



CHURCH

THE MAGAZINE OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF OHIO

Life

FALL 2015





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The Rt. Rev. Mark Hollingsworth, Jr.

CHURCH LIFE! MAGAZINE

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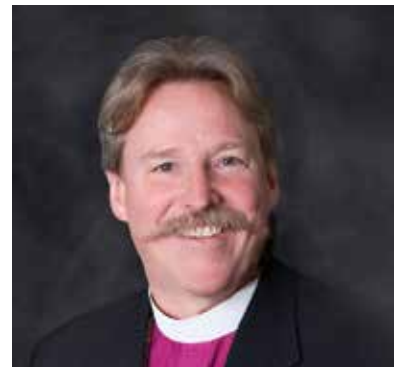
Cover photo by the Rev. Jennifer Leider. Bishop Bowman reads to Jennifer's son Ian, age 3, during his visitation in October 2014 at St. Paul's, Oregon.

Photos by: the Rev. Jennifer Leider, the Rev. Dr. Brian Wilbert, Christopher Decatur, the Rev. Jeffrey Bunke, and Carol Diedrichs-Himes

The Rt. Rev. David Charles Bowman

November 15, 1932 – July 10, 2015

Burial Homily preached by the Rt. Rev. Mark Hollingsworth, Jr.,
at Trinity Cathedral, July 18, 2015



David is very much present with us right now. In the theological promise of the resurrection to eternal life through our savior Christ Jesus, he is with us. In the spiritual reality of the communion of saints, through which he has joined the “angels, archangels, and all the company of heaven” that surround us at this moment and always, he is with us. And of course in the physical and biological reality as he lies here in the beautiful coffin he made some years ago, with the help of his then 4-year-old granddaughter, Abby, he is, for these moments of thanksgiving, here with us. But he is also present with us in a way particularly characteristic of David, because everything we are doing this afternoon, in both this service and the reception following, is a result of the extensive and detailed directions he prepared for us – what was to be done, who was to do it, and how it should be carried out. We are singing what he suggested we sing, and we are using Prayer Books and Hymnals, not printed service booklets, we are quite literally worshipping “by the book,” because he believed congregations ought to use the books as a way to explore the riches in them. It may be that the only unscripted element of today’s service is this homily.

It was not that David had control issues; he was relatively generous with others’ perspectives and practices. Rather, he had a clear understanding about what is fitting and how it should be done, and in his self-deprecating, humorous, and endearing way, he most often managed to get us to do it that way. I imagine there are many of you here today who at one time or another found yourselves wondering, “How did I end up doing this?” only to recognize David’s subtle hand in getting you there. And maybe not always so subtle.

Among the various pages of directions “to whom it may concern” about what should be done at the time of his death, “Edition 5 [which] supplants #1, #2, #3, and #4,” and is dated December 3, 2006, included the following:

11) Be sure and let my East Racquet Club tennis group know that I will no longer be playing tennis with them. Assure them, they should not take this personally. There is a [file

marked “Tennis” in the gray file box with names and phone numbers. You would only need to call one of them.

Thank you, David, for that last helpful hint.

Attached to this list was another list entitled, “SUGGESTIONS FOR THE FUNERAL LITURGY UPON THE DEMISE OF THE RT. REV. DAVID BOWMAN” (all in capital letters should there be any question about what was really meant by the term “SUGGESTIONS”). One such suggestion was this:

Pall Bearers: Possibly the group from my a.m. tennis group or if they are all too disabled or have already met their own demise, perhaps the regional Deans could serve.

Then, in an email a month later to his friends Tina and Fred Monreal he wrote, “Having watched the precision with which the pall bearers took care of Gerry Ford’s casket, I subsequently learned that they had spent the day before in rehearsal. Then it occurred to me that I should have a rehearsal with my tennis group pall bearers, and I should be present for it so they will do it right and the way I want it done. So the question is can you think of something weighing about 170 lbs that we could put in the casket for the rehearsal other than me, since I will need to be up and about and directing?”

He was clear about how things should be done and was happy to provide direction, or simply to do it himself. Some of you may know that David was the founding Commodore of the South Shore Yacht Club on his beloved Rangeley Lake in Maine. He was also the sole member. He would call me from Rangeley to report on how efficiently the Annual Meeting had gone, and he rode in the Rangeley

Parade in the back of his pickup truck, wearing a blue blazer and a Commodore’s hat with the gold scrambled eggs on the brim, waving to the crowds and listening to people say, “I didn’t know there was a South Shore Yacht Club!!”

His sense of humor disarmed people and situations alike. When he introduced himself at Diocesan Convention as “the

God has provided for
David a safe, welcome,
and firm landing
on the other shore.

senior Assisting Bishop,” by virtue of his being consecrated Bishop of Western New York 27 days before Bishop Williams was consecrated Bishop Suffragan of Ohio, or when in the absence of Arthur and Bill he referred to himself as “the favorite Assisting Bishop,” everyone was more vulnerable, more open to whatever it was he wanted them to understand. And when you called him on the telephone, whether he was home or not, the gravity of whatever you called about was lightened by his response.

The telephone answering machine was designed for David’s entertainment. Often, when I knew the Bowmans were not at home, I would call the house to hear the latest message. “You have reached the client engagement department at the Bowman residence in beautiful Shaker Heights, Ohio. Listen carefully, because our menu has recently been changed.” Or, “You have reached the Bowman home in Rangeley, Maine, headquarters of the South Shore Yacht Club, David Charles, Commodore.” In the last couple of years, whenever I called David on my cell phone and their “Caller ID” would identify me only as a “wireless caller,” David would always answer, “Come in, wireless caller, over.”

In his humility, clarity, and humor, he was the incarnation of “down to earth.” His calm, non-confrontational, yet firm presence always let you know not only that he was with you, immediate and attentive and genuinely caring for you, but that God was with you, and that God was immediate and attentive and genuinely caring for you. He understood that the challenges and struggles of this life are often complex, elusive, and sometimes beyond our ability to resolve. But he equally understood that the most healing response to them required simple honesty, constancy, and fidelity to one another and to God. One might imagine that his years sailing on Rangeley Lake helped form him in this regard, providing particularly good training for episcopal ministry. The winds on inland lakes are fluky and shift unpredictably; squalls and dramatic changes in weather are common; and the many submerged rocks and other obstacles present a constant navigational challenge. They demand a calm spirit, an attentive eye, and a steady hand on the helm. These were qualities that defined him.

David loved his family: his brother Dick, his beloved Nancy, his children Ann, Will, and Sarah, his children-in-law Georgine and Jason, and his granddaughters Abby and Lucy.

He loved the Church, and the communicants and clergy of Western New York, Central New York, and Ohio. He treasured his parochial companions in Euclid, North Grafton,

Canfield, Painesville, Toledo, and here at the Cathedral, and his and Nancy’s countless colleagues in the House of Bishops.

He loved tennis. I played in his early morning league for a winter and quickly came to see how it gave him a healthy outlet for his fiercely competitive spirit, at the same time providing him with a community of friends that was quite separate from his work life. It is profoundly significant that he asked them to bear his pall and escort him to the gates of eternal life.

He loved music, both listening to it and making it. Later in life he took on playing music in a more dedicated way, taking lessons and playing with people whose company he claimed not to deserve. They, of course, knew different. And like his scriptural namesake, about whom Elizabeth read in the First Lesson, he loved the music of worship in its great variety of traditions. Almost to a piece, what we are hearing and singing today, are at David’s direction, and they reflect that love.

