



# SPRINGFIELD CURRENT

*A Newsletter of the Episcopal Diocese of Springfield*

PETERTIDE 2025



# from the Bishop

Dear Beloved of Christ:

I love attending minor league baseball games. The ballparks are just a step above a high school field, the players are young and doing all in their power to be noticed, the tickets are priced so that you don't have to sit in the nose bleed section to enjoy the game, and if it rains, you may even be asked to come onto the field to help roll out the tarp. When attending a minor league baseball game, it feels as if the phone could ring in the manager's office at any moment calling one up to the Major League.

The minor league is where the details of fundamentals are important to get right, over and over and over again. It is where relationships matter and where every ticket sold is appreciated because it sustains the life of an entire clubhouse, guaranteeing no more than a scheduled game and perhaps a bus ride tomorrow. The one-time Bishop of Quincy was a minor league baseball player and whenever he speaks of that time, his eyes glisten as he reminisces about those days and fields of dreams.

The Episcopal Church in Central and Southern Illinois is a bit like that. Each and every week I get to be with priests, deacons, and laity that pay a great deal of attention to the fundamentals of being good church. They recognize innately how important it is that true Christian fellowship and relationship be entered into, fostered, and maintained. Nothing is taken for granted. Every "at bat" is appreciated and celebrated for the opportunity it brings the entire community of faithful believers in Jesus Christ.

When I am with other bishops, I am at times asked, "What is it like being able to focus so intently on vocations, mission priorities, and being good Church within your Diocese?" My answer comes quite easily; "It's tremendous." Even the landscape driving into such places as Carlinville, Robinson, West Frankfort, Havana, and Albion speaks of a sanctity that goes out ahead of us, simply concern with our making it from the empty tomb to Galilee (Matthew 26:32 and 28:7) as disciples of Christ living to this side of Easter.

In light of the wonderful things going on in our Diocese, allow me this opportunity to share what I give thanks to God for from the dugout.

*Continued on page 5.*



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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE  
EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD

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Cover art: Statue of St. Peter, 2009  
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Background image: (p. 2-3) Ian Pitchford  
5/29/2025

## CONTRIBUTING

Communication serves a crucial function in every ministry. Sharing information among congregations, committees, and individual members is no small task. Welcoming new members to our diocesan family also requires unique communication efforts at all levels.

Your contribution to this ministry of communication helps spread the word about what God is doing in our lives, in our congregations, in our diocese, and in the Episcopal Church at large. Please consider making a gift today.

We are committed to sending our diocesan publication to all members and friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Springfield. It is not necessary to contribute in order to receive *The Springfield Current*. Nevertheless, if you choose to support *The Springfield Current*, your contribution will be of great assistance in this ministry and is tax deductible. Thank you for your support!



DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD



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# FROM THE BISHOP

*Continued*

I give thanks to God that the gospel is being truly preached and truly heard and that the sacraments are being faithfully administered and faithfully received. I am humbled whenever there is an Ordination, Celebration of a New Ministry, or Burial of a cleric because the priests and deacons of this Diocese know how to sanctify that time and that space with their presence. I am encouraged when I go to a distant parish or mission and the very best of prayer book worship is being practiced there. I am proud of our postulants who are already exhibiting the leadership and vocational qualities that will be needed by the Church in our immediate future.

Even though it is considered a bit “old school,” I take this opportunity to hold up and express my appreciation for the herculean work that our clergy spouses accomplish for the sake of the Gospel and in the interest of healthy, vibrant churches. Many hours of volunteer time and service are given to the church and to our Diocese where they make their Holy Communion. More often than not, when I arrive for an important commemoration, celebration, or event, a clergy spouse is setting the tone for those that participate. It seems as if they are the center spoke of many struggling parishes and they lend their confidence and experience so well. The Diocese of Springfield is a place where priests and deacons do their best to pattern their life and that of their family in accordance with the teachings of Christ so that they may be a wholesome example to all people (BCP pg. 532 and 544)

As this time of anticipated promise continues, and as we continue on exodus together, please plan now to join us for the following vocational milestones within our Diocese:

*Stained Glass Window, Flickr*



*St. James the Apostle, c. 1612-1613, Peter Paul Rubens, Picryl*

## - July 25th -

The Feast of St. James the Apostle. The Reverend Dr. Zachary Guiliano will be received into the Episcopal Church as priest and seated as the rector of Emmanuel Memorial in Champaign. Fr. Guiliano is an American citizen who studied in Oxford, England and was priested by the Bishop of Oxford. His most recent cure prior to coming to Springfield was as Priest Vicar and Chapter Safeguarding Officer of Christ Church Cathedral in Oxford. He and his wife are returning to the United States and have already made their home in Urbana.

