher at Cleveland Heights High School, and a mother of students at Roxboro, became involved after seeing a PTA email calling for tutors. “As a high school teacher I frequently see holes in the knowledge of incoming students,” she said. Cloud gave up hours during her spring break to help bridge this gap.

On Tuesday, in the Tutoring Center in St. Alban’s lounge, five children were clustered around a table while Cloud presented problems on a flip chart, and explained alternate ways to solve them. “When taking a test, choose the method that is most comfortable for you,” she suggested. Math problem-solving texts crowded the table in front of the children and a large, plastic pitcher, marked for

measuring liquids in cups, ounces, and liters sat off to one side.

In the afternoon tutoring session, the instructor presented a division problem: “Each pizza contains 6 slices; how many are needed to feed 18 people?” Laughter erupted when a student commented “that depends on how many pieces each person eats!” Second problem: If each pizza contains $2\frac{1}{4}$ cups of onions, how many cups of onions are needed for 3 pizzas?” That one took a few seconds longer to answer, but the students proudly demonstrated their skills with fractions.

Fairman worked with students on the “Big Screen” at the back of St. Alban’s Nave on Tuesday. Dividing the students into competing teams, they “played” internet-based math games. He empowered the children by allowing them to select the games and operate the computer.

Anna Risch, affiliated with St. Alban’s through its Agape young adult ministry, is also involved with Greater Cleveland Congregations. She is grateful for the collaboration between the two churches and for the outreach they do together. “They are filling a need,” she said. Because it was raining on Tuesday, she led the students in the games activity in the dining room. In a game that she called Fraction

Fun, a modified version of beanbag, the children tallied throws, misses, hits, and fractional hits. The math came at the end of the game: “If your team missed 2 out of 12 throws, what is the ratio of misses to throws?”

Once each day, every group of students spent a session relaxing in the chapel, a corner of which was converted into the Camp Store for relaxation and rewards. “The kids can get pretty hyper after a while and need to relax,” Steinfurth said, “and this is where they do it.” Volunteer Halldor Guomundsson from St. Paul’s played a shark game with the kids. Each student lay on a towel on the floor, trying to remain absolutely still while Guomundsson, the shark, silently walked among them. If anyone moved he tagged them. “I take my time,” he said. “The longer they lie still, the more relaxed they become.”

For each session of tutoring, Big Screen, or games completed, the students earned one dollar of play money. The money could be spent in the Camp Store. There were a couple of toys for sale, but there were also pencils, erasers, pens, rulers, and protractors. The children created shopping lists and determined whether to buy something now or to save for a larger purchase. When they bought they



Volunteers helped students engage in learning and recreation.

computed their own change. If they saved for a bigger purchase, they calculated how much more money they would need.

There was learning in the fun and fun in the learning.

Camp Rox created a lot of buzz in the community. Jenkins gives a lot of credit to Meier and Hackney for making it happen. “St. Alban’s and St. Paul’s offered a creative way to keep students focused over vacation,” he said. He and Meier would like to see Camp Rox become an annual event.



Tutors volunteered to assist students with their math skills.

Meier talked with the students after the event, and all said they enjoyed it. “The next step for me is to survey the students and parents to gain an understanding of the full impact of the program.” She is especially interested in whether the parents’ engagement improved. “All in all, I would rate Camp Rox a success.”

Steinfurth was pleasantly surprised by the energy and enthusiasm of those who participated. “The Sunday following camp, multiple St. Paul’s volunteers were bubbling with positive feedback about their experience,” she reported. “At St. Alban’s I found myself in numerous conversations about the connection made with the children and families and hope that we continue to build this relationship.”