He loved good order. His family and anyone who worked for him will attest to this. When our “cottage” of bishops gathered for its bi-weekly lunch meetings, David always arrived with his canvas briefcase, from which he withdrew a folder filled with articles and notes on how we could do our work better. While he often cloaked his seriousness about it in humor (some of you may remember the Clergy Conference at which he presented “David Bowman’s List of Annoying Things Clergy Have Done”), he knew that not rigidity

but good order was something on which the faithful of God need often to rely. That was no doubt connected to his love of the Book of Common Prayer.

He loved the other, no matter who the other was, and for whom he was quick to stand up, to step forward, and to speak out. He had little patience for injustice, great or small, and did not hesitate to confront it in his calm, direct way. And he did not like that Ohio’s State Park facilities had Fox News on the cable TV but did not carry MSNBC, and once after a Clergy Conference he wrote the director to register his dissatisfaction.

He loved root beer without ice. He loved peanuts, especially Heggy’s Fresh Roasted Hard White Peanuts from his hometown of Canton.

And he loved you, just as deeply and fiercely as you love and miss him today. That steady, humble, generous, reliable love that David embodied gave each of us a tangible experience of the immeasurable and ineffable love that God has for him and for you and for each of God’s beloved.



Bishops Hollingsworth and Bowman

The Church of the Good Shepherd in Rangeley is just down Main Street from Moose Alley, the local bowling emporium and watering hole. The church's property runs down to the water, right there on City Cove between Acadia Seaplanes to the west and Lakeside Convenience and Marina to the east. The Church of the Good Shepherd has its own dock, so that those seeking to draw close to God can come by boat, if they prefer. Like many things on the shores of those western Maine lakes, the church's dock takes a beating winter after winter. Over the years, when the dock got a little shaky, David would arrive with his tools and some lumber and fix it up, making it sturdy, so as to provide a safe, welcome, and firm landing for those Jesus loves who need to come ashore.

It seems as good a metaphor as any for how David Bowman lived his life, for who he was as a bishop and as a Christian, providing to all whom Jesus loves a safe, welcome, and firm landing. You, me, everyone. No exceptions.

In the resurrection of Jesus, we know that God has done the same for David. God has provided for him a safe, welcome, and firm landing on the other shore. In the place Jesus promised to prepare for us, God has drawn David close, and has made him whole. And in that same embrace we are held with him. Today and forever.

Amen.



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



BISHOPS' VISITATIONS

SEPTEMBER

- 13 Christ Church, Kent – Hollingsworth
- 13 Trinity Church, New Philadelphia – Williams
- 20 Old Trinity Church, Tiffin – Hollingsworth
- 20 St. James' Church, Wooster – Persell
- 27 St. Andrew's Church, Cleveland – Hollingsworth
- 27 St. Alban's Church, Cleveland Heights. – Williams
- 27 New Life Episcopal Church, Uniontown – Persell

OCTOBER

- 4 Church of the Epiphany, Euclid – Hollingsworth
- 11 Grace Church, Sandusky – Hollingsworth
- 18 St. Martin's Church, Chagrin Falls – Hollingsworth
- 18 St. Thomas' Church, Port Clinton – Persell
- 25 St. Timothy's Church, Massillon – Williams

NOVEMBER

- 1 Church of Our Saviour, Akron – Hollingsworth
- 8 St. James' Church, Boardman – Williams
- 8 Trinity Church, Findlay – Persell
- 15 St. Paul's Church, Cleveland Heights – Hollingsworth
- 22 Holy Trinity Church, Lisbon – Hollingsworth
- 22 St. Andrew's Church, Toledo – Williams
- 29 Trinity Church, Coshocton – Williams

DECEMBER

- 6 Grace Church, Willoughby – Hollingsworth
- 13 Grace Church, Ravenna – Hollingsworth
- 13 Christ Church, Shaker Heights. – Williams
- 20 Church of the Redeemer, Lorain – Hollingsworth
- 20 Christ Church, Oberlin – Williams

Reflections on the 78th General Convention in Salt Lake City

by the Rev. Dr. Brian K. Wilbert, (second clergy deputy)



It was an action packed nine days—plus two days of organizational meetings, briefings, directions, and generally getting ready to have at it!

It was history in the making including: the election of Michael Curry as the 27th presiding bishop; the approval of canonical and liturgical changes which, on

the heels of the US Supreme Court June 26th decision for marriage equality to become the law of the land, embrace marriage equality for all Episcopalians; the approval of a budget for the next triennium which includes an emphasis on evangelism and racial reconciliation and much, much more! Go to <http://tinyurl.com/pshhryu> for a summary.

It was an honor and privilege to serve as a deputy from the diocese of Ohio to this 78th General Convention. Additionally it was an honor and a privilege to have been asked to serve on the special legislative committee on marriage. Although I was initially asked to serve as the assistant secretary to this committee, I received a phone call on my way to the convention from the president of the House of Deputies informing me that I had been promoted to secretary of the committee because the secretary had resigned for family matters. So I hit the desert running when my plane landed in Salt Lake. Committee work is very rewarding but it is also, by the nature of our schedule, time consuming especially because much of the work is front loaded to submit it in time to be considered by the House of Deputies and the House of Bishops. Early morning working sessions and evening hearings were organized around daily plenary sessions and worship. What an amazing experience to have been a part of a legislative committee, which has finally made all the sacraments available to all of God's children.

It was a time to pray and a joy to participate in a variety of well thought out and well planned liturgies. The daily Eucharist occurred after early morning working sessions but before the morning plenary sessions and served as a spiritual anchor for our work. The preaching was excellent. We heard from our current presiding bishop, Katharine Jefferts Schori, our current president of the House of Deputies, the Rev. Gay

Jennings and our presiding bishop elect, the Rt. Rev. Michael Curry among others. The music was wonderful, ranging from traditional Episcopal hymnody, to the Theodicy Jazz Collective from the Diocese of Los Angeles, to cultural music representative of people of color. It always gladdens my heart to worship with three to five thousand of my brothers and sisters-in-Christ, and I never cease to be amazed at how holy communion can be effectively distributed to so many worshipers in the time span of ten - fifteen minutes!

It was a time to party! While the bishops left for St. Mark's Cathedral to elect a new presiding bishop, the House of Deputies celebrated its 230th anniversary complete with party favors and special treats. When the news of the 27th presiding bishop's election reached us there was much rejoicing, and our party ended with the presiding bishop elect and his family being brought into the House to be introduced to us by the Most Reverend Katharine Jefferts Schori.

It was a time to say thank you to outgoing Presiding Bishop, Katharine Jefferts Schori and at a joint meeting of both houses we had an opportunity to offer gratitude to Bishop Katharine for her leadership and the spiritual and ministry gifts that she brought to the presiding bishop's office and ministry.

It was a time to embrace change. Although the House of Deputies and the House of Bishops met together a record five times during the course of this convention we are keeping our bicameral structure. We did, however, vote on two resolutions, which make major structural changes to the way we organize and operate. We expanded the Executive Council's appointment power concerning three members of the Domestic and Foreign Mission Society (DFMS) to the executive staff: The chief operating officer, chief financial officer, and chief legal officer. Secondly we reduced the number of the church's standing

committees from 14 to two: the Standing Committee on Structure, Governance, Constitution and Canons, and the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music. The Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music was directed to prepare plans for revising both the 1979 Book of Common Prayer and Hymnal 1982 and to present their plans at the 2018 General Convention meeting in Austin, Texas.