## - September 29th -

The Feast of St. Michael and All Angels. The Reverend Mthr. Marisa Vogel will be instituted and seated as rector of St. John's in Decatur. Mother Marisa comes to us from the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas and has served exceptionally as Curate of Emmanuel Memorial in Champaign. Mother Marisa has been before the altar of St. John's since late January of this year. She is doing a magnificent job and the parish is receiving renewed attention throughout the community.





*St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Carbondale, IL*



*St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Harrisburg, IL*

We have other such vocational opportunities for those clerics who can live the words they pray. Those positions that are open and have posted their parish profile to the Episcopal Church Office of Transition Ministry list of open positions are:

- St. Andrew's in Carbondale
- St. Stephen's in Harrisburg

A few other churches are in the process of completing parish surveys in the interest of submitting their OTM profile. Position openings may be found posted to our Diocesan website ([episcopalspringfield.org](http://episcopalspringfield.org)) as they are available.

Priests and deacons will come to us in one of two ways; we either raise them up and educate them or we invite them to deploy to our Diocese. What can you do? Speak well of your Diocese and the opportunities that exist here. It is hard work but it is the kind of work that will turn inexperienced priests and deacons into champions for the cause of Christ. Why? Because the leading priority within this Diocese is worship, which fuels mission, which invites and informs stewardship, which invites worship.

When, in your travels, you meet a priest or deacon that you admire, encourage them to consider open positions within our Diocese, and then follow-up. When the laity reach



across Diocesan lines, it's not "sheep stealing." Also, look throughout your congregations for those with sanctuary feet and a heart for the gospel - a sincere and fervent desire to share the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ with others. They may be wrestling with a vocational call. It is up to the laity to encourage such a wrestling match and to provide for them the resources necessary for discernment.

Of course, all of this has a scriptural point of reference. In the Sixteenth Chapter of Exodus, the Israelites, after their deliverance from Egypt, cry out to Moses to be fed. After only a month and 15 days into their exodus, their provisions run out. When Moses intercedes on their behalf to God, God has a very specific expectation that I believe is an attribute of His. And if so, then an attribute of His Church. "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days" (Exodus 16:4-5). This is our time within salvation history. Just enough for today.

We are the Body of Christ in Central and Southern Illinois. We are the Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery (BCP pg. 528). Others will want to wait until the Major League calls them up. We'll take our at bat right now with full intention of "swinging for the fences."

Thank you for calling the Episcopal Diocese of Springfield your Church home. We are a more faithful Diocese because you are here.

In the peace of God, which passeth all understanding;

Bishop Brian K. Burgess  
XII Springfield

+ 3-15-21



Photo by Ian Pitchford, May 29th, 2025



## EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN'S LENTEN RETREAT

By Joyce Wright and Carol McCrary

*Co-Chairwomen of the Women's Lenten Retreat, 2025*

The Episcopal Church Women of The Diocese of Springfield Lenten Retreat was held from March 21st through the 23rd at Todd Hall, Columbia IL with “Women Growing in Spirit and Truth” as the retreat theme. It was a joyous gathering led by Rev. Gayle Fisher-Stewart from the Diocese of Washington, DC. Our gracious retreat leader was dynamic! The Saturday morning workshop focused on truth, faith, awareness, listening and sacred rest and gave participants the time to interact with the retreat leader and others. An afternoon service of healing was led by Rev. Gayle Fisher-Stewart and was inspiring to all during the season of Lent. Saturday evening included a sing-along



program, providing attendees the opportunity to lift up their voices in praise and thanksgiving. Morning Prayer, Compline and a social hour were also included in the retreat. Attendees toured the lovely grounds of Todd Hall for prayer and meditation. The retreat

ended Sunday morning with Eucharist at St. Cecilia Chapel led by Retreat Chaplin Rev. Mollie Ward with music provided by Rev. Sherry Black. All women in the Diocese are invited to attend next year's lenten retreat, which will be held at Todd Hall (date to be announced later).

## SPRING HAT UPDATE

**Mother's Day Initiative**

*In support of Contact Ministries, Springfield*

When the Bishop sends out a call of participation into the Diocese, the people of Central and Southern Illinois never fail to respond. The Fourth Sunday of Easter, also celebrated as Mother's Day, saw a great multitude of hats adorning the heads of the wonderful women of our Diocese (and a handful

of our male clergy as well). Young and old joined together in support of Contact Ministries, a local non-profit, in hopes of exceeding last year's donation of \$250 (\$5 per photo-captured participant) from the Bishop's Discretionary Fund. Founded in 1978 by five Springfield churches, Contact Ministries is



a faith-based social services organization that seeks to offer free, on-site programs and community resources to meet the needs of the poverty-level individuals and families in the area, with the ultimate hope of increasing their economic self-sufficiency and reducing their dependency on public assistance. Thanks to the overwhelming participation across our parishes, the Bishop's donation reached a record \$300 this year and his generosity was returned by a thank you note from the mission. "Dear Episcopal Diocese, Thank you for your generous donation to the women and children in our shelter. We express our deepest gratitude. 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these, you did for me.' (Matt 25:40). Cindy Drum & Staff".



