



ChurchLife!

The Magazine of the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio

FALL 2012



What's Inside?

- The 196th Annual Diocesan Convention Preview
- General Convention Brings Accolades
- The Blessings of Our Connections
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ChurchLife!

The Magazine of the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio

Vol. 116, No. 2, Fall 2012

The Episcopal Church



In the Anglican Communion

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

The Most Rev. Rowan Williams,
Archbishop of Canterbury

In the United States

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

Established 1789.
The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori,
Presiding Bishop

In the Diocese of Ohio

A community of 18,727 baptized members in 94 parishes in the northern 48 counties of the State of Ohio.
Established 1817.

Bishop of Ohio

The Rt. Rev. Mark Hollingsworth, Jr.

ChurchLife!

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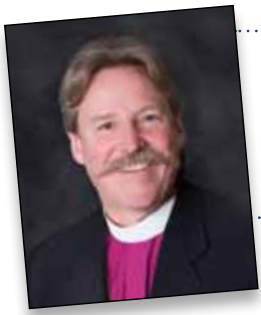
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Front Cover: Mary Stewart, St. Philip's, Akron, marks her Convention ballot. Photo by Chris Holley-Starling.



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH WELCOMES YOU

AT A RECENT MEETING OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH'S Executive Council, I heard a presentation by a representative of *Welcoming America*, an organization serving in some twenty states, helping communities "promote mutual respect and cooperation between foreign-born and U.S.-born Americans." *Welcoming America* develops grassroots efforts to address the challenges of cultural diversity and establish both a practice and an identity of inclusiveness and collaboration. As I listened to descriptions of their work building a welcoming society, I could not help but think of the blue and white signs that hang outside many of our churches proclaiming, "The Episcopal Church Welcomes You."

For some time I have wondered what sort of message our long-time denominational tagline has delivered, not so much to those who don't know The Episcopal Church, but to those of us who are members of its congregations. To many of us I suspect it means that when people show up we will be genuinely hospitable, making room for them in the pew and accompanying them to coffee hour. And for most of us, "The Episcopal Church Welcomes You" articulates to the world both our desire that people find us and the assurance that we will be glad when they do.

My observation is that too often we may leave the sign to say it for us, perhaps because we are not always certain how and when to articulate that desire and assurance ourselves. One problem with letting the sign speak for us is that it presumes that the reader is looking for us to begin with. Another is that "The Episcopal Church Welcomes You" is in fact a statement about us, not about those we long to welcome. It doesn't really say anything about them; we are, after all, the subject. In a true welcome, those being welcomed ought to be the focus.

When I travel to Africa, I am regularly and pleasantly startled by the greeting often offered me by friend and stranger alike. When I am introduced to someone along

the road or meet someone in the market or greet someone in church, I am frequently told, "You are welcome." Note that this is not in response to my having said, "Thank you," nor is it said when I am entering someone's own home. Rather, it is proclaimed regardless of the physical and social context. Instead of saying, "Hello," they declare, "You are welcome." No matter how often I have been greeted in this way, it never fails to fall on my ear as a somewhat Victorian construct, disarmingly embracing. It is, purely and simply, a definition of me. "You are welcome." Welcome. Regardless.



All of this makes me think about what it might mean to be truly welcoming, as individuals and as a church. Perhaps a genuinely welcoming community does not limit its welcome to those who show up, does not wait to express or act on that welcome until the welcomed arrive at our door. Rather, it is one that goes out into the world proclaiming welcome, by word and deed, to those who may not even be aware of who we are or where, what, and how we worship. What would it mean to be agents of welcome in a way that transforms the communities we serve into being welcoming themselves, building

tolerance, understanding, and collaboration among those whom life and circumstance have brought together?

You are welcome. Whoever you are, wherever you are from, however you experience the divine, and whatever are your hopes and dreams and burdens. You are welcome. I imagine that is what it means to be loved by God and embraced by Jesus. Welcome. And I imagine that the vocation of the body of Christ is to proclaim God's welcome, not just our own, and not just to those who come to our place. I imagine it is to proclaim God's welcome to all, to welcome them right where they are, here in God's kingdom.

You are welcome. Regardless.

Mark

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

DIOCESAN CONVENTION WELCOMES BACK ST. BARNABAS, PRESENTS PRELIMINARY CAMP AND RETREAT CENTER PLANS

PARTICIPANTS AT THE 196TH CONVENTION WILL welcome the delegates and priest in charge—the Rev. Sarah Shofstall—from St. Barnabas Episcopal Church in Bay Village, which was one of the five churches recovered last year from breakaway congregations. It will be the first time St. Barnabas has been represented at Convention since 2003. Other special reports at this Convention will include an update on the Camp and Retreat Center with time for discussion. Architect Matt O'Malia and landscape designer Ann Keasley, both of Maine, are working on master plans for the project. The feasibility study will be conducted over the next two months by CCS Fundraising. We will also hear from representatives of our ongoing ministries with the Dioceses of Tanga and Belize, and a report from the Episcopal Service Corps.

Convention is again being held at the Marriott East in Cleveland off of I-271 at Harvard Road. The banquet and Convention Eucharist will be held at Christ Church, Shaker Heights. The format will remain at a day and a half, beginning Friday, November 9 at 1 p.m. and ending Saturday, November 12 by mid-afternoon. Christ Church, Shaker Heights, is on Warrensville Center Road between Farnsley Rd. and Chagrin Blvd. You are encour-

The Rev. Peter Nielsen and Abra Said.



Mary Beroske, David Bingham, and Teresa Kahler from Trinity Church, Toledo.

aged to car pool between the two venues.

Registration begins the morning of the November 9 at the Marriott at 11 a.m. in the hotel atrium. Orientation for new delegates will be held at noon in the ballroom of the hotel. Delegates will receive their folders and business begins at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, ending at 4:15 p.m. Dinner will follow at Christ Church and the Convention Eucharist will be held at 6:30 p.m. The Rev. Gay Jennings, newly elected President of the House of Deputies, will preach. Hotel guests must check out by 12 noon on Saturday to avoid additional fees. Delegates will again be seated by Mission Area.

Resolutions and Changes to the Constitutions and Canons

Only one resolution is slated to come before Convention: the Resolution on Clergy Compensation. Four amendments to the Constitutions are being proposed and seven amendments to the Canons. Several of these clarify previous wording or bring the diocese in line with The Episcopal Church's Constitution and Canons.