It was a time to take a stand against gun violence. One of the most moving activities occurred not inside the convention hall but outside the Salt Palace and on the streets of downtown Salt Lake City. The Bishops Against Gun Violence organized a rally and march which took place early in the morning on Sunday June 28th. Over 1500 bishops (decked out in their

The actions of the 78th General Convention carried our church a little further towards being a truly inclusive and welcoming community of God's love.

chimères and rochets—in the 90 degree plus heat), priests, lay deputies, volunteers, ECW representatives, and others gathered for this event to pray, sing, march and hear testimony about the impact of gun violence across our country and our need to respond to this crisis in our land. I am grateful to have noticed Bishop Mark and Bishop Bill and Nancy Persell marching as I snapped photographs.

It was a time to seek and serve Christ in all persons and to love our neighbors as ourselves by celebrating the good work of the Episcopal Relief and Development fund (ERD) and the United Thank Offering (UTO). At this convention ERD celebrated 75 years of “healing a hurting world.” To mark this milestone the House of Deputies raised \$128,226—171% of a pre-convention \$75,000 campaign goal. Of this total, almost \$1200 was raised by the members of the Diocese of Ohio deputation who sold vintage buttons from the 77th General Convention when the Rev. Gay Clark Jennings was running for President of the House of Deputies. The 125th anniversary of the UTO was celebrated in Salt Lake City with a giant blue box, which held a history of this ministry. As part of the regular schedule of events, the Episcopal Church Women diocesan UTO stewards presented offerings totaling \$4,378,328.16!



Bishop and Nancy Persell marching against gun violence

Ohio Well Represented

It was time to rejoice in being part of the Diocese of Ohio at the General Convention. We are everywhere in the wider church! Our deputation distributed buttons which read, in part, “The Rev. Gay Clark Jennings PHOD (president of the House of Deputies)...brought to you by God’s grace and the Diocese of Ohio.” Indeed, Gay presided at this convention with grace and favor. With Gay at the helm, we navigated through the daily proceedings effectively, prayerfully, and, at times when needed, with humor and laughter. Gay’s gift to the church was recognized not only by her re-election for the next triennium, but also by an award given to her from the Union of Black Episcopalians (UBE). The Rt. Rev. Arthur B. Williams, Jr. introduced Gay at the awards banquet. Bishop Hollingsworth and the deputation from Ohio were on hand to help fete her on this occasion. In addition to my work on the special legislative committee on marriage, the Rev. Meghan Froehlich served as our 815 staff liaison; the Rev. Jeremiah Williamson served as a member of the committee on the Prayer Book, liturgy and church music and the Reverend Eric Funston, one of our alternate clergy deputies, served as a legislative aide to this committee; Bill Joseph was the vice-chair of the legislative committee for House of Deputies rules of order; James Simons, Esq. served as the assistant secretary of the legislative committee on constitution and canons; Jane Freeman, LISW, served as a member of the committee on alcohol and other

drug abuse and Bishop Mark Hollingsworth was the chair of this commission from the House of Bishops. Richard Pryor, III represented our diocese and Province V as a member of the Official Youth Presence while the Rev. Canon Vincent Black served as one of the adult shepherds of that group. A number of people from our diocese were in Salt Lake City to volunteer at General Convention or as participants in the Episcopal Church Women Triennial meeting, or the Young Adult Festival, which ran concurrently with the convention. If I begin to name names I will most certainly leave someone out but I puffed up with a bit of pride at the number of people from our diocese who were present and participating in some way or another and I was grateful and humbled to be counted in that number.

It was a time for thanksgiving. After 40 years of proclaiming God’s inclusive love in and through the Episcopal Church, the Integrity Eucharist at GC 78 was not held in a separate venue but instead offered in the worship space designated for all convention Eucharists. The significance of this welcome cannot be overstated. As usual, it was a colorful and festive celebration. Over 1200 worshipers gathered to break bread. Louis Crew Clay, the founder of Integrity, was honored with a



UBE President Annette Buchanan and Bishop Williams present Gay Jennings with the Bishop Walter Dennis Honors Award

biographical video tribute and a presentation by Gay Jennings who presented Louie with a House of Deputies medal giving thanks for his “distinguished, creative, courageous, persistent, prophetic service and witness to the Episcopal Church.” When he had the opportunity to address those present, Louie urged us on saying: You love Jesus—say, ‘Amen.’ You love the church—say, ‘Amen.’ If you’re grateful to General Convention and to The Episcopal Church for the welcome—say, ‘Amen.’

For several years now, the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio has been pronouncing God’s inclusive love with brief theological statements: “God loves you. No exceptions.” and “Welcome—regardless.” The actions of the 78th General Convention carried our church a little further towards being a truly inclusive and welcoming community of God’s love for which I can only say, “AMEN. And thanks be . . .”

The 78th General Convention Yields Many Changes

by Jeffrey Fowler

The 78th General Convention of the Episcopal Church, held this year in Salt Lake City from June 28 through July 6, yielded a host of momentous results. Amid parliamentary actions on budgets and assessments, General Convention elected the first African-American as the 27th presiding bishop, approved marriage equality for Episcopalians, and took steps toward streamlining church structures.

- ♦ In a landslide first-ballot election, The Rt. Rev. Michael Curry of North Carolina received 121 of 174 votes cast by the House of Bishops. This was the first time that a presiding bishop was chosen on the first ballot. His election was confirmed by the House of Deputies an hour later by a vote of 800 to 12. Curry, 62, is the Episcopal Church's first African-American presiding bishop-elect. He follows Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori, who concludes her term as the first woman presiding bishop on November 1.
- ♦ On June 26, the U.S. Supreme Court handed down its ruling legalizing same-sex marriages in all 50 states. Within a few days, General Convention voted to adopt marriage rites with language allowing them to be used by both same-sex and opposite-sex couples. Bishop Hollingsworth responded by permitting, but not requiring, priests of the Diocese of Ohio to officiate at same-sex weddings using authorized liturgies with adaptations to gender-specific language.
- ♦ The Task Force to Reimagine the Episcopal Church (TREC) was mandated at the 77th General Convention in 2012 to recommend changes to the governing structures of the church. TREC presented its report in Salt Lake City. The most dramatic change adopted by convention was the reduction of the number of standing commissions from 14 to two. The two remaining will be the Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, Constitution and Canons, and the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music.
- ♦ The Rev. Gay Clark Jennings, St. Timothy's, Macedonia, was re-elected president of the House of Deputies during a legislative session on June 26. She was unopposed. William A. Powel, III, canon to the ordinary of the Diocese of Ohio, reported that "her sharp parliamentary skills were on display, as was her unflappable demeanor."



Presiding Bishop-Elect Michael Curry preaches at General Convention

The Rev. Dr. Brian K. Wilbert, rector of Christ Episcopal Church in Oberlin and a member of the deputation from the Diocese of Ohio, offered this observation on General Convention:

"Overall I was impressed by the conciliatory nature of those attending and participating in this gathering— which has not always been the case over the past decade and before. For example, although it was clear that the mind of the House of Deputies and the House of Bishops favored liturgical and canonical changes which would provide marriage equality in our church, there was a minority voice of opposition. Those who opposed and those who favored the work suggested by the special legislative committee on marriage were respectful of one another. This was modeled in the special legislative committee itself and on the floor of both houses. The voices of opposition wanted to be heard and so a minority report was attached to the resolutions submitted by the special legislative committee on marriage. No angst or drama...just Christians gathered together to do the work God gives us to do in all our messy and yet wonderful diversity."

