Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Herbert.
Herbert Thompson: a man of love

Whenever someone we love dies, there is a sense of loss. When someone as universally loved as Bishop Herbert Thompson dies, the grief is far reaching.

Death came unexpectedly. When phone calls began to be made after hearing the news, the common reaction was disbelief. Bishop Herb had just stopped by Diocesan House the day before leaving for Italy. He never looked better. He was so looking forward to his stint as visiting bishop at the church in Florence. He also shared excitedly the huge number of speaking engagements that had come his way since retirement. And yet, as busy as his life was, he agreed to assist with some Sunday visitations for us.

A year ago, he was apprehensive about retirement. That day, he was reveling in it.

And so it was a happy bishop whom God called home in the midst of doing what he loved best—traveling, ministering to people, and as always, spreading his unending message of love to all whom he met.

Herb Thompson never sought fame, but he loved a party. He would have been humbled that all three of our metropolitan papers ran major stories about him the day after he died. But he would have loved seeing the Cathedral filled, hearing the great music, and seeing friends from all over and the host of bishops, including his predecessor Bishop Bill Black. Bishop Thompson loved liturgical events, and so the diocesan and Cathedral staffs worked hard to make this one befitting his keen sense of worship. His friend Jim Hanisian did him proud. Jim is a great preacher, but at Herb's funeral, his words came out of his deep and abiding friendship. It was also most appropriate that the Presiding Bishop about the service, he said there was no question that he would be here to preside at the service, he said there was no question that he would be here to preside at the AIDS service, which took place during the 1997 General Convention. I had just been elected Presiding Bishop, and Bishop Thompson had been one of the most moving moments in my life as a bishop occurred at the AIDS service, which took place during the 1997 General Convention. I had just been elected Presiding Bishop, and Bishop Thompson had been one of the most moving moments in my life as a bishop occurred at the AIDS service, which took place during the 1997 General Convention. I had just been elected Presiding Bishop, and Bishop Thompson had been one of the nominees. All of us had been asked prior to the election to participate in the service. At one point during the liturgy, we were each given a bowl of oil with which to anoint members of the congregation. At the conclusion of the anointing, Bishop Thompson came up the aisle, still holding his bowl of oil, to where I was standing. In his wonderfully resonant voice, he quietly asked me to anoint him. Deeply moved, I did so, and then asked him to anoint me in return.

As much as we will all miss our bishop, I know that we will continue to be supported by his prayers. If Herb Thompson was anything he was a man of prayer. Most of you know that every March, all the bishops go away for an eight-day retreat. Normally, each bishop has a private room for this gathering. I joined that group for the first time 12 years ago. Herb decided that in order for us to “bond” that we should share a room. Now I thought that would not be a problem since we had already discovered we were both night owls (often calling one another after 11 p.m.), and we both enjoyed the same liquid refreshment. What I did not count on was that each evening (or should I say early morning), before going to bed, Herb would drop to his knees and pray, sometimes for 45 minutes. When he agreed to pray for you, he meant it! We never roomed together again, but to this day, I look at my responsibility to pray quite differently.

Bishop Thompson prayed so hard because he believed God heard those prayers. And in turn, he received direction from God. He believed God worked through him to reach out to an often hurting world. This Interchange is full of comments from people whose lives were touched by their beloved bishop reaching out to them. But Herb Thompson would be the first to say it was not Herb the man, but Jesus working through him, who actually touched those people. The true measure of one’s greatness is how well that person reflects the love of God. Herb radiated that love.

Although our bishop loved his native New York, his ashes will rest here with us in Southern Ohio, for the people of this diocese truly became his family. We will miss his physical presence among us, but we are richer, stronger and more spiritual because he came among us.

In the midst of grief, life goes on. The fall calendar is already full, and in November we will go to Portsmouth for Convention and the election of our IX Bishop. I am not worried about our future, for I know that we have a strong foundation on which to build. All eight of our previous bishops have left an indelible mark. None of us was ready for Herb Thompson’s markings to end but we now thank God for the victory that he has won. Jesus has promised that at the Great Resurrection, we will be reunited. And when that day comes, there will be great rejoicing. But we need not wait to rejoice. God is good. Out of his love for us, He sent us his Son to bring us that love. Centuries later, Herb Thompson came along and manifested that love. The love that he spilled out to us has made us stronger. If we are to learn anything from Bishop Thompson, then it is how important it is to never cease to love one another as Jesus loves us.

We have been mightily loved. May we never fail to radiate that love in our lives.

Bishop, Southern Ohio

The Rt. Rev. Herbert Thompson Jr. was a colleague to many of us in the larger Church. He was able to bridge differences in understanding, walk with others across those bridges and stay with us as we charted new paths of collegiality and friendship. To say that his presence will be missed is quite inadequate. I pray for Bishop Thompson’s eternal rest and for comfort of his family and friends. It is of some comfort to know that this wonderful man and true servant of God is feasting at the table of the One he so willingly and faithfully served.

Bonnie Anderson, president, The House of Deputies

Please enjoy this special tribute section. Pages 9-20 contain other news from the diocese. They can be pulled out and read separately from this tribute issue for Bishop Thompson. Cover photo by Larry Davis.
**TRIBUTE**

**We realized one evening when we were talking to each other in Cincinnati that we both grew up in Brooklyn, were on the same teams, went to the same high school and shared some of the same teachers. From that point on, we became very much interested in each others’ lives. We shared a lot of the same interests and passions, such as racial and interfaith issues. When I lived in Cincinnati, we spent social time together as well. When I left Cincinnati, Bishop Thompson made a very generous gesture and established in my honor a scholarship at the Hebrew Union College’s graduate school.**

**I remember Russ and Herb together – they were a great couple. They loved each other, and they were devoted to each other. She helped him with the social graces. I mean, after all, we were Brooklyn boys. We had to learn how to eat with the right fork and knife.**

**His contribution to Cincinnati has to do with his innate sanity and his knowledge of what was the possible, of what could be done here. We had the racial tumult, which required sane, considerate and careful judgment, and Herb brought that to the table. He was respected by all sides.**

**Sometimes when we went out to dinner, quietly, he took his collar off, and I took my tie off, and we would sit and talk like people, exchanging ideas and laughing. He was a friend and colleague, someone who added a special elegance and conviction to solid values to the community. He will be sorely missed. I think we got most of our talking on this earth done. Now I’m looking forward to the next conversation in the next world.**

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**TRIBUTE**

**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
The Rt. Rev. Frank T. Griswold III
Presiding Bishop

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

Interchange
The official publication of the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio
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**A final blessing**

**BY THE HONORABLE NATHANIEL R. JONES**
Judge, United States Court of Appeals, 6th Circuit (Ret.)

On short notice, under the shock of sudden death, it is not always possible to recollect all of the significant aspects of the life of a person to whom one has grown as close as a brother. Yet, the news of the death of my dear friend, Bishop Herbert Thompson while in Italy, moves me to try. Our friendship commenced as he arrived in Cincinnati as bishop of the Episcopal Diocese. Over time, he and I exchanged perspectives on a wide range of issues. In the process we came to note the striking similarity of events that proved to be turning points in our lives.

It was only days before he departed on his foreign travels, as we were leaving a Saturday night meeting of our beloved fraternity, that he asked me to join him at his automobile. He said he had something he wished to give to me. It was an 80th birthday gift that bore the inscription:

**Note: Four Score and Many More Herb**

Naturally, I was deeply touched at his thoughtfulness. On reflection, however, I was not surprised because that was so typical of the man. Those words that he inscribed on that gift shall forever be regarded by me as his final blessing upon me. There was never a time that Bishop Thompson and I ever concluded a conversation that he would not offer a blessing to me, my family and my work. A religious leader of deep conviction, he helped me, by his example, to better understand the answer to the question posed in the gospel according to the tenth chapter of St. Luke: “And who is my neighbor?” His life and ministry provide the answer.

It is not fair for me on this occasion to dwell on the personal for Bishop Thompson was a spiritual leader and pastor to countless numbers of persons in this community. Each of us can recount an occasion and an experience with this remarkably spiritual man that was indelible. His calm manner in approaching the contentious issues of race that were searing this community was in sharp contrast to those who engaged in the shrill and the crude. His appeal was to “the better angels of our nature,” with the result that we all found ourselves embracing values once thought beyond reach. In the words of the old gospel song, the good that he did speaks for him.

We are poorer for Bishop Thompson’s going from us, yet richer for his having been among us. While I will miss my friend and brother, the thoughtfulness of his final blessing inscribed on my birthday gift will remain with me forever.

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**Source: University of Cincinnati**

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**The Rev. Rebecca J. Tollefson**
Executive Director, Ohio Council of Churches

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**Rabbi Alfred Gottschalk**
Chancellor emeritus, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion

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**The Most Rev. Daniel E. Pilarczyk**
Archbishop of Cincinnati

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**The Most Rev. Daniel E. Pilarczyk**
Archbishop of Cincinnati

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**The Rev. Rebecca J. Tollefson**
Executive Director, Ohio Council of Churches
memories

In e-mails, letters, cards and phone calls, you shared your memories of Bishop Thompson. A website established to celebrate the life of Bishop Thompson received more than 2,000 visitors from all over the world in the two weeks after his death. Here are a few of the memories that you shared. Read more online at http://bishopthompsontribute.blogspot.com

I last saw Bishop Thompson at General Convention in Columbus, as always coming in a little bit late for the Eucharist, dressed in shorts, knit shirt and a sweater over his shoulders. Not very "Bishopy" looking, but he was oh so happy in the new role in his life. "Retirement is great!" he said with a big smile. It was always a joy to see this man who had a profound effect in my life, both personally and in my career in the Altar Guild. When I was nominated to be president of the National Altar Guild Association, he invited me to lunch – a three-hour affair during which we mostly prayed, talked about the church and the opportunity that was before me. At the end he said to me: "Hobey, I will do anything I can to help you do what it is you are being called to do. Remember, if it is God's will, whatever you do will be good." Bishop Thompson was always there for me, and he helped me in every way that he could. There are so many memories, but my most cherished one was when I had a NAGA Board meeting at the newly completed Procter Camp & Conference Center. He and Russ and Tony (their Golden Retriever) came up to spend an evening with us. As we were about to sing the Doxology before dinner, I asked Russ to start us off. "Oh no," she said. "Ask Herb. He has a good pitch!" After dinner, he met with us all and asked everyone the same three questions: What is your job on the NAGA board and how is it going? What is going on in your parish and how are you involved? How did you become an Episcopalian? Everyone had a turn to respond, and he told us that he always prayed for all altar guilds on Saturday night. He then prayed with us, mentioning each person by name and the job that they were doing for NAGA. What a gift! Sharing that prayerful experience with Herb inspired us all to excel in our Altar Guild ministry, and drew us, as a board, closer to our Lord and Savior. I will always miss him.

Hobey Hinchman

My son, Noah, walked into the room and saw me crying. He asked if I had a cold and I replied no. I told him a friend of mine had died. I asked him did he remember him, he said, yes. He then said, "God was ready for him to be a priest in heaven now, so don't cry." Amen, Amen.

Anonymous

Bishop Thompson was my bishop, my boss and my friend. He was everyone's friend. He baptized my granddaughter during one of our weekly staff Eucharists, and he made possible an unforgettable event in my life – a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, for which I forever thank him. He came to the hospital to be with me after my husband died. When he asked, "How are you?" it was not polite conversation, he was sincere in wanting to know. It was my privilege to know him. His wonderful sense of humor, his grace and his deep spirituality will be missed. Heaven is richer for having both him and Russ there.

Pat Haug
Secretary to theCanon for Ministry
Christ Church Cathedral

Just over a decade ago, Bishop Thompson ordained me to the priesthood. I will never forget a moment we had after I had returned from time on mission in South Dakota: "You are close to the kingdom of God," he said, "Hold on to that feeling." I was fortunate enough to run in to him at General Convention this past summer...and found out that he had kept up on my ministry over the years. That moment reminded me of the affection he felt for all those whom he empowered in ministry, lay and ordained. The Church militant has lost a great friend and pastor. The Church triumphant has gained a great colleague. I am sure he is dancing with his beloved, and is warmly welcomed to a kingdom beyond this life that is our common inheritance.

