

Section F

Other Reports

ADMINISTRATOR FOR PROPERTY AND ARCHIVIST

In 2013, I oversaw the return of the St. Andrew's, New Kensington, building; oversaw the making of agreements for rental use by various groups at ten church buildings, three rectories and the clergy house; and continued removing all items of value from the property at the former site of St. Christopher's in Warrendale (including selling of items not needed for the future). I also have continued removing for safe storage those items of value at all of the sites without Episcopal congregations. I also filed successful tax appeals on two properties and helped a parish with another. There were also construction and maintenance projects at several buildings, including roofing and chimney work, air-conditioner repairs, and construction of a new classroom space for a renter at St. David's in Peters Township.

The archives has struggled with the help of a Pitt Library Science intern, Meg McAvoy, to continue processing records and artifacts from closed buildings; handle a variety of research requests; and develop a set of web pages for the archives. The Commission on Archives and History has worked with me to develop policies for loans and for display of online records.

Joan R. Gundersen

ADVISORY TASK FORCE ON COLLABORATION

The Advisory Task Force on Collaboration was created in response to a resolution of the 144th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh. The mission of the task force is to study and identify “opportunities for mutual and collaborative ministry partnerships” between the Dioceses of Pittsburgh and Northwestern Pennsylvania, and to explore resources for shared ministry with other neighboring dioceses and the programs and resources available through Province III.

With the advice of the Standing Committee, Bishop Price appointed these members to the task force in 2010: Mr. Lionel Deimel of St. Paul’s, Mt. Lebanon; Mrs. Annis Rogers of St. Mark’s, Johnstown; Mr. Ken Stiles of Calvary, East Liberty; the Rev. Kristian McInnes of St. Paul’s, Mt. Lebanon; the Rev. Canon Scott Quinn of Nativity, Crafton, and Canon to the Ordinary; the Rev. Dr. Wm. Jay Geisler of St. Peter’s, Brentwood, and Canon for Formation; the Rev. Dr. Bruce Robison (chair) of St. Andrew’s, Highland Park; and the Rev. Vicente Santiago of Advent, Jeannette. Bishop Price also participated actively with the task force, and we have appreciated the valuable participation as well of Mr. John Rogers and the Rev. Gwen Santiago.

Members of our task force and a peer group from the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania met several times in 2010 and 2011 at Epiphany Church in Grove City. The Northwestern Pennsylvania task force also includes both clergy and laity, and is chaired by the Rev. Adam Trambley of St. Paul’s Church in Sharon. Bishops Price and Rowe, and the Canons to the Ordinary of both dioceses, participated in those gatherings.

We developed in those meetings some specific goals for collaborative ministry. The highlight and “first fruit” in a programmatic way of the task force’s work was a very successful and well-received “shared” Pittsburgh/Northwestern Pennsylvania Clergy Conference hosted by Strength for the Journey/CREDO and held at Seven Springs Resort and Conference Center in the spring of 2011. We at that time pledged to continue to focus on collaborative projects related to youth, mission and outreach, small church ministry, “back office” administration, communications, and Title IV procedures – very much looking forward to the participation and guidance of our new bishop as we would move forward in 2013.

I would highlight as well the work of Bishop Price and our Commission on Ministry in the collaboration with the Diocese of Southern Ohio on a program for the preparation of vocational deacons; and of continuing conversations between Bishop McConnell and Bishops Rowe and Klusmeyer (Diocese of West Virginia) about shared resources for the local preparation of ordinands for the priesthood.

The motivating rationale for the creation of the Task Force on Collaboration emphasized themes of mutuality and good stewardship in the context of a renewed spirit of connectedness between our diocese and the wider Episcopal Church. In that context, I would simply express my deep appreciation for the hard work and creative engagement in our first years of work on the part of Bishop Price, the members of our task force, and Bishop Rowe and our friends in Northwestern Pennsylvania. I believe there can be many good results from this conversation in the days and years ahead, and I have appreciated the encouragement of Bishop McConnell as we seek to continue along the way in 2014.