Jeffrey Fowler is a member of All Saints, Parma. He wrote the overview of General Convention and coordinated and edited the many voices of those who attended from our diocese.

General Convention Provides

Opportunities for Youth and Young Adults

Established by resolution at General Convention in 1982, the Official Youth Presence consists of two high school students from each of the nine provinces of the Episcopal Church. Those who serve attend legislative committee hearings, are encouraged to speak about issues in hearings, and may participate in debate on the floor in the House of Deputies. Richard Pryor, III, a member of Christ Church, Kent, was one of the youth representatives from Province V. His reflection on General Convention is included here. The Rev. Vincent Black, rector of Church of the Ascension, Lakewood, served as chaplain to the group.

A second group of younger Episcopalians attended the Young Adult Festival, which is made up of adults from 18 to 30 years old. It is designed to develop a new generation of church-wide leadership and to raise the profile of young adults and their ministries at General Convention and across the church. Forty young adults attended the first festival in 2003. Over 100 attended this year.

This General Convention's Young Adult Festival was broken into two distinct segments: *Why Serve*, a gathering of young adults desiring to discern their place in the leadership of the church and focused on bringing the spiritual practices of discernment into their everyday lives, and *Kindling*, a gathering of leaders in ministry with young adults on and off college campuses. They focused on sharing stories and best practices for building campus ministries, parish-based young adult ministries, and networked ministries with young adults.

Attending the Young Adult Festival from the Diocese of Ohio were Allison Thompson, Church of the Ascension, Lakewood; Chris Decatur, Trinity Cathedral; Lexi Hubbel, St. James, Painesville; Noah Sutter, Church of the Ascension, Lakewood; Anna Risch, Church of the Ascension, Lakewood; and Vivian Thomas, Church of the Good Shepherd, Lyndhurst. Thompson and Decatur shared their impressions below.

The Power of Young Voices

by Richard Pryor, III

Since returning home to Ohio after spending 10 days in Salt Lake City, representing Province V as a member of the Official Youth Presence (OYP), I have used the word "whirlwind" to describe my time at General Convention. There are so many moving parts and pieces, and I was always moving as well, from committees to worship, from the floor to lunch, from dinner to committees. It's not a 9 to 5 job; it's a 7 to 9 job. And what a stroke of luck to be there during some historic moments, such as the Supreme Court's decision on same-sex marriage and the election of our new Presiding Bishop.

With over 1,000 deputies, alternates, and bishops descending on the Salt Palace, as well as countless staff, volunteers, media members, and visitors, General Convention could be overwhelming. I was and still am so thankful for the other members of the OYP, as well as our adult mentors. Being in constant community with these 26 people for 10 days straight was so powerful, and it allowed me to deepen my relationship with God through them.

Perhaps most importantly, I got to know my church better. Being on the floor and listening to the diverse ideas of various church members allowed me to see the beauty and diversity that exists in our church. That was also enhanced by getting to spend time with leaders in our church, such as Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori, Presiding Bishop-Elect Michael Curry, Bishop Brian Prior, and President of the House of Deputies Gay Clark Jennings. I also spent time during breaks on the floor talking to other deputies and getting to know them. Almost all of the deputies I talked to expressed how excited and glad they were to see us on the floor. The love and respect that the deputies have for each other and the commitment to keeping debate respectful was such a radical change from what we see in our [U.S.] Congress and a breath of fresh air.

If there is one main thing that I want people in our church to learn from my experience, it is to appreciate the power of the voices of our youth. People stopped me maybe 20 different times after my speech on the House floor just to compliment me or generously comment on how powerful the speech was. As I heard multiple times over the course of the week, "Youth are not the future of this church. They *are* this church." If the youth and young adults I know will be the major leaders of the church soon, I'm excited to see what we can do.



The Rev. Vincent Black and Richard Pryor, III

More Voices From Convention

Christopher Decatur

My 10 days in Salt Lake City gave me the opportunity to strengthen my identity as an Episcopalian, spend time in self-reflection, educate myself to the worldwide church, network with colleagues from across the world, and reassure myself (as if there was any doubt) that The Episcopal Church is truly “home” for me.

First, the *Why Serve* program opened my eyes as to the need to not only acknowledge, but also accept God’s call in ministry. This uplifting experience made me feel more spiritually connected, inspiring me to live continuously into my baptismal vows and the five marks of mission, and then challenging me to proclaim my story and my faith

During the second five days of the trip, I had the privilege of attending the *Kindling* program, which gave me the opportunity to discuss the future of young adult and campus ministries with colleagues from around the world. I was able not only to express the wonderful work that we are doing here in the Diocese of Ohio, but also to try new ideas and create partnerships with our brothers and sisters from other dioceses who are all striving to keep this church alive. As Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori stated, “Get up girl! You aren’t dead yet.”

Lastly, and most importantly, General Convention gave me the opportunity to see the amazing work the church has done. As long as we continue to encourage our current leaders and mentor the new, the church will achieve much in the coming years. The worship services, which reflected the diversity present within our church, as well as opportunities for prayer and activism nurtured my spirit. All of the leaders in the room inspired me, and the other leaders of color, though few in number, encouraged me to step outside of my comfort zone and serve as a strong social activist for all of the unheard voices within and outside of the church doors. It was quite a privilege not only to see, but to be a part of the Work of Christ in action.

It has been a couple of months since I attended General Convention, and I can say that the experience impacts my work daily here at Trinity Cathedral. Several times I have reached out to fellow Episcopalians across the country to share and gain ideas, make plans about joint mission work, or simply support one another during times of hardship.

I went to convention expecting to gain a deeper understanding of church polity, and although I expected to have the opportunity to network with other congregations and dioceses, I did not expect to leave with a group of people whom I consider part of my family—a group of friends bound by their faith and love for The Episcopal Church.



Young Adults from the Diocese of Ohio with the Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori

Allison Thompson

This was my very first General Convention and my first time visiting Utah. Most people associate General Convention with exhausting debates surrounding politics, money, and ethics, which is the reason they give me puzzled looks when I tell them that I very much enjoyed my time at Convention.

I say with some embarrassment that I really did not have any involvement with the numerous forums and resolutions—I was there for the Young Adult Festival. To be completely honest, I had no clue what I was getting myself into. May and June were insanely busy for me in both my professional and personal lives, and I had not really thought about what this trip would be like. I went through the motions of preparing for a trip (filling out the paperwork, reading the suggested packing list, glancing at the schedule), but I had not done any additional research or preparation. Perhaps it is because I entered this General Convention with few to no expectations that I found it so completely transformative.

It’s hard to write a general overview of such an incredible and historic trip. There were many monumental breakthroughs, from the Supreme Court’s ensuring the right of same-sex couples to marry, to the election of Michael Curry as Presiding Bishop, to the intense discussion sessions on race, to walking around downtown Salt Lake City, and remembering that my paternal grandmother was born and raised there, to an early morning hike to a waterfall. Those five days were fierce, full, and fantastic.

