

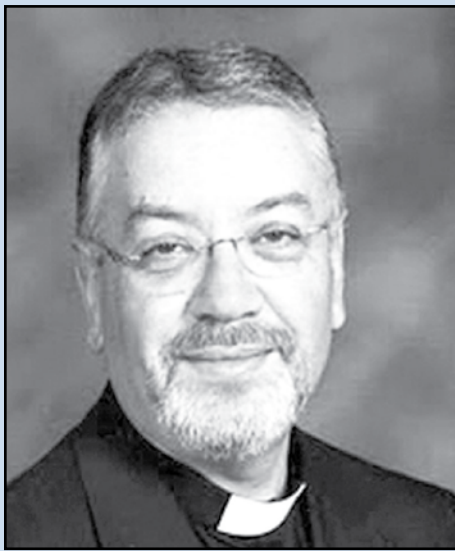
# The Springfield Current

Newsletter of the Episcopal Diocese of Springfield, Illinois



## The Rev. Daniel Martins Elected 11th Bishop

**NATIONAL CONSENT PROCESS BEGINS - CONSECRATION SCHEDULED  
FOR MARCH 19, 2011**



He remarked how overjoyed he was to have been chosen and that he was looking forward to the future in the Episcopal Diocese of Springfield. His humbly stated, "I do not consider myself fit for the position of bishop, but God has a way of fitting the position to the person."

Next, Martins will face a discernment process for the next 120 days during which the majority of U.S. bishops and Standing Committees must consent to the vote.

Martins was one of three finalists selected at the Nominating Synod in August. The other candidates were The Rev. Matthew A.

### The Rev. Daniel H. Martins, 58

#### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (CLERGY)

- ♦ Rector, St. Anne's Warsaw, IN 2007-present
- ♦ Rector, St. John the Evangelist, Stockton, CA 1994-2007
- ♦ Vicar, St. Margaret's Baton Rouge, LA 1991-1994
- ♦ Curate & School Chaplain, St. Luke's, Baton Rouge, LA 1989-1991

#### EDUCATION

- ♦ M.Div. (cum laude) - Nashotah House (1989)
- ♦ M.A. (Music History) University of California at Santa Barbara (1975)
- ♦ B.A. (Music)—Westmont College, Santa Barbara (1973)

Gunter (Diocese of Chicago), and The Rev. Canon E. Mark Stevenson (Diocese of Louisiana).

It took only three ballots for the delegates of the Electing Synod to choose the 11th Bishop-Elect on Saturday, September 18th. Martins received 38 clergy and 42 laity votes in the third round, only 25 and 38 respectively, were needed in each category. Bishop-Elect Martins, from the Diocese of Northern Indiana, addressed the Electing Synod immediately after the election.

### ABOUT THE 133rd SYNOD

The 133rd Synod Business Session begins at noon, Friday, October 8th at the I-Hotel and Conference Center, 1900 S. First Street, Champaign, Illinois 61820.

#### Friday, October 8th, 2010

Registration ~ 11:00 a.m. – 12:50 p.m.  
I-Hotel

Business Session I ~ 1:00 – 4:30 p.m.  
I-Hotel

Evensong ~ 5:30 p.m.  
Chapel of St. John the Divine

Social Time ~ 6:30 p.m.  
I-Hotel

Banquet ~ 7:30 p.m.  
I-Hotel

#### Saturday, October 9th, 2010

Holy Eucharist ~ 8 a.m.  
Emmanuel Memorial

Business Session II ~ 9 a.m. – 12 noon  
I-Hotel  
(Continental Breakfast)

#### Nominations for Diocesan Offices and Representatives:

Following are the nominations submitted from delegates and the biographies (shown on pages 2-3) received from persons who have been nominated. Other nominations may be made from the floor during Synod at the time of elections. The offices to be filled and the nominees are:

**Secretary (1 clerical – 1 yr.)**  
The Rev. Gene R. Tucker

**Treasurer (1 person – 1 yr.)**  
Mr. James R. Donkin

**Standing Committee (1 Clergy – 4 yr.)**  
The Rev. Canon George E. Pence, Ph.D.  
The Rev. Geoffrey E.L. Scanlon

**Standing Committee (1 Lay – 4 yr.)**  
Gay Bryant  
Elisabeth Langford  
Charles Palm

**Trustee (1 Member – 5 yr.)**  
Donald Monty

**Diocesan Council (1 Clergy – 2 yr.)**  
The Rev. David J. Halt

**Diocesan Council (1 Lay – 2 yr.)**  
Marti Jones  
Angela Rowe  
Ruth Wene

**Commission on Ministry (1 Clergy – 6 yr.)**  
The Rev. Sheryl L. Black

**Commission on Ministry (1 Lay – 6 yr.)**  
Carol McCrary  
Kathie Schmitt

## McLeansboro Prayer Walk Held



On Sept. 11th, the Rev. Sherry Black led a Prayer Walk in McLeansboro. Walkers prayerfully circled around the Courthouse Square, stopping in front of every business and praying for the owners by name when able. They prayed their way back to the church, then retired to the Parish House for refreshments. According to Mother Black, "It was a blessed and inspiring event."

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continued

## ABOUT THE 133RD SYNOD

continued

**Ecclesiastical Trial Court  
(2 Clergy – 3 yr.)**

The Rev. Dr. Keith R. Roderick

**Ecclesiastical Trial Court  
(1 Lay – 3 yr.)**Marilynn Belleville  
Alex Dover  
Charles Stuckey**Provincial Synod Delegate  
(1 person – 3 yr.)**Charles Evans  
Charles Palm**General Convention Deputy - 2012  
(4 clerical)**The Rev. Christopher L. Ashmore  
The Rev. Sheryl L. Black  
The Rev. David J. Boase  
The Rev. Canon Dale D. Coleman  
The Ven. Shawn W. Denney  
The Very Rev. Dr. Anthony B. Holder  
The Rev. Geoffrey E.L. Scanlon  
The Very Rev. Canon Richard A. Swan  
The Very Rev. Gene R. Tucker  
The Rev. M. C. Mollie Ward**General Convention Deputy - 2012  
(4 lay)**Kevin J. Babb  
Susan J. Buckley  
Stephanie Davingman  
Robert G. Ellison  
Charles T. Evans  
Elisabeth Langford  
Cindy Lynk  
Carol McCrary  
Kathie Schmitt  
Gerry Smith  
Frederick P. Velde**General Convention Alternate  
Deputy - 2012 (4 clerical)**

The Rev. David J. Halt

**General Convention Alternate  
Deputy - 2012 (4 lay)**Mark Opp  
Angela D. Rowe**Diocese of Springfield  
Calendar for 2010****OCTOBER 2010**08-09 133rd Synod, Emmanuel  
Memorial and Chapel of  
St. John the Divine,  
Champaign  
TBD YouthQuake Golf  
Tournament**NOVEMBER 2010**01 ALL SAINTS DAY  
20 Diocesan Council,  
Diocesan Center,  
Springfield (10 a.m.)  
19-21 Happening #52, TBD  
28 ADVENT**DECEMBER 2010**

25 CHRISTMAS DAY

# SYNOD NOMINEES' BIOGRAPHIES

## The Rev. Christopher L. Ashmore

Fr. Ashmore has served in the Diocese of Springfield as Rector of Trinity Episcopal Church, Jacksonville, Illinois, since January, 1998. He was ordained priest in the Diocese of West Texas on January 7, 1979, where he served until being called to Trinity, Jacksonville. He is currently serving on the Commission on Ministry, The Standing Committee and Diocesan Council. He is the Chair of the Department of Christian Education and is serving as an Examining Chaplain. In past years he has served as a member of the Diocesan Council, Chair of the Commission on Ministry, Dean of the Northwestern Deanery, Academic Dean of the Springfield School for Ministry, member of the Ecclesiastical Trial Court, Department of General Mission Strategy, the Examining Chaplains, Department of Evangelism and Spiritual Enrichment and was a General Convention Clerical Deputy. He and K-Lou have two children, Jessica (27) and Kevin (24).

## Kevin J. Babb

Kevin Babb is a member of St. Andrew's, Edwardsville, and has been the Deputy Chancellor of the Diocese since 2002, and the Parliamentarian of Synod since 1993. He was a deputy to General Convention in 1997, 2000, 2003, 2006 and 2009, and was the Chair of the Deputation in 2003, 2006 and 2009. He was a member of the House of Deputies Committee on Rules of Order at the 1997 General Convention, and was on the House of Deputies Legislative Committee on Canons at the 2000, 2003 and 2006 Conventions. At the 2009 General Convention, he was vice chairman of the House of Deputies Legislative Committee on Constitution and Canons. Following the 2006 General Convention, he was appointed to a six-year term on the Episcopal Church's Standing Commission on Constitutions and Canons, a body of three bishops, six clergy, and six lay people that advises the House of Deputies and House of Bishops on matters pertaining to church law and discipline. From 2006 to 2009, he was vice-president of the Standing Commission.

Kevin has previously served two terms as diocesan delegate to the Province V, and has served on the Foreign Missions Commission of the Province V Synod. He is currently serving his second six-year term on the Commission on Ministry. He was been a member of Diocesan Council since 1992, as an elected representative of the Darrow Deanery, an elected representative of the Synod, an appointed member, and as Chair of Diocesan bodies. He served four years as Chair of the Diocesan Department of Christian Social Concerns, four years as Chair of the Department of National and World Mission, and is currently Chair of the Department of Young Adult and Higher Education Ministries. He has served two terms on the Standing Committee and has been a delegate to Synod. Kevin has gone on medical missions to El Salvador and the Dominican Republic.

