

Section E

Other Reports

ANGLICAN FELLOWSHIP OF PRAYER 2009

We are very happy to learn that Dr. Samuel Shoemaker, whose wife Helen was instrumental in founding the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer, is commemorated in “Holy Women, Holy Men” as of the 2009 General Convention of The Episcopal Church. Helen used to say “My husband taught me to pray.”

Bishop Austin Pardue of Pittsburgh suggested the name “Anglican Fellowship of Prayer” for our organization in 1958, hoping for the involvement of Anglicans worldwide in prayer. Helen Shoemaker had started encouraging and teaching extemporaneous prayer, often in the context of small groups, at Calvary Episcopal Church in New York City. When her husband, the Rev. Dr. Samuel Shoemaker, accepted a call to Calvary Episcopal Church, Pittsburgh in the 1950s, Helen and others continued the ministry here. It grew rapidly with the support of our Bishop Pardue, and Bishop Cuthbert Bardsley of England.

Between 1958 and 2004 the US Council of the AFP sponsored yearly international conferences on prayer (in addition to Biblical Institutes), with speakers and workshops led by N.T. Wright, Phyllis Tickle, and many others. One of the conferences was a homecoming at Pittsburgh in 1989; housing and workshops were at Chatham College, and the choir at the opening service was from Holy Cross. Fr. Junius Carter was rector at that time, and one of the planners of the homecoming. The closing service was at Calvary, Shadyside; Fr. Arthur McNulty had been the Master of Ceremonies throughout the weekend.

There are clusters of local groups, in dioceses and parishes, bound together in the US by a national council. We have been in communication with other provinces in the Anglican Communion through our International Executive Committee. Since the retirement of our national executive director in 2006, we have been an all volunteer organization. Our board members come from all over the country. We support prayer and workshops on prayer through our website (www.afp.org) and quarterly newsletter.

Helen Shoemaker wrote: “Prayer is the mightiest force in God’s universe. When we pray, we align ourselves with Jesus’ eternal prayer for us. When we pray, we throw our love with His like a lariat around the world. Our prayers go where we cannot and speak whole spiritual continents into being.”

The AFP Chapter of the Diocese of Pittsburgh has sponsored yearly teachings on prayer. This Advent, however, we are supporting Pilgrimage in Prayer’s event, which will be Saturday, December 6 at the Church of the Nativity, Crafton.

Respectfully submitted,
Mrs. Celinda C. Scott
US Council, AFP
Parishioner, Christ Episcopal Church, Indiana, PA

ARCHDEACON'S REPORT

I was asked to serve as Archdeacon of the diocese after last year's convention. My work this past year has been one of encouragement, education and development.

The deacons had an opportunity to gather with Bishop Johnson this spring to discuss our ministry and vision for the diaconate in the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

Ann Staples and I represented the diaconate at the Ordination Exploration Day sponsored by the Commission on Ministry in May.

I continue to work on a revised Deacon Formation Process as well as on formal guidelines for deacons in the Diocese of Pittsburgh in conjunction with the Commission on Ministry and Bishop Johnson.

Two deacons – Ann Staples and Wade Lawrence – celebrated 25 years of ordained ministry this past June. I give thanks for their long and faithful service. Ann continues her diaconal work with the Coal Country Hangout in Northern Cambria and Wade continues his ministry out of Christ Church, North Hills.

I am grateful for the ministry, encouragement and friendship of our assisting bishop Bob Johnson. It has been a joy to work with him this past year. I have received encouragement from the North American Association for the Diaconate as well as from deacons throughout the Episcopal Church during this time of rebuilding. Finally, I wish to thank the Rev. Dr. Bruce Robison and the congregation of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church for their ongoing support.

The Venerable Jean Chess

COMMISSION ON RACISM

The Commission on Racism works within and through the diocese to witness to the equality of persons before God and to raise awareness of racism and how to counteract it. Because racism, both overt and hidden, continues to harm our communities and parishes, the Commission suggests that prayer and practical actions to combat racism be a part of every parish's program.

The past year the Commission has been confronted with the need to make some adjustments. This is the same challenge all diocesan organizations have faced. The Commission lost six members, two of whom were also trainers.

The Commission was represented at the Province III Anti Racism Meeting held in Lancaster, PA on December 5th and 6th, 2008. This was a meeting for diocesan Anti-Racism Chairs and contacts. Since the Chair of this Commission is also Anti-Racism Coordinator for Province III, our representative was The Rev. Dr. Jared Jackson. At the end of the meeting as we were planning our next meeting he suggested that meeting be held in Pittsburgh. That meeting is

scheduled for September 18 and 19, 2009 and will be held at the Comfort Inn and Conference Center in Penn Hills.

The Commission has continued with its ongoing programs. On April 1st and 2nd, an Anti-Racism Workshop was conducted at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Mt. Lebanon, PA. We are being encouraged by parishes in the far Eastern part of the Diocese to conduct a workshop in their area where it will be more convenient for their members to attend.

The Commission again planned the diocesan celebration of the life and ministry of Absalom Jones. It was held at the Church of the Holy Cross. The Rev. Dr. Ronald Peters was the guest preacher. The Rev. Dr. Peters is the Henry L. Hillman Associate Professor of Urban Ministry at the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and Founding Director of the Seminary's Metro-Urban Institute, an interdisciplinary program of religious leadership development for urban society. The Rt. Rev. Robert H. Johnson, Assisting Bishop, Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh was the Celebrant. Members of the choir came mostly from The Church of The Holy Cross, Church of the Redeemer and St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Wilkinsburg.

We are currently in the process of revising our brochure and hope to have it ready for distribution early in the coming year. We are desperately in need of additional members on the Commission and are actively recruiting new members. We are particularly interested in having representation from other parishes in the diocese. Anyone feeling called to this ministry should feel free to speak to any member of the Commission.

Despite a significantly smaller membership, we continue to be blessed with talented and hard working members.

