

# Section F

## Other Reports

## ARCHIVES

In 2016, the archives had a University of Pittsburgh student intern for spring and summer and a volunteer student from Duquesne University in the fall. A retired librarian, Richard Syracuse, cataloged part of the library collection and began working on a very large collection of parish photographs from St. Andrew's, New Kensington, before relocating to Connecticut. The Pitt student, Sister Grace, worked on processing a number of smaller collections, including portraits of bishops and parish records. The Duquesne student, Brittany Creeley, completed the St. Andrew's project.

During the year, I helped a researcher working on a history of St. Thomas, Canonsburg, (since published). He spent time at the archives working through collections and I read and commented on a draft of his manuscript. I also provided data for and critiques of a number of drafts of chapters in a new book on the split among the churches in South Carolina. There were 29 other requests for research from different individuals, some of which included research on several individuals. A reporter from the *Pittsburgh Post Gazette* called for help on an article about the celebration of Christmas in early Pittsburg (as it was once spelled). The archives provided research on the diocesan properties offered for sale in 2016, providing the consecration date and historical information for each of the liturgical services associated with returning these sites to secular use.

The archivist continued removing items of value and use from St. Andrew's, New Kensington, in preparation for a potential sale, and made a final trip to Prince of Peace and to Christ the King for the same purpose.

The archives produced an exhibit on the first 100 years of African-American experience in the diocese for the 2016 convention, which was doubled in size and extended in time period for the Presiding Bishop's visit in early 2017. The display case outside the archives office is changed quarterly. In 2016 the exhibits featured included: a Christmas array of creches, a display of church "bling" and another on Bibles and Prayer Books in the Archives collection.

Professionally, I have been attending meetings of the Three Rivers Archivists, have published several book reviews, and prepared a completed draft of an extended essay, "Anglicans and Episcopalians in America" for the Oxford University Press online Research Encyclopedia of American History. The article is currently in final production.

I always welcome additional hands and will train any who are interested in helping in the archives.

Joan R. Gundersen

## CAMPUS MINISTRY

It has been a great year at the University of Pittsburgh. As the Episcopal Chaplain on campus, I've managed to form a partnership with Cornerstone campus ministry out of Bellefield Presbyterian Church. Since January, I've been meeting regularly with Cornerstone students and campus ministers alike. I received the opportunity to speak to over 80 students at the weekly large group gathering in March, and I was also asked to lead a study at the weekly ecumenical summer gathering in July. I accompanied students to the annual Jubilee conference in February as well.

In addition to aiding Cornerstone in their efforts, Cornerstone has also afforded me the occasion to promote to students the monthly Eucharist that takes place in our home in the North Hills. We've had approximately ten different students join us for that gathering, and about five have become regulars. This coming school year, my hope is to begin leading a modified version of what we're calling "Zoe" with students on campus in continued cooperation with Cornerstone.

Another great part of this past year has been networking with other campus ministers, students, and faculty at Pitt. Participating in UPAC (University of Pittsburgh Association of Chaplains) has not only provided me with new friendships, but has opened up possibilities for more cooperative ministry on campus. Leading two students and one instructor through a semester-long study through Paul's Letter to the Romans was a highlight of the year. And coordinating with an instructor and two students to meet every Monday to pray and discuss how to follow Jesus as an EMT started my second semester weeks off on the right foot.

I love being a chaplain at Pitt, and I'm looking forward to working with the students again this year.

In Christ,  
Dan Isadore

## **CHAPLAIN TO RETIRED CLERGY AND SPOUSES**

The title of this report could read, “Chaplain to Retired Clergy, Spouses and Surviving Spouses,” as that is the title the Church Pension Fund uses for this position.

I have been serving for ten-plus years, and have found it most satisfying for myself and those being served. Principally, my work is recognizing birthdays of those whose ministry included service in the Diocese of Pittsburgh, past and present. Through the year, some 170 greeting cards are mailed to those in the Pittsburgh area, as well as those now living in places other than Pennsylvania. In addition, cards are mailed and phone calls made to those experiencing illness and those who have lost a spouse or son or daughter.