Jim Miller, Trinity Church, Findlay.

The Third Proposed Amendment to the Constitution makes consistent the name Episcopal Community Services, dropping Foundation from the name, since ECS is part of the diocesan operations and no longer a 501(c)3 organization. The fourth proposed amendment to the Constitution specifies that parishes in arrears on the day delegate certificates

are canonically due shall retain seat and voice but forfeit their lay vote. Parishes are considered to be in arrears when they fail to pay their Diocesan assessments in full for all months up to and including the last day of the fifth month before Diocesan Convention. The Sixth Proposed Amendment to the Canons brings parity to the consequence for a parish that is in arrears in paying their clergy's pension

fund assessments compared with either lay pension or diocesan assessments. It also enables lay delegates to continue to have seat and voice at the table.

The seventh proposed amendment to the Canons allows the bishop and Standing Committee more opportunity to select the appropriate Ohio-licensed lawyer to represent the diocese in clergy misconduct proceedings under Title IV of the Canons.

It will be the first time St. Barnabas has been represented since 2003.

Elections

In elections this year, Convention will be voting for one person for diocesan trustee, either lay or clergy; one clergy and one lay person for Standing Committee, two clergy and two laity for Diocesan Council; three laity and

one clergy for Episcopal Community Services Development Council. For the Diocesan Disciplinary Board, one clergy and two laity will be elected. Nominations are accepted from the floor of Convention.

As in past years, many qualified individuals are unable to stand for election because many of these committees meet primarily during the workday, Monday through Friday. While there is no simple solution, the Nominating Committee asks the leaders of these committees and commissions to continue discussing and responding to this challenge as they consider how they can best accomplish their work in the future. It is particularly important that they ask whether their meeting days, times, and places foster involvement by leaders from all walks of life and all parts of the Diocese.

Again this year, childcare will be available for children 5 and under of delegates, volunteers, and visitors while Convention is in session.

CONVENTION SCHEDULE

Friday, November 9, 2012

- 11:00 A.M. Registration Opens
- Convention Exhibits Open
- 12:00 P.M. New Delegate Orientation
- 1:00 P.M. Opening Session
- 4:15 P.M. Convention Recess
- 5:00 P.M. Dinner at Christ Church, Shaker Heights
- 6:30 P.M. Eucharist at Christ Church, Shaker Heights

Saturday, November 10, 2012

- 7:30 A.M. Registration Opens
- 8:30 A.M. Convention Reconvenes
- Lunch
- 2:30 P.M. Adjourn

Visit www.dohio.org/convention for the most current information.



GENERAL CONVENTION BRINGS ACCOLADES TO THE DIOCESE OF OHIO, REFLECTIONS FROM OUR YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS ON THE FUTURE OF THE CHURCH

THE 77TH GENERAL CONVENTION OF THE EPISCOPAL Church, held July 5 through July 12 in Indianapolis, brought two important accolades to the Diocese of Ohio. The Rev. Gay Clark Jennings was elected president of the House of Deputies for a three-year term, which began at the end of General Convention. In the Diocese of Ohio, she spent 17 years as Canon to the Ordinary under Bishops Moodey and Grew and more recently, 9 years as Associate Director of CREDO Institute. Jennings has been a deputy to General Convention eight times and she just completed a six-year term on the Episcopal Church's Executive Council. She is a member of The Episcopal Church's delegation to the Anglican Consultative Council, the Anglican Communion's main policy-making body, which met this fall in Auckland, New Zealand.

In addition, Elizabeth Moosbrugger from St. Paul's, Cleveland Heights, was one of four people honored at The Apostles in Transformational Stewardship Awards Reception on July 6 in Indianapolis. Awarded by The Episcopal Network for Stewardship (TENS) in partnership with The Office of Stewardship and the Office of Development of the Episcopal Church, Moosbrugger encouraged 69 of our congregations to find creative ways to raise support for the "Rebuild Our Church in Haiti" Campaign. Her leadership



The Rev. Gay Clark Jennings with her husband, the Rev. Albert Jennings, after she was elected president of the House of Deputies.

inspired us to raise more than 115% of our goal.

Much of the work of General Convention this year involved reimagining the church for the 21st Century, from relocating The Episcopal Church Center at 815 Second Avenue in New York to provisional use of a rite for blessing same-gender unions to calling for a task force to study reform in structures, government and administration. (See Convention Wrap-up at <http://episcopaldigitalnetwork.com/gc2012/>)

In her address to the House of Deputies after her election, Jennings said, "Bishops, deputies, staff, all kinds of people are saying, 'We need change.' I'm not sure we've heard a lot of concrete suggestions, but an appetite to

Elizabeth Moosbrugger of St. Paul's, Cleveland Heights, accepts award from TENS. With her are Bishop Hollingsworth and Paul Winter, the Rev. Alan Gates, and her husband John, all of St. Paul's, Cleveland Heights.



Young Adult Festival attendees at General Convention.

delve into a process of exploration and discernment.”

A number of suggestions for the future of the church did come from our youth representatives to General Convention, however. Julia Robinson, one of two Official Youth Presence representatives from Province V, is a member of Christ Church, Oberlin. The Official Youth Presence allowed for two high school age students from each province (18 in all) to attend Convention with seat and voice in the House of Deputies.

Concurrently, the Young Adult Festival, open to anyone between the ages of 18 and 30 ran for five days. Coming from the Diocese of Ohio were Ally Heeter, St. Paul’s, Cleveland Heights; Luke Taylor, St. Paul’s, Canton; Alex Barton, a second year member of the Episcopal Service Corps working in Cleveland; and the Rev. Zeke (Christopher) Coughlin, who works with college ministry at Bowling Green State University and is a member of the Task Group on Young Adult and Campus Ministry.

Following are some of their stories of General Convention.

WE’RE IN IT FOR THE LOVE

BY JULIA ROBINSON, OFFICIAL YOUTH PRESENCE, DIOCESE OF OHIO

I’ve often said that at the Episcopal Youth Event a year ago, I learned how to love—I learned what it truly means to be “Christian.” At General Convention, I learned how incredible it is to be part of the Episcopal community.

I realize now that I went into the entire process sort of cynically. After my training in April, I was less than enthused. I expected that when I got to Convention, angry, jaded adults fighting one another—not because

they love Jesus, but just because they want to be right—would surround me.

I found something much different.

