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INTERCHANGE

January 2005
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news from the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio

Teaching the faith

Mary Corley, children's chapel director at Ascension & Holy Trinity, Wyoming, assists a young parishioner during the lighting of the candles at the Children's Chapel altar. This altar was made more than 50 years ago by an parishioner and had been in storage for several years. Last year, Ascension & Holy Trinity reintroduced the children's chapel program and this past summer, they converted an unused Sunday School classroom into a fun and comfortable space for children to learn about God's word during the first half of the service. Children rejoin their parents at the peace.

-- Laura Bence



St. Paul's members bid farewell *"There will be a resurrection here"*

BY RICHELLE THOMPSON
INTERCHANGE EDITOR

Mike Harbin found God inside the walls of St. Paul's, Columbus.

"I wasn't even Christian before St. Paul's," said Harbin. "For me, St. Paul's was the place where I first believed."

So it was with a heavy heart that Harbin and the dozen or so other members of St. Paul's, along with nearly 250 people from throughout the Diocese of Southern Ohio, bid farewell to the congregation of St. Paul's in a special service Dec. 5.

With an average Sunday attendance of 12, the congregation elected to dissolve. The downtown Columbus church is not closing. Bishop Herbert Thompson Jr. has appointed a Board of Trustees to explore the future ministry for the facility of St. Paul's and its endowment.

Members wanted to "end while we were doing it out of love and not despair, when we were sad about the end and not relieved," said Harbin, senior warden. "It was a very sad day, a very emotional day. And it was a very painful

PLEASE SEE ST. PAUL'S, PAGE 3

Jackson receives high honor



The Rev. Paula Jackson

Community Shares of Greater Cincinnati bestowed a 2004 McCrackin Peace & Justice Award to the Rev. Paula Jackson for her staunch commitment to peace and justice. Named for the late Rev. Maurice McCrackin, the awards recognize individuals who have demonstrated long-term commitment to the creation of a peaceful and just community. McCrackin was the city's most prominent social justice advocate and employed civil disobedience to further the causes of justice and peace.

Jackson is rector of the Church of Our Savior, Mt. Auburn. The congregation is well-known for its commitment to social justice issues. The church advocates for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons in the church and in the community at-large and offers literacy education, outreach to Hispanic persons, a black women's support group and an HIV/AIDS support group.

Jackson was among four who were honored.

Jackson told *The Cincinnati Enquirer* that she knew McCrackin and was inspired by the example he set.

"Everything he did was about bringing in people who had been left out of the power structure, whether that structure centered on society, the economy or religion," said Jackson. "He was a voice for the voiceless. That's the example I try to follow."

Members take light of Christ into the world

Bishop Thompson preached this sermon Dec. 5 at the final service of St. Paul's, Columbus.

My brothers and sisters, I greet you in the name of Jesus our risen Lord and Savior. I bring you greetings from your wider family of the Diocese of Southern Ohio. Ordinarily, I would also speak the greetings of Bishop and Mrs. Price, but they are here, and by their presence, speaking eloquently of their care for this congregation.

I am glad for Bishop and Mrs. Price's presence, that of Canon Zust, the many clergy of the diocese and other members of our diocesan family who have come to be with you. In Jesus' name, I welcome you all and express our collective thanks to the Rev. Gwynneth Mudd, the vicar of St. Paul's, the Rev. Lee Ann Reat, former vicar of St. Paul's, Michael Harbin, the senior warden, the vestry and the leaders of St. Paul's.

I want to express my thanks to all the St. Paul's family for your support of the diocese and the wider Episcopal Church over the years. We are a strong diocese, in part because of you. Further, I want to take this opportunity to express my personal thanks for your prayers and support for my wife, Russelle, for me and for my family during the season of Russ' illness and death. Our family is still standing by the grace of God and as a consequence of the love of this remarkable community, the Episcopal Church.

And so now, friends, Romans, Anglicans, lend me your ears: We come not to bury St. Paul's, but to praise God who brought St. Paul's into being, sustained it over the years, and carries it even now. The God of the past, present and future.

It is appropriate that I come to St. Paul's for this final and special service. On Jan. 17, 1992, the night before I was invested as bishop of the diocese, I stood in this place, presided and preached at a service of Evensong for the clergy, spouses and leaders of the diocese. Tom Verrighe was at the organ, playing his heart out, while the glorious music of St. Paul's choir washed over us and stirred our souls. A grand reception followed, with tables laden with food and good wine. That, I came to learn, was typical of St. Paul's, Columbus. It was wonderful, and it seems such a short time ago.

Now I have called for the election of my successor, the ninth bishop of Southern Ohio. The swift passing of time highlights the truth of Bishop Martin's remarks the day of my investiture as bishop when he preached at the service. He said, "Remember, Herbert, you are only an interim here between Bishop Black who is leaving, and the next bishop whom God already has in mind." Indeed, we all are only interims. And here we gather at the conclusion of your interim here.

I want to make it clear that we are not closing St. Paul's Church. I presided at the closing of St. David's, Vandalia, years ago. It was one of the hardest days of my ministry. I vowed I would never do another. I am not certain what to call the occasion when a congre-

THE RT. REV.
HERBERT
THOMPSON JR.



gation, after years of faithful service and sacrifice, concludes they cannot continue in a place because the weight of the property has become too much to bear. But I thank you for wrestling hard and deep to come to that conclusion.

In too many instances in other places, decisions are made to close churches deemed not viable. There is often anger and bitterness and sometimes challenges in a court of law. This is not so with St. Paul's. There is a graciousness about this night that speaks of trust in God.

To the question about closing churches, I ask: "Is everyone in the community saved? Are there any in the community who do not know the boundless love of God in Christ? Any who do not know Jesus as Savior and Lord? That God raised Him from the dead and inaugurated a new creation? Are all persons in the community reconciled to God and to one another? If not, then there is work to be done, and God has ministry there."

"We come not to bury St. Paul's but to praise God who brought St. Paul's into being, sustained it over the years, and carries it even now."

It was such conviction that led to the founding of St. Paul's, Columbus, in 1842.

Over the course of more than 165 years, St. Paul's – or rather, God through St. Paul's – has touched thousands of lives, more than we can imagine. I read in documents in the diocesan archives that as a result of the vision and intent of a group of St. Paul's, Columbus Children's Hospital was founded. St. Paul's members actively led the hospital over many years. It stands today as a caring place for sick and injured children and their families. St. Paul's gave birth to Neighborhood House, which sponsored the first free dental clinic in Columbus.

Tonight is a night for praising God, for giving thanks for all who came before us. The parish's 100th anniversary booklet spoke for all of us, saying, "To all our fore-runners, comrades along the way, we pay grateful tribute to you. No record may be made of all their names. Some have left memories that remain to bless us. Some came and went so quietly that we do not know their names. Some still continue their good works and are a source of constant strength. To all who have shared in furthering the cause of Christ here, our parish church stands as a common memorial, an enduring monument to their

faithfulness, devotion and generosity through the years."

In the earlier days, an organization at St. Paul's was called the "King's Daughters." Their motto was, "Look up and not down. Look forward and not back. Look out and not in." May we hear them tonight as we give thanks for the privilege that has been ours to stand in the long line of witnesses to inhabit this beautiful place and serve as stewards of Christ in this interim that is ours.

In conversation with the diocesan staff about this service and what lies ahead, Archdeacon Hanisian said the analogy is Holy Week. St. Paul's had a triumphal entry, beginning with its history in 1842. There followed times of success and times of trial. Good times and difficult times. Just as Jesus turned over the tables of the money changers, you too insisted against opposition that this house be a house of prayer. At St. Paul's, you served people. You washed their feet and one another's feet. You broke bread together. Now, here, you stand at the foot of the cross.

But this is where the analogy breaks down. Unlike those first disciples, we know there is the resurrection. We are people of the resurrection. There will be a resurrection here. We don't know what it will look like. There are trustees who will ponder and pray over that.

Could it be a new Hispanic church? An African church? A neighborhood church? A center for urban ministry with

Bexley Hall? We do not know. But we believe there will be an Upper Room experience that people will reach out their hands to touch and be touched by the risen Christ and say, "My Lord and my God!"

The resurrection is a sign of the utter dependability of God. We

believe in the resurrection and look for the life of the world to come.

It is significant and timely that this service takes place in the season of Advent. Advent is the season of hope. Someone said hope is the feeling that what you feel right now is not permanent. We light the candles in the Advent wreath – a sign of hope and an indication that our King and Savior draws near.

At the conclusion of the service, each of you of St. Paul's will be given a lighted candle, a sign of the light of Christ given to you in baptism when you were rescued from the power of darkness and transferred into the kingdom of God's beloved Son.

The light shines on in the darkness and the darkness is not to overcome it.

Take the light of Christ with you. Into your homes and your neighborhoods. The places where you work and into that next Episcopal faith community where you will serve. "Let your light so shine that all may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven." And as St. Paul said, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

Amen.

Trustees adopt 2005 budget

The Trustees of the Diocese of Southern Ohio unanimously passed the Bishop's William Cooper Procter budget at their December meeting. The total allocated for 2005 is about \$1.85 million. Highlights of this year's budget are:

■ More than \$650,000 transferred to the convention budget for such areas

of ministry as support of congregations, youth ministry, the Procter Camp & Conference Center, the public policy officer, and the work of the Commission on Ministry;

■ \$100,000 to be spent during the year for ministries overseas;

■ \$100,000 to be spent during the year for outreach programs within the

borders of the diocese;

■ support of the work of the chaplain to retired clergy; and

■ support, in partnership with the Committee on Congregational Life, for Appalachian ministry.

In addition, the trustees made a one-time grant of \$1 million dollars to the General Theological Seminary to support

the work of the Bishop Desmond Tutu Center for Peace and Reconciliation. As a result, a chair at General will be named for Bishop Thompson.

At the same meeting, the trustees set aside the necessary monies for support of St. Paul's, Chillicothe, and for the election, moving expenses and consecration of the ninth bishop of Southern Ohio.

The Episcopal Church



In the Anglican Communion
A global community of 70 million Anglicans in more than 160 countries

The Most Rev. and Rt. Hon. Rowan Williams
Archbishop of Canterbury



In the United States
A community of more than 2.4 million Episcopalians in 114 dioceses in the Americas and abroad.

The Most Rev. Frank T. Griswold III
Presiding Bishop



In the Diocese of Southern Ohio
A community of nearly 30,000 Episcopalians in 40 counties.

The Rt. Rev. Herbert Thompson Jr.
Bishop

The Rt. Rev. Kenneth L. Price Jr.
Bishop Suffragan

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A FIRM FOUNDATION

Editor's Note: Bishop Thompson will retire as bishop of Southern Ohio at the end of 2005. As part of our salute to his leadership, ministry and vision, Interchange will run a column each month highlighting different moments from his episcopate. Bishop Thompson reminds us often that the transition from his episcopate to that of the ninth bishop of Southern Ohio is about continuity of leadership in the apostolic succession. Rather than fond nostalgia for the past, these columns will lift up the firm foundation Bishop Thompson has built for the promise and the future of this diocese, and indeed, God's church.

On Sept. 30, 1995, the Diocese of Southern Ohio celebrated the groundbreaking of the multi-use facility and chapel at the Procter Camp & Conference Center. Funded through the Our Vision Covenant campaign, the new facility was designed to facilitate small-group meetings such as vestry retreats or large gatherings, including conferences and workshops. The facility boasts hotel-quality rooms, private baths, small meeting rooms and a large meeting room. The chapel was to be a focus point of the center, visible from all areas of the property. Renovations also were planned for Procter House and Hobson Hall, as well as infrastructure upgrades.

The groundbreaking was another step in realizing the Vision that Bishop Thompson set forth for the diocese when he became the diocesan bishop. The new facilities developed Procter as a spiritual center of the diocese.

"This property is a magnificent gift to the diocese by Mrs. Procter, and we are about to realize the dream – articulated to Bishop Hobson – in which Mrs. Procter envisioned a diocesan center for many activities," said Bishop Thompson in 1995.

Today, thousands of people visit the center each year. It's a vibrant, vital part of the ministry of the diocese, from teaching the faith to youth during summer camp to hosting workshops and meetings for groups from around Southern Ohio.

St. Paul's begins new chapter

FROM PAGE 1

decision, but we feel like it was the correct decision, a Godly decision."

The Rev. Canon Vicki Zust, canon to the ordinary for the diocese, called the move courageous.

"It's really hard for people who have come to love and rely on each other – and who have worked as hard as these people have – to say that this isn't where God is calling us to be. God is calling us to ministry elsewhere. To dissolve a community where they have found the presence of God is probably the hardest decision we make in the church," Zust said.

Harbin said members wrestled with the future of St. Paul's. They tried different approaches to attract people to the pews. They used Percept data to tailor their outreach programs. They held organ concerts to bring people inside and gave Kroger coupons to help those outside. Yet, attendance continued to drop, Harbin said.