Members of the Commission are Nancy Travis Bolden, Chair, Redeemer, Squirrel Hill; Dr. Francis Danenberg, Redeemer, Squirrel Hill; The Rev. Dr. Jared Jackson, Redeemer, Squirrel Hill; The Rev. Nancy Chalfont-Walker, St. Stephen's Wilkinsburg; Al Mann, St Andrew's, Highland Park; and Dr. Elizabeth Middleton, St Andrew's, Highland Park. This year we welcomed one new member: The Rev. James Shoucair, Christ Church, North Hills.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Travis Bolden, Chair

CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATES OF SOUTHWEST PENNSYLVANIA

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Thank you! Because of the investment of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh, TEC along with 25 other Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant judicatories across the region, lives are being touched and transformed. Your partnership with Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania (CASP) seeks to be *"a Unifying Voice in the name of Jesus Christ for the Mission of the Gospel"*

and the Wholeness of Communities.” In Jesus’ name diverse confessions and traditions find common ground for witness and service.

Two years of successfully reducing recidivism among the male graduates of the Pod of HOPE at Allegheny County Jail has lead the county to partially fund an expansion of the program to include a women’s Pod of HOPE. Our staff has been training mentors to support and developing aftercare programs for our graduates to assist in their successful return as productive citizens. We would be pleased to support your congregation in welcoming an ex-offender back into your community.

A Capuchin monk, his priestly spiritual director, and a Presbyterian pastor’s book form the basis for a DVD produced by Christian Associates Television. *The Prisoner* was filmed before our HOPE inmates, and is now available from Paulist Press. This DVD compellingly tells of the power of God to transform our lives, specifically the life of a young murderer who is now an aging monastic. We continue to assist member judicatories to produce programming for Comcast Channel 95 in the city of Pittsburgh and regionally on Comcast ON DEMAND. We are actively engaged in seeking comparable coverage on Verizon’s emerging cable system.

For the first time in our forty years of witness and service in the name of Christian unity, Christian Associates has begun a capital appeal to insure the continuation of our mission and ministries. All of our judicatories have been stressed by the demographic and economic shifts in our region. They are no longer able to fully fund Christian Associates in our work. On behalf of the Council of Bishops and Executives, I ask your prayers for generous hearts, as well as the names of potential donors so that this unique expression of the ecumenical journey can continue to impact our region in the name of Jesus and the sake of his coming sovereign reign.

I personally keep the Diocese and Bishop Robert Johnson in my prayers as you reorganize and envision a new future for The Episcopal Church in our region. I look forward to the leadership of the diocese again being present at the Council table and actively involved in our working committees. The Council is grateful for the unique ecumenical engagement which we share in this region, the genuine fellowship and open dialogue among our Christian leaders and the opportunity to bring that engagement and fellowship to the grass roots - clergy, laity, and congregations. Know that the bishops and executives are joined in prayer with you during this 2009 Convention. *Veni, Creator Spiritus!*

Pax, Salaam, Shalom,
The Rev. Dr. Donald B. Green
Executive Director

COMMUNITY OF CELEBRATION

The Community of Celebration is one of twelve communities recognized by the Standing Commission of Religious Communities of the House of Bishops as a Christian Community, listed on page 119 of *The Episcopal Church Annual*. The National Association of Episcopal Christian Communities is an association that shares and communicates the fruits of the Gospel, realized in community, with the church and the world. Our vision is of a church, all of whose members realize the fruits of the Gospel in community. Bill Farra serves as its convener.

One very hopeful sign was the creation of the Aliquippa Faith-based Collaborative among five faith-based organizations to formalize and expand working relationships to better address the long-term social and economic issues that trap individuals, families, neighborhoods and communities in cyclical poverty. The groups have been providing critical services in substance abuse, life skills and job training, leadership development, civic engagement and community development activities, and we are convinced that working together will be much more effective. The project is creating a new model of individual and community recovery that has sparked interest by foundation and private sector funders.

Bill Farra also serves as the Diocesan Jubilee Officer (DJO). Jubilee Ministry is called to help the church live out its prophetic vision of empowering people to “do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly before their god” (Micah 6:8). In March DJOs from 35 Dioceses met in Cedar Rapids, IA to plan and re-vision Jubilee Ministry for the next triennium. Everyone arrived a day before meetings began in order to participate in the on-going clean up and restoration following the devastating floods of June 2008.

The Rev. Steven McKeown spends part of his time serving St. Paul’s, Steubenville in the Diocese of Ohio and even more of his time as chaplain to the FBI of Western PA, the Aliquippa Police and Fire Departments, the Aliquippa City Council, the Civil Air Patrol (teaching a course in moral leadership), and the Federal Air Marshalls.

In addition to serving as Chapel Musician at Trinity School for Ministry and teaching a course in Hymnody, Mimi Farra served St. Stephen’s, Sewickley as interim organist for six months.

The Rev. Ann Paton was the speaker at Celebration’s 24th Annual Conference in June. Her theme was *The Four Gospels—Four Portraits of Christ*. Celebration’s small conference facility can host and cater for groups of up to 32 people for day conferences, and with our two Guest Houses and other guest rooms we can offer overnight accommodation for 16 people.

In July we hosted a Journey to Adulthood (J2A) group of 16 teenagers and adult leaders from a parish in Michigan. The Journey to Adulthood is a complete youth ministry program of spiritual formation for 6th-12th grades. It uses Bible study, prayer, rites of passage, outreach ministries and both serious and playful activities to underscore its two guiding principles: 1) manhood and womanhood are free gifts from God, and 2) adulthood must be earned. The middle portion of the program engages youth with the skills and critical thinking involved in adulthood. The youth plan and embark on a pilgrimage together at the end of this segment. This experience is often

the spiritual highlight of their youth. J2A is a great program, and we encourage parishes to explore it.

Also in July we hosted another group of 16 teens with adult leaders from a parish in New Jersey. They came for a week to help John Stanley and other volunteers from Uncommon Grounds Café with a flood relief project here in Aliquippa. One casualty of the flash flood of 2007, was a trailer park situated near a creek that overflows its banks when water comes rushing down the surrounding hills. Under the guidance of an engineer, the volunteer teams laid new drainage pipe and lined the beds with rocks enclosed in wire baskets. It was very dirty work, but the sense of accomplishment was great.

