

# Section F

## Other Reports

## CAMPUS MINISTRY

The 2017-2018 year was encouraging to me as the Episcopal University Chaplain. The partnership with Cornerstone campus ministry out of Bellefield Presbyterian Church in Oakland continues to deepen. In addition to participating in Cornerstone's Wednesday night worship gathering for students each week, I became a regular contributor to weekly leadership planning meetings, chaperoned the fall retreat for Cornerstone students, hosted the University of Pittsburgh ministry suite for the 2018 Jubilee Conference, and met frequently with individual students for purposes of discipleship.

During the past year, many of the students involved in Cornerstone also became regular participants in a monthly home Eucharist called "Zoe." On the second Friday of each month, my wife Hallie and I welcome an average of 15 to 25 folks from around the Pittsburgh area into our North Hills home to receive the Life that Jesus desires to give the world by celebrating the Lord's Supper together, eating a common meal, dwelling in the Word, and praying conversationally. November of 2018 will mark the two-year anniversary of this monthly gathering where young and old join with one another to be formed more deeply into the image of Christ.

During the 2017-2018 school year, the Episcopal University Chaplaincy also expanded to include Chatham University. In partnership with the Coalition for Christian Outreach (CCO) at Chatham and Chatham Christian Fellowship, I co-led a weekly Bible study through the book of Romans for between six and fifteen college students. Duplicating the work I've been involved in at Pitt, I also began meeting regularly with a handful of Chatham students for purposes of discipleship at the Squirrel Hill campus as well as at the Eden campus. The year also marked the inaugural Easter Vigil Eucharist held at Chatham University, at which Bishop Dorsey McConnell was the Celebrant and Preacher.

I was elected vice-president of the University of Pittsburgh Association of Chaplains in 2018 as well. I will begin to serve in this role at the start of the 2018-2019 academic year.

I can't emphasize enough how much of a snapshot this report is of the work being done under the umbrella of the Episcopal University Chaplaincy. The stories of how students are being transformed by the Spirit are too many to recount in the space of this brief review. Please, don't hesitate to reach out to me to learn more about how God is working in the lives of students at the University of Pittsburgh and Chatham University.

In Christ,  
Dan Isadore  
Episcopal University Chaplain

## **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 many years, and find 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. 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. We are always pleased when Betsy McConnell can be with us, and diocesan clergy and staff also attend as their calendars allow.

Since 2016, the Rev. Scott Quinn and the Rev. Carol Henley have assisted with this ministry. Scott assists with home visits and at hospitals, and Carol works to recognize significant clergy anniversaries for those active as well as those retired. We 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**

The Children's Ministry Team continued to meet during the past year to share ideas, brainstorm challenges, and support one another in our common mission to minister to the children and families of our diocese. As part of our mission to support ministry to children, packages of children's Bible story books were purchased, compiled, and handed out at last year's convention. The package of books contained titles by Desmond Tutu, Tim Ladwig and others. Packages contained board books and beautiful picture books for early readers. Calvary Book Store was a vital part of this endeavor.

In the coming year, the focus of our team is to reach out to leaders and volunteers throughout the diocese in thanks for their service and in partnership for continued growth and care of all who serve in this important lay ministry. In an effort to develop a sense of community and connection, parish Christian education leaders will be personally contacted to discuss their challenges and needs. These conversations will guide how we use resources to develop and support children's ministry.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Yoon  
Chair of the Children's Ministry Team  
and Director of Children's Ministry  
St. David's Episcopal Church, Peters Township

# 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  
Email: lbarlow@casp.org • E-newsletter: signup.casp.org  
Web: www.casp.org • Facebook: www.facebook.com/christianassociatesswpa

Dear friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh: Grace and peace to each of you as you gather for Annual Convention. In your worship and deliberations, your learning and your fellowship, may this time provide opportunities for new and renewed connections to one another, to the Church, and to God.

Just as the Annual Convention serves as a yearly reminder of the breadth of the Episcopal Church in southwest Pennsylvania, so Christian Associates is a vibrant manifestation of the unity of the whole church of Jesus Christ, in all its fascinating and complicated diversity. Guided by our core values of collegiality, collaboration, communication, and connectedness, Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania brings together 28 Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant church bodies to be a unifying voice for the mission of the Gospel and the wholeness of our communities.

