

# Koinonia

Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia

Spring 2012



**Bishop Mike visiting St. Matthew's, Charleston**

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.  
(Herbert Brokering -- "Lord, be With")

This prayer, which I heard years ago for the first time, has always stayed with me, and always seems to reappear in my mind at this time of the year. (A friend just asked for a copy of it, to be used at a specific meeting). 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 experience...particularly - God's love.

At this time, when we live into the Power of the Spirit of God - the Holy Spirit, we begin to celebrate that new life given us at Resurrection and Easter. We pray that our eyes may be opened to the new life of Christ as expressed and lived in his Resurrection.

Pentecost, and the season following, in which we now find ourselves, is a time for new beginnings and life. May you find all of this and more as the Season unfolds. May you be more and more filled with His presence and love.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Michie Klusmeyer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a cross at the beginning.

The Rt. Rev. W. Michie Klusmeyer  
Bishop

## News from Around the Diocese



Congratulations to the **Rev. Marie Mulford!** Mother Marie received a Masters of Divinity at a ceremony at Bexley Hall / Trinity Church on May 20, 2012. She has served the River Bend Episcopal Ministries in the Diocese of West Virginia for several years. At right, Marie is shown with Tom Reed, the President of River Bend Episcopal Ministries.



**Mr. Eddie Isom**, a parishioner at St. Stephen's, Beckley, is helping to send the Episcopal Shield around the world! Eddie placed the shield on a Geocacher website, which is like a high-tech treasure hunt utilizing GPS devices. The EpiscoBug, as Eddie calls it, was placed on the site in mid-July 2011 and so far it has traveled with the help of geocachers to twelve states and two Canadian provinces. You can track its progress by visiting these websites: Geocaching, <http://www.geocaching.com> and EpiscoBug, <http://coord.info/TB49KR8>.

On Sunday, April 22 faculty, friends, students, and members of the Greenbrier Episcopal Ministries honored Andy Smith for his fine work and tenure as headmaster of **Greenbrier Episcopal School (GES)**. Smith, his wife Chris, and their daughter Tory were on hand for the service at St. Thomas Episcopal Church in White Sulphur Springs and the reception following in Butler Hall. Smith has been the headmaster at GES for the past nine years. Pictured: Andy Smith, Tory Smith, Chris Smith, and the Rev. Christopher Thompson. (Photo by Pat Pate)



**Easter in the Diocese:** From **St. Thomas à Becket, Morgantown**, photo 1 - Deacon Al Prichard, Mother Julie Murdoch and Canon Faith Perrizo process in for the 10:30 service, and photo 2 - the children line up to flower the cross. Photo 3 shows **Grace Church, Elkins**, ready for Easter services.





L to R: Canon Faith Perrizo, Darlene Slusher, the Rev. Marjorie Bevens, Wendy Tuck, Bob and Linda Crocker, Trish Prichard, and Nathan Pritchard.

**ConneXions**, the Christian Formation arm of the Commission on Ministry, sponsored a trip to see *Freud's Last Session* at the Pittsburgh Public Theatre in March. The two-man play depicted what might have been discussed between Anglican theologian C.S. Lewis and Dr. Sigmund Freud, an avowed atheist, on the eve of World War II, and covered the questions of God's existence, the meaning of life, money, sex, and power. Forty-two lay and clergy from our diocese attended. At left is the gathering of the group discussion of folks from Good Shepherd, Parkersburg. Churches represented also included Lawrencefield Parish and St. Matthew's in Wheeling, St. John's in Huntington, and Grace Church in St. Mary's. The next overnight program for ConneXions is on *The Healing Power of Gardening and Nature*. See the article below.

## *Blending Soil and Soul*

ConneXions, the Christian formation arm of the Commission on Ministry, is sponsoring an overnight retreat August 10-11 at Peterkin Camp and Conference Center in Romney. The retreat is entitled "Encountering God's Handiwork", which includes a presentation on healing gardens, the healing aspects of nature, and a meditative walk. The Rev. John Rice, Episcopal priest and former extension agent, will be the main speaker. "Blending Soil and Soul" is the focus of the presentation and dialogue on Sat., August 11. A regional director for the International Order of St. Luke the Physician, the Rev. John Rice has served Episcopal churches in Vermont and western North Carolina. He has led workshops on healing prayer throughout the Southeastern United States and healing missions to the Diocese of Durgapur, India.

Master Gardener Kate Lehman, Berkeley Springs, WV, will lead two workshops on gardening: "Hearing God in the Garden: Being Receptive" and "Speaking to God in the Garden: Being Responsive."

More information, with a registration form, is available on the diocesan website at [www.wvdiocese.org](http://www.wvdiocese.org).

*"I love to think of nature as an unlimited broadcasting station, through which God speaks to us every hour, if we only tune in."* – George Washington Carver



## **Continuing Education at Sandscrest**

Several of our clergy gathered June 3-7 at Sandscrest for a time of study, worship, fellowship, and renewal of Con Ed ties from years gone by.

The Rev. Dr. James Farwell, Professor of Religious Studies and Philosophy at Bethany College in West Virginia, and Dr. Timothy Sedgwick, Professor of Christian Ethics and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, Virginia, led the group as they delved into "Ethical Thinking and Liturgical Celebration."

The photo below shows several of the Continuing Education participants listening to the presentation of Dr. Timothy Sedgwick.



L to R: The Rev. Teresa Wayman, the Rev. Al Prichard, Canon Faith Perrizo, Mo, the Rev. Rick Rutledge, the Rev. Theresa Kelley and Dr. Timothy Sedgwick



## **"STEWARDSHIP TALK" FOR ALL GENERATIONS**

By The Rev. Canon Donald Vinson

Life just got even more complicated. It turns out, the generations living at this moment really ARE different. They have different world-views, and none are wrong ones, merely products of differing sets of experiences. Our attitudes toward even major life challenges are different. Our expectations are different. We even use different vocabularies.

Church is not a coffee bar. Even as we try to worship inclusively, using many musical styles and prayer forms to embrace all the diversity we can of God's sheep, we do aim to worship together, as community. All worship planning is more challenging than ever, including the sermon. How can we offer one homily that is understood and received by all present, regardless of age and life-season?

Stewardship is a particular preaching and teaching challenge, for it is an area in which the generations take very different approaches. Duty, obligation, responsibility, and worst of all, guilt, just won't fly for anyone younger than 70 anymore. That doesn't mean we must write that topic off, though. Here's one approach to addressing all generations at once.

Talk about God first, the giver of all good gifts. Then bring in the believer, and the natural response to God's constant generosity. Only then, speak of the church, and its role in responding to God's gifts and the needs of God's world. Keep things in that order. Emphasize the individual's need to give, not the church's need for money.

Keep all of it rooted in thanksgiving, the basis for Stewardship. Thanksgiving produces generosity, in all the generations.

### **Reading Camps, West Virginia**

Please help us launch our first two Reading Camps in Wheeling and McDowell County this summer! Volunteers and monetary donations are needed for both camps. Please see our brochures in the News section on the home page of the Diocese website, [www.wvdiocese.org](http://www.wvdiocese.org).

**Diocesan Convention  
September 21-22, 2012  
Holiday Inn, Martinsburg  
Registration info available  
in News section of Diocese  
website, [www.wvdiocese.org](http://www.wvdiocese.org)**

*Deadline for the Summer 2012 issue of Koinonia is August 3, 2012 .*

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