The first committee meeting I spoke at was in regard to a resolution about Open Table (a resolution about Baptism being a precondition for participation in Holy Communion). I spoke in favor; another member of the Official Youth Presence and close friend of mine spoke against the resolution.

As I listened to the testimonies of all the people, I realized it wasn’t an argument between two dueling viewpoints. It was a conversation about the best way to honor Jesus. [Should we] protect the sanctity of the body or share it with all of God’s children?

No one appealing to Program, Budget and Finance was trying to cut anyone down, and the committee members had the hard decision of deciding not who was the most legitimate, but how to facilitate groups, each as Holy as the next, with limited funds.

There was fierce determination from some people to truly “Welcome” people to the church as we declare we do on websites, posters and bumper stickers everywhere.

I was blown away. And I realized that’s what’s truly different about putting a group of Episcopalians together. Generally speaking, we’re in it for the love.

On one of our last nights together, Emma, Official Youth Presence from Minnesota, talked about how she knows she wants to go into politics, and she expected to come to Convention and get a lot done. She didn’t expect it to be “clean” because we’re so used to the dirty, slimy game of American politics.

I think it goes so much deeper than politics—it applies to so many aspects of our everyday lives. You shine a bad light on someone else to make yourself look better. Selfish intentions. We’re so used to not really trusting one another. But not in our Christian community—at the heart of it all is love.

Call me naïve, but at the end of the day, this is why I

*The world
will always need
love, and after
my experiences at
General Convention,
I know the Episcopal
Church is based on
love.*

Julia Robinson, Official
Youth Presence

won't really fear for the Episcopal Church. The world will always need love, and after my experiences at General Convention, I know the Episcopal Church is based on love.

I entered Convention a sixteen-year-old, not sure of who I was or what the world is really about. And I left, a sixteen-year-old, not sure of who I am or what this crazy world is all about. But I also left Convention one hundred percent positive of what type of person I'd like to be.

An Episcopalian. ☺

YOUTH BRING NEW IDEAS, EMBRACE FUNDAMENTAL PRACTICES

BY THE REV. CHRISTOPHER (ZEKE)
COUGHLIN

I had the opportunity to speak with our Presiding Bishop after she met with a group from the Young Adult Festival at this year's General Convention. She said a fascinating thing: As we integrate the younger generations into

the structures of authority within our Church, we may have to ask again questions that many feel have already been answered.

Her words kept repeating in my mind as I spoke with many of the young adults who came to the festival. It seemed that so many of these men and women

were asking again fundamental questions about our faith and denomination and coming up with different answers than many of their parents.

The hot topics of debate on the floor of the convention were not always the hot topics of conversation among the young adults. Same-sex relationships and unions were a non-issue for every young adult with whom I personally spoke. Instead, I heard a concern for defining and focusing more on the roots of our

tradition and faith. One woman I spoke with quoted a survey saying that most young adults don't want a new hymnal; they want to learn the hymns we already have. One young man was vehement about not creating new worship materials, but returning to the Book of Common Prayer as what unites us as a denomination. I heard a young seminarian keep asking someone to define Episcopal identity at panel after panel only to have no one give him an answer that satisfied him.

Desire for Tradition

The common themes I heard over and over again were praise for our inclusivity, a desire to maintain our tradition, and a cry to be defined by our relationship with God and Jesus Christ, rather than by our relationships with the political institutions of this world.

While not true of every young adult, most of those with whom I spoke wanted to keep the good progress we have achieved, but also to focus ardently on returning to what is ancient and traditional. This desire is not so different from that held by those who led the Protestant Reformation. Perhaps if we have the courage to do what the Presiding Bishop says, to ask again questions that we feel have already been answered, we may have another Reformation on our hands.

The conversations I had at the Young Adult Festival left me feeling very confident in the current and future state of our Church. The Holy Spirit is moving in the hearts of our young adults, and the young adults are both moving forward and returning to the past with faith and conviction.

FAR FROM DEAD: PERSONAL REFLECTIONS ON THE 76TH GENERAL CONVENTION FROM A YOUNG ADULT EPISCOPALIAN

BY LUKE TAYLOR, ST. PAUL'S, CANTON

As a newer parishioner within the Episcopal Church (I began attending St. Paul's, Canton, in November 2010 and was confirmed December 2011), I have been very interested in learning more about the governance, polity, and structures of The Episcopal Church (TEC). I have also developed an interest in becoming more involved in the life and ministry of TEC and, given that most religious institutions can be esoteric, I saw learning these things about TEC as necessary. So when I looked into

the 76th General Convention and all the different things that would be happening there, I decided to attend as an observer. The Young Adult Festival (YAF), programmed and hosted by the Young Adult/Campus Ministries Office of TEC, provided just that kind of opportunity.

We could sit in on hearings, some of us could contribute testimony to the committees, attend Community Eucharist every morning, and meet leaders within TEC. It also gave many of us young adults a chance to meet other Episcopalians our age who are experiencing some of the same things in life and have similar interests in being active members of TEC.

Now that I have been home for a few months and have had time to digest my experience, I would like to share with you a few take-away reflections from my experience.

- The Episcopal Church is not dying, but it is changing, perhaps in ways that are perceived by some as dying. The Episcopal Church that I observed at General Convention is a vibrant and dynamic one with its hands hard at work in many different areas. By the third day, I had learned of so many ministries, organizations, and missions, all of which are doing good work in the United States and around the world. I realized that life in our local parishes may sometimes become insular and self-focused and the length and breadth of TEC and all its work is forgotten or unknown. This put into perspective

for me how much we have going for us as we move into this Century.

- There is a strong but largely unrecognized collection of young people within TEC who want to become more involved in their parishes and dioceses. Many of us, though, are at a loss about where

to begin. Simply put, TEC, our dioceses, and our parishes are not doing enough to recognize young leaders within their ranks and encourage them to pursue roles in lay ministry, whether



Julia Robinson and Luke Tayler with Bishop Hollingsworth.

unofficial—through volunteering and organizing activities, or official—through vestries or liturgical assistants.

- The work of the laity is valuable and irreplaceable. This may seem obvious, since in any given parish the clergy are outnumbered greatly by their congregations. Even in a modest parish like St. Paul's, Canton, which I would guess has an average Sunday attendance of about 75 or 80, there are only two clergy—the priest and the deacon. These two very important people cannot be expected to handle all the needs and ministries both inside and out of the parish. While I was at General Convention, surrounded by the ordained and many young adults interested in ordination or already beginning their discernment processes, I felt more resolved than ever that I am called to be active in the lay ministry and leadership of TEC in whatever parish I attend. It is the laity that needs to be more active in making the Way of Jesus known.

