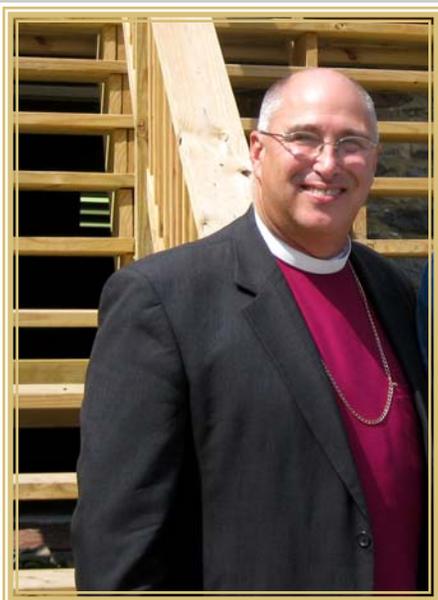


# Koinonia

Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia

Summer 2010

## *A Message from Bishop Klusmeyer*



Several months ago, I sent out an announcement that the Rev. Betsy Walker was retiring as Editor of the *Dayspring* after 20 years of service and ministry. Betsy has done a marvelous job in conveying the news and information about the Diocese to all those around the country who want to know what's happening in West Virginia.

Thank you, Betsy!

Over the past few months, I have assembled a small task force to review the work of the *Dayspring*, and to make suggestions about how best to continue the ministry of communication in our Diocese

and who best to do the work. This Task Force was headed by the Rev. Mark Seitz, and had members from around the Diocese. I would like to thank Susan Barfield, Linda Vinson, Archdeacon Faith Perrizo, Linda Comins, the Rev. Georgia Dubose, Mollie Bailey and David Hurlbut for their willingness to serve and give advice.

From their conversations, it has been determined that we continue with the position of Editor, and that we add the position of 'layout person' to put the paper into final format. In addition, they looked at the frequency of the publication (five times a year is recommended) and the paper stock that we use.

All of these things are important to us as we live in an age of rapid communication. We are also looking to see how we can transition from a paper format to an electronic format...as you know, the print media is suffering these days, and electronic communication seems to be the way many people prefer receiving their information. But that is a long way off for us.

We will continue to have Deanery Correspondents who will be our front line people to communicate. I appreciate all

of those who contribute their time and efforts so that communication can take place in a timely and orderly fashion.

Oh, one last thing:

ANY SUGGESTIONS FOR A NAME FOR THIS NEWSPAPER?

In the past, it was *Mountain Dayspring*, and Betsy took it to *Dayspring*. What are your thoughts on a name for our newspaper? I will pass them along to the Task Force, for their choosing of a name (old or new).

In the meantime, this edition of the *Koinonia* is being sent to the entire *Dayspring* mailing list, so that we can continue to bring you the news from around the Diocese.

God bless you.

### *Highlights Inside:*

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# News from Around the Diocese

**Lawrencefield Parish, Wheeling,** recently offered a series of adult education classes called "Challenging Assumptions About Women in the Bible." The series began with a session entitled "Wives and Mothers: Nice Round Matrons or Women with Angles?" Subsequent sessions looked at several biblical matriarchs, heroines and villainesses to see if the scriptural record really supports such assumptions as "Women in the Bible were powerless" and "Paul hated women." For more information, please contact the Rev. Cynthia Walter at 304-277-2353.

## Easter Celebrations in Wheeling

The children of **St. Matthew's, Wheeling,** prepare to lead the Procession of the Palms on Palm Sunday.



**St. Stephen's, Beckley,** is sponsoring Amos Kwemoi Kiboi of Kenya. The church's sponsorship will cover all tuition, room, board, uniform, and book costs for Amos for an entire year.

**St. Stephen's, Romney,** held their first annual book and cookie sale, with part of the proceeds used to support projects at John J. Cornwell Elementary School.

A meal is enjoyed after a hard day of work during the Spring Work Weekend at Peterkin. Much was accomplished just in time for summer camp. Kudos to the hard-working volunteers!



The Diocesan **Health Ministries Commission** wishes you a safe and healthy summer. Wear sunscreen and stay hydrated by drinking plenty of water as you enjoy outdoor activities! If you would like to be a Health and Wellness Coordinator for your church, contact Debbie Ventura at [dventura1021@gmail.com](mailto:dventura1021@gmail.com).

