



CHURCH

THE MAGAZINE OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF OHIO

Life

WINTER 2015



The Most Rev. Michael Bruce Curry
the 27th Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

IN THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION

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

The Most Rev. Justin Welby
Archbishop of Canterbury

IN THE UNITED STATES

A community of more than 2 million members in 110 dioceses in the Americas and abroad. Established 1789.

The Most Rev. Michael Bruce Curry
Presiding Bishop

IN THE DIOCESE OF OHIO

A community of 16,000 baptized members in 86 parishes in the northern 48 counties of the State of Ohio. Established 1817.

BISHOP OF OHIO

The Rt. Rev. Mark Hollingsworth, Jr.

CHURCH LIFE! MAGAZINE

E-mail: churchlife@dohio.org
The Rt. Rev. Mark Hollingsworth, Jr., Publisher
Laura Hnat, Editor
Rita Rozell, Graphic Designer

©Church Life! Magazine (ISSN 8750-8613)
Published four times per year in
March, June, September, and December
by The Episcopal Diocese of Ohio
2230 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44115-2499

Postmaster: Send change of address to
Church Life! Magazine
2230 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44115

Periodicals postage paid at Cleveland, OH
and at additional mailing offices.
Member of the Episcopal Communicators.

IMPORTANT

All households of the Diocese of Ohio should receive Church Life! Magazine. If you are not currently receiving it, or if you need to change your delivery address, please contact the ChurchLife! office with your name, address, and parish.
Phone: 216-774-0459
E-mail: churchlife@dohio.org

CHURCH

THE MAGAZINE OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF OHIO

Life

WINTER 2015 • VOL.119 NO. 3

CONTENTS

- 4** INSTALLATION OF THE PRESIDING BISHOP
The Most Reverend Michael B. Curry was Installed as the 27th Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church at The National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. on November 1, 2015
- 6** 199TH ANNUAL DIOCESAN CONVENTION
Bishop Mark Hollingsworth, Jr.'s sermon and convention address at Trinity Cathedral on November 13, 2015
- 10** 199TH ANNUAL DIOCESAN CONVENTION
A photo recap and election results from the convention held at the Cleveland Marriott East on November 14, 2015
- 12** PLANTING FOR TOMORROW – GROWING IN FAITH CAMPAIGN
Update on some of the impact being made at parishes with the funds raised through the collaborative campaign
- 14** OHIO/BELIZE SCIENCE SUCCESS PROGRAM
Churches in Ohio are transforming lives for teachers and students in Belize
- 15** DIOCESAN YOUTH EVENT
Church youth didn't let a little rain spoil their weekend of service
- 16** ACROSS THE DIOCESE
A Thanksgiving Interfaith Service, Intergenerational faith formation and an overview of a remarkable year at St. John's, Ohio City are a few of the happenings across the Diocese
- 18** WINTER CONVOCATION
The Winter Convocation, held on January 29-30, will feature an introduction to Growing a Rule of Life Lenten spiritual growth experience
- 19** COMMISSION FOR RACIAL UNDERSTANDING
What we are doing as a Diocese
- 20** EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN
News and updates
- 22** MORE NEWS AND NOTES
Notifications on available grants, calendar listings and clergy updates

Cover photo by Donovan Marks C. 2015 Washington National Cathedral
Additional photography courtesy of: The Rev. Dr. Brian Wilbert, Matthew Teare Ph.D., Christ Church, Shaker Heights, St. James Church, Wooster, St. John's Church, Ohio City



"Hark, a thrilling voice is sounding..."

One of the gratifying characteristics of winter's barren trees is that they reveal the birds that spend the cold months in northern Ohio. Hawks, full with their winter plumage, stand watch on defoliated branches, patiently looking for their next meal. The owl's silhouette is visible against the moonlit night sky, where previously it was hidden by leaves. Thousands of starlings and grackles alight on skeletal limbs and fully darken a tree with their shiny black feathers.

In Great Possessions, a collection of meditative essays about life and work on the 120 acres he and his family farm in Holmes County, Amish bishop David Kline describes the challenge and delight of chronicling all the bird species that have passed through his fields and woods since he began farming that land a half-century ago. An entry entitled *Listing Birds* explains that after a couple of years it became rare to add a new name to the list, so Kline began making annual lists of the birds that he, his wife, and his children could identify with certainty by sight and song, on the farm and away from home, from January through December. For example, on a daylong visit to Lake Erie in May of 1984 they recognized fifty-seven species, contributing to a total of 181 for that year. Many of the species he identifies with an intimacy grown of wonder and respect for all the various animals that share the land with him. It is extraordinary how attuned are his eye and ear to the presence of these creatures of God which to others are almost invisible, or at least undifferentiated, one from the next.

As we approach the Christmas season and the Feast of the Incarnation, we are often encouraged to explore the ways that Jesus might be born anew in our lives, how the love of God in Christ might come to life in new ways in our own hearts and minds and actions. Throughout Advent we are urged and challenged to prepare for Jesus' coming to life in us, to imagine what it would entail, to practice making ourselves vulnerable and available to the God of mercy, justice, and peace.

This is a worthy spiritual endeavor, of course, and essential preparation if the spirit of holiness is to be renewed in our lives. At the same time, we must also ready ourselves to receive the Christ who comes to us externally, the Christ who comes to us in others, who is borne by friend and stranger alike. Our eye is not

always able to identify the Jesus who comes to us in a wide range of persons and experiences, the one to whom we refer when we vow with God's help to "seek and serve Christ in all persons." Our ear is not always attuned to hearing the voice of Jesus in the pleas of the fearful, the cries of the sufferer, the song of the joyous, and the delight of the grateful.

Just as the Amish bishop-farmer did for the birdlife all about him, we must develop an eye and an ear for the presence of Emmanuel who comes to us ceaselessly, yearning to draw us closer to the God who created us and loves us. Would that our ability to identify "God with us" in the other was as cultivated as Bishop Kline's ability to identify the many different warblers and swallows and raptors by their shape and color and song. Would that the presence of Jesus were as clear to us in the unexpected as the scarlet tanager alighting in the freshly plowed field is to the Kline family, that the word of grace from the stranger's lips were as identifiable as the call of the western meadowlark. And would that our response might be that of the 6th century Latin poet who wrote the words we sing in the familiar Advent hymn:

Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding,
"Christ is nigh," it seems to say;
"Cast away the works of darkness,
O ye children of the day."
(Hymnal 1982, #59)

May Christmas bring to you an ever increasing awareness of the Prince of Peace who is both born anew within you and borne by others to you, always and everywhere, even in the most unexpected circumstances of life.

With every blessing of the Incarnation,

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

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

Installation of the 27th Presiding Bishop and Primate of the Episcopal Church

by Br. Brent E. Whetstone, OP, Christ Church, Warren

On November 1, 2015, All Saints Day, The Episcopal Church installed its twenty-seventh Presiding Bishop and Primate, the Right Reverend Michael Bruce Curry, at the Cathedral Church of Saints Peter and Paul, the National Cathedral, in Washington DC. Bishop Curry became the first African American to become Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church.

Michael Bruce Curry was born on March 13, 1953 in Chicago. He was raised in Buffalo, New York. He graduated with high honors from Hobart College in Geneva, New York and received his Master of Divinity degree from Yale University Divinity School in 1978.

Bishop Curry was ordained to the diaconate by the Rt. Rev. Harold B. Robinson in June 1978, at St. Paul's Cathedral in Buffalo, New York and to the priesthood at St. Stephen's in Winston-Salem, North Carolina by the Rt. Rev. John M. Burgess in December 1978.

He began his ministry as deacon-in-charge at St. Stephen's in 1978, where he served as rector from 1979-1982. He also served as rector in congregations in Lincoln Heights, Ohio and Baltimore, Maryland until his election as Bishop of the Diocese of North Carolina in 2000.

The installation service was a blend of traditional and contemporary, as evidenced by the music which encompassed traditional hymns accompanied by the renowned Great Organ to gospel standards, and Native American drums and chants.