Bruce Robison
Chair, Advisory Task Force on Collaboration

CHAPLAIN TO RETIRED CLERGY

Over the years (approximately ten), I have had the privilege of serving as chaplain to retired clergy and surviving spouses. Primarily, that means two things. First, to assist the bishop in planning and scheduling an annual luncheon, usually held at a restaurant. Recently, however, Bishop McConnell has encouraged not one, but two yearly luncheons. They provide great social occasions whereby we bring one another up to date with any significant events. The bishop and Betsy share in that time together as well. Lately, we have had the privilege of meeting in the home of a clergy couple, which has provided a relaxed way to meet and eat. Also, the Rev. Terry Hunt assists in planning these events and has proved to be most helpful.

A second part of this ministry centers on greeting cards. Recognizing the birthdays of clergy retirees and spouse or surviving spouse, includes mailing cards to some 170 persons on our list. These include those canonically resident in the diocese as well as those from other dioceses living in the Pittsburgh region. A number of cards are mailed to those no longer living in the Pittsburgh area, but in places such as California, Kansas, and Indiana. In turn, there have been many expressions of gratitude from those receiving cards. It should be noted that diocesan funds support this ministry with the purchase of greeting cards and postage. Cards are mailed for other occasions, in addition, such as in cases of hospitalization or the death of family members.

This chaplaincy also allows me to attend Province III meetings, organized by the Church Pension Group, and to be in contact with chaplains in other dioceses of the Episcopal Church.

I am most grateful to serve in this capacity.
(The Rev.) Arthur C. Dilg

CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATES OF SOUTHWEST PENNSYLVANIA

Collegiality, Connectedness, and Collaboration have become the core values of the bishops and church executives who are Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania. Though extremely diverse – 26 Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox regional governing bodies; a varied spectrum from theologically conservative to progressive; with similar diversity on social issues – yet because of each Christian leader’s commitment to **Collegiality**, the Council table has remained strong. In May the Council reviewed papers prepared by our Theology & Education Committee on “Ecclesiology.” The conversation was lively, reflective and pointed; but always respectful of the other. When at that same meeting a particular agenda item strained our ability to achieve consensus and threatened to fracture some relationships, the Council decided that they needed a “covenant” among themselves. ELCA Bishop Kurt Kusserow in assisting in drafting such a covenant shared with Council what he described as a “pithy summary” of his own ELCA Conference of Bishops’ Relational Agreement.

When we speak to each other, we do so directly and candidly.

When we speak about each other, we do so with grace and respect.

When we speak for each other, we use the words we have agreed to use.

When we speak together, we strive to speak with the voice of Christ.

Wisely our Christian leaders have recognized that such covenantal relationships which respect each other’s diversity, but recognize the image and likeness of Christ in the other, is the key to our continued journey toward unity within the Body of Christ.

A foundation grant maker has described Christian Associates as “nimble.” By that he meant that we are flexible, diverse but cohesive, and therefore able to foster dialogue and action in many arenas both within our Christian communities and in partnership with government, secular interest groups, human service providers and interfaith neighbors. Because of our **Connectedness** and **Collaboration**, Christian Associates is sought out to be a partner at many tables. Convening long-term recovery efforts among faith-based volunteers, secular agencies and government to respond to July’s flash flooding; co-sponsoring the annual Pittsburgh Pastoral Care and Returning Veterans Conferences; hosting the regional Bread for the World team; engaging Muslim and Jewish leaders in dialogue; conducting our own Outreach Ministry Inventory and Needs Assessment are but a few of the many ways in which, because we are nimble, we can respond to varied invitations to connect and collaborate.

For over a decade I have been privileged to serve as Executive Director of this unique ecumenical organization. I will be retiring in March 2014. It has been a joy and honor to be the public face of our efforts toward unity within Christ’s Church for the integrity of our witness to the world. Thank you for the hospitality that the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh has shown to me throughout the years. I am grateful for your continued partnership, both in prayer and finance, and particularly for the presence of Bishop Dorsey McConnell at the Council table. Thank you, both personally and on behalf of the Council who are Christian Associates. May the Spirit of unity dwell within your 2013 Convention!

Veni, Creator Spiritus!

