



Church Life!

The Magazine of the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio

SPRING 2011



What's Inside?

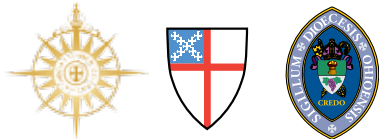
- Winter Convocation Draws Record Crowd
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ChurchLife!

The Magazine of the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio

Vol. 115, No. 1, Spring 2011

The Episcopal Church



In the Anglican Communion

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

The Most Rev. Rowan Williams,
Archbishop of Canterbury

In the United States

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

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

In the Diocese of Ohio

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

Bishop of Ohio

The Rt. Rev. Mark Hollingsworth, Jr.

ChurchLife!

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Front Cover: The Rev. Christopher “Zeke” Coughlin reading the Gospel during a service at St. John’s Church, Youngstown.
Photo by Chris Holley-Starling.



PEACE

FOR THE LAST FEW MONTHS, ON my early morning perambulations I have been nursing my goatender's knees back to running. It has been so long since I succumbed to walking that I had forgotten how satisfying it is to run, even at the gentle pace I allow myself. My route doesn't vary; it is quiet and frequently finds me within twenty feet of grazing deer. Regularly raccoons, rabbits, and even the occasional fox will look up from busy foraging as I pass by, and I continue to hear a variety of raptors, including the familiar call of the Barred Owl, with whom I have been conversing for a number of years now. Currently, the pre-dawn air is filled with a myriad of avian love songs, weaving together in a sweet fabric of sound.

There are a few other walkers and runners regularly out at that early hour, a couple recognizable by their canine companions. Most of the time we acknowledge one another's presence with a wave or a simple word of greeting. And there is one person whom I see almost every morning I am out. He is tall and lean, a very skilled runner with long, gliding strides. Because his route is in the opposite direction from mine, it is rare that our paths do not cross. Often we meet along a stretch of road on which he skips sideways, like a boxer working on his footwork. I am grateful that we travel counter to one another; if we ran in the same direction I would daily endure the depressing experience

of having him fly by me and disappear over the horizon, as I triumphantly shatter the fifteen-minute mile.

I suspect that this runner with the long stride is a number of years younger than I, though it is often difficult to judge with athletes. And, truth be told, I tend often to imagine that I am a number of years younger than I. Be that as it may, his apparent youthfulness is odd in one particular respect: every time he passes by, without fail, he raises two fingers in the familiar V and says, simply, "Peace." For years, I considered it a throwback, like his long ponytail, to an earlier era, even though (unlike me) he does not seem old enough to be an aging hippie. I confess that it falls upon my ear as an awkward greeting a decade into the 21st Century. I am daily uncertain just how to respond. "And also with you?" "And with thy spirit?" "Back at you, man?" And I'm not even sure I want to accept this greeting, feeling as I imagine by grandparents' peers felt when we reintroduced "passing the Peace" in the Eucharistic liturgy.

Yet day after day, month after month, and now year upon year, often the first word I hear in the morning is "Peace."

I am a slow learner. This winter I have finally begun to recognize the gift in this. Early many mornings, while I am just beginning to get my body and spirit limbered up and aligned for the day, when I am most vulnerable to the anxieties and

hopes that herald the events of the coming daylight hours, I am offered peace. I am offered peace that I have not earned, by someone who owes me nothing. I am greeted not only with peace, but in peace. Clothed in it; surrounded by it; quickened, protected, and challenged by it.

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you."

With these words recorded in his "farewell discourse" (John 13:31–17:26), Jesus clothed, protected, and challenged his disciples with his own peace. He gave his peace to them, that they might in turn give it to others. He left it with them that they might be neither troubled nor afraid. He armed them with it alone, that they might be able to receive others as he did, without defense or prejudice.

I wonder how it is for the mystery runner whose greeting of "Peace" warms me before the sun does. Rather than put me in a box, as I had been both fearing and resisting, does it not really serve to open him in some challenging and transforming way? I wonder what it is like when in welcoming the other, no matter who that may be, we first clothe him in peace. I wonder how that changes the way we entertain his needs and gifts, how it ordains the way we receive him into ourselves, how it allows and perhaps compels us to love him. Of course, when we clothe others in Jesus' peace, while it may initiate some transformation in their own self-awareness, it radically changes the way we must see them, the way we must live with them.

And, of course, that is the resurrected life.

May the peace of Christ be with you. And may it thereby make me new.

Gratefully,

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

WINTER CONVOCATION DRAWS RECORD CROWD TO HEAR PRESIDING BISHOP

PHOTOS BY CHRIS HOLLEY-STARLING

TRAVELING FROM CLEVELAND TO TOLEDO TO Youngstown and back to Cleveland, the Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, in her first visit to the Diocese of Ohio since her consecration as Presiding Bishop, saw the breadth of the diocese, if not quite its length over the course of three days. Bishop Katharine had just come from Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, where she participated in the inauguration of full communion between Episcopalians and Moravians. Her husband, Richard Schori, PhD, came earlier in the day on Friday and spent the noon hour at Trinity Cathedral with clergy, their spouses and partners, and a group of lay leaders talking about the role of clergy spouses and partners and sharing his own stories about his career as a mathematician and his hobbies of rock climbing, running, and tennis.

After a plane cancellation and delay, Bishop Katharine arrived in Cleveland and was able to spend about an hour talking to the same group and answering their questions before leaving for the Winter Convocation in Perrysburg. A record 650 people (about 75 of them

Richard Schori with Eleanor Robinson.



The Presiding Bishop speaking at the 2011 Winter Convocation.

youth) turned out to see her in Perrysburg where she held a town hall meeting on Friday evening, fielding a variety of questions from what she thought of the Egyptian move toward democracy to what she would like to say to the Archbishop of Canterbury (What can you find to love about the Episcopal Church?) to where she

thought the church was going in the next 10 years.

She noted that the church was growing among three groups of people: Latinas, young adults, and women who were experiencing some life transition. The church will grow overseas, among immigrant populations and those Episcopalians who pay attention to the communities around them. The Episcopal Church, she said, is for people who like to wrestle with the questions, and who don't need all the answers. She believes the church of the future will be much more multicolored and multicultural. The church may not have as many buildings and their primary focus won't just be Sunday morning worship.

Forced to Change with the Changing World

The world is changing so fast that we are being forced to change, she continued. The process of considering the Anglican Covenant, which she believes is "dead in the water," has also forced us to talk. Ironically the push from some members of the Communion to make



The Presiding Bishop consecrates the host at a service at St. John's Church in Youngstown. Also pictured are the Rev. Kelly Marshall, the Rev. Donna Maree, and the Rev. Christopher Coughlin.

the Covenant stronger has delayed any ability to move forward on it. "We've already won," she said. "We are learning that the church is not about regulation but about becoming better partners in mission." The parts of the church that are growing are those that are taking risks and are willing to tell their stories. She also said



The Presiding Bishop blesses a parishioner during the service at St. John's Church, Youngstown.

who are ordained, but also those in the pews. She reminded the gathering that the church needs to have a constant renewing of leadership as it plans for its succession.

Bishop Katharine also gave the sermon at the Saturday

we need to engage our peers in other religions, and told the gathering about a tri-faith initiative in Omaha among Christians, Jews, and Muslims.

Asked what she has seen as she has travelled around the wider church, she said she has noticed a more outward focus, a deeper experience of prayer, and leadership coming not just from those

morning worship service, and spent lunch with the youth.