Following tradition, the installation began with three loud knocks on the iron gated doors at the west end of the National Cathedral signifying the entrance of the soon-to-be-installed Presiding Bishop. The knocks could be heard echoing throughout the nave and into the balconies. The doors were opened by Bishop Mariann Budde of the Diocese of Washington and Dean Gary Hall of the National Cathedral. Representatives from the Diocese of North Carolina presented Bishop Curry with the words, "Dear friends in Christ, we bring before you this pastor and bishop who has served among us faithfully. With gratitude in our hearts, we send him to be Chief Pastor and Primate of this Church."

After the presentation and the questions at the west end of the nave, the congregation renewed the Baptismal Covenant, the water was blessed, and both Presiding Bishop Jefferts Schori and Presiding Bishop Elect Curry sprinkled the congregation with holy water while the choirs sang the spiritual, *Wade in the Water*.

"We can do it. The Holy Spirit has done this work before in the Episcopal Church."

From the blessing of the congregation, Bishop Jefferts Schori and Bishop Curry approached the Great Choir; Bishop Budde, Dean Hall, the President of the House of Deputies Rev. Gay Clark Jennings, the vice presidents of the House of Bishops, and the Executive Officer of the General Convention all proceeded

back to the east end of the nave to the Presiding Bishop's stall, where Bishop Curry was officially seated as the Presiding Bishop and Primate.



Photo by: Donovan Marks C. 2015 Washington National Cathedral

Bishop Curry and Bishop Jefferts Schori then moved to the front of the altar, where the outgoing Presiding Bishop presented her successor with the Primatial Staff, symbolizing the transfer of spiritual power from one leader to the next.

The newly installed Presiding Bishop delivered a powerful and engaging sermon, setting the course of the Episcopal Church for the next nine years. He charged Episcopalians to go out and evangelize.

Bishop Curry said, “At home and in the church, do unto others as you would have them do to you. That will turn things upside down,” he said. “In the board rooms of the corporate world, in the classrooms of the academic world, in the factories, on the streets, in the halls of legislatures and councils of government, in the courts of the land, in the councils of the nations, wherever human beings are, do unto others as you would have them do unto you.”

Bishop Curry’s sermon repeatedly stressed the themes of unity and evangelism. He challenged the church to work toward racial reconciliation reminding us that we are part of the “Jesus Movement,” the Episcopal branch of a movement that started back 2000 years ago. He reminded us that “God has not given up on the world, and God is not finished with the Episcopal Church yet.”

Bishop Curry ended his inspirational sermon with a refrain that he repeated throughout,

“My brothers and sisters,
God has not given up on God’s world.

And God is not finished with The Episcopal Church yet.
God has work for us to do.

Jesus has work for us to do and it’s the Jesus Movement.
So don’t worry. Be happy!” †

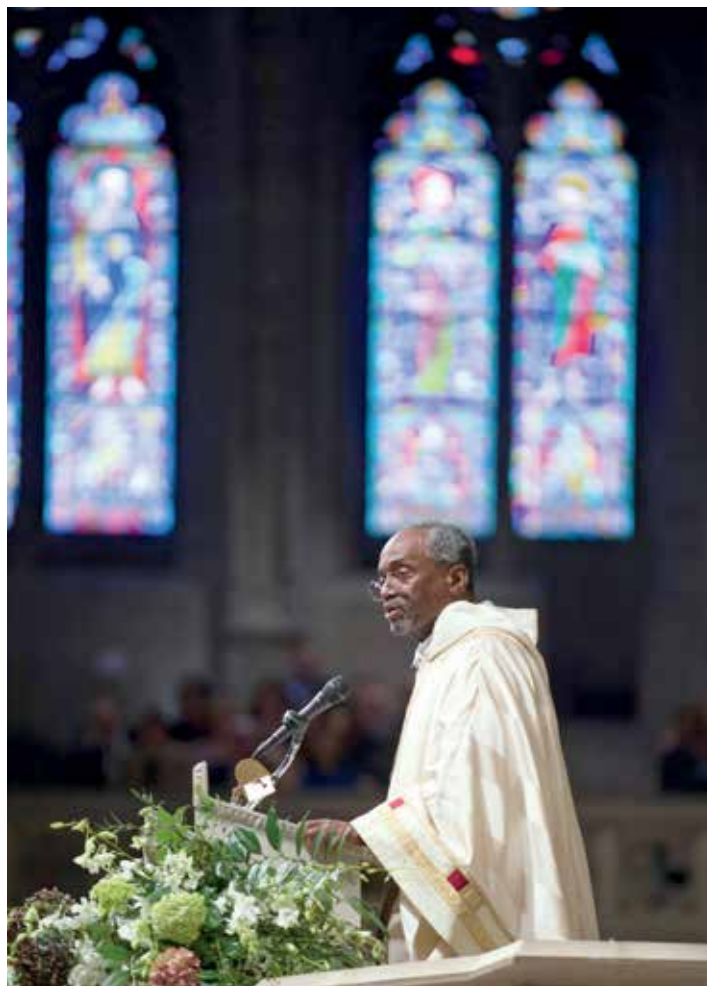


Photo by: Donovan Marks C. 2015 Washington National Cathedral

The entire sermon can be found at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mt6f3CvC3JE>

To hear the Presiding Bishop's Message to the Church visit:

<https://episcopalchurch.wistia.com/medias/qo6rqw8aum>

The 199th Annual Convention

Sermon and Convention Address at Trinity Cathedral

Good evening. It is good to be with all of you as we begin this 199th Convention of the Diocese of Ohio, and I am grateful to Dean Lind and the Cathedral staff and congregation for their hospitality and care of us tonight. Thank you very much. And thank you all for being here.



Bishop Mark Hollingsworth, Jr. at the pulpit

Yesterday afternoon, in a phone conversation with Bishop Persell, when he asked how my preparation was going, I confessed that, even the twelfth time doing this, it is a difficult task. To this he responded by singing cheerily, “What more can he say than to you he hath said...?” Perhaps some of you are wondering the same.

The last time I stood in this pulpit was July 18th, when we gathered to celebrate the life of our beloved friend and bishop, David Bowman. It is not possible to begin this Convention homily and address without recognizing his conspicuous absence. These annual gatherings were always marked by his thoughtful participation, his wise counsel, his disarming humor, and his pastoral touch. He loved the church, even when it frustrated him, and he loved this annual convening of the body of Christ and our common work of discerning how to move forward faithfully and courageously as agents of God’s mission.

It is important, as well, to recognize his presence with us “in the glorious company of the saints in light,” as we gather here on the eve of the church’s remembrance of Samuel Seabury, the first bishop of The Episcopal Church. In the American succession, Bishop Bowman was number 811, so he and Bishop Seabury were separated by 810 bishops and 202 years. It is a comfort to me to think of them together now, with one another and with us tonight, in what the prayer used at every ordination describes as “that wonderful and sacred mystery” of the church.

Samuel Seabury, while born in Connecticut in 1729, was very much a child of the Church of England. He traveled to England to be ordained at the age of 23, after which he was sent home to New England as a missionary of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, the mission arm of the Church of England. He served as a priest in colonial parishes in New Jersey and New York. Nonetheless, when the colonists went to war against the crown, Seabury joined the British army as a chaplain.

Only a few years following America’s independence, Seabury was selected by his peers to travel again to England in the hope that he would be ordained a bishop for the church in the fledgling nation. After a year of frustration and disappointment, his inability to swear allegiance to the monarchy precluded episcopal orders through the Church of England, so he was ultimately ordained by bishops of the Episcopal Church of Scotland. At the end of two long years, he returned home in 1785 to become the First Bishop of Connecticut, and later the First Bishop of Rhode Island and the 2nd Presiding Bishop.