Pax, Salaam, Shalom,

The Rev. Dr. Donald B. Green

Executive Director

COAL COUNTRY HANGOUT YOUTH CENTER

To paraphrase an old song, *What a Difference a Year Makes!* With all the difficulties behind it, CCHYC is well on the road to full capacity, and then some. In March 2013, CCHYC celebrated its 16th year of operation: 16 years of service to approximately 6,000 children and youth, age infant to 18. Our mission and goals remain the same:

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

Fully licensed, with no restrictions, the Daycare/Preschool serves 50 children weekly. This past year they enjoyed trips to Jaffa Shriners Circus and Northern Cambria Fire Hall, as well as participated in the St. Jude's Bike-a-Thon. According to Erin Bougher, Director, field trips for next year include a ride on a steam train!

The Teen Center has had some great dances, pizza parties, and movie nights. Under the direction of Patricia Hamzik, teens painted a large mural on the pump house wall at Northern Cambria's swimming pool as a community project. More community projects are in the works. The fourth annual LOCK-IN is tentatively scheduled for the first Friday in December. All District 4 teens (6th-12th grade), including local participants at Coal Country Teen Center, are invited to come spend the night and have a great time.

Cambria Re-Coal-lection, the educational workshop component of CCHYC's overall program, sponsored two different projects in 2012-2013. *Reclaiming our Natural Heritage*, funded by a grant from the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies, was designed to monitor watershed activity at Glendale Lake, an experiential education workshop to give students a real and meaningful field experience that might lead to a career in the environmental sciences. *A Town Fenced In*, a history project funded by the Pennsylvania Humanities Council, investigated the coal town of Moss Creek. Founded in 1902, Moss Creek was walled off to keep away "union agitators" who sought to stir up local coal miners. The students discovered multiple locations of remnants of that wall. Since 2003, over 1000 students participated in an educational workshop. Full steam ahead!

COMMISSION ON RACISM

The Commission on Racism of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh is called to work for the annihilation of racism in our church and communities, while fostering healing of all persons.

General Convention Resolution A062 (1982) requests that dioceses and congregations form committees on racism to study, identify, and confront the causes of racism.

Resolution B049 (2000) mandates anti-racism training for all in leadership positions, both lay and clergy. These workshops provide the opportunity for studying and attempting to identify the root causes of racism.

Resolution A127 (2012) adds that training should be continued on an on-going basis. At the request of people who were previously trained, a reunion was held during this year and several are planned for 2014.

Additional study/education with a historical perspective is provided by the annual diocesan celebration of the life and ministry of Absalom Jones. Our preacher at the 2013 observance was the Rev. Canon Angela Shepherd, Canon for Mission in the Diocese of Maryland. During the day, there were opportunities for further exploration of racism, its root cause, and its damaging effects.

The commission was represented at the regular gathering of the 13 dioceses comprising Province III. At these meetings, representatives exchange ideas and learn what has – and has not – worked for others, and they try to help each other with their challenges and concerns.

Upon the retirement of the rector of Calvary, East Liberty, the diocese lost the active service of one of two minority priests and its only African-American priest. A sub-committee of the commission has studied this problem and is asking the bishop to expand the study to involve other diocesan groups with an emphasis on the discernment process.

The commission has an annual “workday” of reviewing and planning. The emphasis for 2014 will be on:

1. An increase in the number and variety of educational experiences.
2. Further exploration of recruitment of minorities for ordained ministry.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Travis Bolden
Chair

CURSILLO

The mission of the National Episcopal Cursillo, an organization of the Episcopal Church under the authority of the Presiding Bishop and diocesan bishops, is “Growing Christ-centered Leaders.” It is for both clergy and the laity. The bishop of our diocese, the Rt. Rev. Dorsey McConnell, is a “Cursillista” in that he participated in a three-day introductory Cursillo program and is very supportive of the movement.

The diocesan Cursillo steering committee which formed and met with Bishop Price in March 2010 continues to meet. Our goal has been to build up the Servant Community and it is our hope eventually to become strong enough to offer the three-day introductory weekend. There are presently no dioceses near us which participate in Cursillo; the closest are the Dioceses of Philadelphia and Central New York.

Since 2010 we have offered several Ultreyas, a coming together of Cursillistas and friends of Cursillistas for sharing of plans and experiences, usually accompanied by music. All Episcopalians may attend, whether Cursillistas or not.

