

# Koinonia

Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia

Spring 2011

## *A Message from Bishop Klusmeyer*



A visit to Chapel on the Mount, Snowshoe

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!  
The Lord is risen, indeed!  
Alleluia!

The familiar greeting on Easter morning, and during the Easter Season, is known to us all. It not only calls the congregation to the worship, but more importantly, it sets the tone for who we are as Followers of Jesus Christ!

We are Easter People!  
We are People of the Resurrection!

It is Easter and the Resurrection that makes us who we are – God's redeemed people, who are called out of our comfortable existence in our Church buildings to become Christ's eyes, hearts and hands in the world. We are Easter People!

Over the past 30+ years

our Book of Common Prayer has been unfolding as we find more and more richness in it. In the early days, we were told that 'not much has changed' in the 'New Prayer Book.' We were still doing what we had always done, just with different words. However, words have meaning. Words have power! With the change in words (mostly a major jump to the pre-reformation language and theological understandings) came an expected action and reaction.

As the Season of Easter unfolds, and as we are focused on the Easter Celebration of Resurrection and baptism that takes place at the Great Vigil and beyond, we are reminded that we are baptized into Christ's death and Resurrection. Our baptism is full immersion into the entire Paschal mystery of Jesus Christ. We are not just baptized into his resurrection (the glory and the magnificence) but we are also baptized into His death.

We too have waited in the tomb for three days, and

we see the cracks of light that shine around the stone that covers the entryway.

And now we live in the power of the Resurrection that makes us Easter People. We are called to proclaim what the Disciples saw...Jesus! We are called to proclaim Jesus in our midst! We are called to proclaim Jesus ascended! We are called to proclaim that Death is not the last word! Jesus is the Word – first, middle and last.

May we be so alive in the power of the Resurrection that our hearts are filled to overflowing with joy and gladness, that we make known the saving redemptive act of God in Jesus Christ!

May you have a blessed Eastertide!

### *Highlights Inside:*

<i>Diocesan Updates from Bishop.....Pg. 2</i>
<i>Hats, Hope and History..... 3</i>
<i>Footwashings from the Archdeacon.... 4</i>
<i>Denominational Health Plan..... 5</i>
<i>Peterkin Summer .Camps..... 6</i>
<i>Mission Trip to Colombia..... 7</i>

# News from Arou

## Diocesan Updates from the Bishop

We have not forgotten about the **Dayspring**. When Betsy Walker retired last year we spent some time looking at the various forms of communication that take place in the Diocese. Currently we have the WV Mission listserve, the **Koinonia**, and the website. We know that we want and need a more comprehensive method of communicating the Good News that is happening in West Virginia, but at the same time we recognize that the medium is quickly changing. Print newspapers are becoming a thing of the past, while e-news is becoming more and more the norm.

At this time, we have asked Linda Comins to become the Editor of the **Dayspring**, and we have asked Susan Barfield to be the layout editor. Together they will be bringing us our new Diocesan Newspaper. Mollie Bailey will continue as Editor of **Koinonia** and as facilitator of WV Mission. We will continue to explore ways in which we can share the Good News in various formats.

The **Diocesan Convention** will take place in Charleston on 30 September, 1 and 2 October, at the Marriott Hotel. Our keynote speaker will be the Rt. Rev. Jonathon Gledhill, Bishop of Litchfield, England. St. Timothy's-in-the-Valley Church, Hurricane, will be our host congregation, and Mrs. Kelly McGhee will be our Convention coordinator. More information will be coming soon! Please mark your calendars now and plan to attend!



## The Fire Within

In the midst of the Easter season, as we approach the Day of Pentecost, Disciples Net invites you to attend their Spring conference, *The Fire Within*. The Rev. Stephen Haptonstahl will lead participants in conversation about the fire that burns in the hearts of Jesus' disciples. This is an opportunity to share stories of hope as we travel our respective paths toward the Kingdom!

The conference will be held at the Best Western Hotel in Bridgeport, May 13-14. Registration information is available at your church and on the diocesan website's Disciples Net page.

