

Koinonia

Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia

Autumn 2010

A Message from Bishop Klusmeyer



Bishop Mike is shown surrounded by smiling faces, including that of Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori, during her visit to our Diocese.

we will be able to do more of this, and to eventually feel more comfortable telling our stories of faith.

Following Convention, I attended the meeting of the House of Bishops. While there, we heard reports on issues of immigration, evangelism and the life of the seminaries of the Church, along with various other items of interest. It is apparent that This Church struggles with difficult issues about which our Country also wrestles. We know that none of these things are easily solved – immigration is complex, evangelism is difficult, and our seminaries have long standing traditions. One cannot turn the ocean liner on a dime, but it needs to be turned – so beginning somewhere is important.

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It has been a long and busy few months, and there has been much going on in the life of the Diocese of WV and the Episcopal Church. Some of what I am going to write about was already mentioned in my Convention Address but (I believe) bears repeating.

In August, as part of my sabbatical, I attended a Church that, according to its webpage, practiced "Radical Hospitality." I was curious about this, and I decided to show up and see what radical hospitality was all about. When I arrived, an usher handed me a bulletin and said, "Welcome." Another man stuck out his hand, shook mine, and said, "Nice to see you." I then went to my pew. Throughout the liturgy, I saw a couple in front of me fumbling with the Prayer Book and bulletin. No one helped. So much for radical hospitality.

So – the questions that this raises to me are: Do we practice radical hospitality? Do we truly go out of our way to welcome the stranger? Would anyone really feel exceptionally welcomed in our midst? If not, why not? Can we do better than this? I hope so.

In order to welcome people, and for ourselves to feel more comfortable, we need to be comfortable telling our own story. That is what we did at Diocesan Convention – we told our own story to other people. Many responded that this was a wonderful thing. People got to know other Christians on a level they had never known them before. People became comfortable sharing who they are, in Jesus. People told stories of their 'growing up years' that helped to shape and form them for Christian ministry and witness. I pray

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News from Around the Diocese

As Christians, we are called to live out Jesus' command to heal and to be good stewards of our physical, emotional, and spiritual health. In attempting to balance the wellness of Body, as well as Mind & Spirit, the *Women's Ministries* at **Transfiguration, Buckhannon**, sponsored a very informative health program every Tuesday in August: the ***Vibrant Health, Healing and Strength for Life Seminar***.



Facilitator Paul Kromer shared information on how participants can change and make choices to improve their physical health by eating more natural foods and less genetically modified foods. Topics included the danger of GMOs in our food supply, reading labels on packaged foods, buying and eating organic foods, raw versus cooked foods, good versus bad oils, and good versus bad sugars.

Our **Health Ministries Commission** urges everyone to get a flu shot. Many locations have set up flu shot centers throughout the state for your convenience.

The **Church Periodical Club** provides gifts to our seminarians for books for their personal libraries and *Forward Day by Day* for the Women's Prison in Alderson, West Virginia, and for the Highland Educational Project. Have you scheduled your church's **CPC Sunday** yet? It isn't too late - do it now! For more information, please contact Debbie Ventura at dventura1021@gmail.com.

Pajama Party at St. Matthew's, Charleston

On Sunday, September 26, Saint Matthew's Sunday School children enjoyed a wonderful Pajama Breakfast Party as part of their outreach project to support The Pajama Program. As well as wearing their pajamas to church, the children donated new pajamas and story books, which will go to local children who are awaiting adoption or living in a shelter. These children do not know the comfort of a loving bedtime routine, and something as simple as their own new pair of pajamas and a book can help them realize that they are loved. After a pancake breakfast and a sleeping bag game, some of the children took the collected donations into church for Fr. Kent Higgins to bless. In total, nearly 80 pairs of pajamas and 60 books were collected. To find out more about the Pajama Program, go to www.pajamaprogram.org.



