



Bp. Mike & Marsha Klusmeyer

## *A Message from Bishop Klusmeyer*

As I await the birth of my first grandchild, I have had the opportunity to relax and reflect upon the life of what it's like to sit on the other side of the Altar. Last month was my 31<sup>st</sup> anniversary of ordination, and if you add the 3 years of seminary, it makes 34 years of 'professional' or 'semi-professional' work in the Church. Prior to that, I had the opportunity in college to serve (almost) every week as 'THE' acolyte...serving at the Altar. (That makes 38 years). My home parish at the time of my high school days was lacking acolytes – so I served there regularly – making nearly 40 years of continuous altar service. Being at the altar for so long, sometimes it takes time to reflect on life 'in the pews.'

In the past two weeks, I have had the opportunity to sit in pews of congregations for which I have no responsibility. Sitting in the pew and 'soaking it all in' continues to be a strange and new experience for me... although I have sat in pews before. This time, I was able to sit and receive...

I also spent time looking around...noticing different aspects of particular congregations. For instance, yesterday (Sunday), Marsha and I attended the 'main service.' It was sparsely attended, because the congregation was having their 'Annual Parish Picnic' at someone's home. Everyone in attendance was invited back for lunch at the same person's home. The Rector announced, "If you don't know where they live, I'm sure there are directions floating around somewhere." I thought, 'if I was in the least bit interested, how would I find those directions?' Introverts are left out. Extroverts would have to take the initiative. It just seemed odd that an invitation was offered, and yet it seemed to be a Gnostic event.

The previous week, I attended a Church that I once knew. I was interested to see how it had come along in recent years. Suddenly I was confronted with tensions in my own life. I had been brought up to recognize the dignity of the sacred space – black shoes, socks, quiet. I was taught that one should 'fast' after midnight, before going to Eucharist. (It later was reduced to one hour, but some things still linger.)

As I was sitting in the pew, someone walked past, carrying an unmistakable cup from a well known coffee shop. Sitting, he carefully drank from his cup as he reviewed the bulletin. He stood at the right times, and continued to sip his coffee as the lessons were read and the sermon was preached.

I had to flash to a recent conversation with a former Episcopalian (now turned Roman Catholic). He said that he was proud of 'his' Church and the Pastor. At the beginning of the sermon, the priest stood in the pulpit and asked, "How many of you have eaten anything within the last hour?" My friend said there were a number of hands that went up. "Thank you for being so honest," the priest said, "and now, don't come up for Communion!!"

Two sides of the same coin: Hospitality/Order. Some would say, "Open" versus "Rules." Which is right? Hmmm...not really sure, here.

People are looking for places of holiness and reverence, while at the same time, others are looking for welcoming and hospitality...looking for 'Church' to encompass 'life.'

Tension.

The Church has lived in tension since its birth. Circumcision? Uncircumcision? Christ is fully God and at the same time fully human.

We do not, and probably will not, resolve many of the issues that come before us anytime soon. Rather, we will discuss and work at a proper balance.

In all of these times, we know that God continues to reign and offer us Grace and Salvation through Jesus Christ. All else is process.

God bless you.

# News From Around the Diocese

**Grace Church, Middleway**, recognized its high school and college graduates during the Sunday Service on May 22. Each graduate was presented with a commemorative Bible, blessed during the service by the Rev. Susan MacDonald, the Priest-In-Charge. The high school graduates included Elizabeth Conant, Philip Creamer, and Jacob Shadle; the college graduates included Lisa Marie Blickenstaff, Natalie Grantham Friend, and Page Grantham Moore. A reception was held immediately after the service. The Rev. MacDonald was herself a graduate, completing her M.Div. degree in May. The church has commissioned a specialist fiber artist to create a new stole for her, according to a design of her choosing, in recognition of her achievement and the congregation's appreciation for her service at Grace Church.



**Photo:** (left to right) Graduates Philip Creamer, Jacob Shadle, Elizabeth Conanat, and Page Moore. The Rev. Susan MacDonald is conducting the service of recognition. (Photo Courtesy of Peggy Grantham)

**CPC Sunday is coming!** Mark your calendars for October 9, 2011. However, any Sunday can be designated *CPC Sunday*. Monies collected support book grants to our seminarians, *Forward Day by Day* to HEP in McDowell County, and the Federal Women's Prison in Alderson. On an international level: Miles of Pennies (MOP) Grants provide books/supplies for children and National Book Fund (NBF) Grants provide books/supplies to international seminarians. The need far exceeds the resources, and you may want to help by considering a fund raising activity. Ask the folks at St. Matthew's, Wheeling, about their annual "CPC Potato Bar," or St. Thomas à Becket, Morgantown, about their children collecting pennies for MOP every year. (Do you know how many pennies are in one mile? Take the **CPC IQ Quiz**, enclosed with this newsletter, and see how much you know about CPC!) Debbie Ventura has resources to assist you in planning a successful CPC Sunday. Contact her at [dventura1021@gmail.com](mailto:dventura1021@gmail.com). You can also mail your CPC donations to Debbie at 201 Shady Acres Lane, Daniels, WV 25832.

The sign at the entrance of **Emmanuel, Moorefield**, says "whoever you are, you are welcome here!" The recent construction of handicap ramps at the front entrance and in the Fellowship Hall makes the church truly accessible to everyone. They are starting a Bible Study and Nursery for younger congregants and hope these additions and programs will make the church even more welcoming to old and new parishioners.



Mark your calendars now for two upcoming Disciples Net workshops: **Mountain Grace VIII** will take place September 9-10 in Huntington, and **"The Fire Within"** will be held November 4-5 in Bridgeport. More information will be available soon.