## Emmanuel, Keyser, Celebrates Centennial

On December 5, 2010, the current and past parishioners of Emmanuel Church, Keyser, celebrated 100 years of ministry. Officially established in 1910, the roots of what would become Emmanuel Church reach back to the 1880s, when worship services were held on a monthly basis in the homes of local families and at other locations. The church itself was consecrated in 1917, and since then there have been several additions and architectural modifications made to the original building, most noteworthy being the A-frame in the back and the much expanded Patchett Hall, which was constructed and blessed in 2004.



The celebration included thanksgiving for God's many blessings and for the dedicated work of members past and present. A special address was given by the Rev. Paul Francke.

Following the service, a luncheon was hosted by the Episcopal Church Women. At the conclusion of the meal, personal reflections about the history and mission of the parish were offered by the Rev. Harold Bishop, former priest of the congregation, and Sharon Floyd and Ralph Smith, two long-time parishioners. Special greetings were read from Thelma Stewart and Barbara Shipman, both of whom were unable to be present.



Emmanuel Church: 100 Years of Sharing God's Love

# and the Diocese

## Hats, Hope and History: "Miss Bettye" Hayes Shares a Story of Family and Fashion

In the late nineteenth century Mr. Jack McConnell opened a millinery establishment in New York City and quickly established a name for himself. He had a flair for the elegant, mixed with good taste, and used it to design ladies' head pieces---a hat designer whose reputation made ladies seek him out. His lavish designs departed from the norm and were envied by the entire fashion world. Soon Hollywood noticed his talents, and his hats began appearing on movie screens.

Mrs. Doris Jones-Gates, an African-American woman from Macon, Georgia, learned of his talents. Through contacts that are unknown to us, she began meeting with Mr. McConnell, in Macon, Georgia, to seek his services to design hats for African-American church ladies. And by some miracle of life, her niece, Mrs. Bettye Webb-Hayes, organist and soloist for the St. John's Episcopal Church in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, inherited many of those hats that were specifically designed for her aunt during that time.

In late 2005 the owner of Dorel Hat Company in New York said of Jack McDonnell, "He really was the one who started making better millinery for the African American woman. He's like a god in that business." Many African-American women prefer to wear unique hats as an expression of dignity and individuality, so McConnell marks his one-of-a-kind pieces with a red feather tucked into the label.

In celebration of Black History month, on Sunday, February 20, 2011, "Miss Bettye", as she is known by the congregants at St. John's, prepared and presented a fantastic vintage hat exhibit, sharing these splendid head pieces with her friends and neighbors following the Sunday service at St. John's Episcopal Church in Harpers Ferry. At that service, she had also invited soprano Elizabeth Kerwin-Nisbet to sing several spirituals.

Miss Bettye had over five gorgeous vintage hats on display for the special program she designed for St. John's. In addition, there were numerous pictures of the hats her aunt had accumulated over a lifetime (1908-1991), estimated to be in the hundreds.

What is also of interest is the history of Mrs. Doris Jones-Gates. She adopted 39 children but had no biological children. She had sixteen siblings, now all deceased, and she was married. She attended church

faithfully in Macon, Georgia and attended all national conventions. She organized the church literary club and attended church services three times on Sunday, in addition to other weekday events. She was also a personal seamstress, housewife, a great cook and fashion trend setter. Her house in Macon, Georgia was featured in "Home and Garden Magazine," and her history and contributions to the Ebenezer Baptist Church are inscribed on their church wall.

When Miss Bettye first offered to put these hats on display, we were excited to be able to have a special program in our church for Black History month. When the display was revealed, we gained a rich history of African-American culture, which broadened our knowledge beyond our expectations. "Miss Bettye" was assisted in her exhibit by her husband Purvis McEachern, who played a medley of Gospel music throughout the morning and early afternoon; her son Cordell H. Hayes, Jr., and his friend, Angela Motley, who prepared the graphics for the display. "Miss Bettye" also celebrated her 70th birthday that Sunday. We were honored to share such a special day, and special memories, with her. Our thanks to her and to her entire family.