Sunday morning the Schoris headed for St. John's, Youngstown, where the Presiding Bishop was again greeted with a full house. Hosted by the Southeast Mission Area, parishioners and priests from nine parishes attended worship where Bishop Katharine presided and preached.

Back in Cleveland by late afternoon, the Presiding Bishop preached at the annual Absalom Jones Celebration, held at Trinity

Cathedral. The Rt. Rev. Arthur B. Williams, Jr. presided. The enthusiastic crowd was treated to a community choir led by Lawrence Hill, drummers, and the Little Saints liturgical dancers from All Saints', Toledo. The Absalom Jones Award was presented to Byrdie Lee, from Christ Church, Shaker Heights.

[The Presiding Bishop] has noticed a more outward focus, a deeper experience of prayer, and leadership coming not just from those who are ordained, but also those in the pews.

The Presiding Bishop presents the Absalom Jones Award to Byrdie Lee, member of Christ Church, Shaker Heights, during the annual Absalom Jones Celebration at Trinity Cathedral.



DIOCESE OF OHIO FORGING RELATIONSHIP WITH BELIZE

BY LINDA KINSEY

THE DIOCESE OF OHIO IS STILL IN THE PROCESS of setting up a formal companion partnership with the Diocese of Belize, but that has not stopped the development of relationships and mission work through visits to that country by a number of Ohio clergy and parishioners.

In Bishop Hollingsworth's Episcopal Address to the diocesan convention last November, he noted that the Bishop of Belize, Philip Wright, had visited Ohio, and representatives from the diocese had been to Belize.

Additionally, Richard and Cindy Shaffer, Grace Church, Defiance, "have been instrumental in developing this relationship and have continued their mission work," Hollingsworth said. The Shaffers have worked with Holy Cross Anglican School for several years and hope to move there permanently.

What's more, a mission team from St. Peter's, Ashtabula, made up of the Rev. David and Lorraine Evans, Cathy and Wayne Pelton, Danielle Balog, Pam Bean, Hazel Phillips and Connie Dixon, visited Belize earlier this winter thanks to a grant from the diocese.

The mission work is the result of the diocese's Commission on Global and Domestic Mission, which is charged with the development of our companion relationship partnerships and has been asked by the diocese to develop those relationships on two continents. The Diocese of Tanga is also part of the diocesan mission focus.

"These relationships are critical to the Church's mission to 'restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ' and, as such, they are essential to our vocation as individual Christians and as a diocese to community building, both locally and globally," Hollingsworth said in his convention address.

Connie Dixon, a member of the St. Peter's Mission Team, calls the trip "very productive. We have made relationships in the Belizean Diocese, in both villages of St. Agnes and La Democracia, and with the staff and children of both schools.

"Father David Evans (interim rector at St. Peter's), has planted a seed for micro-lending—a way for people to work their way out of poverty—both at the diocesan



Students at one of the Anglican schools in Belize.

level and the village level."

Evans explains that micro-lending is a way of raising the living standard of people while teaching entrepreneurial skills so people can earn either additional or primary income for themselves and their families.

"This system was first suggested and then implemented by Muhammad Yunus, an economist in Bangladesh who received a Nobel peace prize for his work with the poor, and micro-lending has been adapted by others around the world, including America."

The way the project works, Evans says, is to first craft conversations that forge relationships among people who could be helped.

Setting Up Micro-lending

"In Belize, we first spoke to Bishop Wright about such a program. I then spoke to community leaders and also others who might be interested. In our case, we had two meetings and have about 25 people interested in micro lending. Over time, groups of five will be created and they will self select a leader. They are a couple of groups already meeting."

Essentially, St. Peter's will fund loans to those who wish to be business owners who have agreed to a set of standards.

Some of those standards include timely pay-back of loans and refined business plans, and members of the

groups must agree to meet regularly. As the plan unfolds, more loans are made based on how well the groups follow through on the standards and repay the loans.

“I find that this sort of plan eliminates the diminishing of dignity that often takes place when money is simply given to people,” Evans says. “It also empowers people, and once the money is paid back, the money is available to help others.”

The Rev. Mark K. J. Robinson, canon for mission in the Diocese of Ohio, underscored that thought, noting that the kind of relationship the Diocese of Ohio wants with other countries, including Belize, is one that works more as a partnership.

The Colonial Model Is Out

“The colonial model doesn’t work,” he says. “That’s where you do it for them, pack up and leave. That model does not respect the dignity of every human being...it only leads to alienation and irritation.”

Instead, Robinson says, the Diocese of Ohio is entering into this relationship with Belize with “prayer and discernment.” Part of that discernment is determining what the needs are of the Belizean people and responding to them.

Robinson, who along with Eugene Stacy of Old Trinity, Tiffin, who co-chairs the Commission on Global and Domestic Mission, went on a fact-finding mission last year to determine the possibilities of forming a companion relationship with Diocese of Belize.

While it is encouraging that English is the primary language of Belize, so communication barriers would be less of a factor, five distinctive cultures exist within this Western Caribbean country of 8,866 square miles. Known as British Honduras before 1971, Belize,

which has just 300,000 people, also has Spanish and African influences, and surprisingly a large community of Amish and Mennonites who moved there 50 years ago.

“They have the most lush farm land you’ve ever seen,” Robinson said.

Stacy hopes that the Diocese of Ohio will now become more aware of the needs of the people of Belize. The two areas of interest, he says, are supplying clergy and supporting the schools there.

“Belize is clergy poor,” Stacy says. He hopes that some exchange programs will aid that situation. “Belize is primarily an English-speaking country and that makes exchanges very easy.”

He encourages members of the Diocese of Ohio to consider a trip to Belize. “I think they’d find it delightful.”

One opportunity for contact may come this summer at Cedar Hills Camp, overseen by the Rev. Peter Nielsen, its director.

Contact was made with a young Belizean woman named Phoebe Young, whom Nielsen invited to assist with the camp’s food service.

“She is 19, and my hope is that she will not only assist in the kitchen at camp, helping to defray her stipend, but will also become

a part of the camp staff family, as many of the youth that staff Camp Cedar Hills are her same age.”

“Mark (Robinson) and I are also making arrangements for about 10 youth to come to camp from Belize as campers,” Nielsen says, adding that “together we are trying to raise

the money to make this practical. I am aware that St. James, Painesville, has dedicated their second quarter outreach offering for this purpose.”

He expects \$4,000 will be needed to cover camp costs and an additional \$2,750 for travel expenses.

Nielsen anticipates a rich experience for both Belizean and American youth.

“There is a mutuality in that both sets of diocesan youth will grow in their sense of the church playing an intimate role in forming human relationships that are beyond cultural boundaries, geography, and practical needs.

“Every participant will hear the other’s story, that is, the fullness of their story as a human being, with similar joys, desires and challenges, as well as to have the opportunity to discover something new about themselves and their relationship with God.”

Camp Can Change Lives

Nielsen says that camp is known for being the kind of place where “relationships are fostered that change lives and often last a lifetime. We have had visitors from all over the globe and each time our children have been surprised at their own capacity to open themselves to the other.”

Connie Dixon noted that their work “has just begun. We hope some of you will prayerfully consider going on the next trip. We not only have new friends in Belize, but also have strengthened our friendships as a team. We were a family and all came away feeling very blessed.”

Those standards include timely pay-back of loans and refined business plans, and members of the groups must agree to meet regularly.

“WILL YOU...RESPECT THE DIGNITY OF EVERY HUMAN BEING?”

