



June 19, 2019



### 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.



## Nominations Open for Elections at Diocesan Convention

Our diocese has navigated through significant challenges over the past 10 years and we are now ready to define our future in terms of new/renewed mission and streamlined governance, reflecting who we are and strive to be.

Our governing bodies need to better reflect the diversity of our parishes and their congregations with all opinions and imaginations having voice in who we are becoming as a diocese. Project CREED has begun that process and we want and need everyone to consider playing an active role - this is OUR CHURCH - and this is your opportunity to shape it! Please consider becoming a candidate, especially if you never have before!



We are now welcoming nominations of clergy and lay persons for election to membership on various governing bodies and committees of the Diocese. **The following are positions to be elected at the 154th Diocesan Convention to be held November 15 & 16 at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.**

*All are three-year terms except Standing Committee, which is a four-year term.*

#### Standing Committee

One Clergy  
One Layperson

#### Board of Trustees

Two Laypersons

#### Constitution & Canons

One Clergy  
One Layperson

#### Deputies to 2022 General Convention

Four Clergy & Four Lay Deputies  
Four Clergy & Four Lay Alternates

#### District 1

One Layperson to Diocesan Council

#### District 2

One Layperson to Diocesan Council

### Disciplinary Board

Two Clergy  
One Layperson

### Commission on Ministry

One Layperson OR Clergy

### District 3

One Layperson to Diocesan Council  
One Layperson to Board of Trustees

### District 4

One Layperson to Diocesan Council

Multiple candidates and self-nominations for open positions are encouraged and accepted. You do not need to be a deputy to Diocesan Convention to run for election.

Nomination forms have been mailed to all of the parishes in the Diocese, and are also available on the diocesan web site at [www.episcopalpgh.org/resources/2019-diocesan-convention](http://www.episcopalpgh.org/resources/2019-diocesan-convention). A brief description of the [canonical responsibilities](#) of each of the boards and committees as well as information about the frequency and time of meeting is also available there. [Nomination forms](#) (which must be signed by the rector or senior warden of the nominee's parish) are now due in the diocesan office by July 1; a brief bio and photograph should be submitted electronically by July 31.

We invite all faithful Episcopalians to prayerfully consider volunteering to serve the diocese as best suits their time and talents. The Co-Chairs of the Nominating Committee are Kathy Baird and the Rev. Julie Smith. If anyone has questions about any of the work of any of the diocesan committees, feel free to contact Kathy at [kathy950@gmail.com](mailto:kathy950@gmail.com), or Julie+ at [jlsphone1@gmail.com](mailto:jlsphone1@gmail.com)



## Call for Convention Resolutions

The Resolutions Committee of Diocesan Council is now accepting items to be considered at our [next diocesan convention](#).

Proposed resolutions may be submitted by any parish or individuals [using this form](#). Each must conform to Robert's Rules of Order and include a short explanation or rationale, as well as contact information for at least two sponsors. An example resolution is on the form.

**All proposed resolutions must be submitted no later than September 9, 2019.** Submission instructions are on the form.



## Lay Deputy Certification Forms Due June 30

As we wind down the busy program year and swing into our summer schedules, it is easy to forget that lay deputy certification forms are **due in the diocesan office by June 30**.



A blank form with complete instructions is available online [by clicking here](#). This form must be signed by a Warden OR by two members of the Vestry.

Please contact [Andy Muhl](#) in the diocesan office with any questions.



## 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@atlanticbbs.net](mailto:stmarks@atlanticbbs.net), or visit [saintmarksjohnstown.com](http://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.

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](mailto:s.strauss@pachurches.org) or 717-545-4761.



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



## St. Mary Magdalene Lutheran Episcopal Church Offers Book Study

From the Rev. Canon Natalie Hall:

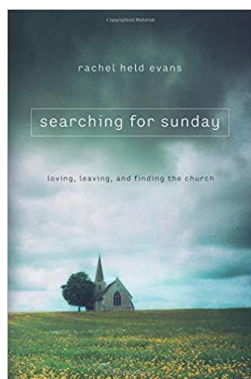
I went to a conference recently - one sponsored by a church organization - and the first time I heard the word "Jesus" it was used ironically. The speaker said, "I don't like to use the 'J' word..." I was taken aback. In a room full of people that included clergy and members of churches across the world eager to participate, the "J-word" would hardly be offensive. Perhaps it was more offensive NOT to say the name.