We are blessed in enjoying the company of others when Bishop McConnell hosts a luncheon twice each year in May and December. The Church of the Atonement, Carnegie, provides the winter event and the Church of the Redeemer, Squirrel Hill, the spring event. This becomes an opportunity to “check in” with one another, learn what we are doing in family and parish ministry, and receive words of appreciation from the bishop. Betsy McConnell is often with us. Diocesan clergy staff may also attend as their calendar allows.

Since 2016, the Rev. Scott Quinn and the Rev. Carol Henley have assisted with this ministry, having been appointed recently by the bishop. Scott has assisted with home visits and at hospitals, and Carol is developing a plan to recognize significant clergy anniversaries for those active as well as those retired. They, together with me, meet on occasion to coordinate our efforts as we work to serve those who serve the Lord and our church.

Diocesan funds provide the greater part of the cost of postage, greeting cards and mailing. Funds are also available for the twice each year luncheon.

With this chaplaincy, Marilyn and I have been able to attend the Provincial Retiree Gathering, when possible, which is usually held in Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia. We are grateful to the Church Pension Fund for making that possible.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Rev. Arthur C. Dilg

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEAM

It has been a privilege to serve as the coordinator for the Children's Ministry Team (CMT) of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh. Over the past few years, it has been encouraging to witness collegial relationships build between formation practitioners, both clergy and lay, from parishes across the diocese through gatherings, workshops, and contributions to the *Feed My Sheep* newsletter. I hope that, through these efforts, formation practitioners will be more likely to seek each other's support and inspiration through every season of the church year.

Some accomplishments of the CMT:

- At the 2016 Diocesan Convention, each parish was presented with a Spark Story Bible. These bibles can be used in any formation activity with children, and it was also suggested that parishes consider purchasing additional Story Bibles to place in their pews as a sign of welcome to any young people attending worship.
- Two issues of *Feed My Sheep* highlighted seasonally appropriate ministry practices as suggested by formation practitioners from parishes across the diocese.
- I attended the Forma conference in Anaheim, California, and presented a workshop there.
- The children of the diocese collaborated to create an altar cloth as a gift for Presiding Bishop Michael Curry to celebrate "The Jesus Movement" as part of his pilgrimage here in February. Seventeen parishes participated by inviting children with painted feet to walk a length of cloth. The material was then assembled into an altar cloth and presented to the Presiding Bishop at a special youth event at Holy Cross, Homewood, which preceded the Absalom Jones Day worship celebration. A picture of the children presenting the Presiding Bishop with the altar cloth was used as a banner image for The Episcopal Church's Facebook page. Special thanks go to Joyce Donadee and Deacon Linda Wilson who assisted in distributing craft materials and in collecting the completed footprint cloths.
- As of this writing, a Godly Play workshop is scheduled to be held at St. Brendan's, Franklin Park, and registration includes formation leaders from different denominations.
- A number of parishes in the diocese offered VBS programs for the first time in many years, exploring new ways to extend their community engagement and reach.

Although my day-to-day ministry has moved in a different direction and I have stepped back from my role with the CMT, I will continue to hold the Children's Ministry Team, diocesan formation practitioners, and the young people of the diocese in my prayers.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lisa Brown

# CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATES OF SOUTHWEST PENNSYLVANIA

*A Unifying Voice in the name of Jesus Christ  
for the Mission of the Gospel and the Wholeness of Communities*  
Mailing Address: PO Box 5241 • Pittsburgh, PA 15206 • Phone: 412-688-9070  
Web: [www.casp.org](http://www.casp.org) • Facebook: [www.facebook.com/christianassociatesswpa](http://www.facebook.com/christianassociatesswpa)

Dear kindred in Christ in the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh: Grace and peace to you! This year, Christian Associates has continued to expand our witness; in fall 2016, we welcomed the Bruderhof Communities of Southwest Pennsylvania as our newest member. In May, the Council of Bishops and Executives traveled to the Spring Valley community to get to know our new friends and enjoy their extraordinary hospitality.

