

BISHOP'S REPORT

The past year has been eventful. Following the introduction of a new vision statement at last year's convention, your bishop and staff have been acting on the mission **to love, teach and heal**. Here are a few of the highlights:

- An historic agreement was reached with several ACNA parishes regarding unresolved property matters, guaranteeing that our interests would be protected and that all involved might go forward with mutual respect as we follow our understanding of God's call to us. This agreement was nearly ten years in the making, and guided throughout by the good graces of our Chancellor, Andy Roman. We all owe Andy, and those who assisted him along the way, our gratitude beyond measure.
- The Church Without Walls continued to meet regularly, bringing together dozens of racially diverse Christians from several denominations for prayer, study, and fellowship to discern how God would have us further influence the world with Christ's love.
- We laid the groundwork for a compelling lay training initiative – the Love+Teach+Heal Academy, to strengthen lay formation, equip leaders in our parishes and build capacity for mission.
- We continued to develop an Anglican Track at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, following the complete revision of the school's curriculum. After final refinements that will occur this fall, we hope to announce it formally in January.
- The Standing Committee and I, with participation from the Trustees and Council, are embarking on an evaluation process for the diocese, and we have retained Ms. Judy Stark as our consultant. The goals are to increase trust and collaboration among our parishes, to streamline our governance structures and to clarify the roles of the bishop and diocesan staff in helping our congregations thrive.
- The Trinity Cathedral Working Group has continued to meet in an effort to move the mission of the cathedral forward. We are being assisted by Ms. Marilyn Coleman, an experienced consultant for Pittsburgh non-profits, as we explore the next steps on our way to becoming a cathedral bringing the love of Christ to the whole city through arts, education, and social empowerment. As part of this work we will be examining the use of all our facilities. This past year already, Trinity brought civic and religious leaders together for well-received services that variously marked the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King's assassination, honored the victims of overdose and addiction, and rededicated the cathedral's tower bells as symbols of its service to the city. Trinity's partnership with the Cultural Trust took a major step forward with the widely acclaimed production of Peter Ackroyd's *Chatterton* this fall.
- Canon Jay Geisler is helping the congregation of St. Paul's in Monongahela to explore re-purposing part of its facilities to accommodate a recovery house, helping to address the epidemic of opioid addiction in the Mon Valley.
- New initiatives in evangelism have included Dan Isadore's ongoing outreach to students at the University of Pittsburgh and Chatham University, and Dan and Hallie's modeling the life of Christian community through regular gatherings of Zoe, an evening of word, sacrament, fellowship and food at their home. Additionally, Canon Natalie Hall has launched an afternoon church plant, to be called the Congregation of Saint Mary Magdalene, at St. Stephen's Church in Wilkinsburg, with the encouragement of the rector and vestry.
- Three regional clergy Bible studies with the bishop were held across the diocese, with three more planned for the coming year, offering times of study, prayer and fellowship with my ordained colleagues.

- We *finally* launched our new website – only a few months late. I apologize for the delay, but rejoice in the product. Please let us know if you find it useful, or have any suggestions for its improvement.

This year the 79th General Convention of the Episcopal Church took place in Austin, Texas. My several years’ service on the Standing Commission of Liturgy and Music resulted in an appointment to this General Convention’s Legislative Committee 13, which was charged with considering all resolutions related to the possible revision of the prayer book. I helped develop the resolution adopted by Convention to chart a course for liturgical changes that will also promote the unity of the Church. Part of our original draft became a separately adopted resolution to establish a Task Force on Communion Across Difference that will do very important work on the way to the next Lambeth Conference of Anglican Communion bishops in 2020.

My further travels included ten days in Uganda – partly in support of the United Thank Offering Grant through this diocese for Saint Andrew’s school in Buwologoma – and a mission trip to the Holy Land with five other bishops and several clergy on behalf of the peace-making work of Fair Witness.

Finally, a note about my health. In short, I’m fine. The small stroke I had in the spring has produced no further symptoms and resulted in no permanent sensory damage. My stamina has largely recovered, although I have to be a bit careful of overwork. Aside from that, I am on a permanent prescription of a low-dose aspirin once a day and compression socks when I fly. Betsy and I know that we were upheld by the prayers of many during that time, and we are more grateful than we can say.

In regard to our staff, we note two stalwarts who have retired – the Reverend Canon Ted Babcock and Dr. Joan Gundersen. I am thankful for their service and jealous of their leisure! We all remain deeply prayerful in regard to the health of my Canon to the Ordinary, Shawn Malarkey, diagnosed in July with multiple sclerosis. After due discernment, he and Jolean have thought it best that he lay down this burden of serving as Canon, though he will continue as Coordinator of Clergy Communications. My colleagues and I have expanded our own portfolios to make sure that Canon Shawn’s work in support of our parishes and clergy continues, though we miss him more than we can say, and are very glad that he will continue as Rector of the Church of the Nativity in Crafton. In addition to Shawn, I am personally grateful for the work this year of the entire staff: Rich Creehan, Canon Jay Geisler, Canon Natalie Hall, Canon Kim Karashin, Andy Muhl, Canon Scott Quinn, Marlene Rihn, Judi Rogers, and Kathi Workman.

Faithfully, your bishop,
+Dorsey

Statistics for September 1, 2017 – August 31, 2018

Episcopal Visitations	34	Marriages	1
Confirmations	47	Burials	1
Receptions	18	Ordinations	1
		(Order of Deacon 0; Order of Priest 1)	
Baptisms	5	Renewal of Vows	1