Marshall+

With the death of Bishop Thompson, many have lost a mentor, a counselor, a strong leader and a true friend. With the death of Bishop Thompson, I have lost my spiritual father. Shortly after coming to the diocese in 1990, I confirmed me as a young boy. Twelve years later in 2002, he ordained me as a young man. He was there to baptize my daughter Emma. Throughout my relationship with him, he guided me, helped to strengthen my faith and gave me the courage and trust that I needed to make a difference. While I am deeply grieved at our loss, at my loss, once again our dear bishop has blessed me with a gift. He has blessed me with the gift of an increased gratitude for life and a deepened faith in the resurrection. Over the course of my life, I will never forget God's blessing to us all through the life and witness of Herbert Thompson.

The Rev. Ken Hitch
Rector, All Saints, Pleasant Ridge

I was serving as interim rector of the then-new church plant of St. Patrick's, Dublin. He visited us shortly after his consecration and was most gracious. After calling a permanent rector, I was off to three other interims until finally being called as rector in Washington, D.C. I was shocked to receive a phone call from Herb congratulating me and wishing me well after my call since I had never been called by a bishop in my time as a priest. Still haven't. He was unique in caring and communicating. I was sorry that he was not elected our Presiding Bishop. His faith and constancy were visible.

The Rev. Guy Fouts

Bishop Thompson took the diocesan staff on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land.
“The Church militant has lost a great friend and pastor. The Church triumphant has gained a great colleague."

As I reflect back on my interactions with Bishop Thompson, I am reminded of his first visit to the (homeless) shelter. He gave me his undivided attention and was genuinely concerned with every aspect of our facility and the services we provided. He expressed to me that this is what it is all about: giving aid and showing the love of God to those who are broken and hurting. He conveyed to me that he never wanted us to do without, so he instructed me to contact him if we had a need. The abundant assistance he provided made such a difference, his generosity certainly better enabled us to serve the community. Whenever I thanked him, he said, “It is who should be thanking you for allowing us (the Diocese of Southern Ohio) to extend the arm of the Lord to the suffering.” He reminded me that the church’s mission is encompassing and supporting projects that extend the ministry of the church beyond the day-to-day operations and into the community to provide for the restoration of physical, mental and spiritual wellbeing of those in dire need. He often encouraged me and reminded me that when we give to the poor, we lend to the Lord. Additionally, he was concerned about me as a person. He asked to meet my children, and he actually took time to sit down with them. He was interested in their lives and wanted to hear details about their goals and ambitions. He really cared.

Maureen Cadogan
Director, Scioto County Operation Safety Net and Homeless Shelter

I was just confirmed by Bishop Thompson last November. I have to say that I was very shaky and ambivalent about my faith for so many years of my life and had come to the point of confirmation through the gentle guidance of a rector who, with great patience, accepted my questions and ambivalence gladly. But on the day of confirmation, when Bishop Thompson laid his hands on me, I felt a powerful and wonder presence, both gentle and guiding, and full of love, and my ambivalence washed away.

Anonymous

I remember when we held the groundbreaking for the Procter Camp & Conference Center renovations. We walked around point-to-point on the grounds. It was a glorious day, beautiful, warm. I felt blessed to be in the company of each of the people participating in that day. Who would have known that on Aug. 26, 2000, my husband Jeffrey Hart Curry and I would be the first marriage in Procter Chapel at Procter. Bishop and Mrs. Thompson were on their way home from vacation and came to our reception. As I hugged Bishop and Mrs. Thompson, I said, “Bishop, thank you for building me a chapel to get married in.” We all laughed and gave thanks to God and the Diocese of Southern Ohio for such a marvelous facility.

Jane Dupke Curry
Assistant to Bishop Price

One of my treasured memories of Bishop Herb Thompson will be the time he was the chaplain of The House of Deputies and his noontime letters from Paul to The Church Gathered in Convention. It was something I truly looked forward to and treasured every day. Now he walks with the angels and are they ever going to enjoy him.

Harold H. Brown “Brownie”
Lay deputy, Maine
A man of faith, a spiritual father

Bishop Thompson was a spiritual father to me. My first memory of Bishop Thompson was at the 1988 General Convention in Detroit. He had recently been elected our bishop, and I was there with a few other youth from our diocese to help as pages. At first I thought it was going to be hard to find and talk to the new, all important bishop. Surely he would be too busy to talk to some youth. We obviously did not know this bishop yet. When we did talk to him, he took a genuine interest in who we were and what we were doing. He made sure that we attended a dinner for all those representing the Diocese of Southern Ohio. From then on, I knew our bishop cared about young people.

A few summers later, I was a camp counselor at the newly revived diocesan camping program. As counselors, we wondered how we would see our bishop, and sure enough, he came. I will never forget Bishop Thompson sitting in the middle of Hobson Hall talking to all of us. He talked about how camp had changed his life. He too was a camp counselor in his younger years at a different church camp. I watched with amazement as this dignified man of God sang, "Dem bones are going to rise again," which was a song from his camp that meant so much to him. He did not talk down to us; he shared his life, faith and love of God.

Fast forward to the spring of 2000. My wife and I were getting married at St. Mark's in Upper Arlington. Bishop Thompson had agreed to celebrate the Eucharist. I was honored. Before the service, I stood outside having pictures taken. He came out in cope, mitre and in all of his bishop's glory. I was in seminary at the time, so for me, the shorter the conversation the better. He took one look at me and put the fear of God in my heart. He said, "Dan, we need to talk." I said, "We do?" I could not tell if he was serious or just having fun with me 20 minutes before my wedding. As we talked, he asked, "Is this the right thing to do?" I wondered, "Is he playing and trying to give me a heart attack or is he serious?" I said, "Yes!" Then he said something I will not soon forget. He said, "Marriage is one of the most important ministries you will ever enter. God can touch many lives through your marriage and through your family." Bishop Thompson loved his family and realized that God's love shines through such love as this.

A few years later, I was honored to be ordained to the priesthood by this man of God. As I reflect fondly about Bishop Thompson, I will always remember him as a man who loved his family, his church and God. The last conversation I had with him reinforced all these thoughts. I was helping out at General Convention this past June. It was the last day, with all the excitement, and I was charged with being public safety at the House of Bishops. As we held back the media, a few bishops came out of the closed session and made statements. I watched and wondered what guided each of these bishops. What made them tick? As for me, I wanted to say hi to Bishop Thompson, who I admired. I watched the escalator, eagerly waiting and waiting and waiting. All the bishops came down the escalator, but I did not see Bishop Thompson. Did he leave? Did I miss him? Finally I went up to see if he was still there. Sure enough he was. He was the last bishop in the hall, talking to another friend who had sought him out. I waited for my turn to talk with him. As I finally got a chance to say hi, we talked for a few moments. I wondered how he was and what he wanted to talk about. Did he talk about what had just happened? Did he seem distressed? Did he seem confused or worried? No. Instead he talked about his family, and his eyes lit up. He was so proud of all his children. He asked about my family and ministry. Where was God at work?

From General Convention 1988 to General Convention 2006 and at every time in between, I will always remember Bishop Thompson as a man who deeply valued family, church and God. Thank you for your witness Bishop Thompson. Thank you for focusing on the eternal things that really matter! By God’s grace, I look forward to our next encounter.

The Rev. Daniel K. Layden
Rector, St. Paul’s, Greenville

There was a man sent from God whose name was Herb. Herbert Thompson was a major part of my life for almost four decades. In the early days in Long Island, he helped me grow into my priesthood and continued as a supportive colleague and friend. A short while after I first came to Southern Ohio, I learned that one of the candidates for coadjutor was from Long Island. It took me one guess to figure out who that might be. From then until I left the diocese in 2000, we were inextricably joined in ministry. It was an incredible ride. As his canon to the ordinary, I came to know, respect and love him for all that he was and all that he called others to become. He was an agent of change in people, a catalyst for Christ led people to transformed lives. He did it through his ears as well as through his mouth. Most bishops speak pretty well—they do it all the time. This bishop listened even better than he spoke, and his quiet and full attention to people helped them hear a greater voice within themselves. It was hard and demanding work, but it became his life and his witness. In some ways it is ironic that, while people were often concerned about his health while he went through the strains and stresses of the episcopate, his death came during a time of ease and seeming refreshment in retirement. His whole life was one of intense feeling and commitment, however, and I don’t think he really ever made a distinction between “on” and “off” time. It may have been, paradoxically, his greatest gift and his own Achilles’ heel. Throughout his ministry and friendship, he reminded us over and over again about what a privilege it is to serve God and do the work that we have been called to do. He was never bashful about engaging himself and others in that ministry, for he had heard and known, most of all, the voice of Christ that called him to that service. Now we are called to celebrate and give thanks for everything he meant to so many people throughout the diocese, the Episcopal Church, the Anglican Communion, and, indeed, the whole world. I just hope the reign of heaven is ready for the electric slide!

The Rev. John Lawrence
Tribute

He first time I encountered Bishop Thompson, I was a delegate to the electing convention. Being a young delegate, I took myself very seriously. I read all the stuff before the nominee forums. He was so impressive that I remember thinking, “Gosh, he’s really impressive, and I liked what he had to say, but it’s a shame that he’s spent all of his time in New York. He probably doesn’t know what life in Southern Ohio is like.” So I didn’t vote for him. We joked about that later – that obviously I didn’t make good decisions when I was a young person.

At my ordination to the priesthood, there’s a moment in the service when the bishop and all the priests present lay their hands on your head. Then they all step back, and the bishop is supposed to hand you a Bible. The priests all stepped back, and the bishop helped me to my feet. He stood there, holding my hand and smiling at me. After a long (and awkward to me) silence, he whispered, “Just stand here for a minute. They forgot to put out the Bible, and they’re going to get one.” I remember thinking that his smile that lit up the room made everything seem OK and in control.

The times I worked with Bishop Thompson as a lay person I was director of youth ministries. I don’t think there was any group of people Bishop Thompson loved more than teenagers. I got to organize the youth presence at convention. We always made sure that we had some kind of wacky gift to give him. He was always so delighted to get to take a break in the middle of convention and interact with the kids. I love the picture of Bishop Thompson sitting at the head table with Groucho Marx glasses on. To me, while he loved the church with every fiber of his being, he didn’t take himself or the church that seriously. Those teenagers were more important to him than being proper during convention.

It was a surpise and an honor to be asked to join his staff as a canon. Bishop Thompson was a churchman to his fingertips, and he deeply believed in the power of the church to draw people to God. To be asked to join him in that work of building up the church was a huge honor. The image I’ll carry with me is at the service at St. Paul’s, Chillicothe, and the time leading up to that, how absolutely committed he was to the unity of the church. Nothing was more important than coming together to worship Jesus. I’ll always remember how pleased he was that the diocese responded to that and came together as the body of Christ.

The Rev. Canon Vicki Zust
Canon to the Ordinary

I am terribly saddened to hear of the death of Bishop Thompson. We were in Florence (on the Sunday before his death) and had the pleasure of being in worship with him at St. James. In his sermon, he spoke very touchingly of his children, in addition to speaking profoundly of the place of the Eucharist in the life of the church. He also celebrated with the dignity and presence that so characterized him as a priest and bishop. I give thanks for the opportunity to have known him and to have been blessed by his ministry.

We were in his diocese in the 1990s and one of our sons was confirmed by Bishop Thompson. We had a brief moment with him after the service in Florence recalling friends in the Diocese of Southern Ohio. He seemed very happy in this next stage of life and being in Florence for a brief time. I only wish it could have been longer for him. I’m sure I speak for many who were touched by his very big and generous heart.

May his soul and the souls of all the departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

The Rev. Tony Buquor
Rector, Trinity Church, Concord, Mass.

