



Koinonia

Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia

April 2015

A Message from Bishop Klusmeyer

Lord, give us the gift of fantasy,

The gift of the child to go by imagination where cars cannot travel where danger will keep us out, where we are too rich or too poor to enter, too great or too small, too black or too white, too weak or too strong.

Give us the gift of mind to join with those in generations before and generations to come.

Give us the free imagination to join the three bears who eat porridge the three pigs who build houses, the 5,000 who eat two fish, the resurrected Jesus, who comes in the sacraments.

Give us the heart to join the living and the dead and to be as sure of the life to come as we are of this very day.

Give us the gift to marvel at the new life of Jesus and the new life to come. Amen.

This prayer by Herbert Brokering, which I heard many, many years ago, continues to haunt me, and seems to reappear in my mind at various times of the year. It is a prayer that contains many things for many people. First, I believe that we are reminded that life is short, and that we need not take ourselves too seriously. But more importantly, I believe that we are called in this prayer to place our faith and our love in those things which we have not seen, but only experienced - particularly God's love.

And, at this time of the year, when we celebrate the New Life in the resurrection of Jesus, we pray that our eyes may be opened to the new life that God has given each of us, through the power of that Resurrection.

Easter in a time of awe and surprise. It is a time for new beginnings and new life. May you find all of this as this Easter Season unfolds for each of you. May this coming Holy Season find you more and more filled with God's presence and love.



Bishop Klusmeyer at the 2014 Women's Conference. Inside this newsletter you will learn about the important work of Women's Ministries in our Diocese.

W o m e n ' s

A Message from Becki Krzywdik, Convener of Women's Ministries

Spring is one of my favorite seasons – flowers and trees budding and blooming forth with new life is such a welcome change following a long and cold winter.

Just like the seasons, other things familiar to us continue to evolve and change, mostly for the good. Think of the caterpillar turning into a beautiful butterfly, sometimes growing and evolving into something different from what we've always known. Often change must happen on a regular basis so that we remain relevant.

I believe that Women's Ministries in the Diocese of West Virginia is on the edge of some of that change right now. Our Women's Ministries Board is looking at ways that we can evolve that would benefit all of us in the diocese. Communication is one area that we are starting with. In 2014 we began with what we hope will be a quarterly newsletter which is primarily sent throughout the Diocese through the *WV Mission* email list serve. It is also accessible on the Women's Ministries page of the Diocesan website (www.wvdiocese.org). My thanks to Bishop Klusmeyer for offering us this opportunity to reach all of you.

We are currently constructing a Facebook page which we hope will be completed within the next few weeks. It is our hope that this will help you — the women of this Diocese — stay better connected and be a place where you will be able to share your ideas, hopes, concerns, and support for one another. Be sure to visit us on Facebook at “WV Episcopal Women's Ministries - ECW” and “like” us. Your suggestions and comments are always welcome.

In keeping with the theme of “evolving” there is one more thing: we are looking for younger women who have a genuine interest in Women's Ministries in our Diocese and who would like to explore the idea of serving on the Diocesan level. Could that be you? If so, please leave me a message on Facebook or send me an email at bkrzywdik@msn.com!



I would also like to take this opportunity to invite all of the women in the Diocese to join me the weekend of May 15-17 for the Women's Conference at Peterkin. It is sure to be a fun and relaxing time for us to catch up with old friends and make some new ones. Hope to see you there!

Becki Krzywdik (center in white top and jeans) is pictured with other Women's Conference participants.