Since your last Convention, we have been working with energy and creativity to make the unity of Christ's church more visible in the ten counties of Southwest Pennsylvania. Here are just a few of the projects that your support has made possible this year:

- We launched our new series, *The Word in Our Voices*, which collects and publishes sermons and essays by our region's clergy. The first volume, *I Was a Stranger and You Welcomed Me*, focused on immigration; the second, *Blessed Art Thou Among Women*, focused on Mary, Mother of Jesus; and the third, *Who Is My Neighbor?* focused on racial justice. Each of these volumes may be downloaded at our website, [www.casp.org](http://www.casp.org). I hope you will consider submitting your sermons on baptism for publication in the next volume, coming next spring.
- We developed a partnership with the Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh's new Center for Loving Kindness and Civic Engagement, cosponsoring a series of community forums and clergy breakfasts bringing faith perspectives to public issues. Each event includes inspiring preaching, compelling first-person stories, and opportunities to move into action. We invite you to join us at our upcoming events in 2019, including forums on community development and mass incarceration.
- We launched a new, modern database of our region's clergy and congregations, maintaining up-to-date information on thousands of churches throughout southwestern Pennsylvania. Not only will this project enable us to streamline our own communications, both paper and electronic, it will propel our efforts to build connections between Christians who share common roles and interests.

None of this good work would be possible without your support. The Episcopal Diocese has been an essential partner to Christian Associates since our beginnings, nearly fifty years ago. Today you continue to support us financially, and you share your skills and energy with us as well. This year, Bishop Dorsey McConnell serves as President of our Council of Bishops and Judicatory Executives, leading his peers with faithfulness and creativity.

Although the gifts we receive from judicatories such as the diocese are vitally important to our work, we also look to individual, congregational, corporate, and foundation donors to support our mission. We are especially grateful to the members of the John 17 Society, who support our work with gifts of \$250 or

more each year. For more information about the Society, or to make your own gift of any size to Christian Associates, visit [www.casp.org/donate](http://www.casp.org/donate).

Encountering our Christian brothers and sisters deepens our own understanding and practice of faith, and helps us to recognize that despite all of our differences, we truly are one body. May the spirit of unity, friendship, and reconciliation be with you all at this year's Convention and in the coming days. Thank you again for your support of Christian Associates.

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

## COAL COUNTRY HANGOUT YOUTH CENTER

Deacon Ann Staples has finally retired (!) from active parish ministry, most recently at St. Thomas Church in Northern Cambria. After 33 years of parish ministry, she felt tired but good, and still able to understand that deacons never actually *retire*, just shift emphasis.

With that in mind, she is still serving as Executive Director for Coal Country Hangout Youth Center (CCHYC), the full-service youth center that began in 1996 as a response to the educational, human services, and social needs of children and their families in northern Cambria County. The center targets a population of approximately 6,000 boys and girls, from infants to age 18, living in rural locales within four area school districts, eight boroughs, and seven townships that extend from northern Cambria County into northeastern Indiana County and southwestern Clearfield County.

The goals of CCHYC are:

- To provide affordable and accessible child care to all families in our community;
- To emphasize that families can forever influence their children and that we support families to the greatest extent possible in the promotion of healthy behaviors among their children; and
- To provide a holistic approach to educational, cultural, and spiritual devastation experienced by families in the region.

Under Deacon Staples' direction, the center's experiential educational component has explored local history, and participants have constructed large ceramic and stone monuments at crucial places along the Kittanning trail across Cambria County. Between 2011 and 2016, the local school districts served by CCHYC designed, created and constructed four large monuments.

Now in 2018, with the 32nd experiential education component, participants continue to delve into the region's past. ARTzKAMP 2018 explored 300 years of the Kittanning Path through puppetry. Students in grades four through six created puppets depicting the French and Indian wars in a two-week long trek involving history and art. They reenacted the story of the conflict between the native Lenape people and the British settlers that took place in our backyard over 260 years ago. They created a variety of different types of puppets such as shadow puppets, hand puppets, stick puppets, and masks, to bring history to life. Performances scheduled during the 2018 Heritage Day represented the results of their efforts.