Since the 2012 diocesan Convention there have been three Ultreyas: December 1, 2012, at St. James, Penn Hills; March 16, 2013, at the Community of Celebration; and September 14, 2013, at St. Michael’s, Ligonier. An Ultreya is planned for November 16, 2013, at St. Paul’s, Mt. Lebanon.

We are in the process of building a secretariat.

Respectfully submitted,
Mrs. Celinda C. Scott
Member, Cursillo Steering Committee

EPISCOPAL RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT

Transition has been the theme for this year as Judy Rosensteel relinquished her role as ER&D diocesan coordinator and Dr. Diane Duntley accepted appointment as the new coordinator. The first project is rebuilding the team of parish ER&D coordinators.

A fall initiative will focus on helping families (including grandparents, aunts, and uncles!) develop a commitment to giving meaningful gifts through ER&D that will “help heal a hurting world.” This may counter-balance the pre-Christmas focus on the “I want...” syndrome, to instead focus on preparing hearts and minds for a “We gave...” focus.

A spring emphasis will focus on activities in the season after Epiphany that lead up to the day established by General Convention as ER&D Sunday – the First Sunday in Lent (March 9, 2014).

Supporting materials will help parish coordinators develop and implement a continuing presence of the spirit of ER&D within parishes. Please share past and current experiences with ER&D in your parish.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Duntley
Diocesan ER&D Coordinator

FRESH START

Fresh Start is a two-year program primarily intended to help clergy in transition deal with the multitude of issues that arise during such periods in their ministries. This past year, the program facilitators have been leading monthly gatherings with the newly-ordained clergy in the diocese to assist in their transition from laity to ordained. The second year of the program will continue from September 2013 through May 2014.

Many of the modules that make up the program are helpful for congregations in transition, for helping vestries understand their roles, for parishes to plan new and effective ministry, and for ways to recognize conflict before it arises or to deal with it when it does. The facilitators are available to lead parish, district, and diocesan-wide workshops if called upon to do so. For further information or to talk about how a *Fresh Start* module might be of help, please contact the Rev. Dr. William J. Pugliese (wjpugliese@aol.com) or one of the other facilitators: the Rev. Lou Hays (lou@stpaulspgh.org), Ms. Jessie Hipolit (jessiehipolit@comcast.net) and Ms. Dana Philips (stvdana@msn.com).

ORDER OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

The Pittsburgh Assembly of the Order of the Daughters of the King serves our Lord through prayer, service and evangelism. All our local chapters contributed to our fall assembly at Trinity School for Ministry. Assembly officers were installed for the triennium. Our new chaplain, the Rev. Constance Hughes, illuminated “The Power of the Holy Spirit.” Our Province III president, Laura Richards, also attended, sharing the importance of joy in our Order and praising the Pittsburgh Assembly as “an example of unity and reconciliation.”

The Deborah Chapter at Christ Church, Indiana, hosted the spring assembly. The Rev. Nancy Chalfant-Walker, rector of St. Stephen’s, Wilkinsburg, encouraged “Unity in Diversity.”

In February, the Pittsburgh Assembly reprised a Lenten Quiet Day at Shepherd’s Heart Fellowship. Through readings, prayer and meditation, participants focused on 12 “Strong Women of the Old Testament” who were selected on the basis of what they can teach us today. Daughters were grateful that our open invitation to the Christian community in Pittsburgh provided outside participants.

As we look to the future, our Pittsburgh Assembly goals are to help all our members live into our Order’s vows and to increase the desire for interaction with Daughters beyond our chapter.

Respectfully submitted,
Gail Simpson
President, Pittsburgh Assembly
The Order of the Daughters of the King

SHEPHERD WELLNESS COMMUNITY

Shepherd Wellness Community (SWC) is the only AIDS Community Center in Western Pennsylvania, offering support and assistance to persons affected by HIV/AIDS. Our mission affirms that “Shepherd Wellness Community is a safe, compassionate community empowering people affected by HIV/AIDS to live with dignity.”

Shepherd Wellness Community is a supported ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh and operates under the 501(c)3 non-profit umbrella of the diocese.