When only a few do the work—remember the old adage that 90% do 10% of the work and 10% do 90%—the effectiveness of the community is severely strained and expanding the parish's work becomes impossible.

I am happy to be a part of this community of faith and was delighted by the opportunity to attend General Convention. I would encourage everyone to attend, if only for a day, to get a glimpse of the church at work, doing the messy but important work of governance and polity. Not only was it fascinating, but I also returned with enthusiasm and appreciation for The Episcopal Church.

WORK WITH THE DIOCESE OF TANGA CONTINUES

BY BRENDAN KNOBLAUCH

WE'VE MADE SOME GREAT STRIDES WITH our diocese's relationship with the Diocese of Tanga during the summer. I spent three months in Tanga furthering the health partnership, along with developing strategies to connect young people at the parish level. I met the Rt. Rev. Maimbo Mndolwa during his short visit to the diocese from his Ph.D. course in South Africa. He should finish up his graduate program by next year, and continue his effort of building up his diocese. Bishop Mndolwa is very supportive of our friendship and efforts to assist their diocesan health facilities. He is very excited to visit our diocese soon and meet many more of our parishioners.

This summer we continued the health partnership with St. Raphael's hospital. Mary Bower, MD, from St. Paul's, Fremont, returned along with Larry Mackey from New Life, Uniontown, to orientate the hospital staff on the equipment

we sent last year. On August 31, we shipped our second Medwish container to St. Raphael's, which will arrive in late October. In the container are mannequins for the nursing school's skills laboratory, life monitors for the operating theater, hospital beds, and many other vital supplies and equipment.

In addition, New Life, Uniontown, and St. Michael's in the Hills, Toledo, along with parishes from the Central East Mission Area collected over 300 new bed sheets for the hospital.

Medwish has been a fantastic partner and has helped to expand our network to other organizations. They

"The world is becoming a global village and it is imperative that bright, young students from all over the world learn about the culture, economics and environmental circumstances in different countries."



Dr. Mary Bower (St. Paul's, Fremont) with local Korogwe medical officers and physicians.

informed Brother's Brother Foundation of Pittsburg (a charitable organization dedicated to improving world health) about our health project in Tanzania. Brother's Brother Foundation was so impressed with our diocesan health partnership that they offered to pay for the shipment of the container from Cleveland to Dar es Salaam, saving us \$5,500. That savings will purchase a backup generator for the hospital and other needed infrastructure equipment. We are now in the process of developing a partnership with Medwish and Brother's Brother to expand the project to other Anglican health institutions in the Diocese of Tanga.

Building Capacity

With the support we provided to St. Raphael's last year in equipment, supplies, and training, the hospital has built enough capacity to receive further support from the Tanzanian government. Currently, the hospital has a service agreement with the Korogwe Town Council, which helps to fund the care of pregnant women and children less than five years of age free of charge.

Due to the new equipment, the Korogwe Town Council with the support of the ministry of health has approved the elevation of St. Raphael's to a Council Designated Hospital next year. That designation means that the hospital will receive further funding for medicine

and manpower from the government. In essence, we have leveraged our relatively small investment in medical equipment and supplies to gain further support from other sources. The hospital is in the process of registering a new nursing school and hopes to be certified so it can begin classes in early October. We provided the hospital with books, models and other training aids, which fulfill many of the requirements for certification. With our help, St. Raphael's will provide nursing training for rural youths. We are making a difference!

We are also creating a youth environmental initiative between both dioceses. The rural areas of the Diocese of Tanga are turning into desert because of deforestation for fuel. And we are plagued by our addiction to energy, setting us up for an unsustainable environmental future. In the summer of 2013 we plan to send approximately five college aged students from our diocese to Tanzania for a month to partner with the same number of students from the Diocese of Tanga. The students from both dioceses will visit charcoal makers, nomadic pastoral herdsmen, farmers and others who depend on the land for subsistence. Their task is to develop diocesan and parish level strategies to change the effects of environmental degradation.

The following year, we plan to invite five students from Tanga to our diocese to work with our students on developing environmental projects unique to our community. One possible project is work on the proposed camp and retreat center. The world is becoming a global village and it is imperative that bright, young students from all over the world learn about the culture, economics and environmental circumstances in different countries. Young people are also our diocese's

ambassadors of the future. We hope that this will become a program that will attract youth from all over both dioceses, so that the Tanga-Ohio relationship can become an example for global sustainability in the Anglican Communion and the rest of the world.

We have many other exciting events on the horizon. We are beginning to plan our January trip to Tanga, which will include a medical team, diocesan relationship building team, and a parish-to-parish relationship building team. With the support of Medwish and Brother's Brother, we plan to ship a third container in February. In March, Dr. Mpundu and a St. Raphael's nurse will visit Ohio again to continue forging rela-



Dr. Mary Bower at one of three ECG training sessions.

tionships with medical professionals and institutions in our diocese. We have come a long way, and we hope to develop more opportunities for parishioners to become involved in this companionship. If you are interested in becoming involved, have ideas or questions, please email me at bdk40@case.edu.

50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival committee would like to announce the 50th year of Festival presentations, to be held this year on Saturday, December 29, 2012, at 3PM: (ASL interpreted for the deaf community, by reservation), and at 5:30PM (note slight change in this later presentation time). The dress rehearsal for this year's Boar's Head will be the evening of Thursday, December 27, beginning at 8:30PM, and it will be open to the public.

Come and celebrate with us, especially if you happen to be a member of Boar's Head Alumni! We'd also like to hear from anyone who would like to help with sewing or be a part of this year's cast...(especially the alumni).

Contact e-mail: boarsheadfestival@hotmail.com

YOU BETTA BELIZE IT!

BY THE REV. JEFFREY BAKER

THIS SUMMER THE DIOCESE OF OHIO SPONSORED a mission trip to Belize to further the relationship with our Anglican sisters and brothers there. Several campers from Belize had visited Camp Cedar Hills and several parishioners in our diocese last year, so it was our turn to return the favor. I accompanied four students who made the journey—Mike Nielsen and Vanessa Thompson from St. James, Painesville; Lizzie Metzger from St. Mark's, Shelby; and Amanda Baker from Christ Church, Warren.