Kevin was confirmed at the Chapel of St. John the Divine when he was an undergraduate at the University of

Illinois. He subsequently was a Peer Minister at the Chapel and served on the Bishop's Committee/Vestry. He has attended St. Andrew's, Edwardsville since 1989, where he has served on the Vestry and served as Senior Warden. He is also a Lay Eucharistic Minister and serves on the Finance and Audit Committees.

Kevin is married to Michelle Babb, MD, who practices medicine in Alton. They have two children, Douglas, 16, and Helen, 13. He is a lawyer in private practice in Edwardsville.

## Marilynn Belleville

Marilynn is a member of St. George's, Belleville and has been actively involved for 50 years. She started in Sunday School and ECW and progressed through many committees, Vestry, Treasurer, Calling Committees and Sr. Warden. In the diocese, she has served as Finance Chair and Director, Prayer Fellowships, Commission on Ministry (twice), and The Standing Committee several times. Nationally, she has been elected a General Convention Deputy nine times and have served on the Evangelism Committee and been its Secretary and Vice President.

Currently, Marilynn is a Synod Delegate, Deanery Rep., member of the Prayer Alert and Chair of the Liturgical Committee.

## The Rev. Sheryl L. Black

The Rev. Sheryl "Sherry" Leonard Black is a cradle Episcopalian, and spent most of her formative years in Littleton Colorado. She was confirmed at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church in Littleton and was an active church member as a youth and young adult. She made Cursillo in fall of 1977 and played the guitar as part of the music team for many subsequent Cursillo weekends in Colorado, but drifted away from the church in the mid 1980's. In 1993 Sherry and her husband Larry moved to Illinois where she eventually made her way back to the Church at St. John's Centralia, and from there pursued a call to ordained ministry. Sherry completed her Bachelor's of Science in Organizational Leadership through Greenville College in Greenville, Illinois, graduating in 2004, and immediately started seminary classes. She and Larry moved to Ambridge, PA in January 2005 so she could attend Trinity School for Ministry full time. While at Trinity, she was a Student Cabinet Member her junior year and was Class Representative (President) her middler year. Sherry was delighted to be offered a job near "home" in Southern Illinois beginning in September of 2007. Finishing her studies via distance learning, she graduated from Trinity with a Masters of Divinity in May 2008. She was ordained as a deacon on Feb. 2, 2008 and as a priest on Nov. 1, 2008. Mother Sherry is the Priest Assistant to the Canon Missioner (Fr. Richard Swan) of the Hale Deanery Team Ministry, and serves this cluster of churches full time, with primary responsibility for St. James' McLeansboro and St. Mark's West Frankfort.

Mother Sherry is married to Larry, a semi-retired painting contractor. She is the proud mother of one son, Sgt. Brandon M. Teaff, a career soldier currently serving his country in Afghanistan

with the 24th Transportation Company out of Ft. Riley, Kansas. She also has three step-daughters and numerous grandchildren. Since March 2008 she has been a Member-at-Large of the Diocesan ECW Board. At the 2009 ECW Annual retreat she gave a presentation on Confession, and in 2010 gave a talk on Sacred Time: Sabbath-Keeping. She has been Chair of the Diocesan Department of Christian Social Concerns since Oct. 2008, giving her a seat on the Diocesan Council, and in this capacity she has regularly had articles published in the Springfield Current, most recently a 3-part series on The Episcopal Church as a Postmodern Apologetic. Mother Sherry has been Vice President of the West Frankfort Ministerial Association since May 2008, and Secretary of the Hamilton County (McLeansboro) Ministerial Alliance also since May 2008. During the fall of 2009 Mother Sherry successfully completed a 2nd unit of CPE which was offered locally through Barnes Jewish Hospital. Mother Sherry was honored to have been the Clerical Inspector of Elections: Lay for the Nominating Synod on August 7th, 2010.

## The Rev. David J. Boase

Fr. David came to be Rector of the Episcopal Parish of Alton in October 2004 from York Diocese in the Church of England. Born in 1949 and a native of the north-west County of Cumbria in England, he attended Durham University receiving a B.A. degree. From Durham he went on to seminary at Cuddesdon College Oxford gaining the Oxford Certificate in Theology, completing also at that time a Certificate in Education at Trinity College Oxford.

His early years in ministry, after being made Deacon in 1973 and ordained Priest in 1974, were spent back in his native Cumbria where, after his 'title' parish at Penrith, he taught ordinands at Greystoke College, before moving to Gibraltar to be Precentor at Holy Trinity Cathedral, Port-Missioner and assisting Chaplain to the Royal Navy. Then, from the Mediterranean he transferred to Sweden where, from his base in Gothenburg, he ministered in addition to satellite congregations in the west of Sweden.

On returning to England he was parish priest in a parish on Teesside (in York Diocese) for 6 years, before spending 16 years as part-time parish priest and part-time Clergy In-Service Training Officer for the Archdeaconry of Cleveland in York Diocese.

A life-long sports fan, Fr. David rowed for his colleges at Durham and Oxford, and has played representative rugby union, cricket and squash. Nowadays his efforts are confined to trying to learn the mysteries of the golf swing!

Fr. David is a member of Alton Little Theater, Alton & Godfrey Rotary Club and serves on the Advisory Board for the Lewis & Clark Community College Nurse-Managed Program. In addition he serves on the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Springfield.

## Gay Bryant

A long-time member of the Episcopal Parish of Alton. Her commitment to Church and Community is evidenced by her host of involvement, including:

# SYNOD NOMINEES' BIOGRAPHIES

Parish: Vestry person (5 terms); Chalice Bearer; Lector; Intercessor; past President ECW; Director of Christian Education and Youth Ministry, 1995-1999; Director of Missionary Outreach and Evangelism, 1990-1999.

Diocese: Synod Delegate (15 or more times); Diocesan Youth Coordinator (10 years); Diocesan Council (6 years); PB Fund (ER&D) (2 years); ECW Board (2 years).

National Church: Province V Youth Coordinator (2 years); EYE Design Team and Staff; General Convention Youth Presence; Province Department of Education (2 years); PB Fund Province V Flood Relief Fund Coordinator, 1994-95; National Conference for Adults who work with Youth – design team, workshop leader; TriLateral Convocation (1 year).

Community: Board Vice Chair, Alton Memorial Hospital; Board Member and Fund Development Chair, Alton Memorial Health Services Foundation; Board Member and Past Chair, Riverbend Head Start and Family Services; past Board Chair; Alton Woman's Home Foundation, Alton Marketplace, Junior League of Greater Alton, Alton Children's Theatre, Alton Community Service League, White Cross Auxiliary of Alton Memorial Hospital. Recipient St. Louis Women of Achievement award, 2007.

## Susan J. Buckley

Confirmed at St. Andrew's, Carbondale, in 1964. She has been a member of St. Andrew's, Edwardsville, since 1965, where she currently serves in the following capacities: coordinator of Eucharistic Ministers, is licensed as both a Eucharistic Minister and a Eucharistic Visitor, a member of the Altar Guild, Choir, a Deanery Representative, a Synod Delegate, a former Vestry member, and a graduate of EFM. She has been a member of The Standing Committee of the Diocese and was an observer at General Convention-2003. She is a retired teacher with 36 years of experience in the Alton School District, having served as Department Chair at both East Junior High and Alton High School. She received a B.S. in Education from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, and a M.A. in Biomechanics from Michigan State University. She is an active musician, performing both in the Belleville Masterwork's Chorale and the Edwardsville Municipal Band.

## The Rev. Canon Dale D. Coleman

The Rev. Canon Coleman, 56, Rector of St. George's, Belleville. Fr. Coleman seeks election as General Convention Deputy representing Springfield.

*In his own words:* "I was born on March 24, 1954, to Salvation Army Officer parents in Hillsdale Michigan. At age 22 after a period of rebelling against the fundamentalism of my upbringing, I was baptized at Trinity, Janesville, Wisconsin, and then confirmed there by Bishop Charles Gaskell in 1977. Later that year I entered seminary at Nashotah House, and graduated in 1980. I was ordained a deacon and priest in 1980, and served as curate, interim and Priest in Charge of Grace Church, Madison.

Subsequently, I accepted calls to St. Thomas of Canterbury, Greendale, WI (1983-1990), St. Matthias', Shreveport, LA (1990-1996), and Holy Faith, Santa Fe, NM (1996-2007). Since 2007 I have been serving the wonderful folks at St. George's, and was installed as rector.

My experience includes: Member of COM, and facilitator of Clericus in the Diocese of Milwaukee, as well as teaching in the Diocesan School training Deacons and local Priests, Chaplain of several Cursillo teams, and Priest involved in putting together the Journey in Faith program for the Diocese of Milwaukee—a 30 week Catechumenal program; Dean of the NW Deanery, and member as well as President of the Standing Committee of Western Louisiana; Dean of the NE Deanery, Adjunct Professor of Worship and Church History for TSM—teaching in Rio Grande's Diocesan School training Deacons and local Priests, active at my bishops' request in the Anglican Network.