*(Adapted from an article by Shirley Caniford of*



St. John's, Harpers Ferry, is shown blanketed in snow just a few weeks ago!

### Welcome Spring!

Our Health Ministries Commission reminds us to always wear sunscreen and drink enough water to stay hydrated as we enjoy outdoor activities this Spring and Summer. Be safe...be healthy!



## *Footwashings from the Archdeacon*

**By The Venerable Faith Perrizo**

When I first began a Diocesan listserve (WV Mission) counterpart to Canon Vinson's *Volleys from the Canon*, I explained the title of my musings. Now that we are also moving into written form, as well, it bears repeating! Deacons in the church are those who serve the church as "icons for servant ministry," a servanthood ministry to which we are all called by Christ. They help us to reflect on how each of us might be called to live out the imperative to "love one another as I have loved you." Jesus fed the hungry, brought the Good News of God's redemptive love for all, healed the sick, and gave himself totally to God's will and not his own. Sometimes reading a description like that can sound daunting. But in everyday life, being servants of Christ can take on many forms, some simple, some more radical.

A central symbol of this servant ministry is the footwashing that Jesus did for his disciples at the Last Supper. As Archdeacon, I hope to be able to offer stories that illustrate how we wash off the daily grit and grime for each other, and those God brings to us to serve. Today I offer a few examples.

About a year ago, I was at Berkeley/Yale Divinity School conducting a workshop for the senior Episcopal students. During the worship the second night, we were joined by three students who had just returned from Haiti. Within a few days after the earthquake, they had managed to find a flight to Port Au Prince and showed up with a simple backpack each, ready to work at whatever jobs the emergency workers gave them to do. No questions asked. No sleep for three days. No showers. Little food. Just a chance to help some folks get into makeshift shelters and find the food distribution centers.

Over the almost seven years I have been Archdeacon in West Virginia, several clergy and laity have told me stories of their servanthood ministry to the homeless who are closer to home, right here in WV. Their stories have been remarkably similar. They each have become aware of the "invisible homeless" under the bridges of their respective towns. And they each decided to respond by taking them sandwiches on a regular basis, and blankets in the wintertime.

On a very different note, but also a ministry of servanthood, was the story I heard recently about our congregation at Chapel on the Mount, Snowshoe.

Servanthood is not just about "doing things", although feeding the poor and clothing the naked are important. Serving the good of God's people also includes meeting for regular prayer and worship, lifting up to God those folks who need our prayers. Several weeks ago, on his way to church, the priest at St. John's, Marlinton, and Chapel on the Mount, Snowshoe, responded to a car that was off the road due to icy conditions. When he did not arrive to unlock the chapel for church services, the six people who showed up waited for a while in the cold, blowing wind on top of the mountain. Finally, they determined something had prevented his coming. They did not, however, just turn around and go home. They all piled into one car, pulled out what personal Prayer Books they had, and commenced to hold Morning Prayer service in the car, praying for all who needed their prayers, including the priest!

In what way might you soothe someone's proverbial "aching feet" this week by an act of kindness or prayer?



The "Prayer in the Car" gang (above) proves that servanthood can be practiced in spontaneous and creative ways!

### **You, too, Can Make A Difference!**

There are many ways that we can make someone else's day a little brighter. Please encourage your congregation to take an active role in helping your community. Also consider making a contribution to one of the several funds that Bishop Klusmeyer has earmarked for specific ministries, such as The Bishop's Discretionary Fund, Peterkin Camp and Conference Center, Sandcrest, The Highland Educational Project, or a Legacy Gift. Make sure your check is payable to the Diocese of WV, with the fund that you want to help noted on the memo line.



## The Denominational Health Plan: How Will It Affect Our Diocese?

By David Ramkey, CFO

Although many people in the diocese are aware of Resolution A177 establishing a denominational health plan, there are many questions. Perhaps at the top of the list is "What does the DHP mean to the Diocese of WV? How will this Resolution affect us?"