Register now for Diocesan Convention, September 10, 11, 12 at Days Hotel, Flatwoods.



Lighting the first fire of Easter for the Easter Vigil at **Lawrencefield Parish** are, from left: the Rev. Mark Seitz, rector of St. Matthew's; David and Jennifer Duymich, Lawrencefield members; the Rev. Richard L. Skaggs, assistant

rector of St. Matthew's; and the Rev. Cynthia Byers Walter, the rector of Lawrencefield Parish. Bishop Klusmeyer was the celebrant, and he confirmed Monica Wills of St. Matthew's during the Easter Vigil.

The children of St. Matthew's and Music Director Robert Troeger welcome the Easter Bunny to the parish's Easter party.



*Text and Photos by Linda Comins*

## “Reaching Forth Our Hands in Love...”

### Moorefield Expands Feeding Program

Since September 2009, the Community Lunch at **Emmanuel, Moorefield**, has provided almost 1,000 meals to people in the town of Moorefield. Recently the program affiliated with the Mountaineer Food Bank and local supermarkets to distribute food to members of the community. Mountaineer Food Bank sells food in bulk at significantly reduced cost, and this allows the feeding program to purchase one hundred pounds of food for \$17.50, including delivery charges.



### Martinsburg 'Tweens Help Community

In February the 'tween Sunday school class from **Trinity, Martinsburg**, put on a skit to raise awareness about the Souper Bowl of Caring, a national, faith-based crusade against hunger. The congregation raised more than \$300, all of which was donated to C-CAP/Loaves and Fishes in Martinsburg. On Feb. 27, the 'tweens, along with some younger church members and their parents, spent some time working at Loaves and Fishes. The group helped fill boxes of food for the community's needy, stocked shelves, and learned about the process local people go through to receive assistance from the organization.

*From left, Melanie Files, Director of Loaves and Fishes, helps Nikki Sommer, Rebecca Moriarty, Molly Morgan, Tammy Shirley, Spencer Shirley and Nicholas Shirley pack boxes at C-CAP/Loaves and Fishes in Martinsburg.*



### United Thank Offering News

Becky Szabo, our Diocesan United Thank Offering (UTO) representative, encourages all churches to hold an ingathering and to forward the collection to her at 1328 Main Street, Follansbee, WV 26037. Any questions or requests should be sent to her by email at [Becky8910@aol.com](mailto:Becky8910@aol.com), or you may call her at 304-527-2537.

Something else to keep in mind is that although grant applications aren't available until Fall, now is the time to start thinking and talking locally about possible needs for a grant from the UTO. The focus should be to eliminate poverty and to improve the lives of women and children.



### YOU Can Help

Please help your congregation reach out to those in need in your community. Remember, too, that Bishop Klusmeyer has several funds to aid various ministries in the Diocese. You might consider making a contribution to:

**The Bishop's Discretionary Fund  
Friends of Peterkin  
Peterkin Camp and Conference Center  
Sandscrest  
A Legacy Gift**

Make your check payable to the Diocese of WV, specify the program that you want to help, and mail your donation to:

Diocese of West Virginia  
P.O. Box 5400  
Charleston, WV 25361

## TEAM MINISTRY PILOT BEARS FRUIT

By Archdeacon Faith Perrizo



During the last 50 years there has been a movement towards recapturing some of the excitement and structure of the early church as we face a changing and increasingly diverse culture. The excitement being recaptured from the first centuries of Christianity came from an understanding that we are all called to serve God from the gifts we have been given and to be ministers of the Gospel. In those days, there were leaders who had had hands laid on them—first by Jesus, then by the disciples. The leadership was fluid and changing. For several hundred years, the ordained person has been seen as the central provider of ministry. But, in recapturing the spirit of the original communities who followed Jesus, the ordained role has become more and more understood as one role among many in the building up of the Body of Christ. Today, in our tradition, some are called out to serve in an ordained capacity and have had a very defined role. Instead of being the sole person to provide ministry, the ordained person has become understood as the one who encourages and equips others to fulfill their own ministries.