I hadn’t realized how uptight I’ve felt about revealing to others where I work, but at the convention, I was completely at ease. It was a wonderful feeling that totally caught me off guard. For the first time, ever, I was able to be among my peers and not worry about the stigma that my generation often associates with the church and religion. I was able to feel comfortable with proclaiming who I am, where I work, and the values that I cherish.

A Letter to the People of the Diocese of Ohio

“Do not be afraid.”

“Do not be afraid”—We hear this again and again in Scripture and especially in the Gospels:

to Mary when she is greeted by the angel Gabriel;
to shepherds encountering messengers during their night watch;
to Jairus, anxious about his daughter;
to the disciples when they saw Jesus walking on the sea and were terrified;
to Peter, James, and John after they witness Jesus transfigured on the mountain;
to the women at the empty tomb on the third day.

Do not be afraid—these are words that foreshadow the coming of God and the working of God in new and unexpected ways. These are powerful words that ask those who hear them to dig deep and lean out in trust into a new way of encountering God.

Do not be afraid—for God is here. God is shaping a new reality: healing out of illness, wholeness out of things broken, life out of death.

Throughout the Gospels, Jesus calls his disciples to something new—to follow him into a new way of life, to new ways of thinking and understanding. And likewise, in our lives, God is always calling us: not to remain the same, but to be transformed: to be changed and challenged and urged into new places and new possibilities.

As fall approaches and possibilities for ministry emerge in your congregations and in other areas of your life, I hope you will also consider offering your gifts and skills to the diocese and that you will invite and encourage others in your parish or your circles to offer their gifts in diocesan leadership. Let God’s unsettling word and reassuring promise—do not be afraid—urge you to consider a new (or repeat) adventure in diocesan leadership.

Beginning in September, we are asking you and your congregation to pray for our elections within your Prayers of the People. Suggested wording might be: “We pray, O God, for the discernment and courage to offer ourselves or others we know to be nominated for election to diocesan ministry and leadership at our upcoming convention.”

If you know people who might be interested in offering themselves for a position, please direct them to the Diocesan Nominations page (www.dohio.org/nominations) for the position descriptions and the application. For questions regarding the process or the positions, please contact me (jennifer.leider+@gmail.com) or William Powel (wpowel@dohio.org). For questions regarding the electronic or paper application, please contact Rita Rozell (rrozell@dohio.org).

The letter to the Ephesians recently read in the Lectionary reminds us, “Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.” Do not be afraid to offer your gifts and skills. Do not be afraid to invite someone to see in themselves gifts for diocesan leadership. Do not be afraid to lean out into something new. God’s power is at work within us and accomplishes more than we can ever imagine—thanks be to God!

The Rev. Jennifer Leider
Chair, Diocesan Nominating Committee

Deadline:

Nominations must be received by September 22, 2015 for inclusion in the convention handbook.

Positions to be filled:

Diocesan Trustee
Standing Committee
Diocesan Council
ECS Development Council
Diocesan Disciplinary Board

Full position descriptions are available on the diocesan website.

Planting for Tomorrow

A Camp That Proclaims God Loves You. No Exceptions.

by Katie Ong-Landini, Project Director, Camp and Retreat Ministry

After an 18-month campaign, the Diocese of Ohio has officially purchased the property for the new camp and retreat center in Wakeman, Ohio. The success of the Planting for Tomorrow campaign was the impetus for a June 20th celebration that included members of the diocese, special guests, and, once again, cyclists from the Bishop's Bike Ride. Instead of being greeted by the old Hostile Valley Park sign, guests arriving at the site saw a new sign, "God Loves You. No Exceptions. The future site of the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio's Camp and Retreat Center."

Despite the rain early that morning, the weather cleared by the time the festivities started at 11:00 a.m. Guests had the opportunity to tour the building sites and learn more about the programs that the diocese will be able to offer at the new center. Jessica Miller, a member of the Agape Community at St. Alban's, Cleveland Heights, designed a number of activities for participants to explore the property and learn about the various flora and fauna found there. People also swam in the pond, played games, sowed seeds, and left prayer cards at an activity station near the proposed site of the adult retreat rooms.

The celebration included a picnic lunch hosted by the camp and retreat ministry office in gratitude for the support of the members of the diocese for this project and the full campaign. An estimated 225 people joined in the festivities.

After lunch, Bishop Hollingsworth, addressed the crowd to thank the many people involved in the campaign (see sidebar), as well as to announce the funds raised to date in the campaign. In particular he thanked Tom Hartland, St. Paul's, Cleveland Heights, who chaired both the Leadership Gifts Committee and the Campaign Advisory Committee, as well as colleagues from CCS Fundraising, who skillfully managed the campaign from the start, specifically Brian Nevins, principal and managing director of the firm, and Matt Harrigan and Lisa McElhenny who guided the campaign team since it started in late 2013.

The Bishop then introduced the crowd to the Tkach family, former owners, whose parents had purchased the property in 1959. The members of the Diocese attending the picnic gave the entire family a standing ovation to express their gratitude.

Bishop Hollingsworth, Tom Hartland and the Leadership Gifts Committee raised \$6,360,457 for the new center, while the remainder came from our parishes, through collaborative campaigns, in pew appeals, and direct pledges and gifts. The total raised thus far is \$18,325,000. Of that, \$9,295,000 was raised toward the Camp and Retreat Center, and \$9,030,000 was raised for parishes that joined in the collaborative campaign. The campaign had expected to raise \$12 million,



New sign welcomes guests to the Wakeman site

\$8 million of which would allow the diocese to build and open the new center. The diocese is well beyond those goals, and the campaign volunteers will continue to raise funds through the calendar year.

Many people are wondering when the site will have a new name, but nothing has been decided yet. Attendees of the celebration had the opportunity to offer their ideas on a large board near the picnic tents. If members of the diocese have suggestions to share, they should send them to Project Director Katie Ong-Landini at kong-landini@dohio.org or 216-774-0454.

Check the camp and retreat center website (<http://www.dohiocampandretreatfarm.com>) for more details about the project, the Planting for Tomorrow campaign, and news about upcoming events at the Wakeman site.



Bishop Hollingsworth thanks Lisa McElhenny, Matt Harrigan and Katie Ong-Landini for their work on the campaign.

Planting for Tomorrow Updates

As the active Planting for Tomorrow—Growing in Faith Today campaign winds down, several of the parishes that ran collaborative campaigns last year are already seeing the rewards of their efforts. Each of the 31 parishes that participated in collaborative campaigns supported both the development of the new center and their own capital needs. Seventy percent of the funds each parish raised up to its respective campaign goal stays in the parish to support projects, ministries, and endowments. The remaining 30 percent raised toward the goal supports the new camp and retreat center. As an extra incentive to surpass the fundraising goals, all funds raised over goal stay in the parish. Over the next five years, as supporters make payments on their pledges to the campaign, parishes will receive their share of funds on a quarterly basis.

Over the summer, the vestry at St. Paul's, Norwalk, used Planting for Tomorrow funds to make necessary repairs to the organ, including replacing all of the old wiring with circuit boards, refurbishing keys, and reprogramming the stops. The reconditioned organ now moves and sounds as it was intended.

In the West Mission Area, St. Timothy's, Perrysburg, is using funds from its first quarterly payment to seal and re-stripe the parking lot. Future distributions will support replacement of the parish hall lighting and control system, insulation in the rectory attic, installation of an ice dam prevention system, and replenishment of the parish endowment fund. Although the Rev. Jeff Bunke, rector, admits these are "not the most titillating list of projects," they are long awaited improvements that the vestry can now address because of the success of the parish's Planting for Tomorrow campaign.