Mark your calendars now for these important Diocesan events:

Men's Conference:	4/08-4/10, Peterkin
Disciples Net Workshop:	5/13—5/15, Ansted
Women's Conference:	5/20—5/22, Peterkin
Diocesan Convention 2011:	9/30—10/02 Charleston Marriott

“Reaching Forth Our Hands in Love...”

Co-op Church Effort Aids Montgomery Area

Good Shepherd, Hansford, and Calvary, Montgomery, recently shared in a special service with Montgomery Presbyterian and Falls View Presbyterian churches. The combined effort was to welcome mission teams of young people from Nashua and Milford, New Hampshire, and Beaufort, South Carolina. The groups were from *WV Ministry of Advocacy and Workcamps*, and they performed much-needed home repairs for people in southern West Virginia. The churches housed and fed the groups while they worked in the area.

Their first evening was spent enjoying a cook-out-inside at Good Shepherd, courtesy of the Calvary and Good Shepherd ECW and ECM. After they finished the delicious array of food, Fr. Stan Holmes led the youngsters in learning songs which became part of the Sunday ecumenical service. The sermon was presented by Rev. Ashley Rogillio Sanders of First Presbyterian Church, Beaufort, SC. The whole service was coordinated by Rev. Joan Stewart of Montgomery and Falls View Presbyterian Churches. It was a different service for Episcopalians and Presbyterians alike, but a refreshing reminder that we are all about the same thing: proclaiming God's love and sharing the gospel.

St. Thomas à Becket Parishioners Bike 150 Miles to Help Multiple Sclerosis Society

Marguerite Danna and Rusty Miller of St. Thomas à Becket, Morgantown, participated in the Country Roads MS Bicycle Ride in late August. The event raised money to support the research and advocacy efforts of the Blue Ridge Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Riders rode from the Greenbrier Resort in White Sulphur Springs to Cass, West Virginia, on August 28 and rode back from Cass to the Greenbrier on August 29. This was Marguerite's fourth MS ride and Rusty's eighth ride (that's 1800 miles combined!). The parish was very supportive of their endeavor.



Mylan Cycling Team at 2010 WV Bike MS

DuBoses Involved with Planning Homeless Shelter in Charles Town

The Rev. Georgia and Bob DuBose of St. John's, Harpers Ferry, are actively involved with the Jefferson County Homeless Coalition as they work toward the organization of a cold-weather shelter for the homeless in Jefferson County.

A point-in-time survey showed there were 26 homeless people in Jefferson County, but Executive Committee members, including the Rev. Georgia DuBose, believe that number is inaccurate and that the actual count is much more.

The cold-weather shelter would provide warm food and a place to sleep seven nights a week throughout the winter, starting when temperatures dip below freezing. The shelter would rotate between different churches in the community, with Zion Episcopal Church in Charles Town among those involved.

Kudos to the DuBoses, Senior Warden Alice Sudduth of Zion Church, and others working to bring this project to fruition.



Rev. Georgia DuBose

Emmanuel, Moorefield, Teams with Mountaineer Foodbank

Emmanuel Church has become a certified distribution organization of Mountaineer Foodbank, which allows them to pick up dated food from a local grocery store that otherwise might be thrown away. The items are then given to

free lunch participants to take home, with the rest distributed to residents of a subsidized housing complex.



Please urge your congregation to reach out to those in need in your community. Remember, too, that Bishop Klusmeyer has several funds to aid specific ministries. Consider making a contribution to one or more of the following: The Bishop's Discretionary Fund, Peterkin Camp and Conference Center, Sandcrest, The Highland Educational Project, or a Legacy Gift. Checks should be payable to the Diocese of WV, with the fund that you want to help noted on the memo line.



The Archdeacon at Mini Camp 2010.

Commission on Ministry Works to Revise Discernment Process and Ministry Formation Programs

By Archdeacon Faith Perrizo

In April 2010, Bishop Klusmeyer met with the COM and presented the recent Theology of Ministry statement adopted by Diocesan Council and reviewed its work in light of that statement. Four Working Groups are being formed to review and revise our processes of discernment and formation for all baptized members of our Diocese, both lay and ordained. These include: **Discernment** (local and diocesan), **Diaconal Formation**, **Priesthood Formation** (those called to attend seminary and those called to study locally), and **Lay Formation and Licensure**.