Then again, she had a point. Say "Jesus" in all sorts of settings outside of a church building or an especially friendly and forgiving crowd, you're likely to get side-eye and cold-shoulder. Maybe because we've drunk the cultural elixir that says "religion and politics belongs in private." Maybe because of the thousands of years behind us, swimming in religious warfare; wars of words, wars of weapons, wars separating friends, families, and communities. Christians - those who claim the J-word - are hardly innocent bystanders. Lots of junk, big and small, has been suffered by so many in the name of the J-word.



Author Rachel Held Evans wondered, then, what to do with it all. She didn't really want to go to church, because "the hypocrisy, the politics, the gargantuan building budgets, the scandals - church culture seemed so far removed from Jesus." But she felt continually called back to the conversation. Certainly Jesus isn't the sole property of those who use his story as a weapon; to manipulate, subjugate, merely philosophize, or bore.



So, she wrote a book. It's called "Searching for Sunday." Pretty much all of us at the Mary Magdalene are searching for Sunday. We're trying to figure out how to be in conversation with Jesus; how to be a community in which Jesus matters to us, our households, and to the wider world... preferably in ways that aren't so cringe-worthy as the speaker at that conference understandably communicated.

"Searching for Sunday" follows the major landmarks of a life of faith - what our church calls a "sacrament": Baptism, Holy Communion, Confirmation, Confession/Absolution, Marriage, Vocation, and Death. One description offers, this is "a memoir about making do and taking risks, about the messiness of community and the power of grace... overcoming cynicism to find hope and, somewhere in between, Church."

We will meet at my home on Tuesday evenings beginning **Tuesday, June 25 at 7:30 p.m.**

No need to read ahead of our first gathering. To participate, send an email to me at [nhall@episcopalpgh.org](mailto:nhall@episcopalpgh.org) and I will reply with the address. Let us know that you'll be there!

Cost for a book is \$10.



## 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



## Evensong to Welcome the Archbishop of Burundi to Oakmont

On Saturday, July 5, at 7:30 p.m., St. Thomas Church in Oakmont will welcome the Archbishop and Primate of the Anglican Church of Burundi, the Most Rev. Martin Blaise Nyaboho.

Burundi is a country in central Africa, in the Rift Valley, bordering Rwanda, Tanzania and the Congo.

Archbishop Nyaboho arrives in the United States for a short visit to preach and also to visit his daughter and son-in-law who are parishioners of St. Thomas Church, Patiente Irakoze and Samuel Manirakiza.

The Archbishop will preach at the Evensong and will be welcomed at a reception to be held in his honor following the service. In 1997, Archbishop Nyaboho was consecrated as the first bishop of the Diocese of Makamba and now serves as Archbishop of the province.



[St. Thomas Memorial Church](#), 378 Delaware Avenue, Oakmont, PA 15139



## Youth Choir to Perform at Trinity Cathedral

On **Sunday, July 14**, the [Davidson United Methodist Church](#) youth choir from Washington, PA, will be at Trinity Cathedral for the 10:30 a.m. service.

All are welcome!

The service will include choir led anthems and special music from the choir.

[Trinity Cathedral](#), 328 Sixth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222



## Around the Diocese

**Bishop McConnell's Visitation Schedule:**

**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.

**Job Opening in Wilkinsburg:** [Saint Stephen's](#), 600 Pitt Street in Wilkinsburg, is seeking a person to fill a new position of Parish Ministry Coordinator. This part time position has flexibility for the right candidate. The skills can be taught, but the position requires refined skill at being welcoming, diplomatic, gracious, and helpful to all equally. The typical hours would be Monday through Thursday from 9:00 am until 1:00 pm. We welcome individuals to call the office at 412-243-6100 or to visit the parish on Sunday morning to discuss the position.



## Parting Shots

The Rev. Kimberly Karashin (below right) and the Rev. Julie Smith (left) were ordained to the Sacred Order of Priests at Trinity Cathedral on Saturday, June 15.



Many more photos from the ordination are available on the [diocesan Facebook page](#).



All submissions to the *Grace Happens* newsletter and the diocesan web site are welcome and should be sent to [amuhl@episcopalpgh.org](mailto: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.