Samuel Seabury was not simply sentimental about his orders in the Church of England. He had a vision of unity in a time of great division. There was deep division in the colonial church as a result of the Revolutionary War, division in the Church of England due to the colonists’ break with the crown, and division in the body of Christ whose vocation it is to reach beyond divisive principalities and powers in order to bring healing to our fallen humanity. One could question whether apostolic succession was essential to that calling, but to Seabury it reflected the connectedness of God’s beloved, across time and space, who are called together as disciples, generation after generation, not in spite of our challenging differences but perhaps because of them. We are called together to maintain a unity given us in Christ Jesus, who, as the Daily Office collect for mission proclaims, “stretched out [his] arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of [his] saving embrace.” To Seabury, perhaps the unity of the church was worth seeking to preserve, especially in the midst of the great divisions of his time, because it proclaimed that God is bigger than even those divisions, and that God dreams for the children of God to be bigger than those divisions also.

One of the many gifts of Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori’s leadership during the past nine years is the integrity with which she presented The Episcopal Church’s essential place in and commitment to the larger church, and especially the Anglican Communion. Never making excuse for the particularities of our mission context and the ways we minister in and to it, she consistently pointed to the communion-wide differences of the body of Christ as those things that make us all more whole. It is not a singleness of perspective, but a singleness of heart, a unity

embracing differences that proclaims to the world that all can live in peace. I cannot imagine that it is God's intention for us all to think alike. (If it were, you would think God might have chosen a more likely lot!) Rather, God seems always to be challenging and leading us to live together with greater difference, difference that the power of evil will relentlessly employ in trying to divide us one from another.

There is something evocative about beginning this 199th Convention on the eve of the remembrance of Samuel Seabury, just two weeks following the installation of our 27th Presiding Bishop and Primate, and first African American Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church, the Most Rev. Michael Bruce Curry. Bishop Curry is a long-time friend to this diocese. There is a photograph of him on the wall outside the Cathedral Chapter Room, preaching from this very pulpit. He has been the guest preacher at the Wilma Ruth Combs Chapter of the Union of Black Episcopalians' Absalom Jones Celebration at Christ Church, Shaker Heights, the keynote speaker at the Annual Meeting of the Diocese of Ohio's Episcopal Church Women, and he has led our annual Clergy Conference.

In the sermon he preached at his installation, a piece of which you will hear tomorrow, and available on dohio.org, Bishop Curry spoke clearly about the responsibility of the church to engage increasingly in the work of racial reconciliation and justice. This past year the reality of racial divisions and inequality has been consistently and manifestly evidenced across our country. We see it in both urban and rural communities, in relationships with police, in the inequities of the criminal justice system, in educational institutions, even in communities of faith. This week, from Missoula to New Haven, tensions and protests on university campuses have revealed the enduring and systemic racial divisions many have wanted to believe were addressed fifty years ago. Recently at St. Michael's University Church, the Episcopal Campus Ministry at the University of California in Santa Barbara, the glass front door was shattered by pellet guns to tear down signs proclaiming "Black Lives Matter," signs that have been repeatedly vandalized and destroyed.

I have been inspired by congregations in the Diocese of Ohio who have stepped up to participate in constructive dialogue and action. This Sunday, here at the Cathedral, the Dean's forum will host the Cleveland Police Foundation's Captain Keith Sulzer, to explore how that agency works to strengthen relationships with the citizens of this metropolitan area. And you may remember that last March St. Philip's Church in Akron hosted a community discussion on race and policing. Denise Caywood, St. Philip's Senior Warden, explained afterward to the *Akron Beacon Journal* that the congregation "wanted to offer some small way to help people sit down and work together toward peaceful resolutions." I know that congregations from Youngstown to Toledo have similar stories to tell.

The former Chief Rabbi of Great Britain, Jonathon Sacks, in his book *The Dignity of Difference*, asked in the aftermath of September 11, "Can we hear the voice of God in a language, a sensibility, a culture not our own? Can we see the presence of God in the face of a stranger?"

Both scripture and our experience teach us that the answer is Yes. In fact, time and again, you and I find that we are made more whole, more complete, by those who are different from us. Ruth the Moabite. The Samaritan traveler. Strangers who change us. By engaging with the stranger on an honest level, we are changed. And in offering ourselves as a stranger, as Ruth and the Samaritan did, with a willingness to engage generously, honestly, and humbly with those whose experience and reality are different from ours, the world is changed. Love God. Love your neighbor. Change the world. The enemy wants us to believe that difference is dangerous. It wants our response to difference to be fear. But "the good news of the kingdom" that Jesus proclaimed in all the cities and villages is that difference is a blessing. Our capacity to embrace difference as blessing is what makes us godly.



The processional at the Eucharist

In a recent radio interview with Rabbi Sacks, Krista Tippet, the host of *On Being*, asked him to elaborate on his statement, "The greatest single antidote to violence is conversation, speaking our fears, listening to the fears of others, and in that sharing of vulnerabilities, discovering a genesis of hope."

Sacks replied, "[W]e have in Judaism... a problem in Jewish religious divorce. For reasons we needn't go into, a husband can withhold a divorce from a wife so that they may be civilly divorced and living apart, but the wife is unable to remarry. And she's really a living widow. We call her a chained woman, and I have to resolve those things. In the end, the way we resolve them, the really hard cases, is actually just by listening. And that

listening gives each of the two parties the feeling that they are heard, and once they're heard, they can then begin to speak what they really feel. And then they can begin to realize that there are things they still care about in common, not perhaps enough to save their marriage, but certainly enough to remove the animosity from their divorce. It's extraordinary how a simple act of sitting around a table and speaking and listening can actually solve cases that prove insoluble both by the civil and the religious courts."

He went on to say, "Likewise,...I've sat and talked to people who used to be Hamas terrorists and have become peace activists just because they saw how much of a dead end they were getting themselves into. I just see so much effort at peacemaking taking place at the very elite levels where...nobody really is willing to lose for the sake of long-term winning for both of us. Sometimes I think, what would happen if we generated real conversations at the grassroots level between the people whose lives are really affected?"



Assisting Bishop William Persell, Bishop Mark Hollingsworth, Jr. and Assisting Bishop Arthur B. Williams, Jr.

There is a faith challenge. Listening to the other, with a willingness to lose for the sake of long-term winning for all. Listening to the other, with an understanding that what God dreams of for both of us might cost me something that I need to learn I can afford to lose. Listening to the other with an authenticity and humility that invites the same level of listening by the other. You know, if I can't listen to the other in this way, how can I possibly ever hear the "still, small voice" of a God who is wholly other?

As Christians we might well say that the stranger is always Jesus. The Baptismal Covenant's question, "Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons?" presumes that indeed Christ is in all persons. Perhaps you recall the Irish rune:

I met a stranger, yestréén.
I put food in the eating place,

Drink in the drinking place
And music in the listening place.
In the name of the sacred triune,
He blessed my house and myself,
My cattle and my loved ones.
And the lark sang in her song,
"Often, often, often goes the Christ in the stranger's guise,
Often, often, often goes the Christ in the stranger's guise."

There it is again, difference as blessing. When we provide more than tolerance, when we bring the stranger into our selves, genuinely into our understanding and compassion and concern and care, when we make room for the other not somewhere else but in our very hearts, then *we* are made more whole. We are blessed. "He blessed my house and myself, my cattle and my loved ones." "Often, often, often goes the Christ in the stranger's guise."

What possession or entitlement or right or conviction am I willing to lose for the sake of the stranger's security, well-being, and chance to live a full life? What cost am I willing to bear? What vulnerability to the other am I willing to risk in order to find the place where God can hold us both? What vulnerability to Jesus am I willing to risk? And is this what Jesus means by my needing to lose my lives in order to find it?

Jesus taught us that healing the violence of this world is not achieved by building higher and wider and longer walls, whether they be physical, political, emotional, or spiritual. Nor is it achieved by accepting that if the other won't come to the table, we are helpless. It begins when we bring our sacrifice nonetheless. In my prayers I keep thinking of the infant shot dead in Cleveland this fall while strapped into her car seat for safety, and when I replace her face with that of one of my own children or someone else I love, there is nothing I would not give for her safety. Nothing. Would I do the same if it were Jesus?

If the stranger is always Jesus, what word and action do I, do we as the church, have to offer to heal the violence of which we are all a part?