## COMMISSION ON RACE & RECONCILIATION

The Commission on Race and Reconciliation continues to serve the diocese offering its prayers, healing, and training to raise the awareness of systemic racism, as well as an annual book study. We consult with the bishop to identify leaders in our diocese that will increase ethnic diversity reflective of our society.

In the last year, new initiatives through the commission include presenting through *Grace Happens* an offering of prayers by famous people of color, and the introduction of the first annual diocesan-wide book study on race, which began with *Waking Up White* by Debby Irving.

Trainings to address racism were offered this year at St. Andrew's, Highland Park, and St. James, Penn Hills. These trainings, *Seeing the Face of God in Each Other*, increase the desire to break down the systemic walls of racism that oppress and divide, and promote the vision for the Beloved Community addressed as one pillar of our Presiding Bishop Michael Curry's ministry goals. The anti-racism training central to our ministry grows out of the resolutions of several General Conventions, and is required of, but not limited to, all leaders and employees of our diocese.

The end of racism is an infinite work. We invite everyone to come and begin a deeper journey in the work toward that Beloved Community.

Faithfully,  
The Rev. Michael Foley  
Chair, Commission on Race & Reconciliation



# DEACONS

The Diocese of Pittsburgh has seven vocational 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 addition, one transitional deacon, Brandon Mozingo, serves as Deacon-in-Charge at St. Stephen's, McKeesport.

## **In Service to the Diocese**

Deacons Linda Wilson and Jean Chess serve on the Disciplinary Board for the diocese. Deacon Christine McIlvain serves as a Title IV Intake Officer. Deacons Ann Staples and Lorena Ringle serve on the Commission on Ministry. Deacon Jean Chess serves as secretary for Diocesan Council and Deacon Linda Wilson serves as a clergy member of Council.

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

Deacon Jean Chess continues at St. Andrew's, Highland Park, as parish deacon, with a focus on pastoral care of parishioners in need who have no family in the area.

Deacon John Mark Feuerstein continues to serve every Sunday at Good Shepherd, Hazelwood.

Deacon Wade Lawrence served every Sunday at All Saint's Brighton Heights, faithfully visiting the sick at home, in hospitals, and in nursing homes until his retirement from that position earlier this year. Currently, he is serving as Deacon at Trinity Cathedral under the direction of Dean Scott Quinn, where he had previously served for 12 years, from 1992 to 2005.

Deacon Christine McIlvain, Christ Church, North Hills, continues to lead the Women in Discipleship group. Each October she leads the parish in prayer for those who suffer with cancer, and each spring she leads a Woman's Retreat.

Deacon Lorena Ringle, Christ Church, North Hills, continues to serve as Director of Christian Formation; with literacy initiatives; and serves as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for children who are abused and neglected.

Deacon Linda Wilson serves as Pastor-in-Charge of All Souls, North Versailles.

Deacon Ann Staples has finally retired after 33 years in active parish ministry, most recently at St. Thomas, Northern Cambria. But recognizing that Deacons never actually retire, but rather just shift emphasis, she is still serving as executive director for Coal Country Hangout Youth Center (see separate report).

Respectfully submitted,  
The Rev. Lorena Ringle, Deacon

## EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

In December 2017, the Episcopal Church Women's yearly "Christmas on the River" Pack and Play, held at St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon, was well attended. Volunteers packed Christmas gifts for crew members that would be away from home during the holiday on the boats and tugs plying the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. This is part of the ministry of the Seaman's Church Institute. The chaplain took the packed boxes to be distributed to the crews. ECW's Pack and Play event is scheduled again this year in December at St. Paul's.

The spring Episcopal Church Women/United Thank Offering Ingathering was held at Christ Church, North Hills, on Saturday, May 5, 2018. An informative program on the Mustard Seed Project, stressing ministry to the street children of Kilgali, Rwanda, was presented by Deacon Christine McIlvain and Joyce Wingett. Many attendees showed their support for the Mustard Seed Project by purchasing artworks and cards.

