

# Koinonia

Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia

November / December 2007

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Peace on earth; good will toward all.

These are certainly phrases that we hear during this Season. They seem to be in direct contrast with news reports, pictures and stories of people rushing to the stores on black Friday and throughout the rest of the holiday season. People running and clawing for the latest techno-gadget and the most sought-after gift of the year does not seem to bring out the best in people.

Peace on earth; good will toward all. These indeed are phrases that we, as Christians, promote at this time of year. The Holy Season of Advent is a time of waiting and preparation, as well as the joyful reception of Christ – God made human. It is a time of great joy and celebration.

The wise men came from the east and knelt in front of the baby Jesus, offering gifts. It took time for them to travel; they waited patiently; they asked direction, and they found the newborn Christ. We too must ask direction. We must be patient. We must travel to Bethlehem and beyond in order to find the newborn Christ.

In addition, it is a time, at this moment in Advent, to reflect upon the reason that we wait. Recently I was reminded of two of the old advertisements from the Episcopal ad project. One showed two children sitting in front of the fireplace. The caption read, "Do your children think the miracle at Christmas is how Santa Claus comes down the chimney?" The second is an ad with a picture of Jesus on one side and Santa on the other. The caption was, "Whose birthday is it, anyway?"

May we remember, indeed, that as Christians we are here to receive the coming of Christ. We are called to proclaim and promote that message in every way possible – by word and by action.

May we wait patiently for the coming of Christ. And, may we celebrate with joy God breaking into the world. We proclaim Sunday after Sunday Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Amen. Come Lord Jesus.

Yours in Christ,



The Rt. Rev. W. Michie Klusmeyer  
Bishop



# News Around the Diocese

## *Newsmakers and Events*



On Saturday, November 3, Bishop Klusmeyer confirmed five members of the **Hampshire/Hardy Yoke**. The service was held at Peterkin and was followed by a potluck luncheon. Pictured above are the confirmands: Jinyuan Duan, Steve Shook, Jan Shook, Fr. Michael Simon, Kathy Ratliff, Kelly Messick and Bishop Klusmeyer. (photo by Sandy Smith)

**Save the date:** The eighth Diocesan **Silent Retreat** will be held at Bishop Hodges' Pastoral Center, Huttonsville, February 21-24, 2008, with the Rev. Michael McKay as the retreat leader. Fr. Michael is a Benedictine priest, chaplain at Wheeling Hospital, and nurse practitioner. The registration fee for this Lenten Retreat is \$185 per person. The retreat is open to all laity and clergy and is sponsored by the Diocesan Commission on Spirituality. Details on registration will be available soon.

**Lawrencefield Parish, Wheeling**, celebrated Thanksgiving Day with a special service. Parishioners prepared Thanksgiving Food Baskets for needy families in the Wheeling area. They had a potluck lunch on December 2 after their annual meeting, and organist Richard Lewis presented a concert of French Christmas music, followed by a Carol Singalong, on December 9.

The Church Commission for Children will be publishing a **children's programming resource newsletter** seasonally to help churches find resources for enhancing their children's programming. To get on the email list to receive the newsletter, contact Amy Bryan-Chapman at [amybryan-chapman@msn.com](mailto:amybryan-chapman@msn.com). To receive a hard copy, please call 304-258-5962.

A **U2charist** will be held on Sunday, April 27, at 5:00 p.m. at the Marshall University Campus Christian Center. U2charist is Eucharist with the music of U2, supporting the Millennium Development Goals. If you would like to participate or attend, please contact the Rev. Joyce Wilkinson at [joycemwil@yahoo.com](mailto:joycemwil@yahoo.com) or call her at 304-788-4475.



Bishop Klusmeyer and Marsha welcomed 63 Episcopalians from across the state to the **Bishop's Ball** October 12 at Stonewall Resort. The delicious food, good company, great music, and lovely presentation were enjoyed by all.

**Clergy Day: January 16, 2008: Church of the Transfiguration, Buckhannon**

### Tips from the Health Ministries Commission

- If you have not yet received a flu vaccine, please do so soon.
- If you have had a pneumonia vaccine before age 65, and you are now past 65 and it has been five years since your initial vaccine, it is time to be inoculated again.
- It is the season when we will all be cooking and serving turkey more frequently than usual. Please use a meat thermometer to make sure that the temperature of the thigh reaches 180 degrees F. If you are cooking dressing, which is not recommended, make sure that the stuffing temperature reaches 165 degrees F.

## Diocesan Council: November 9-10, 2007

At its November meeting at Sandscrest, Diocesan Council approved a \$10,000 loan from the Episcopal Advance Fund, for up to 10 years, for Lawrencefield Parish Church, Wheeling, to help pay down its debt on an organ installed a few years ago.

