

# INTERCHANGE

February 2010  
Volume XXXVIII, No. 2  
www.diosohio.org

news from the Diocese of Southern Ohio | Award of General Excellence: 2006, 2007, 2008

## Youth lead Lenten projects

BY EMMA COUCH AND JEAN HOWAT BERRY  
INTERCHANGE CONTRIBUTORS

The St. Paul's youth program is offering a great opportunity for youth and adults throughout the community to offer themselves to others through acts of mission in the Dayton area. This opportunity is called 40Love.

40Love's goal is to complete 40 acts of mission for the 40 days of Lent, spreading a message of peace, kindness and compassion. These acts range from helping out at the Humane Society of Greater Dayton to serving meals at House of Bread. We've designed multiple levels of experiences, from the support of mission in other area churches to larger service organizations, such as AIDS Resource Center of Ohio, who are willing to collaborate to explore mission's limitless possibilities.

Heading up the 40Love committee are: Emma Couch, a junior at Oakwood High School; Shannon Back, a junior at Centerville High School; Jean Berry, senior high youth coordinator for St. Paul's; and Art Paul, the head of the young adult group Y.O.D.A.H. (the Youth Of Dayton Are Here) at St. Andrew's. Many youth from St.

Paul's and members of Y.O.D.A.H. have contributed their ideas and encouragement to the 40Love effort. On Jan. 30, St. Paul's hosted an Interfaith Youth Event in the PaulPit. This event was the kick-off for 40Love, proving that



Each day during Lent, the diocesan website will feature a reflection written by the youth and young adults for the 40Love project. The site will feature an interactive, multi-media element - from video to music to audio and photo slide shows. Make 40Love part of your Lenten discipline. Visit the 40Love blog on the diocesan site, [www.diosohio.org](http://www.diosohio.org) or follow the mission on Facebook at 40Love.

PLEASE SEE 40DAYS, PAGE 16



A Western University High School student practices in Cincinnati on Jan. 26 the Benefit Bank program to do taxes and fill out federal student aid forms. Episcopal Community Services Foundation was recently awarded a nearly \$25,000 grant to expand its Benefit Bank trainings. See full story on page 6. Photo by Ariel Miller



The Rev. Tom Ehrich

## Build your church: 'The time is right'

BY RICHELLE THOMPSON  
INTERCHANGE EDITOR

Statistics for mainline denominations are grim: from 1958 to 2008, membership declined from about half of all Americans to 15 percent, according to a recent Pew report. While the number of people involved in megachurches doubled from 1990 and 2001, mainline denominations like the United Church of Christ and the Presbyterian Church dropped more than 10 percent.

But the Rev. Tom Ehrich believes these statistics offer opportunity - a perfect backdrop for people to rebuild their churches. A priest, author and congregational development expert, Ehrich will lead the diocese on Feb. 18-19 in a series of workshops, entitled "Build Your Church."

"I believe in healthy congregations. I think they can make an enormous difference - in individual lives and in a community," says Ehrich. "I think the world is a better place when there are healthy churches. We come out of a mainline, progressive tradition - we know that ours is not the only voice, but we need to be at the table ... And I want us to not only survive, but thrive."

After more than 40 years of ministry, both serving as a rector in congregations and as a consultant across denominations, Ehrich is convinced unhealthy churches share a common denominator: they can't stop arguing.

PLEASE SEE BUILD YOUR CHURCH, PAGE 3

# Lent: Re-examine priorities, embrace connections

It's been a hard month for this diocese, beginning with Chris Stires' death on Christmas Day, the loss of Canon Bob Gerhard a few weeks later, and, within days of that, the death of Philip College's partner, Dan Ames. All this against the backdrop of Haiti. It is important that we not pass over such events in silence. The Christian life is lived in the midst of sorrow as well as joy, and we need to know the close presence of Jesus in both.

It should not be hard for us as Christians to live with sorrow, since the cross lies at the heart of our faith tradition, and we look to Easter on the other side of Good Friday. Indeed, Christians are often accused of being too complacent when it comes to suffering. There is some truth to this. Historically, Christians have cited the inevitability and even the spiritual value of suffering as a reason to condone the evils of slavery and the oppression of women. I hope those days are behind us. The cross shows us that God can bring good out of suffering, but it does not follow that suffering serves any useful purpose. We can deal with suffering and can even embrace it because Jesus did so. But this does not mean that we should be passive in the face of it. Indeed, it is our conviction that nothing – including suffering – can stand between us and the love of God, and this should embolden us to speak on behalf of all who are despised, rejected or forgotten, regardless of the risk. To walk in the way of the cross is to try to overcome suffering wherever we encounter it.

But if you're like me, you want to avoid the way of the cross if at all possible. Religion itself may seem like a good way to avoid it, since it is very easy to look to God as a hedge against suffering. When we do this, times like these may present us with one of two powerful temptations. On the one hand, we may turn our backs on God, despairing of God's goodness and

BISHOP  
THOMAS E.  
BREIDENTHAL



providence. On the other, we may use our religious practices and our faith in God to insulate ourselves from the grief and hardship of others.

These two temptations seem like polar opposites, but they are closely related. Each stems from the misconception – so easy for us to fall into – that God's primary agenda is to save us from the vicissitudes of this world. On this view, God is supposed to rescue us from nature and from one another. Surely (we say) if we serve and worship God, God should keep us safe from earthquakes and disease. And even if we have escaped harm this time around, we may at least expect our worship of God to provide some respite from the needs of those who have been less fortunate.

But of course this is all wrong. As Christians we believe that God created the natural order and shaped us to be part of that order. We are children of the earth, and salvation is not about escape from our bodies, the physical world, or one another. Moreover, we are a species formed in God's image, able to transform our biological and spiritual interconnectedness into a reflection of the Father's love for the Son in the Holy Spirit. So worshipping God can only make us ever more aware that we are one body and members one of another, called to work out our common life on the planet God has given us, earthquakes included.

This does not mean that suffering and death are not a cause for great sorrow. God does not want us to suffer, and we

should never grow tired of preventing and alleviating suffering. Nevertheless, God has exposed us to physical suffering by making us part of a physical world that includes viruses and geologic activity. Nor has God suspended our connection to one another, even though sin often makes that connection so very dangerous. God has a purpose here which outweighs the risks and the harm. What is that purpose? That we, and with us the whole universe, should, in and through our relationship with one another, share ever more fully in the communion of the triune God.

Sometimes I wonder if God thinks this experiment is worth all the pain and hurt. But just as Jesus was able to see beyond the cross to the resurrection joy that lay before him, so we must see past the cost of embodiment and connection to the kingdom for which that embodiment and connection are preparing us – a kingdom in which all we love and hold dear about earthly life will be redeemed and multiplied.

This has something to say about the season of Lent, which is almost upon us. We think of Lent as a time to do without things. That is appropriate, since Lent is the season when we re-examine our priorities in the light of the Gospel. But for that very reason Lent is also a time to embrace the connections that expose us to loss and make us responsible for those who suffer, however distant they may be. It is also a time to give thanks and to care for our bodies, for the daily round of our lives, for the households and familiar relationships that sustain us, and the communities and neighborhoods that claim our immediate attention. It is this creation, with all its dangers and hopes, that God has redeemed in Jesus Christ, and we begin our journey toward Easter by saying yes to it.

## Exploring Common Ministry



James Allsop of St. Simon, Lincoln Heights, discusses common ministry at the forum, held at Church of the Redeemer, Hyde Park.

The Faith in Life commission held a forum in mid-January about common ministry, an understanding that all people are called to seek and serve Christ in their congregations. Common ministry arises from the church's growing conviction that all authority in the church is grounded in our baptism, and that all baptized persons share in this authority. The Rev. Bill Carroll, chair of Faith in Life, wrote a paper, "And Share with Us in His Eternal Priesthood" (available online at [www.diosohio.org](http://www.diosohio.org), Common Ministry). Participants discussed the theological underpinnings and implications of common ministry in the wider church.



**Above:** The Rev. Canon Karl Ruttan discusses common ministry as Bev Jones listens.



**Left:** Faith-in-Life's forum on Common Ministry focused on both potentials and pitfalls as clergy and laity work out how to minister as a team. Bishop Thomas E. and Margaret Breidenthal enjoy a comment by Lissa Barker, a nursing professor from Columbus.

## The Episcopal Church



In the Anglican Communion  
A global community of 70  
million Anglicans in more  
than 160 countries  
**The Most Rev. and Rt. Hon.  
Rowan Williams**  
Archbishop of Canterbury



In the United States  
A community of more than  
2.4 million Episcopalians in  
114 dioceses in the Americas  
and abroad.  
**The Most. Rev.  
Katharine Jefferts Schori**  
Presiding Bishop



In the Diocese of Southern Ohio  
A community of nearly 30,000  
Episcopalians in 40 counties.  
**The Rt. Rev. Thomas E.  
Brendenthal, Bishop**

### Interchange (USPS 020-933)

The official publication of the  
Episcopal Diocese of  
Southern Ohio

covers news, features and opin-  
ions about the congregations and  
programs of the diocese, the  
Episcopal Church and the  
Anglican Communion.  
[www.diosohio.org](http://www.diosohio.org)

### Richelle Thompson

Director of Communications,  
Editor

### Julie Murray

Communications specialist,  
assistant editor

### Amy Svihlik

Designer

*Interchange* encourages the  
submission of articles and pic-  
tures. We reserve the right to  
select and edit material offered  
for publication. All submissions  
must include name, address and  
phone or E-mail for verification.

*Interchange* is published monthly  
(except July and October) by the  
Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio,  
412 Sycamore St., Cincinnati, OH  
45202-4179. Periodical postage  
paid Cincinnati, OH. This newspaper  
is sent to all members of Episcopal  
congregations in the Diocese of  
Southern Ohio and is funded by  
mission share payments to the  
diocesan operating budget. Other  
subscriptions are \$10 annually.  
**POSTMASTER:** Send address  
changes to *Interchange* c/o  
Episcopal Diocese of Southern  
Ohio, Addresses, 412 Sycamore  
St., Cincinnati, OH 45202-4179.

**Send news to:** *Interchange*,  
610 Fourth St., Portsmouth, Ohio  
45662-3921.  
Phone: 740.355.7964 or  
800.582.1712  
Fax: 740.355.7968  
E-mail: [rthompson@diosohio.org](mailto:rthompson@diosohio.org)  
Website: [www.diosohio.org](http://www.diosohio.org)  
**Deadline: Feb. 10**

# Notes from the Edge

When out-of-town preachers come to the University of Cincinnati campus with megaphones and hellfire and brimstone, a lot of us tense up. You can see our collective shoulders tighten toward our ears and the defensive thoughts start to percolate in our collective brain, afraid of what's going to be said. Or of how students are going to react. Or of how we might react, given the right provocation. At one such corner-preacher moment, I overheard a student saying, "That is why I'm not a Christian" and it broke my heart. "Of course not," I want to cry, "If that's what Jesus is like, neither am I!"

Now, we're all adults here, and we know that these guys, just like the rest of us, are trying to live a faithful life, a good life. They are trying to do what God wants them to do. "Go make disciples," Jesus said. We just differ in how we're supposed to go about it. For many students, maybe even most, these guys are putting up a wall between student and Church: "If that's the way I'm supposed to act as a Christian or if that's what God's like, I don't want any part of it."

It's certain that not a single one of these corner preachers are Episcopalians—we'd never be so undignified. But that might be the wall we put up. We couldn't be so undignified as to tell someone about the joy we experience in worship or in mission or in bible study. And there's the wall: I love this place/people but I won't tell you about it.

Taking a much different tack, students from another campus ministry take a week each year for evangelism on other college campuses. They go out armed with surveys on various topics, including religion and belief in God, the theory being that it's less confrontational and less scary for the participants on both sides. Questions range from what people's majors are to their attitudes toward Hollywood or campus drinking. At some point, they're hit with, "Do you believe in God?" It seems to me that this approach puts up yet another wall between folk. On the one hand, it's not entirely honest—survey-taking suggests a serious use of the data gathered but here it's an ice-breaker. On the other hand, those doing

THE REV.  
ALICE  
CONNOR



the evangelizing are trying to enter into a relationship but with an ulterior motive – getting the other person talking is only a step toward getting them saved. The conversation partner is a project, not a person.

You may see these experiences very differently than I do and, as a brand-new campus minister, I certainly do not have a monopoly on wisdom. However, my experience of Jesus is one of breaking down walls, of messy, non-linear, relationship-building. And my experience of college students is a desire to be known. Especially on a campus as big as UC, where it's easy to fall through cracks,

many students simply need to know they're not alone and that their story is important to someone. That story may involve drinking or sex or cheating or despair, and neither shouting nor surveys will offer redemption.