On our website – www.communityofcelebration.com – we offer Celebration’s music CDs, tapes, songbooks, Psalm collections, and anthems for sale. As our music ministry spans over 40 years, we often receive emails from people who are delighted to have discovered Fisherfolk/Celebration music which was important in their faith journey. We are also contacted by those who are new to Celebration’s unique blend of worship resources.

Worship Schedule – Chapel of the Holy Spirit

Monday through Friday: Morning Prayer – 8:00 am

Noonday Prayer – 12:30 pm

Evening Prayer – 5:30 pm

Weekly Eucharist on Saturday – 5:30 pm (Followed by a common meal to which all are welcome). Eucharist also provided on Major Feast days.

Worship in the style of Taizé – every first Sunday of the month (except for February) at 7:00 pm (8:00 pm during Daylight Savings Time).

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Farra

DIOCESAN YOUTH INITIATIVE

The Diocesan Youth Initiative began meeting informally in February. It was a small group of people concerned by the lack of a diocesan youth program. The group quickly blossomed into a group of sixteen members, both adults and youth, lay and ordained, gathered from seven parishes around the diocese.

The youth initiative desires to offer programs and events for the youth of the whole diocese. We are aware that many of our parishes are without a youth program and our hope is to provide opportunities for all youth, in our diocese and beyond, to meet, build relationships, and worship together.

In May, the Youth Initiative was formally recognized by Diocesan Council. We have not elected officials. The following is a list of individuals who make up the youth initiative:

Tyler Anderson, St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon
Jeff Burroughs, Calvary, Shadyside
The Rev. Jean Chess, St. Andrew's, Highland Park
Maddy Dix, Christ Church, North Hills
Tim Green, Sheldon Calvary Camp (Consulting Member)
Brent Hansen, St. Peter's, Brentwood
Steven Hill, St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon
Anthony Jackson, Neighborhood Youth Outreach, St. Stephen's, Wilkinsburg
Richie Ley, Christ Church, North Hills
Eric O'Brien, Christ Church, North Hills
The Rev. Kris Opat, St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon
The Rev. Leslie Reimer, Calvary, Shadyside
Vanessa Sterling, Calvary, Shadyside
Vickie Sujansky, Christ Church, North Hills
Neal Ulrich, St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon
The Rev. Chuck Weiss, St. Thomas, Canonsburg
Max Weiss, Calvary, Shadyside

Our first event, "Take a Hike," will be Saturday, August 22. The event invites the youth to get to know one another, hike through North Park led by Bishop Johnson, eat lunch together, and join in a Diocesan Eucharist with Bishop Johnson as the celebrant (anyone is invited to the lunch and Eucharist beginning at noon).

We are currently organizing a trip to the National Acolyte Festival in Washington, D.C., held the weekend of October 9-11.

Our final event of 2009 will be a youth lock-in held at Calvary Church in Shadyside in November.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Kris Opat
Organizing member of the Youth Initiative

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATION

In the period since the 143rd regular diocesan convention, formal communications involving the diocese has, like most diocesan structures, been rebuilt from scratch. As with some other aspects of the diocese, these efforts had the advantage of a head start.

In mid-2008, to convey that there would continue to be an Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh of the Episcopal Church in the United States after the October convention, the Across the Aisle coalition initiated a media relations strategy and launched a website, www.episcopalpgh.org. Following that convention, these initiatives enabled a ready-made official source of information about the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh of the Episcopal Church.

Since its debut on September 28, 2008, episcopalpgh.org has realized its tremendous potential. In the first ten months, the website has had:

- 144,915 page views
- 51,705 visits from 50 states and 104 foreign countries or territories
- 22,427 absolute unique visitors (counted only once)
- 555 other websites link readers to episcopalpgh.org
- 171 dynamic postings, 23 static pages (on average, a new posting every other day)

Another statistic speaks to the immense value of the website for parishes: in less than a year, the parish list on episcopalpgh.org was accessed more than 15 thousand times.

Through proactive media relations, the diocese placed its story numerous times in local newspapers, including the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, *Pittsburgh Tribune Review*, *Observer-Reporter*, and several Tribune-owned suburban newspapers. We have been covered by local television and radio, including KDKA-TV, WTAE-TV, WPXI-TV, KQV-AM, and WDUQ-FM. Nationally, the diocese secured favorable coverage by *The New York Times*, the Associated Press, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, Fort Worth (TX) *Star-Telegram*, *Arkansas Gazette*, and corrected inaccurate reporting by *The Washington Times*. In most cases, these stories also appeared on the news organization's websites.

Additionally, we have contributed to reporting by the Episcopal News Service, cooperated with religious publications such as *The Living Church* and *The Church of England Newspaper*, and maintain on-going contact with prominent bloggers in the Episcopal Church. The communications team interacts with peers in other Episcopal dioceses, and as of mid-2009, the Director of Communication takes part in a monthly conference call of bishops and communication officers of the four rebuilding dioceses.

In May, the diocese began distributing news and information directly to parishioners with the debut of *Grace Happens*, a regularly published electronic newsletter. Within weeks, the subscriber list grew to 1,700 e-mail recipients. The communications team continues to work with parishes to broaden distribution, both electronically and in print.

A Priority on Communications

During 2009, the leadership of the diocese demonstrated, through several means, a serious commitment to advancing the communication efforts already underway.

The Standing Committee, with funding approved by Diocesan Council, contracted with the existing volunteer communications team of Rich Creehan and Andy Muhl, to be Director of Communication and Electronic Media Consultant, respectively.

Additionally, Council and the Standing Committee jointly formed a Communications Committee co-chaired by the Rev. Lou Hays and Lee Hicks. This group formulated a structured plan for communication within the diocese and with the larger world. The plan was submitted to Council and approved.