At the end, mission council comprised half of the average Sunday attendance, and every member had to work together to hold Sunday services.

"We were beginning to wear down," Harbin said.

Despite the dissolution of the congregation, Bishop Thompson preached on the hope of what is to come for St. Paul's.

"There will be a resurrection here," he said. "We don't know what it will look like. There are trustees who will ponder and pray over that. Could it be a new Hispanic church? An African church? A neighborhood church? A center for urban ministry with Bexley Hall? We do

Prayers are welcome to help the Board of Trustees discern a vision for St. Paul's. Until a decision is made on the future of the facility, there will be no disposition of the buildings, furnishings or other items. Ideas for future use also are welcome and may be submitted in writing to Bishop Price c/o The Bishop's Center, 125 E. Broad St., Columbus, Ohio 43215-3649. The Columbus Community Ministries Cluster also has dissolved. The Rev. Gwynneth Mudd, who had served St. Paul's, will continue to serve the Church of St. Edward, Whitehall. The Rev. Lee Anne Reat, who oversaw the cluster, will continue as vicar of St. John's, Town Street. See Bishop Thompson's sermon on page 2.

not know. But we believe there will be an Upper Room experience that people will reach out their hands to touch and be touched by the risen Christ and say, "My Lord and my God!"

Bishop Ken Price Jr., chair of the new Board of Trustees for St. Paul's, said the group will engage other congregations in downtown Columbus to explore "how we can keep (alive) the mission and witness to Jesus Christ that has been a mark of that place...I am convinced God still has use of St. Paul's."

St. Paul's began its ministry in 1839 after Trinity, Columbus, decided to establish a "missionary church in the southern part of Columbus." According to *City Light*, the Columbus Community Ministries' newsletter, the church was established to be a "free church," one that

did not use the common practice of pew rental. St. Paul's has been a strong witness for Jesus Christ, said Bishop Price, establishing one of the first AIDS ministries in the diocese and advocating on other social justice issues.

St. Paul's also was highly regarded for its fine music, which was particularly well-aided by its pipe organ. With 51 ranks of pipes and more than 4,200 pipes, its "versatility and wonderful sound have brought great joy to the hundreds of congregants and musicians who have worshipped at St. Paul's over the years," the newsletter said.

Indeed, a beautiful choir with people from around Columbus and delightful music were highlights of the final service.

At the end of the service, each member of St. Paul's was given an icon of St. Paul and a candle that had been lit from the Paschal candle.

These candles served as "a sign of the light of Christ given to you in baptism when you were rescued from the power of darkness and transferred into the kingdom of God's beloved Son," said Bishop Thompson in his sermon. "The light shines on in the darkness and the darkness is not to overcome it. Take the light of Christ with you: into your homes and your neighborhoods, the places where you work and into that next Episcopal faith community where you will serve. 'Let your light so shine that all may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven.'"

Each member carried the lighted candle down the aisle of St. Paul's and into the world.

ECSF director receives award

BY MICHAEL MALONEY
INTERCHANGE CONTRIBUTOR

Northside Community School honored Episcopal Community Services Foundation director Ariel Miller at its Nov. 7 graduation ceremony. Miller, who attends Ascension & Holy Trinity, Wyoming, and St. Andrew, Evanston, received the Marjorie P. Koehler Award. Named after a member of St. Philip, Northside, who helped establish the school, the award is presented each year to honor outstanding service to the program.

Northside Community School was established 21 years ago with support from the Diocese of Southern Ohio, St. Philip's, Norwood, and Episcopal Appalachian Ministries. Its primary purpose is to help people obtain a GED certificate. Students also receive counseling and other support. Many go on to college or other post-secondary education. "The community school is one way we witness the love of Christ in this community," said the Rev. Deborah Gamble, vicar of St. Philip's.

"Without Ariel, we would have had a hard time keeping the doors open the last nine years," said Charlene Dalton, community school director. Miller helped the school as a grant writer, with the training and recruiting of AmeriCorps volunteers, as nag and gadfly, and in many other ways, said James Helton, president of the school's governing board.

Twenty-six students received their GED certificates in the ceremony that filled St. Philip's parish



Michael Maloney presents the Marjorie P. Koehler Award to Ariel Miller for her outstanding service to Northside Community School.

hall to overflowing. Friends and relatives were joined by public officials, parish and neighborhood leaders and representatives of several social agencies and community organizations.

"I'm deeply honored to be in such august compa-

ny of people who love the school," said Miller. "And I hope the city comes to its senses and doesn't cut human service funding for programs like this. It's a phenomenal program, and I think it's exciting to see 26 people graduate. It's one of their best years ever!"

FROM THE CANON

Ministry opportunities abound

BY THE REV. CANON VICKI ZUST
INTERCHANGE CONTRIBUTOR

Mark your calendars now for another week of learning opportunities in the diocese! The second Miniversity is planned for May 10-14 at Procter Camp & Conference Center.

More than 200 people attended classes over the course of the first Miniversity, held in September. Miniversity offers classes for laity and clergy on such varied topics as church law, finance, communications, evangelism and youth ministry. The classes are structured in morning, afternoon and evening blocks to accommodate different schedules. Laity and clergy can sign up for one class, a full day or even the whole week! To encourage even more attendance, the second Miniversity also includes a Saturday for classes.

As we plan the second Miniversity, we ask for suggestions on topics and areas of ministry about which you would be interested in learning. If you're interested in teaching a class, please contact us too. (And you don't have to be an expert in the canons to teach. Plan a class about establishing a knitting ministry, successful choirs, caring for an aging population, writing newsletters, etc.)

Please contact the Rev. Canon Vicki Zust at vicki_zust@episcopal-dso.org with ideas or topics or offers to teach and watch the *Interchange* for more details on the May Miniversity.

Sexual Misconduct and Child Abuse Prevention Training

Sexual Misconduct and Child Abuse Prevention Training is required for anyone who is employed by the church, all clergy, anyone who is a licensed Lay Eucharistic Visitor, anyone who works regularly with church youth groups or in church nurseries and anyone who, in their volunteer ministry, is involved in counseling. The training is recommended for Sunday School teachers, vestry and mission council members and anyone who works regularly with children or who is involved in the leadership of the congregation.

In order to meet the requirement, the training must be received either by the Diocese of Southern Ohio or another Episcopal diocese. The reason for this is that we have to be able to certify the content of the training, so even if you have received this training for your job or from another organization, you still need to receive training from a diocesan certified trainer. If you have received training in another Episcopal diocese, send a copy of the certificate to Geri McDaniel at the Diocesan Office, 412 Sycamore St., Cincinnati, 45202, and we will record it in our files.

In 2005, the diocese will offer the training once a month in a variety of locations around the diocese. You can register online by going to the diocesan website. Click on News/Events, select the calendar and find the date of the training you wish to attend. Or for a full list, go to Ministry

Resources, then Misconduct Prevention. Click on the form link to register. You can also register by contacting Mary Williams at 800.582.1712 or 513.421.0311.

Explorer's Day

Do you think that God might be calling you to ministry as a deacon or a priest? Do you know someone who God might be calling? One of the first steps in the process of discerning God's call as it relates to ordained ministry is the annual Explorer's Day at Procter Camp & Conference Center.

The first step in the discernment process is to speak to your rector, vicar or priest-in-charge. If your priest recommends going forward, the priest will appoint a discernment committee of three to five members of your congregation. You, your priest and as many members of the discernment committee as possible should attend the Explorer's Day. During Explorer's Day, we will outline the ordination process, explain the discernment process and train the discernment committees.

The 2005 Explorer's Day is Saturday, Jan. 29, from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. This is the only Explorer's Day for 2005.

Registration is required. Registration forms have been mailed to every congregation and are available on the diocesan website, under Ministry Resources, then Vocations. You also can register by calling Mary Williams at the diocesan office at 800.582.1712. If you or your priest has questions, please contact the Rev. Canon Vicki Zust, also at the diocesan office.

Sexual Misconduct and Child Abuse Prevention Training Dates for 2005

Jan. 15: All Saint's, Portsmouth
Feb. 5: St. Thomas, Terrace Park
March 12: Christ Church, Glendale
April 16: St. George's, Dayton
May 21: St. James, Zanesville
June: (TBA) Procter Camp & Conference Center (for camp counselors) and others interested.
July 16: St. Margaret's, Dayton
Aug. 13: St. John's, Worthington
Sept. 24: St. Andrew's, Pickerington
Oct. 22: St. Patrick's, Dublin
Nov. 19: St. Paul's, Logan
Dec. 3: St. Andrew's, Washington Court House

Training for trainers

We are looking for people - two in each deanery is the goal - to train people to serve as trainers for the Sexual Misconduct and Child Abuse Prevention program. Trainers undergo an eight-hour training session and then do a training course under supervision before they are certified. We try not to ask trainers to travel too far or to do more than two or three trainings a year. We would like trainers to have gone through the training themselves, and we are delighted if they have some professional experience in addition to the training (teaching, counseling, social work, for example). However, we can work with people who do not meet those criteria. We would like to have both clergy and laity as trainers and are looking for ethnic diversity as well. People who are interested should contact Peg Denton at pegdenton@erinet.com or 937.748.2592 or the Rev. Canon Anne Wriener at awriener@cccath.org or 513.842.2054 for more information.

Christ Church celebrates 150th anniversary

BY BARBARA LEE BONEHAM
INTERCHANGE CONTRIBUTOR

Christ Church, Xenia celebrated their Sesquicentennial Anniversary on Christ the King Sunday, Nov. 21, 2004.

The Rt. Rev. Herbert Thompson Jr., bishop of the Diocese of Southern Ohio, officiated at the 10:30 a.m. service of Confirmation and Holy Communion. He was assisted by the Rev. Pamela E. Gaylor, rector, and the Rev. Deacon Sallie Schisler.

Former rectors and their wives were honored guests. They included the Rev. Ray and Mary Betts of Cincinnati, the Rev. David and Terry McCoy of Columbus, the Rev. Colin and Winsome Barrow, the Rev. David Allardyce and the Rev. Richard Watson, of Moodus, Conn., who was taken ill after his arrival in Xenia and could not attend.

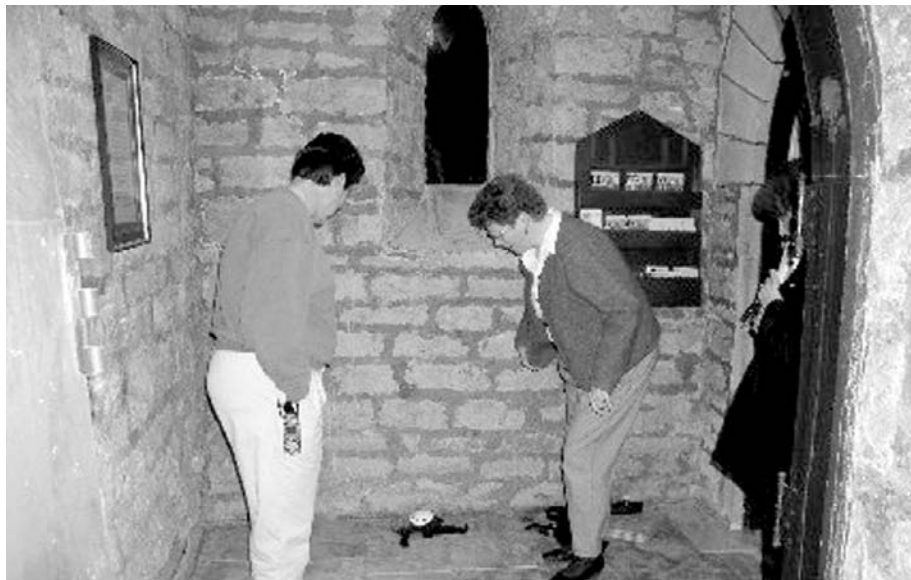
Having Bishop Thompson with us made the day extra special.

During the 10 days prior to the service, the church literally rocked with renovation, restoration and construction clutter.

A group of women worked, stitched and re-stitched new stage curtains – a huge project, while another member framed and hung on the wall all of the rector photographs. Members sorted all the library books by theological categories and re-shelved them.

A group gathered and sorted historical information for a display set up in the parish hall, and another member spent considerable time researching and fine-tuning Christ Church's written history, which will soon be on the web site. A display of recent photographs also was posted in the parish hall.

The efforts of two members in revamping the upper bathroom was a close call, and God bless the plumber who came on Friday for an emergency call.



The Rev. Pam Gaylor and Lisa Mamas inspect the front entry work of Christ Church, Xenia. Photo by Barbara Boneham

Ten days before the service, the installation of new carpeting got underway. "Underway" is another word for a junior warden melt-down! At the same time, it was decided that the altar floor steps should not be carpeted (another melt down; this time it was our rector) and that led to days and nights of refinishing the steps leading up to the altar. Thanks to church workers, pounds of sandpaper, elbow grease, stain, wood filler, finishing nails, new molding, elbow grease and varnish, the altar was replaced on Saturday morning. That gave us a day to reflect on what had not been finished. Did I mention elbow grease?