It will come as no surprise that I see my calling on UC's campus primarily as evangelism, of making disciples. And it's not easy. Even once I find a handful of students who want to take their spiritual lives and the words of Jesus seriously, we have to learn to talk to one another. We have to bear with one another. We have to struggle for meeting times and sometimes conversation topics when things get awkward. As sincere and deeply loving as I believe corner preachers and survey-givers are, it seems to me they're still speaking through a wall. And when you and I see that wall, Jesus invites us to dismantle it, one relationship at a time. If you'd like to join the demolition crew, call me – or contact the Evangelism Commission. We'll give you a hard-hat.

The Rev. Alice Connor is the campus minister for the Evangelical Lutheran Church at the University of Cincinnati. She works at the campus ministry house, the Edge, and lives in the middle. You can reach her at [www.edge-uc.org](http://www.edge-uc.org).

## Building: Boldness, flexibility key

FROM PAGE 1

It's not that churches shouldn't grapple with difficult issues, he says. But all too often, they get mired in arguing about the little things: What color paint should go on the front wall of the chancel? Which hymns are we going to sing on Sunday? What is the pastor doing with his or her time? What kind of coffee do we offer?

Instead, Ehrich says, churches need to concentrate on issues that matter to people outside their doors.

"Those in-house squabbles don't connect with people in the larger societies—they're heated conversations that we're having with ourselves. We need to be ready to move on, to do more," Ehrich says. "We can have healthy, vital, growing churches – even in the least likely of places. Part of it is believing we can do it. We must stop focusing on being right and realize we should be in the business of serving people. They want to know if we're real, if we have something to offer."

With graying congregations, the way forward "surely will involve methods and approaches that will be new," says Ehrich. "We've been fighting about change for so long ... but the stark reality is that we need to change. We're not going to become Barnum and Bailey circus, but we will look different. That means that our leaders need to become change agents instead of spending their time fighting."

Ehrich published in 2008 his book, "Church Wellness," a best practices guide for nurturing healthy churches. He proposes seven key principles to church wellness: mem-

bership development; leadership development; communications strategy; spiritual development; being a listening church; young adult ministry; and metrics – moving to outcome-based decision making. In his book – and at the conference in Southern Ohio, Ehrich provides best practices and strategies for each of those areas.

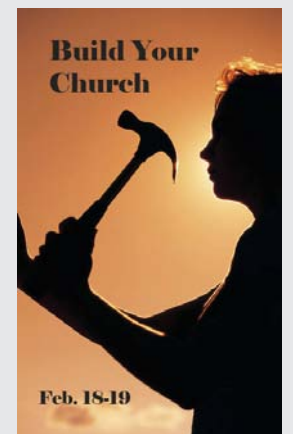
For example, in membership development, he promotes a policy of prompt follow-up with visitors. Studies show that "if you call on visitors the day of their first visit, 90 percent will affiliate with the church," Ehrich says. "If you wait a week, it's 75 percent." After that, the percentage is almost negligible.

"If you want to grow the church, you have to pay attention to the visitors you're receiving and call upon them right away," Ehrich says. With membership development, there are three factors: recruitment, retention, transformation.

"You can't do just one or two – or you end up with a shallow sense of membership," he says.

These key principles aren't rocket science, Ehrich acknowledges. And they don't require a lot of money or a big church to implement. It's not about finances, size or location, he says, but whether "we can find the will, the boldness, the flexibility to move forward."

Ehrich says, "They say that pain is the great motivator. And we are in pain. We've lost membership. A lot of clergy are going part-time. Churches are going without clergy. Maintenance is being deferred. There's a lot of blaming about who is right and wrong ... we're in a lot of pain. To me, the time is right for change."



The Build Your Church conference is Feb. 18-19 at the Procter Camp & Conference Center. It begins with dinner on Friday at 6 p.m., followed by the first plenary. The workshops continue on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Register online at [www.diosohio.org](http://www.diosohio.org)

# Holy Trinity remembers Freedom Summer

Bill Miller of Holy Trinity, Oxford, recounts his involvement in the NAACP and its work to integrate the local swimming pool and theater. The church established a scholarship in his honor as part of its commemoration of the 45th anniversary of the Summer Freedom Project.



BY SUSAN KAY  
INTERCHANGE CONTRIBUTOR

In 1964, Western College for Women in Oxford, Ohio, was the site for training volunteers to register African Americans to vote and to teach children in Freedom Schools. Late last fall, the 45th Reunion of the Mississippi Summer Freedom Project was held at Miami University.

In conjunction with the reunion, Holy Trinity, Oxford, devoted three sessions of its Adult Forum to the topic, "Issues of Social Justice in Oxford." Eleanore Vail and Bill Miller, long-time members of Holy Trinity, recounted their involvement in the early days of the NAACP in Oxford and its work to integrate the local swimming pool, movie theater and other public facilities. They reminisced about the 1960s visit of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who spoke at Miami and was hosted by the NAACP at its monthly meeting, which was then held regularly at Holy Trinity.

Four people who were personally involved in Freedom Summer spoke at the second forum in the series. Rick Momeyer,

now a member of Miami's Department of Philosophy, told how his experiences at Allegheny College and Fisk University led him to become a Freedom Summer volunteer. Jane Strippel shared her experiences as a local volunteer providing support for the project. Barbara and Bill McKinstry described the lasting impact of hosting a volunteer in their home.

At the final session, "Current Issues of Social Justice in Oxford" were addressed by two community members. Brenda Allen talked about problems of discrimination in the public schools and about current NAACP programs. Gerald Yearwood spoke about his work in the Office of Diversity Affairs at Miami University. Parishioners are now discussing ways to work toward solving these problems.

Appropriately but by chance, Bill Miller's 90th birthday and his decision to retire from his long career as chief usher at Holy Trinity culminated the series on All Saints Day. In thanksgiving for his presence among us and as a tribute to Bill, Holy Trinity established a scholarship in his name for African-American students. The honor will be formally presented at the NAACP annual banquet on Feb. 15.

# Bates-Mims receives King Legacy Award

BY ARIEL MILLER  
INTERCHANGE CONTRIBUTOR

Merelyn Bates-Mims, founding chair of Christ Church Cathedral's Ecumenical Coalition on Human Rights, is a 2010 recipient of the prestigious King Legacy awards. The award from the Cincinnati Martin Luther King Coalition recognizes the cathedral's leadership in mobilizing Cincinnatians to strive to end human rights abuses in Darfur.



Bates-Mims was honored at the annual Martin Luther King Day breakfast in Cincinnati on Jan. 18, with a select group of fellow citizens whose work exemplifies the courage and moral leadership of Dr. King.

The cathedral has built an interfaith human rights coalition of Christian, Jewish and Muslim clergy and public figures to work on the Darfur crisis.

"Our three goals are education, advocacy and refugee relief," Bates-Mims explains.

Within months of its formation in April of 2009, the coalition had already carried out an array of public events and educational and fundraising projects.

A website, [www.christchurchdarfur.org](http://www.christchurchdarfur.org), created by the cathedral, includes an online Human Rights reading room - global in focus - with background on the roots and continuing causes of the decades of civil war in Darfur, theological and moral resources, and tools for action, from ways to put effective moral pressure on multinational business to raising money for school supplies and solar cookers for refugees.

The Darfur committee held an interfaith Darfur Sunday in September and brought TV broadcaster Nick Clooney to the cathedral in December to give a talk,

"The Formation of a Moral Voice." The symposium also included a panel of leading religious and business ethicists - among them Bishop Thomas E. Breidenthal - and moderated by Dean James Diamond. The panelists discussed tools for applying moral leadership to diplomacy, steps to stop violence and the devastating human and environmental impact of the corporate and political greed inflamed by the discovery of major petroleum reserves in Darfur.

The coalition won endorsement of a wide array of congregations and faith leaders across the country on a petition to President Barack Obama to call for the indictment of President Bashir of Sudan for crimes against humanity. The petition, signed by Dean Diamond, Bishop Breidenthal and more than 200 other prominent people, was sent to the president on Nov. 20, the anniversary of the opening of the Nuremberg Trials of Nazi war criminals in 1945.

The cathedral's Darfur advocates also have raised funds and awareness through exhibits at the Black Family Reunion and this fall's conference of the Association for the Study of African-American Life and History.

"While we will continue to work on refugee relief, the meat of the work has to be toward ending atrocity," says Bates-Mims. "As Colin Powell said, when morality is added to diplomacy, solutions and reconciliation can sometimes be achieved."

Bates-Mims, a retired Xavier University administrator and adjunct professor, served as a Fulbright Scholar in West Africa and sees a natural bridge between Dr. King's concern about violence to the crisis in Darfur.

"To kill is immoral virtually everywhere on the planet," she says. "In his last years, Dr. King became as concerned about war as about race relations. People around the world revere Martin Luther King and apply his concept, his visions and his words to their situation."

## In the Words of Martin, is there a Ghandi here today?

Merelyn B. Bates-Mims' acceptance speech delivered at the annual Martin Luther King Day breakfast in Cincinnati.

In the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.,

*"If there had not been a Gandhi in India, then India would never have been free.*

*"If there had not been an Nkrumah in Ghana, then Ghana would still be a British colony.*

*"If there had not been abolitionists in America, both Negro and white, we might still stand today in the dungeons of slavery.*

*But then, because there have been, in every period, you may expect that such heroic titans will appear "in every period of human history--persecuted, discriminated--because they know that freedom is not free; freedom is never given out freely..."*

So I know and you know and people of every period of history and on into future generations know that freedom comes through persistence, the will to not give up - to see what the end will be.

Is there present here anyone who will join us in speaking out for Darfur, in calling for an end to genocide, child starvation and three million people in displacements?

Who are the abolitionists here, persistent and insistent in pursuit against child labor in the silver mines of Peru; children captured into 21st century slavery! Who will advocate for human rights for children? Who will be the Martin Luther King Jr. peacemaker warrior of this 21st century?

Is it you?

Among us here today, is there a Ghandi for Haiti, advocating for restorative justice for a people, an island nation who, despite ostensible freedom, remain enslaved in poverty inescapable, unforgiven by powerful nations for Toussaint L'Ouverture's yearning for freedom.

*"Lord, speak to me that I may speak in living echoes of thy love.*

*And wing my words that they may reach the hidden depths of many a heart."*

-unknown

I am grateful for this award and humbly accept it on behalf of Christ Church Cathedral's Christian Formation, Mission and Outreach, the Reconciliation Ministry, the Darfur Committee, the Dean of Christ Church Cathedral, the Very Rev. James A. Diamond and the Vestry, and all the faithful supporters of Darfur effort--especially those who are here with me today.

I am the grandmother of nine and accept this award in their honor, particularly for the two newborns, Solana and Richard, and for the yet-to-be-born great-grandchild in May.

# One Common Table: Congregation uses branding, marketing to share its gifts

BY JULIE MURRAY  
INTERCHANGE ASSISTANT EDITOR

When you think of corporate branding, new packaging for laundry detergent or potato chips may come to mind. But for one congregation, branding, along with implementation of electronic communications tools, helped them to define who they are and to offer their gifts to the community in a much more effective way.

A couple of years ago, the vestry at St. Timothy's, Cincinnati, came to a realization that communications needed to improve within the congregation, as well as to the rest of the world. They enlisted the help of the parish communications committee along with some marketing professionals within the congregation.

"Really, branding is about telling a story," says David Dreisbach, creative director for a communications marketing firm and a St. Timothy parishioner. "It's a corporate word, but for a church, it has serious theological implications. What is your story? What are you saying?"

Dreisbach started the process at St. Timothy's with a series of branding exercises. Gathering small groups of parishioners, Dreisbach had them playing a word association game with pictures torn from magazines. "We had them rip some pictures from magazines, and associate words with them, like St. Timothy's IS this, and it's NOT that...and we tried to narrow the focus to hear some sort of common story we could tell," he explains.

"I wanted to get to a place where it was about something uniquely 'us.' The vision at St. Timothy's is being Christ in the world. And that's a great vision, and it's what St. Timothy's is. But that really doesn't separate you out, from a brand standpoint, from what every other church on Beechmont Avenue or in Cincinnati would say or would agree with," says Dreisbach. So through the branding exercises, they came up with some areas where they felt that St. Timothy's was unique.

"We see St. Timothy's as a safe, open-minded community where lots of people with lots of different ideas could come, but it's within a spiritual or religious setting. There are lots of institutions out there that are open-minded, they're intellectual, they allow you to keep your mind and to be a free thinker. And there are lots of spiritual places and religious places out there, but not so many that combine the two. And that combination is where we wanted to be."

Eventually the process of branding leads to putting ideas into concrete words. Dreisbach took all the information collected and wrote a one-page 'branding story.' The concept of "One Common Table" was born.

"We are very different people," says Dreisbach. "We come from different walks of life, different political backgrounds, different economic backgrounds, but yet, it is those differences that make us one. It's not something that detracts from us but something that adds to us. So the concept that we gather around one common table really started coming out of that."