The ECW business meeting followed, with Janet Stephenson, Chair of the Finance Committee, recommending the following ECW grants that were subsequently approved:

- Bishop's Discretionary Fund \$1,000
- Sheldon Calvary Camp Fund \$1,000
- HEARTH: a safe place that matters \$2,000
- Shepherd Wellness Community, art therapy program \$1,500
- St. Michael's of the Valley, Ligonier  
Neighborhood Academy Backpack Program \$600
- St. Peter's, Brentwood  
ministry to Sudanese and Bhutanese Refugees \$1,500
- Coal Country Hangout Youth Center \$1,500
- St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Mt. Lebanon  
St. Paul and Rose Orphan Care Center, Uganda \$1,000
- Episcopal Relief & Development \$524.80

Memorial Scholarship Chair Betty Duckstein reported three \$1,200 scholarship recipients: Bradley Cooper, Michelle Yang and Bradley Oglie. UTO Chair Darrell Powell presented her report.

A buffet lunch by the women of Christ Church followed. Afterward, a service was held in the sanctuary, where the Rt. Rev. Dorsey McConnell celebrated the Eucharist.

At the July Triennial meeting in Austin, Texas, the ECW of Pittsburgh was represented by UTO Chair Darrell Powell, Church Periodical Club Chair and Treasurer Linda Getts, and immediate Past President and Memorial Scholarship Chair Betty Duckstein. They will present their reports at the Fall ECW/UTO Ingathering, scheduled to be held at St. Thomas, Oakmont, on Saturday, October 13, 2018.

The following are officers of the 2018-19 ECW board:

Betsy Hetzler, President; Gina Brownfield, Vice President; Louise Cannon, Secretary; Linda Getts, Treasurer; Darrell Powell, UTO Chair; Janet Stephenson, Finance Chair; and Betty Duckstein, Memorial Scholarship Chair.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Hetzler

President, Episcopal Church Women of the Diocese of Pittsburgh

## EPISCOPAL HEALTH MINISTRIES

The new activity for the diocesan Episcopal Health Ministries (EHM) in 2018 centered on the Pittsburgh Mercy Parish Nurse and Health Ministry exploration workshop, held at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church on February 3, 2018. Eleven people attended with six churches represented – three Episcopal parishes and three of other faith traditions. This event was publicized in *Grace Happens* as well as *Faith Connection*, the newsletter of the Pittsburgh Mercy Parish Nurse and Health Ministry.

Faith community nurses fulfill various responsibilities in congregations. Among them are participation on lay pastoral care teams in capacities such as lending a listening ear; establishing support groups, such as Grief Share; personal health counseling; referrals for social needs, such as Meals on Wheels; providing necessary resources for individual and family care; and making hospital and home visitations.

Health ministry is not a program but a relationship connection with parishioners. A faith community nurse utilizes his or her nursing skills from a holistic care approach (whole person health of body, mind and spirit), and most serve in a volunteer capacity. They can provide an aspect to healing, faith (with prayer) and health that the world does not offer but the Church can – in keeping with the diocesan mission statement of “Love, Teach, Heal.”

With the ongoing mission of the Downtown Ministerium walk-in ministry, there is an opportunity in the future for enhancement of meeting the needs of the community through assistance from faith community nurses and those interested in health ministry.

For more information about hosting a health ministry workshop in your parish or about volunteer opportunities, contact Amy Armanious, Health Ministry Specialist at Pittsburgh Mercy Parish Nurse and Health Ministry at [aarmanious@pittsburghmercy.org](mailto:aarmanious@pittsburghmercy.org).

Currently, the national Episcopal Health Ministries organization is on hiatus, pending discernment of its future role. Updates on this volunteer ministry will be forthcoming. Until then, my prayer for you is:

*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)*

Respectfully submitted;  
Paula Wasko  
Diocesan Coordinator  
Episcopal Health Ministry

## **THE MON VALLEY MISSION INITIATIVE**

On September 13, 2017, when Mon Valley Missioners met at St. Stephen's, McKeesport, to participate in a healing service and discussion, we were pleasantly surprised to be joined there by over twenty members of neighboring Bethlehem Baptist Church (BBC). Sensing the Holy Spirit at work on that evening, we made the burgeoning partnership between St. Stephen's and BBC the focus of the Mon Valley Mission in late 2017 and through 2018. The partnership has grown and strengthened under the joint leadership of Deacon Brandon Mozingo and BBC's Reverend Cheryl Coleman. On the first Monday of each month, members of both congregations, and some from our other Mon Valley parishes, gather for worship, prayer, discussion, and a shared meal, with an eye toward discerning together God's will for Christ's Church in the Mon Valley.