During this process, church life continued, with choir practice, midweek services, Sunday services and outside meetings all taking place. At the same time, we all prayed for swift completion and an end to the construction dust.

On Saturday morning, the outside grounds were raked, pruned, and

spiffed up, despite the heavy drizzle.

God bless our Altar Guild, who polished and prepared the sacred vessels for use on Sunday and who made sure all the linens were crisp and pure white. They set candles in the windows and arranged truly beautiful altar flowers.

And we had music, to say the least! Roxanne Harrison, organist, Melody Kelly, choir director, and our faithful choir made outstanding music for Him. A special addition for all was the music from Justus, our home-grown band of Jim Jolliffe, Mary Williams, Dick Stem, Earl Williams and Mary Dahlberg.

The reception following service was replete with food and fellowship. Every flower and table arrangement was beautiful, and the organizers made the behind-the-scenes work seamless.

I cannot even begin to mention the names of those who wiped dishes, stuffed the dish washer, replaced forks, replaced food when needed, cleaned, made pots of coffee, and then made the



Ericka Patterson leads the procession. Photo by Tommy Thomas

kitchen spotless when the last guest was gone. While all the fellowship was going on....there was music.

I wish that you all had been able to be with us to know the sharing of this work in progress. One hundred and fifty years is a blink in the sight of God. Less than a breath. I can only imagine what the next 150 years will bring for Christ Church, Xenia.

Special thanks to all the people who worked tirelessly to make this a special event in the history of Christ Church: Barbara Bradfute, chair of the planning committee; other committee members: Cheryl Eskridge, Ruth Hazel, Liz Jolliffe, Joanne Brooks, Lynn Lanier, Faith Patterson, Lisa Mamas, Ruth Petri, Patsy Stem, Barbara Symonds and Melody Kelly. Others who helped included Pam Feinour, senior warden; Barbara Bonham, junior warden; Marilyn Thomas, Jamie Anderson, Tommy Thomas, Evelyn Hogden, Carol Sharp, JoAnne Earley, Debbie Gillespie, Phyllis Walker, Clara Marsh, Amber Conley, Aileen Grech, Barrett Eskridge, Samantha Krouskop, Nerak Patterson, Ericka Patterson, Otto Anderson, Hildy and Larry Bohnaus, Karen Ingraham, Jay Klose and Vern Hogden.

Scottish tradition honors struggles for liberty

BY RICHELLE THOMPSON
INTERCHANGE EDITOR

Something about the bagpipe and its music stirs Harriet George. The lowing music speaks to her heart and feeds her spiritually.

So after she attended a "Kirking of the Tartans" service at the National Cathedral in Washington, George decided to bring the tradition to her church, Trinity, Troy.

That was 18 years ago.

Today, the service is a favorite among parishioners and always attracts a crowd.

The Kirking of the Tartans is a Scottish Highland custom meaning "churching of the tartans." George explains: the tartan is a fabric woven in a certain thread-count design. Specific

clans or families in Scotland have different tartans or Scottish plaids, as they're popularly known.

After the defeat of the Scots by England in 1746, the English banned many Highland customs, including the wearing of tartans and even playing the bagpipes. A brochure about the tradition says, "The English knew that the Scots felt very deeply about the covenantal relationship between God and the families of believers. Therefore, by barring the Tartan with its family symbolism, the English felt that the Scottish spirit of rebellion would be broken."

The ban had the reverse effect: the Kirking of the Tartans gained even more importance. The Highlanders simply subverted the tradition. One Sunday a year, the families would

come forward for a blessing with a piece of their tartan in their pockets.

The Kirking service honors the commitment and perseverance of the Scots – and others who have struggled for liberty, says George, 82.

It's a reminder that "there's a quiet way to fight those who impose rules that aren't fair," George says.

Trinity celebrated the Kirking of the Tartans in late November. The service included bagpipes and drums, the blessing of 18 Scottish clan banners and the presentation of the haggis, an oat and sheep meat loaf that symbolizes the rich history of shepherding in Scotland.

"Let me tell you," says George, "the children love (the haggis) more than anybody. They can clean up a plate of haggis like nobody's business."

The service also serves as a reminder of the Episcopal Church's connection to Scotland. After Americans declared independence in 1776, the Anglican bishops of England refused to ordain American priests as bishops. Samuel Seabury traveled to Scotland, where the Episcopal Church of Scotland was willing to ordain him as bishop. Seabury became the first American Episcopal bishop, and many Episcopal traditions have their roots in the practices of the Episcopal Church of Scotland.

George writes, "Let's appreciate the beauty of Scottish traditions and Scottish stubbornness, knowing they helped us along the way as we define ourselves as Americans and as Episcopalians in the United States of America."

Ohio Ministries Convocation: “Searching for what Saves Us”

“Searching for what Saves Us” is the theme of the 2005 Ohio Ministries Convocation to be held at the Columbus Marriot North on Jan. 24 and 25, 2005. The Convocation, first held in 1920, is sponsored by the Ohio Council of Churches, the ecumenical, cooperative witness of 28 Protestant, Roman Catholic and Orthodox denominations. Early registration for this event is before Jan. 10, 2005.

Featured speakers are Dr. Rita Nakashima Brock, visiting scholar at the Starr King School for the Ministry, and a member of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and Dr. J. Denny Weaver, professor of religion at Bluffton University. Brock’s work interweaves religious questions with issues of justice in the U.S. and international contexts. Weaver’s research focuses on issues of violence and nonviolence in Christian theology. Luncheon speaker for Tuesday is Joe Blundo, columnist for the *Columbus Dispatch*.

Workshop leaders and topics on Jan. 24 are:

■ “The Gospel from the World and to the World,” by the Rev. Dr. William A. McCartney, professor emeritus of field education at the Methodist Theological School in Ohio;

■ “Seeking a Just Peace” by Madeleine Trichel, executive director of the Interfaith Center for Peace;

■ “Clergy Ethics’ Challenges: Searching for a Way Forward,” by the Rev. David T. Ball, associate director of the Ohio Legal Assistance Foundation; and

■ “Centering Prayer: A Way to Peace,” by the Rev. Vincent McKiernan, CSP, a Catholic priest in campus ministry at the Ohio State University.

Workshops on Jan. 25 will include a repeat of Seeking a Just Peace, Clergy Ethics’ Challenges, Searching for a Way Forward, as well as “Women and Violence in the Bible,” by the Rev. Dr. Mary Shields, associate professor of Old Testament at Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus.

Early registration cost is: \$80 by Jan. 10. After Jan. 10, cost is \$100. Special rates are offered to: life members, retired pastors, spouses and seminary students, as well as attendance to one event and one day.

For more information, please contact the Ohio Council of Churches’ office at 614.885.9590, ext. 10 or access the website at: <http://www.ohcouncilchs.org>



Dr. Rita Nakashima
Brock

St. Andrew’s selects “saint”

Each year the vestry of St. Andrew’s, Washington Courthouse, selects a person to be recognized as a “saint” on St. Andrew’s Day. The person is selected based on service to the church as well as Christian service to the community.

This year, the honor was bestowed on Althea Kay Case. At 96, Case has been a true Christian servant. She was awarded the honor on Nov. 28 during the festive Eucharist celebrating the feast of St. Andrew. Case was surrounded by the congregation, family and friends, and honored at a luncheon following the service.

Daughters Hannah and Nelly Case helped plan the event. Dr. Hannah Case prepared a table of vintage photographs of the family and set up a TV with videos of old family movies and movies of the old St. Andrews before it moved to its present location. Dr. Nelly Maude Case presented the prelude and postlude as a special gift for her mother, and grandson, Peter Copeland, videotaped the event.

Congratulations!



Althea Kay Case

Crafton featured speaker in February

Barbara Cawthorne Crafton, an Episcopal priest and well-known author, is the featured speaker at a Faith in Life conference Feb. 5 at Procter Camp & Conference Center. Crafton’s seminar will focus on: “Getting Our Groove Back: Going Forward in Mission and Love following the Windsor Report.” Topics include repentance, forgiveness, redemption and mission.

Crafton was rector of St. Clement’s Church in Manhattan’s Theatre district. She was also a chaplain on the waterfront of New York, and served both historic Trinity, Wall Street, and St. John’s, Greenwich Village. She was a chaplain at Ground Zero during the recovery effort after the WTC bombing.

An actress, director and producer, she has worked for many years in combining the lively arts and the life of faith. Her books, articles, and radio scripts have won many awards, including numerous Polly Bond Awards from Episcopal Communicators and the coveted Gabriel Award for religious broadcasting. She is seen frequently on television both as a preacher and as a commentator on Hallmark’s “New Morning” and “American at Worship.”

The program is 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Cost of \$15 includes lunch. To register or for more information, contact the Rev. Dcn. Charles Wilson at chasebwilson@yahoo.com or 614.253.8059.

Also planned are symposiums in Cincinnati and Columbus Feb. 6-7. Check the diocesan website, www.episcopal-dso.org, under News/Events, then the dates on the Calendar for more information.



Barbara Cawthorne
Crafton

Group raises money for Nigerian science center

The STAN Place, a science teaching training and resource center planned by the Science Teachers Association of Nigeria (STAN) continues to gain momentum. The center will be located in Kwali, Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, Nigeria. The Rev. Dcn. Napoleon Adebola Bryant Jr. and a local committee at St. Michael and All Angels, Avondale, have been working since 2002 to raise funds for the center.

Bryant attended the association’s 45th Annual Conference in August held at St. Patrick’s College in Nigeria. One highlight of the conference was Bryant’s presentation of \$3,513 to the STAN president, Professor Eunice Okeke.

Friends, relatives, clergy and congregations in Southern Ohio have raised nearly \$11,000 for the project. The estimated budget is \$8 million. When established, the STAN place will be the most technologically advanced science teachers training and resource center on the African continent.

Bryant and the fundraising committee have raised the goal of assistance from \$10,000 to \$50,000. Your prayers and participation in assisting STAN to establish the training center are welcomed. Bryant also welcomes the opportunity to share information about STAN, the center and his experiences with congregations in the diocese. He can be reached at 513.731.0903 or ernanap@aol.com.

Sewing Club carries out ministry

The St. Simon’s Sewing Club continues its ministry and craft with Pearl Jones, one of the original members of the group. Jones and the other women meet regularly to craft pieces for the annual Holiday Bazaar. They also have made quilts for newborns, nursing homes and hospitals. The group raffles quilts at the Lincoln Heights Day Celebration, and each year, they surpass the previous year’s success.

Standing Committee reports

The Standing Committee met Nov. 18 at Christ Church, Glendale. Business included:

Approved request from St. George’s, Dayton, to purchase for \$385,000 the adjacent 3.16-acre property at 41 Manor Lane, and to encumber their property with a \$200,000 loan from 412 Sycamore, Inc. Gave our consent to the election of the Rev. Canon Jeffrey Neil Steenson as bishop coadjutor in the Diocese of the Rio Grande. Congratulated returning members Lisa R. Hughes and the Rev. Charlotte C. Reed. Elected Jon B. Boss as president; the Rev. S. Rebecca “Becky” Michelfelder as vice president; and the Rev. Charlotte C. Reed as secretary for the 2004-2005 session. Received two letters from Bishop Thompson regarding the Inhibition of a priest in the diocese. Discussed action taken since the November session of the 130th Annual Convention to organize and inform the newly constituted Diocesan Review Committee. Continued our review of activities associated with the current Episcopal transition.

Jon B. Boss, President

The Rev. S. Rebecca “Becky” Michelfelder, Vice President

The Rev. Richard A. Burnett

Mrs. Patricia “Pat” Ellertson

Mrs. Lisa R. Hughes

The Rev. Charlotte C. Reed, Secretary

OHIO STATE DAY AT NATIONAL CATHEDRAL

Come help us celebrate!

BY ANNE SESLER
INTERCHANGE CONTRIBUTOR

Every four years, Washington National Cathedral offers a special welcome to people from Ohio. Everyone from the state is invited to participate in the service: you and your family, Ohio's Congressional delegation, the governor and political and religious leaders from across the state. This year, the state day for Ohio is May 22. The Rt. Rev. Herbert Thompson Jr., bishop of Southern Ohio, will celebrate the Eucharist, assisted by the Rt. Rev. Kenneth Price Jr., bishop suffragan of Southern Ohio.

Acolytes from churches across Ohio are invited to bring banners and join the opening procession for the 11 a.m. service. Ohioans also are welcome to attend a reception immediately following the service and take highlight tours of the Cathedral. Plus, there is an opportunity to participate in a pilgrimage on the evening before Ohio Day.