I had the honor to work with and for Bishop Thompson at diocesan house from 1997 until his retirement in 2005, and I was completely stunned when I got the call, as I’m sure everyone must be. I’m still in shock … my heart cannot process what my mind knows. I spoke to him just weeks ago as he called occasionally for an address or phone number. I know I am blessed to have had the opportunity to know him.

Geraldine (Geri) McDaniel
Secretary to the Canon to the Ordinary

From Amazing Grace to the electric slide, this man truly knew how to have fun! Anyone lucky enough to have done the latter with him at his retirement party knows how tough it was to keep up. Party on good and loved friend! Remember you promised to dance at my ordination.

Anonymous

“I hope to honor his memory always by being a good Christian.”
HERBERT THOMPSON JR. 1933-2006

Above, an honor guard from the United States Air Force pays tribute to Bishop Thompson, an Air Force veteran.

Left, more than 120 clergy lined a full block of Sycamore Street for the recession. The Rev. Canon Vicki Zust and the bishops led the casket down the street to the hearse.

Right, the Rev. Owen Thompson reads the Gospel during the burial service. Praise to you, Lord Christ.
Kreutzer, applied for grants from the UTO and our diocese's Episcopal Community Services Foundation to give books to children as an invitation to discover the joy of reading. And in 2003, the churches began hosting an annual back-to-school cookout to provide a cheerful and non-threatening way for parents to meet teachers.

At the cookout and open house the week before school reopened in August, the situation for Kemp School was radically changed. The turnout on this bright summer day included almost half the student body. "We planned for 200 people but we ran out!" laughed George Rogerson of Community Methodist. Volunteer chefs from the churches made an emergency run to the grocery store and cooked up heaps more hot dogs. The school was bustling with parents and children finding their classrooms and chatting with teachers in the school's temporary home at Grant School, where classes will be held while the old school is rebuilt. Kemp's Literacy Specialist Dr. Susan Brenner, decking her room with colorful books, reported that students were already clamoring to begin book club. "It is so fun to have kids stop

Calling the 9th Bishop: Process continues

BY RICHelle thompson
INTERCHANGE EDITOR

The Diocese of Southern Ohio moves into the next stage of electing its ninth bishop this fall, with nominee forums, deanery gatherings and the election scheduled for Nov. 11 during diocesan convention in Portsmouth.

The petition process concluded in mid-August with the addition of one new nominee, the Rt. Rev. Kenneth L. Price Jr., the suffragan bishop of Southern Ohio and currently the ecclesiastical authority in the diocese. Clergy and lay delegates will vote for one of seven nominees to serve as 9th Bishop of Southern Ohio.

Bishop Price's biography and answers to questions will be published in the next Interchange. All of the nominees' biographies and answers to questions are online at www.episcopal-dso.org.

As part of the discernment prior to the election, all of the nominees will travel to Southern Ohio for a series of question and answer forums. The Standing Committee, which oversees the election process, invites everyone in the diocese to submit questions that may be posed to the nominees during the forums.

The nominee forums, held at six different locations throughout the diocese from Oct. 24-28, offer delegates and others in the diocese an opportunity to meet the nominees and ask questions.

The Standing Committee has determined the following process for the forums:

■ All the nominees will be in the same room for the forums;
■ A moderator will ask questions to the nominees, one at a time. After a nominee answers a particular question, the other nominees may speak to that same question, but only if they choose to;
■ All nominees will be asked at least two questions;
■ After a break, all nominees will have five minutes each to speak as they choose.

The questions asked by moderators will be assembled from questions provided by the people of the diocese. Send questions to the co-chair of the Transition Committee, the Rev. Stephen Smith, 7121 Muirfield Dr., Dublin, OH 43017 or to revd.up@ameritech.net. Smith and Standing Committee members Lisa Hughes of St. Andrew's, Cincinnati, and the Rev. Charlotte Reed, rector, Christ Church, Springfield, will review the questions and assemble them for the forums. The goal will be to have moderators ask questions at each forum that fully represent the questions submitted by the diocese.

In addition, questions will be tailored for the locale of the forums. For example, questions about urban ministry may be asked at the forums in Columbus, Dayton and Cincinnati. Questions about relations with the clergy may be asked at the forum for clergy at the Procter Camp & Conference Center. Questions about rural and Appalachian ministries may be asked at the forum for clergy at the Procter Camp & Conference Center. Questions about relations with the clergy may be asked at the forum for clergy at the Procter Camp & Conference Center. Questions about relations with the clergy may be asked at the forum for clergy at the Procter Camp & Conference Center.

October 10 is the deadline to submit questions.

After the forums, follow-up gatherings are scheduled in each deanery so that delegates and others can discuss the nominees, as well as hold pre-convention hearings for the other business of convention.

The Rev. Stephen Smith contributed.
A Ministry of Servanthood

"You are to serve all people, particularly the poor, the weak, the sick, and the lonely." [The Ordination of a Deacon, BCP, p. 543]

BY SALLY SEDOWICK
INTERCHANGE CONTRIBUTOR

“I want to live right.” That statement shared by a cancer patient speaks volumes to Sherman “Sherm” Everett. How do you go about “doing it right”? A deacon, Everett’s ministry is as a chaplain at the Ohio State University Medical Center. Unlike the careers of most deacons, it is a full-time, paying clergy job. Assigned to the oncology unit, Everett ministers to patients, families and friends. He rotates with four colleagues as the chaplain on call for the entire center and supports the staff. Since this is a teaching hospital, students are part of his “cure” as well.

For Everett, a science major, this is the “third act of a three-act play.” In the first, Everett embraced the corporate world, moving from coast to coast and then to Ohio. Along the way, someone mentioned the priesthood to this lifelong Episcopalian, but with young children and a corporate ladder to climb, he continued world travel and business challenges. After completing a Masters of Business Administration degree from Ohio State, the second act began when he opened his own management consultant business. Then the diaconate beckoned, again at someone’s suggestion, and he began dreaming of serving the homeless and dispossessed.

While in deacon training, two things happened. First, he and his wife Joan agreed that after his ordination, they would close the consultant business. Then during his required CPE (Clinical Pastoral Education), Everett discovered he loved chaplaincy. In fact, he took three extra units. This led to a job with the hospice program at Columbus’ Children’s Hospital. It was heart-rending work and despite an understanding of self-care, the job began affecting his health. After recovering, he joined the staff of the Medical Center.

Everett is sustained by Benedictine spirituality and is an oblate of the Abbey of St. Gregory, a community within the Episcopal Church. Everett knows every encounter requires an open mind. “When you go [in] it takes a clean sheet of paper.” But he receives as he gives. “I want to live right.” Everett hopes to continue that conversation.

The Everetts attend Trinity Church in Columbus where he preaches five to six times a year. They have two sons, Sherm Jr. and Gregg, and five grandchildren.

With help, students ready for school

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

me to ask, ‘Are we going to be reading again this year?”

Meanwhile, tutors were greeting and reconnecting with students they have mentored in regular weekly one-on-one sessions for the past three years. John and Ruby Webster of St. Mark’s are among them. “I was a music teacher and missed being with little children,” Ruby explained with a smile. “Tutoring is especially rewarding because of the great impact on children of having someone to listen to them individually.”

The Websters signed up primarily to tutor in reading but have ended up doing a great deal of math coaching because the children need it desperately.

“I’ve worked with the same child all three years and am excited about continuing with him this year,” said Deb Rogerson of Community Methodist. “I began this very grateful for how much influence good teachers had on me. The one-on-one dynamic is particularly rewarding.”

“The Dayton Public Schools just released a wonderful announcement,” Kreutzer reported. “The district has risen for sure out of Academic Emergency to Academic Watch, and may in fact have jumped two levels in state rankings, to Continuous Improvement.” St. Mark’s parishioners tutored 16 students last year, all of them at risk of failing before they start reading it.

A grant of $1,000 from ECSF to St. Mark’s enabled the school to give books to 160 students in 2005-06. “When I get a reading group together, and tell them, ‘write your name in the book – this belongs to you,’ they can’t believe it,” says Kemp’s Literacy Specialist Dr. Susan Brenner. “It gives them a personal connection with the book even before they start reading it.”
Standing Committee reports
The Standing Committee met July 10 at the diocesan office in Cincinnati to receive the names selected by the Nominating Committee as nominees for election as the 9th Bishop of Southern Ohio. Following the presentation of the nominees, Bishop Price celebrated the Eucharist, during which the Nominating Committee was thanked for their 2½ years of work on behalf of the diocese. In other business, the Standing Committee assigned a “shepherd” to each of the five nominees and reviewed plans for the Nominee Forums October 23-28. We also received an update on the “Thompson Campership” campaign to honor the ministry of Bishop Herbert and Russelle Thompson. The Standing Committee also concurred with Bishop Price’s decision to lift the suspension on the Rev. David Ruppe. Consent was given by the Standing Committee and by Bishop Price for the sale of St. Philip’s property in Northside after Jon Boss makes a final review of the information from St. Philip’s Mission. The Standing Committee met again on Aug. 17 at Christ Church, Glendale.

Congratulations
Michael E. Maloney, the diocese’s Appalachian consultant, was awarded the Bob Evans Humanitarian Award at Sinclair College in Dayton in May. He was honored for a lifetime of great achievements in community organizing on behalf of both urban and rural Appalachians. Ariel Miller, executive director of the Episcopal Community Services Foundation, was chosen to be part of the new Leadership Cincinnati class. She was nominated by ECSF trustee Francie Morrison, a Leadership Cincinnati alum and the editor of the Cincinnati Area Foundation Directory, with a letter of support from Mike Maloney.

Richelle Thompson, communications director for the Diocese of Southern Ohio, was chosen to be part of the 2006-07 Leadership Portsmouth class.

Amos Project holds meeting
The Amos Project announced that its 2006 Public Meeting will be held in alliance with Jim Wallis and Sojourners’ Call to Renewal. The meeting will be Oct. 2 at the Cintas Center at Xavier University. The annual public meetings are usually held at one of the 40 Amos congregations. However, none of the congregations had space large enough to accommodate the 2,000 people anticipated. The Amos congregations have committed to turn out 1,000 members and Jim Wallis’ expects another 1,000 people to attend in response to the Call to Renewal.

Christ Church Cathedral, Church of Our Saviour, Mount Auburn, and Grace, College Hill, are members of Amos, a faith-based coalition in greater Cincinnati working on issues of social justice. The Amos public meeting is a time for faith-based concerns for social justice to be brought with power to elected officials.

ECW holds conference
The Rev. Nancy Roth, an Episcopal priest, retreat leader, author, dancer and musician is the keynoter and workshop leader at the Episcopal Church Women Conference on Oct. 13-14. Held at the Procter Camp & Conference Center, the retreat is a time for women from around the diocese to come together for spiritual nourishment and fellowship. Costs range from $40 for commuters to $80 for single occupancy rooms. Register online at www.episcopal-dso.org, under the Calendar or contact the Rev. Dcn. Irene Radcliff at 614.267.2145 or irmaidcliff@yahoo.com. Registration deadline: Oct. 2.

Say “YES!” to the Fall Gathering
The Fall Gathering for clergy and families runs Oct. 6-8 at Procter Camp & Conference Center. The weekend will include Happy Hour and fellowship time, storytelling, music and presentations by the Rev. Frank Wade, theologian-in-residence. Food will be available for all ages. Two for those who can stay through to Sunday, after breakfast, there will be time with Bishop Price. The gathering will end with lunch at noon.

The cost will be $50 per person for adults and $25 per child with a cap of $150 per family. The charge for Saturday only will be $12 per person with a cap of $30 per family.

You can make reservations online at www.episcopal-dso.org. The Diocese, Clergy, GC06: A note of thanks
Debby Stokes, chair of the local arrangements committee, asked to share this note with the diocese: “As I continue to reflect upon and be profoundly grateful for my experience as a deputy to General Convention in Ohio, a key element is the astounding gracious hospitality we experienced. As I understand, your intention was to welcome those as ‘your closest friends.’ I assure you, I felt truly, thoughtfully welcomed and tended to by your wonderful cadre of volunteers and helpers. You have shared that gift of the spirit, welcoming the stranger as Christ, with all of us, and accomplished an incredibly complex organizational feat. Congratulations to you, and I thank you.” Nancy Collins Warner, Pullman, Washington.