Such **Collegiality**, convening Christian leaders to build relationships grounded in trust and common values, is central to the work of Christian Associates. In March, we facilitated a full-day retreat for the Council of Bishops and Judicatory Executives. We also recognize the importance of collegiality on the local level, launching an online directory of local ecumenical groups in our region, available at [www.casp.org/localecumenism](http://www.casp.org/localecumenism).

Through **Collaboration**, we put these relationships to work, speaking and acting for the common good. Our Church & Community Committee continues to find new ways to bring the Council's statements on welcoming refugees and ending racism to life. Our Theology & Education Committee's recent e-book on the gifts each tradition offers to the wider church is available at our website.

Our **Connectedness** ministries bring the voice of the church to civic, community, and interfaith partnerships. We work with the Foundation of HOPE, Bread for the World, the Pittsburgh Pastoral Care Conference, Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster, the Greater Pittsburgh Interfaith Coalition, Standing Firm, Cease Fire PA, and many other organizations. We have begun a partnership with Healing Communities, which helps faith groups support families and communities affected by incarceration. In February, we played a key role in organizing "Becoming One – Standing Together," a community interfaith worship event in solidarity with immigrants and refugees.

Our ministries would be impossible without the steadfast support of our member judicatories. I am so grateful for the diocese's multifaceted encouragement, including your generous financial contribution. Bishop McConnell now serves as Vice President of the Council of Bishops and Judicatory Executives, offering wise and committed leadership among his peers; thank you for sharing him with us.

Although the gifts we receive from judicatories are vitally important to our work, we also look to other donors to support our mission. To make your own gift of any size to Christian Associates, visit [www.casp.org/donate](http://www.casp.org/donate).

"By this," Jesus said, "everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." We live in an increasingly fractured and fractious world. It is all the more important for Christians to love one another across our differences, setting a vivid example of cooperation and harmony. Thank you, Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh, for joining Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania as we seek to build up that love in our communities.

Your sister in Christ,  
The Rev. Liddy Barlow  
Executive Minister

# 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

## EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

The Spring Episcopal Church Women/United Thank Offering Ingathering was held at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Mt. Lebanon, on Saturday, May 13, 2017. Eleven women from six parishes attended.

Betsy Hetzler, elected new president of ECW at the meeting, joined the others officers of the 2017-18 diocesan ECW board: Nancy Kenny (interim vice president); Gina Brownfield (vice president); Louise Cannon (secretary); Linda Getts (treasurer); Darrell Powell (UTO president); Janet Stephenson (finance committee); and Betty Duckstein (memorial scholarship committee).

After lunch, items were packed for Living in Liberty, a local charity that helps women who formerly made their living on the streets adjust to a new life.

The Fall ECW/UTO Ingathering was held at Calvary Episcopal Church, East Liberty, on September 9, 2017. Approximately 50 women were in attendance. Eileen Sharbaugh, co-founder of Jeremiah's Place, the only emergency crisis nursery in the Pittsburgh area, was guest speaker, and donations of needed items given by different parishes were accepted. Eileen is a member of St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon. A catered buffet lunch followed. Afterward, a service was held in the sanctuary, where Bishop McConnell celebrated the Eucharist.

