

# Koinonia

Episcopal Diocese  
of West Virginia

Winter 2012



Bishop Mike and Canon Pastor Marian Mazgaj

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Too often, when we hear the word "Stewardship," we think of the 'Every Member Canvass' that takes place in the Fall. We think that Stewardship equates with 'fundraising' for the Church. We are being asked to give money to fulfill a budget.

Nothing can be further from the truth!

Stewardship is the offering one makes of one's self: time, abilities and resources, in free and thankful obedience to God. God gives us our existence and all that goes with it - in an act of love and for the sake of love. Our offering is to grow up in God and to work with Christ, using the gifts that have been given us by God so that we may follow Jesus and that the world may know that Jesus is Lord and Savior.

So what should our offering be? Ourselves (our souls and bodies). I am an individual steward of my personal time and talents, and I should employ them freely for others. I am a steward of the material possessions and money that God has entrusted to my keeping, which I should both use and distribute for the benefit of all, according to my ability. With others, I am also a corporate steward of the parish properties, and I should maintain them with reverence and on a standard of excellence beyond reproach.

One might still ask, "What should my offering of money be???" The tithe continues to be taught as the biblical and traditional standard of giving. Tithe means ten percent - the first ten percent. We are all at different places. For some, ten percent is a goal not yet attained; for others, it is a minimum they should exceed. It is a self-imposed discipline to remind me constantly that God should always come first in my life and that EVERYTHING belongs to God.

Doesn't this just get us back to the question that stewardship is about tithing, and tithing is about money? Absolutely not! Since tithing is based on total commitment, it should include my time, talents and treasure. Here especially there can be no 'exchange of values.' The tithe means a minimum of ten percent in time, talents and treasure as a thank offering to God - not five percent in treasure and fifteen percent in time, plus ten percent in talents, to offset the deficiency in monetary offering.

So, ultimately, what is the purpose of our stewardship teaching? It is to instill in all people a deeper loyalty to Jesus Christ and Christ's Holy Church — by teaching the principles and practices of Christian stewardship. To inspire each person to give regularly, sacrificially and prayerfully to God through the Church, out of love and gratitude, with the tithe as the biblical standard of giving.

May we continue to live a life worthy of Christ.

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



**Grace Church, Ravenswood**, organized a Christmas tour of Churches. Eleven area churches decorated for Christmas and opened their doors to visitors. Grace Church members Gail Westenhaver and Kathy Garrett were on hand to greet visitors and tell the history of Grace Episcopal Church. The tour raised \$500.00 for the No-Hunger Food Pantry in Ravenswood. Everyone involved in the effort hopes this will become an annual event for the community.

Renowned artist Liz Neumann is conducting another series of acrylic painting lessons at **Lawrencefield Parish, Wheeling**. The lessons, which take place on Saturday mornings, have attracted prospective artists at all skill levels, including several members of the community-at-large along with the Lawrencefield faithful. Liz's claim that she can "teach anyone to paint" appears to be strongly substantiated!



Bishop Mike is shown in these photos with two families from **Prince of Peace, Salem**. At left, he and the Rev. Pamela Shier are with Nathan, Lori, and Henry Haldeman. At right, he is with Cynthia, Scott, and Alex Nelson following Alex's confirmation.

*Photos courtesy of Patricia Haldeman*



**Emmanuel, Moorefield**, donated money to Grant Memorial Hospital's Family Maternity Units to be used for the purchase of car seats and baby clothes. Parishioner Kathy Ratliff told *The Moorefield Examiner*, "We are proud that we can support the hospital in their efforts to assist in the needs of some of their newborns." She explained that ten percent is taken out of the church collections monthly and donated back to the community.



## Christmas in Grafton and Elkins

In the above photo, The Rev. Fred Bird presides over Christmas Eve service at St. Matthias, Grafton. At right, he is shown at the midnight service at Grace Church in Elkins.

**Health Ministries** reminds us that we all need to be aware of the "germy spots" that we regularly come in contact with, such as ATM buttons, gas pumps, mailboxes, and hand-rails. To protect ourselves we need to make a habit of washing our hands after coming in contact with these items. If we are unable to wash our hands immediately, we can use one of the alcohol based sanitizers that are available. Keep one in your purse or pocket so it is handy at all times.



## West Virginia Native Named Interim Dean of National Cathedral

By Bob Rosier

The Rev. Dr. Francis H. Wade, a Fairmont native, has been appointed Interim Dean of Washington National Cathedral. Frank served Christ Church, Fairmont, in various lay capacities before graduating from The Citadel and Virginia Theological Seminary. After being ordained to the priesthood he served our Diocese as Rector of St. Luke's, Charleston, and then the Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd, Parkersburg.