Groundbreaking
Representatives of St. Thomas, Terrace Park, as well as other public and private sponsors broke ground July 31 for Thornton Meadows, a $1.5 million apartment complex that will feature 13 rental units for very low-income seniors in Clermont County. Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati member institution National City Bank, Cleveland, partnered with the non-profit St. Thomas Housing Corporation to raise $2 million to purchase and redesign 30,000 square feet. Clark Construction Group, Cincinnati, was chosen to carry out construction of the project, expected to be completed in late 2007. The building will feature the following features:

- 36 units, 12 two-bedroom, 12 one-bedroom and 12 studio apartments
- Average occupancy rooms
- Costs range from $40 for commuters to $80 for single occupancy rooms.
- Registration online at www.episcopal-dso.org, under the Calendar or contact the Rev. Dcn. Irene Radcliff at 614.267.2145 or irmaidcliff@yahoo.com. Registration deadline: Oct. 2.

ECSW holds conference
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Theologian-in-Residence to visit
The Rev. Frank Wade returns in October for his third and final visit as the 2006 Theologian-in-Residence for the Diocese of Southern Ohio. Wade is a well-known preacher and conference leader. He has served as a deputy to many General Conventions, has been chaplain to the House of Deputies, chaired the education committee and served on the Council of Advice for President of the House of Deputies.

All are welcome to attend his workshops and talks about life after General Convention.

Oct. 6, 7-9 p.m.: “Living together when we disagree.” Held at St. Mark’s, 456 Woodman Drive, Dayton. Contact: the Rev. Mike Kreutzer, rector, at 937.256.1082.


Oct. 8: Morning, preacher, Christ Church, 20 West First Street, Dayton. Contact: The Rev. John Paddock, rector, at 937.223.2239.

Oct. 9: 3-5 p.m.: “Living together when we disagree.” Held at St. Andrew’s, 733 3rd Street, Hamilton. Contact: the Rev. Frank Wade, theologian-in-residence.


For more information, contact the Bishop’s Center in Columbus at 614.461.8429 or 800.461.8424.

Trinity outreach celebrates 50 years
The Trinity Nearby New Exchange, an Outreach Ministry of Trinity, Troy, celebrated 50 years of service to the community on Aug. 17.

The consignment store, which is housed in a building on the square in downtown Troy, is owned by Nearly New. It serves the local area by providing used clothes and other household items at affordable prices to those in the community and by donating thousands of dollars worth of clothing to local service agencies.

The celebration, which took place at Nearly New on the Public Square in Troy, included honoring the many volunteers who have worked tirelessly at the many tasks involved in running the shop. There was a ribbon cutting and blessing by Trinity’s rector, the Rev. Melody S. Williams, followed by a reception. Susan Fogt, the current manager of Trinity Nearly New says, “The purpose of the shop has evolved from the early days of underwriting improvements to the church building that had been funded by rummage sales and bazaars, to today’s primary focus on outreach to the community. We believe we offer a very important service in the lives of many people.”
September 8-9 - Deacons’ School at Procter Camp & Conference Center, Wing A. Contact: the Rev. David McCoy, interim dean of the Anglican Academy at 800.461.8424

9 - The third annual Mountain Grace Conference, at the Ohio University Campus in Lancaster from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The conference will include a keynote talk on connecting with Appalachian communities, worship, musical and dance, and lively discussion groups. This conference is sponsored by the three Appalachian deaneries, Episcopal Appalachian Ministries, Congregational Life and other diocesan offices. Contact: Michael Maloney at 513.531.8799

10 - Diocesan Council meeting at Procter Camp & Conference Center. Contact: Vice President Chips Lanier at 937.258.0141

23 - Sexual Misconduct/Child Abuse Prevention Training will be offered at Trinity Church, 76 E. Main Street, Newark. The program starts at 9 a.m. and generally finishes at 3 p.m. Pre-registration and pre-payment are required. Contact Geri McDaniel at the diocesan office at 513.421.0311 or 800.582.1712. To register or pay online, click on administration, misconduct prevention. The cost of the training is $15, which includes lunch and materials. Payment should be mailed to Geri McDaniel, Diocese of Southern Ohio, 412 Sycamore St. Cincinnati, 45202. Make checks payable to the Diocese of Southern Ohio. Training is required of all clergy, employees of a church, youth ministers, Eucharistic Visitors, counselors, volunteers, any lay person that interacts or has care of children. For more information, contact Peg Denton at 513.897.7414

October 6-8 - Deacons’ School at Procter Camp & Conference Center, Wing A. Contact: the Rev. David McCoy, interim dean of the Anglican Academy at 800.461.8424


15 - Diocesan Council meeting at Procter Camp & Conference Center. Contact: the Rev. David McCoy, interim dean of the Anglican Academy at 800.461.8424.

Conventioneer News

The 132nd Convention of the Diocese of Southern Ohio is Nov. 10-11 at Shawnee State University in Portsmouth. Regular business of convention will fill Friday’s agenda, with Saturday set aside for the election of the 9th Bishop of Southern Ohio.

Deadlines are approaching for nominations, resolutions, proposed canonical changes and committee reports. Visit www.episcopal-dso.org, The Diocese, Convention for more information or to fill out online reports.

The next issue of Interchange will contain the convention information.

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER VISITATIONS

September 17 - Bishop Price St. Cyprian of Carthage, Columbus

Bishop Omosebi St. Michael & All Angels, Cincinnati

24 - Bishop Price Trinity, Newark

October 1 - Bishop Price 3 p.m. Holy Trinity, Oxford

Celebration of New Ministry

Bishop Omosebi St. Mary, Waynesville

8 - Bishop Price 4 p.m. St. James, Columbus

Celebration of New Ministry

11 (Wed.) - Bishop Price St. Philip, Northside

15 - Bishop Price ECO

Bishop Omosebi St. Mary, Hillsboro

22 - Bishop Price 3 p.m. Good Shepherd, Athens

Celebration of New Ministry

29 - Bishop Price St. Luke, Granville

Bishop Omosebi Holy Trinity, Kenwood
Lay, clergy brainstorm on social justice

By Ariel Miller
Interchange contributor

Anticipating that General Convention and electing our next bishop would preoccupy Episcopalians in Southern Ohio for most of 2006, the trustees of the Episcopal Community Services Foundation planned a low-key program year. Rather than organizing conferences and retreats as they did in 2005, they invited congregations to a series of local Listening Sessions to tell each other about the kinds of community ministry they are doing or hope to do. ECSF provides grants and free technical assistance to congregations in this diocese. The board and staff sought this input so that they could more effectively connect congregations with shared goals.

To our amazement, 144 people – representing 70% of the congregations in the diocese – each gave up a Saturday to attend one of the six meetings held from May to July. Several more took the time to fill in and mail back surveys. Three deaneries (Scioto River, Northeast and Ohio River) achieved 100% participation, despite some travel times of more than an hour.

Ten ECSF trustees attended from one to four sessions to facilitate the discussions. They invited participants to list the needs they see in their communities, inform each other on current ministries and collaborations and outline what they would like to tackle in the future. The groups also discussed assets and obstacles and ways they think ECSF can help them.

All we had to do is put these simple questions on the table and sit back to enjoy the ideas and enthusiasm that sparked at every table. We’re now busy compiling all the ideas and news into a networking directory and a deanery-by-deanery report. Some churches already have started talking about new collaborations as a result of these meetings.

Here are highlights of current and potential ministries:

**Columbus:** This deanery has a strong tradition of collaboration. Several churches participate in the ecumenical approach group BREAD, which recently turned out more than 2,000 people for a rally to focus attention on reducing the high school dropout rate. Many Greater Columbus churches send teams to serve meals at His Place at St. John’s in inner-city Franklinton, and several collect baby equipment as incentives to draw parents into prenatal health and parenting classes at Neighborhood House in the Near East Side. This program has already had a dramatic effect in reducing infant mortality in the neighborhood.

Many churches in Greater Columbus are seeking ways to reach out to the rapidly growing communities of immigrants, including Latinos and Somalis. The Columbus Listening Session generated tremendous energy around connecting Episcopal churches even more. Ideas include putting in place a coordinator and online “job board” to link volunteers with specific skills to programs that need them. Having met at the Listening Session, the East Side of St. Matthew’s, Westerville, and the Rev. Adrie Cleve of St. Cyprian, Columbus, are working on an adult formation curriculum that they hope to be able to offer in English, Spanish and West African languages.

**Dayton:** Dayton is another deanery that has developed the start of healthy inter-parish collaboration, in this case through Habitat for Humanity construction and mission trips to Russia through the Miami Valley Episcopal Russian Network. Christ Church and St. Andrew’s are now working as a two-site team to develop comprehensive empowerment ministry for downtown and the Salem Avenue corridor. Major concerns in Dayton include the city’s massive foreclosure rate and the low proficiency scores of children in the public schools. Dayton churches are starting to build insight and energy around reducing crime and aiding prisoner re-entry. Norma Ryan of Christ Church is working with a Department of Justice Weed and Seed grants – one of only 30 in the country. The focus of the program is to build effective community collaboration in law enforcement, crime prevention, and community development. Christ Church is considering partnering with Weed and Seed to offer classes and mentoring to help probationers find a new career.

**Rural Ohio:** Episcopal churches in rural Ohio, typically based in county seats, play an essential role in emergency assistance, including food, clothes, and emergency cash for prescriptions, rent and heat. Several small churches – some with fewer than 30 active members – feed hundreds of people a month. They accomplish this by leveraging, making the most of discounts at food banks and engaging community volunteers. Epiphany, Nelsonville, for example, partners with students from different degree programs at Hocking College – culinary arts and dietetics – to cook and serve two community meals a month. The Caring Connection, an ecumenical program aided by St. Luke’s, Marietta, uses cash donations to cover the first month of emergency prescriptions for low-income people who don’t qualify for Medicare or Medicaid. Staff and volunteers then swiftly help those with chronic illness to apply for drug manufacturer discounts that can save them over $1,000 a month.

Many Ohio prisons are located in rural areas. Our congregations provide Kairos teams for inmate retreats. People from St. Paul’s, Logan, Epiphany, Nelsonville, and Good Shepherd, Athens have been visiting prisoners for years to play cards, and members of Trinity, Bellaire, provides lunch and fellowship to prisoners doing work details in the community. Members of All Saints, Portsmouth, are discussing how to reach out to incarcerated youth to help them prepare for a constructive future.

The Listening Sessions also revealed that three churches in the Appalachian Region are serious about environmental advocacy. St. Peter’s, Gallipolis, is working to prevent pollution from a proposed bargewashing facility. Ohio Citizen Action reports that Marietta has the worst air quality in the United States due to heavy metal discharges from the Eremet plant, and St. Luke’s new rector, the Rev. Frederick Engdahl, has some creative ideas on how to raise consciousness and get the community involved in advocacy to reduce pollution. The executive director of Rural Action is on the vestry of Good Shepherd, Athens, and their new rector, the Rev. Bill Carroll, envisions developing a regional ministry and training hub that would include internships in community organizing and grant writing. Environmental advocacy and economic development would be two areas of emphasis.

**Cincinnati and the Miami Valley:** Homelessness and affordable housing are top concerns in this metro area. Ten Episcopal churches in Greater Cincinnati provide shelter and food to homeless families through the Interfaith Hospitality Network. St. Patrick’s, Lebanon, is completing remodeling on a building they bought to be used for transitional housing, and St. Thomas, Terrace Park, has just dedicated a complex of affordable housing for senior citizens, adding onto the 100 units of affordable housing they developed in Clermont County 15 years ago. At the Cincinnati Listening Session, Christ Church Cathedral parishioner Elizabeth Brown, a housing expert, called on participants to increase their efforts to prevent homelessness by timely cash assistance and advocacy with landlords.