Chiefly, however, I built up the Church of the Holy Faith in Santa Fe. With a great team of lay and clergy, we doubled attendance from 200 to 400 on Sundays, doubled in membership to 1000, put forward a highly regarded Music program with Gerald Near as Director, established a thriving outreach program which raised \$250,000 in 2004, put forward the first several women for ordination, established a partnership with St. Francis Basilica and First Presbyterian Church (the historic downtown churches which had never gotten together in their shared 130 year history), set up a friendship with Temple Beth Shalom, and oversaw a \$3.4 million Capital campaign to build and renovate the historic Holy Faith buildings.

I edited and published Archbishop Michael Ramsey's lectures entitled: The Anglican Spirit, published by Cowley in 1991, re-issued by Church Publishing in 2004.

After years of civil war at the parish, following 2003's General Convention, and the pain of a divorce, Bishop Beckwith and St. George's called me to Belleville and the Diocese of Springfield. I will be ever grateful to them.

Following years of political fighting the church wars, I now believe we must remember who we are as Christ's faithful people, preach and pray and live the Gospel of Salvation through Jesus, and go about our lively witness to our Savior. St. George's has given me the opportunity to remember why I became a priest in the first place, and get along together no matter what our views and pieties are, and find care for each other.

My two daughters have moved here to be with me, and I have remarried to Deacon Jody Garcia! I wish to serve Springfield Diocese as General Convention Deputy if elected."

## Stephanie Davingman

As a cradle Episcopalian and granddaughter of a bishop, Davingman says that she cares deeply about the future of our Church. "We are in conflict and my skills as a social worker/family therapist along with my church experience equip me to be a part of this time in our history. I was youth representative to vestry, Senior Warden and student

president in campus churches, and have served on vestry, search committees, and diocesan conventions. I hope to use these experiences, with God's help, to deal with issues at convention."

## The Ven. Shawn W.

### Denney

The Ven. Shawn W. Denney is Archdeacon of Springfield and Vicar of St. Luke's, Springfield, Illinois. A graduate of MacMurray College (B.A. 1973), Jacksonville, Illinois, and the University of Illinois College of Law (J.D. 1976), Urbana-Champaign, Fr. Denney is also a licensed attorney who retired after nearly 27 years of service with the Illinois Attorney General. He also serves as a member of the Executive Ethics Commission by appointment of the Attorney General, recently completing a two-year term as its Chair, by election of the other Commissioners.

Fr. Denney was ordained Deacon in 1997 and Priest in 1998, and has served St. Luke's Church since his ordination. He was appointed Archdeacon in May of 2003. He has served the Diocese in a number of capacities both as a layman and as a member of the clergy, including Standing Committee, lay and clerical, the Commission on Ministry, lay and clerical, the Diocesan Council, lay and clerical, the Ecclesiastical Trial Court and as Chair of the Committee on Constitution and Canons. He has also served as Director of the Division of Mission and Worship and Chair of the Department of Christian Education. Elected as an Alternate Clerical Deputy to the 73rd General Convention (2000), he attended and served as a Deputy to that Convention due to a vacancy in the representation of the Diocese. He was a Clerical Deputy to the 74th General Convention (2003) and 76th General Convention (2009), serving during the latter as a member of the Pension Committee by appointment of the President of the House of Deputies. Fr. Denney and his wife, Mary Ann, have one son, Lucas.

## James R. Donkin

Member of Christ Church in Springfield since 1981. Formerly from West Frankfort, Jim has been a life-long member of the Episcopal Church. Jim has been serving the Diocese of Springfield as its Treasurer since 1992 and Financial Officer since 2003. He is a member of the Diocesan Council and a Synod delegate. Jim previously served as Rector's Warden, a member of the Christ Church Vestry and was Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee for nine years. Jim received a BS degree in Management from Southern Illinois University in 1972 and is a Certified Internal Auditor. He was employed as an Internal Auditor for twenty-nine years retiring as Chief Internal Auditor for the Illinois Department of Human Services. He resides in Springfield with his wife Mary and has two adult children and five grandchildren.

## Robert G. Ellison

Work Experience: Director of Compensation & Benefits – Tate & Lyle (Retired); Currently: Ellison Consulting, Contracted to manage a 230 member

Physician Hospital Organization (14 years); Health Insurance Broker; Consultant.

Church Related Roles: Diocesan Finance Committee (4 years), Initial Chair of Diocesan Clergy & Family Wellness Committee, Frequent Synod Delegate, Finance Committee/St. John's Decatur, Fifteen (15) times Chair of St. John's Annual Stewardship Campaign, Rector Search Committee (3 times), Chalcicist, Lay Eucharistic Minister, Lay Reader, Chair of Grounds & Garden Guild, Acolyte Director/Trainer (22 years), Vestry Retreat Leader (3 times), Life Leader of the Crown Financial Ministry Course, Lead church meetings regarding continuing objectives (upon the death of our Rector).

Spouse: Judy H. Ellison.

Education: B.S. – Millikin University, M.S. – Millikin University.

## Charles T. (Chuck) Evans

A life-long Episcopalian and has been a member of St. George's, Belleville since moving to the area in 1992. Chuck's ministries at St. George's and within the Diocese include the following:

St. George's: Vestry member for three terms; long term Parish Synod and Deanery Delegate; Chair of Stewardship and Finance Committee on multiple occasions; Chair of Evangelism Commission for multiple years; Chair of the 1995 Omega and Alpha Capital Fund Drive which eliminated the new church building debt, provided funds for facilities maintenance, and established a Community Outreach Reserve Fund. Founding Chair of Endowment Fund – has served multiple terms as Trustee. Long term member of Community Service Commission. Treasurer of Toddhall Retreat and Conference Center for past 6+ years. Long term usher, counter and Meals On Wheels driver.

Diocese Experience: Member of Bishop Election Committee; member of Diocesan Council as Darrow Deanery Representative for numerous terms; member of Diocesan Department of Finance; member of Diocesan Department of Evangelism and Spiritual Enrichment; trustee of Diocesan Endowment Fund.

Chuck, who has an MBA in Finance and Business Economics, is retired after over 30 years of business and management experience, primarily with Shell Oil Company, but also as an independent business development and financial consultant.

## The Rev. David J. Halt

Fr. Halt became Rector of St. Matthew's, Bloomington in January 2010. Prior to arriving in the Diocese of Springfield, he served churches in Cincinnati. Dave served as President of the Board of Trustees for the Episcopal Community Services Foundation of Southern Ohio, Assistant Secretary of the Annual Convention, Camp Chaplain, and on Diocesan Council.

*continued next page*

# SYNOD NOMINEES' BIOGRAPHIES

## The Very Rev. Dr. Anthony B. Holder

Fr. Holder has served in the Diocese of Springfield as Vicar of St. Michael's Episcopal Church, O'Fallon, Illinois, since March 1, 2001. He was ordained Deacon in 1993 and Priest in 1994 in the Diocese of Barbados, where he served until being called to St. Michael's, O'Fallon.

He is currently the President of the Standing Committee and Dean of the Darrow Deanery. He also serves as Web Manager of our Diocesan web site; a member of the Department of General Mission Strategy, Department of Communication, and Department of National and World Mission. He represented our Diocese as a Clerical Deputy at the 2009 General Convention of the Episcopal Church. Fr. Tony previously chaired the Department of National and World Mission, represented the Diocese at Provincial Synod, and served as Spiritual Director to Diocesan Youth Programs including Church Camp and Happening.

In Barbados, he served as Curate of Curate of Christ Church Parish Church, and Rector of the Church of the Holy Trinity, and St. Cyprian's, in Barbados. He has served as a board member of a few elementary schools. Prior to seminary and ordination, Fr. Holder was a graphic artist and subsequently an Art Teacher in high school.

Fr. Holder enjoys spending time with his family, going to the gym, playing tennis, reading and art. He and his wife, Judith, have two children, Tadhg, a second grader, and Aleks, who attends pre-school.

## Marti Jones

I was raised as a Mormon, or Latter-Day-Saint. I am the oldest of fourteen children, and I hold a B.A. in English Literature, a J.D. and a Masters in Organizational Behavior, all from Brigham Young University. During my masters work I became involved with a group that was concerned about cases of clergy/leadership spiritual and sexual abuse in the Mormon church. Eventually several members of that group were excommunicated as enemies of the church. Although I was not excommunicated, I did leave the church, in part as a consequence of those experiences.

After leaving the LDS church in 1993, I began my process of conversion to the Episcopal church when I began attending Episcopal services in 1996. In 2000 I was confirmed as a member of the Episcopal Church by Carolyn Tanner Irish, then Bishop of the Diocese of Utah. I served as a Sunday School teacher, choir member, and on the vestry at the Cathedral Church of St. Mark, in Salt Lake City, until shortly before moving to St. Louis in 2002. Between 1999 and 2004 I was also able to complete Sewanee Theological Seminary's Education for Ministry program.

Over the past seven years I have served Central and Southern Illinois as the Executive Director and Senior staff attorney of the only immigration legal services agency south of Chicago. In 2008, because of state budget cuts, and in order to reduce the travel demands

on our staff, we closed our Granite City office and consolidated that office with our Bloomington office. After the move I joined St. Matthews parish in Bloomington.

Through my work I have previously met many members of the Springfield diocese. I believe strongly in the value of lay involvement and support for the work of the church at all levels, and I believe that my experiences across the diocese and in non-profit management in general would allow me to contribute to the work of the Diocesan Council.