Though we don't have all the answers yet, the diocese is establishing a plan to be in full compliance with Resolution A177 by the deadline of January 1, 2013, if not sooner. Here is some background, and an update of our current efforts. We will continue to keep you informed of our progress.

### What is the Denominational Health Plan (DHP)?

After an exhaustive study commissioned by the 2006 General Convention, the 2009 General Convention passed Resolution A177 establishing a denominational health plan. Basically, the DHP is a program of self-funded and fully insured health benefit plans providing benefits to eligible employees of the Episcopal Church.

The Episcopal Church Medical Trust will administer the plan gradually over the next 3 years, with employers fully participating by January 1, 2013. The key provisions of Resolution A177 include:

- All domestic dioceses, congregations and other ecclesiastical organizations or bodies subject to the authority of the Church (if specified by the diocese) must participate effective January 1, 2013;
- Healthcare benefits must be provided to both clergy and lay employees scheduled to work and compensated for 1,500 hours or more per year;
- Employees that are regularly scheduled to work between 1,000 and 1,499 hours per year are eligible to participate voluntarily;
- All employees with coverage from approved sources may waive, or 'opt-out' of, coverage from his/her Episcopal employer;
- Each diocese sets a minimum cost-sharing policy;
- Policy must apply equally to clergy and lay employees scheduled to work 1,500 or more hours per year;
- Each diocese determines if schools and other institutions must participate, or if they will continue to participate on a voluntary basis;
- Each diocese will decide individually whether or not to offer healthcare benefits to same-sex domestic partners, opposite-sex domestic partners, or both.

### Our Diocese's Plan of Action

The Diocese of West Virginia is assembling an augmented Insurance Committee to make decisions and recommendations. We are in the process of briefing all Insurance Committee members so they are prepared to start work.

The first step is assessing the potential financial implications of the DHP on the diocese. How many employees, and/or their dependents, will now be eligible for coverage? We have requested a census from our parishes and diocesan institutions, and the information we get will be used to project the financial impact on the diocese of implementing the DHP.

### Our Successful History with the Medical Trust

All the insurance plans offered by the Diocese of West Virginia are with the Medical Trust. We have confidence in their ability to manage the transition and to work with us to address and resolve issues to bring the diocese into full compliance by January 1, 2013.

The Medical Trust offers enhanced benefits such as an Employee Assistance Plan, patient advocacy, and expanded access to mental health benefits. They have been at the top of the curve with health care reform, and our rate increases for 2010 and 2011 are well below the national averages.

### What You Need To Know Today

The DHP requires equal access to health care benefits for both eligible clergy and eligible lay employees. This is referred to as parity. Our Diocese has a history of ensuring that clergy are fully covered by medical insurance. Unfortunately, the health care needs of our lay employees have not been addressed until recently. Even now, many of our churches and institutions do not provide the same benefits to lay employees who have to pay a higher cost share of health insurance premiums. In some cases they are not offered this coverage at all.

The work of the augmented Insurance Committee will also assess the impact that parity will have within the diocese, based on what we discover through the census. We ask that all parishes and diocesan institutions submit their information as soon as possible.

### Questions?

We will continue to keep you posted. If you have questions about the implementation of the DHP, please call me at 304-344-3597 or email me at dramkey@wvdiocese.org.

Have you heard about the Small Employer Health Care Tax Credit? Call David before the May 15 deadline!



## Peterkin Camps

### Young Adult Service Camp (May 22-27)

Too old for Senior Camp and still want to come to Peterkin? If you have finished a year of college or are at least one year out from High School and are not older than 30, this camp is for YOU! We will focus on Service to the Community of Romney/Hampshire County.

### Mini-Camp (June 12-15)

Designed for kids from 10 months old to those entering 3rd grade, Mini-Camp is a fun, inviting opportunity for the youngest of campers. For those who want to get a safe, encouraging start on their first Peterkin experience, Mini-Camp is a chance for little kids to try out some big fun.