Three years ago, five regional ministries began a pilot program for team/leadership development, responding to the call to “be” the Body of Christ, sharing our unique and individual gifts to build up the Church. Each team ministry group has experienced the same set of four retreats: Baptismal Ministry, Gifts Discernment; Calling; and Leadership Styles. Three of the groups chose a formation program entitled LifeCycles, and two chose to attend Equipping the Saints as a team. Each Team Ministry group has developed its own flavor and characteristics. In each instance, new ministries have developed and flourished. These include (but are not limited to) Free Lunch Wednesdays at Emmanuel, Moorefield (patterned after a program at Redeemer, Ansted), a Halloween extravaganza for the children in Moorefield, a distribution at Heritage Festival (Pocahontas Episcopal Ministries) of ecologically friendly items (canvas bags for groceries and reuseable water bottles), a traveling road show for Team Ministry Development (New River Episcopal Ministries), an Indaba reflection/prayer group (Ascension, Hinton), and Health Ministry at Christ Church, Wellsburg (Brooke-Hancock Episcopal Ministries). In addition to the “program” aspect of developing ministries, individuals within the teams have discerned gifts and call in the areas of parish administration, worship leaders, outreach ministers, servanthood (the diaconate), sacramental (priesthood), and Christian Formation leaders, to name a few.

For more information about Team Ministry, please contact my office at 304-344-3597, or email me at fperrizo@wvdiocese.org.

## Women’s Ministries Conference



Still adorned in its Easter finery, Trinity Church, Martinsburg, was the site for the combined Province III ECW Annual Meeting and WV Women’s Conference, April 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>.

Over 30 representatives from PA, DE, MD, VA, DC and WV gathered for sacred and secular moments knitting together retreat and prayer with business, and work. The Rev. Georgia DuBose assisted contemplation on life’s abundances using lectio divina and Holy Scripture ‘threads’ selected by each attendee.



All women joined in the Annual ECW business agenda, conducted by Province President Helen Whitson, followed by meetings of the Diocesan ECW Presidents, United Thank Offering and Church Periodical Club representatives. All proceedings were wrapped up in the joy of communing with sisters in Christ, prayer, a little fun with the skit “Mama Knows Best,” and the warm and delicious hospitality of the St. Mary’s Guild at Trinity.



In 2011, the Women’s Conference will return to Peterkin the third weekend in May, so mark your calendars now! More information will be available at Diocesan Convention.



Text by Marie Hunsaker; photos by Patricia Haldeman  
WV Women’s Ministries

## Connecting with Peterkin

(Edited from an article by Tim Northrup)

My brother Tom, the headmaster of a small school in Virginia, had a fellow named Edward Hallowell do some consulting for his school. Hallowell is a senior lecturer at Harvard Medical School and has written many books. One particular book, titled Connect, often comes to mind when I reflect on reasons why Peterkin is so important to our Diocese.

In his introduction to "Connect", Hallowell answers his own question, "What counts most in life?" He explains that our lives can literally hinge on connections that matter, connections that are heartfelt. His book explores many different sorts of human connections. He comes up with a dozen which he believes we should nurture. Among these are family, friends, spiritual faith, nature and special places.

The human connections that Hallowell describes in his book, and urges us to reinforce, run thick at Peterkin, even thicker than the sausage gravy that Bonnie ladles out in the Peterkin dining hall.

Over the last 20 or so years, I have embraced Peterkin and it has embraced me. My connection to Peterkin has sustained me during some rough patches in my life. I have gone to sleep at night walking in my mind the miles of paths along the creek to the falls or up to the meadow. To paraphrase the psalmist, I have lifted up my eyes and my mind's eye unto those West Virginia hills, from whence cometh my help.

I attended Peterkin as a kid. I confess I didn't get it. Peterkin was okay but a little too muggy and a little too buggy for my taste. What's more, the camp was populated by other self-conscious, insecure people like me. I must have gotten something out of it though; my memories of the place drew me back later to Family Camp.

My opinion until recently was that Peterkin is just not for kids. I couldn't see how a young mind could possibly appreciate it. However, I now teach Sunday school to a group of young people who do get it. I was with one of these young people who described the place this way to a group of adults, "Peterkin is just a place that I like and I'm just going to have to keep going there..." (after

a thoughtful pause) "for the rest of my life." He's not twenty years old, but he gets it.