## Elisabeth Langford

An active member of Trinity Church, Jacksonville, she is a cradle Episcopalian having been baptized at The Chapel of the Intercession, New York City. She is active in the Springfield chapter of the American Anglican Council and Forward in Faith.

She holds degrees from the Pennsylvania State University and the University of Rochester. Elisabeth is a volunteer tutor in ESL and math for GED students. She retired as a high school chemistry, physics, and general science teacher in the Springfield School District. She has also taught chemistry and science education courses at local colleges. She is married to the Rev. Dr. Thomas W. Langford. They have seven children and 10 grandchildren.

## Cindy Lynk

Nominated for election to the post of Deputy to the General Convention, convening in 2012. She currently attends St. George's Episcopal Church in Belleville where she is active in a number of ministries, including: Synod Delegate; member of the Liturgical Commission, Adult Choir, and Altar Guild; Lector and Chalice Bearer Coordinator; and Lector and Chalice Bearer.

She was received into the Episcopal Church in 1988 and has attended St. George's since 1998.

Cindy successfully completed Education for Ministry (EFM) in 1995, and participated in Cursillo through the Roman Catholic Church in 1985.

Following graduation from Mount Mary College in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Cindy served in the United States Marine Corps for four years as a Communications Officer. While in service, she met and married her husband, a Marine aviator. Following her end of active duty, she settled with her husband in the Collinsville area and started a family. During this time she also worked for five years as a high school German teacher, and four years as a high school Guidance Counselor. Subsequently, to meet the evolving needs of her family, she elected to focus her full attention on actively rearing her two children and maintaining a stable household.

Cindy also actively supports her children's athletic efforts, serving as a Stroke Judge in both YMCA and USA Swimming venues. Her varied hobbies include: Weight Training, Spinning, Swimming, Cross-stitch, Knitting, and Reading.

## Carol McCrary

Carol McCrary is the mother of three and a teacher for deaf and hard of

hearing children. She has been a member of St. John's Church in Centralia for 33 years. She has taught Sunday School and served on the vestry three terms, and served as senior warden twice for three years each time. Believing that our youth are the future of the Episcopal Church, she has attended and been a member of the staff at several New Beginnings weekends. She has been a counselor in the Junior Session of the Episcopal Church Camp on Lake Bloomington for 12 years. Carol has participated in two discernment committees in the past 10 years.

## Donald Monty

Born in Zanesville, Ohio in 1944, raised through elementary school in a small town in Massachusetts, graduated from high school in rural northern California, received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Geography from California State University Chico, a Master of Arts degree in Geography from Miami University (Ohio), and did additional graduate study at Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

Don has been a member of St. Andrew's, Carbondale since 1968. He has served on the Vestry numerous times, been People's Warden and Rector's Warden multiple times, and is a long-time Eucharistic Minister. He has served as a delegate to Synod from St. Andrew's many times and served one year on Diocesan Council. He has been very active with the Episcopal Church Camp of Illinois where he has been Director of the Senior Session for over 20 years and where he serves on the Camp Board.

Don's entire professional career was with the City of Carbondale, Illinois. He began as a Program Coordinator, served as a Planner, Assistant Director of Community Development, Assistant City Manager for Community Development, Community Development Director, Management Research and Analysis Manager in the Finance Department, and finally as Assistant City Manager for ten years until his retirement in 2006. For most of his career, he was involved in budgeting and program administration. In his last 14 years of work, he was instrumental in preparing, balancing and implementing the City's multi-million dollar budget. While working for the City, Don was appointed to the Board of Trustees of the Jackson County Mass Transit District. He continues to serve as its Chairperson.

Don has been married to Anne Gaylord for 42 years. They have two adult children and three grandsons with another due just before Synod. Don has been active in the Boy Scouts of America for many years. He currently serves on the District Committee and is an Assistant District Commissioner.

## Charles "Chuck" Palm

A member of TEC since 1980, St. Matthew's Bloomington since 1998. He has been on vestries in three parishes, a Diocesan Convention in Iowa once and seven times in Springfield, and on Diocesan Council. At St. Matthew's he has been a Vestry Member, Parish Warden three times and Rector's Warden three times. He sings in the choir, plays handbells and been involved in Outreach

and Fellowship and is on the Finance Committee. He has been on the Rector Search Committee and has had the honor to be involved in the election process for the 11th Bishop of Springfield.

He and his wife of 34 years, Melody, have two grown children, Justin 24 and Kirsten 22.

## The Rev. Canon George E. Pence, PhD

Fr. Pence is currently serving as the Assisting Priest at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Edwardsville, with the primary focus of his ministry on coordinating the Pastoral Care and Visitation Program of the Parish. In addition he is available to the clergy of the area as a supply priest and is a member of the Search Committee for the 11th Bishop of Springfield.

Prior to his retirement and moving to Edwardsville, Fr. Pence was the Treasurer and Canon Administrator of the Diocese of Quincy, and also served as the Rector of St. John's Episcopal Church in Kewanee, Illinois. While in Quincy, he was a member of the Diocesan Council, and Chairman of the Commission on Ministry for over 10 years, and participated in five Medical Missions to the Dominican Republic. Fr. Pence has served the Church for over 35 yrs.

## The Rev. Keith R. Roderick, DD

Fr. Roderick has served as Rector of St. Andrew's in Carbondale since July 2009. He is a Member of the Commission on Ministry and Chairman of the Department of General Mission Strategy. He was ordained to the Diaconate at the Cathedral of St. Paul, Springfield (June 1986) and to the Priesthood, at St. James Episcopal Church, McLeansboro (October 1986) where he served as leader of a newly formed team-ministry comprised of the missions located in Marion, Harrisonburg, and McLeansboro. He previously was a priest in the Diocese of Quincy where he served as Vicar of St. George's in Macomb from 1987 until 1999. He was Dean of Quincy, Chairman of the Standing Committee, a member of the Commission on Ministry, Diocesan Council, Ecclesiastical Court, Canon Theologian and Canon for Persecuted Christians.

Fr. Roderick was Director of Spoon River College in Macomb and Rushville from 1999 until 2004. He taught Religion and Philosophy from 1988 through 2004. He also taught religion courses at Western Illinois University.

He was Washington Representative for Christian Solidarity International, a Swiss based human rights, from 2004 through 2009 and Secretary General of the Coalition for the Defense of Human Rights, the largest umbrella organization representing ethnic and religious minorities in Muslim dominant countries, from 1982 through the present.

Father Roderick has testified to the Senate and House of Representatives on the issue of religious freedom and human rights concerns of non-Muslim minorities in Islamic countries, as well as meeting with President Bush on US

# SYNOD NOMINEES' BIOGRAPHIES

policy towards Sudan. Father Roderick also served as Executive Director of the Sudan Campaign. His articles on minorities in the Middle East have been published in National Review and The American Thinker, and others. He is a columnist for Africa My Dream: Africa-America International Magazine. Fr. Roderick has spoken internationally on human rights and minority issues and has been interviewed by national and international print, Television and Radio. He was also the Washington Representative for the Anglican Bishop of Iran and the Gulf.

Father Roderick and his wife, Mary Beth, have six children, Seth, Micah, Noah, Sarah, Joseph and Susannah. He received the Bachelor of Arts, University of Illinois in Springfield, Springfield, IL in 1976, having previously earned an Associates from Lincoln Land Community College, Springfield in 1974. In 1980 he received the Master of Divinity, University of Dubuque Theological Seminary, Dubuque, IA, and Certificate of Post-Graduate Studies at Nashotah House in 1986. In 1996, the Board of Trustees of Faith Theological Seminary in Gujranwala, Pakistan awarded him a Doctor of Divinity for his human rights work in the Near East.

## Angela Rowe

Angela D. Rowe (Angie) has been a member of St. Stephen's, Harrisburg since she was confirmed in 1989. She has held many unofficial "jobs" as St. Stephen's is a small mission in the Hale Deanery. Currently, she is on the vestry and oversaw the kitchen remodeling project in 2009. She made her Cursillo at Springfield Diocese's Adam & Eve XXIV and has since served on 2 Cursillo teams. Angie will graduate from the four year Education for Ministry program of the University of the South in May 2011. She runs an interior decorating business, Decorating Den Interiors, and is a member and has been an officer of many clubs and civic organizations. She has been married to her husband Martin for 22 years and they have 1 son, Garrett, who is a high school freshman this year.

## The Rev. Geoffrey

### E. L. Scanlon

Fr. Scanlon came to the United States in 1981 after serving the Church of England for several years. He was made Deacon by the Bishop of Durham in June 1976 and ordained Priest in June 1977. Father Scanlon has been resident in the Diocese of Springfield since November 1987, serving The Church of the Holy Trinity, Danville. Father Scanlon was received into the Episcopal Church through the Diocese of Upper South Carolina in 1981, and has since served in various capacities within our diocese, including Diocesan Council, Area Dean, Commission on Ministry, School of Prayer (workshop leader), Department of Finance, Department of General Mission and Strategy, and as a member of the Strategic Planning Committee.

Father Scanlon has also served on various boards and committees in Danville, and was recently named the principal clergy member of the Provena

United Samaritans Medical Center's Executive Board of Directors.