## The cross enfolds the whole

And as with any new brand, a new logo was developed. Dreisbach recognized the danger that surrounds changing a logo and looked for ways to update the church's logo without sacrificing the tradition of St. Timothy.

"I wanted it to look more progressive, more contemporary, but I didn't want us to be confused with the mega-churches



Lauren Willis, a high school senior at St. Timothy, painted a rendition of the logo for One Common Table. The OneCommonTable cards used a simple message: the website address on one side, a phone number on the other. Photos by Julie Murray

## A catalyst for change

About the time that the logo was introduced to the parish, nationally renowned author and theologian Walter Brueggeman began attending St. Timothy's. He was quickly enlisted by St. Timothy's clergy, the Rev. Roger Greene and the Rev. Heather Wiseman, as the speaker for the Wednesday evening adult education program.

As they struggled with the focus of the fall program, the One Common Table idea was taking shape. So the program became a way to say, "this is a place where everybody has a place around the table," says Greene.

Greene realized having a nationally known speaker was an opportunity to reach out to the community.

"In the past, we might have done something good, and thought, 'Well that was great, but nobody knew about it,'" laughs Greene. "Having this program forced us to get our communications act together."

The idea of a micro website emerged as a place to advertise the program and provide information. They agreed that they didn't want the information for the education program to reside on the parish website, because the program is seen more as a gift to the community.

"People can come (to the program) and not worry about 'well, this isn't my church,' or other clergy worrying about if folks come here," says Greene. "It's not evangelism in the sense of signing people up."

Instead, Greene and Wiseman hope that other clergy, of all denominations, can look to the fall education program as something they can get involved in, and not worry that St. Timothy's is trying to raid from their pews. While most congregations offer some sort of program in Advent or Lent, few offer anything in the fall. Greene and Wiseman hope that

out there," he said. "The question was, 'How do we keep our Anglican sensibilities but yet be progressive?' So, we have this sphere in the center of the logo, and we kept it intentionally ambiguous."

Some people see the sphere as symbolic of earth – but it doesn't have to be, Dreisbach says.

"It can be the cross wrapping its hands around the community, or your family, or yourself. The concept is the cross enfolding the whole," he says. And while most people might not notice, the logo was built proportionately to fit within an Episcopal shield.

St. Timothy's becomes known as the place to go for great lecture series in the fall.

## Web address sums it up

As Dreisbach looked for a unique set of words for the URL, or web address, for the microsite, he kept coming back to the branding story. "I really wanted to encapsulate what St. Timothy's does in just a couple of words, almost like a tag line," he said.

"I was trying to think of things that people could remember easily, and wouldn't have to write it down or go home and look it up. And it was during this process that the concept of 'One Common Table' came to me. I looked it up, and it was available, so I bought up the URL," says Dreisbach. "It's really easy to remember, and if you wanted to come to the (program), all you had to do was go to onecommontable.com and find all the information you need about it," he said.

In addition to the microsite, simple calling cards were also developed, with the URL on one side and St. Timothy's phone number on the other. The simplicity of the design lends itself to being able to use the cards over and over again. So even as programs change, the information people need stays the same.

Most communication regarding the program was distributed digitally, Dreisbach says. Social media tools such as Facebook and Twitter, as well as e-mails to parishioners and the wider diocese, got the word out to the public.

"We had a great program developed," says Dreisbach. "And we didn't want you to miss it because you didn't know about it."

And the result? Relationship building within the congregation and in the surrounding community.

"We had about 200 people the first night for dinner," says Wiseman. Even more came after dinner for the lectures. "We had a lot of people who joined us from other congregations, other denominations. We had people from the Athenaeum, sisters from the Community of the Transfiguration, people from Indiana, Dayton and Columbus. Relationships were built over the dinner table."

"Our model had always been to have a Wednesday evening program with a dinner beforehand," says Greene. "But what was so clear now was how the meal before WAS One Common Table. Even before the program got started, it was striking to look out and to see such a diverse group of folks."

The realization of the identity of One Common Table keeps circling back around to the brand, says Greene.

"We thought about not having a meal for our winter program, but after seeing the relationships built around the dinner tables, we realized that was a mistake," he says. Gathering for meals before the lectures at one common table, is "the Eucharist backwards," says Greene. "We have the meal first, and the Word second. But one without the other is not enough."

"The more that Roger and Heather and I started living with this onecommontable.com thing, we really started to say 'You know what? That really IS who we are,'" says Dreisbach. "That sums us up pretty concisely. We are flawed, different people, all coming together around one common table to try to make it through life."

To watch podcasts of the lectures from the fall program presented by the Rev. Walter Brueggeman, or to find information about upcoming Wednesday evening programs at St. Timothy's, visit [www.onecommontable.com](http://www.onecommontable.com).

# ECSF wins outreach grant

BY ARIEL MILLER  
INTERCHANGE CONTRIBUTOR

Thanks to a new Ohio Benefit Bank grant to Episcopal Community Services Foundation, Episcopalians will fan out to high schools and community colleges to help students file tax returns and for federal student aid.

The project's goal is to help lower-income families get the full value of recently expanded federal tax credits. Under the Recovery Act, more families qualify for the earned income tax credit. The maximum value has gone up to as much as \$5,657 for a family with three children. The law also has expanded the number of families and type of expenses qualifying for higher education tax credits.

The Benefit Bank files electronically both federal and state tax returns, including the forms for the earned income tax credit and the other valuable child and education tax credits. It uses the family tax information to fill out relevant sections of the federal aid application, which can also be e-filed.

ECSF's project seeks to empower families by showing them how to use the self-serve form of the Benefit Bank to file their taxes and federal aid forms in one sitting. Many people are intimidated by tax forms and pay commercial firms to complete simple returns. High school counselors and parents report great stress in trying to fill out the federal student aid form. The earlier it's filed, the larger the pool of financial aid. Guidance counselors are thrilled at the chance to streamline and demystify the process.

Members of St. James and St. Andrew's in Cincinnati, Christ Church and St. Andrew's in Dayton, Holy Trinity, Belmont County, Good Shepherd, Athens, and Epiphany, Nelsonville will help organize tax/federal student aid clinics in public high schools and community colleges near them. Families also will have the option of making an appointment to have a Benefit Bank counselor assist



Five classes of seniors at Western University High School in Cincinnati practiced using the Benefit Bank to do taxes and federal student aid forms so they could help their parents. Benefit Bank counselors from St. James, St. Timothy's, and St. Andrew's followed up with a tax clinic night to assist West High families to use the self-serve form of the Benefit Bank.

them in completing the forms.

ECSF was awarded nearly \$25,000 in a highly competitive process launched by the state's request for proposals on Dec. 22. The application deadline was Jan. 8. Applicants scrambled to put together a project plan, despite the interruption of the holidays and snow days that closed schools and churches in early January. Out of 180 applicants requesting more than \$3.5 million, 52 were selected for grants totaling \$750,000.

"We have just finished the review and I can confirm that you have been fully funded," wrote Jason Elchert, director of outreach and education for the Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks, to ECSF.

"Congratulations on your grant award! Your proposal was one of the best," added the Benefit Bank's Dustin Speakman, director of human services for the association, which coordinates the Ohio Benefit Bank in partnership with the Governor's Office of



A major part of the tax/federal student aid assistance will be carried out by members of Christ Church, Dayton. Volunteer Peggy Barnes is pictured here at left with Kris Sexton, who coordinates Christ Church's CityHeart ministry, a vital hub for emergency assistance, referral and Benefit Bank services in the heart of downtown. The grant will enable CityHeart to reach out to students at nearby Sinclair College and families in need who come to St. Andrew's pantry in Daytonview.

Faith-based and Community Initiatives.

The grant to ECSF will provide computers and other needed hardware as well as provide funding for project staff.

Congratulations to three ECSF grantees who won Benefit Bank outreach grants of their own: CAIN (a non-profit partner of St. Philip's, Cincinnati), Caring Connection (a partner of St. Luke's in Marietta), and Ministry for Community (a partner of Trinity, London).

## You may be eligible too!

The Ohio Benefit Bank offers free, self-serve federal and Ohio tax and federal student aid software to Ohio residents with Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) less than \$57,000. The website is [www.obb.ohio.gov](http://www.obb.ohio.gov). The self-serve Benefit Bank is the first featured link on the right. The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and child tax credits are now available to families in a wider income range. Particularly valuable are the expanded refund-

able tax credits: the EITC, Additional Child Tax Credit, Making Work Pay, Government Retiree, and First Time Homebuyer credits. Refundable credits can go beyond reducing the tax liability to zero, to put new cash into a family's budget.

The Earned Income Tax Credit can range from a few dollars for a single adult without children to as much as \$5,657 for families with three or more children. The

Child Tax Credit and Additional Child Tax Credit can be as much as \$1,000 per child. The new American Opportunity Credit modifies the Hope Credit and allows families to claim up to \$2,500 in credits for tuition and related expenses paid for each eligible student for the first four years of post-secondary education. Up to 40% of this credit can now be refundable.

# ECSF awards grants

BY ARIEL MILLER  
INTERCHANGE CONTRIBUTOR

Though 2009 contributions to Episcopal Community Services Foundation were down almost 50% from 2008, generous pledges by key supporters in early January equipped the grants committee to recommend grants totaling \$122,650, only 11% less than last year. Incredible Christmas collections from six congregations were equally crucial in helping ECSF hold the line against the recession.

The grants committee strove to distribute scarce dollars where they would go farthest in meeting the huge rise in emergency needs driven by the recession, while also continuing to support programs designed to lift people out of poverty. Keenly aware of cuts in other funding sources, the grants committee awarded full funding to half the applicants. Seventy percent of the requests either got the full amount requested or the same amount as last year. Only three funded programs will receive smaller grants than last year.

The grants budget is 72% of the full amount churches requested. Several emergency assistance programs asked double or more what they requested for 2009, reflecting Ohio's continuing crisis of unemployment and foreclosure.

The 41 grants are going to an array of ministries providing food, shelter, medication, tutoring and career coaching. One application—a request from St. James, Cincinnati, for funds to equip its new Benefit Bank site—was covered by ECSF's successful application for an Ohio Benefit Bank outreach grant.

Six new requests won funding or in-kind support from ECSF this year in addition to continuing grants to many longstanding grantees. Only five requests were denied.

This year's grantees are published on ECSF's website, [www.ecsfsouthernohio.org](http://www.ecsfsouthernohio.org)

This is the first time in six years that ECSF has had to cut rather than increase grant levels. The grants budget comes from free-will donations, which are used exclusively for grants, not ECSF overhead. Many donors were affected by the same recession that is driving so many people to seek aid from churches for the first time. Several ECSF trustee families suffered job loss or big wage cuts in 2009, yet the bishops, trustees, grants committee and staff collectively pledged \$20,700—the most since 2004—to this year's grants budget.

The best way to increase the grants budget next year is to win the interest and support of more individuals. About 500 people have given to ECSF in the past five years, a fraction of 10,000 Episcopal households in this diocese. If that number doubled, at an average gift of \$100, the grants budget would grow by \$50,000!

The ECSF board is planning an array of small gatherings and presentations in homes and churches in the months ahead. Collectively we have a great opportunity to demonstrate to Ohio the commitment and capacity of Episcopalians to help their communities get back on their feet. If you would be willing to host a meeting in your house to introduce friends to the opportunity to have great impact in Ohio by contributing to ECSF, please contact me at [ECSF@eos.net](mailto:ECSF@eos.net) or 513-221-0547.



Wright State campus minister Lauren Cuff Faller, newly elected to the ECSF board, will lead initiatives to engage young people in community ministry and to organize through social media. At left is fellow trustee Sister Eleanor Narkis of the Community of the Transfiguration, an expert in prison ministry.

## ECSF aims for greater impact with trimmed budget

At its annual planning retreat Jan. 22-23, the ECSF board embraced a new strategy to equip Episcopalians to increase their impact on poverty. Bishop Thomas E. Breidenthal, the foundation's chair, called on the trustees to challenge Episcopalians to exercise moral leadership in informing their communities about the causes of human need in Ohio and to serve as community organizers for effective solutions, joining forces with other faiths and non-profits.

The board resolved to organize task forces to pool know-how from people across the diocese on key issues such as hunger and the ongoing housing crisis. This grassroots knowledge will help shape statewide advocacy in partnership with the Diocese of Ohio.

The board elected officers and key committee chairs for 2010 to carry out this work. They are:

**President:** the Rev. David Kendall-Sperry of St. John's Worthington.

**Vice President:** the Rev. Donald Eager of Trinity, Newark.

**Treasurer:** Dan Fulton of St. Alban's, Bexley.

**Secretary:** Margaret Tallmadge of St. Anne's, West Chester.

Richard Martin of Epiphany, Urbana, a community redevelopment expert who oversaw grantmaking by Bank One and has served as a leader in statewide non-profit boards, is the new chair of the grants committee. Marcia Muller of Christ Church, Dayton, one of the region's top fundraising professionals, will serve as development chair. Lauren Cuff Faller of Wright State Campus Ministry, will lead initiatives to engage youth and young adults in community ministry, as well as launching an ECSF presence on Facebook.