### Beginner Camp (June 15-18)

An abbreviated session for our youngest independent campers, Beginner Camp allows rising 2nd and 3rd graders to try out an overnight camp in a safe and encouraging environment. Beginner Camp is the perfect place for young campers to take the first steps in a lifelong Peterkin journey.

### Day Camp (June 19-25)

This is a new camp that will reach out to residents in the Hampshire County area. Peterkin will work with area experts and the Department of Natural Resources with a week of camp focused on conservation, ecological, and environmental issues.

### Family Camp (June 26-July 2)

Open to families of all types, Family Camp offers a relaxing vacation in a caring Christian environment. Families are free to spend time together as they see fit and are invited to take advantage of the beautiful wooded surroundings and local area attractions. Family Camp brings families closer to God and each other.

### Junior Camp (July 3-9)

For upcoming 4th, 5th and 6th graders, Junior Camp couples the experience of exploring faith and church life

with the excitement of a whole week away at camp. This camp helps to introduce campers to many engaging new activities and ideas, with elective sessions like arts and crafts, nature walks and music, and free time diversions that include swimming and field games.

### Senior Camp (July 10-16)

Open to youth entering 10th, 11th, and 12th grade, as well as graduated high school seniors, Senior Camp offers a fitting conclusion to the Peterkin experience. The camp program emphasizes discussion and personal reflection, focusing on real-world issues, and encouraging campers to reflect on their faith and its implications in their lives. Senior Camp is a relaxing, nurturing, and engaging place for campers to renew and strengthen their faith in God and themselves.

### Intermediate Camp (July 17-23)

Intermediate Camp, offered to rising 7th, 8th, and 9th graders, is perfect for young people who are looking for a more mature understanding of their faith, their relationships, and themselves. Campers have more interaction with their environment than at younger camps, with opportunities for fishing, archery, and river rafting, but plenty of time is allowed for relaxation.

### Hallelujah Hike (July 23-30)

Open to youth from ages 13-18, "The Hike" is a unique, intense camping experience. Campers are immersed in nature for an extended camp session, learning and practicing backpacking and camping skills as they live and work together in a close-knit community. Hallelujah Hikers also spend a large part of their time exploring the beautiful woods surrounding Peterkin, which gives them a chance to practice survival skills as they learn more about themselves and their faith.

### MAD Camp (July 24-30)

*Music, Arts, and Drama!* Focusing on helping kids develop and nurture diverse talents, MAD Camp is available to campers entering 4th through 12th grades. Younger campers will engage in art classes, and older students will serve as mentors while working with resident artists to further develop their own creative gifts. With the wide variety of activities offered in a caring environment, Peterkin is the perfect place for young people to refine skills and explore new ideas.

***Don't miss out on the fun this summer!  
Registration information can be found at  
[www.peterkin.org](http://www.peterkin.org) and [www.wvdiocese.org](http://www.wvdiocese.org).***

## Companion Diocese Committee Plans 2011 Mission Trip to Colombia

The Companion Diocesan Committee is making plans for a Cultural Exchange trip to Bogotá, Columbia, October 8-15, 2011. The trip is an opportunity for us to get to know the people of our Companion Diocese, examine the scope of potential projects for future trips, and establish a mutual relationship with some of the parishioners of the Iglesia Episcopal en Colombia (The Episcopal Church in Colombia).



Hosted by The Rt. Rev. Francisco José Duque-Gomez, Bishop of Colombia, and his wife Blanca, participants will learn about mission opportunities in and around the capital city of Bogotá. Our group hopes to stay with local families, with the eventual goal of reciprocating hospitality in West Virginia at a later date. This is an opportunity for both dioceses to grow and understand different cultures, united in common faith in Christ.

The trip will be limited to 12 people, with the estimated cost being approximately \$1,000/person. Some facts about Bogotá:

- It is located 8,661 feet above sea level, making it the third highest capital city in the world.
- Although it is located in what is popularly called the "sabana," literally meaning "savannah," the geographical site is actually a high plateau in the Andes Mountains.
- The climate is subtropical. The average temperature during the month of October is 65 degrees, with 44 degrees being the low.