## Kathie Schmitt

Kathie has been a member of the Episcopal Church for over 20 years, most recently attending The Church of the Holy Trinity in Danville. She was previously a member of St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Sycamore, Illinois. Kathie has served on the Vestry of St. Peter's (Clerk, Vestry Member and Junior Warden) and Holy Trinity (Vestry Member, 2nd year), where she actively participates in services and church functions. Kathie was elected as a lay delegate for the Annual Synod in 2009 and 2010.

Kathie was nominated and accepted as a member of the Election Committee for the Springfield Diocese. She feels it is an honor to serve the Diocese in this capacity. She hopes to increase her participation at the Diocesan level by taking on additional responsibilities.

## Gerry Smith

"Cradle" Episcopalian, baptized and confirmed in the Episcopal Church. Gerry is a member of the Standing Committee, Diocesan Council and Commission on Ministry. He has been a member of Christ the King, Normal since its formation as a mission in 1978 and is serving currently as Parish Warden. He also serves as Chalice Bearer, Sunday School Teacher and member of the church choir. Gerry has served in the past at CTK as Parish Warden (4 times), Rector's Warden (3 times), and served as Bishop's Warden as Christ the King went from Mission to Parish status. He has also served as a youth leader for several years. Gerry recently completed 4 years of serving as a Children's Leader for Bible Study Fellowship in Bloomington, a non-denominational bible study.

Gerry has been a Synod delegate (seven times), Deanery Representative and has previously served one term on Diocesan Council. In 2009 he represented the Diocese as a lay deputy to the 76th General Convention of the Episcopal Church in Anaheim, CA. He made his Cursillo weekend 15 years ago. His wife, Linda, works as the training coordinator for the Childcare Resource and Referral Network in Bloomington. Their children are Gerry, III - 28; Tony - 26; Lindsay - 20; and Ashley - 17.

Gerry has been employed at State Farm Insurance Companies in Bloomington as a Software Solution Developer for the past 9 years. Previously, he was Electrical Maintenance Director at Clinton Power Stations, worked at CPS for 16 years, and is a former Navy Submariner.

## Chuck Stuckey

An Episcopalian since 1983, Chuck has been at St. Matthews in Bloomington since 1999. At previous churches, he was a youth sponsor, youth music leader, Sunday school teacher, choir member, and long range planning committee member. At St. Matthews, Chuck has been in the choir, served on the audit and organ committees, and actively participated in the organ renovation and choir loft lighting projects. Chuck was on the vestry at St. Matthews

2007-2010, serving as Rector's Warden 2009-2010.

An attorney for 30 years, Chuck has worked in State Farm's Corporate Law Department since 1997.

## The Rev. Canon Richard

### A. Swan

Canon Swan first served, in the Diocese of Springfield, as Assisting Priest in the Hale Deanery Team Ministry from June, 1996 through Nov., 1998. He is married to Mary Ann "Marv" and they have two grown daughters and three grandchildren. Fr. Swan served on the Diocesan Council in 1997-98 and represented the Diocese at Provincial Synod. Appointed Chair for Evangelism and Stewardship for Province V, Fr Swan organized a Provincial conference on Evangelism and Stewardship in 2000. From November, 1998 through March of 2004, Fr. Swan served as a Chaplain at a Medium Security Men's Prison North of Columbus, Ohio earning national recognition for innovative religious programming. Currently, he serves as the Canon Missioner, over the five Churches of the Hale Deanery Team Ministry. From October, 2006 to January, 2008 Canon Swan also served as Priest in Charge of St John's, Centralia. Having been elected to The Standing Committee in 2004, he served as President of The Standing Committee in 2008. Canon Swan has served on the Diocesan Council since 2004. In 2006 and 2009 Canon Swan served as Deputy to General Convention and in 2009 he was appointed to the Convention Committee on Churches in Small Communities. From 2004- 2007 Canon Swan served as Chair of the Department of Christian Social Concerns. In the summers of 1997-98 and 2005-06, 2008 and 2010 Canon Swan served as Spiritual Director at The Episcopal Church Camp of Illinois. Canon Swan is active in three Ministerial Alliances and Chairs the Food Pantry Committee for the Saline County Christian Community Compassion Center. He is currently assisting in the establishment of Kairos Prison Ministry at Menard Correctional Institution, Chester, Ill.

## The Very Rev. Gene

### R. Tucker

Father Gene Tucker became Rector of Trinity, Mt. Vernon, on September 1st, 2007, following nearly three years' service as Assisting Priest in the Hale Deanery Team Ministry. After serving Trinity as Rector for four months, he was also assigned as Priest-in-Charge of St. John's, Centralia. He was elected Dean of the Eastern Deanery in September, 2009.

Ordained Deacon by the Rt. Rev. Peter H. Beckwith on June 29th, 2004, and ordained as Priest on March 12th, 2005, Fr. Tucker was elected to serve the Diocese of Springfield as its Secretary at Synod, 2005. Re-elected annually since then, Fr. Tucker believes that the duties that the Secretary of the Diocese undertakes have the hallmarks of a servant ministry, for the Secretary must have the welfare of the entire Diocese, its members and its leadership both, foremost in mind. At the heart

*continued, next page*

## The Springfield Current Contributors Thank You!

The Springfield Current is a ministry of the Department of Communication in the Diocese of Springfield. Your voluntary contributions help to support its being published, printed and distributed. The annual estimated cost for ten issues is \$24,000. If you would like to contribute to this ministry, please send your gift to the Diocesan Center, 821 S. Second Street, Springfield, IL 62704.

During the past month, we've received gifts from the individuals and families listed herein, and are very appreciative of the support. The paper is sent to all members and many friends of our 40 congregations. Following are the most recent Springfield Current contributions.

**Belleville, St. George's**  
Jeanne Shepard

**Carbondale, St. Andrew's**  
Sue L. Casebeer

**Carlville, St. Paul's**  
William J. Ogle

**Centralia, St. John's**  
Rod and Kay White

**Champaign, Chapel of St. John the Divine**  
Rhoda R. Engel

**Champaign, Emmanuel Memorial**  
Hall and Carolyn Maxwell

**Hale Deanery Team Ministry**  
The Very Rev. Canon & Mrs. Richard A. Swan

**Jacksonville, Trinity**  
Frederick E. Nevin

**Pekin, St. Paul's**  
Sandra Budislich

**Springfield, Christ Church**  
Robert W. Dickerman  
Margie Higgason

**Springfield, St. Luke's**  
Alice R. Page

**Friends of the Diocese**  
Dr. Carl and Jeanne Proctor

*Reminder:  
Deadline for the  
next Current is  
October 15!*

# SYNOD NOMINEES' BIOGRAPHIES

of the Secretary's office is the matter of communication, which enables many of the various ministries of the Diocese to go forward. The Secretary is able to assist in quiet and behind-the-scenes ways to advance the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which is the Church's primary mission.

In addition to his duties as Secretary, Fr. Tucker also serves as Spiritual Director for the Jr. High youth retreat, New Beginnings, and assists the Sr. High youth retreat, Happening, as Spiritual Director. He believes that working with young people helps to shape the future of the Church, and it serves to keep him young-at-heart, as well.

Drawing on his military organizational skills, Fr. Tucker has supported the annual Clergy Prelenten Retreat for several years now as its Coordinator, drafting plans for the worship services which occur during the three day retreat.

Fr. Tucker's spouse, Deborah Kinney Tucker, supports a ministry of communication of her own, for she created and maintains two websites: One for Trinity, Mt. Vernon, and the other for the Hale Team Ministry. In addition, Deb serves as Lay Director for the Episcopal Diocese of Springfield Cursillo.

A retired U. S. Army Sergeant Major with 28 years' military service, Fr. Tucker served as an infantryman in the 29th Light Infantry Division, and as a professional singer in the U. S. Army Band (Pershing's Own), Washington, D. C.

Fr. Tucker enjoys riding bicycles for exercise, owns an antique fire truck (which is used for parades), and loves trains (prayer for his wife, please!).

The Tuckers are the proud parents of two daughters, two granddaughters, and a new grandson, born in November, 2009. The new grandson's arrival is proof – in particular – that God answers prayer!

## Frederick P. Velde

Born in 1946., Rick was baptized and confirmed at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Pekin, Illinois. He moved to Springfield, Illinois in 1972 and joined Christ Episcopal Church.

Rick served on the Vestry at Christ Episcopal Church for two terms and has been a member of various ad hoc committees of Christ Episcopal Church. In 1997, Rick was prosecuting attorney for the Diocese of Springfield in the deposition of George Wilcox. In 1998, Rick was recommended by Bishop Peter Beckwith as Chancellor and confirmed by the Synod. Rick has continued as Chancellor of the Springfield Episcopal Diocese since 1998.

Rick and his wife, Carol, have three daughters who were baptized and confirmed at Christ Episcopal Church.

Rick is a partner in the law firm of Heyl, Royster, Voelker & Allen where he has been employed for 32 years and is managing partner of the Springfield office. Rick concentrates in the defense of professional liability cases (malpractice of physicians, accountants, lawyers) and the defense of personal injury lawsuits.