Their next round of projects includes updating IT systems and software, tuck-pointing the brick work on all church buildings, updating the rectory kitchen and bathrooms, purchasing a professional grand piano, and revamping the landscaping throughout the property. They will also partner on a significant outreach ministry capital project "outside the walls" of St. Timothy's.

Farther north, at neighboring St. Andrew's, Toledo, the vestry has used most of its Planting for Tomorrow campaign pledge payments received to date to retire a long-standing debt on the parish endowment. Restoring those funds allows the parish to use only the interest accrued on the principle to support operations, thereby honoring the original intent of the donor. Although they have already completed some minor upgrades to the physical plant with the remainder of those first quarterly distributions, the vestry expects to use future pledge payments to fund several major renovations.



St. Timothy's, Perrysburg, Planting for Tomorrow campaign co-chairs, John and Julia Bearss present a facsimile check representing the first installment to Sr. Warden Steve Weiser.

The Diocese of Ohio thanks the following people for their work with the camp and retreat center:

Leadership Gifts Committee:

Bill Conway, St. Paul's, Cleveland Heights
Paul Frank, St. Paul's, Akron
Tom Hartland, St. Paul's, Cleveland Heights
Ann McConnell, St. Hubert's, Kirtland Hills
John Morley, St. Paul's, Cleveland Heights
Bill Mulligan, St. Paul's, Cleveland Heights
Mary Sabin, St. Paul's, Maumee

Campaign Advisory Committee:

Tom Austin, Trinity, Cleveland
Tom Hartland, St. Paul's, Cleveland Heights
Bill Heywood, St. Paul's, Maumee
Damon Hickey, St. James, Wooster
The Rev. Albert Jennings, St. Timothy's, Macedonia
The Rev. Gay Jennings, St. Timothy's, Macedonia
The Rev. Evelyn Manzella, St. James, Wooster
Tina Monreal, Christ Church, Hudson
John Morley, St. Paul's, Cleveland Heights
Bill Mulligan, St. Paul's, Cleveland Heights
The Rt. Rev. Arthur Williams, Diocese of Ohio
Lynette Williams, Diocese of Ohio

The following organizations partnered with the diocese to develop programs for the new center:

- ♦ Western Reserve Land Conservancy with President Rich Cochran, Western Field Director Andy McDowell, and Firelands Office Director Kate Pilacky
- ♦ The Oberlin Project with Founder Dr. David Orr, Executive Director Sean Hayes, and Assistant Director Heather Adelman
- ♦ Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine's Urban Health Initiative directed by Dr. Amy Sheon, and its partner, OneCommunity.
- ♦ Veggie U with Executive Director Nadia Clifford and Education Manager Lynne Eirons.
- ♦ Mohican School in the Out-of-Doors Executive Director Tim Daniel
- ♦ Urban Community School in Cleveland and Director Sister Maureen Doyle, OSU.

Youth Adventure in Wakeman - September 12, 2015

This event is open to youth in Grades 5-12. Youth from around the diocese will join together to explore the site of the new camp and retreat center through games and activities. Youth are encouraged to bring swimsuits and clothes that can get dirty.

Register at: <http://youthadventure2015.eventbrite.com>

Around the Diocese

Cathedral Middle School Pilgrimage

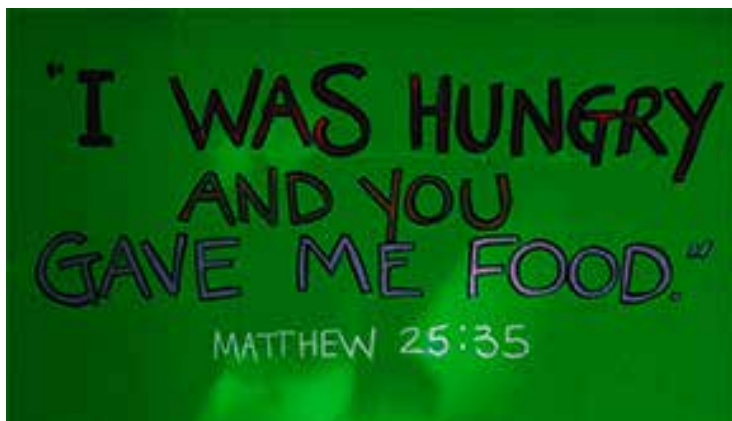
by Christopher Decatur, Children, Youth and Young Adult Minister, Trinity Cathedral

Forty youth and 18 adult leaders gathered from across the diocese on Friday, May 29, at Trinity Cathedral in downtown Cleveland to see two contemporary films come to life within this nearly 200-year old cathedral for a two-night pilgrimage.

Youth were greeted by talking portraits, then led to Cathedral Hall where candle sticks “drifted” above their heads transforming a space that is commonly used for community meals and meetings into the Great Hall portrayed in the film “Harry Potter”.

After being sorted into four houses by a talking sorting hat, the youth heard about the historical cathedral that they referred to as “Hogwarts: The Harry Potter School of Magic” throughout the weekend.

The next morning, the students learned what it was like to be placed into the 2013 film, “The Hunger Games” as they spent a day participating in hunger ministry service work at the Trinity Cathedral Urban Farm located on E. 35th and Cedar, participated in team-building activities and friendly competitions.



Those who “survived the Hunger Games” had the opportunity to move on to a Harry Potter Potions Class and learn about one of the major ingredients used in all potions—water. Kathy Skerritt, of Bright Waters Rising, engaged the youth in a water workshop exploring the spirituality and theology of water found in our own backyards.

The youth brought all of these hands-on experiences together and led discussions about what Harry Potter and The Hunger Games teach us about our faith and how God wants us to treat one another and live our lives.



A 12-minute video summarizing our youth's spiritual experiences were presented during the Cathedral's 9 a.m. Mostly Jazz Mass and the Dean's Forum where the Gryffindor House was awarded “The House Cup”. In addition, a series of portraits and letters were written and posted in the Trinity Cathedral Art Gallery to kick off the exhibit celebrating Cleveland's year of sustaining clean water and the 2015 Cuyahoga River Water Walk.

I left this weekend feeling proud and spiritually fed. Watching our youth from across the diocese see that God is very much alive and present within all that we do, and within all with whom we interact, whether it is our neighbor or fictional characters within these two pieces of literature, made this weekend well worth it and a truly magical experience.

A special thanks is given to, Christ Church, Hudson, for the donation of Harry Potter decorations, Trinity Cathedral and the Diocese of Ohio staff, as well as all participating youth and youth leaders.

West Mission Area Youth Build More Than Structures on Mission Trip

by The Rev. Jeffrey Bunke, Rector, St. Timothy's, Perrysburg

Twelve youth and five adults from three NW Ohio congregations once again found the wind of God's Spirit moving during a June mission trip to Barnes Mountain, Kentucky. The trip included two repair and construction projects among the people of one of our nation's three most economically challenged counties.

Located on Barnes Mountain above the Kentucky River town of Irvine, St. Timothy's Mission Center (a ministry of the Diocese of Lexington) has developed strong ties and trust with the Appalachian people of the region. The Rev. Bryant Kibler serves as the director (as well as archdeacon and administrator of the diocese). Missioners received a first-hand experience building trust with the residents, demonstrating the ability of the Spirit to bring people together in a powerfully pragmatic way.