While the monthly gatherings in McKeesport will continue, beginning this fall we will also be working to encourage greater cooperation, sharing, and support among our clergy throughout the Mon Valley. The clergy will meet regularly to discuss their Ministry in the Mon, the difficulties that they encounter, and the opportunities present. We are hopeful that, with God's help, new ideas and energy will emerge.

Other highlights from the Mon Valley Mission in 2018 include:

- St. John's, Donora, has grown under the leadership of pastoral associate Michael Singer, and has been renovating the building and reaching out to the community.
- St. Paul's, Monongahela, has moved to two evening services, one (traditional) on Saturday and one (contemporary) on Sunday, as a way of reaching others in the community for whom attending a Sunday morning service is not feasible. They are also exploring the possibility of converting some of their building's extra space into a recovery home for those suffering amidst the opioid epidemic.
- Church of the Good Shepherd, Hazelwood, is looking into the future and discerning their mission after the retirement of its long-time pastor, Fr. Huett Fleming.

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

In Christ,

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

# THE ORDER OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

The Order of the Daughters of the King is a Christian order of women and girls, ages seven and older, lay and ordained, all over the world, who desire a deeper walk with our Lord. We have a Rule of Life, vow a lifetime of Prayer, Service and Evangelism and enjoy the companionship of other Daughters to strengthen our life of faith.

Our assembly currently consists of Daughters from the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh and the Anglican Diocese of Pittsburgh. One Daughter is trying to get a Catholic chapter started. We invite all women to pray and consider if God may be calling her to join the Order. New chapters in any parish may be started with only three Daughters. We include Daughters who are no longer connected to a parish chapter, called Daughters-at-Large (DAL's). New leadership is elected every three years and includes members from both dioceses.

At our Spring and Fall Assemblies, all the chapters and DAL's come together to celebrate our common commitment to Christ. After the business meeting, there is an inspirational program and women share how they are living their vows as Daughters. We end with a fellowship lunch.

The assembly sponsors a reflective retreat during Advent and Lent every year which is open to all women of the church.

## Officers

President: Jessie Hipolit  
1st Vice President: Barb McMillen  
2nd Vice President: Carolyn Booker  
Daughters-at-Large: Mary Beth Middleton  
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 Reverend Don C. Youse, Jr., Emmanuel Episcopal Church, North Side

## Total Membership: 66

## Number of Chapters: 5

(Chapter Name, Parish, President)

- Daughters of Advent, Episcopal Church of the Advent, Jeannette – Jan Murtha
- Deborah Chapter, Christ Episcopal Church, Indiana – Kate Geiger
- Holy Comforter, Fox Chapel Anglican – Lois Folino
- Song of Victory, St. George Anglican, Waynesburg – Barb McMillen
- Verna Dozier, Emmanuel Episcopal Church, North Side – Carol Veal
- Daughters-at-Large

**Theme for the Year**

“Growing in Divine Love”

**Fall Assembly**

October 21, 2017, at Shepherd’s Heart Fellowship

“How Does Your Relationship with Christ Nourish You?”

**Advent Day of Reflection**

Saturday, December 9, 2017, at Shepherd’s Heart Fellowship

“Are You Rooted and Grounded in Christ?”

**Lenten Retreat**

“Weeds in the Garden,” reflecting on the Stations of the Cross, at Carolyn Booker’s home  
Led by our Assembly Chaplain, the Rev. Don Youse

**Spring Assembly**

April 28, 2018, at Fox Chapel Church

“Are You Living the Abundant Life? Living in the Power of the Holy Spirit”

Led by Carolyn Booker

**Province III Retreat**

Saturday, April 15, 2018, at Claggett Center, Adamstown, Maryland

Martha Johnson Bourlakas on “Our One Word”