BY SARAH A. CART

WILL YOU SEEK AND SERVE CHRIST IN ALL persons?”

That question from our Baptismal Covenant “is not abstract on death row,” says the Rev. Josh Butler, and he should know: He has been ministering to death row inmates for more than five years.

The concept first piqued Josh’s interest at a Mission & Ministry Conference years ago. When he sat down in a seminar on helping inmates readjust to life after incarceration, he was frustrated that the discussion “seemed rather more focused on saving the soul than feeding the body.” So, he explains, “I slipped out [and] then, entirely by accident, happened upon a session about writing to men on death row.”

Josh, a Youngstown-area native who was ordained as a deacon in November 2010, listened as that session’s presenter, the Rev. Neil Kookoothe, a Catholic priest, described one man with whom no one had been able to maintain a sustained correspondence.

For Josh, “That seemed way too interesting not to know more, so I started writing...” In his letters, he promised that he would continue to write regardless of whether the man, Mike, answered. The relationship evolved over the years to the point where Josh was able to visit Mike in prison, and Josh feels honored that his and Mike’s interaction and friendship, “continues to this day.”

Looking back on the hows and whys of that first relationship and his death row ministry, Josh observes, “I came to this...by happenstance. The men on death row teach me about the world: How did this come to pass, that a man should spend his last days in this place? What went on in their lives before the crime? Therein the tale and the truth that changes me...”

Jesus Never Asked How

“Before healing someone, Jesus never asked, ‘How did

you get into this fix?’ Jesus never said, ‘I’ll heal your daughter if you quit soldiering for the Romans.’ Jesus simply healed the man, woman or child who was there before him. No conditions. No trades. Just healed them.

“That’s how it is with visiting on death row. You deal with the one man before you, right then. The history hasn’t much to do with it when you are there.”

At its heart, Josh explains, “This is the basis of the ministry: Simple, ordinary kindness and hospitality.”

In fact, quite simple, on the face of it: “I try to visit each inmate every month or six weeks. Sometimes I can; sometimes I cannot. I do write letters.

Letter writing is a dying art, but not so among the men on death row. I write what I want, I send a prepaid envelope and I will get a letter in return.”

Over the years, Josh’s ministry has grown to include three men whom he visits, and three to whom he writes. One of “his men” is the second oldest on “the row.” None of them, he points out, has ever “had a long-term relationship built of conversation and hospitality and giving.”

If you ask Josh what this work entails, he answers cautiously.

“I am not sure I would characterize what I do as ‘working with’ these men. I visit them in the sense of the root of ‘visit’ which is ‘see about.’ These men are in lock-down, often for 23 hours a day. The little that is required is a simple inquiry about their health or family. Or, the

all-important question: ‘What can I get you from the vending machine?’... A few times, those vending machines have given a man his first-ever taste of something as ordinary (to us) as lemon meringue pie or a plain, purple grape.

“There are plenty of opportunities to visit, or write to, or be friends with these men. The men I visit all have the same public defender...and he suggested that [each would] appreciate a kind word. This attorney cares greatly about the men he defends and [he visits] with them out of friendship as well as being their advocate in court... If

“The men on death row teach me about the world: How did this come to pass, that a man should spend his last days in this place? What went on in their lives before the crime? Therein the tale and the truth that changes me...”

I visit an inmate, the public defender has more time to defend the inmate, and that is a good thing.”

Help the Helpers

This motivates Josh because it honors what he holds as one of his fundamental principles as a deacon: “Help the helpers.”

Josh knows of others whose ministries vary from his, but are just as meaningful to the men they serve. He describes how one of the men he visits regularly “has a lady who writes him a long letter every week and has for years. She tells Billy about her kids and her husband and what she watches on TV and about the birds in the backyard. She will never visit [him, but she brings him] more peace than anyone ever has. Her constancy is the stuff of sainthood, all for a half hour a week and a stamp. She is helping the helper, adding to the pool of grace that we all build.”

For his part creating that “pool of grace,” Josh hopes, “If my presence, every few weeks, calms a man, keeps him mindful, and then he relaxes those around him, and maybe one day the corrections officer... Well, you get my drift.”

While on the one hand, the ministry is simple—“The men on the row want a visit. They are not looking for a biographer, therapist, spiritual director, swami or bookmaker. They only want a visit, a kind word and a piece of the lemon meringue pie, please,”—on the other hand, death row ministry can overwhelm a person, and Josh appreciates that it isn’t for everyone.

“I imagine that most people would have a sense about it, whether they imagine themselves comfortable and at ease in such a place. I can think of plenty of things I do not feel at ease with...but, with thanks for whatever aspect of my constitution might be at work, I don’t mind it on the row. It is

intense because it is compressed. But I like the men, I enjoy the visits, and I never leave as I came in.”

Josh follows no set roadmap. “When I visit, we talk about anything and everything... We might talk about what kind of soap they have and how often they are allowed to shower. How their TV is working, or not working, what they watch on TV, why the Cavaliers don’t need LeBron James, what a pain the guy in the next cell is, about a correction officer who’s a decent guy, their kids who do write or don’t, their sister who said she would visit but never showed up.

“We talk about God and what we believe. Or don’t. We try to pray. We try to laugh. They tell me what they would do if they were free men. Mostly, it is a ministry of presence. I show up and listen. A visit on the row is as intense a conversation about things inconsequential as I will ever have. These ‘things inconsequential’ are the inmates’ everything.”

Narratives Speak Volumes

And yet, sometimes in the midst of what Josh terms “things inconsequential,” larger truths emerge: “As I hear the men’s stories, about their childhoods and families, I understand how delicate life is, and how little it takes to misguide someone... [The narratives] tell me volumes about how these guys ended up on the row.”

Josh is careful to maintain perspective and admits, “There is much manipulation everywhere, and soft-soap stories and all that. ‘Boohoo, poor me.’ It happens. But [that] falls away as I devote the time to listening,

paring away this, setting aside that, and asking again to hear the stories. I don’t do a blessed thing...but carry them around, thankful for hearing [about their lives] and that I did not live them.”

For instance:

- A childhood defined by a house fire. Picture an electric cord stretched from the basement to the second floor on a cold winter’s night; picture the boy whose parents died there;
- Picture a seven-year-old boy who can only watch as his five-year-old sister is raped;
- Picture a

12-year-old incarcerated in the Tennessee Home for Colored Boys forced to work down in the coalmines.

“As I unravel all the circumstances that came before in these men’s lives,” Josh laments, he cannot help but believe “that someone—a mother, a father, ‘the system,’ the church, society—failed them long before they came onto the row.”

And then there are the inevitable realities of a ministry like Josh’s.

In February, he wrote, “I’ve never had one of my guys killed. I reckon it will happen and I will be there if they want me. I can’t buy a man lemon meringue pie and then quit him.”

A week later, he followed with “One of my friends from the row wrote to me, a letter received today (March 5, 2011), with a copy of his notice of execution date: January 18, 2012. Chuck says that at least he will get to see another Christmas. And so it goes. The outcome is not often good in this ministry, but I will celebrate and thank God for the small victories as they come, when they

None of [the men] has ever had a long-term relationship built of conversation and hospitality and giving.”

come, and move on.”

As for the realities of day-to-day life on death row, Josh points out, every warden has his own rules: Often prisoners are in complete lockdown and can only be visited through glass. Josh has seen lipstick on the partition where a loved one had planted a farewell kiss.