Living together with difference in this diocese and church, being willing to lose for the sake of long-term winning for everyone, in other words for God, we model to the world what is possible for all. But we do so only when our embrace of difference extends far beyond ourselves and our church, and into the deep divisions of our society and culture. It does so only when we seek and serve Christ in *all* persons.

What empowers us to embrace difference as blessing is confidence in God. It is confidence that God is bigger than anything that divides us; it is confidence that, even in the most desperate situations, God can provide possibility for good; it is confidence that God's love can overcome even the most hateful action and thought, and heal even the deepest wound; it is confidence that with God, all such blessing is possible, that the harvest is indeed plentiful, plentiful beyond our

imagining; and it is confidence that we ourselves are capable of laboring successfully in that harvest, not because of who *we* are, but because of who *God* is. Hear the words of Isaiah read this evening, “It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them...”



Diocesan clergy during the Eucharistic celebration

Tomorrow, when we resume our convention in Warrensville Heights, we will hear reports on the 78th General Convention, and the inspiring engagement of our youth and young adults in the larger church. We will hear about the accomplishments of parish capital campaigns, and the progress of our camp and retreat ministry planning; about the continuing work of historic St. John’s and Station Hope in Ohio City, and the work of the Commission on Global and Domestic Mission. We will consider the budget for the coming year and resolutions addressing clergy compensation and diocesan and parochial policies on alcohol use. And we will learn about the work of the Episcopal Church of the Ascension in Munich, Germany, and its response to the refugee crisis in Europe, to which some of tonight’s offering will go.

We will explore in table conversation how, led by the Commission on Racial Understanding, we might more intentionally address and heal the racism in our society and in ourselves. And we will hear about *Growing a Rule of Life*, the Lenten study program produced by the Virginia Theological Seminary and the Society of St. John the Evangelist, that we are all invited to undertake as a diocese, and for which 60 of our congregations have already requested 4000 study guides.

Tomorrow we will welcome clergy who have arrived since our last convention, and give thanks to those lay leaders and clergy who have concluded specific roles in both parish and diocesan leadership. We will recognize the Canon for Mission, Margaret D’Anieri and the Canon to the Ordinary, Bill Powel, who have joined the staff since the last convention. We will welcome a new Chief Development Officer, Laura Hnat, who will provide oversight of the Bishop’s Annual Appeal, help congregations engage the leadership of all those who have invested in the future of the church through the Planting for Tomorrow Campaign, and assist us all in accessing resources from The Episcopal Church

and other sources to support the many critical ministries we seek to provide in our parishes and as a diocese.

Finally, tomorrow we will receive a resolution of welcome and commitment to the new Presiding Bishop, as well as one expressing gratitude to Bishop Katharine and her husband, Dick. And we will embrace a resolution commemorating the life and ministry of Bishop Bowman. In doing so we will proclaim the ministry of unity to which each of these people was and is committed, the ministry of unity exemplified by Bishop Seabury, the ministry of unity that we all share, every one of us, as a primary vehicle by which we strive to heal the world.

But tonight, we begin our 199th Convention in prayer and thanksgiving, gathering around a single table, with saints past and present, to eat from one plate and drink from one cup. We gather as Jesus’ disciples, practicing with one another how to live with difference and how to bridge divisions, that we might go out from here to help the world do the same, go out as laborers into a harvest that is as plentiful as is the love of Christ Jesus itself.

“When Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

Amen.

The Rt. Rev. Mark Hollingsworth, Jr., Bishop of Ohio
November 13, 2015



Congregants receiving Communion



Canon to the Ordinary, William A. Powel, III, Bishop Mark Hollingsworth, Jr. and the Rev. Gay C. Jennings, Parliamentarian

Election Results 199th Annual Convention

Diocesan Trustee

one lay or Clergy (5-yr. term)
Mr. Robert C. Brown

Standing Committee

one lay and one clergy (4-yr. term)
Mr. Dennis Coughlin
The Rev. Gayle Catinella

Diocesan Council

two lay and two clergy (3-yr. term)
Mr. Hugh Grefe
Ms. Diane Hexter
The Rev. Christopher A. Coughlin
The Rev. Peter W. Nielsen, III

ECS Development Council

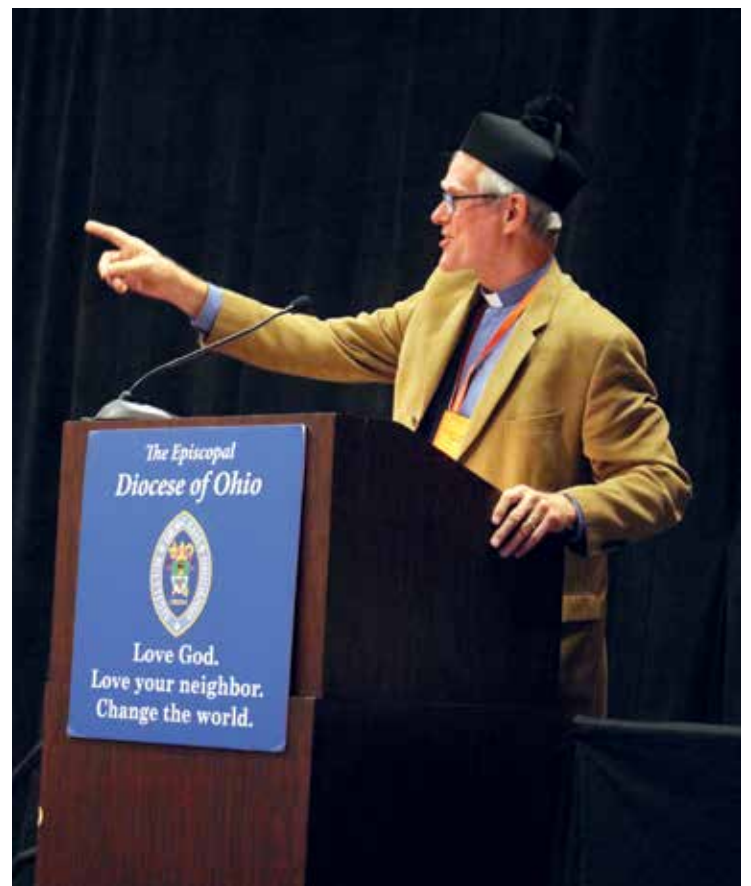
three lay and one clergy (3-yr. term)
Ms. Cheryl Gray
Mr. Steve Rucinski
Ms. Dianne Smith
The Rev. David Bargetzi

Diocesan Disciplinary Board

two lay and one clergy (3-yr. term)
Ms. Rebecca Montague
The Hon. William Vodrey
The Rev. Mary C. Carson

Young Adult Presenters, Christopher Decatur, Trinity Cathedral and Allison Thompson, Church of the Ascension, Lakewood

The Rev. Stephen Sedgwick, St. Thomas, Berea presents the resolutions of courtesy



The Rev. Brad Purdom introduces the Rule of Life Lenten Program (see page 18)



Racial reconciliation was the topic for table discussion at this year's convention (above right)

Alison Ricker, Christ Church, Oberlin addresses the convention with the findings from her table (above)



The newly elected Standing Committee bottom row (l-r): the Rev. Jeffrey Bunke, Jane Freeman, Deb Shamlin and the Rev. Joseph Ashby. Top row (l-r): John West, Dennis Coughlin, the Rev. Gayle Catinella and the Rev. Dr. Brian Wilbert

Planting for Tomorrow-Tangible Results

Raising the Cross at Christ Church, Shaker Heights, by the Rev. Peter Faass

“God has blessed Christ Church abundantly with the success of our Capital Campaign and the generosity of those who believe in this community of faith and our future in Shaker Heights. We are equally blessed by the infinite possibilities offered in our potential partnership with RMS, Cleveland Public Theater, SHDC and the City of Shaker to repurpose our building into a performing arts center. In so doing we will breathe new life into our building and our congregation. And we will become the spiritual heart of the Van Aken District. The restored White Spire and illuminated portico are beacons of light proclaiming the good news of this spiritual heart to the community.”