**Projects / Plans**

Electing new officers in September 2018 for three-year terms

Continuing efforts to get DAL’s connected to chapters

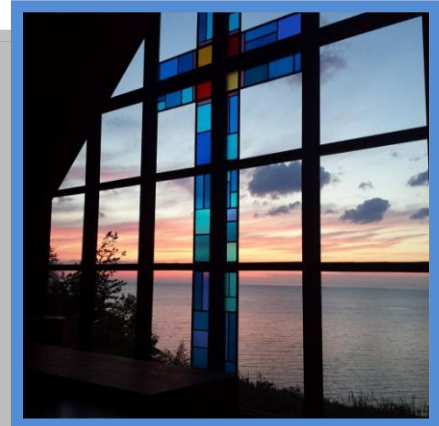
Planning ways for Daughters to experience Christ at a deeper level in chapters and assemblies

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

Prayer and Service for the Spread of Christ’s Kingdom

## SHELDON CALVARY CAMP

Bishop Thomas Chapel at Sheldon Calvary Camp sits on a bluff overlooking Lake Erie, with a view of water and sky and spectacular sunsets through a stained glass cross that rises to the full height of the chapel. Panes of glass of many different sizes and varying shades of blue make up this cross. In the same way, the lives of a wide variety of people are joined together each summer to form the Christian community we know as Calvary Camp. In a time when divisions are acutely felt, and common ground is difficult to find, we draw people together in the love of Christ. Calvary Camp is a sacred place for conversation, relationship, and transformation. We intentionally work to develop children and young adults who have faith, hope, and a deep appreciation of our common humanity.



Well over 1,000 campers experienced Calvary Camp in the summer of 2018, many for more than one camping session. Those campers were cared for by a staff of 70 young adults, plus maintenance, kitchen, and health care staff. The camping program includes seven different sessions of overnight camping for children ages 8 to 16, and a week of day camp for local campers ages 6 to 12.

Bishop McConnell's visit this summer was particularly memorable, as he brought along his faithful canine companion Charlie to be part of his chapel talk to the campers. Singing together, praying Compline, and celebrating the Eucharist are at the heart of our life as we gather in the chapel.

Through the generosity of donors to our capital campaign and annual appeals, we are continually at work on facility improvements to support our ministry. The Dining Hall project is nearing completion. We look forward to meals in this simple, fresh space built to accommodate the 270 people who make up the summer camp community. We will live into the possibilities of a building that can be used year round. This fall, as soon as our Labor Day weekend camp ends, we will begin construction of a year-round office building to replace the Director's Cottage. The infrastructure for this new construction will also allow for the development of other all-season buildings in the future, as we continue to look for opportunities to serve.

We are grateful for the resources which are entrusted to us – solid finances, beautiful land, and, above all, the gift of human lives. In all that we do, our hope is to send into the world people who will become, as Pope Francis has called them, “artisans of the common good.”

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

### **Sheldon Calvary Camp Board:**

The Rt. Rev. Dorsey McConnell, *ex officio*; Ms. Margaret Balch; the Hon. Cathy Bissoon; the Rev. Cathy Brall; Mr. Steven Conomikes; Dr. Lynne Curtis, *Vice-President*; the Rev. T.J. Freeman; Mr. Gregory Green; Dr. John Hoza, *Treasurer*; Mr. Neil Johnston; the Rev. Moni McIntyre; Mr. Lawrence Knapp; Ms. Trudy O’Nan, *Secretary*; Mr. Joe Ryan; Mr. David Sharbaugh, *President*; Mr. Doug Strott; the Rev. Gary Taylor; and Mr. Kenneth 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 an affiliate organization of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh.

This year we were pleased to have Bishop McConnell appoint the Rev. Michael Foley to our board of directors as a representative of the Episcopal Diocese.

On June 3, we celebrated our 30th anniversary with a reception at our center. Fr. Foley led a blessing and rededication of our recently renovated dining room, which was renamed “The Fr. Lynn Edwards Dining Room.” A plaque in memory of Fr. Lynn proclaims, “Dedicated to the memory of our beloved founder, for thirty years of tireless love and devotion to people living with HIV/AIDS.”

We are grateful for the support of our work provided by the Episcopal Diocese, Bishop McConnell, individual parishes, the Episcopal Church Women and the Women of Calvary, which enables us to continue our ministry.

