

# DEACONS

The Diocese of Pittsburgh has seven deacons actively leading others in the care of the poor, sick, lonely and needy, and in the advocacy for those who have no helper; they also serve in many common ministries throughout the diocese and as parish deacons in six of the 36 churches currently participating in our diocese.

## **Diocesan Events**

In October 2016, Deacon Jean Chess was a member of the ECW/Diocesan planning committee that hosted the event on Human Trafficking at Trinity Cathedral with the Rev. Becca Stevens and her colleagues from Thistle Farms.

Over the weekend of February 3 – 5, 2017, the Presiding Bishop, the Most Reverend Michael Bruce Curry, came to Pittsburgh to celebrate Absalom Jones Day and to join our Bishop Dorsey McConnell in launching the *Pilgrimage for Reconciliation, Healing and Evangelism in Southwestern Pennsylvania*. Deacon Linda Wilson was part of the planning committee for this, the first of five revivals to take place throughout the Episcopal Church. All the deacons actively participated in some aspect of the weekend of worship and events centered on evangelism and racial reconciliation.

## **In Service to the Diocese**

Deacon Linda Wilson has served as the head of the Clergy Association. She and Jean Chess serve on the Disciplinary Board. Deacon Christine McIlvain serves as a Title IV Intake Officer. Deacons Ann Staples and Lorena Ringle serve on the Commission on Ministry. Jean Chess serves as secretary for Diocesan Council. All deacons accompanied Bishop McConnell on various parish visitations throughout the year; and, whenever possible, serve as deacons at ordinations and other special diocesan-wide services.

## **In Service to Parishes and the Community**

Deacon Jean Chess continues at St. Andrew's, Highland Park, as parish deacon, with pastoral visiting as well as building community among parishioners who work downtown. This past year, she helped staff and volunteers who have responsibility for children obtain the clearances required by the recently updated Pennsylvania child welfare laws.

Deacon John Mark Feuerstein, Church of the Good Shepherd, Hazelwood, passed the FAA examination and received his pilot's certification.

Deacon Wade Lawrence serves every Sunday at All Saint's, Brighton Heights, and faithfully visits the sick at home, in hospital and nursing homes.

Deacon Christine McIlvain, Christ Church, North Hills, continues leading Women in Discipleship which has expanded to include an evening class; the women in the Wednesday class raised money to purchase 110 pairs of shoes for Pastor Deo's street children in Rwanda; each October she leads the parish in prayer for those who suffer with cancer; and each spring she leads a women's retreat.

Deacon Lorena Ringle, Christ Church, North Hills, continues to serve as Director of Christian Formation; with literacy initiatives; hosting the 4th annual Summer Reading Camp; working with Church Union on the North Side to help expand their Reader Mentor programs in the Pittsburgh area; and serves as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for children who are abused and neglected.

Deacon Ann Staples, St. Thomas, North Cambria, continues with her mission at Coal Country Hangout Youth Center in Northern Cambria for at-risk children and youth, in addition to serving as Deacon-in-Charge of the parish.

Deacon Linda Wilson, All Souls, North Versailles, currently is organizing the Clergy Retreat in October, in addition to serving as Pastor-in-Charge of her parish.

Respectfully Submitted,  
The Rev. Lorena Ringle, Deacon