## The Rev. M. C.

### Mollie Ward

*(In her own words)*

I was born in 1967 in Stuttgart, West Germany, the daughter of a US Army soldier and a Czech-German war refugee. Throughout my childhood, which was spent moving back and forth between Europe and "the States" to my father's various military postings, church – and more specifically, the Anglican and Episcopal churches that we attended – was one place I could really call home. No matter that I was perpetually the new kid in the neighborhood – when I went to church I was literally on the same page with everyone else. A favorite family story is of me as a toddler getting my head stuck in the communion rail and a visiting bishop grabbing me by the ears and freeing me with a quick twist. As a child, I participated in all the usual activities – acolyte, choir member, Sunday school student and youth group member. My father retired from the military during my high school years, and I attended the University of Oklahoma, where I earned a bachelor's in journalism. Before beginning that career in earnest, however, I married Greg Shaw, my high school and college sweetheart, and we accepted a call to service in the Peace Corps. We lived and worked for two years in the Dominican Republic in a small town along the border with Haiti. Following our Peace Corps service, Greg and I moved to New York, where he completed his doctoral studies and I worked as a journalist covering the United Nations and the international petroleum markets.

During this time I began to discern a call to the priesthood, and after Greg's graduation, we moved to Illinois, where he accepted a faculty position at Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington and I began studies at Seabury-Western Theological Seminary in Evanston. Our daughter Fiona, who is now nine years old, was born during my middler year in seminary. Shortly after graduation and ordination, I began a residency as a chaplain at what is now Advocate Bro-Menn Medical Center in Normal, and about 18 months later our son Ian, who is now six years old, was born. Although I served as priest associate at St. Matthew's for five years and continue

to serve as a supply priest in various parishes, my primary work was and is in the hospital setting. As manager of spiritual care and clinical pastoral education at Advocate BroMenn, I minister to people in times of illness and grief and train seminarians and clergy in the art of pastoral care. On the diocesan level, I serve as chaplain to the Episcopal Church Women as well as chair of the ECW board's outreach committee, which last year raised almost \$14,000 for its annual outreach projects, 40 percent above goal.

## Ruth Wene

*(In her own words)*

I am 65 years old, and a retired staff

member from the University of Illinois. I have also worked in environmental education and am currently a board member of the Champaign County Forest Preserve District.

I was raised and baptized a Methodist, and then spent 20 years worshipping in the Presbyterian Church. Desiring a more liturgical and intentionally spiritual experience, I began attending St. John the Divine in 2000, and was confirmed in 2004. I have been twice elected to the vestry, and I am currently a synod delegate.

## COMMENTARY

### Reconciliation

*By The Rev. Sherry Black, Chair, Department of Social Concerns*

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God (2 Cor 5: 17-21).

When I was going through the discernment process prior to seminary and ordination, this passage was very meaningful to me. This is what the world needs. This is what people need. They need to be reconciled within themselves. They need to be reconciled to God. And they need to be reconciled to each other. And as Christians we are all to be agents of reconciliation, we all have been given and entrusted with the powerful message of reconciliation. Not just clergy, though we should lead the way, but all Christians, lay and ordained, are called to be reconcilers.

The diocesan survey which was coordinated and tallied by the Election Committee indicates in part that we are looking for our next bishop to be a reconciler, someone to help heal and strengthen our relationships. This seems to be a universal thread throughout the diocese, a deep desire, reflecting our hurts and our wounds—and our hopes.

And yet, in recent weeks our hurts and divisions have resurfaced—through emails and conversations. There has been passion and "piling on" from all sides. And sometimes things have been said that truly shouldn't have been said.

Sometimes things have been sent that truly shouldn't have been sent. I pray that we will all pause and think and pray before we speak and before we hit the "send" button.

I, and we, have been judgmental. I, and we, have been arrogant. I, and we, have been self-righteous. I, and we, have been wrong.

And I wonder just what are we waiting for? For someone to tell us how to be Christians? For someone to tell us how to ask for forgiveness? To tell us how to be reconciled?

I have asked for forgiveness. I have been reconciled. "We" are now okay.

In Matthew 5:23-4, Jesus said that if we are offering our gift at the altar and remember that our brother or sister has something against us, we are to leave our gift before the altar and go. If we have harmed someone, it is our responsibility to make the first move. We are to go to our brother and sister and be reconciled. And then we can freely and in good conscience return and offer our gift.

We don't need to wait for our next Bishop in order to start the healing process. We can begin to be reconciled. We can reach out to those we have hurt. And when we do, we will be laying a strong foundation for the future work of the Diocese of Springfield. And the Holy Spirit will be poured out upon us, and we will be a new and better place for ministry, a healthier place for God to give the increase. When we start healing our divisions, we will be light in the darkness, and people will be attracted to us like moths to flame. We have such a great history, a beautiful liturgy, a potentially powerful witness. There's no good reason we can't have a wonderful future.

As the song says, "Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me." Right here. Right now.

**The Standing Committee of the Diocese of Springfield ~ The Very Rev. Dr. Anthony B. Holder, President**

*Betsy Schroeder, Editor*      **ECW:** Chris DeWitt      **Youth:** Joe Hooten

*The Springfield Current* is published by the Episcopal Diocese in Springfield. Pre-sort standard mail postage paid at Washington, Missouri. Letters, Articles and Photos should be sent to: The Episcopal Diocese of Springfield, C/O The Springfield Current, 821 S. 2nd Street, Springfield, IL 62704 or by e-mail to [editor@episcopalspringfield.org](mailto:editor@episcopalspringfield.org)

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# Diocesan Council Meeting Reports - August 2010

## Department of Christian Social Concerns

This quarter the chair completed a series of articles in the Current on the Episcopal Church as a Postmodern Apologetic.

- Anti Racism Commission – The Rev. Christine C. Hopkins, Chair

In July, the chair of the diocesan anti-racism commission hosted a meeting of the Illinois Christians Encountering Racism, a statewide team of the Illinois Conference of Churches. At the meeting the members of the team recommitted to their work and brainstormed ideas of possible new members. Upcoming ICER events include participating in local venues, such as fairs and picnics, as a publicity tool for trainings that the group sponsors. The next scheduled training sponsored by this ecumenical group will be in February 2011, in Springfield.

- Chemical Dependency Commission - The Rev. Sheryl L. Black, Chair

The members of the commission are available to consult with congregations in the diocese addressing problems related to substance abuse by laity and members of the clergy.

- Ministry to the Incarcerated

This year there has been an effort to expand Kairos Prison Ministry in the State of Illinois. Kairos has been active in the past at Lincoln Correctional and at Taylorville. Currently the ministry serves Statesville Correctional in Joliet and the women of Dwight Correctional. There is also a Kairos Outside ministering to the adult female loved ones of the incarcerated in Illinois. Menard Correctional is a Maximum Security Prison that has had no major programming in twenty years due to the brutal attack upon a female volunteer there at that time. The administration has invited Kairos to come in after learning about the success of this Ministry from the new Director, Michael Randall. There are three Diocesan members on the first team currently forming for the inaugural weekend scheduled to begin this Christian Community presence on Thursday the 23rd of September. They are Frs. Tim Goodman and Dick Swan of the Hale Deanery, and Gerry Smith of Christ the King, Normal. The team members are collecting prayerfully home baked cookies and posters from Sunday school classes to take into the prison in September, as well as monetary support for this ministry. While the normal recidivism rate in the U.S. for those released from prison is over 65%, the thirty year experience of Kairos is that Kairos Graduates have about a 15% recidivism rate. Kairos works. Please contact Frs. Goodman and Swan, or Mr. Gerry Smith with any questions about this dynamic ministry that will go into Menard every six months, and please pray for this first weekend, September 23-26th.

*Respectfully submitted,*  
The Rev. Sheryl L. Black, Chair

## Commission on Ministry

The Commission will meet after this meeting to receive the report of the Examining Chaplains on two of the exams conducted this past spring. We will also discuss our recommendation of candidacy for one of our postulants who has been studying.

By an email vote the commission decided to fill a vacancy left by the departure of Fr. Lewis with Fr. David Halt from St. Matthew's, Bloomington.

Ecumenical Relations - No Report  
*Respectfully submitted,*  
Canon Eugene A. Stormer

## Department of Youth Work

The Youth Department ended the year slowly with the cancellation of the Happening weekend due to insufficient number of candidates.

But the new year began with the filling of a bus with kids and adults for the Youth Quake event in Ashville, NC. The

event was fantastic. The only negative was having to detour to avoid the landslide that had closed off the highway.

On February 19-21, 2010, we held a New Beginnings weekend at Camp Epworth, in Louisville, Ill. Again, we had a great weekend for teens and tweens.

In March we had to cancel the Happening weekend in Belleville at St. George's Episcopal Church due to lack of participation.

On April 24, St Johns Episcopal Church sponsored a training session for youth ministers. Youth ministers from Bloomington, Decatur, and Belleville attended and had the opportunity to share with each other.

On April 30 and May 1, many youth from around the diocese attended the Agape Festival in Greenville, Ill. Greenville College sponsored the Agape Festival—a weekend of listening to Christian bands' music and their sharing of their walks with their God.

On June 6 through 12, the Youth Department sponsored the Diocese of Springfield Work Week. A group of six teens and two adults worked on various projects around the Metro East St. Louis area. The team worked in two separate areas. For two days they scraped and painted a youth community center in Sparta, IL. Then, for the next two days, the team teamed with the 1st Presbyterian Church group out of Fairview Heights, cleaning up several overgrown and trashed lots in East St. Louis.

On June 27 through July 3, our diocese sponsored Church Camp at East Bay Camp, north of Bloomington/Normal in conjunction with the Diocese of Quincy. The number of campers was down quite a bit from previous years. Hopefully we can talk up the camp in future years.

