



January 29, 2019

Weather Alert

There is no better time than NOW to donate socks, gloves, hats, and blankets to your local homeless shelter or clothing bank.



Reimagining the Diocese of Pittsburgh

From Jon Delano, President, Diocesan Council

What is God calling us to do here in the Diocese of Pittsburgh in the 21st century, and how can we redesign the tools in this diocese most effectively to help us answer that call?

In a very real sense that is the mission of a diocesan-wide task we are about to undertake in **Project CREED** - "Committee to Re-Envision the Diocese of Pittsburgh" - sometimes referred to as our Mutual Ministry Review.



Under the leadership of Bishop McConnell, the three leadership groups of the diocese - the Board of Trustees, the Diocesan Council, and the Standing Committee - have embraced a process that could, if we choose, lead to substantive change in this diocese. That change could affect all of us in a number of ways. Because of that, every member of this diocese is invited to be part of this review. In the end, whatever recommendations are made will be presented for debate and approval by your deputies at the 2019 Diocesan Convention next November.

Read much more about [Project CREED here](#).

To be successful, we need you - lay and clergy - of all ages, race, gender, geography, ideas, opinions, and desires - to join us, if you can. If you'd like to be part of Project CREED, please plan to join us at 7 p.m. tonight, Tuesday, January 29, at Christ Church, North Hills, 5910 Babcock Boulevard, Pittsburgh, PA 15237.



Save the Date: Lenten Learning Day 2019

Mark your calendar for Lenten Learning Day 2019, **Saturday, March 23**, at [St. Brendan's Episcopal Church](#) in Franklin Park. This will be a special day of learning, worshipping, and building relationships with others across our diocese and communities.

Our theme for this year is **Good News Within Reach**. So... what's the good news?



- **First**, we don't need to look far and wide for opportunities to fulfill the mission of the Church. There are people all around us in need of love and teaching and healing. We see them when we take the trash out to the curb, when we drop our kids or grandkids off at school, and while standing in line at the grocery store. They're our neighbors! And, because they are within our reach, the Good News of Christ is within theirs.
- **Second**, fulfilling the Church's mission is within the reach of every parish - whether large or small, financially well-off or merely making ends meet, served by a full-time rector or Sunday-only supply clergy.
- **Third**, ideas and support for mission is within reach - not something we have to import from out-of-state. We have people and parishes participating in creative and effective ministry right here within our southwestern Pennsylvania footprint.

On March 23, come and learn about some of the mission and ministry taking place throughout our diocese - directly from the people who lead and participate in it. Ponder together how similar forms of mission and ministry might work in your own parish and community context. Get practical tips and helpful resources that you can take back to your parish and share with others.

Plus, hear from our special guest speaker, the Reverend Paul Abernathy, pastor of St. Moses Orthodox Christian Mission in Pittsburgh's Hill District and director of [FOCUS Pittsburgh](#).

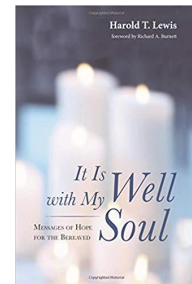
Watch the diocesan website and the Grace Happens e-newsletter for more information and online event registration in the weeks ahead.



The Rev. Dr. Harold Lewis Preaching and Signing Books in Homewood

The Rev. Dr. Harold T. Lewis will be preaching and signing copies of his new book, *It Is Well with My Soul: Messages of Hope for the Bereaved*, at Holy Cross, Homewood, on this coming Sunday, February 3, at 10 a.m.

The Church of the Holy Cross, 7507 Kelly Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15208
<https://historichcpa.org/>



Amid Pittsburgh division, a priest revives the parish that raised him



[Episcopal News Service] When the Rev. Kris Opat returned to St. David's Episcopal Church in suburban Pittsburgh in 2012, only 20 people were there to start over as a congregation with him. The sanctuary, which seats 300, made the group look even smaller. The building's previous occupants, part of the Anglican Church in North America, had just decamped.

Ordained for only three years, Opat had never been a priest-in-charge.

Today, St. David's is a growing parish with almost 300 members, mostly busy young families in a growing suburb who have no previous Episcopal ties. They hear the message of Christ's unconditional love preached every week from Opat, 38, a trained engineer with dreadlocks who grew up in this congregation.



[Read the rest of article here.](#)



**REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER
KING, JR. CELEBRATION**

Rescheduled to

**Sunday, February 17, 2019
4 p.m.**

**With Church Without Walls
at Rodman Street Missionary
Baptist Church**



*I have decided to stick with
LOVE. Hate is too great a
burden to bear.*

-Martin Luther King, Jr.