Before the service on Ohio Day, the choir from Indian Hill Episcopal/Presbyterian Church will perform a 25-minute a cappella choral prelude at 10:30 a.m. in the cathedral. The adult choir from St. John's, Worthington, will sing at 3:30 p.m., before the service of Evensong on Sunday afternoon.

Arrange your own travel, or join an organized tour that will depart (by air) from both Columbus and Cincinnati on Thursday, May 19, returning the following Monday, May 23.

For more information on Ohio State Day, the tour, the pilgrimage, or for presentations on the Washington National Cathedral, please call Cynthia Walker at 513.533.1555 or Marsha Mueller at 614.436.9868.

Ohio's State Day Tour May 19 -23, 2005

Celebrate Ohio's State Day at Washington National Cathedral on May 22 and enjoy highlights of Washington D.C., including a "Monuments by Moonlight" tour, a visit to Mount Vernon, Arlington Cemetery and other leading attractions. Plus, there's free time to visit your personal must-see museums or attractions.

The tour leaves by air from both Columbus and Cincinnati on Thursday morning. We'll see the 'Monuments by Moonlight' on Thursday evening, including dinner at America, a popular restaurant at lively Union Station. On Friday, Mount Vernon and Arlington Cemetery are among the highlights of a full-day tour, followed by a free evening, when you can explore the broad range of restaurants and other activities close to our hotel. We'll be staying at the Marriott Courtyard Convention Center, just one block from the Spy Museum, near the Metro and surrounded by dozens of quality restaurants.

Pursue your personal pleasures, whether art, history, science or shopping. Saturday is a free day, when you can visit museums or attractions of your choice, or explore the many shops of Georgetown. Keep going all day and night, or pause for a memorable evening pilgrimage at Washington National Cathedral. Pilgrims will gather on the cathedral's grounds at 4:45 p.m. for an



early dinner, followed by a pilgrimage program from 6-9 p.m. Sunday morning, join Bishop Thompson and Bishop Price as they celebrate Ohio's Major State Day at the 11 a.m. service. The Indian Hill Episcopal/Presbyterian Church choir (Cincinnati) will sing the a cappella prelude at 10:30 a.m. Following the service, there will be a private reception for all the visitors from the Buckeye state, along with highlight tours of the cathedral. The afternoon and evening are free. You can spend the day at the cathedral and listen to the adult

choir from St. John's, Worthington, at 3:30 p.m. sing the prelude to the Evensong service, or continue exploring your favorite sites in Washington. On Monday, we head home to Ohio on a mid-morning flight.

The tour includes:

Four nights hotel accommodation with breakfast
Monuments by Moonlight tour
Dinner at America restaurant
Full-day city tour, including Mount Vernon and Arlington Cemetery
NCA membership
Motorcoach transfers between airport and hotel
Motorcoach transfers between hotel and cathedral

Optional dinner and pilgrimage (Saturday evening) (\$35)

The land price, per person, double occupancy is \$743.

Round-trip airfare from either Columbus or Cincinnati is \$195.

To register and reserve space, complete the attached form and submit with your deposit. Space is limited.

For more information, contact:
Cynthia Walker: 513.533.1555 or
Marsha Mueller: 614.436.9868

CALLING THE 9TH BISHOP

Committee visits dozen candidates, narrows field

BY PAT ELLERTSON
INTERCHANGE CONTRIBUTOR

It was a very busy holiday season for the Nominating Committee for the Ninth Bishop of Southern Ohio. Right now, we're "screening-in" five to seven people from the 12 we screened-in after the telephone interviews in October.

From Nov. 19 through Dec. 19, committee members traveled, two by two, to visit candidates in their current locations. Preparation for each of the visits was rigorous, and the carefully crafted schedule made the most of available time. We focused our interviews on the same seven gifts we had asked about before but this time from a fresh angle.

On a typical visit, the team arrived on Friday night and studied all the available material such as annual parish reports and information gathered in earlier screening-in processes. This preparation surfaced areas where our evidence was not as complete as we would like. That determined which questions we would stress. The team also decided who would interview each of the eight or more individuals invited to speak with us as references.

Saturday morning began with a two and a half hour interview with the candidate, followed by an informal lunch during which we answered questions posed by the interviewee.

Eight interviews filled the afternoon, with each team member handling four 45-minute sessions with ministry leaders who knew the clergy well. Among these were administrative and secretarial staff, financial persons, and those in parish and diocesan leadership positions. Afterwards, the team compared notes and determined which areas still needed more information.

The evening was more relaxed with the team visiting in the candidate's home and meeting family members, followed by dinner at a local restaurant.

Sunday began with a 7:30 a.m. breakfast with two to four more people who knew the candidate well. Then it was on to the church service where the candidate preached and celebrated, and in many cases, conducted an adult forum, followed by an informal social hour.

Lunch was another time to relax with this person who, by now, we were beginning to know really well. This time frame was designed for the indi-

vidual's questions about the diocese, the city of Cincinnati or whatever was of interest.

After spending about 20 hours with the candidate and those who knew that person well, we returned to Southern Ohio. We finished all our visits by the end of the third week in December.

But we couldn't forget the paperwork! We committed to typing all our interviews and making them available to our other committee members within 10 days of each visit. That way the whole team could stay up-to-date with our progress and avoid last-minute cramming on the material.

The committee; chair, Mike Krug; and consultant, the Rev. Canon Gay Jennings, are gathering for a two-day meeting Jan. 7-8 to screen in six or seven people for the final phase of our process. On Jan. 26-27, we will invite those screened-in to interview with the whole committee.

We also are inviting spouses to the meeting, not for the interview but to get to know Cincinnati. We'll provide custom tours for each potential nominee and spouse, tailored to their specific interests. We are sensitive to the idea that discernment is a family decision,

and so we are involving spouses as early as possible. We are pleased that the comments about our process have been very favorable.

On Jan. 28, the committee will complete its last screening-in process. We will hand over the names of three to five nominees to the Standing Committee in February. We will have commissioned thorough, professional background checks for each. Once those are in hand, the Standing Committee and Transition Committee will lead the balance of the process through to election.

Although our task has been heavy, involving far more time than any of us expected, it has been hugely rewarding. Working together and in small teams, we've come to know and enjoy fellow Episcopalians we might not have known otherwise. What is more important, though, is that we have met outstanding priests, leaders in the life of our church, whose personal ministry and mission testify to the health and vigor of our Episcopal Church.

Pat Ellertson is a member of the nominating committee and chair of the communications committee.

Doing right by the books

BY BILL HEDLEY
INTERCHANGE CONTRIBUTOR

An effective way to aid the spread of Christianity is to provide Christian literature where it is needed but not readily available. There is an effective, low-cost way to make this happen.

The Episcopal organization called the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge (SPCK) gathers Bibles and other religious books from publishers' overruns, disbanded libraries and retired clergy book collections. It then sends them to Christian clergy from developing countries who request the books. The missing link is a source of funds to pay for the shipment.

As Christian individuals and congregations, we can enable the shipments by helping pay for shipping costs. It costs only \$1 to send an average of \$10 worth of books to development countries. Last year, Christ Church, Dayton, contributed \$320 to the Society for the Formation of Seminary Libraries. The Rev. David Kodja in Kenya received

122 books. The Rev. M.A. Dewumi of Nigeria received 115 books and the Rev. Richard Chamhene of Tanzania, 126 books. The total value of the books: \$2,355.

A number of people have joined Christ Church, Dayton, because of its effective outreach program. The annual contribution to the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge resonates with members because it is a concrete example of being a part of an organization that is making a significant difference.

And making a difference is easy. Send \$100 or more to SPCK, P.O. Box 879, Sewanee, Tenn., 37375 and mark it for seminary libraries. You can request that information on the shipment you sponsored be provided to you.

For more information, call Patti Posan, managing director of SPCK at 931.598.1103 or Bill Hedley, 937.298.8231.

Knowing that you make a real difference may benefit you as much as the



Members of Christ, Dayton, sent 300 hymnals to the Anglican Church in Belize. The Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge received a letter of thanks from the bishop of Belize for the gift.

A Mission Minute

The National and World Mission Commission is appointed by the bishop to promote and advance work in the mission field by parishes and individuals. Members are available to visit parishes, to speak to groups, to work with parishes to develop a mission plan, to collect information on parish mission work and to bring parishes together who have similar objectives.

For information and services, contact the chair, Paul Rank, at 513.528.0931.

Break the cycle, build support systems

When mom or dad is locked up, program keeps kids from being "locked out"

BY RICHELLE THOMPSON
INTERCHANGE EDITOR

In some ways, it's about the numbers: Children of incarcerated parents are seven times more likely to become involved in the juvenile and adult criminal systems, statistics show. As of Jan. 1, 2003, the parents of 1,524 dependent children were Hamilton County inmates.

But in the important ways, it's about the children.

"These are children who typically fall between the cracks of society," said the Rev. Ed Payne, director of a new mentoring program for the Cincinnati Youth Collaborative. "For decades, we couldn't understand why so many young people whose parents were incarcerated ended up in prison themselves. Now we understand that these children are more likely to be a part of the incarcerated system because that's all they know."

The Cincinnati Youth Collaborative, a not-for-profit organization that provides services such as mentoring and youth employment, has launched a new program, SPARK (Strengthening Partnerships and Resources for Kids). Funded with a three-year, \$1.3 million grant from the federal Department of Health and Human Services, the program aims to provide mentors for Hamilton County



The Rev. Ed Payne

How you can help

Interested in learning more or becoming a mentor? Contact the Rev. Ed Payne and the Cincinnati Youth Collaborative at 513.475.4198 or epayne@cycyouth.org. Mentors can live anywhere but children are from Hamilton County. Mentors also must fill out an application, provide references, clear a Hamilton County police background check and undergo one day of training.

children (ages 4-14) who have at least one parent incarcerated in a state or federal prison. The idea is for mentor and mentee to meet at least once a week, talk and develop a support network and relationship. The hope: the children will see another option to the criminal system.

Payne, a priest in the diocese, was appointed this fall as the program director. A primary goal of the program is to provide mentors for about 40 percent of the children.

Payne has become a mentor himself and hears firsthand the stories and the heartbreak these children bear.

"The children are embarrassed. They don't want others to know they have a parent in prison. In some cases, the children begin to react with violence or thievery themselves because of their poverty level," Payne said. In the mentor training class, "we tell the mentors that we can't fix people. We can't fix the family's situation. We can't bring them more money. We can't buy the trust of a mentee. But what we can do is be a friendly, loving presence for that child and for that family."

Exodus happens: Youth transform, develop new retreat

BY ROGER SPEER
INTERCHANGE CONTRIBUTOR

In the Diocese of Southern Ohio, the Happening program has had a long and positive reputation. In working with your students, your sons and daughters, there has been an expressed need for something more, something that answers the question, "How?"

How do I honestly live this lifestyle? How can I be supported in this? How do I start other people on this path?

There have been three meetings so far of young people in the diocese. The first consisted of mostly high school students, the second of college students (Happening veterans) and the third of the combined high school/young adult staff of this new weekend. What we have developed is called Exodus. Exodus has three primary goals:

- To build a community of students representing the entire diocese.
- To offer advice and experiences on how to live into the "Will you?" statements of the Baptismal Covenant.
- To provide some guidance and continuing support for students to build, rebuild or strengthen existing communities of young people in their home parishes.

Some key differences in Exodus compared to Happening:

- Students may come as many times as they wish, either as staff or participants.
- The structure of Exodus is designed and intended to be fluid – the activities and worship will change every time we do it, and the design team is free to make any change they wish to the program.
- Discussion topics focus on the "Will you?" statements of the Baptismal Covenant.

We have written an entire parent/clergy guide outlining the entire weekend – what we do and why we do it. If you would like a copy of this document, please send requests to Roger_Speer@episcopal-dso.org. Registration and payment information for Exodus is online at www.dsoyouth.org

We ask for your continued prayers in this new chapter of diocesan youth ministry and thank you for your support!

Roger Speer is the director of youth ministries for the Diocese of Southern Ohio.

If you go:

The inaugural Exodus weekend is Jan. 28-30 at St. Philip's, Northside (Cincinnati). For more information, go to www.dsoyouth.org.

When the Happening Redesign Committee first got together, we were faced with the daunting task of trying to recreate and change a weekend that has been a spiritual explosion for thousands of youth. Quite a task was laid out for us and after all the discussions, debates and hard work, we decided that we can't tear down what

we have built up for many years. We just built from our existing Happening program, hopefully making it better so it can keep enriching students

throughout the diocese. Exodus was born.

Exodus means "movement of the people," yes, like the Bob Marley song, but we truly are trying to "move the people." We are trying to bring those who want a closer relationship with God together and then get these students to go out and minister and bring together others. Exodus is a retreat weekend that does these things effectively while providing all the spiritual comfort and guidance of Happening, if not more.