The **Diaconal Formation Working Group** has already begun its work and has presented some recommendations to the COM.

The **Discernment Working Group** will review the current *Rooted in Baptism* discernment manual, with the goal of revising it to reflect such changes in our process that the group recommends to the COM. Areas of particular need to be reworked is the process between indicating to a rector/sponsoring priest that one feels a call to a particular ministry and the form of discernment that leads to a fulfilling of that call. We have had a process that includes a parish discernment committee and a COM Ministry Discernment Retreat. Do these need to be strengthened---or changed?

There has been much conversation regarding the formation of priests for our diocese, centering mostly around seminary and diocesan training and formation issues. The goal of the **Priesthood Formation Working Group** is to identify core expectations we have of anyone accepted into the process for ordination to the priesthood, regardless of how they are formed. Secondly, what are the core expectations around formation, whether those are done in a seminary or diocesan formation setting? Given our diocesan realities, what differences in formation might also be needed and expected? How might expectations be met? What role do seminaries, Equipping the Saints, Education for Ministry, and private tutoring, play in formation? What about the role of Clinical and Pastoral Education, and the diocesan use of

“equivalent” programs? What has worked and what hasn’t? What are the challenges that face us in raising up people for ordination to the priesthood, including the challenges of people with limited resources, people who will be bi-vocational, and people serving in team ministries? When is seminary appropriate? When is local formation appropriate? What should be the same? What different?

The work of the **Lay Formation and Licensure Working Group** will be conducted at the same time that the governing board for the ETS program is in the midst of a major revision of their program. While ETS is working to offer a quality and accessible program to the laity of the diocese, the Working Group will be looking at a larger picture and be in conversation with the ETS Board.

The COM believes that we need to be looking at the *overall* scope of our call to ministry through baptism, beginning with discernment. What does discernment for ALL ministries look like—not just discernment for people who feel a call to ordination? What can we offer to help people who are discerning *anything* in their desire to follow God? The questions before this committee include: How do we better develop an understanding that values lay ministry and takes it seriously? What’s the best way to provide assistance in discernment in general? What ministries need to be licensed? What does it mean to be licensed? What needs to come before the COM? Looking at these questions will also necessitate reviewing the current practices. The goal is to make recommendations to the COM concerning support of lay ministry discernment and formation, and procedures for licensure in the canonical areas in Title III of the National Canons.

Our goal is to have these revisions made by March 2011.



Bishop Klusmeyer....continued from page 1

Recently we all learned of the fire that destroyed the chapel at the Virginia Seminary. While this loss is a tragedy, and while Seabury Western has chosen to sell its buildings, and General Seminary is planning on selling some of its buildings, which is also sad, it reminds us all that buildings are NOT our mission. God is not confined to the buildings that we have, no matter how many memories are held within those walls. The mission of our Church – the Mission of the People of God – is to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ! Our Prayer Book reminds us that the mission of the Church is “to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ.” THAT’S IT!

Times are indeed changing around us, and we need to look to the future to see where God is calling us. May we have the grace to share the Story – the Eternal Story – so that others may be so energized by the power of Christ that the world is transformed.

We Will, With God's Help!

Another Diocesan Convention has come and gone, leaving participants with new memories of time spent with friends and colleagues, and a new resolve to move forward into the future, working together to keep the Diocese of West Virginia vital and alive. *We will, with God's help!*

Below are a few photos from the 133rd Diocesan Convention, held September 10-12, 2010 at the Days Hotel and Conference Center in Flatwoods.