*St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Springfield, IL*



*All Saints' Episcopal Church, Morton, IL*



*St Michael's Episcopal Church, O'Fallon, IL*



*Christ the King Episcopal Church, Normal, IL*



*St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Edwardsville, IL*





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## VOLUNTEER THANK YOU

By Genese M. Dadzie

*Interim Office Assistant*

Thank you to the volunteers of the Diocesan office—Mary Ellen Wells, Susan Beard, Denise Burgess, Nina Bartold and Ellen Burbage. While this role has been an adventure, these volunteers have smoothed the rough edges, allowing me to be more impactful during my time as an assistant to Bishop Burgess. I keep a quote in the office from the late Quincy Jones that says “I don’t look at problems as challenges, I look at them as puzzles, and puzzles can be solved”. Through their faithful work, we have been solving many “puzzles” over the last 4 months.



Whether it is picking up food for meetings, organizing decades’ worth of files, helping me navigate as an assistant or just a warm hug letting me know that everything will be okay—these volunteers have brought joy and excellence to this office that can be felt the moment you walk through the door. More than anything, they have reminded me that ministry is not a solo act. It is the collective, Spirit-filled work of many heads, hearts and hands (and sometimes a little humor).

To each volunteer who has shown up—thank you. You have brought glory to this office, and your impact will remain long after my interim season comes to an end.





Sewanee Theological Seminary, May 9th, 2025

## HONORARY DOCTORATE

*Sewanee Theological Seminary, TN*

Invited by Vice Chancellor Robert Pearigen and ratified by the Board of Regents of The University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee, Bishop Burgess was granted a Doctor of Divinity degree during the School of Theology commencement Eucharist held on Friday, May 9th within All Saint's Chapel. Owning Bishops of Province IV (Lexington and South Carolina) along with the Bishop of Missouri (an owning diocese but not part of Province IV) were joined by alumni bishops of the School of Theology (Ohio and Springfield) in receiving this honorific degree. Joined by family, friends, and former classmates, the evening of the 9th brought



(L. to R) Blaine Burgess (brother), Robert Burgess (son), Bishop Brian Burgess, Denise Burgess, Fr. John Runkle (seminary classmate)



the entire School of Theology community together for a black-tie optional dinner in Convocation Hall where each bishop was asked to share in short story form "how it was they came to Sewanee."





*Pentecost on Icon from Hajdúdorog, Hungary, c. 1810, Wikimedia Commons*

## THE MEANING OF PENTECOST

By Fr. John Richmond

*Christ the King, Normal*

I am sorry that “Pentecostal” has come to be associated with a particular kind of Christianity. Because through our baptism we are all children of Pentecost, and connections with the Feast can be extraordinary regardless of how the day manifests itself.

My son was baptized on Pentecost, 1997. We were living in Palestine, Texas, in the piney woods of East Texas (Palestine, incidentally, is “Palesteen” down there); I was director of the public library, and a busy supply priest. The rector of the local parish presided at the Eucharist. My father-in-law, also a priest, and I participated in the liturgy. I, in fact, was the baptizer.

Everything was going smoothly until we arrived at the prayer over the water. As I began the prayer, suddenly my eyes seemed to be as full as the font was. I stopped and started a few times. My voice cracked, wobbled. Probably to their credit, neither of the other priests saved me from the power of the moment.

Our baptismal liturgy is a powerful one. No baptism has been quite like that of my son...but neither has any baptism signified less than it did on that Pentecost of 1997. The heavens did not open in a thunderous way—but in a sense, they opened. The Spirit moved upon the face of the water. No one spoke in tongues, but neither was my praying over the water, and the witness of those surrounding my son and me,



any less remarkable for the lack of ecstatic speech and tongues of fire.

In our baptism, we are all children of Pentecost, and members of the Body of Christ, marked forever.

And then, in the Church's calendar, we enter what some call Ordinary Time, and others simply mark as Sundays and weeks after Pentecost. We become accustomed to words as they are commonly used. "Commonly" may imply routine—unless we are speaking of the Book of Common Prayer, which points us to the Body of Christ and how we worship in common. "Ordinary" also, at times, suggests routine, dullness, maybe even boredom, in daily use.