The Rev. Peter Faass, Rector

Churches across the Diocese continue to make dramatic improvements with the proceeds from the *Planting for Tomorrow – Growing in Faith Campaign*. Thirty-seven parishes participated in the campaign that has raised more than \$18.6 million. The 29 parishes participating through collaborative campaigns agreed to commit 30% of funds raised up to the goal amount to the Camp and Retreat Center project. The remaining 70%, as well as any funds exceeding the goal, stayed in the parish.

Christ Church in Shaker Heights received nearly double their goal of \$650,000 with gifts of \$1.2 million to their campaign. This remarkable success has enabled them once again to “Raise the Cross” that has been absent from the Church Spire for 8 years.

In addition to what Christ Church raised for the Camp and Retreat Ministry, the parish dedicated 12% of the total to a fund for Outreach and Christian Formation, 15% to Energy Conservation, 20% to necessary repairs and maintenance and 38% to space sharing changes to the property.

The Church began the approximately \$350,000 Phase I renovations this fall tackling sorely needed deferred maintenance on the building infrastructure.



White Spire, Christ Church, Shaker Heights

Perhaps the most iconic part of the renovation is the repair and restoration of Christ Church’s White Spire steeple. The White Spire was salvaged from the previous church after a 1956 fire. It had been dedicated at the end of WWII in memory of those parishioners who died in that conflict. In 2006, structural engineers determined that the White Spire’s central metal support rod had deteriorated to the point where a high wind storm could topple the entire 120 foot high structure.

The Church’s Property Committee saw the restoration of the White Spire both as a positive symbol to their capital campaign donors, as well as an opportunity to have the White Spire become an iconic beacon in the heart of the new city center.

On Tuesday, November 24, 2015 the final external work on the White Spire was completed and the historic Celtic cross was restored to its post 120 feet above the church. The renovation included new LED lighting and an illuminated clock. Still to come is an electronic carillon that will replicate the sound of an English 37-bell cast bronze carillon.

The restoration of the White Spire fulfilled the last wishes of Christ Church parishioner Delos “De” Nelson who passed away four years ago. De lived in a garden apartment near the church. He often sat on his outdoor terrace where he could admire the White Steeple. In his legacy to the Church, De included funds dedicated for the White Spire’s restoration. A generous bequest from Patricia McIlraith also helped fund the restoration.

Repairs also enabled the renovation of the front entrance portico of the church and the installation of new lighting, which includes special LED lights on the six columns. This system can be programmed to illuminate the columns in colors reflecting the Church’s liturgical seasons and feast days, as well as secular holidays.

The space sharing changes are contingent on a potential partnership between Christ Church, the developers, RMS Investment Corporation, and the City of Shaker Heights to repurpose the Church into a multi-functional performing arts center while maintaining the congregation’s liturgical, educational and outreach ministries.

The church sits in the center of the Van Aken Redevelopment District, which is to become the new city “heart” of Shaker Heights. Shaker Heights Development Corporation (SHDC) is conducting a feasibility study for a potential capital campaign in the city to raise the funds for the repurposing. The 38% share from Christ Church capital funds is to enable the parish to participate in this project. The funds would be dedicated to new and upgraded restrooms, HVAC repairs and additions, new windows, electrical work and plumbing upgrades. Repurposing of the sanctuary to accommodate the fine arts of dance, theatre and music, as well as the mechanical support systems to sustain such an endeavor would be funded through the SHDC capital campaign. †



The new energy efficient windows in the office at St. James, Wooster

A New Window on the Future St. James, Wooster by the Rev. Evelyn N. Manzella

St. James, Wooster is also celebrating the success of their collaborative capital campaign. The parish raised more than \$500,000, enabling them to support the Camp and Retreat Center, as well as making much needed capital improvements at the church.

Going into the campaign, the church knew they needed funding for more energy efficient windows in the parish office as well as to add new protective coverings for their stained glass. They also had an ambitious goal to expand their building to meet the needs of the parish's ministries.



With the leadership of campaign chairs, Dick Figge, Damon Hickey, Louise Plusquellec, and Rector Evelyn Manzella and through the generosity of their congregation, St. James raised enough funds to accomplish these vital goals.

Earlier this year, St. James replaced all the single-pane windows in the parish office with energy efficient models. They also ensured the safety of their stained glass windows by removing the old coverings, repairing and painting the wooden frames, and installing new vented glass coverings.

The church is working to complete their final and most ambitious goal: expansion and renovation to meet the needs of its various ministries, including the Saturday Community Lunch program, several 12-step programs and other parish meetings and events. In addition, the church plans to make these areas fully accessible to all who desire to attend. The church has engaged an architect to design an expanded parish hall, add more meeting space, on-site offices and to address accessibility. Ground breaking will take place in June 2016. †

“We would never have dreamed this would be possible without the encouragement and help of the Planting for Tomorrow Campaign and our wonderful consultants. We are excited about the possibilities this will open for our ministry.”

The Rev. Evelyn N. Manzella, Rector

Ohio/Belize Science Success Program

Unlocking the Future One Teacher at a Time



Students at the Anglican School in Belize

If you had to guess, how much money do you think it takes to change the world? Matt Teare knows – and it's a lot less than one might think. Dr. Teare, a retired Cleveland elementary teacher and Cleveland State University Education Professor is teaching science to children in Belize with the help of a \$.28 science kit.

The Ohio/Belize Science Success Program, born out of a chance meeting at Winter Convocation, is helping to train teachers in Belize in hands-on science teaching methods and strategies. The program, which is supported through St. Luke's Church in Chardon, as well as the Diocese of Ohio's Commission on Global and Domestic Mission, also provides support in the form of a professional pen pals program between current and retired teachers in the Diocese and Science Lead Educators in Belize, as well as a small grants program for Belize Science Lead Teachers who are working to expand innovative instructional programs and activities.

The schools in Belize, like many of their counterparts in Ohio, serve economically disadvantaged areas where traditional science teaching tools like microscopes and chemistry labs are out of financial reach. The Science Success Program takes common household items and creates "shoebox science kits" that, when paired with some creativity, make teaching complex ideas and methods possible. The \$.28 kit consists of a metal washer, a length of twine and a plastic practice golf ball. By teaching teachers to use these simple tools for hands on science experiments, students can learn complex concepts like the laws of

motion, movement and gravity.

The program, which is a success by all accounts, has been made possible through the support and leadership of the Rev. Beth Frank, New Life, Uniontown, the Rev. David Kendall-Sperry, St. Paul's, Mt. Vernon, the Rev. Chris McCann, St. Luke's, Chardon and Ms. Deborah Domingo, General Manager, Anglican Schools in Belize, as well as the professional pen pals and teachers in Ohio and Belize.

For more information or to support the program, please contact Matt Teare at matteach@windstream.net. †



Students and teacher in their classroom in Belize

BELIZE UPDATE FROM ECW: A shipment of nearly 300 pounds of donated clothing and shoes was recently sent to the Anglican Diocese of Belize. The clothing came primarily from the St. Timothy's, Perrysburg "Clothes Line" Program with additional items from St. Timothy's, Macedonia. We are extremely grateful to Ms. Marilyn Hanson of Hudson Extrusions and her staff for their expertise and financial assistance.

Diocesan Youth Event

St. Andrew's Church, Elyria and Camp and Retreat Center in Wakeman
by the Rev. June Hardy Dorsey, St. Andrew's Church, Elyria

Rainy weather didn't dampen the spirits of the more than 40 youth from across the Diocese who participated in the Fall Youth event in October held at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Elyria that included a day trip to the Camp and Retreat Center at Wakeman.

The youth and volunteers gathered Friday, October 2 at St. Andrew's. Barriers of age, home parish, school district, race and gender all quickly disappeared as the youth enjoyed fellowship, study, play, meals and service throughout the weekend. Led by the Rev. Vincent Black and supported by Rita Rozell and other adults, the youth spent Friday evening getting to know one another and building community.