The board came up with a responsible solution to a significant drop in ECSF's operating revenue from its endowment, a diocesan grant and project grants. This year's budget is almost 6.5% trimmer than last year, incorporating staff recommendations of a 10% cut in salary and 75% in staff expenses, and reducing fundraising outlays by almost 20% (most of this by printing less). The board expects to achieve greater success in fundraising by organizing small group presentations in churches and homes by trustees and grantee representatives.

Please watch upcoming issues of *Interchange* and e-Connections and ECSF's own e-newsletter for invitations to get involved as the task forces are formed. You can subscribe to ECSF's newsletter by sending your email address to Ariel Miller at [ECSF@eos.net](mailto:ECSF@eos.net) or by calling her at 513.221.0547

## Thank you, major donors!

Every donation to ECSF helps churches to aid more people in need, but major gifts and pledges by key churches and individuals in January were especially vital in preventing devastating cuts in this year's grants budget.

The outpouring of parishioner generosity in Christmas offerings by Holy Trinity, Oxford; Our Saviour, Cincinnati; St. Luke's, Granville, St. Patrick's, Lebanon; St. Stephen's, Columbus; St. Thomas, Terrace Park added more than \$9,000 to the grants budget. Grants confirmed by Redeemer, Cincinnati and St. Timothy's, Anderson Township in January added thousands more. Absolutely essential were major commitments by Al and Laura Hill of New Albany, Tom and Sue Kirkpatrick of Montgomery; Chuck and Anne Pettee and the Rev. Canon Gordon and Ruth Price of Dayton; and John and Ruth Sawyer of Cincinnati.

With your help and that of all our donors during Christmas and Epiphany, grace and hope broke through the grim midwinter!

## Chocolate fest needs auction items!

All the proceeds of ECSF's spring chocolate fest go into grants to serve people in need! This year's chocolate fest is April 17 at St. Thomas, Terrace Park. If you have an item or a lead for a silent auction item or would enjoy volunteering for this event, contact Ariel Miller at 513.221.0547 or [ECSF@eos.net](mailto:ECSF@eos.net)

## Prayers of the People

For the people of Haiti

*Written by the Rev. Joan Grant, deacon,  
Trinity, Capitol Square*

**With breaking hearts and flowing tears, in numb shock, in deep dismay and with deepest trust in You, O Lord, the God of all compassion, we pray most urgently for the people of Haiti, for all who suffer oppression, and for the world.**

**Leader: Lord, from your steadfast love and compassion,**

**People: May your light shine in glory.**

**Giver of life, lover of life, find and free, O Lord, those who may yet be rescued in Haiti. Lead and guide the rescue workers and animals searching for those trapped midst the rubble and ruin. May your Holy Spirit grant strength, hope and perseverance to each and every person working to find survivors or to care for the injured.**

**Leader: Lord, from your steadfast love and compassion,**

**People: May your light shine in glory.**

**Guide and direct those who are providing food, water and medical care to those who have gone for days now hungry, thirsty, injured or ill. Grant wisdom to those who are coordinating relief efforts. May any blocks to speedy delivery of relief be removed, and may the aid flow freely.**

**Leader: Lord, from your steadfast love and compassion,**

**People: May your light shine in glory.**

**Wrap your loving arms of comfort and strength around those who have lost loved ones, that they may know and feel your very presence with them in this time. Carry them through the difficult days to come, and may they know they do not walk alone.**

**Leader: Lord, from your steadfast love and compassion,**

**People: May your light shine in glory.**

# WHEN THE EARTH MOVED: HELP FOR HAITI

**F**or a country already on its knees, the 7.0-magnitude earthquake on Jan. 12 devastated Haiti. Two hundred thousand people died, and another 200,000 were injured. At least 1 million people are homeless.

The quake destroyed the presidential palace, universities, hospitals and churches. The headlines the day before about late-night TV wars between Conan O'Brien and Jay Leno seemed like footnotes compared to the enormous, incomprehensible suffering of an entire country. Immediately, the best of us surfaced – people donating millions of dollars for relief efforts, children holding bake sales, giving their allowances to help others. Churches held prayer services, and institutions like the Diocese of Southern Ohio dug into their coffers to provide financial aid.

Haitian Bishop Jean Zaché Duracin set up a tent city in one of the destroyed schools, offering refuge to thousands. With a strong network already in place in Haiti, Episcopal Relief & Development was able to begin helping almost immediately. Three weeks after the quake, ERD supported 23 camps for more than 25,000 survivors.

The clean-up and re-building of Haiti will last for years. The opportunity for mission and the need for prayers and donations will continue long after the stark images of suffering have been replaced again by petty headlines.

Carolle Perkins, a member of Christ Church Cathedral whose family emigrated from Haiti in the 1950s, has hope.

"The upside of this is that Haiti will have the opportunity to rebuild in a way that I hope makes the country stronger and makes it one that really cares about elevating the lives of its people.

– **Richelle Thompson, Interchange editor**

About this picture: Holy Trinity Cathedral in Port au Prince was reduced to rubble after the quake. Photo provided by Episcopal Relief & Development and taken by the Rev. Canon Bill Squire.

## LOCAL CONNECTIONS

St. Croix is where our base camp was when we were in Haiti. It was a church compound consisting of an Episcopal Church, rectory, hospital, school, band shell and soccer field. The school has collapsed completely as has the band shell. The rectory has suffered major damage as has the church and the hospital. The soccer field at present has become a refugee tent city holding up to 400 people. There has been very little aid to this area, and there are several severely injured people. Many have died. The American relief workers who are there are hoping for water, food and medical help. Please continue to pray for these people who are suffering beyond human understanding.

**Lyn Boude, Ascension & Holy Trinity**

In the 1980s, under the leadership of the Rev. Spenser Simrill, Ascension and Holy Trinity, Wyoming, joined a multi-parish Haiti Project in collaboration with St. Etienne's in the mountains of Haiti. St. Etienne's was the lead parish, and volunteers from Ascension & Holy Trinity sent many delegations and held many fundraisers to help construct a new school and cistern, make improvements to the church and support reforestation efforts on the steep mountainside.

The school was lovely, with a cluster of little buildings each with two classrooms. For many years, A & HT parishioners sent contributions of \$75 per child per year to cover tuition. The faculty did an amazing job educating 500 children, some of whom walked for up to an hour on mountain trails to get to school.

We have received a letter from St. Patrick's confirming that the church and school were both destroyed. We have no news on the students or teachers.

**Ariel Miller, Ascension & Holy Trinity, Wyoming**

The Rev. Lauren Stanley, an Episcopal missionary to Haiti, was in Virginia when the quake occurred. She also happens to be the author of January's *Forward Day by Day*. Her writing for the month, which primarily reflects on her previous missionary work in Sudan, offers interesting parallels to the current situation in Haiti.

Forward Movement has set up a blog for Stanley to share news of the relief efforts ([www.forwardmovement.org/january-author-and-haiti-update.html](http://www.forwardmovement.org/january-author-and-haiti-update.html)). Here are excerpts from an entry on Jan. 27

### *Our Time To Mourn*

"Within a few hours of the earthquake striking Haiti on Jan. 12, I began working on relief efforts, trying first to find Bishop Duracin and our missionaries, and then to help coordinate relief efforts through Episcopal Relief & Development, The Episcopal Church, and The Diocese of Haiti.

"Since that dark day, I've been working with Haiti partners around the world, gathering information, being in constant contact with people on the ground in Haiti and the Dominican Republic, gathering in friends and strangers alike to help. Everyone has responded magnificently, giving even the tiniest bits of information. People all across this land have received calls from total strangers, who abruptly are asked for help. Everyone we've reached out to has helped, and for that we are most grateful. And I've been trying to post as much information as possible on this web site, which began as an endeavor to help us speak about mission and has become a way to share information about Haiti.

"Yesterday, I went silent on this site. In part it was because there was so much other work to do. But mainly, I needed to take time to grieve. Yesterday morning, I learned that 14 of my parishioners at St. James the Just Episcopal Church in Petion Ville, where I serve and live, had died in the quake. I do not know which of our approximately 100 parishioners died. So I can mourn only in general. Somehow, when it came time to do the updates on the web site, I could not."

## ABOUT THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN HAITI

Haiti is the largest and fastest-growing diocese in The Episcopal Church. There are more than 83,000 Episcopalians in Haiti. There are 97 Episcopal churches in Haiti. In 2008, the diocese celebrated over 200 child and adult baptisms, and over 700 child and adult confirmations. There are more than 200 Episcopal schools with more than 6,000 students.

## EPISCOPAL RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT RESPONDS

Luke Fodor, a second-year student at Bexley Hall Seminary, works part-time for Episcopal Relief & Development as their network coordinator. Fodor, from the Diocese of Long Island, works with diocesan and parish representatives for ERD from across the Episcopal Church.

"When a crisis happens like Haiti, it's all hands on deck. We live by the words of St. Teresa – Christ has no hands but our hands, no feet but our feet. This network of diocesan communicators becomes the face, the hands, the feet of Episcopal Relief and Development and the people we serve. They become a sacramental presence in their diocese."

When a disaster happens, Fodor contacts the diocesan coordinators, including Jon Boss in Southern Ohio, keeping them informed about the relief work of ERD so they can pass on the information to the people of their diocese. Fodor builds these networks with regular e-mail communication, monthly newsletters, conference calls and an annual meeting.

"These networks are in place so that when a disaster happens, we're ready."

Fodor says the response to ERD's relief efforts has been overwhelming.

"Haiti is our largest diocese, and these are our brothers and sisters in Christ," Fodor says. "We've received millions of dollars so far to aid the people of Haiti, and I believe that generosity will continue."

## CHURCHES, DIOCESE SUPPORT RELIEF EFFORTS

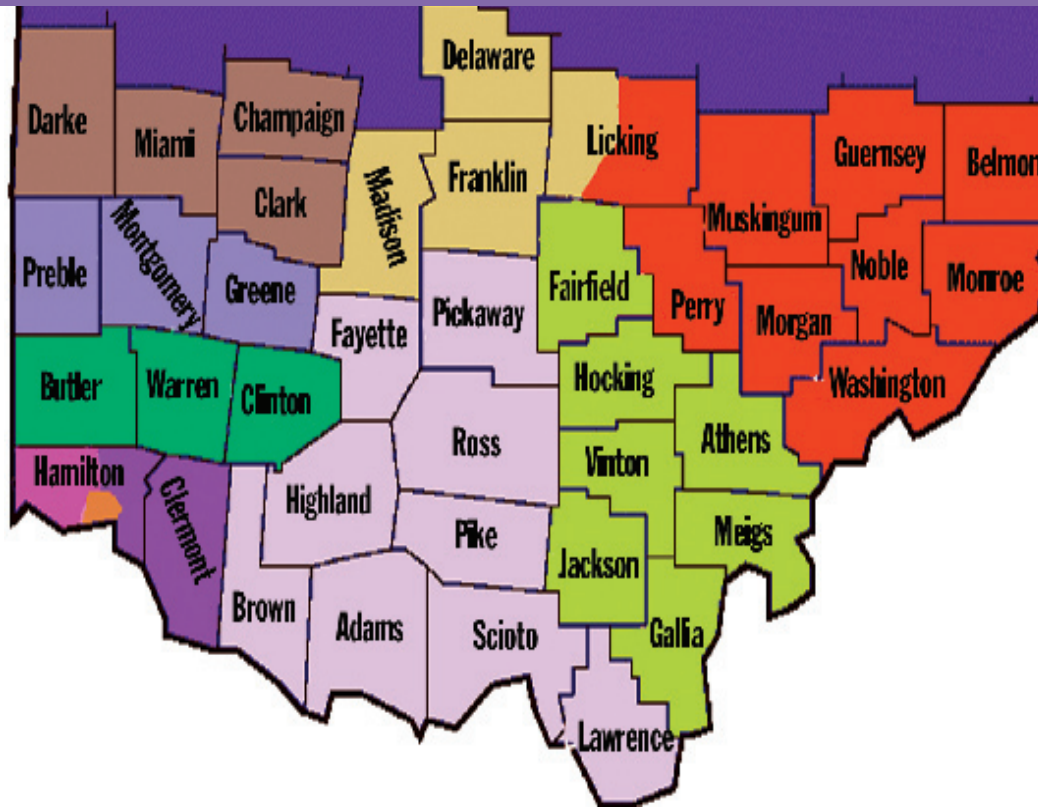
Congregations throughout the Diocese of Southern Ohio collected special offerings to donate directly to Episcopal Relief and Development for work in Haiti. Christ Church Cathedral raised more than \$9,200 during its special collection on Jan. 12. The vestry of St. Peter's, Delaware, endorsed supporting the Christian Haitian American Partnership, a ministry in which parishioner Steve Hayden has become involved. And St. James, Westwood collected \$2,190 in a special collection on Jan 17, an average of more than \$50 per person in attendance that day. More donations have followed since.