Clergy Changes

- The Rev. **David Evans** is retiring on the 1st of June from St. Peter’s in Ashtabula.
- The Rev. **Alan Gates** was elected Bishop of the Diocese of Massachusetts, his final Sunday at St. Paul’s, Cleveland Heights was on June 1.
- The Rev. **Will Mebane** has been called as Interim Dean of St. Paul’s Cathedral in Buffalo, New York. His last Sunday was June 8.
- The Rev. **Wanda Ray** will be retiring from Christ Church in Huron at the end of June.
- The Rev. **Hiltrude Nusser-Telfer** is retiring as Chaplain at Flower Hospital in Toledo at the end of June.
- The Rev. **Howard Humphey** will be retiring at the end of July from St. Martin’s, Chagrin Falls
- The Rev. **Pat Hanen** has accepted the position to become the Vicar/Project Director for St. John’s, Cleveland beginning in July.
- The Rev. **Sahra Harding** will complete her three-year curacy at Trinity Cathedral on July 31 and will enter a CPE program at Cleveland Clinic.

Bishops' Executive Secretaries Together (B+E+S+T)

by Eva Cole, Administrative Assistant, Office of the Bishop

One sunny afternoon in 2006 while at Trinity Commons, the Rev. Gay Jennings stopped by my desk to say hello and see how my transition to working in the Bishop's Office was going. During our brief chat she mentioned B+E+S+T and said it was a group with which I should connect. Since my plate was full with responsibilities and tasks to learn in my new role of supporting the Bishop and the Canon to the Ordinary, I made a mental note to check into it once I was a little more settled in the Bishop's Office.

Fast forward to May 15, 2008 and I was on a plane to Providence, RI to meet a group of men and women who, like me, were the primary administrative support for an active bishop in ECUSA. The Bishop was encouraging my attending the conference and was supportive of my participation in B+E+S+T, but as my plane climbed into the clouds I was still pondering why and how this group would be helpful to me and to the work I did in the

Diocese of Ohio. Little did I know then how essential this group of colleagues would become for me.

What I learned that May was that B+E+S+T is a wonderfully collegial pool of wisdom and support

“The mission of B+E+S+T is to empower our members through networking and education to value our ministry and to support the ministry of our bishops and the wider Church.”

for the unique position of bishops' assistants. While the variety of tasks, projects, appointments, data, and relationships makes being a bishop's assistant not only challenging but fulfill-

ing, it is a distinctive role that is also demanding, stressful, intense, and at times isolated due to the confidential nature of matters. And these are all the reasons why B+E+S+T was established in 1986 and is so invaluable.

B+E+S+T provides avenues for us to share and draw upon our collective wisdom, for education and networking. We minister to each other and, through our work, to our bishops and the body of Christ.

I haven't missed a conference since 2008 and I pretty much dove in with both feet!



A round-table discussion at the annual conference.



Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori addresses the members of B+E+S+T at their annual conference.



Eva Cole and B+E+S+T members work on the Stop Hunger Now service project, providing thousands of meals to people in need.

At the 2009 conference, I was elected to serve as the Province V Representative and for the 2010 conference, I created and presented two workshops (Nuts & Bolts and BEST-Tec-niques). During our annual business meeting that year I was elected to serve as Vice President, a Board of Directors position that requires a 6-year commitment, serving 2 years each as Vice President, President, and Past President.

The board meets each spring and fall, and handles business throughout the year as needed. Conference hosting rotates from province to province, and conference planning is always done with the goal of providing meaningful, educational, and enriching conferences. This year's was especially so for me.

I was thrilled that the board's efforts of the previous two years resulted in 4 members from Province IX attending this year, including the Dominican Republic, Ecuador Litoral, Honduras and Puerto Rico. Translation for our Spanish-speaking colleagues was facilitated by members and through the use of technology.

In addition, we were honored to have the Presiding Bishop with us for a good portion of our conference. Her remarks at our opening banquet conveyed her genuine appreciation for the ministry of B+E+S+T (<http://www.episcopalchurch.org/page/bishops-executive-secretaries-together-keynote-address>). She made herself fully available to us by participating in a session of unscripted conversation the next morning. Before leaving that afternoon she celebrated an informal Eucharist at the site of our Stop Hunger Now service project, where her sermon beautifully tied the work we were about to set our hands to with the call of Christ to go beyond our four walls and minister to all who are in need (<http://www.episcopalchurch.org/page/best-stop-hunger-now>).