Council gave Treasurer Charlie Hunsaker the authority to spend up to an additional \$57,000 for expenses at Peterkin through Dec. 31. Mr. Hunsaker explained that Peterkin expenses are expected to exceed the \$100,000 line item budgeted for 2007.

Mr. Hunsaker reported that the diocesan budget for 2007 probably will be short by \$100,000 by the end of the year, although he said the shortfall could be as high as \$165,000. He noted that a harder look has to be taken at the budget in 2008.

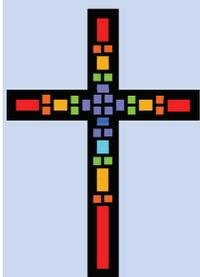
Bishop Klusmeyer announced that the Leonard and Helen Rowley Foundation has awarded \$9,000 for Peterkin camp scholarships in 2008.

Council spent several hours visioning together in a process dubbed "Clean Sweep" in which the questions raised included: "If we were newcomers to West Virginia and there were no Episcopal Church in the state, would we establish one? Why or why not?" After agreeing that we would establish an Episcopal presence in West Virginia, Council spent the next morning considering the questions: "What would we want the Church to look like in every region? How would we 'build' that Church?"

A cake was presented to Canon Debbie Short in thanksgiving for her 14 years of dedicated service to the diocese. Canon Short, who is retiring in December from her position as Canon for Congregational Development, was attending her final Council meeting as a member of the diocesan staff.

### Mini Grants Awarded:

Council approved six mini-grants totaling \$7,750: \$1,500 to Trinity, Parkersburg, to assist FaithLink ministry of Parkersburg-Wood County area; \$2,000 to Good News Mountaineer Garage (request endorsed by St. John's, Charleston, and St. James, Lewisburg), for marketing the used-auto donation program to potential donors in Mercer County; \$1,500 to Jefferson County Community Ministries (request endorsed by the Nelson Cluster), to assist those in need with utilities, rent, food, clothing and prescription medicine; \$750 to Christ Church, Bluefield, for a Godly Play program; Godly Play is a method of Christian education and spiritual direction for children ages 2-12; \$1,000 to St. Thomas, Weirton, for the Shepherd's Pantry, an outreach program that provides non-perishable food items and grocery certificates for perishable items; and \$1,000 to St. Luke's, Wheeling, for the Christmas Day community dinner.



### Magnify the Effect of "The Magnetic Church"

Andy Weeks' "Magnetic Church" training program is returning to West Virginia April 4-5, 2008, in Parkersburg at Good Shepherd Church, sponsored by the Commission on Evangelism. It's a great event for someone from every congregation to attend--but imagine the inspiration, enthusiasm, cooperation, and shared effort in your congregation if LOTS of people attend! Many vestries hold an annual Vestry Retreat and invite an outside presenter to keep their vestry growing and provide them with resources for their work together. "The Magnetic Church" is an outstanding choice for your 2008 retreat. Yes, bring your whole Vestry for the overnight event--and watch them go to work back home with excitement and eagerness as they pitch in to implement Andy's excellent suggestions. The spin-off inspiration will liven your group for the remainder of the year.

Don't just send a representative to "The Magnetic Church"--send a TEAM!

—The Rev. Donald Vinson

### New Acolytes at St. John's Charleston

St. John's, Charleston, welcomed a new class of young acolytes in October. Fr. David Hackett trained the group in a classroom meeting and in the church. Dianna Canfield, mother of Alex and Ben, will be coordinating the Acolyte schedule and managing their needs. She, along with Dr. Jo Blackwood, grandmother of Catherine and Evan, will accompany members of the group to Washington as they serve in the National Cathedral on West Virginia Day.





## The Perfect Priest

The results of a computerized survey indicated the perfect priest preaches exactly 15 minutes. He/she condemns sin but never upsets anyone. He/she works from 8:00 a.m. until midnight and is also a janitor. He/she makes \$50 a week, wears good clothes, buys good books, drives a good car and gives about \$50 weekly to the poor. He/she is 28 years of age and has been preaching 30 years. He/she has a burning desire to work with teenagers and spends all of his/her time with senior citizens. The perfect priest smiles all the time with a straight face because he/she has a sense of humor that keeps him/her serious and dedicated to his/her work. He/she makes 15 calls daily on parish families, shut-ins and the hospitalized; he/she spends his/her time evangelizing the un-churched and is always in his/her office when needed.

If your priest does not measure up, simply send this letter to six other parishes that are tired of their priests too. Then bundle him/her up and send him/her to the church at the top of the list. In one week, you will receive 1,643 priests, and one of them should be perfect. Have faith in this letter. One church broke the chain and got its own priest back in less than three months.

*—A little humor from Bishop Klusmeyer*



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