We wanted to continue our relationships with the kids we met last year at Camp. In fact, we hosted four teenage girls with my two girls the week afterward...I was sorely outnumbered! The four kids we took down to Belize all had camp counselor experience per the request of our Belizean hosts, including the Rt. Rev. Philip Wright and the Rev. Barbara McBride. We did some leadership training with the group of counselors from both Dioceses, and together the counselors developed the agenda for our Christian Camp later in our visit.

“I was not chosen to go to Belize, Belize chose me and so did God.”

Lizzie Metzger



Pictured with the Rev. Jeffrey Baker are Michael Nielsen, Bishop Wright, Vanessa Thompson, Amanda Baker, and Beverly Brown in back row. In front are the Rev. Barbara McBride, Briannie Young, Lizzie Metzger, and Adrian Sosa.

March for Jesus

Our hosts were so gracious and invited us to participate in multiple events to help celebrate their cathedral's 200th anniversary. The night that we arrived, Bishop Wright graciously invited us to a gala awards banquet given in honor of the many 'saints' of St. John the Baptist Anglican Cathedral. Later we walked the impoverished streets of Belize City on an ecumenical 'March for Jesus' with several thousand other Christians singing, dancing, and praying along the way (which was nationally televised!) In addition, we helped cook and distribute lunches for the Cathedral's Soup Kitchen. We visited the Ancient Mayan City of Xunantunich and took a boat ride out to Caye Caulker. We ended the week in the jungle—at Monkey Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, where we held our Christian Camp. At camp we visited a local zoo with indigenous animals and made Anglican Rosaries and learned how to pray with them.

Still, the real benefits of this experience were in the relationships we built with one other and the transfor-

Campers and visitors at camp (Monkey Bay).



Vanessa Thompson and Mike Nielsen.

mation that took place within the group. Lizzie Metzger said, “I was not chosen to go to Belize, Belize chose me and so did God. When I first heard about this mission trip I knew I was supposed to go. I fought for it for over a year because I felt in my heart I was meant to be there.”

Vanessa Thompson said, “The biggest thing that [impressed me] was that we went down there not necessarily just for a good time; we weren’t always entertained. We sometimes had to make our own fun. Like one day at camp, it rained more than I thought possible and we were supposed to go to the river and go canoeing, but we couldn’t because the water was too high. So, we ended up playing soccer in the mud! I want to be a teacher and adaptability is going to serve me well in the future.”

“I saw God in Monkey Bay,” said Mike Nielsen. “When we were

The Rev. Jeff Baker snake handling in the jungle.

able to have the time of our lives playing ‘mud soccer’ in the rainforest, God was present. The Belizeans treated us like old friends and even asked if we would be coming back next year. That in itself says a ton about the impact both cultures had on each other.”

Amanda Baker said, “My experience in Belize was life changing. I experienced a different culture, which helped me grow to accept a foreign way of life. The funny thing is that I liked their slower pace of life better than what I find in my own life here at home sometimes. And I loved all the fresh fruit too!”



We really bonded with our hosts and with each other, a remarkable feat in such a short period of time.

The relationships we formed will last a lifetime. “God sent us to this place to help spread God’s love and kindness, but in the end we received even more than we gave,” said Lizzie. Was our visit worthwhile and will we be going back given the opportunity? “You betta Belize it!”

CLERGY CHANGES

The Rev. Michael Petrochuk has been appointed Deacon-in-Charge at St. Andrew’s Church, Barberton.

The Rev. Lisa O’Rear-Lassen has been appointed Deacon-in-Charge at St. Patrick’s Church, Brunswick.

The Rev. Melonie Sunderland begun as Interim Rector at St. Andrew’s Church, Elyria.

The Rev. Rosalind Hughes has been appointed Priest-in-Charge at Church of the Epiphany, Euclid.

The Rev. David Kendall-Sperry has been appointed Priest-in-Charge at St. Paul’s Church, Mount Vernon.

The Rev. John Keller ended his time as Interim Rector for Church of the Epiphany, Euclid.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

THE BLESSINGS OF OUR CONNECTIONS

By Carol Dietrich-Himes

St. James Church in the Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota burned to the ground July 25, 2012, on the feast day of St. James the Apostle. This parish was founded in 1890 in the town of Cannon Ball on the Standing Rock reservation, serving the poorest of the poor. The U.S. Census shows that from 2006–2010, the poverty level was 47%. Alcoholism and unemployment are high. Two young people, who were drinking, may have started the fire accidentally. The loss is huge for the believers in this little town. There is no grocery store, no service station, and almost no sense of hope for some of the townspeople. Almost.

A tragic loss, to be sure, but what does it have to do with northern Ohio? When suburban Church of the Good Shepherd, Lyndhurst, called the Rev. David Chalk as priest in 1993, part of their intention was that his experience with missions would broaden the congregation's horizons. It did. Soon the youth group was readying to make a bus trip from Ohio to North Dakota to run a one-week Vacation Bible School on the Standing Rock Reservation. Chalk had gone to seminary with the Rev. John Floberg, who was serving at St. James, and still does to this day.

Among all the other challenges on an impoverished reservation, Floberg was facing another unusual problem: the demographic of middle-aged people in the region was largely missing. The government had invited Native Americans to move to cities to find better economic opportunities. Floberg was convinced that the future church leadership would be comprised of children who grew up in the community. For this reason, when parishes wanted to do mission work, he invited them to come and minister to the children.

Run a VBS? Travel out of state on a mission trip? Good Shepherd's youth group leaders felt unequipped for what they would do and what they would find. Despite preparing the best they could and carrying with them the prayers of the entire Good Shepherd congrega-

Photo from Episcopal News Service



The fire that burned down St. James Church in the Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota.

tion, that first year the group felt like they were driving off into the great unknown. Floberg had told them that what they brought would be less important than what relationships they formed.

When people feel underprepared, it's easier to see

God's power at work, since success cannot be attributed to human power.

When Jesus readied the twelve to go out into the world, healing and proclaiming the good news, he exhorted them to trust. He "told them: 'Take nothing for the journey—no staff, no bag, no bread, no money, no extra shirt'" (Luke 9:3).

Stepping out in faith, the trip was so successful that it became an annual tradition—even after Chalk departed, through the transition, and into the tenure of the Rev. Brad Purdom.