## **Our 2018 HIV/AIDS wellness programs include:**

- **Wellness Dinners** to improve nutrition reduce isolation and provide social support
- **Peer Counseling** phone calls to connect members with HIV/AIDS services and offer a lifeline of help, support and hope
- **Support Groups** which 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** to provide information about HIV/AIDS treatment, HIV medications and the latest medical advances
- **Complementary Therapy Classes** to teach members how to improve health and wellness and strengthen their immune systems
- **Treatment Adherence and Risk Reduction Programs** to 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 which offer insight, encouragement, inspiration, direction and guidance
- **Social and Recreational Outings** to combat isolation and loneliness and provide supportive community and respite for families
- **Wellness Classes** to help 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, which 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 thirty years of ministry to people living with HIV/AIDS.

Sincerely,  
B. Scott Peterman  
Executive Director, Shepherd Wellness Community



## SOCIAL JUSTICE AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Members of the Social Justice and Outreach Committee include: Elizabeth Duckstein, St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon; Patricia Eagon, St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon; Bill Farra, Community of Celebration; Duwayne Ladd, St. Peter's, Blairsville; Nancy Lapp, Holy Cross, Homewood; Marianne Novy, Redeemer, Squirrel Hill; Anne Robb, Calvary, East Liberty; Wesley Rohrer, St. Andrew's, Highland Park; Linda Schneider, St. Brendan's, Franklin Park; and Tom Slater, Calvary, East Liberty. The Rev. Michael Foley of Redeemer, Squirrel Hill, and Lawrence Wray, St. Andrew's, Highland Park, were members until May and June, respectively.

We recommended, and Diocesan Council approved, the disbursement of the 2017 diocesan Lambeth funds, totaling \$3,881, as follows:

### **International**

- American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, \$1000

### **Regional**

- PA Refugee Resettlement Program (after hearing from us, they asked us to direct it to a local organization working with refugees, and we chose Jewish Family and Children's Services), \$1000

### **Local**

- Garden of Peace project (works with transgender youth), \$627
- Living in Liberty (works with victims of human trafficking), \$627
- Allegheny County CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates, works to help children in need of representation in the legal system), \$627.

The committee encourages service, education, and advocacy with regard to social justice issues. We want to learn from and, when appropriate, work with other faith groups in Pittsburgh and elsewhere as well as with other parts of the wider Episcopal Church.

Our service now includes working with Andy Muhl in coordinating Trinity Cathedral's hosting of a walk-in ministry that rotates weekly among the five churches of the Downtown Ministerium. We have a team of about 20 volunteers that provides food, toiletries, transportation and referrals. We serve an average of 60 people each month, with especially high demand in winter months. We have received substantial funding for food from PittsburghGives and large in-kind donations of items such as diapers from St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon; St. Brendan's, Franklin Park; and Calvary, East Liberty. Those parishes, as well as the Trinity Cathedral parish and Redeemer, Squirrel Hill, provide regular volunteers.

We also offer grants for vegetable gardens. This year, we received applications and gave grants to the Community of Celebration; St. Andrew's, Highland Park; and St. David's, Peters Township. Here, too, our funds were supplemented by some church donations. Another area of service concerning food is in helping the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. We publicized and participated in a food packing day there on March 24.

As part of our education program, we sponsored an illustrated lecture by Tina Whitehead, held last December at Calvary, East Liberty, on the history of Jerusalem and current issues in Palestinian-Israeli relations. Ms. Whitehead lives part of the year in Israel and works with Sabeel, a Palestinian-Christian peace and justice organization.

We worked together with the Committee on Race and Reconciliation to arrange a facilitated discussion of short films on residential segregation (*The Delmar Divide*) and parents' talks with African-American children about racism (*The Talk*). Held on Sunday, March 11 at St. Andrew's, Highland Park, this was

well-attended and had good participation. These films have been used by the Pittsburgh Interfaith Impact Network (PIIN), which trained the facilitators, Ben Rumbaugh and Lauren Enty Rumbaugh.