Civic education and advocacy is strong here. The Cathedral’s biweekly community issues forums regularly draw the city’s politicians, activists and business leaders. The Cathedral and Church of Our Saviour, Mount Auburn, play a catalytic role in the city’s continuing struggle to overcome racial tensions and improve police-community relations. Our Saviour also is deeply involved in advocacy for fair pay and benefits for workers including immigrants. The diocese’s new Hispanic Missioner, Madre Rosa Brown, is based at Our Saviour.

ECSF’s invitation to the Listening Session sparked a meeting of several urban Episcopal clergy with Dr. Bob Peiffer, a member of St. Anne’s, West Chester, and dean of the Cincinnati campus of Chatfield College, a Catholic institution. They have begun discussing an urban cluster concept that could include a Servant Leadership curriculum at Chatfield. This project mirrors the community development and internship ideas under discussion at Good Shepherd, Athens.

Several people asked ECSF to continue organizing such gatherings. We are already excited by the potential of this church to be a force for good in Ohio. Our congregations include bank presidents, public health experts, school board superintendents, county commissioners, and program directors in state agencies. The possibilities that emerge when Episcopalians take their Baptismal vows to work are awesome.

Ariel Miller is the executive director of Episcopal Community Services Foundation.
Procter Summer Camping Season is history for 2006. In many ways, I am experiencing a bit of how one feels the day after Christmas. Relieved, sad, stunned at how fast time came and went after all the preparation. Truly, it is good to be home with my family again, and certainly, I have not gotten very good at bi-location when it comes to being at camp and St. Christopher’s, Fairborn, where I serve as priest-in-charge. Yet, there is tremendous satisfaction and magnificent memories of a fantastic summer.

I found it amazing how our youth who had been campers before came back this summer and picked up friendships right where they left them the previous summer. The catching up that is accomplished the first evening sets the stage for expanding the friendship throughout the rest of the week. The air is filled with laughter and giggles, and general guffawing. We had quite a few new faces this summer, and they were assimilated quickly into the life of camp, making new friends and having a tremendous time. One of our campers gave a testimony at the talent show that he was ridiculed by his peers at other camps, but at Procter, he was welcomed from the start. He made it a point to meet and greet every camper, knowing the names of all the campers and Procter camp staff, even the conference center staff, within a week. Many of our campers are awe-inspiring in countless, exceptional ways.

Camp would never have run as seamlessly without the help of remarkable young adults who are committed to God, the Episcopal Church and youth. Patrick Gleason was our program coordinator. Patrick made sure that fun was had by all. His creative spirit brought back the bubbly, slippery wonder of the luge for Senior Camp. Campers again made the attempt to catch the ever elusive “Matilda,” the Leviathan fish of the Procter reflecting pond. Rumor has it that there were sightings, perhaps a nibble on a hook by Miss Matilda – but no capture this year. However, the fish stories got bigger and better each time they were told. Myriad activities, from indoor hockey to relay races, carnivals, pool parties and the like, made bedtime welcome by the end of the day.
Voters to decide living wage initiative

Ecumenical support a critical factor

BY ARIEL MILLER
INTERCHANGE CONTRIBUTOR

Living wage campaigners celebrated with prayer and cheers on the steps of the Statehouse in early August as they delivered 765,000 signatures to the Secretary of State in support of a referendum to increase the state minimum wage to $6.85 an hour. It was the largest number of signatures ever turned in for a ballot initiative in Ohio’s history and more than twice the number necessary to put the measure on the November ballot.

The initiative was endorsed early this year by the Ohio Council of Churches and by Bishop Price and is in harmony with resolutions passed by both the 2003 and 2006 General Convention calling on Episcopal churches to pay a living wage (defined by deputies in 2003 as $8.70/hr) plus benefits to their employees, and to work for the passage of living wage standards in the jurisdictions in which they live.

Until the state legislature raised our minimum wage to $5.15 in March, Ohio was one of only two states with a minimum wage lower than the federal standard. But even at $5.15, a parent with two children working full time is $5,000 below the federal poverty line. The hourly wage needed for a full time worker to afford a two-bedroom apartment ranges from $9.83 in Athens to $12.60 in Columbus or Cincinnati.

Sixty percent of Ohioans who would benefit from a raise in the minimum wage are women. More than 70% of those working at minimum wage are adults, and a third of the families affected rely on one wage earner for their entire income. The measure would exempt businesses grossing less than $250,000 a year, employees 16 or younger, tipped workers if the tips plus wages reach the new minimum, family members in family-owned businesses, and sheltered workplaces for those with mental or physical disabilities.

“We begin tomorrow to educate voters in our faith communities on this issue,” wrote Katy Heins, coordinator of the Ohio Let Justice Roll living wage campaign of the National Council of Churches, on the day the petitions were turned in.

“Recently, the Columbus Dispatch ran a poll of Central Ohio voters showing 78% support for raising the minimum wage. While this is overwhelming support, opposition has formed to fight the initiative.

“Our first job is to get each of our faith communities who have been involved to do an education day in their community on Living Wage Days in October. Our second job is to build our movement by reaching out to other faith and community groups to do voter education in their communities as well.”

Churches that run food pantries or house the homeless can tell first-hand stories in letters to the editor about the increasing stresses on the working poor, especially as gas and heating costs rise (with names changed for confidentiality of those served). Theological resources, bulletin inserts, and economic impact information are available from the Let Justice Roll campaign by contacting Katy Heins at 513.314.0074 or by visiting the website at www.letjusticeroll.org.

Let Justice Roll Ohio’s unique role in the campaign to raise the minimum wage is that we speak from a faith perspective. For many, our faith demands that we walk justly in the world. Now is the time to stand and walk for justice for Ohio’s workers.

CAMP: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

Jaime Kent, our formation coordinator, worked with chaplains to raise the camp curriculum to new heights. The homilies delivered by the Senior Campers were prime examples of how the Holy Spirit works in and through the priesthood of all believers! The depth of those homilies just knocked my socks off in their theological soundness and their message of doing ministry for the Body of Christ in the everyday world. What refreshing, inspiring, down-to-earth messages!

The campers acquired skills that allow them to serve as integral lay ministers in their church communities. They take their ministries seriously. Those who learned to read the Scriptures did so with splendid articulation, practicing and reading with authority. The chalice bearers did so with great care and skill. And ask the 4th/5th grade campers about a lavabo bowl. I entreat pastors to put these campers to work in the church. They are eager, ready and willing.

Penny Buckley, Robin Kimbler and all of the Procter staff provided a safe place for us to roam and play. Meals were wonderful and the Procter rolls are still a hit. The staff continued to bend over backwards to make our stay memorable.

I have worn many hats in my life, as wife, mother, nurse and now priest. A title that I was given a couple years ago by the camp staff was “Mama Ruth.” I wear that title with great pride at camp. I found that serving as camp director was like tending to a really large, extended family. This camp staff was amazing. They included: Anny Stevens-Gleason, Lisa Huneke, Thomas Rodgers, all third-year camp staffers who are planning to add some exciting, new features to camp next year, so keep looking at the diocesan website at www.episcopal-dso.org for updates!

Gleason were second-year counselors, and the newbies were Rory Talk, Kelsey Snively, Paul Hardin, Lauren Peelman and Slocumb Reed. When you see them throughout the diocese, please thank these outstanding young adults for their commitment to making a tremendous difference in the life of our youth.

Planning has begun already for the next year. We are planning to add some exciting, new features to camp next year, so keep looking at the diocesan website at www.episcopal-dso.org for updates!

The most important thing from this summer is what I learned from the campers. To be immersed in the energy, passion and wide-eyed wonder of youth is rejuvenating for me as a person and as a priest. Youth are so open, accepting and honest. They chaff at phony pretense and want the real deal. In fact, they are able to scope out readily what we say does not match with what we do, and in the camp setting, they call us on it. They keep us honest. It would serve most adults well if we tapped into our youth, modeling what they can teach us. Being in love with God and having unencumbered spontaneity truly is revitalizing and invigorating! Their joy and excitement about worship is contagious! Where did we as adults lose this? How can we recapture this? Maybe we can start by attending camp next year! Come and see the goodness of the Lord! Be inspired by our youth at camp!

The Rev. Ruth Paulus served as camp director and is priest-in-charge at St. Christopher’s, Fairborn.
Cincinnati East
At the CAIN (Churches Active in Northside) annual meeting in May, St. Timothy, Anderson Township, was recognized and given the CAIN Circle Award. This award is given annually to volunteers who have made an extraordinary collaboration in ministry with CAIN. Generous donations at St. Timothy’s Easter services provided funding for construction costs to remodel the CAIN food pantry, as well as an additional donation to their ministry.

Cincinnati West
The Parish Health Ministry at St. Luke, Sayler Park, is collecting old mercury thermometers and exchanging them for new (free!) digital thermometers as part of an Episcopal Parish Health program. The Health Ministry at St. James, Westwood, has purchased an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) that is now hanging outside their narthex. They hope they will never have to use it, but with the help from the local Fire Department, 22 parishioners are trained and prepared to act in a cardiac arrest emergency.

Columbus
The former Summer Book Study at St. Mark, Upper Arlington, has returned as the September Book Study. A book is studied over four evening sessions led by members of the Adult Education Committee. The book chosen for this next session is Simply Christian: Why Christianity Makes Sense.

About two dozen parishioners and friends from All Saints, New Albany, got together for All Saints at the Popes in July. They enjoyed music from the featured singer/pianist (and Columbus native) Michael Feinstein.

Parishioners at St. Patrick, Dublin, are gearing up for their annual garage sale, scheduled for Oct. 14 from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. In addition to all the great bargains usually found at the St. Patrick Sale, deep-discount shoppers will be happy to know that there is a late afternoon $2 a bag sale to help clear out all the remaining treasures. For more information, call the church at 614.766.2664.

St. Peter, Delaware, hosted riders from the Diocese of Ohio’s “Bringing General Convention ’06 Home” bike ride for dinner and an overnight stay. Ohio Bishop Mark Hollingsworth and 13 other riders biked 210 miles through the Diocese of Ohio on their way home from General Convention, stopping at several parishes throughout their diocese for rest and refreshment. St. Peter was their first stop, where they were offered dinner and a place to sleep at the end of the first day of their 3-day journey.

Dayton
Christ Church, Dayton, and St. Andrew, Dayton, celebrated the inauguration of Dayton Episcopal Ministry with a picnic at Triangle Park. At the picnic, the Rev. Jane Gerdsen was instituted as priest-in-charge at St. Andrew and assistant rector of Christ Church. Dayton Episcopal Ministry is a new joint urban ministry endeavor between Christ Church and St. Andrew’s.

Hocking Valley
Church of the Good Shepherd, Athens, will hold a flea market on Sept. 9 from 8 a.m. to noon in Nehls Hall. There will be lots of household items, clothes and toys available for sale at great prices. For more information, call the church at 740.593.6877.

Miami River
St. Anne, West Chester, sent two teams of high school teens and adults to Kentucky in June to volunteer with the Appalachian Service Project. Team members dug ditches, laid pipe, installed insulation, and hung drywall to make two homes warmer, safer and drier.

Northeast
This fall at St. John, Lancaster, Sunday school will focus on helping parishioners learn about the life of Jesus. The adult class will view portions of Franco Zeffirelli’s Bible classic Jesus of Nazareth. The junior and senior high group will watch the same video but have separate discussions. The children’s classes also will focus on the life of Jesus and other Bible stories using videos that are age appropriate. The aim of the classes will be to learn who Jesus was, what he did, and what he said.

Northwest
For three Wednesdays in August, St. Paul, Greenville, hosted movie nights for adults in their lounge. Movies shown included Shadowlands, Kingdom of Heaven and Lady Jane. St. Paul’s hosted youth movie nights in July.

Christ Church, Springfield, is forming a Cherub Choir for children in preschool through grade 5. The choir will be headed up by parishioners Chris Oldstone-Moore and Cathy Hasecke.