The youth group prepared the VBS materials during the school year. In the summer, Good Shepherd members boarded a commercial bus for hours of travel and bonding time. But most importantly, at the Standing Rock, relationships were begun and strengthened year by year. City folks were able to see a different kind of life on the Standing Rock but also a common humanity.

The youth, in particular, were transformed. They returned and witnessed to the congregation of epipha-

"The youth, in particular, were transformed. They returned and witnessed to the congregation of epiphanies and encounters with God."

nies and encounters with God. Emily Stewart, one of the former youth group members recalled her experience during the mission trip. (See Emily Stewart's article to the right.) Recently on a Sunday at Good Shepherd, Rob Lisy, another former youth group member, recounted some memories of the mission trips. He spoke of overcoming the misunderstandings between cultures and forming a community and emphasized the need to support the congregation of St. James as it recovers from the fire.

After nine years, Good Shepherd's youth group wasn't large enough to support a trip anymore, but the members who had attended over the years kept in contact with their

brothers- and sisters-in-Christ in North Dakota. Staying in touch has become even easier with Facebook. Good Shepherd's Debbie Lisy, in particular, brings St. James friends' needs to the attention of the prayer chain.

One such prayer request was the shocking news that St. James Church had burned to the ground. Floberg's vision has proved right. The children have grown to young adults and formed a community, but now their place of worship is gone. From those who have little, much was taken. But now there is an opportunity to help them. The last time the church was re-built, the congregation could only afford wood, not stone. With the generosity of the Christian community, we can trust that their House of God will be re-built. We hope that very soon St. James Church will rise again on the Standing Rock to continue its century-long tradition of worship and service.

So what can be done?

We can mail contributions to the Diocese of North Dakota, 3600 25th St. S, Fargo, ND 58104 or donate on the website of the Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota: <http://www.ndepiscopal.org/2012/07/donations-to-st-james-cannon-ball/>.

For the Episcopal News Service article, go to the website of the Diocese of North Dakota (<http://www.ndepiscopal.org/>). On the sidebar at the right, the middle link takes you to the article.

“Floberg was convinced that the future church leadership would be comprised of children who grew up in the community.”

A CALL TO ACTION

By Emily Stewart, Church of the Good Shepherd, Lyndhurst

My involvement with Standing Rock Reservation affected my life in more ways than I can possibly measure. I was skeptical when we first arrived in Cannonball, North Dakota, in the summer of 1996, among a group of teens and adults on a mission trip from Church of the Good Shepherd in Lyndhurst, Ohio. I was 14 years old and struggling with my own identity, my belief in God, and my purpose in life. I wasn't sure why we were there.

But something in me changed that week. I stepped out of my comfort zone, into a community ravaged by unemployment and poverty, and was brought to tears by the unjust disparity between my own lifestyle and what I saw on the reservation. I realized the critical need for the expression of God's love, between our community and the people of the reservation; for communication and trust despite differences of race, culture and economic status.

At a time when most teenagers are focused only on their own needs and desires, I experienced a call to action that redirected my entire life. Due to the generosity and support of the Good Shepherd community, our group returned to Standing Rock every summer for the next eight years. After college, I joined the Peace Corps and traveled to the island nation of Dominica where I served as a Community Development Officer among rural populations. In my professional career, I have worked to support organizations that build and strengthen relationships between people of different ethnic backgrounds. It is my deep and sincere belief that these relationships will transform individual lives, strengthen families and empower communities.

I would not be who I am today if it weren't for our mission trips to North Dakota. As youth group alumni, my husband Ben and I are honored to support the Standing Rock community as they work to rebuild St. James church, and we pray for strength, unity and grace as they look to the future.

ALL FAITHS PANTRY RESPONDS TO LOCAL NEEDS

By Jeffrey Fowler

In response to our Baptismal Covenant, the mission of the Church Home is to assist the elderly persons within the Diocese of Ohio through the initiation and/or support of programs, which address their housing needs; and/or which provide services and assistance necessary

for them to maintain their dignity and enhance their quality of life.

—*The Church Home Mission Statement*

The Mission of AFP is to alleviate hunger by providing free healthy groceries to low-income seniors and those with mobility challenges.

—*All Faiths Pantry Mission Statement*

It is a sweltering Saturday in July. Two food delivery teams from All Saints' Episcopal Church in Parma pull into the parking lot of the Educator, a senior living community located in Parma Heights. Moments later John Visnauskas, Executive Director of All Faiths Pantry (AFP), arrives with a truck full of bagged groceries.

The partnership between All Saints and All Faiths Pantry goes back several years. "All Saints was one of our earliest partners," Visnauskas points out. "I sometimes mix up the similar names when I talk with people."

All Saints' parishioner Marcia Day knocks on Joan's door. Joan, who has lived at the Educator for four years, is no longer able to drive, but can still take care of herself around her apartment. She smiles as she opens the door. Her daughter Jen Kunesh and her two-year-old granddaughter Ellie accompany Day. Day and Kunesh have delivered free groceries to Joan for over three years. Ellie was a member of the team since before she was born.

"We generally deliver food to the same people every month," Day explains. "We develop a real friendship with them. This is a wonderful, mutually beneficial ministry. They are so very glad to see us – especially Ellie. And we love sharing our time with them. It is not so much the delivery of a service. It is a visit with friends."



All Saints' packing team.



A delivery at the Educator.

A Simple Ministry to Set Up

"Not only are seniors and homebound individuals fed,"

Visnauskas says "but the volunteers are also nourished by the spiritual exchange of helping one another. We draw many of our volunteers from local congregations. Ours is a simple ministry for a church to set up. The only thing needed is two volunteers who are willing to commit up to three hours every month."

Another team from All Saints packed the groceries earlier in the day. Senior Warden Ruthann Wasil, her husband Greg, and Gil Fritzsche prepared nearly 50 paper grocery bags for delivery. This team frequently helps deliver to the 26 households at the Educator as well.

According to the Ohio Poverty Report, published by the Ohio Department of Development in 2011, the number of Ohioans age 75-plus living in poverty rose from 501,000 to 702,000 over 20 years. According to Visnauskas a significant portion of these people are underserved by traditional emergency food programs. "There are many people over 60 who are unable to transport themselves to food pantries. It is this hole in service that AFP aspires to close."

Many of AFP's recipients are members of the "Greatest Generation". They lived through the depression and served their country during World War II. They are proud people who never dreamed that they would one day fall into poverty. Some were reluctant to receive food for fear that they would be depriving others.