The following ECW grants were approved:

- Walk-in ministry, Trinity Cathedral – \$1,000
- Bishop's Discretionary Fund – \$1,500
- Living in Liberty – \$700
- Frank's Friends, St. Francis-in-the-Fields, Somerset – \$400
- Christmas Day Dinner, Atonement, Carnegie – \$1,000
- Christmas Dinner, Advent, Brookline – \$1,000
- Food Bank, St. Matthew's, Homestead – \$1,500
- Neighborhood Youth Outreach Program, St. Stephen's, Wilksburg – \$1,800
- Homeless Children's Education Fund – \$500
- Mustard Seed Children of Kigali – \$1,500
- Episcopal Relief & Development – \$224.80

Two \$1,200 scholarships were approved from the ECW Memorial Fund for the following recipients:

- Thomas Starr, Youngstown University, music composition (clergy sponsor: Noah Evans)
- Benito Stallings, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, divinity (clergy sponsor: Nancy Chalfant-Walker)

Respectfully submitted,  
Betsy Hetzler  
President



## EPISCOPAL HEALTH MINISTRIES

Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you,  
even as your soul is getting along well. *3 John 1:2*

Presently, the national Episcopal Health Ministry team is on sabbatical, looking and planning ahead to renew the health ministries in Episcopal dioceses. Your prayers are invited in this regard, especially as we recall Presiding Bishop Curry and Bishop McConnell's encouragement to build the Jesus movement in the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

Please consider the possibility of developing a health ministry team within your parish. Ideas and suggestions are available through the Mercy Parish Nurse and Health Ministry Program, a valuable resource for our Pittsburgh faith community. Please contact me at the email address below if you are interested in more information.

As we become more aware of the challenging times in which we live, evidenced by the growing needs around us, let's be in prayer for our families – both of origin and church/parish and beyond – and recall the quote from the Rev. Sam Shoemaker, former rector of Calvary Episcopal Church, “that Pittsburgh would be known more for God than for steel.”

Respectfully submitted,  
Paula Wasko, R.N., F.C.N.  
waskop@windstream.net

## THE MON VALLEY MISSION INITIATIVE

The Mon Valley was once a land of opportunity, with state-of-the-art factories, bustling towns, and vibrant neighborhoods. But with the collapse of the steel industry, it became a land of scarcity, marked by abandoned industrial sites, vacant storefronts, and dwindling populations. Many of the region's churches have closed their doors, and those that remain share a difficult reality: declining attendance, aging members, and unsustainable finances.

Though membership and money are real concerns for our parishes in the Mon Valley, they are symptomatic of larger issues plaguing the communities there, including unemployment, addiction, violence, and a pervading sense of hopelessness. The Mon Valley Mission Initiative aims to tackle these issues by reaching out to neighbors, listening to their needs, and engaging them in the development and delivery of substantive, long-term solutions.

While it is clear that there are no quick fixes, we have laid some important groundwork.

- *Community*: Where little interaction previously existed between our Mon Valley parishes, community has formed. Parish representatives study and pray together, share ideas and concerns, and encourage one another.
- *Awareness*: Participants have performed an honest assessment of the factors – both internal and external – that have contributed to their present difficulties.
- *Shifting perspectives*: Focus has begun to shift beyond internal concerns (membership, finances, buildings) to external concerns (the physical and spiritual needs of neighbors). They are learning to operate according to the abundance of God's blessings, rather than out of their (real or perceived) scarcity of resources.
- *Sense of God's mission*: While it is easy to rely on human instinct and intellect when making plans and solving problems, participants are learning to discern where God is already at work in the Mon Valley and to identify how they might join in that work.

Regular attendees at our Mon Valley Mission meetings include representatives from St. John's, Donora; St. Paul's, Monongahela; St. Stephen's, McKeesport; St. Matthew's, Homestead; Advent, Jeannette; Transfiguration, Clairton; and the Mid Mon Valley Lutheran Parish. They are joined by friends from other parts of the diocese who have taken an interest in the mission. Meetings typically include some combination of prayer, Bible study, small- and large-group discussion, and collaborative exercises. On occasion, we leave our meeting space to walk through the community, two by two, talking to and praying for neighbors. All are welcome to "taste and see." If you think this sort of collaborative approach might be helpful in your district/region, consider joining us for one of our upcoming meetings.

Please keep the Mon Valley Mission in your prayers in the year ahead.