Ohio River
The Journey to Adulthood class at Christ Church Cathedral, Cincinnati, put the skills they had learned to the test in real life as they set off on a three-day excursion exploring the cityscape of Greater Cincinnati. Participants had to raise their own funds, manage their own money, make their own decisions and experience the world as an adult as they made their way around tourist attractions, art centers, recreation centers, hotels and other stops. Three adult mentors accompanied the youth, not giving direction but offering support as needed. The youth rose to the invitation to become young adults, wisely spending the money they had earned, and sharing their individual gifts of music, writing, dance and prayer. You can read more about their trip in The Tower, the newsletter of the Cathedral, which can be found on their website www.christchurchcincinnati.org.

Scioto River
Congratulations to all the volunteer workers at the St. Mary, Hillsboro, Soup’s On community dinners. As of July, the ministry has served 10,000 meals to the hungry and lonely of the community! The clergy of the Scioto River Valley Deanery gathered in late July to welcome their newest colleague, Kiah Webster, priest-in-charge of St. Paul’s, Chillicothe. Clergy and their families – and guests – enjoyed a pool party and cookout at the home of the Rev. Jeffrey Queen, rector of All Saints, Portsmouth. This is a young clergy family deanery – with five kids under the age of 5!
Church welcomes new PB

ENS: In rites on Nov. 4-5 at Washington National Cathedral, the Episcopal Church will welcome Katharine Jefferts Schori as its 26th Presiding Bishop.

The Cathedral's 11 a.m. All Saints' Sunday liturgy on Nov. 5 will include the formal seating of Jefferts Schori—elected to office June 18 during proceedings of the 75th General Convention in the Presiding Bishop's cathedra, or official chair. All are welcome to attend the service on a first-come, first-seated basis as capacity allows.

Jefferts Schori's Investiture as 26th Presiding Bishop will occur in the context of a Eucharistic celebration at 11 a.m. on Nov. 4, when tickets are required due to seating constraints. General-admission tickets may be requested per procedures posted online at http://www.episcopalchurch.org/. During the Investiture, Jefferts Schori will receive symbols of office, including the primatial staff to be presented by the 25th Presiding Bishop, Frank T. Griswold, whose nine-year tenure concludes as Jefferts Schori's begins on Nov. 1.

General-admission tickets for the Saturday Investiture will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis by the Office of the Presiding Bishop, which, in consultation with the Cathedral, has sought to achieve the fairest possible manner of ticket distribution. Tickets may be requested by postal mail only. A webcast at http://www.episcopalchurch.org/ will carry the Investiture service live online for those viewing around the world. As Presiding Bishop, Jefferts Schori, 52, will become chief pastor to the U.S.-based Episcopal Church, which includes more than 2.4 million members in some 7,600 congregations in 111 dioceses spanning 16 countries.

She also will join the Anglican Communion's Primates Meeting, a body of principal bishops who oversee the Communion's 38 Province member provinces, including the Episcopal Church.

Jefferts Schori is the first woman in Anglicanism's five-century history to serve in this capacity. She has served as bishop of the Diocese of Nevada since 2001. A former university professor, Jefferts Schori is also a scuba diver, chemist, and airplane pilot. She and her husband, Richard Miles Schori, a retired theoretical mathematician, have one daughter, Katharine Johanna, 25, who is a first lieutenant and pilot in the U.S. Air Force.

Known as a "house of prayer for all people" and "a great church for national purposes," Washington Cathedral is located on Mount Saint Alban at Massachusetts and Wisconsin avenues in the Northwest district of Washington, D.C. In 2007 the Cathedral will celebrate its centennial of service as the central church of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington.

The Rev. Carol L. Wade, the Cathedral's canon precentor, is coordinating the Investiture liturgy on behalf of Cathedral Dean Samuel T. Lloyd III in collaboration with the Presiding Bishop's Office.

The Rev. William G. Gartig

All-clergy groups where some have studied Greek and/or Hebrew or have had significantly more academic training (perhaps in a Ph.D. program), while other clergy participants have not studied any original languages, will have to deal with a disparity of background between members. Those who have not studied Greek or Hebrew may feel intimidated by those who have. For this reason, when I was in such a mixed clergy group, the two of us who had Greek and Hebrew tried to limit our "showing off" of such knowledge, only commenting on the original Greek or Hebrew behind the English translations when such linguistic knowledge was really needed, say to explain differences between English translations. After the other group members left, the two of us would get out dictionaries, grammars and other original language tools and pursue scholarly questions of interest to us. Based on this personal experience, I recommend, when possible, setting up lectionary groups where all the members have approximately the same academic background, or at least all have studied the same biblical languages.

What is ideal to my way of thinking is for there to be in any area three types of lectionary study groups: those for people with Hebrew and Greek, those for people with Greek only, and those for people with neither biblical language. Language background should be the main factor in deciding which group a person should join. While there can be benefits from the members of a lectionary group belonging to the same denomination, that consideration is much less important to my mind than the linguistic one. Better to be with others with a roughly equivalent language background and level of scholarship but differing in denomination than to be all of one denomination or theological tradition but divided by academic training.

I hope this article will inspire clergy to seek out other clergy in their areas and set up a lectionary study group (or groups). Laypeople can profitably start their own (perhaps ecumenical) groups. I believe most people will find it worthwhile and even richly rewarding.

The Rev. William Gartig is priest-in-charge at St. Michael and All Angels, Cincinnati. He has a doctorate degree in religion from Hebrew Union College and teaches religious studies at Northern Kentucky University. Questions about the Bible or other religious subjects may be sent to 2146 Cameron Ave, Apt. 5, Cincinnati, OH 45212-3631 or at gartwig@episcopal-dso.zzn.com.
This year, people will mark the fifth anniversary of the attacks on September 11. Already, there have been films and documentaries, public ceremonies and private memorials to those who lost their lives. As a person who teaches international politics, I will spend a fair amount of time this semester discussing what it means - politically - to live in a “Post 9/11 World.” But, as a person of faith, the events of that day have shaped me profoundly as well.

At 9:15 a.m. on September 11, 2001, I opened the door to the small office where I worked part-time as I finished graduate school in Washington, D.C. It had been a beautiful morning, warm and sunny, the kind of day where I relished the short walk from the subway to the building, and resented the dark elevator ride to the office, where I would be cooped up for several hours. The office had two full-time employees and me, so we were fairly informal. “Morning,” I said to the employee, known as “the other Michelle.” She sat on the edge of her seat as she turned to look at me, “Did you hear what happened?”

At that moment, any semblance of normalcy ended, for me, for Michelle, and for all of my friends and neighbors living in the D.C. area. Michelle and I spent the next 90 minutes in an increasing state of panic. We turned on the TV in the boss’s office, so we could watch the news. Of course, we didn’t know much - nobody knew much. And, what little we knew was amplified by wild rumors that were being spread. The little we knew was amplified by wild rumors that were being spread. The news reported very little about the attack on the Pentagon. We needed to evacuate. When our boss finally arrived, she was in the office for all of 10 minutes. She stopped long enough to tell her story. She had driven in with someone else. They had just passed the Pentagon and started on the bridge into the city, when the person she was carpooling with shouted, “Oh my god!” She watched the Pentagon go up in flames through her rearview mirror.

We didn’t have much time for anything else. We evacuated the office and made our way home. The following day, with many D.C. offices closed, there were more people than usual at my parish’s midweek Eucharist. For the most part, our rector used the time to let us tell our own stories, and heal.

I was co-leader of the youth group at Trinity, Newark, and an informal youth group at of political science at Muskingum College. Contact her at m.boomgaard@att.net.
Now, don’t mess it all up…try to be neat!
Lucy Van Pelt in “Peanuts”

We live on a dead-end street. If the developers had called it a “close” or “place,” it would have more class, but it’s just called a “road” with a sign at the entrance that says “no outlet,” which is informative but unromantic.

A few drivers miss the warning or don’t take it seriously; they drive the length of the block before discovering the road doesn’t go anywhere. Late one night, we were surprised to find the neighborhood bathed in enough blue light to announce a madness of special events at K-Mart. A car thief, perhaps distracted, had come into our street with a number of police vehicles in pursuit. Alas for the car thief.

When I was a kid, such streets were often marked “blind street.” One day a woman whose car had broken down near our house asked to use our telephone. She had a terrible time with the person on the other end of the call, insisting that she was stuck at North Broadway and Blind Street. Someone in our house finally explained to her that the words were only descriptive of the road’s length.

But I digress. Our street is about three cars wide, not easily maneuverable by large or long vehicles. No traffic light – the bus came. I was grinding about the house around 4 o’clock preparing, according to the story my wife had fed me, to go for coffee with some vaguely described professional associate of the story my wife had fed me, to go for coffee with someone whose sweet, generous nature and the people could denticate in the lives of the departed…which illustrated the teaching of Jesus (Mark 14:20) that spiritually unclean food must be avoided, while some rejected altogether the idea of spiritual pollution. We are not polluted by things we eat. No food is spiritually polluted.

Nonetheless, the churches in Rome and Corinth were divided. Some believed deeply, following Scripture, that spiritually unclean food must be avoided, while some rejected altogether the idea of spiritually polluted food.

Paul’s solution emphasized relationship, not theological correctness. Do not, for the sake of food, destroy the work of God; everything is indeed clean, but it is wrong for you to make others fall by what you eat. (Romans 14:20)

Those who forbade eating meat sacrificed to idols were misguided. Nonetheless, we must have a careful regard for their perspective, taking measures not to injure them or to break relationship by offense to their different faith.

This is what my father did. I think. He taught us to pray before meals, to attend church, and to tithe. But he let me go to that dance, as he had learned to do for the sake of food. He taught us to honor the principle of God’s law, even when respecting and caring for others might require observing their rules for a time.

Don Collins Reed is a member of Christ Church, Springfield, and is professor and chair of the Department of Philosophy, Wittenberg University. His e-mail address is dreed@wittenberg.edu.
Healthy meals, healthy community

BY BARBARA LYGHTEL ROHRER
INTERCHANGE CONTRIBUTOR

Inside the card was one sentence: “We want to personally thank all of you for the wonderful dinners and fellowship from the very bottom of our hearts.” The card was signed and sent by 14 women, all residents of the Anna Louise Inn, who dine regularly at Christ Church Cathedral on Tuesday evenings, thanks to the efforts of the church’s newest ministry.

The desire to provide healthy meals for cathedral neighbors, while building community, has motivated a group of volunteers who call themselves the 5000 Club (“...give them something to eat ... those who ate were about five thousand.” Mt. 14:13, 21). The volunteers began the supper program in June, primarily for the benefit of the Inn’s residents. Anna Louise Inn provides affordable housing for low-income, single women. While much of the initial outreach centered on those who live at the Inn, others are benefiting.

“Some are just passing through and in need of a meal to get them through another day. Others are residents of our neighborhood and their need may be as much social as physical. And some are local homeless people,” says Mark Sackett, who co-chairs the program with Dave Eschenbach. “Whatever the need, we invite our brothers and sisters to join us for a meal and an evening of fellowship.”

Those who come to the dinners are guests of the cathedral, but a donation basket allows them to make their own contributions. The guests are appreciative of the conversation as much as the clean and quiet atmosphere. Volunteers spread themselves out so that one or two of them sit at each table, eating with the guests.

Eschenbach tells of eating at a table with Darrell (not his real name). Darrell told Dave about his life, the mistakes, the ups and downs. He spoke about his hopes for a better situation.

He said his regular sleeping spot was a bench in front of the Starbucks on East Fourth Street.

Eschenbach mentally calculated how much he pays for coffee each week, comparing his life to a man whose primary contact with the trendy coffee house was to sleep outside of it. While Eschenbach pondered this situation, Darrell pulled out what cash he had. He tossed the coins into the donation basket. Seven cents spun on end before they landed, almost in a perfect row.

A MISSION MINUTE

Have you ever heard of Anglican Frontier Missions? This organization seeks out large populations that are without basic building blocks such as prayer, Bible training, radio and all the things that help us communicate with each other. Missionaries are sent after they complete research of the culture, Christian history (if there is any,) and economic and political background. Many of these countries have only small groups of Christians who exist as an underground movement.