I was very taken by the remark of a girl last year who had just returned from Prayer Hill. She didn't know church from shoe polish, but she said quietly to somebody as she lay peacefully on her bed that evening, "God just filled me up." She's not ten years old, but she gets it too.

Hallowell says in Connect, "Places have a spirit ... The ancients called this the genius loci, or the character of the place." In my opinion, his book reads like a marketing campaign for Peterkin. Our beloved home in the hills near Romney is all about people who are nurturing the connections that keep them alive.



### Peterkin Summer Camp Schedule

You, too, can create lasting memories at Peterkin. Registration information for this year's summer camps can be found on the Peterkin and Diocesan websites: [www.peterkin.org](http://www.peterkin.org) and [www.wvdiocese.org](http://www.wvdiocese.org), or call Daisy McBride at 304-822-4519. Registrations must be received two weeks prior to the camp's starting date.

#### **Junior Camp: June 20-26**

(Upcoming 4th, 5th and 6th graders)

#### **Senior Camp: June 27-July 3**

(Entering 10th, 11th, and 12th grade, and graduated high school seniors)

#### **Beginner Camp: July 5-8**

(Abbreviated session for 2nd and 3rd graders)

#### **Mini-Camp: July 8-11**

(For 10 months to those entering 3rd grade, with parent or guardian)

#### **Family Camp: July 11-17**

(Filled to capacity! Registrations no longer accepted.)

#### **Hallelujah Hike: July 17-24**

(Open to ages 13-18)

#### **Creative Arts Camp: July 18-24**

(Youth entering 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th grades)

#### **Intermediate Camp: July 25-31**

(Rising 7th, 8th, and 9th graders)

## Faith in Action at St. Matthew's, Wheeling

Faith in Action Caregivers at St. Matthew's in Wheeling celebrated its 15th anniversary with a service of Evening Prayer and a special dinner.



St. Matthew's is one of the founding congregations of the interfaith organization of volunteers providing a variety of services, free of charge, to help older adults and people with disabilities remain

independent in Ohio and Marshall counties in West Virginia and Belmont County in Ohio. Since its founding in 1995, Faith in Action Caregivers has provided services to more than 2,700 people in the three counties, Executive Director Jeanette L. Wojcik said.

Faith in Action's current board members include the Rev. Richard L. Skaggs, assistant rector of St. Matthew's; the Rev. Cynthia Byers Walter, rector of Lawrencefield Parish Church, Wheeling; and St. Matthew's members Robert B. Cilles and Linda S. Comins. Among those serving on Faith in Action's advisory council are the Rev. Mark E. Seitz, rector of St. Matthew's; Eleanor Good and George P. Schramm of St. Matthew's, and Shirley W. Weaver of Lawrencefield.

Faith in Action Caregivers was organized by a steering committee that began meeting in the fall of 1994, when the bishops of the Episcopal, Roman Catholic, United Methodist and Evangelical Lutheran churches in West Virginia issued a pastoral letter, "Health and Wellness in Our Time." The letter challenged congregations to work with others to establish ministries of interfaith volunteer caregiving in communities throughout the Mountain State.

The Rev. John Shaffer, who was then serving at St. Matthew's, led the local steering committee of clergy and laity. Trained volunteers began providing services to residents of Ohio and Marshall counties in September 1995. The organization expanded its services to include residents of Belmont County in 1997.

Typical services include escorted transportation to medical appointments, shopping, errands, chores, friendly visiting, telephone reassurance and respite for family caregivers. Strong for Life, a home-based exercise program, also is offered.

## We've Been Flocked!

The youth group of St. John's, Charleston, left a surprise for Bishop Klusmeyer and his staff in early May. They 'flocked' the front lawn of Diocesan House after office hours with an assortment of pink flamingos prominently placed front and center.

"Flockings" are a fun way for the youth group to raise money for an upcoming trip to New York City. According to Brian Hamra, one of the group's leaders, they have raised nearly \$700, including money paid for flockings that have been ordered but not yet carried out.

The group began flocking yards all across the Kanawha Valley at Easter and still have a few more to do after their return from New York. For a minimum donation of \$50, members of the youth group will sneak into a yard after dark and leave the flamingos to surprise the residents the next morning.



Bishop Klusmeyer and his staff arrived for work the morning of May 3 and were greeted by the flock of flamingos shown above.

