



June 5, 2019

Reaching Out in Scottdale

RenewalWorks Brings New Life at St. Bartholomew's

When the Rev. Lenny Anderson arrived at St. Bartholomew's, Scottdale, the parish was in a place familiar to many, if not most, smaller Episcopal congregations. A dedicated core of parishioners was working hard to keep the church going, but this responsibility was falling on fewer and fewer shoulders. "It was difficult for them to be excited about their future," Anderson shared. This is when he made an interesting discovery as he was cleaning and organizing the church sacristy and office space, a snapshot of the church's past.



"In the 1980's, a consultant had come to St. Bart's to give advice on 'nickels and noses'", he stated. "Money and attendance were the primary metrics of the report." Anderson said that, while these things are not unimportant, he was more concerned about the underlying spiritual vitality of the congregation, and moving toward a more active approach to engaging the community around them. After four years of ministry in the parish, he felt that his relationship with them was strong enough to begin this transformation.

After researching several programs, Anderson settled on [RenewalWorks](#), a ministry of Forward Movement firmly rooted in the Episcopal tradition. Normally, this program is structured for teams, with groups of parishes engaging the work in tandem, but Forward Movement made an exception for St. Bart's. "RenewalWorks brought the people of the parish together with a sense of new optimism, that there were tangible things they could do, and should do," said Anderson.



He feels that in many ways, the process was even more important than the product. The shared commitment to meeting and working through the discussions and surveys generated excitement, new questions, and new ideas. As a direct result of this work, the church hosted its first ever community Easter egg hunt in April. Nearly a dozen children, mostly non-parishioners, visited the parish on a rainy, cool day. This excellent turnout for a rural area fostered even more outward-facing energy for the church, which is looking to engage its community in creative ways in the months to come. As an example, St. Bart's is planning to serve as a "hospitality stop" during the annual community yard sale day, offering rest and free refreshment for their neighbors, with other projects slated for the autumn.

As positive as this is, Anderson is even more encouraged by the spiritual renewal he is witnessing in the people of the parish, which he credits as the actual driving force behind its new life. He shared that one long-time parishioner came to him during the RenewalWorks process stating that he "had never really

read much of the Bible on his own," but was inspired by their gatherings to make the Scriptures a part of his daily life.

Anderson recommended RenewalWorks and its related programs, especially for smaller parishes

like his own. "It was very helpful getting a Formation for Mission Grant from the diocese, which eased our financial anxiety about starting this," he said. "We had a small budget, but we knew that we had to try something." He remains very hopeful for the future life of St. Bartholomew's, and is excited to see what God has in store for the parish and for Scottdale.

If you are interested in spiritual and missional renewal within your parish, and would like explore RenewalWorks and other options, contact [the Rev. Natalie Hall](#), Canon for Evangelism and Faith Formation, or [the Rev. Kimberly Karashin](#), Canon for Mission.

Editor note: *The Rev. Lenny Anderson celebrated his final service at St. Bartholomew's on June 1, and has since moved to Bradenton, FL, where he is serving as rector of St. George's Episcopal Church.*



God Willing
and the People Consenting

The Rt. Reverend Dorsey W. M. McConnell
Bishop of Pittsburgh

will ordain

Kimberly Macy Karashin
Julie Lynn Smith

to the Sacred Order of Priests
in Christ's one holy catholic and apostolic Church

Saturday, June 15, 2019
at ten o'clock in the morning

Trinity Cathedral
328 Sixth Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222

Your prayers and presence are requested
Clergy: Red Stoles Reception to follow

Please note that Parkway East construction may impact travel routes and times on the weekend of June 15th.



ECW Spring 2019 Grants Announced

The Spring ECW/UTO Ingathering was held at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Mt. Lebanon, on Saturday, May 4. The following grants were approved:

DIocese:

Bishop's Discretionary Fund

\$1500

Sheldon Calvary Camp Scholarship Fund	\$500
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HOME MISSIONS:

HEARTH (A Safe Place Matters)	\$1000
Shepherd Wellness Community Art Therapy Program	\$1000
St. Michael's of the Valley, Ligonier, and St. Andrew's, Highland Park for the Neighborhood Academy Backpack Program in Lincoln-Lemington	\$750
St, Stephen's, Wilkinsburg for the Neighborhood Youth Outreach Program (NYOP)	\$1500
Sisters Place, Inc., Clairton	\$1500
Angel's Place	\$1500
Oasis Recovery Center and St. Peter's, Brentwood, for the annual Drug Overdose Awareness Day and Support Group at Trinity Cathedral	\$1100
ESL Conversation Friends at St. Brendan's, Franklin Park	\$750



NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS:

St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon, for the St. Paul and Rose Orphan Care Centre in Uganda	\$1000
Episcopal Relief and Development (ER&D)	\$1000.92
	\$13,100.92 Total

The ECW Finance Committee consists of: Janet Stephenson, Chair; Betsy Hetzler, President, Linda Getts, Treasurer; Elva Matous, and Betty Duckstein.



