

Spring 2013



**Blessing of the Boats, Hawk's Nest, May 19**

## A Message from Bishop Klusmeyer

It never seems to fail.

When we bought our home in Charleston, we were told that the original owner would close the porch during the Winter, and would open it in the Spring, with a major party for the neighborhood. The porch was a place for celebration and community!

We don't have the same rite of passage as the original owner, but we do have our own rite of Spring for the porch.

Each Spring, we buy some plants to put around the house. Some will be planted in the front yard, while others will be placed in pots and scattered around. We even buy a few hanging ferns for the porch so that we can have some privacy, while at the same time, bringing in a bit of nature. We have a Dogwood tree in front of the porch so it becomes a bit secluded. As we sit and relax, we can hear the sounds of the street, but we don't usually see what is going on, nor do they see us.

Except for a few pairs of eyes.

It never fails!

Each Spring, shortly after the ferns are hung, I hear Marsha's voice telling me that 'they're back.' Whoever they are (it does vary from year to year) they have come to build a nest in one of the ferns. It may be robins, finches, or some other bird trying to find a safe place to raise her young.

Each year after the nest is formed, we look carefully to see what's happening. Sometimes we see two or three eggs...other years we've seen as many as five. But each time, when we come out on the porch, the mother bird flies away to wait on the branches of the Dogwood...all the while chirping at us, telling us to go back inside and leave her alone. She watches us very carefully and is very protective of the nest and her eggs.

In a very short period of time the eggs hatch and the baby birds burst forth. Their peeping fills the small porch, and we know that there is new life there. Then we see the mother flying around, trying to get close...but staying away from us.

This past month we watched as the mother bird carefully made her way to the nest and very quickly fed her babies. As you know, she feeds them by placing her beak into the mouths of the babies and giving them the nutrition they need.

As we had the opportunity to watch, either from the door or from the seat on the porch, I was reminded of the image of the pelican. The pelican has been an image of Christ, as it was thought that she would feed her babies out of her own flesh...plucking at her feathers, even to the point of bleeding.

The image of the mother bird feeding her young brings to mind the reality that we are fed...we receive the nourishment of Christ's Body, by having it placed in our hands, or in our mouths, to receive the nourishment we need.

During this Spring Season, I call upon us all to realize the nourishment that is placed in us, each time we gather at the Eucharist, or when we gather together in prayer and celebration...that Christ gives of Himself, so that we might have life, and have it abundantly.

## News from Around the Diocese

It's that time of the year again...we're gearing up for **Diocesan Convention!** Convention will be held September 20, 21, and 22 at the Days Hotel and Conference Center in Flatwoods. This year's theme, "Like Those Who Dream," is from Psalm 126. Registration packets will be mailed by mid-June. Once again, Kelly McGhee is our Convention Coordinator — she can be reached at [kmcghee@wvdiocese.org](mailto:kmcghee@wvdiocese.org).



The Vestries of **St. Thomas, White Sulphur Springs,** and **Incarnation, Ronceverte** voted unanimously to proclaim their congregations as Out Loud Congregations which welcome gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people to their churches and communities. These two churches, which make up the **GREENBRIER EPISCOPAL MINISTRIES**, also have formed a chapter of the national Episcopal Church group Integrity which supports and promotes LGBT inclusion in the Church. This is the first Integrity chapter in our diocese.

Hollie Mitchell reports that the fourth **Altar Guild** meeting will be held at St. Matthew's Church in Wheeling July 20. Contact [donnaglass1@comcast.net](mailto:donnaglass1@comcast.net) for more information.

At right is a photo of the children of **St. Peter's, Huntington,** who completed the "First Intentional Communion" class that was taught by the Rev. William Carl Thomas. Pictured are: Moira Boles, Audrey Holbrook, Emma Shields, Garrett Shields, and Fiona Reynolds. They celebrated their first communion on Sunday, April 14th.



**Lawrencefield Parish, Wheeling,** has engaged Pittsburgh artist Monica Zoet of Ikaros Art to paint wall murals in the Sunday School wing. The first mural, depicting the parting of the Red Sea, is being painted on facing walls of the hallway, so that the children may be the Children of Israel as they walk between the parted waves!



Outreach opportunities abounded at **Good Shepherd, Parkersburg** the last week of April. On April 24 Tom Knopp of Kenova (pictured with Linda Crocker and the Rev. Marjorie Bevans) was at Good Shepherd for a potluck supper to support his *Walking Out Hunger* effort in Wood County. Tom is walking 25 miles in every WV county, hoping to raise \$10,000/county for the Huntington Area Food Bank and the Mountaineer Food Bank. This is Tom's way of sharing his gratitude for all of the blessings he has received over the years, including a miraculous

cancer cure. Mother Bevans and others from the church joined him for part of his walk through the area. (Read more about it at [www.walkingouthunger.org](http://www.walkingouthunger.org).) On Friday of the same week, six members of Good Shepherd went to McDowell County to do outreach work at the Highland Educational Project. The group then spent all day Saturday and half of Sunday working on a trailer and a house, completing several projects at each, before returning to Parkersburg. The mission trip was supported by a special Christmas offering, as well as already prepared food supplied by Good Shepherd cooks.