In 1983 he was called to be rector of St. Alban's Parish on the grounds of the National Cathedral, a post from which he retired. Frank is well known throughout the Episcopal Church, having authored several books, meditations and reflections.

Frank's sister, Jane Wade, has long been active in the Diocese of West Virginia. She is a current Vestry member and former senior warden of Christ Church, Clarksburg.



## Women's Conference 2012

Women's Ministries invites you to attend the annual Diocesan Women's Conference May 18-20 at Peterkin. We will be joined by Jane Tomaine, an Episcopal priest, author and retreat leader. She received a Bachelor

of Music degree from Cornell College in Mt. Vernon, Iowa, and a Master of Music degree from Ohio State University, both in organ performance. Following a career with AT&T she left corporate life, earning both Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees from the Theological School of Drew University in Madison, New Jersey. As a part of her doctoral program she introduced the Rule of Benedict to her parish, St. Peter's in Livingston, New Jersey where she was Rector, through a parish-wide study, liturgical, and renewal program. During this program she wrote a book on the Rule of Benedict for her parish, St. Benedict's Toolbox: The Nuts and Bolts of Everyday Benedictine Living, now available through Morehouse Publishing. Jane currently teaches courses and leads workshops and retreats on the Rule and Benedictine spirituality at parishes and retreat centers, and at the Newark School of Theology. She lives in Mountainside, New Jersey.

*A brochure with registration information for the Women's Conference is available on our website at [www.wvdiocese.org](http://www.wvdiocese.org).*

### "Encountering God's Handiwork"

Presented by **ConneXions**

April 13 and 14, 2012

Cedar Lakes Conference Center  
Ripley, West Virginia

**Topics: "The Good News about Healing Prayer" "Healing Gardens and Healing Prayer: the Blending of Soil and Soul", and "Recognizing God in the Nature that Surrounds Us"**

**Visit the ConneXions page of the diocesan website ([www.wvdiocese.org](http://www.wvdiocese.org)) for more information about this event and other ConneXions offerings.**



How's THIS for a mixed message?!

## Bells Are Ringing Again at Grace, Ravenswood

Jennifer and Ava Casey rang the bell for the first time in YEARS at Grace Church, Ravenswood, on January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012. FOX Engineering and FOX Construction donated their time to perform a structural inspection on the bell in January. The inspection results show that the tower and the bell supports are in good shape and ready for use.





## SOUTH AMERICA OR AFRICA TOO FAR AND TOO EXPENSIVE FOR A MISSION TRIP? TRY WEST VIRGINIA!

By Canon Donald Vinson

Why do Episcopalians go on mission trips to faraway shores?

We want to make a difference. We want to help break the cycle of poverty and misery for some people. We want to ease someone's pain, make life brighter for them. We want to challenge ourselves and grow in the depth of our commitment to serve God and our neighbor. We want to expand our understanding of who our neighbor is. We want to experience, first hand, a reality different from our own, and learn from that immersion.

And the opportunity to do all of this is coming up very soon, right here at home, in two locations. READING CAMPS, WEST VIRGINIA will commence this summer. Wheeling Island (St. Luke's-on-the-Island) will lead off the week of July 23-27. The Highland Educational Project at Premier Park, near Welch, will follow the week of August 6-10. Both camps run Monday through Friday, from 8:30 to 4:00. In both settings, we will work to help children in grades two to four, identified by their schools, to break through the barrier of poor reading and move into a new life of success and possibility through literacy. What a fabulous opportunity to minister to God's children!

So what do we need to accomplish this great thing?

**We need volunteers!** We need instructors (trained educators or not), we need food prep, we need support crew, we need younger (high school) counselors, we need drivers—all kinds of skills will be required and gratefully used!

**We need cash!** It will take about \$7,500 apiece to pull this off. ***Surely, there are a dozen or so persons in our diocese who are able to contribute \$1,000 each to such a project! Or more persons, to offer a lesser gift!*** No gift is too small—or too large.

**We need partner congregations and clergy who will work to support this project.** It will be good for WV children, and good for those who work to help them, too.

Please talk up, publicize, and support the Reading Camps project this spring, to prepare for summer implementation. I am prepared to make this promise, unequivocally: Those who give, and especially those who volunteer, to work with Reading Camps this summer will bring immeasurable benefit to the children they serve. But they will also agree, unanimously, that their service benefitted THEM immeasurably more. We will teach much, learn more!

Because that's the way Mission Ministry works. YOU BE ONE OF US!

*(Contributions may be made to "Diocese of West Virginia," memo "Reading Camps")*

***Deadline for the Spring 2012 issue of Koinonia is April 15, 2012 .***

**Koinonia, Diocese of WV, PO Box 5400, Charleston, WV 25361**

**Email: [mbailey@wvdiocese.org](mailto:mbailey@wvdiocese.org); Phone: 304-344-3597; Fax: 304-343-3295**