But it doesn't have to. The word "ordinary" comes from several sources. In 15th century French, the meaning of "ordinary" is "regular, customary, belonging to the usual order or course, conformed to a regulated sequence or arrangement." Here there is a flow, an ordering of life. What goes on around us sometimes is beyond our control. There is enough political chaos in our own country to satisfy those who apparently thrive on it. So we need something to be conformed to or regulated by.

Or, to come at things differently: The message that our culture often sends to us through self-help literature or workshops about How to Make Our Lives



*The Baptism of Christ, c. 1641-1642, Flickr*

More Fulfilling suggests that only the flashily extraordinary life is worth living. Children are put onto treadmills—sports, school activities—early, as if to prepare them for insane adult living. Yet something about what is familiar and orderly is lost.

But for us, as the Body of Christ, there is the witness of regular, customary worship that orders life. When we gather faithfully ("Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers?"), then what seems to be out of control may be, under God, regulated. Made ordinary, in the best sense of the word, which is not the same as dull or boring.

I am not saying that we are never extraordinary people doing

extraordinary things. But as a priest once said to me, life is so very daily. "Daily" is how most of us grow throughout life. Until he burst upon the scene, Jesus presumably led what was for his time a normal, ordinary existence, regulated by daily rhythms of life in 1st-century Palestine (not Palesteeen!). Even in carrying out his ministry on earth—stories of which we hear in the Sundays of Ordinary Time—Jesus manifested the ordinary (teaching in the synagogue, praying, eating with friends) in the midst of extraordinary healings and other miracles. The Holy Spirit in-forms the Church on Pentecost. And we are empowered to move through Ordinary Time, sure of God's presence with us.



# 2026 PRE-LENTEN CLERGY RETREAT

February 11th - 13th, 2026

*Hosted at Kings House Conference & Retreat Center - Our Lady of Snows, Belleville, IL*

Bishop Burgess is pleased to share the preliminary plans for the 2026 Pre-Lenten Clergy Retreat. Due to Kings House Conference and Retreat Center at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Snows in Belleville already being booked when the retreat is typically hosted, the 2026 retreat will be held Wednesday, February 11 through Friday, February 13, 2026 for all priests and deacons of our Diocese and invited clergy guests. This year's reflections will be entitled Searching for Sacred Space offered by Episcopal priest and architect Fr. John Ander Runkle. The one-time Conservator of the Cathedral of St. Peter and St. Paul (The Washington National Cathedral) in Washington, D.C., Fr. Runkle now lives in Sewanee, Tennessee with his wife where he offers his expertise to churches and Diocese near and far in the face of design challenges, preservation priorities, and the proper maintenance or expansion of sacred space.

Three reflections will invite deeper explorations into the physical and structural in order to confront the Presence of the incarnational and the transcendent.

Meditation 1: Building Blocks  
Meditation 2: From Blocks to Spaces  
Meditation 3: Spaces Shaping Liturgies and Beyond

The retreat meditations are intended to provoke continued reflections that lead us as a Diocesan Clericus to the book, Pray, Love, Remember by Michael Mayne, who upon invitation of Queen Elizabeth II served as Dean of Westminster Abbey from 1986 until 1996.

From serving as an architect on staff with the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation to surveying archaeological sites of medieval Islamic settlements in the Sahara Desert of North Africa, to preserving, restoring, and revitalizing historic worship space in the Anglican tradition, his architectural experience spans

over twenty-five years. He consults with a number of churches, chapels, and dioceses in the care of their buildings, including the Episcopal Church Center, who retains him as the Consulting Project Manager guiding the efforts to reconstruct Holy Trinity Cathedral in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. From 2005 to 2010, Fr. Runkle served as the Cathedral Conservator at Washington National Cathedral, where he was responsible for the care of the Cathedral's building fabric, along with managing its fine arts collections. From 2010 to 2013, he also served as the Canon for Architecture and the Arts in the Diocese of Washington.



John Ander Runkle BA, BArch, MDiv

<http://johnrunkle.org>





A prolific writer, Fr. Runkle's book *Searching for Sacred Space: Essays on Architecture and Liturgical Design in the Episcopal Church* is a collection of thought-provoking essays that focus on liturgical space and its proper support of common worship. A popular speaker at lectures, conferences, and retreats, he also teaches at Virginia Theological Seminary and Wesley Theological Seminary on the theology of sacred space and the history of religious architecture.

In 1999, Fr. Runkle received his Master of Divinity from The University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee; preceded in 1984 by a Bachelor of Architecture, with honors, from the University of Tennessee and a Bachelor of Art, magna cum laude, from Mary Baldwin College.

Clergy, please mark your calendars now in preparation to join us. Your presence completes us. Laity, please plan on supporting our clergy in this time of worship, prayer, collegial fellowship, reflection, rest, spiritual renewal, education, and discovery.

Easter tide | 15

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