This year a “garden grant” from the Social Justice and Outreach Committee of the diocese enabled SWC to create a raised-bed herb garden. This project provided an opportunity to teach our members about using herbs to flavor meals and improve nutrition. Herbs from our garden were also used in our wellness dinners. Thank you to the committee and the diocese for the grant to make this innovative and educational project possible.

Our services in 2013 included:

- Wellness dinners accompanied by health education programs – more than 6,000 meals served each year.
- Support groups for people living with HIV/AIDS.
- Quality of life social events, outings, and our annual SWC Picnic help combat isolation and loneliness, and enable SWC to reach out to families.
- “Words of Wellness” newsletter mailed to 2,400 households offering AIDS information, inspirational stories, and hope for people living with HIV/AIDS.
- Spiritual life programs including interfaith services and spiritual life speakers.
- Peer-counseling weekly telephone calls providing support, counseling and referrals to community services.
- Wellness education programs, alternative therapy programs, fitness and life skill classes.

The Board of Directors, staff and members of Shepherd Wellness Community express our gratitude to the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh for many years of support.

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

TRINITY CATHEDRAL CHAPTER

Bishop McConnell led the Chapter on a journey of St. Augustine's "City of God" to discern how Trinity Cathedral can represent the City of God to our earthly city – Pittsburgh. This theme drives our plans and programs.

Community:

- Light Up Night – offered to over 300 visitors seasonal music, refreshments, and an opportunity to light a candle, meditate and pray.
- December 19, 2012, Mass of the Resurrection celebrated by Bishop McConnell for the Newtown, Connecticut, school shooting victims.
- "Ashes to Go" offered by Bishop McConnell and Canon Brall to approximately 100 people in Market Square, in addition to three services in the cathedral.
- Joined with ELCA Lutherans for Chrism Mass and Easter Vigil.
- Cathedral clergy blessed the fleet at the Point, marathoners, and pets.
- Hosted lunch and a program for campers from Camp Downtown .
- Hosted musical services/concerts by the Slippery Rock University Choir, the American Musicological Society, the Bach Choir of Pittsburgh, and Compline for the ELCA 2013 Churchwide Assembly.

Diocese:

- Hosted the Absalom Jones Day commemoration, diocesan ordinations, and the Spring UTO Ingathering Luncheon.
- Parishioners volunteered at the Habitat house project in August.

Parish:

- Continuing transitions and healing: bid farewell to Canon Cathy Brall, long-time building superintendent Jim Cole, Deacon Ben DeHart, and Altar Guild directress Shelley Snyder. We welcomed Fr. Tim Hushion. We strengthened our parish, welcoming new members and preparing teens for confirmation in 2014.

Respectfully submitted,
Dorothy Amis
Executive Committee Chair

TRINITY SCHOOL FOR MINISTRY

Theological education is undergoing dramatic changes and Trinity School for Ministry is working to be proactive in this environment of change. Trinity School for Ministry's particular contribution to raising up leaders for the Episcopal Church might be best expressed by our vision statement, adopted in October 2010:

"Trinity School for Ministry is an evangelical seminary in the Anglican tradition. In this fractured world, we desire to be a global center for Christian formation, producing outstanding leaders who can plant, renew and grow churches that make disciples of Jesus Christ."

Trinity graduates who have been ordained into dioceses of the Episcopal Church over the last two years include Paul Hunter, Becky Toalster, Ben DeHart, Terry Johnston, Christopher Eyrich, John Schaeffer, Tim Hushion, Bain White, and Todd Schmidtetter. In addition, Bishop Dorsey McConnell visited the TSM campus this June term for a guest presentation in a Doctor of Ministry class. Bishop McConnell will also lead TSM's Ash Wednesday Quiet Day this year.

We have recently made our Master of Arts in Religion degree available completely online to meet the needs of the church today, offering specializations in Biblical Studies, Christian History and Theology, and Christian Ministry and Missiology. This reflects the faculty's commitment to mission-minded pastoral ministry and to integrating faith and practice. Our summer and winter intensive classes have been redesigned to attract more lay leaders, and we now offer major conferences each June.

Respectively submitted,
Mark Stevenson, Ph.D.
Academic Dean