(Photos courtesy of Harold Stewart)



A Note from Brittany Roper, Convention Keynote Speaker

Sept. 14, 2010

Mike and Marsha (and WV),

Thanks for having me at the convention this past weekend. I had a grand time and was happy to share it with you all. I hope the rest of the weekend went well and that you are looking toward this next year with renewed spirits. If you (or anyone else) ever wants to talk more about Colombia, I would be happy to share. I absolutely loved having the opportunity to talk about my experiences over the last year and share a bit about a country and a people that have become so dear to me. It was a great way to force me to put all of these convoluted thoughts into words and gave me the opportunity to really reflect on just how special my time abroad was. I hope this finds you all well and enjoying the autumn season. Life on the mountain continues to be a blessed adventure and I'm looking forward to every minute of this journey.

Best,
Brittany Roper



Above: Bishop Mike and Marsha with Brittany at Diocesan Convention

A New Youth Movement in Charleston

Youth from St. John's, St. Matthew's and St. Christopher have begun a new adventure together for friendship, fellowship, field trips, prayer, and Christian themes for discussion. They recently met at St. Christopher Church for great teen food — pizza, veggies, brownies, M&M's, fruit juice and soft drinks. The young people got to know each other, watched a great movie ('The Princess Bride') and then closed with a prayer circle. Some of the youth shared their stories and love of Peterkin Camp. The group will meet regularly to plan outings and have fun!

Below: The Rev. Ann Lovejoy Johnson of St. John's, Charleston (far left), and the Rev. Melissa Remington of St. Christopher, Charleston (far right), pose with youth involved in the new movement.



Peterkin Summer Camps 2011

May 22-27	Young Adult Camp
June 5-11	Staff Training
June 12-15	Mini Camp
June 15-18	Beginner Camp
June 19-25	Day Camp
June 26-July 2	Family Camp
July 3-9	Junior Camp
July 10-16	Senior Camp
July 17-23	Intermediate Camp
July 23-30	Hallelujah Hike
July 24-30	MAD (Music, Art, Drama) Camp

Camp descriptions and registration info will soon be on the Peterkin website at www.peterkin.org.



Peterkin Work Weekend a Success

Laborers at the October 15-17 Peterkin Work Weekend saw gorgeous weather and were surrounded by trees ablaze with autumn colors. Volunteers from Virginia, Kentucky, and West Virginia



joined forces with Daisy and Gary McBride with one goal in mind: doing whatever was necessary to complete some much-needed repairs.

Good food, great company, hard work, sincere worship, and lovely weather made this a very productive weekend.





A MOVE TOWARD CONGREGATIONAL VITALITY

By Canon Donald Vinson

As of Diocesan Convention, my title is to be "Canon for Congregational Vitality," rather than "Canon for Congregational Development." This shift echoes a change of terminology in some other quarters as well: for example, my denominational counterpart, the Rev. Bob Honeychurch's department with Church Center has made the same change since the last General Convention. Window dressing? Rearranging deck chairs? As far as my duties are concerned, it really makes no difference. I will continue to do what I've been doing and work with the people I've been working with. I hope it makes a difference in the way we in the diocese understand and utilize that work, however.

With me as "congregational development" officer, and Archdeacon Perrizo as "ministry development" officer, there was some confusing overlap. "Ministry" happens in congregations: all members are ministers, and all ministers work in congregations. Her work has to do with identifying, forming, and preparing ministry leaders in congregations. Mine has to do more with the systems in which those ministers operate, inspiring and encouraging, so that they can do what they need to do better, and out of a deeper sense of gratitude, hopefulness, and mission. Both of us work with people in congregations, both lay and ordained. Both of us build leadership skills and "develop" ministers and congregations. We do those things in different ways.

I am not so interested in whether a congregation has a parish dinner or a rummage sale. I am interested in why they do whichever one they do, and how they decided to do it. How our congregational life contributes to our understanding of our mission contributes to the vitality of our congregations.