Happening is a hard thing to duplicate, a hard program to live up to. But through the Happening Redesign Committee, the great staff of students who put together this weekend and the great leadership of our director of youth ministries, we have taken a seemingly impossible task and not only succeeded but we are enthusiastically moving forward, ready to minister.

Art Paul, St. Anne's, West Chester, rector of Exodus



Share the Episcopal Church!

Be a part of Bishop Thompson's vision of sharing God's word and growing God's churches. Send a free six-month subscription of *Interchange* to people that you believe may find a spiritual home in congregations of the Diocese of Southern Ohio. Before the person receives the first *Interchange*, Bishop Thompson will send a letter that explains the subscription and invites the person to visit an Episcopal church. They also will receive a brochure that has information about the ministries and programs of the Episcopal Church in Southern Ohio.

INTERCHANGE SUBSCRIPTION FORM

Name of person/family to receive the subscription:

Address:

Phone number:

E-mail:

Your name:

Address:

Phone number:

E-mail:

Relationship (circle one): **Friend** **Family**

Send to: Diocese of Southern Ohio, c/o *Interchange* invitation, 412 Sycamore St., Cincinnati, Ohio 45202.

Dayton Deanery youth help others

BY THE REV. MIKE KREUTZER
INTERCHANGE CONTRIBUTOR

For three years, sixth, seventh and eighth graders from the eight churches in the Dayton Deanery have gathered on the third Sunday of each month for an evening of food, fun and fellowship. The deanery churches take turns hosting the gatherings.

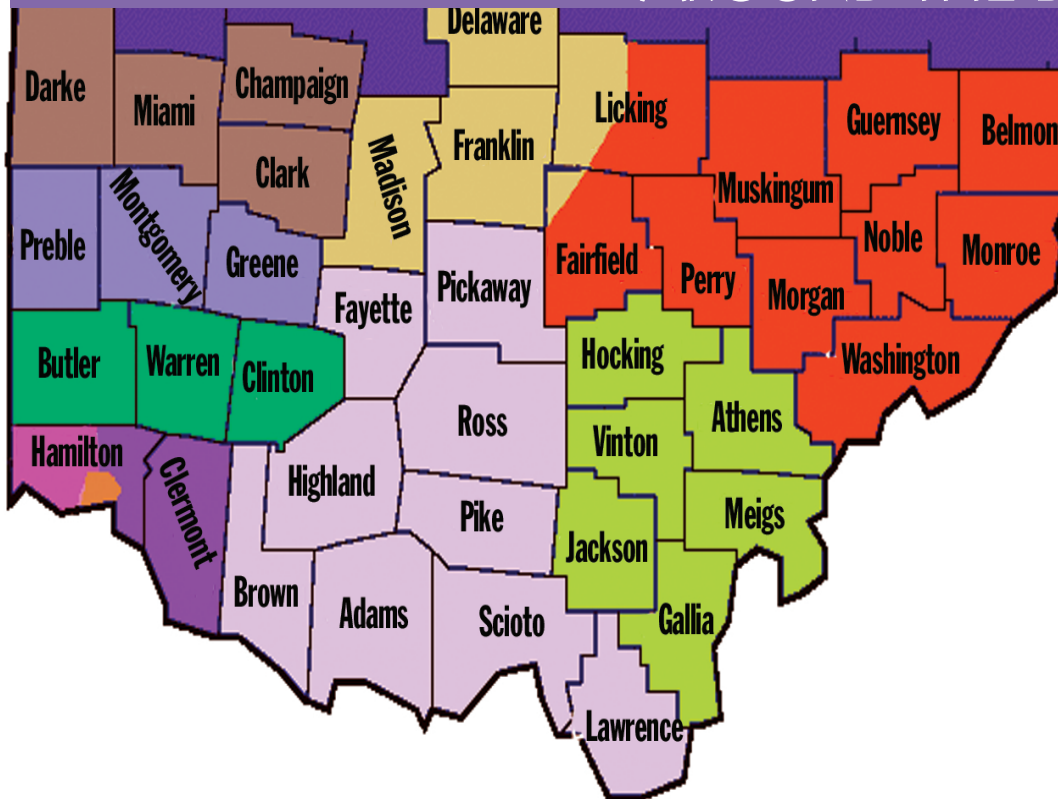
Over the past year, the overall theme for the get-togethers has been "Celebrating Diversity." The host church plans the evening's event, usually focusing on a particular culture, either within this country or around the world. A recent gathering held at St. Mark's, Dayton, highlighted what, to most of our young people, is another culture: the lives of abused and neglected children.

Leading the session was Libby Nicholson, a member of St. Mark's and the director of CARE House, a child advocacy center that coordinates community resources. It works closely with The Children's Medical Center, Montgomery County Children's Services and the region's law enforcement agencies to provide an interdisciplinary approach in caring for abused and neglected children.

The Dayton-area young people first learned about the life and the needs of these children, and then used the rest of their time together on a project that reached out to them. Using kits from a local specialty store, they assembled 12 stuffed bears that they then donated to CARE House to be given to children whom they serve. The last item to be stuffed inside each bear was its heart. Before they inserted it, the builders held the heart and prayed for the child who would receive it. Adults who attended the event reported that they were deeply moved by the response of the young people. Once again, the youth had provided a model for the adults to follow.

Two days after the gathering, there was an unexpected postscript to the story. Libby received a call in her office at CARE House. A woman, with no connection to the gatherings, wanted to make a contribution to CARE House in memory of her daughter. She asked Libby whether they would have any use for outfits made for stuffed bears. The bears for which the outfits are designed are the same kind that the young people had made less than 48 hours earlier.

AROUND THE DIOCESE



NOTABLE

Joe Gagnon, Church of Our Saviour, Mount Auburn, played the part of Ebenezer Scrooge in the Fellowship Baptist Church production of *A Christmas Carol*, a musical adaptation of the Charles Dickens classic.

Michael Williams, Trinity, McArthur, was selected as the Wellston High School Rotary senior of the month for November. Williams is a member of the National Honor Society, was recently named to *Who's Who Among American High School Students*, serves as a cadet with the Wellston Fire Department and is a member of the Trinity vestry.

Janice Lubin, Redeemer, Hyde Park, recently retired from the board of the Interfaith Hospitality Network of Greater Cincinnati after 13 years of service. Lubin was part of the group that brought IHN to Cincinnati.

School bus driver **Jeff Robinson**, parishioner at St. Peter, Delaware, and his aide have been awarded the state championship in the Special Needs Team Safety Bus Rodeo. They will go on to compete at the National Rodeo in Phoenix, Arizona in March.

Congrats to **Emily Shanley-Roberts**, daughter of the **Rev. Eileen Shanley-Roberts**, whose photo graced the cover of *EDS News*, the newsletter from Episcopal Divinity School. Emily was practicing flying her kite as faculty and trustees gathered for a procession to First Church.

The community group, Promote Wyoming, named **Carol Fey** of Ascension & Holy Trinity, Wyoming, a Citizen of the Year. Congratulations!

Cincinnati East

This year's Country Store at **St. Timothy**, Anderson Township, was a great success. The ladies of the Country Store workshop cut, stitched, glued, sewed, knit, cross-stitched and needlepointed from February to November. Others worked at home sewing and beading, and resident jelly and marmalade chef, Jerry Eichert, created almost 1,200 jars of exotic jellies and marmalades for the sale. Others baked for the bake sale or arranged for publicity, and the youth helped set up and take down. Proceeds were gifted to the operating budget of the church, the youth pilgrimages, an El Hogar sponsorship, the El Hogar capital campaign fund, the Batavia YWCA battered women's shelter, Inter Parish Ministry and diocesan camp scholarships.

Holy Trinity, Kenwood, once again participated in Christmas on the River, a ministry to the men and women who work on the tow boats on the Ohio River. Hand-knitted scarves and home-baked cookies help make the day a little brighter for those on the river who cannot spend Christmas with their loved ones.

Cincinnati West

St. James, Westwood, held a workshop on labyrinths, their meaning and how they can relate to our prayer life. Several examples were discussed, such as the well-known labyrinths in Chartes Cathedral and San Francisco's Episcopal Cathedral, as well as some local labyrinths at the Milford Spirituality Center and at Bergamo in Dayton. This was of special interest to some parishioners who had just returned from the Nightwatch Program at St. John the Divine Cathedral in New York, where they had walked a labyrinth.

Several outreach programs at **Ascension & Holy Trinity**, Wyoming, bring the words of Isaiah 35:6 to life (then shall the eyes of the blind be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a hart...). Through loose change offerings for the months of November and December, A&HT, along with **Christ Church**, Glendale, and the Wyoming Baptist Church contributed to the cost of three eye operations for a young man in Kyrgyzstan who is rapidly losing his sight; raised money to purchase an artificial limb for a diabetic man in Bolivia and made a donation to St. Rita School for the Deaf.

Columbus

FISH (Friends in Saints' Hospitality) is sponsoring an art exhibit at **St. Andrew**, Pickerington on Jan. 29-30. The exhibit will feature artwork by the people of St. Andrew's. Any parishioner, ages 5 and older, can show their work. The adults will showcase their work on Jan. 29 with a reception from 7 to 9 p.m. Children's work will be recognized on Jan. 30 following the 10 a.m. service. For more information, contact the church at 614.837.6841.

While the children at **St. Patrick**, Dublin enjoyed a St. Nicholas party, the adults gathered in the sanctuary for a Christmas carol play-in. Musical arrangements were made available for nearly every instrument, and musicians could bring their own or borrow some of the church's instruments to make some beautiful Christmas music.

Sunday School students at the **Church of St. Edward**, Whitehall, participated in the annual Buddy Walk for the benefit of children affected with Down Syndrome. The event was held at the Franklin Park Conservatory and was well attended by hundreds of children and adults.

Wednesdays in Advent at **St. Luke**, Granville, were spent studying Celtic traditions and spirituality. The ancient Celtic Christian Church is the foundation of our Anglican Church and shaped our spirituality differently than what was evolving in the Roman and Western Mediterranean world. Participants learned about the Celtic Christian Church, explored their individual spiritual lives and practiced some ancient Celtic Christian practices.

Miami River

IHL, or I Hate Litter, is a team of volunteers at **Holy Trinity**, Oxford, who make sure that the grounds of the church are free of trash and debris. These dedicated parishioners keep a weekly schedule of making sure that Sunday morning services are litter free.

The Miami River deanery is hosting an Advent bonfire and reception at **St. Mary Magdalene**, Maineville, on Jan. 9. Members from throughout the deanery are invited to bundle up and gather for soup, sandwiches and fellowship. Bring the churches' greenery to fuel the fire! Gathering begins at 5 p.m. at St. Mary Magdalene, 172 E. U.S. 22/3. Information: 513.677.1777.

Northeast

St. John, Cambridge, along with the children, parents and staff of St. John's CARE (Children's Academy for Recreation and Education) held a special service in observance of Children's Sabbath. The Rev. Barry Cotter, missionary of the East Central Ohio cluster, asked the children to bring four bags containing objects of their choice from which he would then preach a sermon. The contents: a gourd, a pumpkin, a bag of hay and a sprinkling can. Cotter then had the children offer their ideas about how these things are able to grow with God's help and invited everyone to consider how we are all growing as creatures in God's world.

Northwest

Baby food for Baby Jesus: **Christ Church**, Springfield, held an ingathering of jars of baby food at their Christmas Eve services. The food was donated to the Parent-Infant Center for distribution to the youngest and most vulnerable members of the community.

Ohio River

The youth at **Redeemer**, Hyde Park, learned a little more about the Islamic faith by taking a tour of the Islamic Center of Cincinnati. While on the tour, they observed the cultural sensibilities of their hosts, such as a modest dress code, girls covering their heads and everyone removing their shoes. The next day, a speaker from the Islamic Center came to Redeemer for a discussion on Islam during Church School.

The Cathedral Contemporaries of **Christ Church Cathedral**, Cincinnati, started up the Theology Uncorked series for this church year with a speaker from the Greater Cincinnati Coalition for the Homeless. The Contemporaries are a 25-40's group that enjoys fellowship, working on service projects and growing spiritually. The group meets at the Awakenings Coffee and Tea Company in Hyde Park.

Scioto River

St. Mary, Hillsboro, celebrated Blanket Sunday, where a special collection was taken for Church World Services' Blanket program. Each \$5 donation provides a blanket for someone in need somewhere in the world. The blankets are given to people who have been displaced by civil unrest, war or natural disaster. During the service, there was also a distribution of bells made in Cambodia out of shells and scraps of metal left over from times of war in their country.

The St. Anne's Guild at **St. Paul**, Chillicothe, held their annual Christmas luncheon at the B&B Guest House.



THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION
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Resources for national and world news:
The Episcopal Church, USA
www.episcopalchurch.org

Anglican Communion:
www.anglicancommunion.org

Around the Communion Sources:
Anglican Communion News Service, Episcopal News Service

New Lenten materials equip the saints for ministry, growth

Episcopal Community Services Foundation of the Diocese of Southern Ohio has developed a Lenten Study Series entitled, "Moving All the Congregation from the Church into the World: Equipping the Saints for the Ministries of Social Justice and Reconciliation."

Designed by the Rev. Canon Vicki Zust, canon to the ordinary; Leanne Puglielli, All Saints, New Albany; and Kitty McIntire, Ascension, Middletown, the curriculum was designed with the needs of the local congregation in mind. It is based on the Sunday lectionary for Lent in Year A.

It will work equally well for Sunday morning education programs or for mid-week Lenten gatherings and was designed so that it can be used for intergenerational groups or groups divided by age.

The goal of this curriculum is two-fold. The first is to provide insight and education about how the teachings of Jesus selected for reading in Lent connect the church to the world outside the doors of our churches. The second is to help the members of the congregation move in their understanding of the concept of social justice from being aware of how much we have been blessed by God and how much we take those blessings for granted, to awareness and understanding of the needs in your community, to awareness and understanding of the spectrum of Christian responses, to commitment to action.

To download the curriculum and a Lenten calendar, go to www.episcopal-dso.org, under Ministry Resources, then ECSF.

National church develops "Groundwork"

The national church also has developed new Lenten teaching resources for 2005 designed to invite congregations to engage in hospitality, evangelism, organizational transformation and advertising to welcome new members to the Episcopal Church.

Titled "Groundwork" and set for mailing to all congregations in early January, the new resources are centered on lesson plans for use in varied teaching settings. The effort continues a proactive strategy begun by General Convention in 2000 to strengthen local congregations and to counter membership declines experienced in recent years by all mainline denominations.

The 2005 Lenten study resources emphasize complete analysis of congregational systems at work in local ministry, said the Rev. Dr. James B. Lemler, director of mission for the Episcopal Church.

"It is part of the goal of personal and congregational transformation that is at the heart of the Episcopal Church's mission and of the National Advertising Collaborative that has been launched."

Groundwork resources also will provide a thematic complement to the Episcopal Church's new online visitors' center, <http://www.comeandgrow.org/>, and to additional related communication initiatives.

"We need a more active evangelism," said the Rev. Charles Fulton, who serves the Episcopal Church as director of congregational development and as president of the Episcopal Church Building Fund.

Priorities of advertising, mission funding, start-up of new congregations and taking a fresh look at worship styles are key to achieving positive change, Fulton said. Thorough transformation of a congregation is often necessary for growth to occur.

"Our growth or decline over decades has closely mirrored the birth rate. What's a little different is we're not keeping our own kids in church," he said, noting that in more evangelical churches, young adults more often continue in the tradition in which they are raised.

The Episcopal Church needs to achieve both conversion and formation of Christians, Fulton said. "Historically, we as mainline denominations have been better at formation than conversion. Conversion is the active stuff, the work emphasized by evangelicals and Pentecostals. We have to do both conversion and formation, and the truth is, we can be agents of conversion, but how do we get Episcopalians to be about conversion?"

The telling of faith stories is a first step, Fulton said, noting a point he emphasizes frequently in consultations with congregations across the country. "Telling your own story brings authentic words to doing the work of conversion. It's a way of saying 'I'm God's child, and I have known God to be like this,' or 'This is how God works in my life.'"

Also essential, says Fulton, is effective advertising, such as the national television campaign the Episcopal Church has scheduled for late summer 2005 to reach Generation X persons who are unaffiliated with any church. When asked how the church is building a more active evangelism, the ad campaign is one answer, Fulton said.

Churches also need to reach new population groups, including those of different ethnicities.

Fulton added: "The best way to reach a new population is often to start a new congregation," and this is why new funding for mission is vital, especially because it is often "harder for an existing congregation to reach new populations."

SCHOLAR'S CORNER

I've heard people say that Paul was the real founder of Christianity, not Jesus, that Paul transformed the religion of Jesus into a religion about Jesus. Is there any truth to this?

In a word, no. First of all, there was very little time between Jesus and Paul, only 20 years between the crucifixion (Friday, April 7, AD 30) and 1 Thessalonians, the first of Paul's letters to be written (early in 50 AD). The gap between them is even shorter if you count from the crucifixion to Paul's conversion somewhere between 32 and 34 AD (a date arrived at using the chronological information in Gal. 1 and 2). That gives you a gap of only two to four years.

If Paul radically transformed Christianity in the way the question suggests, there would have been plenty of people there from the beginning (including some who had known Jesus personally) to object to a radical revision of Christianity. Yet there are no indications that anyone found fault with what Paul taught about Jesus (his christology). What many did fault him for and what made him enemies

within the Palestinian, Torah-observant church was his position that Gentiles need not convert to Judaism to be Christians, but even that was not an idea original to him (see Acts: 11:19-26).

There were individuals in the early church who had been there from the beginning. There was already a Christianity before Paul, a pre-Pauline Christianity that Paul had no hand in making and that Paul received and learned after his conversion. And in that pre-Pauline Christianity, Jesus already was being worshipped as the Son of God.

The basic features of Christian theology were in place before Paul. Jesus' resurrection and his place as the exalted Lord who will return at Judgment Day go back to the very first few weeks and months after the crucifixion and resurrection.

How do we know Jesus was already exalted in pre-Pauline Christianity? For one,

THE REV. WILLIAM G. GARTIG



scholars agree that in several places in his letters Paul seems to be citing pre-existing doctrinal formulations. (The vocabulary is not his normal vocabulary.) Some of these are Phil. 2:6-8 ("He was in the form of God, but did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself...he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross") and Rom. 1:3-4 ("who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord...").

There was a time of great theological reflection and creativity in early Christianity, but it was before Paul in the first weeks and months after the crucifixion and resurrection. That was when the

followers of Jesus had to make sense of their leader's shameful and embarrassing execution and to explain their experience of his continued presence with them. It was in those first few days that they recalled the mysterious suffering servant figure of Isaiah 53 whose suffering and death were somehow for the benefit of others and concluded that although Jesus was the Messiah descended from David, his glory was not to be revealed until he returned from heaven as the son of man with the holy angels on Judgment Day. His first coming was in lowliness and humility to die for the sins of the world; his second coming would be when his glory would be revealed and all would know him for who he was. This was the earliest christology, and Paul was a recipient of it, not its originator.

The Rev. William G. Gartig will answer your questions about the Bible, Episcopal life and other religious subjects. Send questions to 2146 Cameron Ave. Apt. 5, Cincinnati, OH 45212-3631 or at gartigwg@episcopal-dso.zzn.com.

CALENDAR

January

5 – Canonical Exams at Procter Camp & Conference Center. Information: the Rev. Canon Vicki Zust at 513.421.0311 or 800.582.1712.

6-8 – Formation retreat at Procter Camp & Conference Center. Information: the Rev. Canon Vicki Zust.

13 - Sabbath Retreat for Diocesan Youth Coordinators, through Jan. 17. Contact Roger Speer at 614.461.8424 or 800.461.6424 for more information.

15 – Sexual Misconduct and Child Abuse Prevention (SMCAP) Training at All Saints Episcopal Church, 610 Fourth Street, Portsmouth. Pre-registration and pre-payment is required. Contact Mary Williams or Geri McDaniel at the diocesan office at 513.421.0311 or 800.582.1712 or to register online, click on Ministry Resources, Misconduct Prevention. The cost of training is \$15, which includes materials and lunch. Payment should be mailed to Mary Williams, Diocese of Southern Ohio, 412 Sycamore Street, Cincinnati 45202. Make checks payable to Diocese of Southern Ohio. Training is required of all clergy, Eucharistic Visitors, Stephen Ministers, employees of a church, Youth ministers-counselors-volunteers, or any other lay person who interacts or has care of our children.

29 - Refresh Your Soul - PrayerWalking: Finding Intimacy with God. At the Procter Camp & Conference Center. Provides 5.4 nursing contact hours. For more information, contact Rose Lindeman at 800.835.5768, ext. 4289.

29 - Explorer's Day for Ordination Process. 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Procter Camp & Conference Center. The Explorers meeting is the first step in the ordination process for the diaconate and priesthood. The ordination process will be explained and materials distributed. The rector, explorer and members of the discernment committee are expected to attend. Registration should be completed and returned to Mary Williams at Diocesan House, 412 Sycamore Street, Cincinnati 45202 by Jan. 21. You can register online by clicking on Ministry Resources, Vocations.

February

4 - Province V Networking Meeting, through Feb. 6. Contact Roger Speer at 614.461.8424 or 800.461.6424 for more information.

5 - SMCAP Training at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 100 Miami Avenue, Terrace Park. Pre-registration and pre-payment is required. See registration information above.

Mark it down

March 11 - New Beginnings #3 at St. Thomas, Terrace Park, through March 13. Contact Roger Speer at 614.461.8424 or 800.461.6424 for more information.

March 12 - SMCAP Training will be held at Christ Episcopal Church, 965 Forest Avenue, Glendale. Pre-registration and pre-payment is required. See registration information above.

CONGREGATIONS & CLERGY

Congregations in the search process

Starting search: Good Samaritan, Clermont County; Ascension, Middletown; Good Shepherd, Athens; St. Luke's, Marietta

Receiving names: All Saints, Portsmouth; St. Thomas, Terrace Park; Trinity, Newark;

Interviewing: Christ Church Cathedral (Canon Vicar, Canon for Christian Formation); St. Simon, Lincoln Heights

For more information, contact the Canon Vicki Zust, canon to the ordinary, the Diocese of Southern Ohio, 412 Sycamore St., Cincinnati, Ohio 45202. Phone: 800.582.1712.

E-mail: vicki_zust@episcopal-dso.org.

POSTINGS

Bookkeeper, part time, at St. Andrew's, Dayton. Position is open immediately. Requires one to two hours a week, for an approximately \$135,000 budget, and includes payroll responsibilities. Church Windows knowledge helpful. Contact Marie Ferguson at 937.277.9805 or the Rev. Susan Mills at 937.278.7345.

OF NOTE

Feb. 19: The Bishops, Vestries and Mission Council annual meeting. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. at Procter Camp & Conference Center, with the opening remarks at 10 a.m. The conference runs until 3 p.m. All vestry and mission council members are encouraged to attend. In addition to discussion about the Windsor Report, workshops will be offered that explore ways to fulfill resolutions in response to the bishop's address at convention. These workshops will focus on evangelism and how to invite 200 people to church; developing a communications plan; and involving youth in ministry. Register with Kay Sturm at the Bishop's Center at 614.461.8429, 800.461.8434 or by e-mail: kay_sturm@episcopal-dso.org. You can also register online at www.episcopal-dso.org, under News/Events, then calendar. Chose the day of the event and link to the form. Cost: \$15 (includes lunch).

VISITATIONS

January

2	Canon Zust	St. Mary Magdalene, Maineville
9	Bishop Thompson Bishop Price Canon Zust	St. James, Columbus St. Philip, Circleville Trinity, Columbus
16	Bishop Thompson Bishop Price Canon Zust	St. Mark, Dayton St. Stephen, Columbus Grace Church, Cincinnati
23	Bishop Thompson Bishop Price Canon Zust	St. Andrew, Dayton Trinity, Troy Ascension, Middletown
30	Bishop Price Canon Zust	Ascension, Middletown St. Mark, Upper Arlington

February

6	Bishop Thompson Bishop Price Canon Zust	St. Stephen, Cincinnati St. Philip, Columbus St. Andrew, Cincinnati
13	Bishop Thompson Bishop Price Canon Zust Canon Mycoff	Holy Spirit, Forest Park 5 p.m. Holy Family, Harrison Reception Committee, London St. Christopher, Fairborn Trinity Church, London
20	Bishop Thompson Bishop Price Canon Zust	St. Mark, Columbus (dedication) Presiding Bishop's Nominating Committee St. Paul, Greenville
27	Bishop Thompson Bishop Price Canon Zust Canon Mycoff	St. Simon, Lincoln Heights St. James, Westwood St. Mary's, Hillsboro Holy Trinity, Oxford

ALBRICIAS

Un día de ministerio para un cultivador de Hispanos de la iglesia en la diócesis de Ohio del sur luciría algo así... El cultivador de la iglesia (CI) se aprovecha de una relativamente cálida mañana de finales de Noviembre. Las miradas se enfocan en una tienda de abarrotes mexicana y una área de unidades en renta a tres cuadras de la Iglesia de St. Edward, en Whitehall. El CI está equipado con docenas de volantes coloridos, anunciando estudios de Biblia en familia en español, seguido de una comida. El evento se lleva a cabo en St. Edward todos los martes a las 7 de la tarde. Los volantes (los cuales incluyen un mapa de las intersecciones adyacentes a la iglesia) están metidos en el suéter del CI.