After hearing and praying for the devastation in Haiti, the 4-6th grade Sunday school students at St. Timothy, Cincinnati, decided to put their prayers in action. They challenged Team Jesus (the teens of the church) to a bake sale competition. So, it was kids vs. teens to see who could sell the most baked goods and donate the largest amount to Episcopal Relief and Development. The kids were up first, on Sunday, Jan. 24 and again on Jan. 27 at their Wednesday evening program. The teens followed on Jan. 31 and Feb. 3.

On Feb. 5, the faith community in Athens plans to come together for a "Day of Hope for Haiti." Folks will gather for a simple meal and live entertainment, including some Haitian music. The event is sponsored by the University Interfaith Association and several churches, including Good Shepherd, Athens.

The Trustees of the Diocese of Southern Ohio and Bishop Thomas E. Breidenthal voted immediately to draw upon the resources of the William Cooper Procter Memorial Fund to donate \$10,000 to Episcopal Relief and Development for recovery and rebuilding work in Haiti.





NOTABLE

**Dana Carlson**, Church of the Good Shepherd, Athens, has received the Service Award of the Athens City Commission on Disabilities. The award recognized Carlson's 20 years of working with students with special needs by providing them with functional life learning beyond standard curriculum.

**Sister Mary Evelyne**, CT, of the Community of the Transfiguration, celebrated 50 years life professed on the Feast of St. Michael and All Angels Nov. 29. Twelve of Sister Mary Evelyne's nieces, nephews, great nieces and great-great nieces and nephews joined the Community in celebrating this most auspicious occasion at a Festive Eucharist.

**Barbara Cerny**, Christ Church, Dayton, has published her first novel, *Of Angels and Orphans*. Congratulations!

**The Rev. Dick Schisler**, a deacon at All Saints, Portsmouth, retired at the end of December as municipal court judge in Scioto County. Schisler's work was honored by the city and community.

**Constance Sanders** and **Charleston Wang** of Christ Church Cathedral each had photos accepted in the 2009 Capture Cincinnati photo project. Sanders entry is titled "Fiery Reflection" and shows the night sky at Point Pleasant, Ohio. Wang's photo is titled "Painting Lincoln in Lytle Park." More than 2.4 million votes were cast for the nearly 25,000 photos that were submitted to the project. Winning photos are printed in a beautiful, hard-bound coffee-table book, which is available for sale. You can see more information at [www.capturecincinnati.com](http://www.capturecincinnati.com).

## Cincinnati West

**St. James**, Westwood, will host a Jazz Evensong on Sunday, Feb. 14 at 4 p.m. The Steven Seifried Jazz Ensemble will perform. Take your sweetheart to church for Valentine's Day and enjoy some great jazz! A reception will follow the service. St. James is located at 3207 Montana Avenue in Westwood. Call 513.661.1154 for more information.

## Columbus

**St. John's**, Worthington, will hold a Euchre Party fundraiser on Saturday, Feb. 20. The proceeds will be used to help purchase AEDs (automatic external defibrillators) for the church. Cost is \$10 per round. For more information, call the church at 614.846.5180.

When the call went out to the people of **Trinity**, Columbus, to donate and fill 125 gift bags for folks who attend the outdoor service, In the Garden, the goal was \$1,500. That would fill 125 gift bags with items of special need for those who are homeless or live in shelters or group homes. The people of Trinity responded – again and again and again, surpassing the goal by more than \$1,000! The additional money and gifts of reusable shopping bags, tarps, scarves and other items will support the ministry throughout the coming year.

## Dayton

The Share One-to-One Clothes Closet at **Christ Church**, Xenia, is a ministry that collects and provides free clothing to struggling individuals and families and is located in the upstairs of the parish house. The closet is open every Tuesday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. No appointment is needed.

If you would like to donate clothes or volunteer at the closet, please call the church at 937.372.1594 to be put in touch with JoAnne Earley, volunteer coordinator.

Book lovers at **St. Christopher**, Fairborn, will be spending 2010 with C.S. Lewis. Each month, they will discuss a book and find the challenge, the spiritual component and the Divine Other in each work, reflecting upon how it informs our lives as Christians and prompts us to change. The group meets the fourth Tuesday of the month after the 5:30 p.m. healing service. January's selection was *The Abolition Man* and the February choice is *Surprised by Joy*. For a complete list or for more information, contact the Rev. Ruth Paulus at 937.878.5614.

## Hocking Valley

**St. John's**, Lancaster, held a Love and Respect relationship building program in January. The program was developed and offered for anyone—singles, dating, good marriages and not-so-good marriages and gave participants an opportunity to prepare for future relationships or help relate to the opposite sex. Couples learned how to gain insight from academic research on today's marital and relationship tools and to understand in depth what the Bible says about marriage.

## Miami River

**Trinity**, Hamilton, will again offer the unique Taize worship experience of prayer and peaceful meditation on Sunday evening, Feb. 21 at 6:30 p.m. The Trinity Choir and various instrumentalists will be presenting the beautiful music of Taize. If you have not had the opportunity to attend in the past, you will not want to miss this event! Please plan on attending and invite friends and neighbors to this beautiful ecumenical worship. Following the service, there will be a

"wine & cheese" reception for all to enjoy. Trinity is located at 115 N. Sixth Street in Hamilton. For additional information call 513.896.6755.

## Northeast

**Trinity**, Newark, celebrated the first anniversary of its community meal ministry in January. Trinity teamed up with the First Baptist Church of Granville, who had started a ministry of handing out sack lunches on the square in cold winter months. Trinity offered their building, a warm bowl of soup and a beverage to go along with the sack meals, and a joint ministry was born—a collaboration that allows both congregations to offer more to those in need than either could alone. The meal is served on the fourth Sunday of the month from 2 to 3 p.m.

## Ohio River

The Art Committee at **Church of the Redeemer**, Hyde Park, and the Redeemer Children's Ministry Team are sponsoring the Children of Redeemer Mosaic Mural Project to honor the short life of Jarod Bennett, a much-loved parishioner who passed away six years ago. Children of the parish and their parents will gather on Saturday, Feb. 6 for an orientation to this project. The children will be working with local artist Suzanne Fisher to create and produce the mosaic.

The youth of **Christ Church Cathedral** will be cooking up simmering pots of chili to benefit the Freestore Foodbank during a Saturday overnight on Feb. 6. There will be both vegetarian and omnivore varieties of homemade chili, accompanied by corn chips and cheese, available for sale for \$5 per package in the church undercroft the next morning, Feb. 7. You can pre-order a bowl of chili by contacting JJ Engelbert at [jjengelbert@cccath.org](mailto:jjengelbert@cccath.org).



## THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION

a community of  
70 million Anglicans  
in more than  
160 countries

### Resources for national and world news:

The Episcopal  
Church, USA  
[www.episcopalchurch.org](http://www.episcopalchurch.org)

**Anglican  
Communion:**  
[www.anglicancommunion.org](http://www.anglicancommunion.org)

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

# Williams, Schori address global concerns at UN

**Episcopal News Service:** Global crises, such as those in Haiti and Sudan, were among pressing issues addressed at the United Nations headquarters Jan. 26 as Secretary General Ban Ki-moon welcomed Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams and Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori for a 45-minute meeting.

The church leaders were joined by Anglican Observer at the U.N. Hellen Wangusa and U.K. Representative to the U.N. Sir Mark Lyall Grant.

Jefferts Schori told ENS that she welcomed the opportunity to highlight the Episcopal Church's presence in Haiti, "for more than 150 years providing education and health care," and underscore "that we would be there for centuries to come." The Episcopal Diocese of Haiti is numerically the largest diocese in the Episcopal Church.

Responding to Haiti's immediate needs, Episcopal Relief & Development is coordinating shipments of medical supplies and food to affected rural communities and parishes, organizing air drops to isolated rural areas and the provision of satellite phones and solar power chargers. The agency has said it is establishing a long-term response to the disaster.

Another critical issue addressed by the leaders was Sudan's faltering peace process and their concerns that immediate action must be taken to ensure that the country doesn't plunge back into civil war.

"I spoke about what we had learned from Rwanda and Liberia and how we and the U.N. might challenge the world to prevent another massive round of violence in Sudan," Jefferts Schori told ENS.

Williams told Ban that the Episcopal Church of Sudan "is completely committed to peace and development and will work with all agencies, governmental and non-governmental, committed to the same goals. Its infrastructure is at the service of the community, the government and international agencies."

Sudan's 20-year civil war, which claimed more than 2 million lives and displaced about 7 million people, came to an end in January 2005 when the Comprehensive Peace Agreement was signed by the two warring parties -- the Government of Sudan in the north and the Sudan People's Liberation



Secretary General Ban Ki-moon welcomed Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams to the United Nations on Jan. 26.

Movement in the south.

Williams said he hoped the U.N. Security Council would "play a strong role in pressing the Sudanese government to implement in full the terms of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement," the Lambeth press release said, noting that the international community also "had a duty to support the people of southern Sudan to build capacity including in education and health."

Other key issues addressed in the meeting with Ban included the United Nations Millennium Development Goals; the vulnerability of children in armed conflict and trafficking; the church's role in the education and health sectors in some of the poorest countries in Africa; and the church's role in sustaining and building grass roots capacity, especially in the most fragile and war-torn communities.

## World Mission Sunday highlights caring for all God's creation

Recognizing God's creation place and the church's role in safeguarding the environment will be the focus for the 2010 World Mission Sunday, celebrated on Feb. 14.

"Observance of World Mission Sunday is an opportunity for congregations and dioceses to participate in the wider global mission of the Church," said Michael Schut, economic and environmental affairs officer. "The Church is always called to care for 'the least of these,' for those whose voices are silenced. Ecological degradation threatens more and more of those voices, including those with whom our missionaries live and serve."

World Mission Sunday, the last Sunday after Epiphany, was designated to increase awareness of, and participation in, the wider global mission of the Church. World Mission Sunday is ideal for Sunday School lessons, adult education, discussions and forums, prayers of the people and other events in the life of a congregation and diocese.

World Mission Sunday 2010 posters in English and Spanish as well as resources, such as bulletin inserts, suggested readings, prayers and lectionary for observing World Mission Sunday, are available for downloading: [www.episcopalchurch.org/wmsunday](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/wmsunday)

## Anglicans protest religious persecution in Zimbabwe

Anglicans in Zimbabwe's Diocese of Harare planned to hold a prayer meeting this week in protest of the ongoing persecution by local police that has prevented them from worshipping freely in their own church buildings, the independent Zimbabwe news agency *ZimOnline* has reported.

Zimbabwe's Anglicans have faced ongoing harassment and violence from President Robert Mugabe's police force since renegade bishop Nolbert Kunonga was officially excommunicated by the Church of the Province of Central Africa in May 2008.

An avid Mugabe supporter, Kunonga still claims ownership of the diocese's Anglican churches and has supported the intimidation and persecution of Anglicans in Zimbabwe for opposing his and Mugabe's leadership.

*ZimOnline* noted that the prayer meeting comes "after months of a tense and sometimes violent struggle for control of the church" between Kunonga and Bishop Chad Gandiya, elected in 2009 to run the Harare diocese.

Gandiya succeeded Bishop Sebastian Bakare, who served as the diocese's interim bishop since December 2007, when Kunonga was deposed after illegally separating from the Central Africa province and installing himself as archbishop of Zimbabwe.

Despite a High Court order instructing Gandiya and Kunonga to share use of church buildings, "Kunonga's group is accused of locking up church doors every Sunday to prevent their rivals from entering the buildings to hold prayers, while the police have been on hand to chase away Gandiya's followers every time they tried to insist on their right to use the churches," the *ZimOnline* agency reported.

Zimbabwe has experienced an economic and socio-political crisis under the leadership of Mugabe, whose ZANU-PF party continues to hold onto power despite being defeated by Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai and his opposition Movement for Democratic Change in the March 2008 elections.

Tsvangirai and Mugabe formed a power-sharing government in February 2009 but tensions between the two leaders have since caused the agreement to falter.

Mugabe has been invited to attend the prayer meeting, which will be held at Africa Unity Square in central Harare.

*ZimOnline* reported that the Harare city council has granted permission for the prayer meeting to go ahead, but that the police "are yet to respond to the church's request."

# CALENDAR

## February

**2** – Executive and program staff meets at Procter Camp & Conference Center, 10 a.m.

**2** – Communications Committee meets at Procter Camp & Conference Center, 2:30 p.m. Contact: Richelle Thompson at 800.582.1712 ext 150.