“One man whom I have visited for four years was in the maximum security section [until] the prisoners won a few concessions (through a hunger strike, recently ended), and I was able for the first time to visit

him in one of the booths with a small opening in the bulletproof glass. I had never shaken his hand,” or been able even to give him a candy bar.”

When Josh was finally able to have face-to-face visits with Mike (that prisoner whose reluctance to respond to letters first drew Josh into this ministry), Mike was always in manacles, his wrists attached to a chain around his feet (a “belly chain”), which severely limited his ability to move.

Josh describes the Supermax in Youngstown as “austere,” then notes that the older prisons, “such as Lucasville, are probably more miserable to live in.”

The men “are in their cells most of the day. Death row is all single cells. It is noisy. It is cold. The ‘bunks’ are concrete slabs with foam rubber. They can have a TV and a few personal items. There is a commissary from which they can order personal care items and some snacks, [but] everything is obscenely overpriced... The calendar is static... Their meals are served in Styrofoam, through the slot in their cell door. They do not eat together.

On weekends and holidays, when the staff in the prison is reduced, the men get two meals instead of three.”

So every day is the same as the day before...until...

Clergy in the Diocese of Ohio and throughout the Church are split on the morality of the death penalty. Josh

acknowledges, “I am always surprised when I hear clergy in favor of [it and that] always gives me pause to reassess. I can only trust that those in favor of the death penalty will do the same.”

As for himself, he affirms, “I am against it,” because

there are just too many “if’s”: “If they had never executed an innocent man, if the death penalty were a deterrent, if they could humanely carry it out, if it were justly administered...”

And “or’s”: “Should I speak of the racial disparity? Or the effect on the families of the condemned? Or the failure to achieve ‘closure’ for victims? Or the financial cost?”

An Eye for An Eye

Josh declares, “The death penalty is *lex talionis* [i.e., the “law of retribution,” or “an eye for an eye.”]. We are way past that. Or, as Christians, we are supposed to be,” and he dreads the potential to execute “the innocent: A dozen or more men have been set free of the death sentence through DNA testing. How many have we executed, say, in the past 200 years, who would have been freed had DNA testing been available?... One innocent person executed makes it impossible to continue.” Finally, he says, “Let God do with the guilty what only God can do.”

Since 1974, five death row inmates in Ohio have been proven innocent and freed; 12 death row inmates have received clemency.

As this goes to press, 34 states have the death penalty, and one of those (Connecticut) is in the midst of public hearings about whether to abolish it. (In 2009, a bill passed in both the Connecticut House and Senate, but was vetoed by then-Gov. Jodi Rell.) Of the 3200+ inmates on death row in the United States as of February 18, 2011, 156 (one of those a woman) are incarcerated in Ohio. Ohio has a one-drug protocol for executions, but also has a “life without parole” sentencing option. Since 1974, five death row inmates in Ohio have been proven innocent and freed; 12 death row inmates have received clemency.

In Ohio, male inmates are housed at the Ohio State Penitentiary (aka “Supermax,” Youngstown) or the Mansfield Correctional Institution. One execution is scheduled approximately every month, although each is subject to further legal developments; they take place at the Southern Ohio Correctional Facility in Lucasville. Female death row inmates are housed at the Ohio Reformatory for Women in Marysville.

In 2002, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled 6-3 that executing someone who has been diagnosed as being mentally retarded (via I.Q. scores equal to or less than 70 and with a documented onset before age 18) is unconstitutional, i.e., “cruel and unusual punishment.” In the wake of that decision, many new appeals were filed, including dozens in Ohio.

Josh explains that Mike, the person he first wrote to, has become “the ‘poster boy’ for mental retardation on death row.”

Mike was on the cover of the New York Times Magazine (full color, head and shoulders), a few years before Josh met him (“The Executioner’s I.Q. Test,” June 29, 2003). He had mentioned something to Josh “about being ‘in a magazine,’” but Josh “never understood until I was given a copy

by defense counsel” fairly recently. For Josh, it “was a bolt from the blue, but...Mike didn’t give it much importance. And maybe I didn’t or don’t either, as far as Mike is concerned.”

“For Mike, the difficulty is that he does not want to be known as ‘MR’ (i.e., ‘mentally retarded’). It’s a stigma. I can understand that.” But without having been found so by the courts, he would still be on death row.

Josh expresses gratitude that Mike, who had never been able to maintain a correspondence with anyone until Josh came into his life, has been granted a reprieve of sorts. It is a bit of a double-edged sword, however. Nowadays, Josh reports, “I visit Mike at a Toledo prison where he lives in ‘general population.’” But because Mike lived on the row for 18 years (nearly half his life—since he was 19—in a single cell with limited contact with others) “the transition to ‘general pop’ [has been] traumatic.”

When Josh visited with him in the middle of February, Mike was visibly shaken by the change, and it has affected how the two communicate. Says Josh, “Mike was not all that well socially adjusted before coming to prison. [Now his] manner is...tentative. He is no longer as talkative.” He goes on to point out the sobering fact that, “When Mike was moved off of death row, he was able to walk on grass for the first time in 18 years... For 18 years, nothing but concrete.”

Meanwhile, Josh’s ministry progresses in different ways than he ever anticipated.

One day in early March, he inserted a single exuberant paragraph in the midst of an email about this article: “Illinois is no longer a death penalty state!”

Too, he noted, “I have been asked to come to Texas to speak with death row defense lawyers about death penalty mitigation (tracing mental retardation, genetic and criminal

behavior in families), my new professional specialty. It is odd how the Spirit moves in my life.”

Yet he recognizes that the Spirit moves differently for others.

“I wish there were others in this ministry. In truth, it’s not for everyone. When I visit, it’s just me and the inmate, sitting in a steel booth with glass between us (and a small opening if we are so fortunate)... I understand why some folks would not want to [do that.] The ethical and moral issues shoot around you until you can’t think. So, if you are called, you just do it; if you are not, encourage someone who is... I wouldn’t think any less of someone who, for whatever reason, did not want to... There are certainly many prisoners, both on and off the row, who would appreciate a visit. Or a letter. There are many ministries. Many ways to reach out... And there are others, so many others, who need our attention.”

If Only. . .

That death row even exists “is the perfect argument for working with children...and for working with parents, assuring enough to eat, decent housing, an end to abuse, jobs for those who can work, recreation, prenatal care, parenting classes... and on and on. We could reduce the overall prison population, and certainly death row, if only, if only...”

Josh hopes that perhaps “the stories of these men [will inspire all of us] to work on the failures that are filling our prisons, draining our resources and wasting lives and hol-

lowing out our souls.”

As for how that happens, he muses, “The theological answer is that the Spirit blows where it chooses. We come into such enterprises unaware. We are swept along.”

Josh is happy to communicate with any individual, or group, or congregation about the death row issue or prison ministry and the mechanics involved, to answer questions, discuss, clarify, encourage, share stories. “I have ideas about what someone might do if they feel called to the death row ministry and that is a conversation I will have with anyone who asks.” He can be reached via email at: joshbutler@aol.com.

“Let me be plain,” Josh writes, “and folks might think this is weird: I enjoy visiting these men. It is depleting, it has the potential for great sadness, but always, I am lifted by the joy of being there and by their willingness to befriend me and share with me.”

“We do not need to reinvent or go it alone or make it up or pass the buck. We just do what we can.

We help the helper, and watch as the simple graces we bring are passed along, one to the other, all the way to the horizon. We celebrate each small success, each tiny grace given, and then we move along.”

