



Koinonia

Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia



Summer 2014

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Oh, the joys of taking a few days off! It seems that when there are no phone calls or emails that demand immediate attention, one can always catch up on their reading. Between the piles of books labeled "Books People Want Me to Read," "Books I Want to Read," "Books I Need to Read," and "Other Books," I have had the chance to scan a few old tomes and pull out the following quotes. I encourage you to enjoy and ponder them.

"Prayer is a door into God's way of seeing the world." (Archbishop Robert Runcie)

"Easter refutes the statement 'you can't change human nature.'" (Unknown source)

"Nothing is real unless it is local." (G. K. Chesterton)

"If there are differences, they run through, not between, denominations." (Archbishop R. Runcie)

"Grass growing through a concrete walk is a parable--it is like God's relentless push to reach all humanity." (Archbishop Desmond Tutu)

"Man is a good thing spoiled." (St. Augustine of Hippo)

"Life is a long lesson in humility." (James M. Barrie)

"The point of having an open mind, like having an open mouth, is to close it on something solid." (G. K. Chesterton)

"Many are the afflictions of the righteous..." (Ps. 34, and only one of God's ways of testing character.)

And then, there's the unknown author who writes about the joys of living in a small town:

--Third Street is the edge of town.

--You can call each dog you pass by name — and he wags his tail at you.

--Every sport is played on dirt.

--You dial the wrong number — and talk for 15 minutes anyway.

--You can't take a walk for exercise because every car that passes stops and offers you a ride.

--You drive into a ditch five miles out of town, and the news gets back to town before you do.

--And...you miss church on Sunday and receive get-well cards.

God bless you!

Faithfully,

The Rt. Rev. W. Michie Klusmeyer
Bishop

News from Around the Diocese



Bishop Klusmeyer is shown at his August visitation to **St. Bartholomew's Church, Leetown**. He baptized (left to right) Brandon Wilson and Eric Vandell and confirmed Austin Peck.

On a recent tour of Israel and Palestine, the Rev. Dr. Chip Graves of **Trinity Church, Huntington**, got the opportunity of a lifetime, baptizing 8 new-found friends in the River Jordan. "It was simply amazing. I was standing there at the traditional location where Jesus was baptized, pondering the event, the scenery, when all of a sudden, several folks came to me asking if I would baptize them." After personal instruction and hearing their commitment to Christ, Father Chip baptized them in the Jordan where it meets the Sea of Galilee.



Lawrencefield Parish Church, Wheeling, celebrated St. Lawrence Day on August 10 with a wiener roast to commemorate their adopted patron's death by grilling. A good time was had by all in full confidence that St. Lawrence, up in the choir eternal, appreciated the tribute, as he is the patron saint not only of cooks but of comedians. The chef in the photo is Rich Walter, husband of the Rev. Cynthia Walter.

Trinity Church, Huntington, partnered with a local street minister in January to develop a weekly worship service called *The Gathering*. The event begins with a short service and then transitions into a full dinner with dessert. At the first service, they had 30-40 people; now it has grown to over 140 in attendance! Those attending encompass all walks of life, including the homeless, white collar, blue collar, and anyone who wants to join us. The key elements have been 1) getting the word out, 2) having several good kitchen volunteers, and 3) partnering with local grocers to lower food costs. Father Chip Graves would love to share with others how a parish can develop this type of ministry. Contact him at therevchipgraves@gmail.com.

In June, Bishop Klusmeyer attended the retirement ceremony of Aurie Acciavatti and Jeanne Elmes, two long-time parishioners of **St. Thomas à Becket, Morgantown**. Aurie served as an inspiring Sunday School Coordinator, among her other services to the church. Jeanne was the Music Director for 17 years, as well as helping with administrative work in the office. Pictured with the Bishop: The Rev. Julie Murdoch, Aurie and Jeanne.



Meet Sara Gunter, our New Youth Minister

We welcome Sara Gunter to the Diocesan Staff. Sara started in mid-September as our new Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries. She comes to us from All Souls Parish in Berkeley, California, where she held a similar position.

Sara is eager to get started in her new position: "I am excited to be joining the Diocesan staff as the Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries. I love playing games, eating pizza, talking about God and life and praying with young people. This is a job I have dreamed about since I was in high school, and I have a lot of ideas about what we might do together to encourage and support our young people."