This Mission emphasizes Jesus’ exhortation to spread His word throughout the world, especially to populations who have never heard a Christian story. For more information or to investigate serving as a missionary, contact the Rev. Tad de Bordenave, Anglican Frontier Missions, P.O. Box 18038, Richmond, VA 23226

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Cathedral volunteers speak

“It is gratifying to see the pleasure our work brings. We can see the results of being our brother’s keeper.”

Janet Hauck

“It has been an enriching experience for me and, judging by the many hugs of appreciation we receive from our new friends, a huge success!”

Kathy Sackett

“I like to help people. I like to cook.”

Foy Knierim
Right, More than 800 family, friends, priests, deacons and bishops came to pay tribute to Bishop Thompson.

Below, Bishop Price gives communion to Joyce Keeshin, a dear friend of Bishop Thompson.

Above, Bishop Thompson’s family: (from left) Kyrie Thompson, Jonna and the Rev. Owen Thompson, and Kazumi and Lt. Commander Herbert Thompson III.

Left, Bishop Thompson’s casket and mitre.

PHOTOS BY LARRY DAVIS
“How long you be gone for?”

BY MEREYN B. BATES-MIMS
INTERCHANGE CONTRIBUTOR

How long you be gone for?” Sharon’s question astounded me, its meaning so invasive on my psyche. “I’m so glad to see you,” she beamed. “How long you be gone for?” You cannot imagine my surprise at hearing this fossil of Creole language in 2000 during a visit to my home church in southwest Louisiana. “Until Wednesday,” was my stammered reply.

And even now, I also cannot tell you why the remembrance of the “how long you be gone for” has so steadily preoccupied my mind since I first heard the news.

My good friend, Dianne Ebbs, called on that unforgettable night to tell me that Herb, as many affectionately dubbed him, our beloved pastor and friend, was gone—that Bishop Herbert Thompson had died while he was in Italy. Almost immediately following Dianne’s call, Cheryl Whittington also rang my telephone inquiring about Lo, she and her husband, Ernest, knowing that Bishop Herb and the Rev. Lorentho Wooden were close buddies. And over the next days, similar inquiries were repeated many times, the chain lengthening as people like Top Borden called me and I called others, our giving and receiving mournful responses to the stunning “I heard your bishop died.”

During one of my conversations with Lo, I told him about the “how long you be gone for” question, telling him that I was thinking about writing a short piece applying Sharon’s question to Bishop Thompson’s passing. My article would research some facts of the bishop’s 17-year leadership service in the Diocese of Southern Ohio, his work toward eradicating racism, my own remembrance of his 1995 recognition by the governor of Ohio’s MLK Commission for the racism summits organized by Bishop Thompson in Cincinnati, and his later participation at Governor Voinovich’s Challenge Conference. The article would recall Bishop Thompson’s support of the Reconciliation Institute partnership calling diverse peoples of faith together to initiate story-telling dialogues on racial reconciliation—Catholics, Unitarians, Baha’is, Presbyterians and many more. It would remind readers of Bishop Thompson’s ardent confirmation of the mission of the church: “To restore all people to God.” Lo’s reply was exactly right: “Well, it puts you to home,” he said. Right away, Lo saw the connection of the “How long you be gone for?” to the home coming of his friend—the “go / come” melding common to Bantu historicity.

Lo’s south Florida and my southwest Louisiana brogues knew that Sharon had not asked me how long I would be away from Louisiana. Rather, Sharon had asked: “How long will you be in Louisiana?” Knowing I was away from the place where I customarily lived, in her “how long you be gone for?” inquiry, Sharon was asking how long my coming would last. “Until Wednesday.” Herbert, Jr., just crossing over into God—heaven campground, may have replied: “Until eternity rolls.”

In his own language. Merelyn Bates-Mims is a member of Christ Church Cathedral, Cincinnati.

I pray for Bishop Thompson’s children and grandson. For them to be so young without parents is devastating. May we all embrace, love and watch over them not only through this period of grief but for the rest of their lives. Bishop Thompson and the Rev. Wendell Gibbs baptized my daughter Storm at the first-ever Episcopal Church Revival in 1999. His loving touch and spirit live on in her today. Thank you for the memories and may God bless us all.

Dawn Crook-Howell and family

A few Christmases ago, I was asked to be a verger. I told Dean Diamond and Bishop Thompson before we were to go down the center aisle at Christ Church Cathedral, “I’m loving every moment of this evening because I’ll be able to tell you both where to stand and when to sit.” They both smiled at me, and Bishop Thompson gave me a sweet hug.

Sandy Porada

Bishop Thompson received me into the church January 9, 2005. I remember that as he held my hand and looked into my eyes and welcomed me into the Communion, I could not look away from him. Looking into his eyes was like looking into the eyes of Jesus. At the reception celebration after Mass, he talked with me for nearly half an hour. He was so friendly and loving that you knew he was a man of God. I will always bless him for the peace he gave me at my reception and my prayers are with his family. May he rest in peace. I hope to honor his memory always by being a good Christian.

Theresa McCarty

The Episcopal Healing Ministry Foundation mourns the death of the Rt. Rev. Herbert Thompson Jr., retired Bishop of Southern Ohio, who served the foundation as its governor for the last eight years. A supporter of the ministry of healing from his election to the Episcopate in 1988, Bishop Thompson addressed the 1990 healing conference for clergy, seminarians, and lay persons held at the Church of the Good Shepherd. He stated that the ministry of healing is the most misunderstood, and yet the most vital rite of the church along with the Holy Eucharist. He was an advocate for preserving the works of the late Emily Gardiner Neal when he became aware of the vast number of written homilies on healing the foundation possessed.

Deeply spiritual and a believer in the healing power of God, the bishop participated in a healing service for his wife, Russelle, during her bout with cancer at which the healing rites were administered on her behalf and received by a large number of parishioners from throughout the diocese. Bishop Thompson believed in the ministry of healing and was an inspiration to the members of the foundation to continue to spread the knowledge and love of God through the ministry, that it may become a strong presence in the worship of the church, offering healing to all who suffer from any kind of brokenness. Thanks be to God for his life and ministry!

Jean Kimmonth
President, The Episcopal Healing Ministry Foundation

I was with some of the youth in our diocese at the E3 General Convention event in June, and we happened to run into Bishop Thompson. Actually, by “happened to run into,” I mean he saw the kids and headed right for them. They all wanted a hug. Many of them knew him, and others seemed to just be drawn to him. Authentic holiness is just irresistible. It was late, but he was patient and made sure that everyone there had received a hug, handshake or a smile. His sincerity moved me.

The last memory I have of him is watching him ascend the hotel escalator with a big grin on his face as he repeatedly blessed us with the sign of the cross. That image gave me great comfort when I heard the news.

Joe Snavely
Christ Church, Glendale
I was 13 when Bishop Thompson began his episcopate in Southern Ohio. I remember meeting him when the youth of the church presented a quilt to him at his installation. He was there as a faithful pastor and friend to me all through his ministry, from his re-establishment of a summer camping and youth program that grounded and fed me through my teenage years to the support of young adult ministry through Vocare by showing up at the first one, he was always there. When I was a starving college student, he and Russelle took pity on me and offered me a “house-sitting job” while I was at Xavier and they were away on extended trips, even though their house truly didn’t need any looking after. I remember as a young working adult on Sept. 11, looking for solace and answers to the “whys” of that day, going to the Cathedral and hearing him preach an amazing sermon that gave comfort not just to me but to several of my co-workers who had never attended a church service of any kind. The one thing about Bishop Thompson is that he was always 100% present with whoever he was speaking with. You felt like you were the only one in the room when he was speaking with you and what you had to say was more important than anything else going on around him. I think that’s how it must have felt like to speak with Jesus face-to-face. I know that Jesus welcomed him with open arms and said “Well done, good and faithful servant.” He will be missed and my heart goes out to Kyrie, Owen and Herb Jr., but he couldn’t have asked for a life that touched more lives than the one he lived to the fullest.

Karen Staffiera

The thing I will always remember about Bishop Thompson is how, when you spoke with him, you were transported to a “thin place.” He was always so fully in the moment, and when he was engaged with you, the world around you grew dim and distant; there no one but the two of you and Christ in your midst. When he laid hands on me at my ordination to the diaconate, it was such a holy moment and I will never forget that experience.

The Rev. Judith Doran
Urban missioner, Dayton area
TRIBUTE

“What’s a black man doing in the Episcopal Church?”

I n February 2005, Bishop Thompson was asked to give the keynote address for the dedication of the African American Episcopal Historical Collection at the Bishop Payne Library at Virginia Theological Seminary. In recognizing this compilation of documents, records, photographs and history, he succeeded in adding his own valuable story to the experience of African American Episcopalians in the U.S. This fall, Forward Movement is publishing Bishop Thompson's address as the booklet What's a black man doing in the Episcopal Church? A Black Bishop's Journey. The title refers to a question Malcolm X asked of Thompson upon a chance meeting during his seminary years. Recalling his personal journey of faith and experience, Thompson's address offers an often unexamined perspective on the Episcopal Church's struggles to welcome and embrace blacks. Placing his story within the history of blacks working to break down the racial barriers of American Christianity, he makes clear that his calling as a black priest (and eventually bishop) in the church is that to which all Christians are called: To reconcile. To heal. To liberate. To serve.

The booklet is available from your local Episcopal bookstore or from Forward Movement at www.forwardmovement.org.

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T his world here on earth has lost a man who through every ounce of his being managed to bring the kingdom of God nearer to us all.

And the church has lost a Bishop who knew how to lead; how to heal; how to pastor; how to reconcile; how to encourage; how to dream; how to be wise and how to be really present. And all because, he first and foremost followed Jesus with his heart, soul, mind and body.

I remember sitting in his office as a young 20-something discussing where God might be calling me in regards to a future in the church. I left that office, feeling like I was the brightest star in the universe and that I could do anything God called me to.

And earlier this year, 10 years later, he spoke at our diocesan convention in Tennessee. And he still remembered me – remembered who I was; where I’d come from and the call before me. Wow. What a man. What a priest. What a bishop.

To say I was shaped as a minister in the church by Bishop Thompson is an understatement. A friend recently commented to me as I was talking about Bishop Thompson: ‘he’s the bar by which all others are measured,’ and she was right.

My heart weeps with Kyrie and her brothers because they lost a father. And they are too young to be left orphans. I am so very sorry for your loss. And I am so very sorry for the church’s loss.

But to Bishop Thompson, thank you. Thank you for how you lived here on earth. I can only imagine how you will live now!!!!

So I’ll see you there, Bishop Thompson. I’ll see you there.

The Rev. John Bower

I t was May 25, 1988, and I was assigned to be the escort for Fr. Herb Thompson at a “meet and greet” the candidates for Bishop Coadjutor at Christ Church, Glendale. As we went to the different groups in the building, I was stunned by his complete ease in addressing and responding to the questions presented to him. His instantaneous rapport with all present was a marvel to behold. As we moved from room to room, he asked not about what to expect but only about my life and ministry. That kind of personal interest and caring seemed to communicate itself to the people of the diocese during those brief visits, for he was subsequently elected on an unprecedented first ballot!

As he did with so many other people, he and I formed some kind of a bond that evening. When later, working in another diocese, he heard I was retiring, he asked me to come back and work here. He and Russ visited Louise and I in our home. Now we look forward to “merrily meeting in heaven.” Rest in peace good friend. Enjoy your final dance in eternity. Never have we witnessed a couple who loved each other so much. They are now in eternal joy, joined together with Jesus and all the saints.

Herb and Russ kept their sense of humor in this life, even when lost on the way to a visitation. When I served as the intern at Trinity, Newark, about the time for the service to begin, the phone rang and it was Bishop Thompson.

He and Russ had spent Saturday night with friends in north Newark, not far from Trinity. He wanted directions to the church. When he described where he and Russ were on the highway, I hesitated, cleared my throat, and quietly said, “Bishop, you’re headed back toward Columbus.”