Saturday morning the youth undertook a service blitz at St. Andrew's, forming workgroups for projects supporting St. Andrew's mission of Bringing Christ to the World and The World to Christ. They packaged pet food and prayer cards for the upcoming *Blessing of the Animals*. They shelled beans for a feeding ministry in another church. They cleaned 80+ chairs used in weekly community meals. They addressed envelopes for the upcoming stewardship mailing and they filled and organized pew racks with welcome and prayer cards. Reflection after the service revealed that the youth easily made the connection between their service and the mission of St. Andrew's and the Diocese of Ohio.

After bundling up to brave the wet and cold weather, the youth and leaders boarded the bus for the trip to Wakeman. Undaunted by the rain and temperature, they participated enthusiastically in the educational and environmental activities led by Katie Ong-Landini, Kristen Allore and the other leaders. Activities included testing river water, picking apples, and making cider with an old fashioned cider press. They made and launched "seed bombs" onto a slope by the river to create a wildflower area.

Despite rain gear that sometimes included repurposed plastic bags, everyone got soaked to the skin but never lost their enthusiasm and engagement in the activities. Hot chocolate and the promise of an "indoor cookout" back at the church kept them fueled.

It was clear to see that all the participants were energized by the experience and bonded with each other. On the soggy trip home, they shared laughter and stories of their escapades. One young person shared, "I thought it would be hard to make friends since I was the only person from my church but people were really welcoming and friendly."



Diocesan youth exploring the site of the new Camp and Conference Center despite the rain.

Sunday morning the youth joined in the worship procession, leading the music and prayers, reading Scripture and serving as acolytes. They were competent, confident, and comfortable because of their experience in their home parishes.

The parish volunteers welcomed the DYE guests with enthusiastic and generous hospitality. Those who were able came to cook and clean up. Many of those who were not able to attend sent food. All opened their arms and hearts to support the youth, who gathered from around the Diocese of Ohio, to live our mission of Loving God, Loving Neighbor and Changing the World. †

Mark your Calendar Upcoming Youth Events

Happening Retreat 2016
March 4-6, 2016
St. John's Church in Cuyahoga Falls

Spring Youth Gathering
April 29-May 1, 2016
St. Peter's Church in Ashtabula

Interfaith Thanksgiving

Trinity Commons

An interfaith celebration of peace and unity brought together faith leaders from across Greater Cleveland. A dozen participants from Abrahamic religious traditions jointly celebrated a Thanksgiving worship service followed by a shared meal and fellowship at Trinity Cathedral on November 24. The Thanksgiving service incorporated traditional hymns and readings from Christian, Jewish and Muslim faiths and served as a symbol of unity at a time when the world is suffering from considerable unrest. The gathering reinforced that giving thanks to God, the creator of us all, unites faith communities instead of dividing them. Bishop Abraham Allende was the preacher, the text of whose sermon can be found at www.dohio.org.



Celebrating Interfaith Thanksgiving at Trinity Cathedral

Participants in the service included:

The Rev. Abraham D. Allende, Bishop, Northeastern Ohio Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church
Elder Linda Badger Becker, General Presbyter, The Presbytery of the Western Reserve, Presbyterian Church USA
The Rev. Dr. Todd C. Davidson, Senior Pastor, Antioch Baptist Church
The Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer, General Minister and President, United Church of Christ
The Most Rev. J. Delano Ellis, II, Pentecostal Church of Christ
Ahmed Fellague HDJ, Member of the Council of Elders, Islamic Center of Cleveland
The Rev. Joseph Hilinski, Ecumenical Officer, The Roman Catholic Diocese of Cleveland
The Rt. Rev. Mark Hollingsworth, Jr., Bishop, Episcopal Diocese of Ohio
Bishop John L. Hopkins, Resident Bishop to the East Ohio Conference, Ohio Methodist Church
The Very Rev. Tracey Lind, Dean, Trinity Cathedral
Rabbi Robert Nosanchuk, Senior Rabbi, Anshe Chesed Fairmount Temple
Mohammad Sohrabi, Member of the Executive Committee, Islamic Center of Cleveland

Intergenerational Faith Formation From Baby Boomers to Millennials and Beyond

When we think of Diversity we don't always consider age, however all congregations are multi-generational. Some of our churches are even blessed with several generations coming from the same family. Different generations often have differing habits, views and approaches to how they experience life. This is also true in how they experience faith and relate to one another in the church family. Recognizing this, the Diocese is working with several parishes to begin Intergenerational faith formation programs. Groups from St. Barnabas, Bay Village, St. Andrew's, Elyria, St. Paul's, Medina, Advent, Westlake and St. Matthew's, Brecksville have all created programs to promote cross-generational faith experiences.

St. Paul's, Medina has branded their program JOLT! – Joy of Learning Together with Jesus. The goal of the program is to build faithful Christians by engaging all ages who nurture faith not just on Sunday but every day. Fr. Eric Funston says, "Our goal is to bring people together to grow in faith by sharing life experiences. We've designed our first JOLT! event to make connections across the generations in a fresh approach to faith formation. Our concept is traditional, seeking to inform, form, and transform each person of every age, and by nurturing a robust, vital and energetic faith."

Programs are planned around the Church year. They use creative and fun activities and crafts to engage all generations and encourage dialog and cooperation. The members of the St. Paul steering committee are Sr. Warden Dennis Foy, Treasurer Chris Fulton, Vestry member Taylor French, DRE Mary Anthony, and Fr. Eric Funston. Each session will engage volunteers to help stage the program. For more information about intergenerational or faith formation programming, please contact the Rev. Brad Purdom at bpurdom@dohio.org. †

2015 to 2016 at St. John's, Ohio City

A year lived by Faith, by the Rev. Dr. Patricia Hanen, Ph.D, Vicar

St. Paul tells us, in his letter to the Romans, that Abraham had faith in the God “who gives life to the dead and calls into being the things that do not yet exist.” That understanding of faith continues to undergird all that happens at St. John’s in Ohio City.

In 2015, we have created a new structure for the future as we await the completion of our strategic plan and the beginning of the campaign to restore the building. We have received IRS approval for the St. John’s Institute, a non-profit corporation that will permit us to accept grant money from secular sources as well as religious ones, and we have created an Institute Board and By-Laws. The Ohio City Friends of St. John is transitioning into the membership association of the St. John’s Institute.

In 2015, thanks in part to generous grant help from the Payne-Bolton Foundation and a grant from the Shaker Heights Garden Club, we have made great strides in stabilizing the building—mold abatement, new concrete floors and drainage in the basement, a new downstairs bathroom, convectors to circulate heat in the church, repair of ductwork in the parish house, and a significant revitalization of St. John’s front garden. Before the end of this year, we look forward to completing needed masonry triage to stabilize the tower while we develop full-scale renovation plans.

On the programming side, we have lived well into our partnership with the Cleveland Public Theater, presenting the Student Theater Enrichment Program show in July, a November show from Y-Haven, a recovery program for homeless men, and an even larger and more inspiring Station Hope event in May, where Louis Stokes helped us dedicate our Underground Railroad marker. We were able to combine the Y-Haven Show (which features a new play written by men in recovery) with a real “first”: the show and sale of art



Retired Congressman Louis Stokes helps dedicate the marker for the Underground Railroad in May

created by men and women incarcerated in Northeast Ohio correctional institutions. In offering “Hope and Freedom through Art” we collaborated with the Roman Catholic Diocese of Cleveland and a consortium of neighborhood merchants. We hope to offer this again in 2016.

We have initiated two other programs for 2016: a six-performance neighborhood residency by the Syndicate for the New Arts, a group of Rust-Belt-based composers and performers who are developing a creative community focused in contemporary music, and a “Spirit and Life” series, featuring ten men and women from around Northeast Ohio who will discuss their own encounters with a reality larger than themselves and give the attendees a taste of the life-practice that follows from those encounters. For more information about these series and other events at St. John’s, check out the website: www.stjohnsohio.org.

2016 will also include the Community Easter Vigil on March 26 at 7 pm, with six parishes participating, and an amazing expanded Station Hope event on April 30. The Cleveland Public Theater has received a \$150,000 matching grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to create “The Road to Hope,” which will include programming in three other Cleveland neighborhoods as well as in Ohio City, and a pilgrimage that will culminate in Station Hope at St. John’s.