The Bishop said in an email, "Imagine my surprise when I arrived at Diocesan House this morning to find the lawn covered. It brought a big smile to my face."

Flocking has caught on with youth groups around the country, with websites devoted to the practice ([www.flamingofundraising.com](http://www.flamingofundraising.com) and [flamingoflocking.com](http://flamingoflocking.com) are two examples). The youth at St. John's plan to incorporate the good-natured prank into future fundraising projects. If you would like to arrange a flocking, contact Brian Hamra at 304-348-1246.

## "A Very Friendly Church"

By Canon Donald Vinson

In my travels, I often ask congregations, "What are you known for in your community? What do visitors and newcomers most often say, positively, about your church?" The most common response I hear is, "They say we are a very friendly congregation. We're like a family." Episcopalians tend to be quite pleased with that compliment. It contrasts strikingly with the old image of us as cold and unwelcoming. It does not quite satisfy me, though, especially when it sounds like laurels to rest upon.

Of course, being friendly is a desirable goal. A congregation is not going to get anywhere at all without it. Our coolness of former days (and, let's face it, persisting still in some locales), has cost us dearly in lost growth opportunities. Still, friendliness as end-goal is riddled with pitfalls.

- First, every congregation considers itself friendly, and most actually are. So how does OUR friendliness set us apart from the church down the road?
- I visit many congregations that are excessively friendly—to each other! While the new couple or single visitor stands ignored in the corner.
- "Friendliness" before worship or during the Peace equals irreverence and ruins any dignity or spiritual focus of the liturgy. If the Celebrant has to call the congregation down to begin or to continue—that's TOO much socialization, or at least the wrong time for it.
- Being "like a family" makes my skin crawl a little. Are we really that dysfunctional?
- Jesus did say we'd be known by our love. But there is a difference between love and socializing. Love welcomes within the circle. Socialization chatters.

I do love it that Episcopal congregations in our diocese are noted as being friendly and welcoming. May it ever be so, and more universally so.

When it comes to the question of what we are known for in our community, and what people compliment a congregation on, I'd love to see us move beyond simple friendliness and on to something deeper than that. Some examples:

- "They're the ones people turn to when they are in trouble or need help."
- "That congregation is committed to a life of prayer."
- "This is the most spiritual and inspiring worship I've encountered in a long time."
- "I experience joy here."
- "This is where the leading advocates for justice and compassion in our community worship."
- "This is a church that receives people as they are, not as how they ought to be."
- "This church teaches and practices a way of walking closer with God."
- "I met Jesus in that congregation."

The list goes on. None of those praises exclude friendliness; in fact, none would be possible without it. They illustrate, however, an important truth: friendliness in a church congregation is a beginning, not an ending.



*The wit and wisdom of Canon Donald Vinson are welcome catalysts for animated discussion.*

Visit Canon Vinson's blog,  
*West Virginia Discipleship*, at  
<http://wvdisciple.blogspot.com>.

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## Diocesan Calendar

### July 2010

- |            |                                  |
|------------|----------------------------------|
| July 5-8   | Beginner Camp, Peterkin          |
| July 8-11  | Mini-Camp, Peterkin              |
| July 11-17 | Family Camp, Peterkin            |
| July 17-24 | Hallelujah Hike, Peterkin        |
| July 18-24 | Creative Arts Camp, Peterkin     |
| July 21    | Trustees Meeting, Diocesan House |
| July 25-31 | Intermediate Camp, Peterkin      |

### August

- |              |                                    |
|--------------|------------------------------------|
| August 20-22 | ETS Learning Weekend, Huttonsville |
|--------------|------------------------------------|

### September

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Sept. 5         | Bishop's Visitation: St. Peter's, Huntington               |
| Sept. 10-12     | Diocesan Convention, Flatwoods                             |
| Sept. 12        | Diocesan Council, Flatwoods (immediately after Convention) |
| Sept. 21-22     | Fresh Start Fall Overnight, Peterkin                       |
| Sept. 26        | Bishop's Visitation: Grace Church, St. Marys               |
| Sept. 30—Oct. 4 | Presiding Bishop's Visit                                   |

*Remember, the Bishop wants to hear your suggestions: What do you think is the perfect name for a new Diocesan news publication?*

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