I've been working with several groups and activities whose purpose is not necessarily "development:" our diocesan ministries to end racism, to promote health and wellness, Jubilee ministries, Equipping the Saints, and our Fresh Start program are examples. It is more accurate to say that all of these activities contribute to the vitality of our congregations and their ministries. I will certainly continue to work with clergy and vestries, leading Mutual Ministry Reviews, Vestry Retreats, and consultations. I hope more than ever to work with congregations as they refine their vision of their ministry in their locale. I envision my primary focus, however, even in all of these things, as being with what I consider to be the Big Three of Congregational Vitality: **Stewardship, Evangelism, and Spirituality**. These are the areas that strengthen and enliven our congregational life, and fuel those other mission initiatives as well.

Mountain Grace VII

By Patricia Haldeman

Thanks to all who attended Mountain Grace VII in October 2010 in Marietta, Ohio. The theme was "Building the Body of Christ Through Community in Appalachia." Workshops included: Intentional Communities, After School Programs: Ending the Cycle of Poverty, Community Organizing/Advocacy, Preparing for Mission Trips in Appalachia, and Interfaith Power and Light. The keynoter, Dr. Richard Greenlee, Dean of Ohio University's Eastern campus in St. Clairsville, was outstanding. Equally impressive was Sherri Schafer, Executive Director for Community Lutheran Partners, another person who grew up poor in Appalachia and overcame the stigma through education to become an advocate for others. These two people alone made the conference well worth attending.



The highlight of the conference was when the Rev. Roy Gene Crist, Missioner of New River Episcopal Ministries, was presented with the Carson Award for his years of service and ministry in Appalachia. Mary Carson presented him with a hand quilted wall hanging, made by the Rev. Theresa Kelley, entitled "Bridges and Parachutes." In Roy Gene's humble way, he said he did not recognize who the introduction was referring to and then went on to thank all of those people who make the New River Episcopal Ministries such a vital ministry. Jane, Roy Gene's wife and partner in ministry for 42 years, and their newest grandchild Gabriel came forward with him to receive his much-deserved award. Congratulations to both Roy Gene and Jane for a job well done.

Again, thanks to all of you who attended this conference. I look forward to seeing you at Mountain Grace VIII.

**Diocese of WV
P.O. Box 5400
Charleston, WV 25361**

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Diocesan Calendar

December 2010

- Dec. 4 Ordinations to the Diaconate: Joshua Saxe and Josiah Rengers, St. Matthew's, Charleston
- Dec. 4 Office of Transitions Ministry (OTM) Workshop: St. Matthew's, Charleston
- Dec. 5 Bishop's Visitation: St. John's, Huntington
- Dec. 12 Bishop's Visitation: St. Ann's, New Martinsville
- Dec. 19 Bishop's Visitation: St. Andrew's, Oak Hill
- Dec. 23 Diocesan Office Closes for Holidays
- Dec. 24 Bishop's Christmas Eve Service: St. Timothy's, Hurricane

January 2011

- Jan. 3 Diocesan Office Reopens
- Jan. 8 Office of Transitions Ministry (OTM) Workshop: Trinity Church, Shepherdstown
- Jan. 9 Bishop's Visitation: St. Philips, Charles Town
- Jan. 11 Fresh Start: St. Thomas à Becket, Morgantown
- Jan. 16 Bishop's Visitation: St. Paul's, Sistersville
- Jan. 17 Diocesan Office Closed: Martin Luther King Day
- Jan. 22 Office of Transitions Ministry (OTM) Workshop: St. Thomas à Becket, Morgantown
- Jan. 23 Bishop's Visitations: St. Mark's, Berkeley Springs and Mt. Zion, Hedgesville

February 2011

- Feb. 8 Fresh Start, St. Thomas à Becket, Morgantown
- Feb. 12 Vestry 101, Trinity, Parkersburg
- Feb. 13 Bishop's Visitation: Good Shepherd, Hansford
- Feb. 20 Bishop's Visitation: St. John's, Rippon

**Koinonia, Diocese of WV, P.O. Box 5400, Charleston, WV 25361
304-344-3597; mbailey@wvdiocese.org**