**5-7** – School for Ministry weekend at Procter Camp & Conference Center. Contact: Kay Sturm at 800.582.1712, ext. 136.

**11** – Residency program monthly meeting at Procter Camp & Conference Center, 9:30 a.m. Contact: the Rev. Canon Karl Ruttan at 800.582.1712.

**12-13** – Common Ministry Exploration: Gifts Discernment at Procter Camp & Conference Center. Contact: the Rev. Canon Karl Ruttan at 800.582.1712.

**12-14** – Exodus 7 at St. Patrick, Lebanon, Drop off: Friday at 7 p.m. Pick up: after worship at 10:30 (join us!) Cost: \$30. Registration due by Feb. 7. Register at [www.youth.diosohio.org](http://www.youth.diosohio.org). Contact: Rob Konkol at [youth@diosohio.org](mailto:youth@diosohio.org)

**13** – Preacher training at Procter Camp & Conference Center, 10 a.m. Contact: the Rev. Canon Karl Ruttan at 800.582.1712.

**13** – Safe Church training at St. Matthew, Westerville, 9 a.m. Lunch will be ordered in from a local restaurant at participant expense. Pre-registration is required. Register at [www.diosohio.org](http://www.diosohio.org) or call Geri McDaniel at 800.582.1712 ext 105. Contact: the Rev. Fred Shirley at 614.882.9038.

**14** – Absalom Jones Festive Eucharist at St. Margaret, Trotwood, 4 p.m.

**15** – Diocesan offices closed for Presidents Day.

**16** – Executive staff meets at Diocesan House, 10 a.m.

**18** – Standing Committee meets at Diocesan House, noon. Contact: the Rev. Stephen Applegate at 740.587.0167.

**19-20** – Build Your Church: Congregational Development/Church wellness retreat at Procter Camp & Conference Center. Register online at [www.diosohio.org](http://www.diosohio.org) under events. Contact: the Rev. Canon John Johanssen at 800.582.1712. (See page 1 for details)

**21** – Safe Church training: At St. Paul, Dayton, from 1 to 4 p.m. or St. Timothy, Cincinnati, from 6 to 9 p.m. First session of two-part training. Must attend second session on Feb. 28 to complete training. See registration information above.

**24** – Commission on Congregational Life meets at Procter Camp & Conference Center, 10 a.m. Contact: Jan West at 937.278.2249.

**27** – Anti-Racism training at Procter Camp & Conference Center, 9 a.m. Training consists of four parts: reading to be done prior to training, training

day at Procter Camp & Conference Center, work to be completed after training day and a follow-up meeting that will be scheduled on training day. This is an anti-racism workshop and not a diversity or multi-cultural workshop. Cost is \$10 for lunch. The registration deadline is Feb. 22. Register online at [www.diosohio.org](http://www.diosohio.org). Contact: Debbie Stokes at 614.933.8715.

**27** – Parish Administrator Conference at Procter Camp & Conference Center, 9:30 a.m. For anyone involved with parish administration—administrator, secretary or clergy. Cost \$15. Register online at [www.diosohio.org](http://www.diosohio.org). Contact: Roy Barker at 614.766.2664.

**28** – Safe Church training: At St. Paul, Dayton, from 1 to 4 p.m. or St. Timothy, Cincinnati, from 6 to 9 p.m. Second session of two-part training. Must attend first session on Feb. 21 to complete training

## March

**1** – Parochial reports due

**2** – Executive staff meets at Diocesan House, 10 a.m.

**5-7** – School for Ministry weekend at Procter Camp & Conference Center. Contact: Kay Sturm at 800.582.1712, ext. 136.

**6** – Camp counselor interviews at Procter Camp & Conference Center. Contact: Rob Konkol at 800.582.1712 ext 160.

**6** – Clergy Day at Procter Camp & Conference Center, 10 a.m.

**10** – Budget requests due

**10** – Standing Committee meets at Diocesan House, noon. Contact: the Rev. Stephen Applegate at 740.587.0167.

**11** – Residency program monthly meeting at Procter Camp & Conference Center, 9:30 a.m. Contact: the Rev. Canon Karl Ruttan at 800.582.1712.

**13** – Preacher training at Procter Camp & Conference Center, 10 a.m. Contact: the Rev. Canon Karl Ruttan at 800.582.1712.

**13** – Diocesan Council meets at Procter Camp & Conference Center, 10 a.m. Contact: the Rev. Bruce Smith at 614.486.9452.

**17** – Affirmative Aging Quiet Day. Contact: the Rev. Steve Cuff at 513.871.2090

**17** – Commission on Congregational Life meets at Procter Camp & Conference Center, 10 a.m. Contact: Jan West at 937.278.2249.

**20** – Stewardship & Development Spring Conference at Procter Camp & Conference Center. Contact: Dick Tuttle at 7s40.374.8508.

**26-28** – School for Ministry weekend at Procter Camp & Conference Center. Contact: Kay Sturm at 800.582.1712, ext. 136.

**30** – Renewal of Vows at Procter Camp & Conference Center, 11 a.m.

## CLERGY/CONGREGATIONS

### Clergy

**The Rev. Bill Field** is interim rector at Church of the Advent, Cincinnati.

**The Rev. Ang Puopulo** is interim rector at St. James, Westwood.

A team of interim priests are serving at St. Paul's, Chillicothe. The team includes **the Rev. Jack Bowers, the Rev. Susan Lehman and the Rev. Stephen Williamson.**

**The Very Rev. James Diamond** has announced his retirement as dean of Christ Church Cathedral as of the end of June 2010.

### Congregations in transition:

**Beginning search process:** St. James, Westwood; Church of the Advent, Cincinnati

**Finished profile:** Indian Hill Episcopal/Presbyterian Church

**Interviewing candidates:** St. George, Washington Twp.

**Considering finalists:** St. Thomas, Terrace Park; Ascension & Holy Trinity, Wyoming

### Of note

Christ Church Cathedral Shop is seeking volunteers to work in the store. Hours are flexible. If you are interested in being a Cathedral Shop volunteer, please contact Handel Bhola, Cathedral Shop manager at 513.621.4567.

## REST IN PEACE

**The Rev. Canon Robert D. Gerhard**, a longtime priest of the diocese, died Jan. 9. He was 80.

Ordained in 1957 by the Rt. Rev. Gerald Burrill of the Diocese of Chicago, Father Gerhard served congregations in Illinois and Michigan until 1968, when he was called as rector of St. Thomas, Terrace Park. He served St. Thomas for 26 years. During his time there, Father Gerhard was an active supporter of Friends of the Groom, a Christian theater troupe, and one of the founders of Episcopal Healing Ministry. After his retirement, he served in several capacities at Christ Church Cathedral, including pastoral assistant and priest-in-charge.

Father Gerhard was the author and editor of *Last Things*.

Survivors include his wife, Ernestine; four children, Ernest, Claire, Jane, and Naomi; his brothers and grandchildren.

Memorials may be directed to LADD (Living Arrangements for the Developmentally Disabled), 3603 Victory Pkwy, Cincinnati, OH 45229 or the Episcopal Healing Ministries, 318 E. Fourth St., Cincinnati, OH 45202.

**The Rev. Dr. Alice Cowan**, a former rector of Holy Trinity, Oxford, died Jan. 16 in Texas. She was 73.

Her doctoral dissertation for the Perkins School of Theology, entitled "Miners, Merchants and Missionaries," was published by St. Martin's Press. She later authored the section on Christianity in the book, *Religions of the World*. She also founded The Lay School of Theology in Topeka, Kansas, and in 1982, she joined the faculty of St. Paul's Methodist Seminary. While teaching, she was ordained deacon and then became the first woman priest in the Episcopal Diocese of Western Missouri.

Memorial donations may be made to The Metropolitan Organization, 4141 Southwest Fairway, Suite 650, Houston, TX 77027.

**John Hanisian**, father of the Rev. Canon Jim Hanisian and grandfather of the Rev. Matt Hanisian, died Jan. 14. He was 88.

Mr. Hanisian lived in the New York and New Jersey area for more than 65 years. He is survived by his loving wife of 64 years, Jane, as well as his children, grandchildren and other family and friends.

Memorial donations may be made to Hospice of Southern Maine, 180 US Route One, #1, Scarborough, ME 04074.

**Marsha Adinolfi**, the wife of the Rev. Jerry Adinolfi who served as an assistant at St. Matthew's, Westerville, died Jan. 8. She was 66. Condolences may be sent to the Rev. Jerry Adinolfi, 105 Pullins Dr., Coffeyville, Kansas 67337 or by e-mail to [radinolfi2@cox.net](mailto:radinolfi2@cox.net).

### February

7	Bishop Breidenthal	All Saints, Portsmouth
14	Bishop Breidenthal	St. Barnabas, Montgomery
21	Bishop Breidenthal	Ascension & Holy Trinity, Wyoming
28	Bishop Breidenthal	St. Simon of Cyrene, Lincoln Heights
	Bishop Price	St. Philip, Columbus
	Bishop Rivera	Grace Church, College Hill

### March

7	Bishop Breidenthal	Good Samaritan, Amelia
	Bishop Rivera	St. Philip, Circleville
14	Bishop Breidenthal	Trinity, Hamilton
	Bishop Rivera	St. Patrick, Lebanon
21	no visitations	House of Bishops
28	Bishop Breidenthal	Trinity, Columbus

## Formation

### Parish administrator conference offered

The first Diocese of Southern Ohio Parish Administrator Conference will be held Feb. 27 at Procter Camp & Conference Center. This conference, with Bishop Thomas E. Breidenthal as the featured speaker, will be of interest to anyone involved with parish administration, including parish administrator, secretary or clergy. Participants will learn about the canonical framework within which parish administration functions and have an opportunity to share their experiences with others involved in parish administration.

There also will be a special session on resource sharing, including sharing equipment (e.g. color copier, folding machine) and music libraries; discussing policies/procedures; and planning inter-congregational groups and activities. The conference will begin with registration at 9:30 a.m. and conclude by 3 p.m.

Lunch is included in the registration cost of \$15. Register online at [diosohio.wufoo.com/forms/parish-administrator-conference](http://diosohio.wufoo.com/forms/parish-administrator-conference). Questions: Roy Barker at [stpatsbarker@ameritech.net](mailto:stpatsbarker@ameritech.net).

### Parish Health Ministry: Refresh Your Soul

Episcopal Retirement Homes' (ERH) Parish Health Ministry will hold its 2010 Refresh Your Soul Conference on March 12-13 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 5901 Pfeiffer Road, Cincinnati. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Harold G. Koenig, presenting this year's theme "Medicine, Religion and Health: Where Science and Spirituality Meet."

Koenig will provide an expert review of findings regarding the connection between medicine, religion and health, offer a clear analysis of what the evidence means, and discuss practical recommendations for integrating scientific and spiritual care.

Koenig is one of the foremost experts on the study of religion and health. He is founder and former director of Duke University's Center for the Study of Religion, Spirituality and Health, and is founding co-director of the current Center of Spirituality, Theology and Health at Duke University Medical Center.

The activities begin Friday evening with a dynamic presentation by the Rev. Maggie Sebastian. A Disciples of Christ minister and hospital chaplain in Wheeling, W.V., Sebastian is a highly respected speaker and journalist in the field of spirituality and aging.

Information: [www.ParishHealthMinistry.com](http://www.ParishHealthMinistry.com) or call Ellen Schneider at 800.835.5768.

### Stewardship conference planned

Mark your calendars for the annual diocesan stewardship workshop on March 20 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Procter Camp & Conference Center. The conference, titled "Stewardship 24/7/365" will explore the issue of year-around stewardship. Speakers include John Vernon Oaks, stewardship director in the Diocese of Indiana and director of The Episcopal Network for Stewardship. Registration online at [www.diosohio.org](http://www.diosohio.org).

## Events

### Absalom Jones Eucharist

The Diocese of Southern Ohio, the Bishop Herbert Thompson Chapter of the Union of Black Episcopalians and St. Margaret's, Dayton, will celebrate the 28th annual Absalom Jones Festive Eucharist on Feb. 14. The Rev. Canon Kwasi Thornell, retired canon vicar of Christ Church Cathedral, will serve as preacher, and the Rt. Rev. Thomas E. Breidenthal will serve as celebrant. A combined choir from churches in Southern Ohio will provide the music. The service begins at 4 p.m. at St. Margaret's, 5301 Free Pike, Trotwood. A bus will leave from St. Philip's, Columbus, at 1 p.m. All are welcome. Questions: 937.834.7741.

### Cathedral hosts music events

Sara C. Seidel will present an organ recital in Christ Church Cathedral's glorious acoustic on Feb. 21 at 5 p.m. The concert is part of a series of organ recitals offered at the cathedral on the third Sunday of each month, October through May. Admission is free.