He concludes, “I am always surprised by where I have ended up, and still, the wind keeps blowing.”

“The ethical and moral issues shoot around you until you can’t think. So, if you are called, you just do it; if you are not, encourage someone who is.”

Some websites for additional information:

*Amnesty International
www.DRC.State.oh.us
DeathPenalty.org*

GRADE SCHOOL CHILDREN OFFERED READING PROGRAM BY ST PAUL'S, CLEVELAND HEIGHTS AND CEDAR HILLS

BY KIM FRY

YOU JUST GOTTA BELIEVE!" WERE THE ENCOURAGING words of one third-grader to another at the first Reading Camp Cleveland. Encouragement and confidence building were the main ingredients in this outreach program that St. Paul's, Cleveland Heights, brought to Cleveland last summer.

Fifteen students from four Cleveland-area schools were welcomed to Cedar Hills Camp and Conference Center in Painesville for a one-week overnight camp designed for third and fourth graders who are struggling to read.

A volunteer staff of teachers and counselors helped the students, who are one to two grade levels behind in reading ability, to build confidence and learn skills that foster a love of reading.

Reading Camp was started in 2002 by the Episcopal Diocese of Lexington, Kentucky, as an outreach to children in Appalachia. The inaugural Reading Camp was held at the Cathedral Domain Camp and Conference Center in eastern Kentucky. Nine years later, six camps are held annually throughout the diocese. Reading Camps are also held in several other states and also in South Africa and Liberia.

Since the 1970s, St. Paul's members have been participating in mission trips to repair and build houses in the rural Appalachian mountains of Harlan County, Kentucky. Youth Minister Sam McDonald led a number of trips with youth and adults during his tenure from 1999-2009.

While in Harlan County, McDonald connected with Episcopal churches there and with the Diocese of Lexington, which was holding Reading Camp at the Pine Mountain Settlement School, a residential school in the area. St. Paul's has sent a number of teachers, support staff and youth counselors to volunteer at Reading Camp each year since 2005.

Karen Carter is one of those volunteers and was the catalyst for organizing the local Reading Camp. First as a teacher for City Year in Cleveland, and later as a middle school teacher in a Cleveland charter school, she routinely encountered sixth graders reading at the second grade level.

In the summer of 2007, Carter volunteered as a comprehension teacher at the Pine Mountain Reading Camp. She quickly recognized the need for such a program in the Cleveland area.

Carter returned from the Pine Mountain camp to

discuss the possibility of Reading Camp Cleveland with Kate Gillooly, St. Paul's Minister for Christian Formation and Program. Gillooly had also participated in the Kentucky house-building missions and Reading Camps, and believed there was a need for Reading Camp in Cleveland.

In 2008, the Diocese of Lexington, in partnership with an Anglican monastery in Grahamstown,

South Africa, held their first Reading Camp in Grahamstown. Gillooly went the first year; Carter and her husband Carl, went in 2009. There they were able to see how the Reading Camp model could be altered to work in a different culture.

Approach the Principal First

The Carters convened a planning committee at St. Paul's in the fall of 2009 to organize the first Reading Camp Cleveland for the following summer. The St. Paul's group used their relationships with local schools and with St. Luke's Episcopal West Side Shared Ministry to identify students who could benefit from the camp. They quickly learned that it was more effective to approach a principal who was familiar with St. Paul's through outreach programs already in place at his or her school than it was to



St. Paul's, Cleveland Heights, parishioner Betsy Hockey with one of the campers.

bring the program to an unfamiliar elementary school.

St. Paul's has had a tutoring program with Miles Park Elementary School on Cleveland's east side for years, so the school was a natural fit for a partnership with Reading Camp. Some of the planning committee members had children who attended Noble Elementary School in Cleveland Heights, so they worked with the principal and teachers there to identify students to invite to camp.

At camp, certified teachers supervise six different learning centers covering comprehension, phonics, writing, encoding/decoding, strategies, and pleasure reading. Mornings, students spend thirty minutes at each station, three students to each teacher. The type of instruction is based on each student's reading level.

The teacher/counselor to student ratio is key; counselors mentor two to three campers each, keeping the experience personal and focused on the individual.

"Many of the children don't get this one-on-one time at home because they have several siblings, or their parents have other obligations," Carter says. "The individual attention is critical to helping build confidence. A student might not even be a bad reader; he or she just might not have discovered that reading is something to be enjoyed."

Teachers allow the students to try new things, learn new skills, and figure out what they like to read.

Afternoons, the students participate in traditional camp activities, including swimming, music and field trips led by both youth and adult counselors. Many of these activities, like the scavenger hunt or song writing, are designed to build reading skills as well.

Reading Camp "fits St. Paul's personality," Gillooly says. "There are many educators in the parish who

have a growing heart for hands-on outreach like this. It's also intergenerational—youth and adults gathering to serve children."

From the very first day of Reading Camp Cleveland last summer, the student campers expressed their excitement about the week ahead through their writing.

One camper wrote, "I can tell I will have fun! There are many nice, fun people here!"

Another had this to say: "I am so very happy. I really want to go swimming. I like my room it is colorful."

Only one of the 15 campers had ever been to an overnight camp.

No Cost to Campers

Currently, Reading Camp Cleveland can accommodate 18 students. There is no cost to the campers. Individual donations and several fundraisers at St. Paul's underwrite the cost of \$500 per child. Teachers and counselors pay their own way. Carter hopes to double the number of campers to 36 in the coming years.

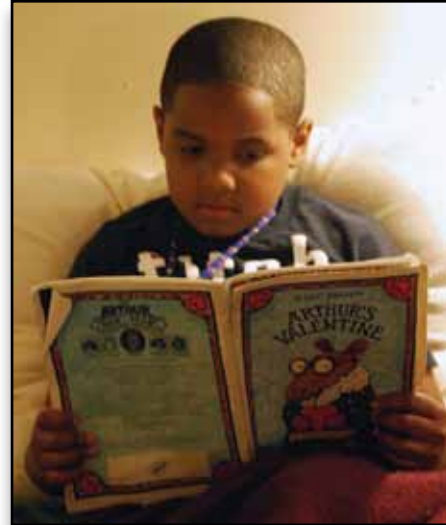
St. Paul's parishioner Betsy Hockey volunteered at Pine Mountain Reading Camp in 2007. At Reading Camp Cleveland last summer, she was a support person—driving kids to and from camp and on the various field trips, reading with the children during the pleasure reading sessions, and even teaching impromptu swimming lessons during afternoon swim.

"The difference the love, one-on-one attention, and unconditional acceptance of the kids can make during a week of overnight camp is amazing," she says. "Over the course

of the week we saw kids who initially had very little interest in reading turn into kids who begged to stay up later so they could finish a book."

Future plans for St. Paul's involvement in Reading Camp include establishing a Reading Camp in Cape Town, South Africa. Plans for a

Cape Town Reading Camp were first discussed in 2008, when Gillooly and others representing two Anglican dioceses in the Cape Town area went to observe the Grahamstown Reading Camp. Clergy meetings were held and enthusiasm is high. Planning



continues, with members of St. Paul's and members of the Kalk Bay Archdeaconry working together.

Meanwhile, organizing and fundraising for the second Reading Camp Cleveland has been underway since last fall. A Scholastic Book Fair was recently held at the parish. St. Paul's youth drama group donated the proceeds from their Christmas play and spring musical to the camp.