Youth from St. Michael's in-the-Hills, Toledo, have travelled to St. Timothy's Mission Center in the mountains of Kentucky for a summer work camp experience for a number of years. In recent years, the mission became a regional project, including youth from other congregations in the West Mission Area. This year's team - drawn from St. Michael's, St. Paul's, Oregon, and St. Timothy's, Perrysburg, take this opportunity to thank the Bishop's Annual Appeal and our Diocesan family for their support of the summer mission through Youth Mission Trip Grants. For more information about St. Timothy's Mission Center, visit www.sttimsky.org. A three-minute YouTube review can be accessed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SwgsT8MAQLM>



Following are excerpts from missioner journals:

The mission trip brought me closer to God. It brought me closer to God because he was with us this entire trip. Everyone was so giving and nice – even when they had so little, they gave so much. (Katherine)

The kindest people have more to offer than the richest people. (Tanya)

One Grandma I met felt sorry for me when she learned through conversation that my family was scattered all over the US. The Appalachian people stay with their families. The family unit seems more powerful than anything else in their lives. That is a meaningful lesson. (Pam)

I really like trips like this because it gives me time to get back on the track of being a strong follower of the Lord. Because of his great mercy and his faith in me that is renewed daily, I have time to start living the life God wants me to live. (Jared)

I saw God in Edith and Ella (mountain matriarchs) who put the needs of others well ahead of their own. As Ella said to me, "The most important thing is to serve others." (Allison)

The most enjoyable part of these trips is the feeling of accomplishment after getting a job done. Seeing the pleasure of the family we are helping is priceless. (Jaron)

Watching what others have and how they're living made me have an epiphany about how we take for granted so much. (Maya)

The whole thing made me aware of myself and ever so slightly closer to God. (James)

Wanted: Teachers and/or Retired Teachers To Be Ohio/Belize Science Success Professional Pen Pals

The Professional Pen Pal Program is part of the Diocese of Ohio/Belize Science Success: Unlocking the Future One Teacher at a Time project.

Phase 1 of Science Success involved teacher training in Belize. In Phase 2, teachers and retired teachers from the Diocese of Ohio will be paired with practicing teachers (PreK – 6th grades) in the Anglican Diocese of Belize Schools. They will provide each other mutual support in the areas of inquiry/hands-on based science teaching methods.

Volunteer Responsibilities

1. Correspond with two teachers from Belize weekly through emails.
2. Support the teachers as they implement successful science research-based teaching strategies.
3. Become a rich resource for the teachers of Belize.
4. Build a professional friendship with the teachers of Belize.
5. Keep the Ohio program director updated monthly through emails.
6. Meet with fellow Ohio pen pals twice a year to receive further training and share successes.
7. Commit to this four-year program (starting fall 2015/ending Fall 2018).

Volunteer Qualifications

1. A practicing or retired teacher (PreK–12th grade, any subject area).
2. Willingness to support teachers in Belize in their efforts of inquiry/hands-on based science teaching methods.
3. A deep desire to make a difference in the lives of teachers and their students.

Training Provided

1. An introductory training and background session on Belize in the Fall of 2015.
2. Ongoing support from the Ohio program director.
3. Volunteers will be given a copy of the teacher field guide, "What Successful Science Teachers Do: 75 Research-Based Strategies."

If interested please contact:

Matthew Teare at matteach@windstream.net or Mary Collins at mco226@uky.edu



Clergy Changes

- The Rev. Larry Minter has left Christ Church, Hudson.
- The Rev. Harold Lewis has left St. Paul's, Cleveland Heights.
- The Rev. Elizabeth (Liddy) Hoster has left Trinity Church, Toledo.
- The Rev. Henry Harris is retiring from St. Timothy's, Massillon.
- The Rev. Dr. Erwin Smuda has accepted a call as interim rector at St. Timothy's, Massillon.
- The Rev. Jeanne Leinbach has accepted a call as rector of St. Paul's, Cleveland Heights, beginning in September.
- The Rev. Jennifer Leider has accepted a call as rector of St. Michael's-in-the-Hills, Toledo.

Children Tackle Everest at Vacation Bible School

by Carol Diedrichs-Himes

After two winters in the polar vortex, who presents a summer Vacation Bible School (VBS) about snow? Church of the Good Shepherd, Lyndhurst! And it was very successful. Though leaders were unsure how many students would attend, by the last day, nineteen children and several teen helpers responded enthusiastically to hands-on lessons about God, Jesus, and faith. In response, the Good Shepherd congregation responded by cooking, leading, teaching, supporting, cleaning up, praying, and more.

The actual VBS theme was "Everest," from a kit, which was supplied by the Rev. Rosalind Hughes, Church of the Epiphany, Euclid. The VBS took place during four evenings in July and was partially funded with a grant from the Northeast Mission Area Council. Each day had a different theme: God provides, comforts, forgives, and loves us forever. Each evening began with a free supper and a musical celebration at "base camp." Afterwards the children visited three stations: Games, Science, and Bible Storytelling. The evenings ended with a return to base camp, for singing and snacks.

The kit contained ideas for many creative activities that displayed the spiritual themes. Students experienced God's provision when they traveled with Elijah and drank with him from a mock-up indoor stream. Comfort was approximated with a science activity that produced a rope of soft soap bubbles. Students dabbed red paint on a cross to represent their regrets and people's need for forgiveness. A smashed block of ice symbolized pieces of a life broken by sin. A church member with a second block of ice showed that Jesus can restore sin's damage because He loves us forever. All week the games carried out the mountain theme as well as allowing students to burn off energy.



Finally, children brought in contributions for the earthquake victims in Nepal, where Everest is located. The money will be sent to ServLife, a charity through which Good Shepherd has offered microloans to the Nepalese people in the past. The children enjoyed their time so much, we suspect they may come back for the next VBS.

Bishop's Bike Ride Celebrates 10 years

Twenty-two cyclists rode into Wakeman on June 20 in time to join a celebration of the purchase of our new camp and retreat center in Wakeman Township. The bike ride this year started in Oberlin, with a long ride the next day to Old Trinity, Tiffin. From there, cyclists rode to St. Mark's, Shelby; Grace, Mansfield; St. Paul's, Medina; and into Wakeman. It rained nearly every day, with the occasional downpour, but the rider's spirits weren't dampened. The ride went on as it does every year. In spite of the weather, almost every cyclist thought it was a great ride, building fellowship and good friends throughout the diocese.



Henry Reece, Bishop Hollingsworth, Shawn Svoboda Barber and Richard Hood

The first ride began after the 2006 General Convention, when Bishop Hollingsworth and a few others decided to ride back from Columbus. It was deemed such a success, the ride continued every year thereafter, gathering more riders every year. At the 2009 General Convention in Anaheim, the bishop and seven others cycled across the country, ending at The Episcopal Church Center in New York. It took them 11 days of riding around the clock, relay style. Subsequent rides have been much more modest, lasting five days, and including all types and abilities of riders.

The Bishop's Bike Ride follows routes between our parishes. Each night the hosting parish houses and feeds the riders and SAG (support and gear) drivers. In return, the riders raise funds for youth ministries throughout the diocese. Riders range from those who can finish any length of ride in a few hours to people who ride leisurely all day. It's also possible to ride one day, all five, or anything in between. Everyone is welcome.

It's not too late to make a donation in support of this important event that helps fund youth mission trips.