Rodman Street Missionary Baptist Church, 6111 Rodman St, Pittsburgh, PA 15206
rodmanstreetchurch.org



Pittsburgh Beer & Hymns



Thursday, January 31

7:00-9:00 pm

Vincent's of Greentree

333 Mansfield Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15220



Hosted by Saint John Lutheran Church, Carnegie

www.saintjohncarnegie.com

all ages welcome!



2018 Parochial Reports Due March 1

Parishes are reminded that Parochial Reports for the year 2018 are due by March 1, 2019, and the Episcopal Church's online filing system is now open.

A blank report form, filing instructions, and detailed workbooks for help in completing each page of the report are available online at www.episcopalchurch.org/research/forms-and-instructions

Parishes are highly encouraged to file using the online reporting system. Information about how to access this system was mailed to every parish in December. For those who file electronically, a signed paper copy is also required to be submitted to the diocesan office. If you cannot access the online system, submit your completed and signed paper copies to the diocesan office for entry into the system.

It is the joint responsibility of clergy and vestry to assure the timely completion of parochial reports.

Contact [Judi Rogers](#) or [Kathi Workman](#) in the diocesan office if you have questions about filing your annual parochial report.



Commission on Race and Reconciliation 2019 Anti-Racism Trainings

The Commission on Race and Reconciliation has tentatively scheduled two Anti-Racism training sessions for 2019.

- April 5 & 6, 2019
- October 18 & 19, 2019

Location and registration details will be available on the diocesan web site and in *Grace Happens* as they become available.



Around the Diocese

Bishop McConnell's Visitation Schedule:

February 3: St. Peter's, Brentwood
February 10: All Souls, North Versailles
February 17: Emmanuel, North Side
February 24: Atonement, Carnegie

Parish leadership is reminded to complete and submit [this form](#) at least two weeks in advance of their visitation.



A service celebrating the Rev. Gilbert M. (Gib) Watt's life will be held Saturday, February 16, at 10:30 a.m. at St. Thomas Memorial Church, 378 Delaware Avenue, Oakmont, PA 15139, with the Rt. Rev. Dorsey McConnell, presiding. The Rev. Jeff Murph will be assisting.



A Way of Love Pilgrimage to Huntington, WV



Lay and ordained people from across the greater Mid Atlantic region are scheduled to walk the Way of Love on March 25-26, 2019, as pilgrims to a West Virginia town hit hard by the tragedy of the opioid epidemic: Huntington. Organized by the Episcopal Church Province III Task Force on Responding to the Opioid Epidemic, the pilgrims will visit places where the local community has found innovative, compassionate ways to respond to the wave of addiction that has claimed the lives and loved ones of too many residents of the town.

According to the Mayor's Office of Drug Control Policy Strategic Plan, more than 10% of the population of Huntington is addicted to opioids. For 2016, 1,476 drug overdose incidents were reported in Cabell County--a 443% increase over 2014. Widely regarded as "ground zero" for the opioid epidemic in the United States, community leaders in Huntington acknowledged the grave situation early. Huntington is becoming an example for other communities seeking to offer a caring response, prevention strategies, and recovery resources that serve individuals and families in need. Pilgrims will walk in the Way of Love through Huntington together: crossing boundaries, listening deeply, and living like Jesus. (For more information on the Way of Love, see: <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/way-of-love>)

The Way of Love journey will lead pilgrims through places of prayer and witness, offering time to listen to stories, hear recent research findings, and learn more about productive programs inside and outside of church buildings. Featured guests include the Right Reverend Mike Klusmeyer, Bishop of West Virginia who founded the task force in May 2017; Rebecca Crowder, Executive Director of Lily's Place, a facility that cares for infants facing neo-natal abstinence syndrome; the Rev. Jeff Allen, Executive Director West Virginia Council of Churches; and other local leaders from the faith and recovery communities.

Organized by the Rev. Dina van Klaveren and Karl Colder, Co-Chairs of the Opioid Response Task Force of Province III of the Episcopal Church.

Task Force representatives from the Diocese of Pittsburgh are the Rev. Canon Dr. Jay Geisler (jgeisler@episcopalpgh.org), the Rev. Regis Smolko (regisjs@verizon.net), and Andy Muhl (amuhl@episcopalpgh.org).

[Register here.](#)

For more information on the pilgrimage, contact: Susan Province3OpioidTaskForce@gmail.com, or 410-489-4035.



All submissions to the *Grace Happens* newsletter and the diocesan web site are welcome and should be sent to info@episcopalpgh.org. When possible, the copy should be in a Word document and all original logos, pictures and artwork should be attached separately. Please be sure to include your contact information with any submission.

