

## BISHOP'S REPORT

In addition to tending to the needs of our congregations, the pastoral care of the clergy and their families, and my episcopal duties detailed in the statistics below, a great deal of time and attention this past year, particularly from September to February, was devoted to preparing for the *Presiding Bishop's Pilgrimage for Reconciliation, Healing, and Evangelism in Southwestern Pennsylvania*. While diocesan staff worked overtime to lay the logistical groundwork for the event, I worked to build relationships with ecumenical leaders, particularly those in African-American churches. The result was a tremendously successful weekend February 3-5, in which the racial divide that afflicts the region and the churches began, in some small measure, to be bridged. This work continues through the partnership between the Rev. Dr. Darryl Canady and me, resulting in a movement we are calling *Church Without Walls*. This has brought together over 170 people from several traditions, including participants from 15 of our parishes. They meet in racially balanced small groups for prayer, study, and listening to one another. The next phase will be launched on October 15th. Presiding Bishop Michael Curry asked me to give an oral report to the House of Bishops on what we have done and where we are going. I did so on September 26th. It was enthusiastically received, and several bishops have expressed an interest in creating a similar movement in their own dioceses.

When General Convention arrives this coming July, I will have served three years as one of five bishops appointed to the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music. Our principal task has been fulfilling the requirement of GC Resolution A169 – to prepare a plan for the comprehensive revision of the *Book of Common Prayer* – but our report will include a second option allowing the BCP to remain in its current form while expanding the canonical categories for other liturgies to be authorized in this Church. I am one of the drafters of this alternative. This option emphasizes the importance of the book as an instrument of catechesis, a use that has not yet been widely promoted. I am hopeful that in the coming years the Prayer Book will find its appropriate place in lay faith development, in such efforts as the Restoration Project and the Faith Five initiative being encouraged in our parishes by our Canon for Evangelism and Faith Formation, the Rev. Natalie Hall.

Our relationship with Pittsburgh Theological Seminary is developing, including a design for an Anglican Track, which is taking longer than I had hoped, though I expect to see a concrete proposal go forward by the end of the year. I continue to serve on the PTS Board and teach there occasionally. I am hopeful that an ongoing program of development for recently ordained clergy will be unveiled in the next several months.

With encouragement and funding from our diocesan trustees, Trinity Cathedral has hired staff critical to the further development of its ministry. In consultation with the Very Rev. Scott Quinn, Interim Dean, I have called together a working group comprised of trustees, advisors, and other stakeholders to build a new vision and strategy for the Cathedral, emphasizing future ministries in the areas of arts and culture, education and social empowerment. I will be taking an active role building relationships across the city and region to help the Cathedral become the significant institution for a public Gospel I believe God wants it to be.

The parishes of the Mon Valley are progressing in their task of forming a common vision for Gospel work in their neighborhoods. The Rev. Brandon Mazingo has been appointed Deacon-in-Charge of Saint Stephen's McKeesport, under the supervision of Canon Jay Geisler, and Canon Kim Karashin is working with the team to partner with the leadership of Bethlehem Baptist Church in addressing the scourge of addiction as a primary focus of the Church's mission. Though the state budget is still in limbo as of this writing, I am hopeful that our efforts on behalf of the Manchester Bidwell Corporation, under the direction of Bill Strickland, will secure adequate funding to study the feasibility of establishing a job-

training center in McKeesport, which could become a focus for our own future ministry in the Mon Valley.

Our diocesan staff has continued to help parishes meet their needs for deeper Christian formation, clearer financial administration, and better-equipped lay leadership. In addition to the work of those named above, our Treasurer and Director of Administration, Kathi Workman, provides invaluable and patient support in every conceivable question around the management of parish resources. Other notable staff contributions include the Appreciative Inquiry process for re-evaluating parish goals led by Canons Ted Babcock and Kim Karashin, and the daily response to countless inquiries, phone calls, requests for information and the like, offered by Executive Assistant Judi Rogers, Property Manager Marlene Rihn, and Archivist Joan Gundersen. Support of the clergy is aided by Canon Pastor Scott Quinn. On the communications front, I am grateful for Rich Creehan and Andy Muhl, especially as we aim to launch our new website before the end of this year, while the Rev. Shawn Malarkey has already proven of enormous value as the new coordinator for clergy communications. I am proud and grateful for the contributions of all the colleagues mentioned in this report, and for the many others whom I have not named – the faithful clergy and laity of our congregations – upon whose prayers I depend from hour to hour.

Faithfully your bishop,  
+Dorsey

### **Statistics for September 1, 2016 – August 31, 2017**

Episcopal Visitations	37	Marriages	0
Confirmations	72	Burials	3
Receptions	20	Ordinations	6 (Order of Deacon 3; Order of Priest 3)
Baptisms	4	Renewal of Vows	1