"[W]e love sharing our time with them. It is not so much the delivery of a service. It is a visit with friends."

Marcia Day

“We also serve a significant population of people who suffer from debilitating diseases such as multiple sclerosis and epilepsy” according to Visnauskas. Like many of our seniors, they are unable to transport themselves to pantries to pick up food.”

“Logistics is one of the biggest challenges for a program such as ours,” points out Visnauskas. “We deliver groceries directly to 400 recipients. That is potentially expensive. We overcome this challenge by recruiting small delivery teams, often from faith organizations—hence our name—but also from civic organizations and individual volunteers. Volunteer organizations, such as Helping Hands, also supply teams.”

Financing Presents Challenge

“Another challenge is financing. There is government support available for programs like Meals on Wheels, which delivers prepared meals, usually for a charge. However, there are no corresponding funds available for delivering groceries. For this reason we rely heavily on grants and fundraisers to pay the bills.”

All Faiths’ Pantry has received accolades for its efforts. In 2010 AFP received the Innovative Program of the Year award from the Cleveland Foodbank. Since then AFP has been recognized by Parma Law Director Tim Dobeck, Cleveland City Council, Parma City Council, former Parma Mayor Dean DePiero, Ohio Senator Michael Skindell, and United States Senator Sherrod Brown.

“Despite our success, we are not interested in growing into a mega-charity.” According to Visnauskas, “I feel that small, local efforts are more effective at meeting the needs of the people we serve. We encourage others to build their own programs using our model—and we can help.”



In 2008 AFP was instrumental in helping the Parma Heights Food Pantry get off the ground,

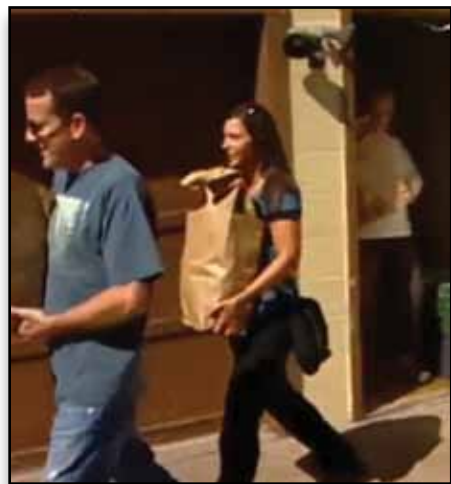
Director John Visnauskas and a volunteer load a truck of food.

“We would love to see programs like ours spring up around the state. And we would love to help.”

**John Visnauskas,
Executive Director of All Faiths Pantry**

paying for its first month’s rent and helping to paint their storefront. Parma Baptist Church, which supplied a volunteer team to AFP for five years, launched its own mobile pantry in 2011—again with AFP help.

But ties with the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio run deep.



Delivery team from All Saints’.

- All Saints Parma has fielded teams for over five years.
- For the last four years the diocese has supported All Faiths’ Pantry with generous Episcopal Church Home grants.
- A presentation to the Cuyahoga Mission Area Council in the fall of 2011 resulted in inquiries from two parishes interested in establishing their own programs. Conversations continue and one parish may kick off a program in the fall of 2012.
- There have been three Episcopalians who have served on the Board of Directors of AFP.

“The Episcopal Church has been very sympathetic [to] our cause” says Visnauskas. “We share common concerns for the most vulnerable among us. It is our hope that we will continue to deepen our relationship with the Diocese of Ohio. We would love to see programs like ours spring up around the state. And we would love to help.”

To find out more about All Faiths’ Pantry’s mission and how you can join in, please visit www.allfaithspantry.org. Contact information is available on the site.

“Ellie is expecting a little brother or sister in a few months “ says Day. We will be thrilled to add another ‘volunteer’ to the cause.”



NEWS FROM THE ECW TRIENNIAL MEETING

THE WEST MISSION AREA HOSTED THE 135TH Annual Meeting of the ECW in Toledo last May. Our guests included the Bishop of Ohio, the Rt. Rev. Hollingsworth, Bishop and Mrs. Williams and Bishop and Mrs. Bowman. Two representatives of the ECW Province V Board—President Joanna Gesicki and National Board Representative Valerie Hoffman-Hatcher joined us. The Keynote Speaker was the Rt. Rev. Michael Bruce Curry, Bishop of North Carolina, who spoke twice and gave the sermon at our Eucharist. Throughout his talks he stressed that God created a family rather than this world of fragmented beliefs and ideals that serve man, rather than God.

What Are the Values We Stand For?

Bishop Curry spent a sabbatical in the Holy Land focusing on the Sermon on the Mount in the Gospel of Matthew. He reminded us of the continuum between the five books of the Hebrew Bible and the life of Jesus—just as Matthew did when he reminded us that Jesus was a direct descendent of Abraham. Jesus, like Moses, brings God’s wisdom to all people, without tribal or religious distinction. Jesus emphasized helping the people who were out of society’s mainstream to remind us that we are one family in God’s eyes.

A danger of modern life, both secular and religious, is that we “pick and choose” what we want to believe, without taking the time to evaluate the context, both current and historical, in which things are written or produced. Much of a faithful life in the 21st century, irrespective of where we are born, what faith we hold, what ethnic group we belong to, or what gender we are is built on concepts and understandings that originated centuries ago. If we know the history of those times, perhaps they make sense, but with the wisdom we believe we have today, shouldn’t we know

“As we look to the future of ECW we need to consider the impact of this specialization on the role of the ECW.”



Margaret Folger (center), recipient of the Province V Distinguished Woman Award with ECW President Barbara Johansen and the Rev. Paul Johansen.

better? Should we not embrace the fact that God calls us to move beyond man-made barriers and believe in salvation, hope, mission and the family of humankind?

UTO

UTO is close to our hearts and the Bishop told us about a visit to Burundi shortly after the end of their civil war. The city was devastated but the delegation saw, rising among the rubble, a building with the word “PEACE” carved over the door. It was the old Archdiocesan building, which had been made possible by money from UTO. Can we perhaps hope that it survived because of what it represented—a gift from one family member to another?

Triennial Meeting

To get to the Triennial Plenary Sessions, we had to pass through the General Convention area. Our first impression was that of a mini United Nations but with smiles. It was unlike any convention I’d ever attended and I learned that there are many shades of purple!