Thirdly, in their joint Leadership Day meetings, Council, Trustees and the Standing Committee identified Communications and Branding as one of five major goals for the diocese in the immediate future.

External and Internal Challenges

The discussion on how to achieve this goal highlights some of the work ahead:

We must broaden of our avenues of communication to reach more parishioners, potential parishioners, youth, those separated from the Episcopal Church, and the larger population. To do so, we will need to add a variety of printings and mailings to reach some, plus texting, tweeting and social networking to reach others.

We must develop a continuity of style, look, and language across the diocese that reflects our strength, values, and a positive focus on the future.

We must make each parish and community in the diocese united, vibrant and capable of communicating effectively. We will need to be able to offer support from the diocesan level, and have parishes pool expertise and resources, so that each parish has a viable website, printed and electronic newsletters, and e-mail capabilities.

We must counter those who are not among us, yet seek to define us. The challenge in the long-run, however, is how do we pro-actively portray – “market” if you will – the unique expression of the Episcopal Church and our belief in Jesus Christ as found in this diocese?

Respectfully submitted,
Rich Creehan
Director of Communication

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

Reorganization efforts began after the October 2008 vote at our Diocesan Convention to realign to the Southern Cone. Since most of the board members belonged to realigned parishes, Deb Wiles and I felt we needed the board to reflect the change that had taken place.

We attended the Province III meeting later in October in Philadelphia and were warmly received. She and I came home to Pittsburgh energized to make a new start.

We met again in December after the Organizing Convention for the continuing diocese and decided to recruit women who might be interested in serving on the board. Deb suggested that a Spring UTO Ingathering might be a good way to begin.

Plans for the Ingathering began in earnest after the New Year. Our first Ingathering was held on May 9, 2009, at St. Francis-in-the-Fields Episcopal Church in Somerset, PA. Fifty-one persons attended. Officers were elected, with the vice president volunteering after the meeting was over.

The celebrant for Eucharist was our Assisting Bishop, Robert Johnson. I was quite pleased with the attendance.

Deb and I attended the ECW Triennial in Anaheim, CA, July 8-17, representing the women of the diocese. We were a part of a diverse group of women representing 92 of the 110 diocese of the Episcopal Church.

The Fall Ingathering will be held in October with Jane Banning, past National ECW President, speaking. At that time, we will be collecting knitted items for the Seaman's Institute. Deb Wiles has information and patterns. Contact Deb at debiles@verizon.net.

Currently the board consists of myself as president, Gwen Santiago, vice president, Judy Rosensteel, secretary, and Deb Wiles, treasurer/UTO chair. The Diocesan Chancellor has begun the process to restore our funds to us. We are working slowly, feeling our way along as we go.

Linda Getts
ECW Diocesan President

EPISCOPAL RELIEF & DEVELOPMENT

Episcopal Relief & Development continues its work toward achieving the Millennium Development Goals identified by leaders of nearly 200 countries in 2000. These goals serve as a focus for the mandate of Episcopal Relief & Development as expressed in the words of Jesus in Matthew 25:37-40 to feed the hungry, care for the sick and welcome the stranger. They do this by implementing programs that alleviate hunger and improve the food supply, create economic opportunities and strengthen communities, promote health and fight disease, and respond to disasters by providing immediate and long term relief. (More information can be found at www.er-d.org.)

In 2008, Episcopal Relief & Development touched a record number of three million people in 46 countries working the worldwide Church, ecumenical partners, non-governmental organizations and supporters in local parishes in the United States. Some activities in 2008 included:

- Episcopal Relief & Development is participating in the relief and rebuilding efforts following Cyclone Nargis which decimated Myanmar.
- In Swaziland, the country with the highest rate of HIV in the world, Episcopal Relief & Development worked with the Diocese of Swaziland, clergy and community leaders in creating integrated programs that promote HIV prevention and address hunger and poverty.
- Episcopal Relief & Development is partnering with Afghans4Tomorrow, a non-profit, non-political organization working to rebuild the health system and empower young women through education and skills training.

In addition to responding to disasters and working on long-term projects in different countries, Episcopal Relief & Development continues the NetsforLife program which focuses on malaria

prevention. Every DAY nearly 2,000 children under the age of five and approximately one million people a YEAR die of malaria in sub-Saharan Africa. One life saving insecticide treated net can save three people from needless suffering and certain death. The NetsforLife program delivered its one millionth insecticide-treated net in sub-Saharan Africa and seeks to distribute one million nets per year for the next five years across 18 countries.

As the new Episcopal Relief & Development Coordinator for the Diocese of Pittsburgh, I had the opportunity to attend a conference and meet with leaders involved in Episcopal Relief & Development from across the country and from its main headquarters in New York City. I learned that Episcopal Relief & Development differs from most other international aid agencies in that it works in partnership with the Anglican churches already established in these countries. The local churches are often the place those in need turn to, and the where community leaders on the ground can most effectively address the needs of the people. Because there was such an emphasis on Episcopal Relief & Development's effectiveness being grounded in the wider Anglican Church, and particularly in Africa, I asked the leaders at the conference if that effectiveness has been damaged by the divisions within the Anglican Communion and negative views of the Episcopal Church. I was told that when it comes to serving those in need and victims of disaster, these issues are irrelevant.

In the past, support for the Episcopal Relief & Development in this diocese was very limited because of its affiliation with the Episcopal Church. In 2008 the total amount of giving from Episcopal Church organizations to Episcopal Relief & Development was approx \$20 million. (It is also funded by corporations, foundations, and government grants.) The province in which the Diocese of Pittsburgh resides – Province III – reported 10,172 individual donations, for a total of \$1,932,322. Of the Province III numbers, the Diocese of Pittsburgh contributed \$59,243 in 364 individual gifts.

I hope that support will increase for Episcopal Relief & Development in the Diocese of Pittsburgh. Together we can fund the distribution of many nets for life and work together to “heal a hurting world.” We can also support many other Episcopal Relief & Development programs, including Bishop’s Blend fair trade coffee sales and Gifts for Life, an alternative form of giving at Christmas. We can do these things and more by scheduling time for me to visit your parish and talk about the work, and by identifying one member of every parish who would be willing to work with me as the parish’s Episcopal Relief & Development representative.