Nuestra primera parada es el mercado Michoacana donde se habla primordialmente el español. El CI saluda a sus conocidos del staff de la tienda y simultáneamente se adentra en una cultura comercial que podría igual encontrarse en Oaxaca o Metapan. Las vistas, los olores y los sonidos de la tienda de 2000 pies cuadrados podrían hacer pensar al visitante que no se encuentra en el condado de Franklin, OH. Los clientes de aquí han ofrecido sus hogares para llevar a cabo estudios de Biblia para cultivadores de la iglesia de DSO. Aquí dejamos algunos volantes.

Nuestra siguiente parada es una conversación con el cartero, que es anglo, en la calle Fairway Blvd. Este veterano de varios años en la misma ruta tiene una gran apreciación del cruce de culturas, por sus años de servicio militar en el Pacífico, donde aprendió Tagalog. Él está contento de escuchar acerca de nuestro ministerio en una área que él conoce bien y ama, y nos señala los departamentos de futuros líderes latinos que podrían servir como núcleo del Ministerio Episcopal Latino. Le dejamos volantes y una tarjeta de presentación al cartero, quien piensa que podría darnos más adelante nombres de otros líderes de la comunidad.

Antes de tocar la puerta de los actuales líderes latinos, nos ofrecemos a cargar bolsas de despensa que una

señora guatemalteca y sus hijos no podían llevar del coche a su cocina. Ellos son nuevos en el vecindario, y ésta ha sido su primera incursión a un dispensario de comida y sí, ¡quieren volantes! Mientras ellos observan el mapa, comentan que habían visto antes la iglesia, pero pensaban que se trataba de una escuela con la bandera de Estados Unidos al frente.

Nos encontramos con el cartero de nuevo mientras él ayuda a un latino cuyo buzón no cierra bien. Por supuesto, conversamos con el nativo salvadoreño y le explicamos nuestro ministerio, le dejamos volantes, y él nos dirige al departamento de su hermana. A unos cuantos pasos de ahí, nos envolvemos en plática con otro salvadoreño que lava su carro con su hijo al lado. Él ha estado buscando una iglesia desde que llegó de Carolina del Norte donde desplumaba gallinas hace tres meses. Se siente aliviado de enterarse del servicio en español en el área, y de la posibilidad de catecismo para su hijo. ¡Él también quiere volantes para su cuñado!

A sugerencia del cartero, hablamos con uno de los tres obreros mexicanos en el umbral de Fairway. Ellos no tienen afiliación con ninguna iglesia, pero sí, tomarán volantes. Varios más de sus compatriotas que viven juntos en el siguiente edificio de apartamentos toman volantes. Hablamos con ellos acerca de "las posadas", una tradición religiosa mexicana previa a la navidad, mientras decoran un verde arbusto al aire libre con luces para "la Navidad" lejos de la familia y amigos en el distrito federal (ciudad de México). Esperamos ver a algunos de ellos en futuras funciones del Ministerio Episcopal Latino.

Albricias es una contribucion ocasional que ofrecera noticias del Ministerio Latino en la Diocesis del Sur de Ohio.

Para mas informaciones, llame al Centro de Ministerio Episcopal Latino en 614-291-8720 o mande correo electronico al simbolico@aol.com.

DICK KORN



A day of ministry for a Hispanic church planter in the Diocese of Southern Ohio might look something like this: the church planter takes advantage of a relatively warm Saturday morning in late November. Sights are set on a Mexican grocery and an area of rental units within a three-block radius of St. Edward's, Whitehall. The church planter is equipped with dozens of colored flyers announcing in Spanish the Family Bible Study and dinner, held at St. Edward's every Tuesday at 7 p.m. The flyers, which include a map, are tucked in the church planter's sweater.

The first stop is the Michoacana market where Spanish is the primary language. The church planter renews acquaintances with the shop's staff and simultaneously enters a commercial culture that could just as well be found in Oaxaca or Metapan. The sights, smells and sounds of the store's 2,000 square-feet of stock could easily deceive the visitor into thinking that he or she is not in Franklin County, Ohio. Customers here have offered their homes for home Bible studies for Diocese of Southern Ohio church planting. The church planter leaves flyers.

The next stop is a conversation with the Anglo mail carrier on Fairway Boulevard. This veteran of many years on the same route has a keen appreciation of the cross-cultural from years of military service in the Pacific theater where he learned Tagalog. He's pleased to hear of the ministry in an area that he knows well and loves, and points out apartments of prospective Latino leaders that might serve as a core of Episcopal Latino Ministry. The church planter leaves flyers and a business card with the postman who thinks he can provide names of other community leaders.

Before heading off to knock on the doors of today's leaders, the church planter offers to tote boxes of food pantry items that a Guatemalan moth-

er and her teenage sons are struggling to move from car to kitchen. They are new to the neighborhood, this has been their first foray to a food dispensary, and yes, they would like flyers! As they survey the flyer's map, they comment that they've seen the "church," which they thought was a school with the American flag out front.

The church planter catches up with the mailman again as he helps key a lock for a Latino whose street-side mail box won't stay secure. Of course, the church planter engages the Salvadoran native in conversation, explains the ministry, leaves flyers and is directed to the sister's nearby apartment. Within a few steps, the church planter strikes up a chat with another Salvadoran who washes his car with his son at his side. He's been looking for a church ever since he arrived from plucking chickens in North Carolina three months ago; he's heartened to know of a Spanish service in the area and of the possibility of catechism for his son. He wants flyers for his brother-in-law also!

At the suggestion of the postman, the church planter talks to one of three Mexican construction workers on their Fairway doorstep. No, they don't have a church affiliation, but yes, they will take flyers. Several more of their compatriots who live together in the next apartment building take flyers; the church planter talks to them about Las Posadas, a pre-Christmas Mexican religious tradition, as they decorate a straggly, outdoor evergreen bush with several sets of lights for "la Navidad." They are far from family and friends in the Distrito Federal.

The church planter hopes to see a few of these folks at future functions of the Episcopal Latino Ministry.

Albricias is an occasional column sharing and discussing Latino ministry in the Diocese of Southern Ohio. For more information, contact the Episcopal Latino Ministry office at 614.291.8720 or by e-mail: simbolico@aol.com

Violence Against Women Act reauthorization needs your help

The United States Congress is currently determining funding levels for the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) programs, and current proposals mistakenly include cuts. The House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate have each passed different versions of the 2005 fiscal year appropriations' bills for VAWA programs. Your own member in Congress needs to know if you oppose these critical cuts for battered women and their children in the 2005 federal budget. The Senate version was slightly more favorable to nearly all the VAWA programs than the House proposal. The Senate appropriated \$593 million while the House's version was \$561.7 million. This is unfortunately less than what had been anticipated to meet the increasing needs of victims of violence perpetrated against women and its negative impact on their children.

Looking at specific programs indicates that in the

JEFFREY S. PRICE



services for women and children living in shelters, including counseling, legal assistance, case management, food and clothing. This program provides safety and protects the lives of women in shelters all across America.

The Senate bill additionally includes more funding

Federal Family Violence Prevention and Services Act, the Battered Women Shelter and Services, is currently funded at \$126.4 million, nearly \$50 million less than is authorized in the legislation. A modest increase in funding, to \$150 million, would provide life-saving services for battered women and new programs to help their children who witness domestic violence. This program provides

for the National Domestic Violence Hotline and the Rape Prevention and Education program than does the House of Representatives. The Senate bill funds the hotline at \$3.5 million and rape prevention at \$45.6 million.

The Ohio Domestic Violence Network is asking faith-based members to act now and contact their Congressman by calling the Capitol switchboard at 202.224.3121. You can also visit the ODVN website at www.odvn.org or the National Network to End Domestic Violence at www.nnedv.org for contact information.

From the Legislative Brief, Ohio Council of Churches

Jeffrey S. Price is director of public policy for the diocese. Contact him at 614.461.8429 or 800.461.8424 or jeffrey_price@episcopal-dso.org

Love song: A letter to St. Paul

From time to time I write what the Rev. Carroll Simcox called in his book, "letters to the overworld." The is one I wrote to St. Paul some years ago.

Dear Brother Paul:

You may remember that you wrote to the Christians in Rome that 'all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God,' and 'When we say "Abba, Father," it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are the children of God.' And so forth.

Paul, you wrote a lot of letters and we have copies of several of them, but we have none of the letters you got in return. Thinking about this, I decided to write and tell you something about our little congregation. We are called Episcopalians, and you can figure out from your Greek what that means. There are a lot of other Christians here, but we are the ones most likely to presume to write you a letter.

Our congregation is pretty small. On a good Sunday, we might get 30 of us together. There may be smaller churches around here. The smallest church I've heard of is far from here in a place called Rock River, Wyoming. There's a letter I came across, written years ago to a priest, and I thought you might be interested:

Dear Father,

I wanted you to know where Rock River is located—38 miles north of Laramie on Highway 30 toward Medicine Bow. Rock River has very few people, about 120 families. I am secretary, treasurer et al. All mail addressed to St. Mary of the Plains is put in my P.O. Box. Therefore, the "I." My sister and I are the only ones to attend church.

All of the Episcopalians have left Rock River or died. We are both in our 70s. (It occurs to me, Paul, that you may have met these sisters by now; if so, give them my regards). I will soon be 76, and she will be 74 in March. Neither of us has attended any other church but St. Mary's. We were not early members. We were both bap-

THE REV. BOB HORINE



itized in our late 20s. There was no regular vicar here.

We have a faithful woman lay reader who comes up on Sundays for our 9 a.m. service. (The bishop) has made it possible for a few lay readers to administer the Holy Eucharist, bringing the Blessed Sacrament from the cathedral in Laramie. Sometimes we were only able to have a communion service four or five times a year. We have been served almost entirely by lay people, and we have loved them all. We have also had many visiting priests. (She does not say whether they loved them all).

(Our lay reader) Ann insists that two of us are okay, and she loves us, and we love her.

What a great congregation!

The smallest possible congregation, Paul, two or three gathered in Christ's name. I'm thankful for that letter, reminding me that God is at work in places we might never hear of.

You may already know this—we don't know how much you people in the church triumphant are aware of us—but the church in Africa is growing about as spectacularly as the church grew in your time. The amazing thing is how the church keeps growing in places where there is unrest, persecution and war, people thrown out of family or tribe, even killed for their faith. You know how that goes.

I have a friend who visited the Sudan where a savage

civil war has been going on for years. A church he visited was just a big roofed area without walls. He asked how many people worship there on a Sunday. About 1,200 the priest said, inside, and 3,000 outside. How could the priest give communion to so many? We don't have communion, the priest said. We can't afford the bread and wine.

You and we have seen the worst that human beings can do to each other, and God's Spirit only makes God's people tougher, whether they're living under harsh governments or in a threatening religious climate. At the same time, we've seen the church dwindle in numbers of places where we should be packing the churches in thanksgiving for freedom from oppression.

But always there are some who keep the faith, in Beijing or Khartoum, in Teheran and Pretoria and Rock River. They keep the faith and from them, holy fire spreads again, touching first this one and then that one, then a whole people, crying, 'Abba, Father!' and living toward fulfilling the purpose you set out in a letter to the Ephesians, that in the fullness of time, all things, in heaven and earth, will be united in Christ.

Luke—you remember him—wrote that 3,000 were converted in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost. That was a lot of Christians. And so are two in Rock River. Wherever there are two are three, that's a lot.

You people really started something. We appreciate it.

Your brother,
Robert

The Rev. Bob Horine is a retired priest in the Diocese of Lexington and a former senior editor of Forward Movement Publications.

LAY THEOLOGIAN

Approaching Scripture

On Sundays when I was growing up, we had "Sword Drills." These were quick-draw, Bible-verse-finding contests. Waiting for our teacher to name a verse, we kids stood poised in a row in our church classroom, holding Bible spines in our left palms, with our right-hand thumbs in the middle of the closed pages where we knew lay the Psalms and Proverbs. When a verse was named, we quickly estimated, parted the pages and flipped frantically until the fastest child found and read the verse. A sweet victory.

I knew as a child that the Bible was the truth, but I didn't necessarily know everything it said. For instance, I didn't know about the pagan medium at Endor who called up the ghost of the dead prophet, Samuel, at the request of King Saul, who learned he was about to lose his life as well as his kingdom (I Samuel 28). And I didn't realize that four of the 12 patriarchs of the 12 tribes of Israel had been born to Jacob by concubines, maids of Jacob's two wives (Genesis 29-30). If I had, I'm sure I wouldn't have known what to make of these curious facts. I had a very different approach to Scripture then.

But in my second year at a Methodist college in Arkansas, I took a year-long course called "Biblical Literature and Thought," BLT for short. Dr. Christie had taught this course forever, to hundreds. Small-town kids from little fundamentalist churches all over Arkansas, and Methodist PKs (you know, preacher's kids) of all stripes, and dozens of future Methodist ministers learned an approach to God's word that was new to me.