**"You Welcomed Me"** is the theme of this year's **Diocesan Convention**, to be held September 30-October 2 at the Marriott Hotel in Charleston. If you haven't yet mailed us your registration, please do so soon. Registration forms can be found on the home page of the diocesan website. Kelly McGhee, our Convention Coordinator, is already making preparations for this year's event. If you have any questions, please direct them to Kelly's attention at [kmcghee@wvdiocese.org](mailto:kmcghee@wvdiocese.org) or 304-345-8328.

## Ministry Development & Christian Formation: ConneXions Begins Its Work!

By Archdeacon Faith Perrizo

**ConneXions** is the new organization for Christian Formation and Ministry Development in our diocese. It was created to offer occasions to meet God in the midst of Life in a variety of ways. ConneXions will sponsor occasional overnight retreats, day-long seminars, online courses, webinars, and book discussions. Topics for our initial offerings were taken from a survey of 60 laity around the diocese who indicated their preferred style of learning and topics of interest.

ConneXions will periodically offer courses required for ordination to the Vocational Diaconate and Ministry Leadership Teams ( including diocesan-formed priests) at the request of the Commission on Ministry.

ConneXions web page will also post offerings from other organizations, such as Kanuga, Sandscrest, Trinity Wall Street, and the various Episcopal Seminaries. Suggestions for postings should be sent to The Ven. Faith Perrizo, Archdeacon for Ministry Development at [fperrizo@wvdiocese.org](mailto:fperrizo@wvdiocese.org). This is still a work in progress, so check the diocesan website periodically!

The idea for ConneXions grew out of the work being done by the Commission on Ministry and Standing Committee regarding revisions to our discernment and ordination processes, as well as work done by the Board of Equipping the Saints, our diocesan study program. In a review of its past work, the work being done by the COM, and the evolving needs of the diocese for lay and clergy formation, the board of Equipping the Saints decided to dissolve the ETS program and suggested the creation of a very different way of approaching Christian education and formation needs. Out of this, ConneXions was born, having in mind not a certification program, but a resource to the COM to meet a variety of needs. Some of the offerings from ConneXions will stand on their own and can be accessed by anyone who has an interest in a certain topic. Some of the offerings will be accepted by the COM as part of a program they design for persons desiring lay licensure or in the ordination process through Ministry Leadership Teams.

Watch the diocesan website for details concerning these Fall 2011 offerings:

**August 19-20:** 'Out of this World: Where Science and Religion Hang out Together' at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory in Green Bank, WV

**Sept.-Dec.:** Episcopalianism 101: An online course

**Sept.-Dec.:** An Introduction to the Mystics: A webinar

**Fall 2011:** Book Study (Book TBA)

## Summer Campers Enjoy Peterkin's New Pool



This year's campers are thoroughly enjoying Peterkin's new swimming pool! The pool was made possible by the generosity of many people throughout the diocese. While your checks helped the Bishop pay for most of the construction, he still needs \$30,000 to cover the complete cost. Donations gladly accepted!

Thank you for helping us bring back this important part of summer camp!



## A PEARL OF GREAT VALUE"

*Shamelessly adapted from a sermon by the Rt. Rev. Catherine Waynick  
Camp Allen, Texas, June 3, 2011*

***"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls, and upon finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had, and bought it." Matthew 13:44-46***

We are familiar with this tiny parable, and we have heard the dominant explication of it many times. The Kingdom of Heaven, or our salvation, is the Pearl of Great Value. We are like the merchant, and we must be willing to give up all that we have in order to possess that treasure. There is nothing wrong with that. The treasure of our salvation is free, by God's grace, yet it is costly beyond measure. We know that.

However, there is another way of looking at the parable (isn't there always?). In this understanding, Jesus is describing the Kingdom economy itself, not our means of entering it. His purpose is expository, not didactic. HE is the merchant seeking fine pearls. And YOU are the Pearl of Great Value. Yes, you. He gave up all—for you.

We are Incarnation people, we Episcopalians. It is our favorite doctrine. Among Christians, we are friendliest to the world as God has created, sustained, and redeemed it. We are awed and appreciative of the fact that, in the Incarnation, Christ took our fleshly nature upon him and became one of us. He put aside Heaven, and divinity, and immortality. He suffered, on our behalf, discomforts, pain, and even death.

But "even," (says Bishop Cate) "had Jesus died in his bed," his sacrifice would have been astounding. He gave up Heaven for Earth. ("God so loved the world...") For each one of us.

You think you have a face only a mother could love? Think again. You're a pearl.

### Important Dates for Clergy

**August 31, 2011: "Called to Common Mission"** (created by the joint Lutheran/Episcopal Committee)

Location: St. Francis de Sales Roman Catholic Church in Morgantown

(For additional information, please contact the Rev. Bill Thomas, [williamcarlthomas@gmail.com](mailto:williamcarlthomas@gmail.com).)

**September 6, 2011: Clergy Day**

Location: St. Thomas à Becket Church in Morgantown

(You will receive more information in August.)

**October 11-12, 2011: Professor Luke Timothy Johnson**

Location: Sandscrest in Wheeling

(This is the first offering of the new Sandscrest Theological Institute. Details will be available soon.)

**October 23, 2011: A.R.C. (Anglican/Roman Catholic) Evening Prayer**

Location: St. Matthews Episcopal Church in Charleston

(For details, please contact St. Matthews, Charleston, 304-343-3837.)

**October 25-27, 2011: L.A.R.C. (Lutheran/Anglican/Roman Catholic) Conference**

Location: Bishop Hodges Center in Huttonsville

(Additional information will be available soon.)

***Deadline for the Fall 2011 issue of Koinonia is September 15.***

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