B+E+S+T will continue to keep me busy in 2014 and 2015 as Past President, and I look forward to the things my colleagues will teach me as we journey together in the months and years ahead, if God is willing. And it is my prayer that I, through my participation in B+E+S+T, continue to grow and learn how God would have me "...support the ministry of our bishops and the wider Church."

Music for a Lifetime

Exploring the Relationship between Music and Identity

By Evelyn Ting, Communications Office Intern | Photographs by Jessica Dickman and Coty Gianelli

Sing to the LORD
a new song,
for he has done
marvelous things;
Psalm 98:1

Over the May 2nd-May 4th weekend, over 60 youth from 16 different parishes came together for the Spring Youth Gathering, to clean up the Lakewood community and interact with their faith through music. The Church of the Ascension hosted the event, with lunch and dinner on Saturday prepared by St. Peter's in Lakewood.

On Friday evening, the group watched a video and then discussed in small groups how music made them feel. During the day on Saturday, youth participated in a service project organized by Keep Lakewood Beautiful. They planted trees and flowers, picked up litter, and distributed flyers to local



The LivingStones perform their original music at the Spring Youth Gathering.

businesses. With the participation of the Diocesan youth, Keep Lakewood Beautiful was able to begin the clean up and flyer distribution about 8 blocks further than their intended starting location.

In the evening, the community enjoyed a concert by The LivingStones, a notable Christian Rock band that has previously performed at The Big Ticket Festival, a 3-day Christian music festival which hosts more than 10,000 people per day. In addition to performing, the band joined the youth for meals and game time during the gathering. On Sunday morning, The LivingStones led the morning service.

Additionally, youth got to spend time with Bishop Hollingsworth and his guitar, discussing how music impacted his spiritual journey. And, tying together the two big events of the weekend, the group used materials they had collected during their service work to make musical instruments. In groups, they prepared skits and/or wrote songs using those instruments and shared how music impacts their own lives as Christians.



Cleaning up the community.



Bishop Hollingsworth and SYG participants.

The Bishop's Easter Retreat

On Saturday, May 17th, St. John's, Cuyahoga Falls, hosted "The Bishop's Easter Retreat", which focused on themes of disciplines for discipleship. Bishop Hollingsworth led the morning reflections on the disciplines of giving and invitation. The Rev. Vincent Black led the afternoon reflections on the disciplines of gratitude and hope. Forty-two parishioners from 13 parishes attended the Easter Retreat, including 31 first time attendees. We extend our thanks and appreciation to the people of St. John's for their warm and generous hospitality.

A Conversation with Thomas Nobbe, Executive Director, Gay Games 9

As Executive Director of the Gay Games 9, what are your responsibilities?

As executive director of Gay Games 9, I oversee all aspects of planning and implementation for the 2014 Gay Games presented by the Cleveland Foundation, which will be held in Akron and Cleveland August 9-16, 2014. The Games are expected to attract more than 20,000 people, including participants, friends and family, local supporters and others who will travel to Northeast Ohio to be part of the week-long event. Economic impact to the region is expected to be approximately \$40 million.

What fuels your passion for taking on this enormous amount of work?

The Games are good for the LGBT community and good for the region because they are a catalyst for collaboration and changing hearts and minds.

What was your role in bringing the Games to Cleveland?

I cannot take any credit for bringing the Games to Cleveland and Akron. Credit goes to a very hard-working group of Clevelanders and Akronites who sold our region to the Federation of Gay Games back in 2009, beating out Boston and Washington DC.

Where else have the Games been held?

San Francisco (twice); Vancouver, Canada; New York City; Amsterdam; Sydney, Australia; Chicago; and Cologne, Germany.

What does it mean for Northern Ohio that the Games are in Cleveland?

When you look at the prior hosts of the Gay Games, you can see that we are clearly the smallest metropolitan area to ever host this event. Unlike the other host cities, we are not as well-known and certainly not considered a travel destination for the LGBT community. So hosting the Games gives Northeast Ohio the opportunity

to show the world that this region embraces diversity, not to mention we live in a beautiful part of the U.S. and we know how to throw a party.