In Christ,

The Rev. Dr. Canon Jay Geisler, Chaplain to the Mon Valley Mission Initiative  
Kimberly Karashin, Canon for Mission

# THE ORDER OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

## Officers

President: Jessie Hipolit  
1st Vice President: Barb McMillen  
2nd Vice President: Daughters-at-Large/Membership Chair: Carolyn Booker  
Secretary: Nan Neureither  
Treasurer: Jan Murtha  
Junior DOK Directress: N/A  
Publicity Chair: Nan Neureither  
Evangelism Chair: Jessie Hipolit  
Webmaster: Liz Delgado  
Facebook: Kate Geiger  
Chaplain: The Rev. Don C. Youse, Jr., Emmanuel, North Side



## Total Membership: 74

#Seniors: 74

#Juniors: 0

## Number of Chapters: 9

Chapter Name / Parish / Diocese / Locale / Members / President's Name:

- Bishop Austin Pardue, Christ Church, Anglican, New Brighton: 3 – Judy Smith
- Christ the King, St. Paul's, Episcopal, Mt. Lebanon: 2 (reorganizing)
- Daughters of Advent, Advent, Episcopal, Jeannette: 13 – Jan Murtha
- Deborah Chapter, Christ Church, Episcopal, Indiana: 8 – Kate Geiger
- Holy Comforter, Fox Chapel Anglican: 15 – Lois Folino
- Joan of Arc, St. Thomas in the Fields, Anglican, Gibsonia: 7 – Kathy Csellar
- Song of Victory, St. George, Anglican, Waynesburg: 4 – Barb McMillen
- St. Teresa, St. Paul's, Episcopal, Monongahela 6 – Barbara Clegg (reorganizing)
- Verna Dozier, Emmanuel, Episcopal, North Side: 5 – Carol Veal
- At Large Members – 13

## Deceased Daughters Names/Chapters

Ruth Murtha, Deborah Chapter, Indiana, PA

Helen Lock, Mary and Martha Chapter, St. Martin's, Monroeville, PA

## Fall Assembly

October 29, 2016 – cancelled due to diocesan conflict.

The Episcopal Diocese sponsored an event with Becca Stevens at the same time, so we added a quiet day, "Advent Day of Reflection," in place of the fall Assembly, Dec. 3rd.

## Spring Assembly

April 21, 2017 Speaker/Theme: The Rev. Wm. Carpenter, Anglican

"Share the Love" – Evangelism is Love!

## Prayer Ministry Events

Advent Day of Reflection: Isaiah on Prayer, Service and Evangelism lead by Assembly Chaplain

Lent: The Audacity of Prayer – Day Retreat, led by Jessie Hipolit

### **Service Ministry Events**

Mon Valley Initiative – in the works

Filling backpacks for women's shelter

Encouragement Notes

Grief Support

Collecting and distributing food, personal items and cleaning supplies for needy families

Fun Fair for neighboring families, luncheon for local ministerial, food bank volunteers

### **Evangelism / Outreach Ministry**

Mon Valley Initiative – area wide evangelism and unity

Monthly meetings, cooperation with Canon for Mission and Canon for Evangelism in the Episcopal Diocese

### **Province III**

Province III Retreat, June 4, 2017: "Let God be Your Living Compass," Rev. Scott Stoner

Take care of your heart, mind, soul, and strength, and be well enough to love God and serve others.

### **Projects / Plans**

#### **Chapters:**

Working to get at-large members connected to Chapters

Enhancing support for Chapters through monthly conference calls with Chapter Presidents

#### **Assembly:**

Planning a fall roundup to re-introduce Daughters to each other for communication and support, and pray for revival!

Planning ways for Daughters to experience Christ at a deeper level in Chapters and Assemblies.