Hockey and her fellow volunteers, who have seen the difference they can make in a child's future during just one week of Reading Camp, are enthusiastic about continuing this outreach.

"If we can take 18 children or more every summer and turn them into strong readers," says Hockey, "we can help them develop a stronger foundation for their future academics—and who knows where that will take them!"

Fry serves as Communications Coordinator at St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

BISHOP OF EL SALVADOR VISITS DIOCESE OF OHIO

BY RUTH F. IHDE

ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25, THE DAY THE Northern Ohio blizzard closed the airport for some hours, the Rt. Rev. Martin Barahona, Bishop of El Salvador, arrived in Cleveland after a 16-hour trip. Fortunately, the unpredictable Ohio weather improved, and the visit became a memorable occasion for Los Amigos Episcopales, and for many churches and parishioners in the Diocese of Ohio.

Los Amigos Episcopales was founded 20 years ago and is now a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and a peace and justice ministry in the Diocese of Ohio. The organization, with strong connections to many Ohio parishes, provides education for needy children in El Salvador, especially those whose families were struggling following the country's 12-year civil war. The founders envisioned education as the key element to bringing peace and democracy to a ravaged, impoverished nation. In addition, providing primary education for all children is one of the Millennium Development Goals.

Bishop Barahona, a man of energy, dedication, patience, and good humor, traveled across the diocese meeting with Los Amigos members and others.

What the Diocese of El Salvador Needs

Due to the very high unemployment rate that is affecting Salvadoran families, especially in the heavily populated cities, The Episcopal Church, through its schools, offers developmental solutions and educational options to the poorest. This year, there are three schools that the Diocese of El Salvador is focusing on: San Mateo, San Andrés Apóstol, and San Miguel Arcángel. Infrastructure, technology, and the provision of scholarships are the top priorities, according to Bishop Barahona.

Infrastructure:

The Diocese of El Salvador has a budget of \$15,000 US dollars for basic maintenance of the three schools, including repairs to roofs, classroom and yard expansions, and repair of walls and other items.

"This [repair] is critical, since we are scheduled to be inspected soon by the Salvadoran Ministry of Education. We have until the end of the school year to demonstrate compliance with existing regulations; failure to meet



Bishop Barahona greets a family at St. Paul's, Cleveland Heights.

these requirements would force schools to be closed," said Bishop Barahona.

Technology

One requirement for the schools is that they be equipped with an appropriate computer center,

so that students can stay current with and learn new technologies as they arise.

Scholarships

Eighty percent of parents of the students can pay something toward tuition and other school necessities. The other 20% are entirely dependent on scholarships to attend school. "We are grateful that many parishioners in the Diocese of Ohio, through Los Amigos Episcopales, have provided scholarships for these very needy students. A full scholarship is \$268 per year per student. While it is our mission to provide education for as many students as possible, we require superior effort and achievement by all scholarship recipients," Bishop Barahona continued. He explained his three-pronged approach to education:

- High academic quality supported by skilled personnel.
- Excellent teaching in a disciplined environment backed by our Conduct Manual.
- Teachers and parents who are driven by a love for education.

In addition to the three schools mentioned above, a new school of La Divina Providencia in El Maizal has benefited from a grant from Episcopal Relief and Development, providing a community center and school-building project.

The school, which includes several elementary school grades and about 35 students, is entirely supported by Los Amigos Episcopales, at a cost of \$6,000 per year. The Episcopal Church Women of the Diocese of Ohio are promoting this project.



ECW NEWS NOTES

EDITED BY HILARY NERBY

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Nancy Sherwin

The 134th Annual Meeting of the Episcopal Church Women, Diocese of Ohio, will be held in Cleveland beginning with dinner on Friday, April 29 and continuing on Saturday, April 30. Again, we have planned this for a Friday evening and Saturday so that women of all ages can come—working women, teenagers and young children. Bring your mothers. We have programs planned for everyone. (See the details in another article on this page). We all become stronger Episcopalians when we gather with other Episcopalians from around the diocese. We get to know each other better and share what's going on in all our parishes. All clergy (male and female) are encouraged to join us, and other men are welcomed as well. (I do know of several men who will be with us.) The Cuyahoga Mission Area ECW is hosting this year's annual meeting and they are working very hard to make this a very special one. Registration packets have been sent to every parish and the registration form is online at: www.dohio.org/ministries/organizations/episcopal-church-women.

Serving as the president of the Episcopal Church Women in the Diocese of Ohio these past three years has been a real pleasure and honor. I have so enjoyed meeting so many Episcopalians around the diocese, and I am very grateful for all the support that I have received. The women in this diocese are working hard—supporting their own parishes and doing a great deal of outreach work as well. One of the workshops at this year's annual meeting will focus on that outreach work. Please remember that women of every parish are part of the Episcopal Church Women—whether or not there is a “formal” ECW group in the parish. If you are a woman and an Episcopalian, you are part of the ECW!

I would like to thank Bishop Hollingsworth for all of the support he has given the Episcopal Church Women, and the support he has given me personally. Having the ECW on the agenda of each Diocesan Council Meeting has raised the visibility of the ECW. This visibility continues through the Mission Area Council Meetings, as the ECW is on each of their agendas, as well. Women are a very important part of the life of the Diocese of Ohio. This work of the women will continue to grow under the

leadership of my successor, Barbara Johansen. I know she will receive the same support that I have.

2011 ECW ANNUAL MEETING, Carol Culp, Annual Meeting Chair

Please come and join us on Friday, April 29 and Saturday, April 30 for the 134th Annual Meeting of the Episcopal Church Women of the Diocese of Ohio. The meeting is being held at the Hilton Hotel, Beachwood.

Programs:

Friday evening: The welcoming reception and dinner will be at the home of Bishop and Mrs. Hollingsworth. “Yet We Persist,” a play reading first presented at the ECW Triennial Meeting in Anaheim, California, in July 2009, will tell the story of the founding, growth and development of the ECW.

Saturday: The business meeting begins at 9:00, followed by the Eucharist, when our new officers will be installed. The workshops listed below are being offered; then the day will conclude with a wrap-up of business and the presentation of the play, which the younger children will have produced!

Morning Workshops (choose one):

Los Amigos Episcopales: The coordinator of this program, Ruth Ihde from St. Thomas, Berea, will speak about this long-term outreach project between the Diocese of Ohio and the Diocese of El Salvador. The focus of our support is the education of young people through schools (buildings, books, teacher assistance) especially at the elementary and secondary levels. This will be an opportunity to see where your money goes and how your parish can support this excellent program.

Bible Study: This is on the program again because of requests from last year's attendees. It's a true roundtable discussion so everyone is looking for your input on the programs you've tried, both formal and informal, the materials you've used, as well as giving you an opportunity to go back to your groups with new ideas. The facilitator is Hilary Nerby (St. Timothy's, Macedonia).

United Thank Offering: Intentional thanks is expressed in the daily pennies we place in our little blue boxes. Come for ideas on promoting and encouraging your entire parish

to participate; learn how grant funds can be requested and follow the process. Learn what UTO has done for the Diocese of Ohio lately. The Presenter is Susan Lau, (St. Paul's, Mount Vernon), diocesan UTO coordinator.

Afternoon Workshops (choose one):

Little Dresses (for Haiti): Hands-on construction of these simple dresses which have caught the imagination of so many women across the Diocese of Ohio and elsewhere. Show-and-tell of finished items and those in process when we return to the business meeting that follows. Facilitator is Carol Culp (Church of the Ascension, Lakewood).