What does it mean to you that the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio and other churches are becoming Faith Community Partners?

As an Episcopalian, I am very proud – though not at all surprised – that the Diocese of Ohio is a Faith Community Partner of the Gay Games. It is perfectly in keeping with the Diocese's long history of support of the LGBT community in Northern Ohio. It's also wonderful to see other Christian and Jewish congregations participating as Faith Community Partners as well.

What might surprise us about the Games?

You don't have to be Gay to participate in the Gay Games. And you don't even have to be good!

Can anyone compete in the Games?

See above! You just have to be 18 years or older.

How can people support the Gay Games now and in the future?

You can go to www.GG9CLE.com and register, volunteer or purchase tickets to the fabulous Opening Ceremony, which will take place on August 9th at Quicken Loans Arena and feature the likes of Lance Bass, the Pointer Sisters and a cast of some 400 performers.

What does "God loves you. No exceptions." mean to you?

Just what it says. And I am so proud that this message comes from the Episcopal Church.



Thomas Nobbe is a member at St. Paul's, Cleveland Heights.

The Bishop's Bike Ride

The 9th Annual Bishop's Bike Ride will be held June 21-25 and will span across the eastern part of the Diocese. Cyclists of a wide range of abilities and ages will pedal across the Diocese, stopping at parishes along the way during this 5-day ride to raise funds for youth mission trips. Some participants ride the entire time, others for a day or two, and some even just for a small portion of a day.

The Bike Ride will start and end at Christ Church, Warren, and will make the following overnight stops on the way: Saturday, June 21– Christ Church, Hudson; Sunday, June 22– Church of the Epiphany, Euclid; Monday, June 23– St. Peter's, Ashtabula; and Tuesday, June 24– St. Luke's Chardon.

On Sunday, June 22, join Bishop Hollingsworth and the cyclists for a short trail ride. Participants will meet at the Train Station in Peninsula on the scenic Cuyahoga Valley Railroad, joining the other riders, then travel down the Ohio and Erie Canal Towpath Trail. At the end of the 15-mile ride is another station, where you (and your bike) can catch the train back to Peninsula.

This is a short, easy route and a great opportunity for those who want to try out the Bishop's Bike Ride. We will meet at 9:30 AM for a 10 AM departure, and you should arrive at the finish in plenty of time to catch the train back. The cost of the train ticket is \$3, which may be purchased at the starting point. For more information or to register for any part of the bike ride or this trail route, please contact Karyn Calaway at the Diocese of Ohio, 216.774.0462.

Ask around. Someone in your church may be planning to ride or helping in some other way. Even if you are not able to ride, drive, or donate, consider offering your prayers and encouragement to help the participants achieve their goals and complete a safe and successful ride.



As a Diocese we proudly proclaim, God Loves You, No Exceptions. This summer, we will have an opportunity to demonstrate the truth of this claim as a proud Faith Sponsor of the 2014 Gay Games, being held August 9-16 in Cleveland and Akron.

The Games are open to all adults, regardless of sexual orientation or athletic ability. Help support welcoming playing fields for all and join or volunteer for the 2014 Gay Games presented by the Cleveland Foundation – the world's most inclusive sporting event. Register today at www.GG9CLE.com.

Registrants get a commemorative participation medal, transportation pass for private and public transportation during Games Week, opportunity to march in Opening Ceremony at Quicken Loans Arena and sit with fellow marchers in premium seating at Opening Ceremony, admission to Closing Ceremony at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame outdoor plaza, and an invitation to the pre-march party for participants at Progressive Field prior to Opening Ceremony. With more than 35 sports (from darts to triathlon, bowling to softball) and 2 cultural events (band and chorus), there's something for everybody.

Registering for the Gay Games is more than just playing sports. It's a way to show your support!

Trinity, Coshocton, Installs Chair Lifts

After 20+ years of trying, Trinity, Coshocton recently installed chair lifts to assist parishioners with physical limitations in getting into the church, and downstairs into the basement where they hold their lengthy coffee hours post-worship. The installation was completed just in time for Bishop Hollingsworth's visitation, where he blessed the chair lifts. David Bursh, Karen Bursh, and Tara Salmans were confirmed.