The 69th Annual Country Day Fair at St. Michael's of the Valley will feature a host of items for sale, things to eat, activities and entertainment. The fair is scheduled for **Saturday, June 8, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.**, rain or shine, and promises to be a fun outing for adults and children alike.

The group *One Accord*, which has been performing at the Country Day Fair for more than ten years, will once again provide musical entertainment.

The locally famous rummage sale is always a treasure trove of used clothing and household goods. In addition, *Connie's Closet* features high-end clothing resale, and the *White Elephant* features art, glassware, and furnishings. The *Potting Shed* will have a variety of annuals, perennials, and shrubs for purchase and the *Book Nook* is renowned for the wide variety of used books for all ages.

There is no shortage of wonderful things to feast on at the fair. Delicious eats at the Deli Booth include crepes, smokehouse grilled burgers and dogs, a variety of sandwiches, salads, and home-baked goodies. St. Michael's famous grilled mushroom sandwiches will also be served.

The annual Country Day Fair is a collaborative effort of the parishioners of St. Michael's and a means of supporting local charities. "Every year the money we raise with the fair, goes directly into our local community," said Jinny Ledgard, who along with her husband, Mike Ledgard, chairs the fair committee. "The people of St. Michael's have a brilliant history of outreach and community service, and it shows through the long-term commitment of our members who run the fair booths."



Mt. Lebanon Goes Solar

"On a nice day, our building is totally powered by the sun," said St. Paul's rector, the Rev. Noah H. Evans.

[St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon](#), will celebrate its "moving off the grid" when it formally inaugurates its newly installed solar panels during a blessing ceremony to take place on **Saturday, June 8 at 3:30 p.m.**

Bishop Dorsey McConnell will officiate the service from the roof of the church.



Photo credit: Energy Independent Solutions

St. Paul's is the first church in southwestern Pennsylvania to install its own solar panels on-site, while others have switched to solar power through cooperatives or third-party electric providers, according to Pennsylvania Interfaith Power and Light, a State College-based organization that helps communities of faith respond to climate change.

The building, located at 1066 Washington Road, is a three-story structure that includes a 400+ seat sanctuary, a nursery school serving 200 children, church offices, and meeting rooms. It is in use seven days a week, usually for more than 12 hours a day.

Prior to switching to solar power in late spring - the panels were activated on March 27 - the church consumed on average 9,250 KWh a month, and its electric bill ranged from \$1,000 to \$1,300.

The first full month of solar usage saw the amount of purchased electricity reduced nearly 70% compared to the previous April.

"Going solar is a very significant and public declaration of this church moving towards a more sustainable building, and being good stewards of the planet and of our financial resources," said Stephen Sumpter, a St. Paul's parishioner who chairs its Sustainability Committee.

There is much more to this story at [Episcopal News Service](#).



Pig Roast in Mt. Lebanon

Saturday, June 8, 4-7 p.m. at [St. Paul's Episcopal Church](#), 1066 Washington Road, Mt. Lebanon 15228.

Come on out for the 3rd annual *This Little Piggy Went to St. Paul's Pig Roast*. Chris Clark's famous pork will be served!



The afternoon will include many fun activities for all ages: a bounce house, t-shirt tie-dyeing, and a Mt. Lebanon firetruck for the children. The adults can enjoy craft beer and an auction.

This event is brought to you by the Young Adults at St. Paul's. A portion of the proceeds will benefit St. Paul's Nursery School. Contact Margaret at margaret.kroehler@gmail.com with any questions.

Buy your tickets online at www.stpaulspgh.org.



A Showcase of Amazing Young Talent

in Wilkinsburg



June 14, 2019 at 7 p.m.
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
600 Pitt Street, Wilkinsburg, PA 15221



Walking the Labyrinth

A Community Common Prayer Service

On **Sunday, June 16, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.**, St. Mark's, Johnstown, is offering a special Community Common Prayer Service based on the spiritual experience of walking a labyrinth.

Unlike a maze, which has puzzling dead ends, a labyrinth is a continuous winding path enabling a walking meditation that can be utilized by anyone. The labyrinth symbolizes our spiritual journey through life and can help us to find healing peace and connection with the Divine.



Labyrinths have a history that can be traced back over 4000 years. One of the most famous labyrinths is the one laid around 1220 A.D. in the floor of Chartres Cathedral in Chartres, France, about 80 km southwest of Paris.

[St. Mark's](#), located at 335 Locust Street in downtown Johnstown, has a Chartres-style, thirty-foot diameter, 11-circuit labyrinth laid in the stone pavers of the courtyard in front of the entrance to our parish hall and adjacent to the Memorial Garden. This labyrinth was installed in the late 1990's.