At the beginning of 2015, we had no idea that we would be here by the end of this year. With prayer and care in discernment, God is leading St. John’s into the future God has in store for her. So let it be with all our congregations! †



Y-Haven Performers

Photo by: Steve Wagner, Cleveland Public Theater

2016 Winter Convocation



January 29-30, 2016
Kalahari Resort and Convention Center

Keynote Speaker: Brother Mark Brown
Society of Saint John the Evangelist (SSJE).

Living an Abundant Life with Christ
Growing in our relationships with God, Self, Others, and Creation



Growing a Rule of Life - Join our Common Lenten Journey

The intentional nurture of the spiritual lives of its members is the most important, effective, and transformational thing to its life and vitality that a church can do. When done consistently and well, everything else - be it worship, service, stewardship - everything else flows from that wellspring.

With that in mind, we are inviting every member of our diocese to join in a shared Lenten spiritual growth experience during Lent 2016, one I am certain will be productive for all and transforming for some, if not many.

In partnership with Virginia Seminary, this Lenten program - called "Growing a Rule of Life" - has been developed by one of our church's religious communities - The Society of St. John the Evangelist.

"Growing a Rule of Life" will help each of us consider how we can develop an approach to daily living that will more intentionally reflect the Christian values we hold dear. As we will learn, this goal can be greatly aided by adopting a time-tested spiritual practice called a Rule of Life.

The program is intended to help us step back and think about what we value and how we intend to live. It will help us develop an individualized approach to living that offers us support along the way. The program will offer daily online videos and reflections as well as weekly congregational and small group leader curricula and discussion guides. A participant guidebook is required for the program and can be ordered from Amazon. Please contact bpurdom@dohio.org if you have not already signed up to participate.

People from more than 2/3 of our congregations have already signed on to take part in this shared spiritual experience. Imagine what God might do among us with those numbers: what God might do in our own lives, in our congregations, and in our communities.

We look forward with anticipation to our shared experience at Winter Convocation, of a Lent focused on each of us developing our own practical Rule of Life, and of seeing what next new thing God is ready to do in and through us all.

The Rev. Brad Purdom
Canon for Congregations

Commission for Racial Understanding

In his powerful sermon at his installation, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry shared a profoundly moving personal story about the acceptance his African American parents received from one Episcopal Church during a time when racial segregation and separation were not only common practice but were still the law in much of the country. Bishop Curry shared that after watching his wife share the communion cup with the other members of an all white congregation his father said, "Any Church in which blacks and whites drink out of the same cup knows something about the Gospel that I want to be a part of."

Now more than half a century later, at a time when the Episcopal Church has elected its first African American Bishop, our Church recognizes that there is still work to be done toward racial understanding and acceptance.

At the 199th Diocesan Convention Bishop Mark Hollingsworth acknowledged, "Since we've last met, the reality of racial mistrust and racism has been starkly evident. The Diocese of Ohio has been aware of this reality for decades, first forming the Commission for Racial Understanding (CRU) in 1973." He went on to say, "This Commission is a creation of the Diocesan Convention and it seems that at this moment, it offers an opportunity, and as a response to the President of the United States and the newly-elected Presiding Bishop, to address issues of race and racial reconciliation, and that we as a convention might take some time now to consider what we might do individually and as a diocese."

Delegates and guests were then invited to participate in a table discussion around expectations and hopes for the CRU and



Convention attendees participating in table discussions



Denise Caywood, CRU chair, addresses the Diocesan Convention

what commitments each of us can make to enact change. Denise Caywood from St. Philip's, Akron and Chair of the CRU said, "The feedback from the convention will help direct the work of the CRU." She went on to say, "Often times, mistrust is brought on by lack of understanding. This type of dialogue is the first step to reaching understanding."

The CRU will be reviewing summaries of the table discussions and will use that information to help lead the Diocese in the promotion of racial understanding and inclusion. Denise said, "The CRU's task is to work for healing and transformation in ourselves, our church, and our communities. The Commission charges members to exemplify the values of respect, compassion, inclusion, and an appreciation of unique differences." †

CRU would like to acknowledge the service of the Rev. Gary McElroy, co-chair, 2013-2015. We are thankful for his generous and wise leadership.

Additional information and further resources can be found at
www.dohio.org/commission-racial-understanding



A letter from Diocesan ECW President

WHY DO WE NEED AN ECW?

In Salt Lake City, I was approached by one of our young delegates who was interested in knowing more about ECW. More recently, I received an e-mail from a lady with the similar questions; What do we do? How could she join? etc. I responded to her briefly and, as her parish doesn't have an ECW group, I gave her the contact information of her Mission Area President. However, it made me think!

Before retiring, I'd never joined the ECW in any of the parishes I'd attended. I certainly supported all their endeavors by shopping at their sales, washing dishes or making items for their meals, etc., but I never paid dues to belong or attended a meeting. I didn't consider myself a member of the organization, just an active member of my parish who also sang in the choir, did hospital visits, taught Sunday School, pinch-hit with the Boy Scout troop. In other words, I did what was needed and expected. Of course, what I didn't realize was that I WAS a member of the ECW.

For some reason there is concern that, by having gender specific organizations, we are taking a retrograde step in the role of women. It couldn't be further from the truth – we are meeting the needs of the people in the pews and, if there are men who want to join us, they are welcome. If I had my wishes, I would have a group that served each demographic within the Church because each age group, male or female, has different needs. And, for many, the Church has become a hub for their friendships and support. Meeting many of those needs is, of course, a responsibility of the clergy but, as in any thriving democratic organization, tasks have, and should be, delegated.

For well over a century, the ECW has been responsible for many of the social service aspects of the Episcopal Church's outreach programs. A classic example of that is the United Thank Offering (UTO). In this diocese, we are offering the same services to the Diocese. Almost every parish has a variety of outreach programs that involve all interested members of the parish and in many, operational oversight falls to the ECW. It gives people purpose and furthers the mission of the Church.

The Diocesan ECW is responsible for certain aspects of our outreach relationships within the Anglican Communion. In this we work closely with the Commission on Global and Domestic Mission and various parishes in the Diocese.

Currently, we are trying to heighten awareness of the issues surrounding Human Trafficking. Not only the sexual aspects of the problem but also those involving the workplace. There have been several high profile labor-related cases prosecuted in Ohio recently. These range from keeping handicapped people captive over extended periods of time in order to collect disability payments to bringing in illegal aliens to work extended hours in appalling conditions to put eggs on our tables. At Winter Convocation, the ECW has been asked to host a Breakout Session on Human Trafficking and we will have a speaker addressing both of these issues. One from a local consortium on human trafficking and one from the United States Department of Labor speaking to employment issues. We hope that you will choose to attend – it's vitally important that we all educate ourselves on this problem.

The ECW is not trying to reinvent the wheel but to encourage members of the Diocese, male and female, to investigate the needs in their area. The State of Ohio has one of the most well regarded programs in the country and a great many consortiums exist around the state that organize programs, support existing projects, etc. Please take a little time to explore the resources in your city or community. Who knows, maybe you have a skill or a talent that would be of great value to them. You can start by checking with your local Police or Sheriff's Department to see what they've encountered. If you are on the Vestry or Mission Area Council, bring it up there. You may be surprised about the extent of the problem and the way in which it reaches into the smallest communities in our state.

Hilary Nerby

ECW *News* Notes

ECW/Daughters of the King Quiet Day

The Episcopal Church Women and Daughters of the King of the Diocese of Ohio co-sponsored a Quiet Day at St. Thomas, Berea on October 17. Forty-three attendees spent the day listening to reflections by Abbot Andrew of St. Gregory's Abbey in Three Rivers, Michigan then meditated on his messages. The idea of not talking was even enforced at lunchtime when St. Thomas member and Verger, Dave Miller, read a passage from one of the Abbot's books. The attendees left St. Thomas refreshed and bubbling with joy and enthusiasm! Our thanks to Abbott Andrew Marr, the diocesan Daughters of the King, St. Thomas, Berea ECW and DOK chapter, and all others who assisted with this event.