By Elaine Willis

ECW's 137th Annual Meeting

The Episcopal Church Women's 137th Annual Meeting took place May 9-10 at the Magnuson Grand Hotel and Christ Church in Warren. It featured fellowship, the election and installation of new officers and a riveting keynote speaker.

The Annual Meeting opened on Friday evening with a banquet and entertainment by members of the Howland High School Choir. The evening continued with a few words from and a conversation with the Rt. Rev. Mark Hollingsworth, and concluded with a round of music (led by the Bishop) and compline.

The meeting continued on Saturday morning with Morning Prayer at Christ Church. It was followed by the business meeting, which included the passing of the 2014-15 budget, election of new officers and Triennial delegates, and reports from the various Diocesan ECW committees (see details in the article that follows).

Elected were Anne Cole, Vice-President; Sonia Miller, Treasurer; Barbara Jones, United Thank Offering; and Carol Culp and Janet Smart, Triennial delegates (Anne Cole and Sonia Miller alternates.) Along with Hilary Nerby, who was elected to a term as President at last year's Annual Meeting, they were installed during the Eucharist that concluded the day.

The meeting continued with a keynote presentation about human trafficking by Theresa Flores, LSW, MS, a human trafficking survivor and author of *The Slave Across the Street* and *The Sacred Bath*. Flores detailed how she became a victim of human trafficking: After accepting a ride home from a classmate, she was instead taken to his house, drugged, raped and photographed. The classmate later used the photos to blackmail Flores into working as a sex slave for him. She did so for months, until, upon being left alone in a hotel room she made her way to a nearby hotel where the police were called. Flores made it clear that she came from a loving, middle class home, proving that human trafficking can happen to anyone anywhere. In addition to writing her memoirs as a way to educate

others, she founded SOAP (Save Our Adolescents from Prostitution). SOAP works with hotels and motels to place stickers with the National Human Trafficking Hotline number on bars of soap victims may use. Flores also shared statistics and risk factors and signs of human trafficking. Please see the article that follows for those.

After lunch, the meeting continued with breakout sessions on Human Trafficking, ECW Roundtable (sharing what various parish ECWs are doing) and Church History. There was also a session on human trafficking for kids.

The sessions were followed by the conclusion of business, which featured adoption of three resolutions. The first was a resolution in opposition to human trafficking, the second was in support of our companion relationships with the Dioceses of Tanga (in Tanzania) and Belize, and the last was in support of the Lillian Valley School for Native Americans. After a Eucharist, the Annual Meeting was closed.

Additional Committee Reports:

UTO: There were 48 participating parishes which raised over \$2,000 in the past year. All parishes are encouraged to participate. If interested, please contact Barbara Jones at shadowoak2199@zoominternet.net or 440-826-1652.

Seaman's Church Institute: The number of items produced in the past year can be found on the Diocesan website: www.dohio.org

Yearbook/Directory: We need updated information from all parish and mission area ECWs. Please send information to Susan Quill at planetquill@roadrunner.com

Church Periodical Club: CPC provides money to seminarians for textbooks and periodicals they need for their studies.

Parish and Mission Area ECW Notes

Cuyahoga Mission Area ECW brings Easter Joy—On the Saturday before Easter, ECW members from the Cuyahoga Mission Area gathered at Christ Church,

Shaker Heights, as they have been doing for close to 30 years. They assembled some 400+ Easter Flower tray favors. These bright carnations in a florist tube tied with a bow and holding the message, "Easter Greetings from the Episcopal Church Women" were then delivered to the Veterans Administration Hospital in University Circle, the Hospice of the Western Reserve, the Metro Health Skilled Nursing facility

and the Shaker Gardens Nursing Home. On Easter morning these tray favors appeared on the patients' breakfast trays.

For the patients at these facilities, these ECW Easter Flower tray favors are often the ONLY Easter remembrance they will receive. Certainly a very rewarding Outreach project – the ECW enjoyed a morning of fellowship as they assembled these tray favors, knowing what joy

this simple Easter remembrance would bring the recipients.