Seidel is the organist and director of music at St. Alban's, Bexley.

The cathedral's weekly offerings of Music Live at Lunch continue in February. The concerts begin at 12:10 p.m. and are free and open to all. Patrons may bring their lunch or buy one at the cathedral for \$5.

Christ Church Cathedral is located at 318 East Fourth Street, downtown Cincinnati. Unless otherwise noted, all performances are in the Centennial Chapel.

### Glendale offers Choral Evensongs

Christ Church, Glendale, offers a Choral evensong at 5 pm, on the first Sunday of each month, during the program year.

Each service concludes with fellowship in the Olivia House parish hall.

The next special service is set for Feb. 21 at 5 p.m., when the Training and Resident Choirs of the Cincinnati Boychoir, a premier children's choir will sing Evensong.

The Evensong on March 21 at 5 p.m. will feature the Adult Choir of Christ Church, and an orchestra, presenting a service which includes the Viennese Vespers, with music by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Joseph Haydn.

## Social action

### Continue focus on MDGs

Ideas for Millennium Development Goals interactive learning stations are now available on the diocesan website. The curriculum contains downloadable materials, pictures, step-by-step directions, websites for resources and more. These are user-friendly, easily duplicated and intended to touch hearts with compassion for those who live in extreme poverty. This how-to guide can be found at two places on the diocesan website under What we do, MDG, and under the resources section of the Christian Formation site, [www.christian-formation.diosohio.org](http://www.christian-formation.diosohio.org) Contact: the Rev. Jackie Williams at 513.77.1139.

### Support El Hogar

You are invited to join friends of El Hogar at a fiesta celebrating of 30 years of love and hope. The political turmoil in Honduras has impacted the mission work at El Hogar, a school and orphanage in Tegucigalpa. In response, Episcopalians from around the diocese have put together the First Annual El Hogar Celebration and Fund Raiser at Great American Ballpark on March 7 at 6 p.m. The evening will include dinner, live entertainment, celebrity tables, a "one-of-a-kind" silent auction, a Honduran raffle, a piñata and more! You may bring a table of 8 people for \$600 or come separately for \$75/person.

Tickets are available at these Cincinnati area churches, Redeemer, St. Timothy's, Calvary and Christ Church, and through the El Hogar website at [www.elhogar.org](http://www.elhogar.org).

### Youth mission grants available

The National & World Mission Commission awarded \$6,855 in grants for diocesan youth to participate in mission trips for the summer of 2009. A \$50 basic grant went to 102 youth; 15 also received need-based grants in various amounts. Youth did a variety of different types of mission work in places as far as the Dominican Republic and as close as Athens, Ohio. The grants supported 14 different mission trips. These included Appalachia Service Project; Mountain TOP; Good Earth Hunger project in Athens; Youthworks in Cairo, Ill.; hurricane relief in New Orleans; CREER, a service organization in Costa Rica; Navajoland; and El Hogar de Amor y Esperanza in Honduras.

Applications for youth mission grants for 2010 are now available on the website at [www.diosohio.org/What we do/youth-mission-grants.html](http://www.diosohio.org/What%20we%20do/youth-mission-grants.html). Deadlines for applications are Feb. 15 and April 15. Contact: the Rev. Nancy Hopkins-Greene at [nancy@redeemer-cincy.org](mailto:nancy@redeemer-cincy.org).

### Commission awards MDG grants

The National & World Mission Commission has awarded the second half of 2009 grants to organizations supporting the Millennium Development Goals. Beginning in 2007, the Diocese of Southern Ohio has allocated .07% of its annual operating budget to these grants. The Diocesan Convention in November 2008 designated \$26,394 in 2009 for this purpose. The National & World Mission Commission of the diocese is responsible for reviewing and allocating these grants.

Grants are evaluated based on the ability of projects to directly support one or more of the Millennium Development Grants as well as connection and participation by individuals and congregations of the diocese. Grants were made in November 2009 to the following ministries:

**Project:** Biogas and Cooking Stoves for Marafiki AIDS Orphanage, Kenya

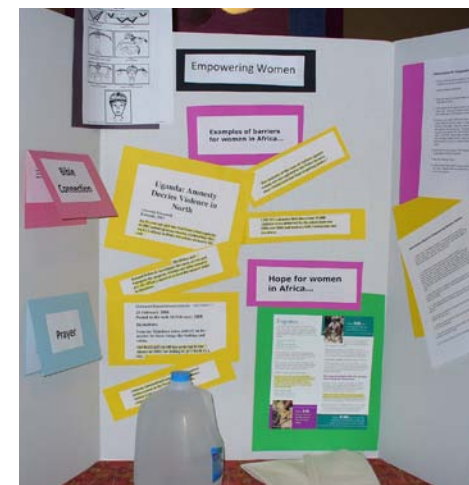
**Grant:** \$ 4,685

Located in Kikuyu, Kenya, Marafiki assists children orphaned, infected with and affected by HIV/AIDS. This grant will go toward repair and purchase of cooking stoves to help feed about one hundred children.

**Project:** Gallinas Episcopales (Episcopal Chickens) Project of Honduras Health. **Grant:** \$ 2,800. Honduras Health is an organization serving 2,600 patients in Honduras. An important part of the work is the training and support of Guardianas (healthcare workers.) This grant goes toward the purchase of chicken houses for the Guardianas.

**Project:** El Hogar Ministries. **Grant:** \$4,685. El Hogar provides a loving home and education for abandoned, orphaned and hopelessly poor children in Honduras. It consists of four programs: an Elementary school, Middle school, Agricultural School and Technical Institute. This grant goes toward general operating support.

Last November, convention once again allocated \$26,394 from the diocesan budget to support the MDGs in 2010. The first deadline for 2010 MDG grants will be in February. For criteria for grant consideration, see the diocesan website or contact the Rev. Trevor Babb, grants subcommittee chair, at [stsimonsrector@aol.com](mailto:stsimonsrector@aol.com).



Example of a Millennium Development Goals display at St. Anne's, West Chester.

## Help rock reading camp!

For the first time, the Diocese of Southern Ohio will host a special summer camp designed to help children in grades 3 and 4 who are reluctant or struggling readers. Children can improve their literacy in a fun and supportive environment. Certified teachers and volunteers will work with children in the morning. In the afternoon, camp counselors will lead activities such as arts and crafts, swimming, outdoor recreation and games. Reading Camp was developed by the Diocese of Lexington. Visit their website to see Reading Camp in action: [www.diocex.org/readingcamp](http://www.diocex.org/readingcamp).

This camp needs your support to be a success. We need certified teachers and other volunteers to staff the camp. You also can give financial support: \$50 will purchase new books for a camper to take home at the end of camp; \$100 will purchase learning games and art supplies for a camper; and \$350 will send a child to camp for a week.

Contact: the Rev. Diana Shirley at [dianashirley@columbus.rr.com](mailto:dianashirley@columbus.rr.com) or 614.882.9038

## Register for summer camp

Make plans now to spend a week or two at summer camp at Procter Camp & Conference Center. There are camps for all ages and interests, including a new Reading Camp to assist children in grades 3 and 4 with fundamental reading schools. Because of the popularity of Family Camp last year, a third session is being added. More details and registration information can be found online at: [www.youth.diosohio.org](http://www.youth.diosohio.org)

June 20-25	Reading Camp
June 25-27	Family Camp I
June 30-July 3	123 Camp & Outdoor Adventure
July 6-10	4th & 5th (Boys & Girls)
July 12-16	Creation Camp
July 16-18	Family Camp II
July 19-24	10th-12th (Senior High)
July 26-31	8th & 9th (Intermediate Camp)
Aug. 2-7	6th & 7th (Junior Camp)
Aug. 11-14	Family Camp III

## Pilgrimage to the National Cathedral

April 25 is Ohio State Day at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., and the dioceses of Southern Ohio and Ohio plan to be there in full force. Southern Ohio's Center for Life Formation is sponsoring a Washington Excursion that will leave early Friday, April 23, on a chartered bus. A block of room has been booked for Friday and Saturday night at L'Enfant Plaza on the mall in Washington. On Saturday, participants will travel to Capitol Hill to visit with representatives from Episcopal Public Policy Network. In the afternoon, time will be given to explore the capitol and the mall. A trip to visit one or more active ministries in the city will be an optional offering. The hotel is right on the mall so trips to the Smithsonian are possible.

On Sunday the group will travel to the Cathedral where breakfast will be offered. Time will be available to attend the forum for the day or visit the book store or exhibits. The service of the Holy Eucharist is celebrated at 11 a.m. in which Ohio will be honored. Bishop Thomas E. Breidenthal will be attending. A tour of the cathedral will follow the liturgy. Box lunches will be provided. The group will board the bus after the tour and leave Washington about 1:30 p.m. to return to Ohio late Sunday evening.

For details on cost and to register, visit [www.lifeformation.diosohio.org](http://www.lifeformation.diosohio.org). Registration will close on March 15 – or when all spaces have been filled. A limited number of rooms are available, and they will be filled on a first-come, first-serve basis. Information: the Rev. Canon Karl Ruttan at 800.582.1712 or [kruttan@diosohio.org](mailto:kruttan@diosohio.org).

## Fast to raise money for the hungry

The St. James, Westwood youth group will host their second 30-Hour Famine youth retreat on March 19 - 21. The retreat's focus is to raise awareness and money to help the world's hunger situation. For millions of children and youth across the globe, eating once every 30 hours is a part of their everyday life. So in order to feel and understand what that is like, the retreat's youth participants will fast for 30 hours themselves. Along with fasting, the youth will learn about world hunger, host and serve a community dinner, participate in worship and bible study and take a trip to play laser tag and mini golf. The retreat is open to all students in grades 7-12 from across the diocese. There is no cost to participate in the retreat; we just ask that all youth planning on attending be willing to help raise money for WorldVision and its mission. If you'd like to donate to the retreat or have more questions concerning the program, please contact Zack Cornelissen at [zcomelissen@yahoo.com](mailto:zcomelissen@yahoo.com) or 513.680.1205. To register for the retreat please go to [www.diosohio.wufoo.com/forms/30-hour-famine/](http://www.diosohio.wufoo.com/forms/30-hour-famine/).

# Indian Hill Church: Leverages resources, expands outreach

BY DOUGLAS BIERER  
INTERCHANGE CONTRIBUTOR

Susan Holzapfel and Linda Seal of Indian Hill Episcopal-Presbyterian Church presented a check in late November for \$7,044 to Jessica Wabler, executive director of the Madisonville Education and Assistance Center. The money will be used to buy food for the center's food pantry.

The Indian Hill Church has long been a supporter of the Madisonville center, which provides vital assistance, primarily in the form of food, clothing, rent and utilities payments, to individuals and families who reside in the Madisonville, Madison Place, Mariemont, Fairfax, East End and Oakley areas. Its mission is to help the people they serve to move toward self-sufficiency.

Proceeds donated to the center were raised through the Kroger "Neighbor-to-Neighbor" program in which church members purchased gift cards and used the cards to purchase groceries and other items at Krogers. Every time they loaded the gift card, the amount spent was tracked and a portion was credited to the church.

"We only began our program in February," said Susan Holzapfel, "and already we are seeing the benefits. We could not think of a better way to use these monies than to provide food for those in need."

"I was surprised how easy it is," said Kitsa Rhoad, a church member and mother of three. "When I load up the card to buy groceries for our family, I think about how much this is helping other people. Buying groceries for our family is something I need to do anyway. This way, everyone benefits."

In these hard economic times, the Indian Hill Church has made helping the hungry and homeless in Cincinnati a priority. In addition to these efforts, the Indian Hill Church also provides meals to about 50 people every other month through the center's Feed and Seed program as well as providing financial support for emergency assistance.

Says Holzapfel, "We take our commitment to the community very seriously by giving not only of our financial resources but also of ourselves."



## Stewardship: Every little bit helps!

BY LARRY HAAS  
INTERCHANGE CONTRIBUTOR

A parishioner from Christ Church, Glendale, brought back a church bulletin from a summer vacation. The church she visited had links on their webpage to Amazon.com, and the bulletin indicated there was some benefit to the parish. We discovered that amazon.com has an Associate Program, which pays a referral fee to sponsors like us for putting amazon.com links on our webpage.

How do you get started? Amazon makes it easy. Open the amazon.com home page, scroll down and look on the left side for a block entitled "Features & Services." Under the heading "Selling with Amazon," click "Associates Program." Amazon provides all the how-to instructions and tools you need. Someone in your parish needs to serve as the primary contact, and you must agree to the terms and conditions. Then amazon.com will provide a unique key that will be part of any links your webmaster includes on your church's website. We keep it very simple, but there are many creative ways to implement. The rest is automatic.