At the 76th General Convention, a resolution was passed officially declaring the First Sunday in Lent as Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday throughout the Episcopal Church. Lent is a time for self-reflection, meditation and prayer. Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday will serve as an opportunity for congregations across the country to engage with the Episcopal Church’s ongoing commitment to fighting extreme poverty and disease around the world. We look forward to working with every parish and to making Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday a special and enriching Lenten experience for all parishes.

Respectfully submitted,
Jacquelyn Thomas Och



The Pennsylvania

COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

REPORT ON 2008 AND 2009

MAKING IT WORK

In 2008 the Council began to live under its reordered structure featuring

- a Board of Directors, composed almost entirely of church body executives and bishops, to provide direction for the Council and to model ecumenical fellowship and commitment;
- an elected Executive Committee, including both lay and clergy members, to oversee the administration of the Council's programs and resources; and
- three newly configured program commissions to oversee the Council's activities promoting Christian unity and its common ministries of witness and service.

While our experience with this new structure is still unfolding, those involved in the commissions, the Executive Committee, and the Board of Directors are appreciating its straightforwardness and clarity. We will discover over the next few years whether this way of shaping and managing Council life will prove effective; in the meantime, we will continue to be about ministries that promote Christian unity, justice, and the common good and address the needs of others.

COMMON MINISTRIES OF WITNESS AND SERVICE

Our member bodies, through the Council, engaged in five common ministries of witness and service.

WITNESS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND THE COMMON GOOD

First, through its public advocacy ministry, the Council worked for the common good. We emphasized helping citizens to influence their government, to find appropriate and effective ways to put their faith and its values to work in the public square. The Commission on Public Witness (made up of representatives from the member bodies of the Council) supervised this ministry and set priorities for its legislative and social justice work. The Rev. Sandra Strauss serves as the director of public advocacy; visit the redesigned Web site, pachurchesadvocacy.org, for her frequent updates and action alerts on selected state and federal issues.

The Council's major advocacy efforts focus on health care reform and government reform (the latter assisted with a grant from the Wallace Global Fund). While some progress has been made on both issues, partisan disagreement, entrenched special interests, and recurring election cycles have made significant change difficult to achieve.

Working in coalition with like-minded groups—both religious and secular—is essential to the Council's public witness. Some of the coalitions are informal; others, like the Welfare Coalition or the Interfaith Justice Coalition, are ongoing opportunities for sustained engagement with allies representing a variety of constituencies. Others, like the National Religious Campaign Against Torture, focus on specific issues at the federal level. The Council's role, whatever the coalition, includes representing the interests of the Council and its members as outlined in our *Principles for Public Advocacy*.

MINISTRIES OF SERVICE

Trucker/Traveler Ministries—Second, the Council continued to support local churches engaging in trucker and traveler ministry at Brookville, Carlisle, and Breezewood. Three chaplains serve, along with volunteers and local church leaders.

Farmworker Ministry—Third, with Council assistance, congregations (in the Fruitbelt and in Chester County) include migrant and seasonal farmworkers in their ministry. Field chaplains and volunteers offer farmworkers

and their families worship services, spiritual counseling, clothing and other material aid, assistance with immigration issues, emergency transportation for medical care, translation services, emergency housing and food, and recreation.

For these ministries of service, the Pennsylvania Council of Churches provided management services, coordination, and advocacy. The Council business office handled insurance, chaplains' salaries, and expenses. Designated funds and the funds raised by local committees meet the basic expenses of the program.

WITNESS AMONG PERSONS AT LEISURE

Fourth, leisure ministry coordinators the Rev. Dr. Paul Herring (through October 2008) and Larry Flood (beginning in 2009) work with local park ministry committees to assist in chaplain recruitment and program administration. Annual training just after the Memorial Day holiday ensures that chaplains are equipped for their ministry and a mid-season retreat gives them opportunity to share experiences and further hone skills. In 2009 two dozen chaplains serve campers in over 40 state, federal, and private campgrounds.

For additional information on the 2009 leisure ministry programs (and for opportunities to serve in 2010), visit the Council's Web page (www.pachurches.org). Chaplains are on site in parks and campgrounds across the state from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day.

CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR CHURCH WORKERS

Fifth, the Council continues to sponsor an annual three-day continuing education event for clergy and other church workers, the Pennsylvania State Pastors' Conference, planned by a committee of representatives from member bodies. The 2008 conference, "Inspiration for the Coming Days: Preachers and Preaching," featured four outstanding preachers, each both preaching a sermon and describing their practice of the craft of preaching.

The 2009 conference will feature the Rev. Dr. Gilbert R. Rendle, senior consultant, Texas Methodist Foundation Institute for Clergy and Congregational Excellence. A Reading resident, Dr. Rendle is a well-known author and consultant to congregations. In four conference presentations, he will focus on effective and appropriate leadership in the "particular wilderness" that represents the on-going change of the past five decades.

TOWARD VISIBLE UNITY

In one sense, all the ministries and activities of the Council witness to a visible—though still incomplete—unity. Cooperating together in significant ways, the forty-three member bodies of the Council give evidence of their unity in Christ. Even as we are mindful of all the barriers to full visible unity that still remain, we can rejoice in the measure of common commitment and common life that we can demonstrate.

In 2008 we again sponsored two events intended to foster this common commitment and common life. Lead staff from local and county ecumenical agencies gathered in September under the Council's auspices for their annual retreat. Program planned by local agency staff, fellowship, and informal conversation again built bridges between agencies and renewed a sense of common purpose.

In December religious leaders from across the state gathered again at the Nittany Lion Inn in State College for the annual Pennsylvania Religious Leaders' Gathering—twenty-four hours of fellowship, prayer, and conversation about resource networking.