The Village: A program at St. Paul's, Cleveland Heights, for young families that encourages and enables greater participation in the life of the parish. Presenter is Katy Ptacek (St. Paul's, Cleveland Heights).

Sharing Parish Outreach: A roundtable discussion of ideas for ministering to the hungry, promoting education, providing shelter and aiding the homeless, foreign missions, etc. Share your ideas and learn from others. Discussion leader is Nancy Sherwin (St. Paul's, Cleveland Heights).

Children: For those of you who so kindly brought a parent or two with you, there is a two-part program. It includes creating birthday cards for the children of the Lillian Vallely School in Blackfoot, Idaho, and the creation and presentation of a play based on "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" with the leadership of the Drama Dreamers from St. Paul's, Cleveland Heights. The Lillian Vallely School is the only Episcopal school for Native American children and is an outreach project for the diocesan ECW and many of the parishes in our diocese.

UNITED THANK OFFERING

Susan Lau, UTO Coordinator, Diocese of Ohio

The Fall Ingathering resulted in donations of \$14,795.21. The \$3,995.31 that was received after the December 31 cut-off will be counted toward the 2011 Spring Ingathering.

Receipts by Mission Area:

| | | | |
|-----------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Central East | \$1,128.35 | Cuyahoga | \$1,647.50 |
| North Central | \$1,841.30 | North East | \$2,304.39 |
| South Central | \$ 900.12 | Summit | \$2,478.20 |
| West | \$2,611.94 | South East | \$1,149.20 |
| Diocesan Office | \$ 734.21 | | |

Two grant applications, one for Los Amigos Episcopales and one for St. Stephen's, Steubenville, were received. After review by the UTO Grant Screening Committee they were forwarded to the Bishop's office for review and submission to the national UTO Office.

UTO is holding the "Face-to-Face" program from July 29-31, 2011, in Richmond, Virginia. Any one interested

in this excellent program is welcome to attend. The UTO pays for up to two persons per diocese to attend the "Face-to-Face," which is an exciting opportunity to learn all about UTO. Information will be posted on the Diocesan website.

PROVINCE V ANNUAL MEETING

"Lifting our Voices in Prayer, Love, and Service"

Hilary Nerby, Editor

The Episcopal Church Women of the Diocese of Southern Ohio invite you to attend the Province V Annual Meeting at the Concourse Hotel at the Airport, Columbus, Ohio, on May 13-15. The keynote speaker is the Rev. Barbara C. Crafton. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn about the experiences of your peers in the dioceses that comprise Province V of the Episcopal Church—the problems they face and how they are being addressed. If you are interested in learning more about the program, please call Kathy Mank at (513)560-2126 or e-mail: kathymank@gmail.com. The Diocese of Ohio's ECW provides some financial assistance for those attending the Province V Annual Meeting. For further information, contact Barbara Johansen (330-602-8352) or p.johansen@roadrunner.com.

A VERY SPECIAL GUEST!

Hilary Nerby, Editor

The message on my answering machine asks friends to leave a message but tells those who are soliciting money or trying to sell me something to please hang up! My mother would say I'm impolite and uncharitable but I believe it's a sign of the times. We are so frequently solicited for donations to unfamiliar organizations that it makes us question what happens to the money we do donate.

On March 5, members of the Diocesan ECW Board and their guests were able to find out first hand what happens when we donate money to one of our outreach projects, *Los Amigos Episcopales*. We were privileged to have as our guest the Bishop of the Diocese of the El Salvador, the Rt. Rev. Martin Barahona, who showed us what the spirit of cooperation could achieve. During his tenure as the Bishop of El Salvador, Bishop Barahona was chosen to serve two terms as the Primate of the Anglican Province of Central America. This province is multicultural, multilingual and multipolitical and encompasses the church in Guatemala, Panama, Costa Rica and Nicaragua, as well as El Salvador.

The Anglican Church in El Salvador was established in this Roman Catholic country to serve the spiritual needs of the many Anglicans working in country either representing their governments or private industry. As the expatriate community diminished and the country



Sonia Miller, Bishop Barahona, and Nancy Sherwin.

moved to a more open approach to religious affiliation, the Diocese of El Salvador became part of the Episcopal Church's Province IX. In 1997, because of changing demographics within the Anglican Communion, it reverted to the Anglican Church with an agreement from The Episcopal Church to provide transitional support.

The Diocese of Ohio's relationship with the Diocese of El Salvador is attributed to an Ohio priest who served there for 13 years, the Rev. Jess Petty. It was he who created *Los Amigos Episcopales* to assist this small diocese in addressing the significant educational needs of underprivileged children. There are 5,000 members of the church of whom 2,000 are active, in 22 congregations. They in turn are served by 11 priests, three of whom are retired, and 75 lay volunteers, most of whom are women, as are most of the congregations. However, men are joining the Church in increasing numbers, as are young people.

As those of you who have been reading News Notes know, there are six elementary schools, mainly in poor areas, which we assist with our donations. It takes \$6,000 to support two teachers for one year so even the smallest donation can make a significant impact on their ability to hire another teacher and serve more children. The diocese hopes to open a high school in 2012. The intent is also to create an Anglican College but in the meantime, there is a school of theology that meets every other Saturday, serving 35 students.

The Diocese of El Salvador is a living reminder of what faith, education, evangelism and cooperation can do. It has a membership smaller than the population of most small towns in Ohio yet it has found its place in the structure of the country. With our help, it is meeting the needs of future generations and reminding us that we too can effect change even when we don't see it.

CLERGY NOTES

The Rev. Christopher "Zeke" Coughlin will be ordained to the priesthood on April 16, 2011.

The Rev. Meghan Froelich has concluded her ministry as rector at Church of Our Saviour, Akron.

The Rev. Gianetta Hayes-Martin was ordained to the priesthood on April 9 in California.

The Rev. David Nelson has concluded his ministry as priest-in-charge at St. John's Church, Bowling Green.

The Rev. Kathryn Rackley will conclude her ministry as associate rector at Christ Church, Hudson, on May 31.

**Save
the dates**

You're invited
to the

**60th
Anniversary
Celebration**

of
**St. Philip's
Episcopal
Church**

July 22-24, 2011

Visit us online
www.stphilipsakron.org
or email
stphilipsepi@neo.rr.com

We have a block of 10
rooms at the
Akron City Centre Hotel
20 West Mill Street in Akron
330.384-1500
www.akroncitycentrehotel.com



Friday, July 22
Get acquainted at
St. Philip's
6:00—9:00 p.m.

Saturday, July 23
Continental
Breakfast
at St. Philip's
10:00 a.m. - 12 noon
&

Semi Formal
Banquet at the
Akron Urban League
440 Vernon Odom Blvd.

6:00 p.m. cocktails
7:00 p.m. Program
Tickets \$30

Sunday, July 24
10:00 a.m.
Preludes on Piano

10:45 a.m.
Festive Eucharist
Followed by Lunch

AROUND THE DIOCESE

ST. JAMES TEAMS UP FOR ALTAR GUILD

St. James Episcopal Church in Painesville has inaugurated its first “father/daughter and mother/daughter” team serving together on the Altar Guild.

Featured in the picture are (L to R) Rick Jackman, Sara Jackman, the Rev. Vanessa Clark, Allison Flach Alexander, and Cindy Flach. Rick and Cindy are both seasoned helpers while Sara and Allison began volunteering this year.

St. James currently has 20 Altar Guild members who prepare all the things necessary for the celebration of the Eucharist, weddings, funerals or any of the other sacraments of the church.