### Ministry Developer's Cohort Program

The Rev. Theresa Kelley (St. Luke's-on-the-Island), the Rev. Stan Holmes (New River Episcopal Ministries), and the Rev. Canon Faith Perrizo (Canon for Ministry Development) recently completed the Ministry Developer's Cohort Program sponsored by the Ministry Developer's Collaborative, a program arm of the Living Stones Partnership. The year long program included three main goals: Deepening Leadership Development Skills, Building Relationship Networks among Ministry Developers, and Addressing Isolation Issues. Two four-day retreats were held at

Sandscrest Conference Center in Wheeling, in April 2012 and April 2013, with monthly webcam meetings in-between. The topics covered included an exploration of Parker Palmer's book that outlines five leadership touchstones (described in Palmer's Healing the Heart of Democracy), and an introduction to the methodology of *Circles of Trust*, including a process for discernment and deep listening as outlined in Palmer's book A Hidden Wholeness: The Journey Toward an Undivided Life. As part of the Clergy Continuing Education program, ***Preaching the Gospel of Luke***, scheduled for June 24-27 at Sandscrest, Theresa, Stan, and Faith will facilitate reflections on Scripture and extra-biblical stories using a schema based on the *Circles of Trust* method.

### Huntington Churches Working Together

The Episcopal Churches of Huntington — St. Peter's, Trinity and St. John's — have been looking for ways to work cooperatively and collaboratively by sharing advertising for Easter and Holy Week, celebrating the Easter Vigil together, and sharing each other's news, events and invitations with all three congregations. Most recently, they held a joint confirmation celebration on Wednesday, April 24, in which 20 people were confirmed, received and reaffirmed into the Episcopal church. Bishop Klusmeyer presided; the Rev. William Carl Thomas, the Rev. Lisa Graves, the Rev. Dr. Chip Graves, and the Rev. David Thabet participated in the service.

The churches hope to form a committee from all three churches to look for more ways to share ideas, mission and marketing in the future.



**Canon Faith Perrizo (center), Florida Montgomery, a parishioner of St. Thomas a Becket, Morgantown, (left), and Deacon Al Prichard (right) at the 'Empty Bowls' fundraiser in Morgantown.**

Two of our churches recently participated in 'Empty Bowls' fundraisers. St. John's, Huntington, and St. Thomas à Becket, Morgantown, provided food and people-power for this important project. It is said that \$1 allows them to feed approximately ten people. The two churches helped raise over \$20,000, and so were able to help many people. Kudos to all of the volunteers from St. John's and St. Thomas à Becket who worked hard to make these fundraisers successful.

## The Rev. Dr. Roger Ferlo Installed as First President of Bexley-Seabury-Western

By Canon Faith Perrizo



*Restoring the Biblical Imagination* was the theme for a one day conference held in conjunction with the installation of the Rev. Dr. Roger Albert Ferlo as the first president of the newly aligned Bexley Hall-Seabury-Western Theological Seminary Federation. Held in Indianapolis, President Ferlo was installed in the chapel of The Christian Theological Seminary (Disciples of Christ) on April 27 by the co-facilitators of the new Bexley Seabury Board, the Rt. Rev. W. Michie Klusmeyer and the Rev. Gwynne Wright (Chaplain, Northwest Community Health Care, Arlington Heights, IL.).

Preacher for the occasion was the Very Rev. Ian Markham, President and Dean of Virginia Theological Seminary. Serving as Deacon was the Rev. Chad Slater, a senior at Bexley Hall from the Diocese of West Virginia. Honorary Doctorates were given to the Rev. Canon Carlson Gerdau, who served as Canon to the former Presiding Bishop Frank Griswold and has been on the board of Bexley Hall since 1999, and to the Rt. Rev. Diane J. Bruce, Bishop Suffragan of the Diocese of Los Angeles and a champion of the Episcopal Church's mission into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Prior to the installation and centered on the theme *Restoring Biblical Imagination*, a day-long conference was also held at CTS. The first of three presentations was given by President Ferlo, who facilitated an exploration of how sacred texts can help us foster understanding and create communities. He began with an historical timeline of sacred text, from oral history, to the Torah scrolls, to various hand-transcribed codeces, to the printing of the Bible, and finished with samples of multi-media available for presenting the sacred texts in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The second segment was titled *A Muslim, A Jew, and a Christian Walk into a Café: Building Relationships Through Scriptural Study*. Participants were introduced to a Scriptural Reasoning process that honors the sacred texts of all three Abrahamic faith traditions. This process facilitates a dialogue that helps to open Scripture in a way that enables each participant to grow in his/her own faith tradition while engendering a better understanding of each other's scriptural tradition. Presenters included Sarah Snyder from the Cambridge Inter-faith Programme (UK), Joshua Stanton, associate director of the Center for Global Judaism at Hebrew College in Newton Center, MA, and Omar Shaukat, currently working for Notre Dame University and a PhD candidate at the University of Virginia.

Finally, a multi-media/interactive presentation was given, entitled *The Bible for Nones: Sights and Sounds of Scripture*. Presenters of this presentation were The Rev. Dr. John Dally, professor of theology and culture at Seabury-Western Seminary; Shaun Whitehead (UCC), associate chaplain at St. Lawrence University in Canton, NY, and Dr. Frank Yamada, president of McCormick Seminary (Presbyterian) and McCormick professor of Bible and Culture. Dr. Yamada has also taught Hebrew at Seabury-Western.

The students and faculty of Bexley and Seabury coordinated the event.