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.

Human Trafficking: the Focus of ECW's 137th Annual Meeting

What is human trafficking? It is the recruitment, harboring or transporting of a person by force, fraud or coercion in order to exploit him/her for commercial sex or labor. There are three forms: Prostitution, Labor and Pornography (under certain conditions).

Most of us didn't notice when the Episcopal Church USA and the Diocese of Ohio passed resolutions condemning it, but we should have. According to Theresa Flores, Ohio is #5 in the U.S. in terms of the amount of human trafficking that occurs. Here's why:

- An extensive highway system, and more truck stops than any other state
- Nearby international borders (Canada)
- Large immigrant populations
- Military bases
- Universities and colleges
- Large number of strip clubs (Dayton has the most per capita in the nation)

Vulnerable populations (college students and immigrants) plus access (highways, international borders) plus demand (military bases, truckers, international visitors) all add up to a flourishing human trafficking business.

As Theresa Flores' case shows us, the victims can be anyone – our daughters and sons, grandchildren, nieces and nephews. And the effects of it on the victims are devastating and can be long-lasting. They include:

- PTSD
- Other mental illnesses
- Stockholm Syndrome
- Nightmares, inability to sleep

- Lack of self-worth
- Trust issues
- Lack of a sense of security
- Intense guilt
- Living 24/7 on survival skills

What can we do about it? First, we can look out for signs of it among our young people and talk to them when we see them. Some of them are:

- Hotel room keys in their possession
- False IDs and/or lying about their age
- Bruising and other injuries
- STDs and pregnancy tests
- Dating older/controlling men
- Exhaustion, fear, anxiety and depression
- Substance abuse
- Talking with strangers online

We can also write to our legislators asking them to support legislation (local, state and federal) against human trafficking, talk to local hotel and motel owners about their role in it, and encourage programs and conversations about it in our parishes, schools, and communities. Finally, we can also work with coalitions around the state that work to prevent and stop human trafficking. They need monetary donations and volunteers to continue their work, and we can help with that. For additional resources and information about human trafficking, please see Theresa Flores' website: www.traffickfree.com as well as the State of Ohio Human Traffic Commission's website at <http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/humantrafficking.aspx>, where you can find information about bills pending in the statehouse and which coalition against human trafficking is working in your county.

ChurchLife!

Trinity Commons
2230 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44115-2499

Coming Up...

Calendar

June 10

World Café Meeting

Trinity Commons

June 12

World Café Meeting

St. Paul's, Norwalk

June 16

Standing Committee Meeting

Trinity Commons

June 19

Diocesan Council Meeting

Our Saviour, Akron

June 21-25

Bishop's Bike Ride

June 26-28

EfM Mentor Training

Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center,
Fremont

June 27-July 3

Family Camp Program

Cedar Hills Camp & Conference Center

July 4

Independence Day

Diocesan offices closed

July 6-26

Summer Camp Programs

Cedar Hills Camp & Conference Center

July 9-13

Episcopal Youth Event

Villa Nova University

Bishops' Visitations

June

8 St. James,
Boardman
(Hollingsworth)

8 Redeemer, Lorain
(Williams)

15 St. Stephen's,
Steubenville
(Hollingsworth)

22 St. Paul's, Bellevue
(Williams)

September

14 St. Thomas, Port
Clinton
(Hollingsworth)

28 St. Mark's, Sidney
(Bowman)

October

5 St. Michael's in
the Hills, Toledo
(Bowman)

5 Trinity, Findlay
(Hollingsworth)

October (continued)

12 St. Christopher's,
Gates Mills
(Hollingsworth)

12 Harcourt Parish,
Gambier
(Persell)

12 St. John, Bowling
Green
(Williams)

19 St. Paul's,
Steubenville
(Hollingsworth)

19 St. John,
Napoleon
(Bowman)

19 St. Mark's, Canton
(Williams)

26 St. Timothy's,
Macedonia
(Persell)

26 Christ Church,
Hudson
(Williams)

For the complete calendar of events visit www.dohio.org