THE UPPER ROOM AT ST. JAMES: RETREAT SPACE FOR CLERGY AND LAY PROFESSIONALS

A Ministry of St. James Episcopal Church, Wooster

A retreat apartment is available for clergy and lay professionals of the Diocese of Ohio for a suggested donation of \$30 per night. The apartment includes a sitting room with a queen-sized bed, fully equipped kitchen with coffee and tea provided, a prayer room, a large room for art or yoga, and WiFi. Retreatants can stay for a day or a week. Located in Wooster, the apartment puts you a block away from St. James, which is open for prayer on

weekdays, near shops, the Ohio Light Opera, Amish Country, and Mohican State Park. The space is available for one person or a couple. No pets, please. For more information, call the St. James' Office at: at 330-262-4476 or email to stjameswooster@embarqmail.com.



SPRING YOUTH GATHERING: GOD'S COVENANT WITH ALL OF US

Friday, April 29 through Sunday, May 1, 2011

An event for youth in grades 7 through 12

Christ Church, Kent

God said: "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth." —Genesis 9:12–13.

This weekend youth will explore their relationship with God's creatures through service. Much of the day on Saturday will be spent working at the Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary. Plan to arrive no later than 7:00 P.M. on Friday and head home after Holy Eucharist on Sunday, which begins at 10:00 A.M. Parents are invited to attend the Eucharist. Bring clothing and footwear (preferably boots) that can get dirty; rain gear and a pair of work gloves are essential. Service projects will vary and may include opportunities like landscaping, light painting, and maybe even cleaning animal stalls and sleeping areas.

Registration deadline is April 21, 2011. Signed consent forms (both diocesan and Happy Trails) must be returned with registration. The cost is \$50 per attendee

(youth and adult). Forms can be downloaded from the diocesan website www.dohio.org.

ECUMENICAL DAY OF SERVICE

May 7, 2011, 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.



Adults and youth (7th grade and up with parent or chaperone) from four Christian denominations will work together to help others on Saturday, May 7, 2011. Service projects will take place in the Canton/Lake Township, Cleveland, Lorain, and Youngstown areas. Sites

will be at a host church or within a short drive from the gathering site. Projects will include outdoor clean-up, painting, indoor cleaning, and organizing.

Registration is \$5. Please register by April 15 by going to <http://2011dayofservice.eventbrite.com>. Unless otherwise noted for your project site, bring a brown bag lunch.

THE BISHOP'S EASTER RETREAT

May 21, 2011, 9:30 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

Join Bishop Hollingsworth for a day of prayer, reflection, and conversation at Christ Church, 162 Main Street, Oberlin. The cost is \$12 and includes continental breakfast and lunch. You can register online at <http://easter2011retreat.eventbrite.com>. Organized by the Lay Adult Christian Formation Task Group.

KENYON CELEBRATION

Intentionally Christian: Fostering Engaged Communities
Thursday, June 23 through Sunday, June 26, 2011



The 2011 Ohio Episcopal Celebration at Kenyon presents a challenge facing the Episcopal Church today: What kinds of communities is the Spirit birthing today? Be part of this exciting

opportunity to rise to the challenge of being intentionally Christian in a society that threatens to leave the Church behind.

The Rev. Thomas Brackett will be the highlighted leader of the conference. He is the Program Officer for Church Planting, Ministry Redevelopment and Fresh Expression of Church at the Episcopal Church Center.

This is a family celebration. Children and youth will gather for a program "Out of the Box and In the Zone."

Sponsored by the Diocese of Ohio and the Diocese of Southern Ohio.

JOIN THE BISHOP AND YOUR FELLOW EPISCOPALIANS FOR THE 6TH ANNUAL BISHOP'S BIKE RIDE

Sunday, June 26 through Friday, July 1, 2011

Young and old are invited to ride for a day or for a week or any amount in between with full SAG support. We plan to begin in Sidney and end in Oberlin, averaging about 40 to 45 miles per day. Want to lose your winter weight? This is your chance. We'll give you training tips to help you get ready. Dinners are usually provided at the host churches and parishioners provide lodging. Donations go to fund youth mission trips. Details are on the website. Please contact Martha Wright, Director of Communications at 216-774-0456 or mwright@dohio.org. Don't miss the fun!



Sign up for the Bulletin!

Receive a weekly email from the Diocese of Ohio with all of the latest news and events happening around the diocese and the Episcopal Church. Go to www.dohio.org to sign up!

ChurchLife!

Trinity Commons
2230 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44115-2499

calendar highlights

April 29-30

ECW Annual Meeting

Hilton Hotel, Beachwood. Contact Nancy Sherwin, nansher@sbcglobal.net.

April 29-May 1

Spring Youth Gathering

Christ Church, Kent. An event for youth in grades 7 through 12. Cost \$50. Contact Rita Rozell, 216-774-0460 or rrozell@dohio.org.

May 7

Ecumenical Day of Service

Service projects will take place in the Canton/Lake Township, Cleveland, Lorain, and Youngstown areas. Register at <http://2011dayofservice.eventbrite.com>.

May 10-12

Clergy Conference

Sawmill Creek, Huron. Contact Rita Rozell, 216-774-0460.

May 14

Diocesan Confirmation

Trinity Cathedral, Cleveland. Confirmants meet with the Bishop at 9:30 A.M., service at 10:30 A.M. Contact Eva Cole, 216-774-0457 or ecole@dohio.org.

May 21

Bishop's Easter Retreat

Christ Church, Oberlin. Join Bishop Hollingsworth for a day of prayer, reflection, and conversation. Cost is \$12. Go to <http://easter2011retreat.eventbrite.com> to register.

June 21-30

Peer Minister Training

This year's training will be combined with the Episcopal Youth Event. Contact Rita Rozell, 216-774-0460 or rrozell@dohio.org.

June 22-27

Episcopal Youth Event

Bethel University, St. Paul, Minnesota. Contact the Rev. Vincent Black, 216-774-0453 or vblack@dohio.org.

June 23-26

Ohio Episcopal Celebration at Kenyon

Kenyon College, Gambier. "Intentionally Christian: Fostering engaged communities." The Rev. Tom Brackett, Program Officer for Church Planting and Redevelopment at the Episcopal Church Center, will be the highlighted leader of the conference.

June 26-July 1

6th Annual Bishop's Bike Ride

This year's ride will begin in Sidney and end in Oberlin. Contact Martha Wright, 216-774-0456 or mwright@dohio.org.

Bishops' Visitations

May

1 St. Paul's Church, Akron

(Williams)

8 St. James' Church, Boardman

(Hollingsworth)

15 St. Matthew's Church, Brecksville
(Persell)

15 St. Christopher's by the River, Gates Mills (Hollingsworth)

15 St. Stephen's, Church, Steubenville
(Bowman)

22 St. Andrew's Church, Barberton
(Bowman)

22 St. Luke's Church, Chardon
(Williams)

22 Trinity Church, Findlay
(Hollingsworth)

29 St. Mark's Church, Canton
(Persell)

29 Christ Church, Shaker Heights
(Hollingsworth)

June

5 St. John the Baptist's, Bowling Green (Persell)

5 St. Paul's Church, Maumee
(Hollingsworth)

12 St. Mark's Church, Sidney
(Williams)

19 St. Thomas' Church, Port Clinton
(Hollingsworth)

26 St. Andrew's Church, Mentor
(Hollingsworth)

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