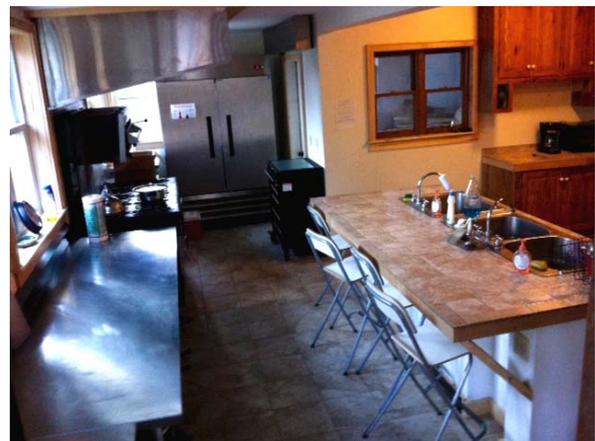
Ministries

United Thank Offering (UTO) is a ministry for the mission of the whole Episcopal Church. Through the United Thank Offering, men, women, and children nurture the habit of giving daily thanks to God. UTO is entrusted to promote thank offerings, to receive the offerings, and to distribute the UTO monies through a grant process to support mission and ministry throughout the Church. UTO has been a part of the Episcopal Church since the first offering of \$2000 to the General Convention in Philadelphia in 1889.



Throughout its history, the United Thank Offering has been about the prayers! Most of us probably enjoy many blessings that we too often take for granted: a visit with family, a friend's call, productive gardens, a new grandchild, a caring church family, and a beautiful day. Not that we don't have challenges and sadness, illness and accidents as well, but recalling the joyful moments with a prayer and a few coins in the UTO thanksgiving box will enrich our lives even more! Emphasizing God's goodness each day is powerful, and not only helps us, but our small gifts impact lives worldwide.

The United Thank Offering distributes grants each year for various projects. A grant of **\$21,100** was awarded a couple of years ago for an expansion of the dining area of **High Rocks Academy** (photos below). The Academy, long supported by Women's Ministries, is a year-round, comprehensive leadership development program for girls located in Hillsboro. Grant information can be found at www.episcopalchurch.org/uto and on the UTO Facebook page.



Two Ingatherings or collections of offerings, Spring and Fall, are held yearly in many churches. A Diocesan Ingathering is held each year at Convention. Send checks payable to UTO to Becky Szabo, 1328 Main St., Follansbee WV 26037 (not to the Diocesan Office) before mid-December so they can be sent in before the year's end. Supplies such as envelopes and UTO boxes can be ordered online or from Becky. Call or email her at 304-527-2537, becky8910@aol.com.

Surprised by Grace: Encountering God in the Unexpected

Women – biblical women, 10th century women, 21st century women and all those in between – encounter God in both the expected and unexpected. The question is....do we recognize these encounters or are we blind to them in much the same way as those accompanied by Jesus on the Road to Emmaus?

Join Beth Marquart in an exploration of these encounters during the annual **Women's Conference May 15-17, 2015**, at Peterkin Camp and Conference Center in Romney. Registration info is in the enclosed brochure and on our website.

The Church Periodical Club



**Debbie Ventura, our CPC representative,
with Bishop Klusmeyer**

The Church Periodical Club (CPC) is a volunteer mission organization, affiliated with the Episcopal Church, financed by voluntary contributions from all levels of the Church. Its 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.

The Miles of Pennies (or MOP) are grants given specifically for children and youth. These can be granted at any time. National Book Funds (or NBF) are grants given to adults seeking support of their ministry.

These are granted annually and are from monies specifically collected for this purpose.

Additional information and grant applications for both grants are available on our Diocesan website and the CPC site at www.churchperiodical.com.

Each diocese is asked to have a CPC Director who is available to assist their local congregations in understanding the ministry. In turn, each congregation could have a CPC contact as well. Each church is asked to have a *CPC Sunday*. The Diocese of West Virginia has designated the second Sunday in October as CPC Sunday. However, if this date does not work for your congregation – just pick another one! On this day the mission and ministry of CPC is shared and donations are requested. A percentage of these donations are sent to the National Office for promotion of NBF grants. Materials are available on the website to assist with CPC Sunday promotion.

In addition to requesting donations on CPC Sunday, congregations have established: used book sales, an annual baked potato luncheon following the service, sunday school children saving their pennies over the year and sending them in to help less fortunate children and many other activities.

In our diocese we provide book grants to seminarians that the diocese sponsors. Presently these grants are \$250/semester. We also provide *Forward Day-by-Day* to HEP and the Woman's Federal Prison in Alderson.



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