He never lost his sense of direction, though, when it came to loving and caring for all people. Praise God for his courage and witness!

The Rev. Don Greenwood

I was five years old when I first met Bishop Thompson. His office was across the hall from mine in the Washington, D.C. Ministry Center. I would sit in the doorway, listening to his conversations. He always had the utmost respect for the youth in our diocese.

When speaking with him, you had his undivided attention.

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On the way to Kenyon Conference approximately six years ago, our son Adam (4 years old at the time) had been playing with a paper crown his sister had made. He kept on putting it on and saying that he was the bishop.

At the conference, my husband introduced Adam to Bishop Thompson one morning at breakfast. Bishop Thompson kindly dismissed my husband and had a conference with Adam. Adam really did not mention the conversation but as we traveled home at the end of the week, I asked Adam how his conversation went with Bishop Thompson. He said that it was fine. When asked what the Bishop had said to him, Adam replied, “He said he was the Bishop first!!!!”

We all had a great laugh!

Mary Williams

Centerville

I will always remember Bishop Thompson as one who treats everyone with dignity and respect.

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Anonymous

Bishop and Russelle Thompson at the nominee forums in 1988.

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Liturgies and tubes tangle from his body, and his chest jerks up and down, too fast, too erratic. Machines beep, insistent for attention, fluorescent lights glow harsh.

My husband's lips are dry. He mutters. His eyes flutter. Mostly he groans, semi-conscious.

His right arm, shoulder and chest are hot and red and angry, swollen to near-bursting. We're awaiting results from an emergency MRI. So are surgeons on standby, long past their time to leave, waiting to see if they'll need to operate immediately. Maybe amputate his arm at age 34. His concern when the surgeons tell him the possibilities: how will he celebrate the Eucharist and offer the blessings without a right arm? My concern: Oh, God, make him better. I need him.

In isolation and intensive care, no one is supposed to touch him, but if the disease he has is contagious, I'm going to get it anyway, so I hold his hand and stroke his brow.

We turn down the lights. The heart and oxygen monitors pulse. Potent antibiotics drip through the IV. Jefferis's voice, once firm and raspy, is soft and incoherent. The effort alone exhausts him.

The Rev. Dcn. Sallie Schisler, there in a flash after a tearful call for help, begins Compline.

"Almighty God, our heavenly Father: We have sinned against you, through our own fault, in thought, and word, and deed."

Moms earlier he could hardly say my name. And moments later, he drifts off, half sleeping, half drugged, fighting the pain and the infection.

In between though, he was praying. The liturgy of Compline prayed for hundreds of years by Anglicans around the world offered comfort and solace in a time when nothing else could. The liturgy connected him to that thin place between heaven and earth.

At the same time doctors feared he had a flesh-eating bacteria ravaging his body, the rhythm and repetition of the liturgy lifted him up, gave him the strength and the words to talk with God.

I am not a cradle Episcopalian, and before, I sometimes struggled with a good answer when friends or family asked what was so special about the liturgy. Didn't it ever get boring to say the same stuff week after week?

Bishop Herbert Thompson Jr. was not a cradle Episcopalian either. But he was drawn by the common prayer of the Episcopal Church. He was drawn to be a part of this church that embraced a loving God and believed in a risen Lord.

Within three weeks, I moved from the urgent prayers of healing for Jeff to mourful tears over the death of Bishop Thompson. Both times, the liturgy of our church embraced me.

The mitre should be on the bishop's head, as he processed down the aisle, strong hands offering blessings to those in the pews.

I couldn't help but think how much Bishop Thompson would have loved the procession. His friends and colleagues at the Church Pension Group, nearly all of the priests and deacons of the diocese, ecumenical leaders, a dozen of his fellow bishops, Bishop Price and the Presiding Bishop. And in the pews and the undercroft of Christ Church Cathedral, were more than 800 people, his family and friends, his flock and his staff, black and white, young and old.

In celebration of a man who could name a hymn to fit any occasion, the music was glorious. The sermon by the Rev. Canon Jim Hanisian challenged us to live into Bishop Thompson's legacy of love and unity in the body of Christ.

"We must vow never to separate from the body," Canon Hanisian urged. "To do so would be not only un-Anglican but un- Herbert. We must be open to God harmonizing, as people and as a diocese. And as we form the circle of hands embracing, we can be certain that he will be joining us, holding us as always, close to his heart and prayers."

At a time when the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion seems riven with conflict and listservs clog with vitriolic venom, I have come in these past few weeks to understand far better why I am an Episcopalian and why I love this church.

The Book of Common Prayer is more than a finely written piece of literature. It is a means of grace. When grief and fear paralyze me and I'm unable to piece together even a broken prayer, the liturgy is there, offering the words to God. The confession challenges me to move beyond my frailties and shortcomings – to try better next time, with God's help. This liturgy connects me in a palpable, powerful way with the presence of God. It gives me the words to pray in thanksgiving for the wondrous healing of a beloved husband. It reminds me that death on this earth is not the final chapter.

Into your hands, O merciful Savior, we commend your servant Herbert. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming. Receive him into the arms of your mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and into the glorious company of the saints in light. Amen.
Bishop Thompson: turning fear into joy

BY THE REV. CANON
JAMES A. HANISIAN

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us. Amen.

Look around you. Look at this magnificent cathedral. “What’s wrong with this picture?” That is what Herbert Thompson used to say when he was struck by the irony of a situation, or, like chrome on a Humvee, when something was just plain wrong. As we gather here today, feeling the loss, the shock of the news of Herb’s death, it is easy to ask, “What’s wrong with this picture?” What is clearly wrong with this picture is that we now live in a world that has lost a potent spiritual presence. What is wrong is that we have been deprived of a mentor, a sage advisor, a pastor, a force for unity in a divided time in our church, a visionary, a friend, and for his family and friends, a father and a brother. What also is wrong is that he only got to live the retired life for seven months. After a lifetime devoted to responding to God’s call, being a voice for justice, peace, reconciliation and liberation, he deserved time to kick back.

He phoned me one day last February and said, “Jim, this retirement thing is quite something. I get up when I want, get dressed when and how I want, say no to things I don’t want to do and best of all, they pay me for it.” Then he added, “You ought to try it.”

We all have pictures of Bishop Herb…dancing in a purple cassock, being deeply lost in prayer, wearing a silly nose at convention, laughing that explosive laugh. One enduring picture for almost all of us is the face of a man intently paying attention to a single person. The intense stare of his eyes, the way he could make you feel that you alone existed for the time you were together.

One of my jobs as Archdeacon was to be a part of a staff-wide effort to get Herb to places he needed to be….on time. It was an impossible task, as you all know. But generally, it was impossible because he was taking time to listen to someone else, counseling with them for as long as it took. He was generally late on purpose. The purpose was to be present to another fellow human being.

And, if it were not for our faith, faith in a loving and living God who sent his Son into the world to die and rise again, we would have only these pictures to console us in the days to come.

But there is another picture. It is the picture of a group of dutiful women arriving at a burial place to discover the tomb is empty. Like us, they were shocked and saddened at the death of their friend. Like us, they were afraid, because a giant of a person in their lives was no longer there to advise, to laugh with, to eat and drink with. Like us, they came to honor him, their world made sadder by the absence of someone they had come to love. The picture for them was of a stone rolled away from the tomb. What it meant, at first, was that their precious friend’s body had been stolen. But then came the news. He is not dead…he is risen! Saint Matthew says they departed from that tomb with “fear and joy.”

Our task in this service and in the days to come is to move to joy from the fear we all share in a world without the presence of Herbert Thompson. It is a most ludicrous task. But it is ours.

How can we move to joy, in the midst of death? Let me suggest that there are many other pictures we need to recall. Remember back to his election as Bishop of Southern Ohio. Remember how we erupted with cheers at the announcement of his first ballot victory. Remember Russelle singing at his consecration and the hug he gave Kyrie in joy as he became our 8th bishop. See him holding Christian, his grandson, with a look of pride. See Herbert embracing Owen as he ordained him a deacon in this very place. Remember his pride in his son, Herbert, at his commissioning as an officer in the United States Navy.

Remember his call for a summit on racism in this city. Remember how people from all over Cincinnati spent hours, days and weeks making a difference. And remember how far we still have to go to honor Herb’s vision for a world where people of different colors can not just tolerate, but also appreciate one another as the gift from God they are.

Picture his preaching: at your congregation or at Diocesan Convention. And remember the powerful way he could tell you about Jesus, about God’s love for you. Remember how God became more real for you through him.
One of Bishop Thompson's greatest gifts was the way in which he refused to let anyone go. In the difficult days after the 2003 General Convention, Herb refused to be captured by either side. He voted against consent yet welcomed Bishop Robinson with open arms to the House of Bishops. He frustrated people on both sides of almost every issue by placing unity above the argument. I remember one group meeting where someone said, “You, sir, make an idol of unity.” His response was immediate. “The night before Jesus died, he did not pray that his disciples be right, he did not pray that his disciples be moral. No, he prayed that his disciples be one. If trying to live into that prayer is idolatry, then so be it.”

For me, Herbert Thompson was the very essence of what it means to be Anglican. He had firmly held positions and beliefs. But he was unwilling to let his opinion separate himself from his sisters and brothers in the faith. And, he believed that the Episcopal Church was great because it could contain any argument. He was impatient with those who thought people should leave the church because they disagreed. Across denominational and even religious lines, he held firm to the belief that God does not love a select few but all of creation. Deeply committed to Christ, Bishop Thompson gave the first gift in all history from a Christian diocese to a Jewish seminary in 2000.

Herb also believed deeply in “call.” For him, to be called by God to do anything was the highest gift a person could receive. His own journey took him to three different and widely un-similar congregations. Often others would criticize him for accepting these calls. His call to be our Bishop continually amazed him. Early on, in a conversation just after his consecration, he said to me, “You would have to be crazy to want to be a bishop. I have been reading history. Most bishops were dragged kicking and screaming into their office no doubt because, later, they would be dragged screaming to their deaths.” Yet, in response to each call, wherever he served, he did remarkable things. He changed the world in which he lived by his constant belief that God had great things in store for those who followed God’s call.

The challenge for this diocese as we elect a new bishop in the fall will be to honor him by holding fast to the unity for which he worked so hard and renewed faith in God’s call to each of us. No matter who we elect, we must argue about the events of our day holding each other’s hands. We must vow never to separate from the body. To do so would be not only un-Anglican, but un-Herb. We must be open to God’s summoning, as people and as a diocese. And as we form the circle of hands embracing, we can be certain that he will be joining us, holding us as always, close to his heart and prayers.

I have read with tears the many comments from you on the website devoted to him. Far more eloquently that I, you have captured the essence of this Christian man. Again and again, you have painted a picture of a beloved Bishop, a remarkable Christian with the gift of making God known by his mere presence. You have expressed the faith that is in us that because Jesus is risen, Herb is risen, too. Images of him doing the electric slide in heaven, of being re-united with his loved ones who have preceded him there, his enduring presence in your heart. These are the pictures that matter. My own powerful memory was created on one of the days of the revival Redeemer and St. Andrew’s held in 1999. One night, the preacher made a good old-fashioned altar call and invited all clergy present to come to the front to pray with those coming forward. As Bishop Thompson approached the front, I whispered to him, “How do you do this?” He said, “Beats me. Just pray.” So for about an hour, most of the 500 people present came forward to pray with one or another of us. As I finished with my last person, I looked over and there was Herb with Cliff Weake, a parishioner from Redeemer whose wife had recently died. Their foreheads were touching; Herb’s arms were on Cliff’s shoulders. The both of them were weeping. He looked up, saw my eyes tearing and the three of us joined foreheads and cried for joy. You see, even then, he was turning fear into joy.

In the face of all these pictures and because of the picture of that empty tomb, we hold that Herbert, too, is risen with Jesus. He is not dead. He is risen. And so as we gather this day and ask, “What’s wrong with this picture?” For us Christians, the answer is a profound absolutely nothing! Alleluia! AMEN.