We continue to look for new ways to strengthen our witness to visible unity and to encourage member church bodies to "live into" their ecumenical relationships—especially relationships of full communion, interim Eucharistic sharing, Churches Uniting in Christ, and Christian Churches Together in the U.S.A.

THE MINISTRY OF ADMINISTRATION

Officers for the 2008–2009 biennium are the Rev. Dr. Marja Coons-Torn (Conference Minister, Penn Central Conference, United Church of Christ), president; Bishop Gregory A. Pile (Allegheny Synod,

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America), vice-president; Elder Barbara Adams-Smelter (Synod of the Trinity, Presbyterian Church (USA)), secretary; and Mr. David Hoffman, CPA (Central Pennsylvania Conference, United Methodist Church), treasurer.

The Council ended 2008 with a significant core budget deficit, due largely to the declining value of its investment portfolio, and we project continuing deficits for 2009 and 2010. Yes, we monitor expenses carefully, tend the relationships that ensure our operating revenue, and seek grant monies where appropriate; however, more attention to this structural deficit is needed.

Among its other responsibilities, the Council serves as the “landlord” for the Pennsylvania United Church Center, the office complex in suburban Harrisburg in which our offices are located. Jan Gulick, as the director of finance and facilities, manages the building on behalf of the Council (and also tends the Council’s other financial resources). At present, all available space is occupied (with one exception, all tenants are either church-related or secular not-for-profit agencies), and the use of the Center’s service department (primarily printing and duplicating) continues to grow. Because rental income is no longer keeping pace with expenses (utilities, maintenance, janitorial services, etc.), rent is being modestly increased in a series of steps (beginning in the fall of 2008).

A REMINDER

Finally, everything that happens in and through the Council happens because member bodies have chosen to covenant together to be a council of churches,

a voluntary association of separate and autonomous Christian churches, within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, through which its members seek to manifest their fellowship (koinonia) with one another, to engage in common ministries of witness and service, and to advance towards the goal of visible unity. (*Constitution and Bylaws—Pennsylvania Council of Churches*, §12)

As part of this covenant, member bodies provide

- **Financial support**—The Council counts on members to provide two-thirds of the financial resources needed for its programmatic and administrative ministries.
- **People**—The Council needs member bodies to identify people willing to engage in its programs and activities.
- **Prayers**—The Council needs the prayers of God’s people. Remember the Council frequently in personal prayer. When member body governing groups meet, include intercessions for the Council and its ministries in worship and group devotions. Urge congregations to mention frequently the Pennsylvania Council of Churches, as well as their own local ecumenical agency, in Sunday intercessions.
- **Interpretation**—Visit our website (www.pachurches.org) and publicize its address; mention Council activities in church body communications; promote the Council and its mission to congregations and clergy; distribute Council information and event brochures. Above all, tell others how important being a part of the Council is to your ecumenical witness.

You, with 42 other member bodies in Pennsylvania, are in fellowship with one another through the Pennsylvania Council of Churches. Together we express who we are as church as we display the unity God wills.

(The Rev.) Gary L. Harke, executive director
For the Pennsylvania Council of Churches, May 2009

PRAYING FOR COMMUNION: PRAYER & SONG FOR ALL GOD'S FAMILY

...a pilgrimage of trust, a vigil of reconciliation...

www.episcopalpg.org/praying-for-communion

The idea is a simple one. On the last Saturday of each month in 2009, at least one person from each parish gathers with others from the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh. Praying together in song and silence – celebrating the beauty of an inner life, a communion with God, and the love which Jesus Christ taught us. Amidst the realities of grief and gratitude, we seek to be available for such a Spirited Presence, a leaven of communion in the Church, in the human family. With humility and openhearted gentleness, we pray for the grace of deep listening, to live in loving balance: *contemptus mundi, amor mundi; nothing matters, everything matters.*

The Across the Aisle Relationship Committee of TEC is supporting this endeavor, which is open to those in TEC, Anglican, and neutral or undecided parishes. The goal is to gather at a different host parish each month, for the graced specificity of place.

Sat, Jan 31	Emmanuel, Northside, 2:00 pm Prayer, Fellowship 3:00 pm
Sat., Feb 28	Trinity Cathedral, Downtown Pittsburgh, 2:00 pm
Sat., March 28	Church of the Redeemer, Squirrel Hill, 2:00 pm
Sat., April 25	St Stephen's, Wilkinsburg, 2:00 pm
Sat., May 30	St Andrew's, Highland Park, 2:00 pm
Sat., June 27	Calvary, Shadyside, 10:00 am
Sat., July 25-	All Saints, Brighton Heights, 2:00 pm
Sat., Aug 29	St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon, 2:00 pm
Sat., Sept 26	Community of Celebration, Aliquippa, 2:00 pm
Sat., Oct 31	St Peter's, Blairsville, 2:00 pm (co-hosted by Christ Church, Indiana)
Sat., Dec 5	Church of the Nativity, Crafton, 2:00 pm

As we gather in prayer and song for all God's family, particularly for the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh, an important gift we bring is our desire to be available to God, moment by moment in an unfolding journey together, blessing one another, person to person, parish to parish.

We gratefully recall Bishop Johnson's charge to us to pray, be in community, work for social justice, and to have tender hearts of compassion. May we each grow in God, and may we grow also in the awareness and respect for the work of God in others.

With Love in Christ,

Walt Bowman, Calvary, Pittsburgh

The Rev. Cynthia Bronson-Sweigert, Church of the Redeemer, Squirrel Hill

The Rev. Nancy Chalfant-Walker, St. Stephen's, Wilkinsburg

The Rev. John Fetterman, All Souls, Pittsburgh

Schuyler Foerster, Trinity Cathedral

Tom Moore, St. Andrew's, Highland Park

The Rev. Bruce Robison, St. Andrew's, Highland Park

Celinda Scott, Christ Episcopal Church, Indiana

Submitted by Carol J.S. Gonzalez, Emmanuel, Northside, Contact Person (412-322-2189)

THE ORDER OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

The Order of the Daughters of the King continues to thrive in Southwestern Pennsylvania with members living their vows of prayer, service and evangelism. Following are the fourteen places we have chapters: Ambridge (Trinity School for Ministry); Trinity in Beaver; St. Peter's in Butler; Fox Chapel; St. Thomas in Gibsonia; Good Shepherd in Hazelton; Holy Cross in Homewood; Christ Church in Indiana; St. Stephen's in McKeesport; St. Paul's in Monongahela; St. Martin's in Monroeville; St. Paul's in Mt. Lebanon; Christ Church in New Brighton; and St. George's in Waynesburg. The chapter at Trinity, Beaver, was installed in August, 2008, and consists of eight charter members.