First of all, there was the very idea that the parts of Holy Scripture could be approached as falling into

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secular categories such as literature or philosophy. It took me awhile to realize that this meant not a demotion of Scripture but an elevation of those categories. Christie also taught us that the texts within Scripture were written by authors located in time and not omniscient, and that — inspired by God though they were — their references and meanings were sometimes influenced by recent events or ongoing struggles of which readers today may know very little. And so he taught us the value of biblical scholarship as not foreign to, but part of, Bible study.

Today Episcopalians and Anglicans worldwide are embroiled in a momentous struggle over the interpretation and authority of Scripture on homosexuality. We are not "literalists" or "inerrantists," as some were where I grew up, and we do not think that modern biblical scholarship is all godless humanist propaganda. Yet we are not "Congregationalists," let alone "individualists," about Scripture either. God speaks to us through Scripture differently, and at different times, but Scripture does not mean just whatever we fancy it means, without reference to the relevant scholarship and the pertinent history of interpretations in the Church.

When the "Outline of the Faith" or "Catechism" addresses biblical interpretation, it states, "We understand the meaning of the Bible by the help of the

Holy Spirit, who guides the Church in the true interpretation of the Scriptures" (Book of Common Prayer, p. 853f). When we disagree about the interpretation of Scripture on important points, we are not free simply to go each our own way. We have to seek common understanding within the larger Church.

I still don't quite know what to make of Jacob's concubines or the medium at Endor. But my approach to Scripture has definitely changed. Scripture is far more interesting to me now. I have learned to look actively for surprises, like the reference to the race of half-divine giants called Nephilim (Genesis 6.1-4 and Numbers 13.30-33), the peculiar brand of wisdom in the book of Ecclesiastes, and the outrageous ethical teachings of Jesus in Matthew 5-7.

I now imagine a Sword Drill of a different sort, more difficult and intriguing. On your mark: Find five places in the Psalms where the psalmists seem to assume the existence of many gods. Or find four famous women who, though initially unable to have children, gave birth to important patriarchs or prophets. Or find the Old Testament model for Mary's exclamation (which Luke followed closely in the Magnificat) on learning that she had been chosen to bear the Messiah. Or find at least one intense conflict between people of faith which, through openness to the Holy Spirit, did not result in the destruction of communion.

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Educating ourselves to become strong disciples

Or: What I learned from the Seventh Day Baptists

In his address to our recent Diocesan Convention, Bishop Herbert Thompson reiterated the four strategic choices our diocese has embraced. He reminded us of that one of these choices calls us to educate Episcopalians to understand the Christian faith so that we may become strong disciples, equipped to exercise ministries of social justice and reconciliation. Bishop Thompson stated, "A well-educated and equipped laity is essential for the growth of our congregations and the spread of the Gospel."

In my last parish, we had an active adult class that met between the 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services. Although I jealously retained leadership of this class, the teaching duties were shared among me and many talented adult lay people. Although some participants were parents of the children whose classes met simultaneously, the class was also a meeting ground for folks from the early service and the late one. At times, the class was as small as a dozen people; at other times, it swelled to 50 or more. Often two or three other adult classes were offered as well. When the bishop came for his annual visit, he was always invited to participate.

On the Sunday after Thanksgiving, Mariann and I were in West Virginia visiting my sister. She lives only a few miles from the parents of our son-in-law. On Saturday, we were invited to join Erik's family at their church, the Salem Seventh Day Baptist Church. We rose early and met them for the 10 a.m. service. Although we were strangers, the minute we entered the

THE RT. REV.
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PRICE JR.



church, we were warmly welcomed by ushers and young people who escorted (not pointed) us to the guest book and then to a pew. The Seventh Day Baptists do not have our custom of quiet before the service, and so person after person came to shake our hands and welcome us. Not until Erik, K.B., Sage and all of Erik's sisters and their families arrived were we identified as "part of the Van Horn clan." The greetings had been genuine, not generated out of "who we were or who we knew."

The service was lively, the sermon thoughtful and challenging (stressing unity in true Herbert Thompson style), the music was of high quality with familiar hymns, and there was even an excellently executed puppet presentation by one of the Sabbath school classes. The bulletin was so well designed that Mariann and I, even though strangers to Seventh Day worship, were never lost.

When the service was over, I was approached by one of the laymen in the church who invited me to attend one of the three adult classes that met after worship. The class he was co-leading was discussing John Spong's book, *A New Christianity for a New World*. Erik's father was a member of that

class so I went with him. Participants overflowed the library where we met. They were all open-minded, intelligent and thoughtful men and women who had not only read the assigned chapter but also had much to contribute. Opinions were as broad as all of humanity. Some agreed with Bishop Spong; others did not. But all opinions (including mine) were respected, accepted and incorporated into the discussion. The pastor joined the discussion midway through the class and had helpful comments but did not dominate or stifle others from speaking.

On the way to the Van Horn's for lunch, Erik's dad told me that one of the other classes was much more conservative in its outlook, but that the church reflected all points of view and the congregation was accepting of one another in spite of theological differences. As I reflected on his comments and my Sabbath experience, I realized that here in small-town Salem, W. Va., I had found a congregation that was a living example of our third strategic choice. It epitomized our bishop's recent challenge to us, and it was not even Episcopalian. Driving back to Columbus, Mariann and I both said that if we had been novice seekers visiting the Salem Seventh Day Baptist Church that Sunday, we would definitely return again next week.

As we enter the new year of 2005, I challenge the congregations of the Diocese of Southern Ohio to be the kind of congregation that I found on that November Saturday in central West Virginia. In addition to being a welcoming, lively, inviting, worship

community, also be, as our bishop challenges, a congregation that takes seriously its role in educating people to be disciples of Christ. At convention, we passed a resolution that clergy offer at least one course designed to do that, and that members attend that course. I hope our clergy and laity will take that resolution seriously -- and not stop at only one course.

When I first came to Southern Ohio, as my assistant, Jane, called to outline my visitation, I asked her to inquire if there was an adult class between the Sunday services so I could attend. My parish experience had been so rich in that area that I wanted to taste that part of each congregation's life as well. Sadly, I found those opportunities were the exception, not the rule. Now, given the challenge of our bishop at convention, I am going to renew that request in 2005. I don't need to lead the class (although I will speak if asked), but rather I would simply like to participate as I did among the Seventh Day Baptists. That experience is, I believe, every bit as valuable as the "formal" services that may precede or follow it. It allows me to share some quality time with our laity and hopefully have a chance to be fed and nurtured as well.

Let us plunge eagerly into the New Year poised to grow in our discipleship to the Savior whom we have just welcomed into our hearts anew in the Feast of the Nativity.

Bishop Price serves as bishop suffragan of the diocese. Contact him at 614.461.8429 or 800.461.8424 or bishop_price@episcopal-dso.org.

REACHING OUT TO SEEKERS

Priest emphasizes the "C" in YMCA

BY JOHN MONTGOMERY
INTERCHANGE CONTRIBUTOR

Everybody knows the song, the arm movements and the reputation of YMCA as a great place for recreation and fitness.

The Rev. Dan Layden, rector at St. Paul's Greenville, is working to help people remember that the "C" stands for Christian.

At the invitation of the Darke County Family YMCA, Layden is teaching two classes about the faith. "Christianity 101" is an introductory course to those seeking to know more about the basics of the faith and for those who may want to take another look at the faith. "Home Sweet Church" is designed to help provide seekers with tools to find a new church home in the area.

The initiative is designed to provide guidance for those searching for faith



The Rev. Dan Layden, rector of St. Paul's, Greenville, teaches a class about Christianity at the local YMCA.

in an increasingly secular world where reliable information is too often hard to find. The Darke County YMCA invited Layden to become a part of its efforts to emphasize the "Christian" in the YMCA formula for success.

"It is very difficult to reach out to those who will not come through the doors of our churches but still wish to learn more," Layden said. "We have been exploring ways and places where seekers of the faith, those look-

ing for new church homes, or those who just want to refresh their Christian faith views in a non-threatening way, can do so. The 'Y' is neutral turf where many people feel comfortable here in Darke County."

A REFLECTION

'I've been thinking'

THE REV. DCN. ALICE CONNOR
INTERCHANGE CONTRIBUTOR

So I've been thinking about youth and young adult ministry. I've been thinking about how I wanted to do stuff as a teenager but didn't want to ask for fear of being laughed at. I've been thinking about how frustrated I was when I was in high school and every speaker we had at every event said in slow and inspiring tones, "You...are the future." I've been thinking that's a cop-out, a cheap replacement for transformation. I've been thinking about the differences in how we treat teenagers now (as slightly older children) versus how we've treated them for the last few hundred years (as marginally younger adults). I've been thinking that maybe we protect kids and teenagers from sex, drugs, violence and even the mention of them in the hope that they won't do the same things we did. I've been thinking about how we all make mistakes, about how sometimes those mistakes are dangerous or painful, about how much we can mature by making them, and about how our mistakes can't destroy the church of Jesus. I've been thinking about how anxious we get and about how much control we really have.



The Rev. Dcn. Alice Connor administers the chalice at her ordination as a transitional deacon. Photo by Mike Simons.

I've been thinking about prayer and about what we ask for. I've been thinking about our well-intentioned desire to take away one another's pain, about how uninteresting and naive and un-complex we would be without it. I've been thinking about how painful my teenage years were and

about how I could not possibly be the person I am without that pain of zits, awkwardness and rejection.

I've been thinking about Creation, about God's having said that indeed, it is very good. I've been thinking about having been created in the image of

God, about God's having become flesh and having pitched his tent with us on this earth. I've been thinking about how as God's creatures in God's image we are constantly creating, constantly moving on to different things, constantly aware of the incarnated presence of God in everything we do. I've been thinking about how we cannot grow into the people God wants us to be without very hard work, without pain, without one another.

I've been thinking about how much our teenagers have to share with us, how much they have to remind us about ourselves, how much we can pray for them, how much they can pray for us. And how much we cannot protect them or take away their pain. I've been thinking about how much God wants to take away our pain and how much God wants us to turn to him. I've been thinking about how we are all children in God's eyes and about how we are all ministers to one another in this beautiful and broken creation.

The Rev. Dcn. Alice Connor is a third-year seminarian at Bexley Hall Seminary and a youth minister at Church of the Redeemer, Hyde Park.

Group plans youth ministry trip to Russia

BY CHRIS SAUNDERS
INTERCHANGE CONTRIBUTOR

Southern Ohio Episcopal teens are invited to travel to Russia this summer on the fourth Youth Ministry Trip sponsored by the Miami Valley Episcopal Russian Network (MVERN). From June 14 to July 1, 2005, Ohio young people will meet Russian youth, renew friendships with Russian friends who have visited the Miami Valley, and learn about their culture, faith and daily life.

After three days of sightseeing in St. Petersburg and the ancient city of Novgorod, the young people will travel to the Tosno region, where they will participate for 12 days in an immersion program with English-speaking Russian teenagers from MVERN's partner church and the Tosno School System. In addition to sightseeing, sports, computer games, music, art and other projects, they will be an example of American youth ministry during four service days in the village of Sablino, site of St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church, MVERN's partner parish. An overnight in Prague is scheduled during the return to the USA.

Any youth who went to Russia dur-



Southern Ohio Episcopal teenagers enjoyed an overnight stop in Prague on the way home from MVERN's 2003 youth exchange.

ing MVERN's three previous exchanges can testify that this is a moving and inspirational trip, a time when they discovered that who they are is more important than what they have. The 2005 exchange will offer the same opportunities to bring Russian and

American young people together on a deep level of Christian love, faith and communication. The group will be led by the Rev. Paul St. Germain, the Rev. David Halt and a carefully selected group of adult chaperones. The trip will be limited to 20 youth.

To learn more about this trip, teens and their parents are invited to attend a "Russian Quest Fest," on Monday, Jan. 31, 6:30 p.m., at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, Montgomery, and Sunday, Feb. 6, 6:30 p.m., at St. George's Episcopal Church, Kettering. Watch a multi-media presentation of past trips while enjoying pizza and soda. Former travelers and chaperones will be available to describe their experiences and answer questions.

The cost of the trip is estimated at \$2,499, with the possibility of further reduction from the diocese and MVERN. As interest is running very high, church communities and youth groups are encouraged to begin looking ahead to fund-raisers. Brochures with complete information will be available in early January, and applications must be received by Feb. 28.

For further information and to make reservations for the Russian Quest Fests, call the Rev. David Halt at 513.825.0211, the Rev. Paul St. Germain, 937.434.1781, or Teresa Lynne, 937.271.3917. To see a PowerPoint presentation about MVERN, go to the diocese's website, www.episcopal-dso.org, under Ministry Resources, then MVERN.