Like all Conventions, the ECW Triennial had business to address including the presentation of crosses to the delegates by the Presiding Bishop and the election of a new Board, along with presentations from various orga-

nizations that have been supported during the current Triennium. In addition, delegates could choose from a wide range of workshops to help us move forward in faith and function. Of more general interest were:

The **Distinguished Women** were presented to the Triennial by representatives of their Dioceses and received a certificate and a commemorative badge. It was moving to hear about the diversity of the service that these special women have given, not only to their own Parish and community, but also to the world at large.

As always, the **United Thank Offering** featured prominently on the agenda. The UTO Board was joined by members of a commission established by The Episcopal Church to review the work and processes of UTO and its interaction not only with The Episcopal Church but also the entire Anglican Communion. It affirmed the integrity of the UTO process and made only minor changes to some administrative procedures.

A combined ECW and UTO banquet was held for the first time and it was sold out. The Ohio Delegates had the pleasure of being joined by the Bishops of Costa Rica, El Salvador and Panama and their coordinator. The conversations were enlightening not only regarding the Church but the social and political evolution of their countries. Did you know that President Noriega had asked Bishop Barahona if he could meet with Archbishop Tutu when he was in the area? And he did!

The Keynote Speaker was the Rev. Petero Sabune from the Diocese of New York who spoke about the impact of the UTO throughout the world and his work as a Chaplain at Sing Sing Prison in New York State.

The Eucharist on Sunday, July 8 included the UTO Ingathering with the Presiding Bishop officiating. During the course of the service, she emphasized the role that the Episcopal Church Women and its United Thank Offering plays and has always played in the life of The Episcopal Church.

The ECW was created to serve the needs of the Church but we saw many other groups represented at Triennial that serve more specific needs. It reminds us that as we look to the future of ECW we need to consider the impact of this specialization on the role of the ECW.

Great pride and a little sadness hit us when we received a whispered message that the Rev. Gay Jennings had been elected as President of the House of Deputies. Pride that the first ordained women elected to the role was from our Diocese and sadness that we were not there to see it happen.

Christ HAS NO BODY NOW BUT YOURS

BY BETTY KONDRICH

SHARING THE GIFTS GOD HAS GENEROUSLY GIVEN
us transforms the communities in which we live and strengthens the relationships our churches have with neighbors. The Bishop's Appeal raises money for Episcopal Community Services (ECS), which in turn makes program grants to parishes that help the hungry, the homeless, and those without adequate health care, as well as parishes that provide safe housing and life skills to those in need.

This summer eight parishes received \$500.00 each in order to offer programming for children. A total of \$4,600.00 went towards seven parish-sponsored Youth Mission Trips. The money raised this year will help 41 parish-based programs and non-profit agencies in the Diocese. It will also assist recently ordained clergy; hire diocesan interns for high school and college-aged students; underwrite the costs of seminary and post ordination formation; and bring opportunities for spiritual formation to our children, youth and college students. You are invited to mail the attached envelope and join others from around the diocese in supporting these ministries. You may also give online at www.dohio.org/offices/stewardshipdevelopment/donate-now.

Consider becoming a Bishop's Partner with a gift totaling \$1,000.00 or more in 2012. If you have questions or seek more information, contact Lael Carter, Development Officer for the Diocese at 216-774-0463 or lcarter@dohio.org.

The theme for this year's 2012 Bishop's Annual Appeal is "Christ has no body now but yours," from a writing by Teresa of Avila, a 16th century Spanish mystic. Through our combined gifts every person and church can contribute to the health and well being of our Diocese.

It is through Christ in which we are united (Col. 2:6). We are the hands, the feet, the eyes, the heart of Christ, called to do Christ's work in the world with hearts full of gratitude for all God has given us.

ChurchLife!

Trinity Commons
2230 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44115-2499

calendar highlights

November 9-10

196th Annual Diocesan Convention

Cleveland Marriott East, Warrensville Heights. Contact the Rev. Alan James, 216-774-0457 or ajames@dohio.org.

November 20

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

12:00PM. Trinity Cathedral, Cleveland. Contact the Bishop's Office, 216-774-0457 or ecole@dohio.org.

November 22-23

Diocesan Offices closed for Thanksgiving

December 24-January 1

Diocesan Offices closed for Christmas and New Year's Holidays

December 29

Boar's Head & Yule Log Festival 50th Presentation Year

Trinity Cathedral, Cleveland. No ticketing/admission fee. There will be a free will offering. Contact Trinity Cathedral, 216-771-3630.

January 25-27

Happening Staff Retreat

Grace Church, Sandusky. For those youth selected to the Happening staff. Contact the Rev. Vincent Black, 216-774-0453 or vblack@dohio.org.

January 25 and 26

Medieval Feast

Trinity Cathedral, Cleveland. Order tickets early for the best seats! www.medievalfeast.org

February 1-2

Winter Convocation

Contact Antoinette Taylor, ataylor@dohio.org or 216-774-0476.

February 22-24

Happening

Grace Church, Sandusky. For youth in 9th-12th grades who have not previously attended Happening. Contact the Rev. Vincent Black, 216-774-0453 or vblack@dohio.org.

April 19-21

Spring Youth Gathering

Grace Church, Mansfield. For youth in 7th-12th grades. Contact the Rev. Vincent Black, 216-774-0453 or vblack@dohio.org.

May 31-June 2

Youth Leadership Training

Cedar Hills Camp and Conference Center. For youth in 10th-12th grades not previously trained as a youth leader. Contact the Rev. Vincent Black, 216-774-0453 or vblack@dohio.org.

Bishops' Visitations

November

4 Church of the Redeemer, Lorain (Hollingsworth)

18 St. Paul's Church, Cleveland Heights (Persell)

18 St. Stephen's Church, East Liverpool (Hollingsworth)

December

2 St. Bartholomew's Church, Mayfield Village (Hollingsworth)

2 St. Andrew's Church, Mentor (Bowman)

2 St. Thomas' Church, Port Clinton (Williams)

9 St. Peter's Church, Ashtabula (Hollingsworth)

9 Trinity Church, Findlay (Williams)

16 St. Paul's Church, Bellevue (Hollingsworth)

16 St. Christopher's by the River, Gates Mills (Williams)

January

13 St. Matthew's Church, Brecksville (Hollingsworth)

20 St. Mark's Church, Canton (Hollingsworth)

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