United Thank Offering

At the ECW Triennial Convention in the summer of 2015, the Diocese of Ohio was recognized for increasing its level of UTO contributions for each year of the triennium (2012, 2013 and 2014). What's more, our Diocese recorded the highest level of contributions of all of the dioceses in Province V. That is quite an achievement, and we thank everyone who participated in these UTO Ingatherings for your generosity!

The Spring Ingathering netted \$11,627.30. Please note that December 31 is the deadline for the Fall Ingathering, so contributions submitted in late December may be recorded in the Spring Ingathering total.

2016 UTO Grant Applications

UTO grant application forms and information about the application process, including the grant focus, guidance for writing a grant, and an application timeline for 2016 will be available on January 4, 2016 at www.episcopalchurch.org/page/united-thank-offering.

Please review the grant criteria carefully. If there is a project in your congregation that meets the criteria, please apply. All grant applications (and required documents) must be submitted electronically to Barbara Jones by 5:00 p.m. on February 19, 2016 for review by the screening committee. One application will be selected and forwarded to the bishop for his endorsement.

If you have questions about the application process, please contact Barbara Jones, Diocese of Ohio, UTO Coordinator. She may be reached at shadowoak2199@zoominternet.net or 330-793-0540. †

SAVE THE DATE!

ECW Province V Annual Meeting
May 13-15, 2016
Grand Hotel, Mackinac Island

SAVE THE DATE!

139th ECW Annual Meeting
Saturday, April 23, 2016
Christ Church, Oberlin

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.



Trinity Institute is an annual conference in its 45th year that equips clergy and laypersons for imaginative and catalytic leadership. This year's conference – TI2016: Listen for a Change – focuses on racial justice.

TI2016 will be an opportunity to have life-giving conversations about racial issues of our time, including structural racism, mass incarceration and policy change. Racial justice is a matter of life or death. We can't afford to stay silent and accept the (mostly) invisible systems that support inequality. Rather, we need to have an open dialogue—which starts with listening. These conversations will build capacity to engage the community in these essential conversations for change.

The conference will be held January 21-23 at Trinity Church in New York City. It will also be simulcast at partner sites throughout the world.

There are four partner sites within The Episcopal Diocese of Ohio: Trinity Cathedral; Grace Church, Mansfield; Grace Church, Sandusky; and Christ Church, Warren. Attendance at these sites is free of charge but requires advance registration. Participants from all faith perspectives are welcome.

Visit the website of your closest participating site to register. For general information about Trinity Institute, visit TI2016.org. †

Congregational Ministry and Faith Formation Grants Available

These are grants to help congregations initiate new programs to build their size and vitality. They can be as large as \$3,000 in the first year and can be renewed for the same program for up to \$2,000 in the second year and \$1,000 in the third year. These must be programs through which the congregation reaches out toward new members. Congregations have used these grants in the past to support:

- a summer series of outdoor concerts on the lawn of the church
- setting up a parish booth with free water, coffee, sand art, etc., at their community's annual Home Day Festival or at the Hartville Flea Market
- developing a comprehensive welcoming and incorporating process including materials, brochures, door hangers, etc.
- nontraditional children's formation and ministries and much more

A total of \$40,000 is available. Funding cannot be used for capital improvements or for outreach ministries.

For more information please contact the Rev. Brad Purdom at bpurdom@dohio.org †

Capital Loans and Grants Funds

Parishes may apply to the Diocese for funds in support of capital projects. Support may be in the form of a grant, a loan, or a combination of both a grant and loan. The parish is expected to contribute to the cost of the capital project. Under the current guidelines approved by Diocesan Council, the interest rate is 4.5% annually, and the loan term may be from 3-7 years. Grants are not available for handicap accessibility projects, organ purchase or renovation, installation or renovation of stained/art glass, and/or furnishings or portable equipment.

The Loans and Grants Committee reviews completed applications on an as needed basis. The Committee makes a recommendation to Diocesan Council, which approves, rejects, or amends the recommendation. Approved grant and/or loan funds must be disbursed within a 12-month period or the parish needs to reapply for a new grant/loan.

The current operating practice of the Committee is to begin consideration for funding based on a 1/3 parish contribution, 1/3 loan, and 1/3 grant. A final recommendation for funding varies based on the individual financial circumstances of the parish, amount of grant and loan funds available, and the amount and scope of the project being funded.

Sue Leishman, CFO, is the staff liaison for the Loans and Grants Committee. Any questions on loan and grant funds or application requirements may be directed to her at 216-774-0450. †

New Transitional Deacon Ordained



Michael S. Floyd was ordained a Transitional Deacon on October 20, 2015 at St Timothy's Church, Perrysburg by Bishop Mark Hollingsworth, Jr. He is serving as Deacon-in-Charge at Christ Church, Huron. †

BISHOPS' VISITATIONS

JANUARY

- 10 St. Andrew Episcopal Church, Mentor – Hollingsworth
- 17 St. Andrew's Church, Elyria – Hollingsworth
- 24 St. Peter's Church, Ashtabula – Hollingsworth
- 31 St. Stephen's Church, East Liverpool – Hollingsworth

FEBRUARY

- 7 St. Bartholomew's Church, Mayfield Village – Hollingsworth
- 7 St. Luke's Church, Cleveland – Williams
- 14 St. Matthew's Church, Brecksville – Hollingsworth
- 21 St. Mark's Church, Canton – Hollingsworth
- 28 St. Paul's Church, Bellevue – Hollingsworth
- 28 St. Christopher's-by-the-River Church, Gates Mills – Williams

MARCH

- 6 St. Patrick's Church, Brunswick – Hollingsworth
- 20 St. Andrew's Church, Barberton – Hollingsworth

APRIL

- 10 Harcourt Parish, Gambier – Persell
- 10 St. Stephen's Church, Steubenville – Williams
- 24 St. Paul's Church, Maumee – Williams
- 24 St. Paul's Church, Steubenville – Persell

Clergy Changes

The Rev. Michael S. Floyd has been appointed Deacon-in-Charge at Christ Church, Huron

The Rev. Carlton F. Kelly has been appointed Interim Rector at Trinity Church, Toledo

The Rev. Rachel C. Kessler has been appointed Priest-in-Charge at Harcourt Parish, Gambier

The Rev. Anthony D. Setley has been appointed Priest-in-Charge at St. Thomas, Port Clinton

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

CALENDAR | *Full calendar at* DOHIO.ORG

January 11
Standing Committee
Trinity Commons, Cleveland

January 18
**Diocesan Offices closed for
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**

January 21
Diocesan Council
Trinity Commons, Cleveland

January 29-30
Winter Convocation
Kalahari Resort and Convention
Center, Sandusky

February 13
Commission on Ministry
TBD

February 15
Standing Committee
Trinity Commons, Cleveland

February 18
Diocesan Council
Trinity Commons, Cleveland

March 3-5
Commission on Ministry Gathering
TBD

March 4-6
Happening 2016 Retreat
St. John's Church, Cuyahoga Falls

March 7
Standing Committee
Trinity Commons, Cleveland

March 17
Diocesan Council
Trinity Commons, Cleveland

March 25
**Diocesan offices closed for Good
Friday**

April 10
**Human Trafficking and Our
Response**
St. Martin's Church, Chagrin Falls

April 13
Vibrant Faith Conference
St. Timothy's Church, Perrysburg

April 14
Vibrant Faith Conference
St. Barnabas, Bay Village

April 18
Standing Committee
Trinity Commons, Cleveland

April 29-May 1
Spring Youth Gathering
St. Peter's Church, Ashtabula

Help Us Name the Camp!

As much as we have been amused by the former name of the Wakeman property, it is time to get serious about finding a new name to fit its new mission as the Camp and Retreat Center for the Diocese of Ohio. So, we need your help! Please send suggestions to: NameTheCamp@dohio.org by January 1, 2016. We will share the submissions with a task force, appointed by the Bishop, that will make the final decision at some point next year.