Strawberry Festival in Johnstown

St. Mark's, Johnstown, is holding its annual Strawberry Festival, **Thursday through Saturday, June 20 - 22, 2019 from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

This event features free live entertainment and a variety of strawberry desserts. Available will be shortcake with strawberries and whipped cream; ice cream with strawberries and whipped cream; and the ultimate combo - shortcake, ice cream, strawberries and whipped cream!



Prices range from \$4 to \$5. Bottled water, hot tea and coffee will also be available. Eat in or takeout.

Free live entertainment under tents in the courtyard will feature Justin Garmin, Brian Harshberger, Cathy Jagers, Catty-Anne, and John Wolfe.

St. Mark's is located at 335 Locust Street in downtown Johnstown. For additional information, contact the church office at (814) 535-6797, stmarks@atlanticbbn.net, or visit saintmarksjohnstown.com



Healing Communities Training

At a time when one out of every 28 Pennsylvanians are under criminal justice system control, whether in prison, jail, on probation, or on parole, it is likely that every congregation has members impacted by crime or the criminal justice system, whether as victims, accused, offenders, or families of people in all those groups. Shame and stigma often isolate those affected, preventing them from seeking help. How can congregations create a culture of safety and support for those who need it?

Our diocesan convention [passed a resolution](#) last November to support development of a diocesan *Healing Communities* training with the Pennsylvania Council of Churches.

A training workshop is now scheduled for **Saturday, June 22, 1-6 p.m.**, at [St. Stephen's Episcopal Church](#) in Wilkinsburg, 600 Pitt Street, Pittsburgh PA 15221.



**Healing
Communities**
*Balancing Justice
With Mercy*

The *Healing Communities* training, a proven national model, equips congregations to become stations of hope by building relationships of healing, redemption, and reconciliation. [Here is a link](#) that describes the results of this training workshop in powerful detail.

Congregations are encouraged to send a group of at least three leaders/active members in order to effectively implement the model in their setting. [A form with registration and more information is available here.](#) **Although the form indicates a cost of \$25, it will be free for Episcopalians.** It is open to all, and no one will be excluded for inability to pay.

The training will be given by the Rev. Sandra Strauss, Director of Advocacy and Ecumenical Outreach for the [PA Council of Churches](#). She can be contacted at s.strauss@pachurches.org or 717-545-4761.



A Celebration of New Ministry in Crafton

Join Bishop McConnell and ELCA Bishop Kurt Kussarow at St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church In Crafton for "An Invitation to Service," welcoming the Rev. Doug Kinsey as pastor on **Sunday, June 30 at 4 p.m.**

Clergy are invited to participate with green stoles.

St Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church, 45 E. Steuben St., Pittsburgh, PA 15205



A New Future for Trinity House

In a June 3rd letter to the diocese, Bishop McConnell announced that the office and meeting space adjacent to Trinity Cathedral - the building known as Trinity House - would be offered for lease or redevelopment.

The decision is a result of more than two years of consideration by an advisory panel assembled by the bishop, along with the Cathedral Chapter and the Board of Trustees.

They determined that the space is under-utilized and would be of greater value to the cathedral if marketed for other uses, particularly in light of an extraordinary demand for downtown real estate.

The Cathedral itself is not part of the offer, and everything based at the cathedral would remain. "It is our resolve that the Cathedral and its mission would not only be preserved, but prosper through this plan," said Bishop McConnell.

Read the bishop's letter [here](#)



LOVE. TEACH. HEAL.
Re-imagining Our Diocese

Save The Date!

2019 Diocesan Convention

Love. Teach. Heal. Re-imagining Our Diocese

November 15 & 16

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

616 N Highland Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Note: This date is one week later than our conventions in the past.

[Click here](#) for important convention documents.



Around the Diocese

Bishop McConnell's Visitation Schedule:

June 9: Christ Church, North Hills

June 16: St. Stephen's, McKeesport

June 23: St. Michael's, Ligonier

June 30: St. Barnabas, Brackenridge

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



Luncheon: The Retired Clergy & Spouses and Surviving Spouses Luncheon will be held on Thursday, June 6, at Noon at Church of the Redeemer in Squirrel Hill.

Addiction Response Ministry Seminar: Saturday, June 22, 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 200 East North Street, Butler, PA 16001. The Rev. Canon Dr. Jay Geisler will be presenting at a seminar designed to help individuals and churches gain knowledge about how to support persons in addiction and/or in recovery and their families. [Click here](#) for details and registration information.



Parting Shots

Some of the folks from the Diocesan Commission on Race and Reconciliation spent a workday together with Bishop McConnell on Saturday, June 1. Thanks for the gracious hospitality of the Community of Celebration in Aliquippa!



Front row: Nancy Bolden and the Rev. Ryan Pusch (ELCA). Back row Denise Johnson, the Rev. Nano Chalfant Walker, Dolores Oliver, Frances Dannenberg, and the Rev. Michael Foley. Not pictured but in attendance were Shahnaz Alam Denlinger and Bishop McConnell



All submissions to the *Grace Happens* newsletter and the diocesan web site are welcome and

should be sent to amuhl@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.