The New Beginnings weekend had to be cancelled due to the lack of participation. The next New Beginnings is scheduled for February at Epworth Camp in Louisville, Ill.

And, in November, we plan to schedule the next Happening. This time, the Happening will be held up north. The parishes being asked to possibly sponsor the event are St. John's, Decatur and the Cathedral in Springfield.

*Respectfully submitted,*  
Joe Hooten

## ECW

The Diocesan ECW Board met on July 24 at St. Michael's, O'Fallon for their Annual Planning meeting.

Plans for the Lenten Retreat in March 2011 were the main topic of discussion. The presentation this year will be based on Richard Foster's book Celebration of Discipline. We will once again use multiple presenters from within the diocese. We also are hopeful that Henry Evans will again be available so we can have a celebration of hymns.

We found it necessary to raise room costs moderately to cover the increases at Todd Hall. We will not cut back on the scholarships we offer. Registration forms and additional information will be available at Synod. We are excited as we prepare for this event which will be fun and enriching.

A report received from our Outreach Projects last year showed we raised \$12,351.22 for the Jewish World Watch (Solar Heaters) and \$1,559.22 for Remembering Hearts fund for a total of \$13,910.44. It was also noted that we expect this number to continue to rise as donations are still coming in.

CPC and UTO reported on their successful in-gatherings this year.

Discussion again was concerning the difficulty in communicating with the local churches. This year our watch word will be REDUNCY and you will hear and see things many times as reminders to get involved, support, and share time, talent and treasure.

Dates to note:

Sept. 26, 2010 – Suggested date for the churches Fall UTO Ingathering  
Oct. 8 – 9, 2010 – Diocesan Synod and Fall UTO Ingathering, Champaign, Ill.  
March 25 – 27, 2011 – ECW Lenten Retreat at Todd Hall, Columbia, Ill.  
April 17, 2011 – Suggested date for the churches Spring UTO Ingathering  
April 30, 2011 – ECW Annual Meeting and Spring UTO Ingathering at St. Matthew's, Bloomington  
May 13 – 15, 2011 – ECW Province V Meeting at Columbus, Ohio

ECW Website: <http://mysite.verizon.net/ecw.board.springfield/>

*Respectfully submitted,*  
Chris DeWitt, President, ECW Diocese of Springfield

## Department of Stewardship

The Stewardship Department has met electronically this quarter. We have submitted an article for publication in the Springfield Current, and it appears on page 12.

Last year the Department of Christian Education and the Department of Evangelism and Spiritual Enrichment co-sponsored a similar resolution and the Diocesan Council endorsed it.

We again ask for the Council's endorsement.

WHEREAS, God calls us in Scripture to recognize that all we are and all we have has come from a gracious giver of all things; and

WHEREAS, we are not our own but "were bought with a price" (1 Corinthians 6:20); and

WHEREAS, a steward is a manager of property that belongs to another; and

WHEREAS, Holy Scripture and numerous resolutions passed by General Convention commend the principle of returning a tenth of one's income (tithing) to God through His church as a part of being responsible stewards of God's property entrusted to us; and

WHEREAS, God promises to "throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it" for those who "test [Him] in this."—Malachi 3:10

WHEREAS, the 131st Synod and the 132nd Synod of the Diocese of Springfield passed similar resolutions commending the biblical tithe as an important and vital element of being faithful Christians.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 133rd Synod of the Diocese of Springfield hereby commends the Biblical standard of the tithe to all members of the diocese as a vital element of being faithful Christians.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 133rd Synod encourages all members of the diocese who have not yet adopted the tithe as part of their personal financial commitment to God to move toward the tithe with all deliberate speed by giving to God a larger percentage of their income in each of the next two years with the firm purpose of achieving the tithe by A.D. 2012.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 133rd Synod expects God to pour out his blessings upon His faithful people in the Diocese of Springfield as they put God to the test in the matter of the tithe.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 133rd Synod challenges all clergy, vestries, and bishop's committees to adopt a similar resolution in each congregation.

*Respectfully submitted,*  
The Very Rev. Brian Kellington, chairman

## Standing Committee Report

During the period June to August 2010, the Standing Committee:

1. Deliberated and consented to the following pertaining to the Diocesan Episcopal Election:
  - Format and Distribution of the Synod Notebook (Nominees' Booklet) that was

presented to the Clerical and Lay Delegates of Synod

- Format and Distribution of the DVDs of Nominees' responses to questions
- Authorized background checks of the nominees, upon their consent, to be carried out by Oxford Document Management Company, Anoka, MN
- Selection of Continuing Committees, Chaplain of the Synod, Parliamentarian, Tellers, Registration Personnel
- Voting Procedures and Vote Counting
- Walkabouts – Venues, Time, Format, Video Recordings, Itinerary, Travel and Hotel Accommodation Arrangements pertaining to the Candidates and their Spouses, Assimilation of Questions

2. Accepted the resignation of Mr. Keith Carter, and appointed Mr. Ivan McCrary as the Mission Warden of St. John's, Centralia

3. Renewed the assignment of the Reverend Dr. Thomas W. Langford, as Assisting Deacon to Trinity Church, Jacksonville, for a period of one year

4. Assisted Trinity Episcopal Church, Lincoln, in their process of seeking to acquire an Interim Rector

5. Consented to:
  - The Celebration of New Ministry of The Reverend Canon Dale D. Coleman as Rector of St. George's, to be held on Sunday, July 25, 2010 at 4:00 p.m. in St. George's Episcopal Church, Belleville, Illinois

- The marital judgments of The Reverend Dale D. Coleman and The Rev. M. Joan Garcia, and Tracey Lawrence and Frederick Summers

- Exploring the possibility of selling two pieces of property owned by St. Thomas Episcopal Church

6. Consented to the Election and Consecration of the following Bishops-elect:

- The Rev. Dr. Michael Louis Vono – Diocese of the Rio Grande

- The Very Rev. Mark Andrew Latimer - Diocese of Alaska

- The Rev. Canon Scott B. Hayashi – Diocese of Utah

7. Did not consent to the Election and Consecration of the following Bishop-elect:

- The Very Rev. Terry Allen White - Diocese of Kentucky

8. Accepted the resignation of The Very Reverend John C. Bettmann, Rector of St. Paul's, Carlinville and Vicar of St. Peter's, Chesterfield, which will become effective from January 1, 2011

*Respectfully submitted,*  
The Very Reverend Dr. Anthony B. Holder, President, Standing Committee

## Communications Committee

The Communications Committee has three main updates.

1. The communications chair assisted Fr. Holder in developing a media contact list and editing a press release regarding the Nominating Synod. Fr. Holder should be commended for posting vital information about the election process on the Diocese's Website. The present and upcoming versions of the Current also will heavily emphasize news surrounding the election process.

2. Betsy Schroeder, editor of the Current, also now has a license to administer the Website. She was responsible for posting live ballot results during the Nominating Synod, allowing anyone with access to the Internet to follow the process as it unfolded. She also has been making slight adjustments to the Website as requests come to us. We are hoping to take some of the Web updating burden off of Fr. Holder's shoulders while he focuses on his Standing Committee duties.

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3. Meanwhile, most of our energy has been spent thinking about the Current's future. The Communications Committee released a survey during the summer to the Current's readers. Participants were encouraged to either fill out and mail a survey printed on the last page of the June issue or fill out the same survey online. Surveys results were taken up through August. Survey questions focused on three main issues: look, style & frequency of the Current; the content of the current; and delivery system of the Current (mail, email, Web). Roughly 2,200 copies of the Current are printed ten times a year, including multiple copies sent to congregations. It is somewhat disappointing, but not entirely unexpected, that survey returns were very low. We received a total of eight surveys in the mail while 19 people filled out surveys online. This might suggest that there is generally not a great deal of enthusiasm or interest in the Current, or, at the very least, apathy toward it. On the other hand, submissions came from all corners of the diocese, suggesting that it maintains a wide reach and has the capability of touching people throughout the diocesan community. Current readers from Champaign to Edwardsville, from larger cities such as Springfield to smaller ones such as Mt. Vernon and Moro, filled out surveys. For present purposes, it's interesting to note that a large majority support or highly support a redesigned Current that perhaps could be printed on a bi-monthly or even quarterly basis. As one might suspect, Internet survey participants favored an e-mail or Web version of the Current, while print respondents favored a print version.

We conclude that some print version is still desirable, though perhaps we can experiment with a reduced circulation and print schedule. Meanwhile, there also is interest in providing more information online among some in the diocese. We also believe it is important to consult the new Bishop and the council before moving forward with any changes. The goal would be to consult with him and others so that we can have a revitalized Current by 2011. What follows is a brief summary of the survey highlights. Please feel free to request a copy of the full results, which I'd be more than happy to share with you. Otherwise, please continue to suggest any ideas regarding the Current and the website.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Pete Sherman, Chairperson*

## Hale Deanery Report to Council

**St. Andrew's, Carbondale** - St. Andrew's celebrated the Feast of the Ascension with a joint evening prayer service with St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church and Emmanuel Lutheran Church. The parish participated in deanery wide game night with the Marion Miners Baseball team. We had over 70 persons purchase tickets for the evening. The second in a series of Canterbury Forums was held in May with the topic being the Christians of Egypt. Three more will be offered during the autumn.