Working on a new website for the Assembly

Creating an up-to-date directory

# *The Order of the Daughters of the King®*

Prayer and Service for the Spread of Christ's Kingdom

## SHELDON CALVARY CAMP

One thousand twenty-eight campers, nearly 50 families, 68 young staff members, six health care providers, two chefs, one night watchman, and five camp directors made up the community of Sheldon Calvary Camp in the summer of 2017, our 81st summer of camping ministry. Two weeks of staff training, seven different Coed Camp sessions, Day Camp, two Family Camp weeks, and Labor Day weekend filled a summer schedule beginning in early June.

This summer invited full use of the Fralden Terrace property, which was restored last year. Campers took delight in fishing in the pond that was stocked in the spring. Aiming for bulls-eyes at the archery range became far more pleasant in the shade.

Campers enjoyed expanded programs on our Lake Erie beach. Improvements have made it possible to walk the entire length of the camp property along the beach. Swimming, wading, and collecting beach glass captivated many campers. Kayaking, paddle-boarding, and sailing all happened directly from the camp beach, ending decades of driving to sail in the Conneaut harbor, and making these activities available to many more campers.

Singing, Compline, and the Eucharist in the Bishop Thomas Chapel remained central to our life together. We were grateful for the visit of Bishop McConnell during Coed Camp.

Construction is under way on the new dining hall, the first priority of our recent capital campaign. This environmentally sound building will more effectively accommodate the two hundred seventy people at Coed Camp meals. The design also envisions serving groups throughout the year. The venerable old dining hall will be preserved, for its irreplaceable heritage and its usefulness as an additional indoor activity space.

We continue to have good news to share about property, facilities, programs, and stewardship of resources. Yet the most significant news will always be the impact camp makes in the lives of those who experience this transformative community. Calvary Camp is a sacred place where people deepen relationships with one another, with creation, and with the Creator of all. Living together, we discover our common humanity. In simple everyday interactions, we learn to serve and care for one another, to respect the dignity of every human being, and to love as Christ loves us. The uncomplicated but profound experience of life at camp is a foundation for a lifetime of selflessness, kindness, faith, and hope. More than ever, we are committed to this ministry and witness for the sake of those “growing up in an unsteady and confusing world” (*The Book of Common Prayer*, page 829).

Tim Green, Executive Director  
The Rev. Leslie Reimer, Director of Spiritual Life  
Susan Roth, Staff Development Director

### Board:

The Rt. Rev. Dorsey McConnell, *ex officio*; Eric Linn, *President*; The Rev. Cathy Brall; Steven Conomikes; Lynne Curtis; The Rev. T.J. Freeman; Greg Green; John Hoza; Neil Johnston; Larry Knapp; Obi Okobi; Trudy O’Nan; The Rev. Kris Opat; Rebecca Randall; Joe Ryan; David Sharbaugh; Doug Strott; The Rev. Gary Taylor; The Rev. Chuck Weiss; Kenneth M. Argentieri, Esq., *Chancellor*

## SHEPHERD WELLNESS COMMUNITY

Founded in 1987 by Fr. Lynn C. Edwards, Shepherd Wellness Community (SWC) is the only HIV/AIDS community in Western Pennsylvania. Our mission is helping people living with HIV/AIDS improve their wellness. SWC is pleased to be an affiliate organization of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh.

On June 5, our beloved founder passed away. We wish to thank Bishop Dorsey McConnell and the clergy of the diocese for their ministry and care following the death of Fr. Lynn. A prayer vigil at the Church of the Redeemer, Squirrel Hill, and a meaningful funeral service at Trinity Cathedral helped our community to deal with grief and loss. We also found great comfort in the personal counsel and words of encouragement offered to our members by the bishop and clergy.

We are grateful for the support of our work provided by the diocese and individual parishes. The diocese also provided a Green Grant in support of our garden, which produces an abundance of fresh produce and herbs for use in our Wellness Dinner meals.