If you are interested in learning more about the Mission Trip, please contact Vicki Iber at [Mcivil65@gmail.com](mailto:Mcivil65@gmail.com) or 304-367-0389 (home) or 304-612-0295 (cell).



### Women's Conference to 'Lift the Veil' on Women of the Bible

This year's Women's Conference, to be held May 20-22 at Peterkin, promises to lift the veil of mystery surrounding the Women of the Bible. Beth Marquart, whose fascination with the subject has led to years of study, will guide participants in getting to know more than 400 women, named and un-named, found in the Old and New Testaments. We will share our combined and individual experiences as reflected back to us through their eyes and spend some quality time with Mary the God-bearer, Mary Magdalene, and Elizabeth, the matriarchs of Christianity.

Visit the Women's Ministry page of the Diocesan website for more information.

*Let's lift the veil together!*

### "Church 101" Workshops

Canon Donald Vinson and Diocesan CFO David Ramkey have presented "Church 101" workshops in several locations around the Diocese to great success. Two additional locations, St. Stephen's, Beckley (May 14); and Trinity, Martinsburg (May 21) are scheduled.

This one-day workshop covers many important topics. "Vestry 101," presented by Canon Vinson, is intended for Vestry members, and answers such important questions as: What does a Vestry do? Who should and who should not serve on Vestry? What are the Vestry's responsibilities? What is meant by 'mutual ministry' and how does it work? What is the Bishop's role? What do we do when we have problems?

"Administration 101," David Ramkey's portion of the workshop, is aimed toward treasurers, finance committee members, and administrators. Participants discuss the best practices of administration for a parish in the areas of clergy compensations, parish internal controls, Parochial Report preparation, audit requirements, health and property insurance, missionary apportionment, and other areas of church finances and administration.

Registration information is available on the home page of our website: [www.wvdiocese.org](http://www.wvdiocese.org).

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

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### Diocesan Calendar

**May 2011**

May 1 Bishop's Visit: St. Thomas à Becket, Morgantown  
 May 5 Sandscrest Board Meeting: Wheeling  
 May 7 Anti Racism Dialogue: Christ Church, Fairmont  
 May 9 Synod 2011: Holiday Inn, Martinsburg  
 May 13-14 Disciples Net: Best Western, Bridgeport  
 May 14 "Church 101": St. Stephen's Church, Beckley  
 May 20-22 Women's Conference: Peterkin  
 May 21 "Church 101": Trinity, Martinsburg  
 May 22-27 Young Adult Camp: Peterkin  
 May 22 Bishop's Visit: Grace Church, Elkins  
 May 23 HEP Board Meeting: Welch  
 May 24-25 Fresh Start Overnight: Sandscrest  
 May 28 Anti Racism Dialogue: St. Thomas à Becket, Mgmtwn  
 May 30 Diocesan Office Closed for Memorial Day

June 15-18 Beginner Camp: Peterkin  
 June 17-18 Diocesan Council: Martinsburg  
 June 19-25 Day Camp: Peterkin  
 June 21-27 EYE: St. Paul, Minnesota  
 June 24-25 COM: Sandscrest  
 June 26-July 2 Family Camp: Peterkin

**July 2011**

July 3-9 Junior Camp: Peterkin  
 July 4 Diocesan Office Closed  
 July 10-16 Senior Camp: Peterkin  
 July 17-23 Intermediate Camp: Peterkin  
 July 20 Trustees Meeting: Charleston  
 July 23-30 Hallelujah Hike: Peterkin  
 July 24-30 MAD Camp: Peterkin  
 (Music, Art, Drama)

**June 2011**

June 2 Sandscrest Open House: Wheeling  
 June 3-5 Deacons & Liturgy Retreat: Bp. Hodges, Huttonsville  
 June 5-11 Staff Training: Peterkin  
 June 11 Anti Racism Dialogue: St. Christopher, Charleston  
 June 12-15 Mini Camp: Peterkin  
 June 14 Clergy Day: St. Paul's, Weston



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