We have been investigating justice and service issues related to incarceration. In April, Scilla Wahrhaftig, of Pittsburgh Friends Meeting, told us about activism against solitary confinement in Pennsylvania and also about the Healing Communities Program, which trains congregations to help currently or formerly incarcerated members and their families. She stressed the leadership of the PA Council of Churches, especially through Sandy Strauss.

Protecting the environment has been a continuing concern. In February, we wrote to Jerry Stephenson, president of the Board of Trustees, noting that the General Convention of 2015 passed a resolution urging all dioceses and parishes of The Episcopal Church to engage the topic of divestment from fossil fuels and reinvestment in clean energy within the coming year. The response was that the Trustees had a committee that was considering the general issue of socially responsible investments.

We studied other General Convention resolutions and discussed with invited clergy how to promote goals such as divestment from fossil fuels, reduction of energy and carbon usage both personally and institutionally, and stopping construction of new, highly polluting petrochemical plants such as Shell's. We support the statewide conference of Pennsylvania Interfaith Power and Light, scheduled to be held in Pittsburgh for the first time on October 27 at St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon.

At our July meeting, Jon Delano gave us an extensive report on the General Convention, especially the resolutions from the Domestic Social Justice Committee. Nancy Lapp described the resolutions that supported human rights in Israel and Palestine.

This is a time of multiple justice concerns in the U.S. and internationally, and accordingly, much local justice work. As committee chair, I frequently inform parish outreach coordinators and contacts about diocesan service, education, and advocacy events related to social justice. The committee would like to recognize the many ways in which diocesan members are contributing, especially through outreach to refugees and immigrants at St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon; St. Brendan's, Franklin Park; Redeemer, Squirrel Hill; and Calvary, East Liberty; and at St. Andrew's, Highland Park, through the organization *Hello Neighbor*.

As a committee under the auspices of Diocesan Council, we are grateful, as always, to Council for its support.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marianne Novy, Chair

# UNITED THANK OFFERING

When it comes to the United Thank Offering, Pittsburgh has two reasons to celebrate!

The first reason occurred nearly 130 years ago when Pittsburgher Mrs. Ida Soule was instrumental in introducing a resolution at the 1889 Women's Triennial to create a "United Offering," now known as the United Thank Offering (UTO). It was at this triennial that the first United Offering Ingathering was conducted. A total ingathering of \$2,188.64 was used to build a church in Anvik, Alaska, and send a woman missionary to Japan. This was the birth of the UTO Ingathering tradition.

UTO Ingatherings are typically held twice a year in participating congregations and dioceses throughout the nine provinces and other Episcopal groups not associated with a province. A UTO coordinator, in turn, sends the donations to the national UTO Board. Qualified grants are awarded each year, per the available ingathering total. The UTO, through its Blue Boxes and ingatherings, has become the single most important extra-budgetary source for the funding of specific missionary projects in The Episcopal Church. **Every cent collected is granted!**

At the most recent 79th General Convention / Episcopal Church Women (ECW) Triennial, held in Austin, Texas, the 2017 UTO Ingathering total was \$1,069,512.49. Adding to this, \$213,703.72 (from trust funds and returned grant monies) enabled UTO to give out \$1,283,316.21 in 47 grants. The dollar amount granted since the 2015 Triennial was \$3,738,989.47. Unfortunately, some qualified grant requests could not be awarded, because there just wasn't enough money. The 2018 Grant Awards booklet provides pictures and detailed descriptions of this year's grant recipients.

The second reason for Pittsburgh to celebrate occurred this July at the 2018 ECW Triennial. During the UTO report, the Diocese of Pittsburgh was recognized as the **ONLY** diocese that increased their UTO donations each year of this triennium:

**2015: \$6,593.81      2016: \$7,134.06      2017: \$13,747.06.**  
**THANK YOU, PITTSBURGH!**

You continue to demonstrate: "Gratitude" leads to "Abundance" which leads to "Generosity."

So, what are you grateful for today? Your morning coffee? A parking space? Good test results? A new job? To express your gratitude, remember to drop a coin into your blue UTO box. The new UTO Blue Box Smart Phone App allows you to donate your gratitude on the spot, wherever you are.

Many free resources are available to help share UTO with your congregation. As your diocesan UTO coordinator, I am available and eager to assist you.

Darrell Powell  
UTO Coordinator