Since our last convention report we have had three board meetings and two assemblies. Our Fall Assembly was held on October 18, 2008 at St. Martin's in Monroeville, hosted by the Mary/Martha Chapter. The speaker was Mrs. Carolyn Booker, Provincial President, who spoke on the necessity of the Daughters of the King remaining united by our vows of prayer, service and evangelism.

Our Spring Assembly was held on April 25, 2009 at Christ Church, Indiana, hosted by the Deborah Chapter. Our speaker was Mrs. Kate Geiger who spoke on C.S. Lewis and the way DOK members should be "resonators" for each other in our chapters as the Inklings (C.S. Lewis' group of authors) were to each other. At this Spring Assembly we held an election of officers for the next three years. The newly elected officers are:

President: Mrs. Gail Simpson from Fox Chapel

Vice President: The Rev. Karen Geary (second term) from St. Christopher's, Cranberry Twp.

2nd Vice President: Mrs. Judith Herman from St. Peter's, Butler

Secretary: Ms. Liz Delgado from Jonah's Call

Treasurer: Mrs. Brenda Homer from Trinity, Beaver

The 2009 Triennial Convention of the Daughters of the King was held from July 1st to 5th in Anaheim, California. The assembly, consisting of delegates from all over the USA, voted on two sets of proposed by-law amendments. One set of amendments, proposed by "The Episcopal Community of the Daughters of the King," a group within the Order, would have made membership in the Episcopal Church a pre-requisite for membership in the main body of The Daughters of the King. Their proposed amendments would have allowed for non-Episcopal Daughters to form their own separate DOK structures. The second set of amendments were proposed by the DOK National Council and would have more decisively affirmed the membership with voice and vote of representatives from churches with the historical episcopate such as Anglican and Roman Catholic. Both proposed sets of amendments to the by-laws were rejected by the voters, which means that our 2006 by-laws remain in place. Those by-laws do allow both Episcopal and non-Episcopal Daughters voice and vote. Therefore in the Diocese of Pittsburgh the Daughters of the King, having membership from both realigned and non-realigned parishes, are united in one Order by their vowed commitment to Jesus Christ through prayer, service and evangelism.

Respectfully submitted,

Della A. Crawford, President (1/9/06 - 9/1/09)

SHELDON CALVARY CAMP

More than seventy years ago, Calvary Camp was established as a place for children and young people to experience Christian faith. We seek to build a Christian community which nurtures friendship, models the acceptance of individual differences, and values all of God's creation. Calvary Camp continues each summer to live this mission, believing that faith is best learned in living together and modeling Christ's love for one another.

In the summer of 2009, nearly 1300 individuals experienced the ministry of Calvary Camp:

Coed campers – 901

Family campers – 275

Day Campers - 50

Opportunity campers (adults with disabilities) – 65

During Coed Camp, there were two new program offerings. Ready, Set, Camp provided a three night introduction to camping for children 7- 12 years old. Ready, Set, Lead allowed a small group of teenage campers to focus on leadership development and community service.

The camp staff recognized three Outstanding Campers, who exemplify the spirit of Calvary Camp: Isaac Egyed, Pegeen Stone, and George Beck.

The life of the camp is centered in Bishop Thomas Chapel, St. Michael's by the Lake. Compline was read on 17 weekday evenings. The Holy Eucharist was celebrated on eight Friday nights at the close of camping sessions, and on six weekday mornings during Family Camp. There were eight Sunday morning celebrations of the Eucharist. The Calvary Camp community also celebrated three baptisms during Family Camp. This summer we also enjoyed an overnight visit from Bishop Johnson, who spoke to the campers of Coed IV during a weekday evening service.

Leadership is provided by the camp directors: Tim Green, Executive Director, Anne Muhl, Administrative Director, The Rev. Leslie Reimer, Director of Spiritual Life, P. J. Williamson, Aquatic Director, and Caro Sturges, Program Director. With their guidance, a staff of 70 young adults, including 19 staff-in-training, provided recreation, learning opportunities, nurture and care for the campers. The staff also included six kitchen staff, one doctor, six nurses, and a night watchman, keeping campers well fed, healthy, and safe.

Support and encouragement for the work of Calvary Camp comes from the camp's committed and energetic Board of Directors: Lynn Ellenberger, President, Lewis Amis, Dr. Charles Atwood, Susan Carenbauer, Steven Conomikes, Elvira Eichleay, Normandie Fulson, Jessica Green, Timothy Greene, Colleen Kilbert, Lawrence Knapp, the Rev. Moni McIntyre, Cheryl Milford, the Rev. Scott Quinn, the Rev. Nathan Rugh, David Sharbaugh, Vanessa Sterling, John Strong, Gary Taylor, the Rev. Charles Weiss, and Bishop Robert Johnson, *ex officio*. The Rev. John Thomas is Director Emeritus.

Sheldon Calvary Camp is a ministry which extends far beyond the boundaries of the Diocese of Pittsburgh. Staff members came from eight states and from Spain. Our camper population currently includes children and young people from many parishes in Pittsburgh, as well as

campers who belong to other denominations or traditions or live in other cities, states, or countries. This summer we served campers from 25 states, Mexico, Sweden, Spain, and Italy. We are committed to extending hospitality to every person who comes to us.