Whenever anyone goes to your website and clicks on icons for books or other amazon.com items, they will be directed to amazon.com, and any purchases during that session will qualify for a referral fee. There is online reporting to track your activity. We established direct deposit, which is the most cost effective method of receiving the referral fees. Now every month we get a deposit (two-month lag). Referral fees scale from 4% of qualified purchases to 15%, depending on the number and type of items purchased during the month.

In the first months, we already have received \$100 just for going through [www.christchurch-glendale.org](http://www.christchurch-glendale.org) to get to amazon.com (and this doesn't include Christmas purchases!).

If you have any questions about setting this up on your website, feel free to contact me at [lahaas@fuse.net](mailto:lahaas@fuse.net).

Share your creative ways of raising money. Send them to *Interchange* at [rtompson@diosohio.org](mailto:rtompson@diosohio.org). Please include how-to instructions and contact information.

**amazon.com**

# Love Song: Possums

My daughter, Ginny Allen, teaches pre-school children at St. Michael's School in Lexington. In years past, she has taught middle school children in Episcopal and Roman Catholic schools and has a good cache of stories from those times, but her best store of anecdotes is about the pre-schoolers, who often have few inhibitions in speech or actions. Ginny knows she must be ready for unexpected challenges from the children. And sometimes from other sources.

A few years ago, in the late August heat and humidity, the teachers set about preparing the school, in the basement of the church, for its opening.

The first event was to be an evening for parents to receive information and ask questions. As the teachers worked in their classrooms, they began noticing an unpleasant odor. They searched for the source and found nothing. The smell got worse, permeating the hallways and classrooms as parents' night drew near. Ginny said, "You could walk into the basement, and it would wrench your stomach, it was so bad."

The source was traced to one classroom. "The teacher was mortified. It was super clean; how could anything like that come from her room?" The teachers took the room apart, even looked in the heating-cooling ducts. They cleaned everything again, but the place still smelled disgusting.

Parents' night came and about 30 people crowded the room. Both windows were open. "We had Lysoled everything, so not only did you have the smell of something rotting, but also it was mixed with the smell of Lysol. Needless to say, it

THE REV.  
BOB HORINE



was a pretty quick meeting."

The next day Theresa Hart, school secretary and chaplain, and Ginny arrived early. "We had some time and by golly we were going to figure out where that smell was coming from. The children were going to come the next day."

They looked the place over carefully again. Finally, Theresa got a chair and climbed up to look in the window wells. "Screaming, she fell off the chair into my arms crying,

"There's a devil dead possum." (Surely no one would have said 'opossum' under the circumstances.) What to do. Ginny and Theresa were the only staff present. They found a shovel and looked the situation over. Theresa was still shaking. "We tried to do it ourselves, but nope," Ginny said, "the smell was too bad, this was nasty." So they decided "a man should do it." Theresa's husband was unavailable, but my son-in-law Chris came and got down in the well and got the creature out.

"It was disposed of. The smell of dead possum and Lysol lingered for several days, but eventually went away."

"For a long time I wanted to get Theresa a little stuffed possum and put it on her desk. You can't buy a stuffed possum. You can't find them because possums are looked upon as disgusting and evil creatures. You can buy snakes, and

what's worse than a snake?"

The next year there was a live possum in the window well, walking back and forth, looking in as the 3-year-olds entered the classroom. "Look," said one, "a kitty cat in the window." Another said, "No, it's a big rat in the window." "So, we had to explain to the children what it was so they didn't go home and say, 'We have rats at school.'"

Last year Ginny came into school one day and immediately recognized "the smell." Again, it was late August. It was bad, with "tons of flies." This time a hapless father who had brought his child to school early was enlisted as possum retriever. "Men don't get grossed out."

The bushes around the window wells have been removed, and no more possums have shown up.

Ginny, theologizing, said, "Well, they didn't go there to die. They went there looking for something and they couldn't get back out.

"I felt sorry for them because they had a sad ending. We're all God's creatures and even the ugliest and most repugnant deserves some dignity, rather than dying in a school window well and being thrown away in a garbage bag.

"It was kind of sad."

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

## Lay theologian: Christmas in Ecuador

The Sunday after Christmas, our family attended Mass at La Catedral de Inmaculada Concepción in Cuenca, Ecuador. Charlotte, Caldwell and I visited Slocomb there between Christmas and New Year. Slocomb is working in Cuenca (population 460,000) this year after college, immersed in another culture, perfecting his Spanish.

The cathedral Mass we attended was not what I'm used to.

People were coming into the service even later than they do at Christ Church. The several chapels along the sides of the cavernous nave seemed to be full of personal devotional activities during the service.

One woman went up and down the center aisle begging. Another walked solemnly up the aisle, past the preacher to the Epistle side of the large central altar and prostrated herself for prayer. She returned down the center as the homily concluded, carrying her shoes.

The clergy just kept on going as if this were all perfectly to be expected. When we got to the Lord's Prayer, everyone said it at their own pace rather than in unison, just as Slocomb said they would.

Slocomb assured us later that we were observing not cultural differences between Ecuador and the U.S. but class differences between country folk who come to the cathedral from outside the city and professional folk who attend other churches in Cuenca.

We asked him whether we were supposed to cross our arms over our chest when we went for Communion, to indicate we



DR. DON REED

are not Roman Catholic but desire a blessing. They wouldn't know what to do with us, Slocomb said. In Cuenca, you say you're Catholic because you're Latin American. There is no need for a convention for dealing with non-Catholics.

The full-scale Christmas celebration began, Slocomb told us, on the Monday before Christmas and lasted until the following Sunday, the day we attended Mass. While we in Southern Ohio were having various Christmas Eve services -- and perhaps doing some last-minute shopping, Slocomb had attended "la pasada del niño Jesus," an eight-hour Christmas Eve parade. The parade brought the "boy Jesus" to the cathedral crèche for Christmas. By the evening service, the nave of the cathedral was packed with thousands of people.

Three days later, the Sunday we attended Mass, several people still had with them replicas of the official Jesusito, the "little Jesus" brought for the Christ Mass in the parade to the cathedral crèche. It is a plaster figure about the size of a newborn, with brown eyes and a full head of wavy hair. Country folk bring their Jesusitos to the cathedral to be blessed on Christmas Eve, as part of the Mass. They buy outfits for him from vendors in the city and return him to their crèches at home.

When we left Sunday Mass, people were in the square preparing for the final parade of the Christmas celebration. Cars, vans, trucks and small buses were decorated, draped as floats. Children, on the tops and in pickup beds, were in Holy Family costumes, and some were angels.

This all seemed very odd to me. Not at all what I'm used to. Back in Ohio, I began to wonder whether I had missed some similarities as well as an essential difference.

At Christ Church, Springfield, we have a Christmas pageant every year at the 4:30 p.m. service, put on by our children in costumes, with songs, narrators and parents sneaking photos and video. We have a crèche up in front near the altar, with our own Jesusito. At Epiphany, children process up the center aisle with the Magi figures, placing them at the crèche.

Relatively speaking, it is all quite understated, and it is all indoors. Our city square in Springfield, on the other hand, is all decorated and lit up during the month before Christmas.

None of the decorations contain religion-specific symbols, but no one doubts what they are for. There are lights on the eaves of houses and luminous lawn ornaments in yards across the city. I don't remember any Christmas lights in Ecuador.

We in Ohio are kept inside for our religious observances, by the weather or the First Amendment, and drawn outside for gift-buying and putting up sometimes elaborate though religion-non-specific decorations.

In Cuenca, outside is a continuation of inside -- the secular an extension of the sacred.

Don Collins Reed is a member of Christ Church, Springfield, and is professor of Philosophy at Wittenberg University. Contact him at [dreed@wittenberg.edu](mailto:dreed@wittenberg.edu).



The Cathedral from Slocomb's apartment



Youth from St. Paul's, Oakwood, during previous mission trips.



# Acts of mission guide Lenten devotion

## FROM PAGE 1

the idea of mission is universal across all religions. We publicized this event with 25 local faith centers—churches, temples, Bahai groups, Buddhist centers, and the Young Life program. The goal: to spread the news that interfaith collaboration in mission is a beautiful way to understand each other and share common experiences.

At the event, we provided each guest with a devotional guide for the period of Lent in the Christian faith. These guides were created by Y.O.D.A.H. participants as interfaith reflections for each day of the project. Included are quotes from faith and peace leaders, suggested acts of kindness, and inspirational photos for prayer and reflection. DNTS and 30 Second Day, two local bands composed of teens from various churches, performed for the event.

A song was written and performed for the start of the project. This offered a great sense of dedication and purpose to the entertainment. Food was donated, interactive activities were led for all, and attending youth were invited to the "Mission Mic" to share stories about an experience they've had in mission work in their lives. Art Paul led a gorgeous prayer service built on quotes from Dr. Martin Luther King, guiding us into the main activity of the evening: making commitments to the work.

The key piece of the evening was the invitation to participate. This was done by distributing 40 posters with details and dates for each of the 40 acts of mission, including signup materials for each young adult to study as they made choices. There was no pressure to do every single act. In fact, the choices were designed



to allow students the opportunity to tailor volunteer times to busy schedules. All were encouraged to do what they knew they could commit to, during the time period from Ash Wednesday to Palm Sunday in the Christian tradition.

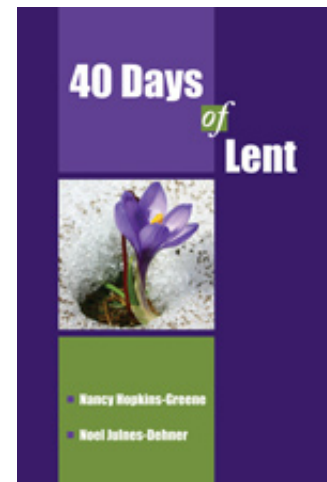
Beginning with service at the St. Paul's Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, youth of Dayton will be servant leaders, compassionate givers and loving volunteers, in the service of people in need.

The culmination of 40Love, including all the acts of mission around the community, will be a photo installation in the form of a labyrinth, set up as an interactive exhibit at St. Paul's during Holy Week, March 28-April 4. This will allow parish members and visitors to see the work completed, and the message of kindness, compassion and peace that was spread around the Miami Valley.

To get involved with 40Love, please join the Facebook group titled "40LOVE", or email Emma at [horselover7447@aol.com](mailto:horselover7447@aol.com), Jean at [phersu@sbcglobal.net](mailto:phersu@sbcglobal.net), Art at [artapaul@gmail.com](mailto:artapaul@gmail.com) or Shannon at [AIM.LightUpTheSkyy24](http://AIM.LightUpTheSkyy24).

## More Lenten resources

**40 Days of Lent:** This year's book of Lenten meditations from Forward Movement Publications is co-written by the Rev. Noel Julnes-Dehner and the Rev. Nancy Hopkins-Greene. Noel and Nancy both grew up at St. Thomas, Terrace Park, and both serve as assistant editors at Forward Movement. The booklet *40 Days of Lent* includes daily meditations and suggestions for reflection, prayer and practice. Each week's reflections are focused on a particular theme or practice. The two authors shared the writing of these meditations by alternate weeks. Ash Wednesday through the first week in Lent focuses on following Jesus. The second week of Lent explores the practice of discernment. The theme of the third week is simplicity, followed by justice for week four. The fifth week in Lent focuses on forgiveness and the reflections for Holy Week explore passion. Booklets cost \$3; 10 or more for \$2 each. To order, contact Forward Movement, 412 Sycamore St., Cincinnati, OH 45202-4195; 800.543.1813; [www.forwardmovement.org](http://www.forwardmovement.org).



**Deanery-wide Lenten study:** The Columbus Deanery Lenten School will be hosted by St. Matthew's, Westerville. Class dates are March 2, 9, 16 and 23. The evening will begin at 6:30 p.m. with Holy Eucharist. A short fellowship time will follow the service, and classes run from 7:15 to 8:30 p.m. The evening's activities will end at 8:30 p.m. Childcare is available but must be requested in advance. Classes run either two- or four-weeks in length. Registration fee is \$10 per person. To register, or for more information, contact the Rev. Cricket Park at St. Patrick's, Dublin, at 614.766.2664. Registration also online at [www.diosohio.org](http://www.diosohio.org).

**Affirmative Aging hosts Quiet Day:** The Affirmative Aging Commission is sponsoring a Quiet Day on Saint Patrick's Day, March 17, at Procter Camp & Conference Center from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Lunch is provided. Come away for a while and enrich your soul during Lent - a season of introspection and renewal. A quiet day is like a 'mini-retreat,' with a leader offering a series of meditations interspersed with times for quiet solitude and reflection with an opportunity for spiritual direction. What a blessing in this noisy world! The Affirmative Aging Commission offers this quiet day for everyone, wherever you are on your spiritual journey. There is no fee, but donations will be accepted. Please RSVP to the Rev. Steve Cuff at [scuff@erhinc.com](mailto:scuff@erhinc.com) or 513.533.5045.