ECW News Notes

The year 2015 will go down in the annals of the diocesan chapter of the Episcopal Church Women as one of MEETINGS! We hosted the Province V annual meeting in Perrysburg in April, our own annual meeting in Strongsville in May and the Triennial in June. All of these provided us with spiritual, educational, and community activities and the opportunity to meet with women from all over who face challenges similar to our own. There is nothing like shared experiences to start the ideas flowing.

Without a doubt, the highlight of this very busy year was the Triennial Meeting held in Salt Lake City, contemporaneously with General Convention. The meeting brings together women from all the provinces of the church. The main order of business for the whole body was discussion of by-law changes, necessitated by the changes in Federal Law concerning tax-exempt status. The language of these changes prompted broad discussion, but the changes were voted in based on wording provided by counsel. At the last diocesan board meeting we had begun to review our by-laws for current relevancy, and this will be added to the review criteria. There was also an election of officers so we will see what changes, if any, that brings to the national organization.

We had the honor and pleasure of welcoming several visitors to our meetings:

Our keynote speaker was the Rev. Canon Jan Naylor Cope, Provost of the National Cathedral. She gave us insight into the roles of the cathedral, not only as our "National" Church and the scene of many national observances but also its role as a church with its own growing congregation and programs.

The Presiding Bishop, the Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori joined us for the last time and met with each one of us to present us with our Cross.

The Rev. Lindsey Hardin Freeman, author of "The Scarlet Cord" and "Bible Women: All Their Words and Why They Matter" joined attendees for breakfast to discuss her books. I can personally recommend both these books having used them in study groups, and they have proved informative and stimulating.

Representatives of the Girls' Friendly Society, both adults and young women, joined us to speak about their worldwide program and the benefits it can bring to girls between the ages of 5 and 23. It is designed to enrich their lives through service to their communities.

The local charity supported by attendees at Triennial was the Girls Educational and Mentoring Services (GEMS). The Founder and CEO of the group spoke with us, along with the CEO of the Utah branch of Volunteers of America and a representative of Episcopal Relief and Development.

A luncheon was held to honor the Distinguished Women from each Diocese. Our honoree was Mary Stewart from St. Phillips, Akron. Mary has given a lifetime of service to her parish, been active in ECW and the diocese as a whole, and was the unanimous choice of the board. She was escorted by Bishop Hollingsworth to receive her certificate and supported by our entire delegation and Bishop Williams. We were also very proud to support Lynette Williams who accepted the Distinguished Woman Certificate for the Diocese of Western Pennsylvania on behalf of her late mother.

Last, but certainly not least, we were visited by the Presiding Bishop-elect, the Rt. Rev. Michael Curry, Bishop of North Carolina. For those of you who attended our annual meeting in Toledo, you will remember what a dynamic speaker he is and what an asset he will be to our church. Some of us had the opportunity to hear him in a question and answer session before Triennial began, and his energy, and broad knowledge of the needs of the church, at least to a layperson, seemed well suited to the position to which he was elected on the first ballot.

Our afternoons were devoted to a very wide variety of workshops, which provided something for everyone. For example, you could chose the Recreational (Knit Together), the Financial (Best Financial Practices), or the Spiritual (What Do Benedict and Our Baptismal Covenant Say?) The choices changed for each session so choice was ever present.

Attendees also were able to observe the sessions of both houses, and this year there was ample space in them, especially in the House of Deputies. Discussion in the House of Deputies demonstrated the impact of a well-constructed three-minute presentation. "We the People" can have an impact on the major decisions of our church!

Also well worth some time was the exhibit hall. It is amazing how many interesting and valuable organizations are affiliated with the church, from the History Project to the Anglican Mission in Rome (which offered espresso). They, along with the many smaller outreach organizations, demonstrate the tremendous impact an individual's commitment can have on society.

SAVE THE DATE!

ECW Province V Annual Meeting

May 13-15, 2016

at the Grand Hotel, Mackinac Island

Additional Information:

<http://dohio.org/episcopal-church-women>

Representing the Diocese of Ohio ECW were Barbara Jones, UTO, and Janet Smart, delegate, from Boardman; Sonia Miller, delegate, St. Thomas, Berea; and Mary Stewart, Distinguished Woman, St. Philip's, Akron. Also attending were Susan Little, St. Mark's, Canton, and President Hilary Nerby, St. Timothy's, Macedonia.



Lynette Williams accepts the Distinguished Woman Certificate for the Diocese of Western Pennsylvania on behalf of her late mother, Frances I. Rhodes



Mary Stewart elected Distinguished Woman, escorted by Bishop Hollingsworth at ECW award luncheon

The United Thank Offering, an outreach ministry of the Episcopal Church, encourages us to give thanks for our blessings and share them with others. In 2015, UTO awarded 55 grants for a total of \$1,558,006.85 for the mission and ministry of the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion. Every penny donated is granted. Even the smallest donations, when added together, can make a huge difference in the lives of others.

Founded in 1889 to enable the missionary work of the church, UTO is entrusted to promote thank offerings, to receive the offerings, and to distribute them to support mission and ministry throughout the Episcopal Church and in provinces of the Anglican Communion in the developing world.

At the 48th Triennial Meeting of Episcopal Church Women in Salt Lake City, the Diocese of Ohio was recognized for increasing its UTO ingathering amount every year between 2012 and 2014. We were one of only six dioceses to be acknowledged for this accomplishment.

Congregations are invited to hold both a Spring and Fall Ingathering for UTO. The suggested date for the Fall Ingathering is the Sunday closest to All Saints' Day. This year, All Saints' Day falls on Sunday, November 1, 2015.

The Diocese of Ohio UTO Coordinator is Barbara Jones. She may be reached at (330) 793-0540 or shado-waok2199@zoominternet.net. Parish treasurers should mail donation checks, payable to United Thank Offering, to Barbara at 4804 Shadow Oak Drive, Youngstown, OH 44515.

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

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

CALENDAR | *Full calendar at* DOHIO.ORG

- September 7
Diocesan Offices closed for Labor Day
- September 12
Youth Adventure in Wakeman
4655 SR 60, Wakeman
- September 17
Diocesan Council
Trinity Cathedral, Cleveland
- September 21
Standing Committee
Trinity Cathedral, Cleveland
- October 1
Clergy Day
St. Paul's, Akron
- October 2-4
Diocesan Youth Event
St. Andrew's, Elyria
- October 8
Diocesan Council
Trinity Cathedral, Cleveland
- October 9-10
Lay Preaching College
Grace, Mansfield
- October 17
JumpStart! - Ohio
Kalahari Resort & Convention Center, Sandusky
- October 19
Standing Committee
Trinity Cathedral, Cleveland
- October 24
Ministry Discernment Day
Trinity Cathedral, Cleveland
- November 13-14
199th Annual Diocesan Convention
*Trinity Cathedral, Cleveland/
Cleveland Marriott East,
Warrensville Heights*
- November 17
Clergy Advent Retreat
TBD
- November 24
Interfaith Thanksgiving Service
Trinity Cathedral
- November 26-27
Diocesan Offices closed for Thanksgiving
- December 4-5
Diocesan Council Organizational Meeting
Trinity Cathedral, Cleveland
- December 24-January 3
Diocesan Offices closed for Christmas and New Year's Day
- December 26
Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival
Trinity Cathedral, Cleveland

Save the Date!

Winter Convocation
Jan. 29-30, 2016

Kalahari Resort & Conference Center
Sandusky, OH