### Our 2017 HIV/AIDS wellness programs:

- **Wellness Dinners** improve nutrition, reduce isolation and provide social support.
- **Peer Counseling** phone calls connect members with HIV/AIDS services and offer a lifeline of help, support and hope.
- **Support Groups** boost mental and physical health. Groups guide members through the challenges of living with HIV/AIDS and help participants to deal with anxiety, depression and other relevant issues.
- **Health Education Programs** offer health and wellness guidance and provide information about HIV/AIDS treatment, HIV medications and the latest medical advances.
- **Complementary Therapy Classes** teach members how to improve health and wellness and strengthen their immune systems.
- **Treatment Adherence and Risk Reduction Programs** advise members on how to effectively maintain their HIV medical regimen and ways to decrease the risk of HIV transmission and reinfection.
- **Spiritual Life Programs** presented in an interfaith format offer insight, encouragement, inspiration, direction and guidance.
- **Social and Recreational Outings** combat isolation and loneliness and provide supportive community and respite for families.
- **Wellness Classes** improve quality of life by addressing the Six Dimensions of Wellness (social, occupational, spiritual, physical, intellectual and emotional).
- **Transportation Assistance**, in the form of bus tickets or mileage reimbursement, helps our members attend programs and access services.

The Board of Directors, staff and members of Shepherd Wellness Community express our gratitude to the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh for your many years of support and ministry to people living with HIV/AIDS.

Sincerely,  
B. Scott Peterman  
Executive Director

# TRINITY SCHOOL FOR MINISTRY

This past year was marked by transitions, success, and challenges at Trinity.

In February 2017, the Association of Theological Schools accrediting agency reaffirmed accreditation for Trinity for a period of ten years. This announcement came after a rigorous three-day on-site comprehensive evaluation in October 2016.

On Thursday, March 16, the Rev. Dr. Laurie Thompson III was installed as Trinity's seventh Dean President in a service at St. Stephen's Church, Sewickley. Trinity alumnus Sarah Lebhar Hall preached. Also in March, the Rt. Rev. George Sumner, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas, was Trinity's special guest to lead the Ash Wednesday Quiet Day.

In August, Trinity held its first Academic Boot Camp, a two-week intensive course for International Scholars working towards a Trinity degree. Six scholars from various countries in Africa participated in the program. The camp focused on honing academic skills including the preparation and presentation of research. The Camp also included sessions on general American culture and academic life specifically. Feedback from the attendees was overwhelmingly positive with the result that Trinity plans to offer the camp every August.

Respectfully submitted,  
Erika Moore, Ph.D.  
Academic Dean



# United Thank Offering

## *Congratulations!*

The Diocese of Pittsburgh with the Companion Diocese of Uganda received a \$72,920 grant for the **St. Andrew's Secondary School Physical Plant Development** in Buwologoma, Uganda.

The first United Thank Offering was in 1889 as part of the Missionary efforts of the Women's Auxiliary to the Board of Mission, authorized by General Convention in 1871. In that year, the offering reached \$2,188.64.

On June 14, 2016, the United Thank Offering awarded 32 grants for a total of \$1,161,314.62 for mission and ministry of The Episcopal Church and Anglican Community. An additional 22 grants were approved, but sadly the money ran out.

I'm happy to report that the Diocese of Pittsburgh has increased its UTO donation each year of this last triennium. For 2016, our UTO donation was \$7,134.06. This was made possible by the efforts of 12 parishes of the diocese. What could the donation be if every parish participated?

But UTO is much more than a special collection twice a year. More importantly, it presents a tangible way for each of us to give God thanks. Making thankfulness a daily habit brings joy while blessing others through our coins. I encourage everyone to have and use a little blue UTO box. As you express your gratitude (I'm grateful for: a parking space, children, grandchildren, a good report, chocolate, morning coffee, etc.), put a coin into your box and smile. Your smiles will grow and your box will get heavy with each expression of gratitude.

**Challenge:** By 2018 Diocesan Convention, that every parish in the diocese will have participated in United Thank Offering and made a donation.

You may pick up your blue box and other information at the UTO display table.

Darrell Powell  
UTO Coordinator

*Our change changes lives!*  *UTO Everyday*