Sara invites you to share your thoughts and ideas – what are the needs of the youth in your parishes? How can she support already existing youth ministry? What would you like to see coming from her office? She looks forward to partnering with you to make our youth ministries all that it can be.

Over the next several weeks Sara would like to begin scheduling parish visits so that you can start to get to know one another. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact her at sgunter@wvdiocese.org or at 304-344-3597.

Diocesan Convention Charleston Marriott Hotel October 24-26, 2014

Registration material available at www.wvdiocese.org

October 14TH – CPC Sunday

Historically our diocese has designated the second Sunday in October as "CPC Sunday". However, if this does not work well for you – pick any Sunday!

The Church Periodical Club is a volunteer mission organization, affiliated with the Episcopal Church, financed by voluntary contributions from all levels of the Church. The purpose is to provide free literature and related materials, both religious and secular, to individuals and institutions as an aid in the promotion of Christian mission worldwide.

Miles of Pennies (or MOP) are grants given specifically for children and youth. These are granted at any time. National Book Funds (or NBF) are grants given to adults seeking support of their ministry. These are granted annually. Additional information and grant applications are available on the Women's Ministries page of our diocesan website. Please contact Debbie Ventura at dventura1021@gmail.com if you have questions.

United Thank Offering

With our Diocesan Convention later in October this year, it gives churches more time to hold a Fall Ingathering.

This wonderful ministry of thankfulness uses every penny given for the grants to lift women and children in the United States and around the world supporting mission and ministry. Grateful givers throughout the Episcopal Church see their own lives enriched by their prayers and offerings for everyday blessings.

Bring your offering to Convention to be presented at the main Eucharist. Ingathering (collections) can be held any time until early December. Please forward checks other than at Convention to Becky Szabo 1328 Main Street, Follansbee, WV 26037. Call or email Becky with any questions or requests for Blue Boxes or envelopes. She can be reached at 304 527-2537 or Becky8910@aol.com.



Partners-in-Care: Serving Christ Together

By Canon Faith C. Perrizo

Two years ago the Army National Guard in West Virginia invited us to join with other denominations and form an Advisory Board to the Army National Guard Chaplains called Partners-in-Care. Our Diocesan Council approved our participation. Over the last two years, the Advisory Board has been educating folks about the partnership, and how local congregations have been invited to assist when needs arise that are not covered by the military. For example, a soldier in Afganistan needs someone to help her spouse find and install a furnace replacement they can afford. The National Guard in West Virginia finds a church near that soldier's home to see if they can help. Or, on the other hand, someone in one of our congregations has a veteran who seems to be falling through the cracks of the veteran's administration. The National Guard Chaplains have a resource called the Family Assistance Program that can help them steer through the morass of institutional paperwork and regulations.

In addition, now that most of our vets are home from Iraq and Afganistan, we hear about the struggles many of them have adjusting to "normal" life. Jobs are hard to find, many suffer from war-related illnesses -- physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual. The news has included reports of the increasing numbers of suicides among vets and, most recently, of increased numbers of homeless women vets. These are not just issues for the veterans associations and the chaplains in the National Guard. These are issues that, it seems to me, fall under the imperatives of Jesus "...Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'" (*Matthew 25: 37-40*)

Recently I received an email from the Rev. Robert Thompson, sponsored several years ago by Christ Church, Clarksburg for ordination. He currently serves in the Vet Center in Louisville. In his email, he shared this from his work: "These younger veterans of Iraq & Afghanistan, at least in our area, are not accessing the many VA services available to them, or they drop out after a few visits—especially with mental health matters. They get busy juggling work, school, family, and sometimes substance abuse and strained family relations, so they are not making these free services a priority—yet!" Veterans are members of our congregations and members of our communities. It is important to keep our eyes and ears open to when one "of the least of these" may need our help. The Advisory Board of the Partners-in-Care program have been sponsoring informational sessions around the state, known as "Military 101" to introduce those of us in the pews (yes, I sometimes sit there, too!) to what might be helpful for us to know about interfacing with active duty soldiers and veterans. How best to reach out and walk beside them as they readjust to everyday living outside the war zone. **The next Military 101 is scheduled for November 15th at st. Paul's Lutheran Church in Cross Lanes.** Others will be scheduled in the next year. I encourage you to watch for the one close to you and take advantage of learning more about how we might help, both as individuals and as congregations.



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