The ministry of Calvary Camp also extends beyond the summer season. In the spring and in the fall hundreds of adults and children find opportunities for renewal and growth through programs designed around spiritual formation and leadership development.

Sheldon Calvary Camp is connected in vital ways to the larger community of camps and conference centers in the Episcopal Church. Tim Green serves on the Board of Episcopal Camps and Conference Centers, Inc. Our life is enriched by the dialogue with those who share our passion for this unique and deeply rewarding work.

Above all, in this time of transition and hope in the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh, Calvary Camp values our long-standing role as the camping ministry of this diocese. We are glad to be among those joining together to create the Diocesan Youth Initiative. We are grateful for the support, both tangible and intangible, which we receive from the diocese, its parishes, and its people. We are committed to being a resource and a place of welcome.

Further information about the camp is always available on our website – www.calvarycamp.org. Please visit us there – or come and see this remarkable, holy place on the Lake Erie shore.

Timothy N. Green, Executive Director
The Rev. Leslie G. Reimer, Director of Spiritual Life
Anne M. Muhl, Administrative Director
Sheldon Calvary Camp

TRINITY CATHEDRAL CHAPTER

God has blessed and challenged Trinity Cathedral to live into our mission since the last Diocesan Convention. Our task was “to serve the Lord Jesus Christ in the heart of this metropolitan community” by faithfully engaging in the following activities:

- Being a holy, welcoming, spiritual home for all.
- Communicating, with excellence, the truth, beauty, and excitement of Christian faith to all ages and people in the context of contemporary life and culture.
- Providing a vibrant home for discipleship, study, service, outreach and fellowship for both metropolitan and Diocesan communities.
- Being rooted in our rich tradition of Anglican theology and sacramental worship.
- Serving as both the seat and doorway for the Diocese.

Some of the specific ways in which we were blessed and challenged follow:

Holy, welcoming, spiritual home for all

- We actively, faithfully, and humbly attempted to live out the mandate articulated in our Special Resolution, ratified by Chapter in July 2008 and the Parish in September 2008,

“...the people and Chapter of Trinity Cathedral proclaim their allegiance to Jesus Christ and their continued support of the vision of Trinity Cathedral to be “A Missionary Cathedral Building Up a Missionary People of God” for any and all who enter our doors – whether they be our parish members, our diocesan brothers and sisters in Christ, our friends in the arts, our neighbors who live and work in downtown Pittsburgh, or our visitors from near and far.”

- We offered daily celebrations of Holy Eucharist – once over the lunch hour Monday through Saturday and twice on Sunday mornings.
- We dedicated ourselves to morning and evening prayers every weekday.

Communicating the truth, beauty, and excitement of Christian faith

- Father Paul Johnston, with financial support from the Pittsburgh Episcopal Foundation, continued his Chaplaincy to the Arts in a variety of exciting ways including the annual *Blessing of the Artists* liturgy, study groups with members of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, utilizing Trinity Cathedral as the host for a wide variety of visual arts exhibitions, and showcasing Trinity Cathedral’s amazing acoustics by inviting instrumental and vocal musicians to perform for our parish, Diocesan, and general communities.

Home for discipleship, study, service, outreach, and fellowship

- Under the leadership of our clergy – Canon Catherine Brall, Father Paul Johnston, and Father Laurie Thompson – Trinity Cathedral engaged in weekly adult Christian Education forums. Participants studied the works of C.S. Lewis, Søren Kierkegaard, and Pittsburgh native, Pulitzer-Prize winner Annie Dillard.
- Two small-group bible studies continued to meet faithfully on a bi-weekly basis.
- Our ministry, in partnership with Shepherd’s Heart, continued during the late fall, winter, and early spring. Our congregation made egg casseroles for Sunday breakfasts for the patrons of Shepherd’s Heart as well as provided volunteers on selected Sunday mornings to support this ministry to the homeless and poor.
- Our walk-in ministry for the homeless, in conjunction with the Downtown Ministerium, continued as we served numerous individuals by providing spiritual comfort and material items such as clothing, blankets, food, bus passes.

Rich tradition of Anglican theology and sacramental worship

- Cathedral worship services utilized the full spectrum of liturgical opportunities afforded by the Book of Common Prayer including Rite I and II usage in the Daily Offices and Holy Eucharist.
- Healing Prayer ministry was offered by members of the Order of St. Luke on Sunday mornings, by clergy at the Thursday noon Eucharist, and privately to individuals who live, work, or visit our downtown Cathedral.
- Other sacramental ministries and rites of Holy Baptism, Reconciliation, and Holy Matrimony were celebrated publicly and privately throughout the year.
- The Trinity Cathedral Choir and Music Guild greatly enhanced the Sunday morning and Holy Day worship services through a wide variety of choral anthems and special instrumental offerings. The First Sunday in Lent featured a Sung Litany in procession and

the Triduum offered numerous chants, hymns, and anthems in support of the special liturgies for each day.

The seat and the doorway for the Diocese

- The external make over to our physical presence concluded with the completion of the burying ground renovations, cleaning of the exterior of the building, new stonework to welcome visitors and parishioners through our front doors, installing of Hero's Way, new exterior lighting, and the refurbishment and replacement of our historic weathervane at the pinnacle of our building. We are grateful to the Diocese for its financial support with several of these projects.
- We served as the host of a number of Diocesan events including a fall 2008 Across the Aisle meeting, the annual Renewal of Vows for clergy during Holy Week, the February Taizé Prayer for Communion service, and monthly meetings of the Board of Trustees. We also were blessed to have Bishop Robert Johnson with us on July 19th for our annual parish visitation. We especially look forward to hosting the upcoming 2009 Diocesan Convention.
- Our ordained and lay leaders actively participated in the Celebrate 250 festivities including the hosting of *Murder in the Cathedral*, the Bach Choir's performance of Handel's *Israel in Egypt* oratorio, and the Thanksgiving Eve ecumenical service of Anglican Vespers.

We look forward to continuing to do the work God lays before us.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly L. Glass, Chair, Executive Committee, Trinity Cathedral Chapter