Acolyte and Server Training was offered in June as well as an Instructed Eucharist during the regular Sunday

morning mass. Also during the summer, the storage shed attached to the Parish Hall was resided and roof repairs were completed.

A dedication of Our Lady of Grace shrine is being planned for late August. Canterbury Fellowship will begin meeting on August 29, the first Sunday following the beginning of SIU's fall semester.

**St. James', McLeansboro** - During the summer months St James' has begun a 9am Adult forum before the Holy Eucharist each Sunday. On our Patronal Feast we gathered together and had an Instructed Eucharist.

**St. James', Marion** - The Men of St James' came together on the 1st of May for the monthly breakfast to begin the book, "Why Men Hate going to Church." Jeanette Stafford died and the church came together to support her husband, Donald. The ladies of St. James' hosted a luncheon reception following her Memorial Mass. The ECW held a meeting on May 20th with a presentation of Hands of Hope and presented a contribution of \$50. St James' membership presented \$200 to the Lighthouse Shelter and another \$200 to the Marion Ministerial Alliance from the proceeds of the chicken BBQ fundraiser held in April. On the 11th of June the men of St. James' came together for study and then proceeded with a Saturday work day to complete outdoor and yard projects. As pictured in The Current, the women gathered that same day for a day of fellowship on the Shawnee Wine Trail. Two of St. James' members, Brook Shepherd and Henry Kammerer, made their Cursillo weekend at Todd Hall. The women of St. James' came together for a work day in the parish house on the 24th of June. Anthony Van Buskirk went to church camp this year. St. James' parish came together for a neighborhood ice cream social on Saturday July 10th. Then, from the 19th to the 23rd, the people of St. James' presented the VBS program, "Water Works" with 10-11 children each evening that week. The celebration of our Patronal feast included a cake at the coffee fellowship after Mass on the 25th.

**St. Mark's, West Frankfort** - The second Sunday Kidz Klub has continued through the summer. Beginning on July 25th St. Mark's began hosting The God & Me Program. This program is designed to teach both Boy and Girl Scouts about their relationship with God and ultimately earn their religion medal and knot.

**St. Stephen's, Harrisburg** - St. Stephen's hosted the Deanery Ultreya on the Feast of Pentecost. The Bishop's Committee decided to split half of the Italian Feast proceeds between CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates for children) and the Guardian Center, a charitable service to abused children. In June, two of St. Stephen's members, Cheri King and Debbie Williams, made their Cursillo weekend together at Todd Hall. Two youth from St. Stephen's went to church camp this year, Garrett Rowe and Ben Sheldon. Martin Rowe volunteered to be a first time counselor at camp. On July 16th the parish family came together to celebrate the life of Frank Conci, a founding member of St. Stephen's.

**Redeemer, Cairo** - There were 23 people at the Pentecost Holy Eucharist. This was quite a change over the past 10 years. The combined worship with Immanuel ELCA has necessitated the purchase of a new organ. The family of the Church of the Redeemer came together on the 6th of June to celebrate the life of Penny Steinert-Jackson. Penny died on Pentecost Sunday after years of struggle with her health. She was an inspiration to many.

## Eastern Deanery Report to Council

**Deanery** - The clergy and candidates for ordained ministry continue to meet quarterly in Clericus for a time of worship, prayer and fellowship. Our most recent meeting was held in May, and the next meeting will be held on Monday, September 13th. Fr. Tom Davis, Vicar at St. Thomas' Church, Salem has graciously served as host.

The rite of Confirmation will also be conferred at St. Thomas', Salem by the Rt. Rev. Donald J. Parsons, Assisting Bishop, on Sunday, September 12th. Fr. Davis and the people of St. Thomas have offered to extend an opportunity to members of the Eastern and Hale Deaneries to receive the laying-on-of-hands by Bishop Parsons at that time.

Trinity, Mt. Vernon, is extending an invitation to the members of St. John's, Centralia, and to St. Thomas', Salem to attend their Parish Picnic on Sunday, September 19th.

*Respectfully submitted,  
The Very Rev. Gene R. Tucker, Dean*

**St. John's, Albion** - It seems as though we have had several things going since the reassignment of Fr. Tucker and the sub assignment of Deacon Bill Howard to St. John's, Albion. We are blessed to still be able to have services each Sunday, and we know that not all churches are so fortunate.

Confirmation was held for several confirmands, including one from St. John's, Richard Tribe, at Trinity in Mt. Vernon, by Bishop Parsons.

Deacon Howard made arrangements to take home communion to two parishioners on a regular basis on Sunday after church who can no longer get to morning services.

In preparation of Deacon Howard's previously planned vacation, we had four members of our church be interested in taking training to become licensed Lay Worship Leaders. Fr. Tucker was in charge of the training session. We have also had two more become interested in becoming Lectors, making a total of six persons who would be available to read the Old and New Testament lessons and the Psalms. We also had a special service to bless an icon of the Virgin Mary, donated to St. John's by Richard Tribe. The service was well attended for being in the evening, and everyone having to travel.

We continue to collect canned goods for donation to the Hope Center, and small prizes for the residents of Rest Haven for Bingo prizes, or as they choose. At Easter time, small goodie bags with candy and a hand-crocheted angel were given to residents of the nursing home, as well as candy treats for employees. Plans continue for those ministries to continue, as well as additional treat bags at Christmas. Richard

has volunteered to go play the piano once a week for residents also.

Memorial monies have been used to purchase a few 1982 Hymnals when we can find them at a reasonable price. We are blessed to have three new families who have been instrumental with ideas, helping hands, and enthusiasm. With all of us together, we have new gravel on the parking lot, major window repair done, new patio steps, more flowers planted, solar lights along the walk, touch up painting, repair of the vestment chest, and more plans for cleaning and repair workdays soon.

On October 2nd, St. John's will again take part in Heritage Days of Albion, and our church will be on display with photos, old historical information, pamphlet giveaways, and refreshments. Fr. Tucker will be on hand, as well as several members, to field questions and guide as needed.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Mr. Holly Scherer*

**St. John's, Centralia** - This summer season has been a busy time for the people of St. John's, Centralia.

Our Mission Warden, Mr. Ivan McCrary, and his son, Sean, have been very busy attending to the physical fabric of our building. In July, this father and son team tackled a leaking roof by ascending a tall ladder to reseal the northeast corner of the roof where it joins onto the wall. Once this work was accomplished, and subsequent rains confirmed that the repair was successful, the McCrarys began to repair interior plastering that had been damaged by the invasion of rain water. This work began during the week of August 9th, and is expected to continue in succeeding weeks.

St. John's has been blessed by the presence of new worshippers who have moved to the area. Attendance has increased as a result. St. John's members continue to show extraordinary devotion and faithfulness in attendance at worship.

Our outreach ministries continue. This past spring, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Walsh spearheaded an effort to involve the church in a feeding program which is held at Calumet Christian Church. St. John's "day" to lead this effort is always the third Thursday of each month. Large numbers of persons in need are fed a hot meal as part of this program. We also continue to supply canned goods and other non-perishables to local food banks.

We have also experienced a deep sense of loss at the passing of one of our long term members, Mrs. Marguerite (Peggy) Ulen, who entered into life eternal on Saturday, July 25th. Peggy's funeral service and burial were held in Springfield, Massachusetts. St. John's will give thanks for her life and her presence among us at a memorial service in the near future.

Finally, as we look toward the fall, we are planning to resume our Thursday evening study series by using the "Alpha" series.

*Respectfully submitted,  
The Very Rev. Gene R. Tucker, Priest-in-Charge*

**St. Laurence, Effingham** - St. Laurence Church is located at 505 West Franklin Street. Three families and Fr. Fackler and his wife compose the congregation. All four families are almost always in attendance at our 8:00 A. M. Sunday morning Eucharist.

Our stewardship is routine - keep the bills paid and keep the building and the property clean, neat, and well maintained. This past year we had to have part of our concrete driveway replaced, and had an up-to-code electrical fuse box installed.

We have three small gardens that border our parking lot at the rear of the church. On Sunday mornings we are greeted by and enjoy the beauty of the various flowers, shrubs, and ornamental grasses that happen to be in bloom that week.

Occasionally we have visitors who wor-

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ship with us on Sunday mornings. We also have our share of local people and travelers who drop by on Sunday mornings seeking financial help. We collect dry goods and canned food which we take to the FISH organization for them to distribute to people in need.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Mrs. Carolyn Pogue, Bishop's  
Warden*

**St. John the Baptist, Mt. Carmel** - We have had a quiet summer at St. John the Baptist. Many parishioners have been on vacation. Progress has been made on the Undercroft renovation. A couple of new faces have been present for services on Sundays. We are looking forward to resuming our adult study and children's Christian education studies in September. May God continue to pour down His blessings upon us.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Mr. Don Kensell, Rector's Warden*

**Trinity, Mt. Vernon** - Trinity's Wednesday morning study group, formally known as the "Informal Discussion Group", but informally known as the "Happy Wanderers" (because of the frequent tendency to wander off the subject into any area of inquiry that may be presented) continued to meet throughout the summer months. Currently in the midst of a New Testament survey, the group is currently studying St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians. This group has also undertaken a new intercessory prayer ministry, making use of prayer requests from congregants in the prayer time which closes each study session.

Attendance at Sunday services continues to be at a higher level than that of a year ago. We are thankful for the faithfulness of our church family! Our outreach ministries continue, as we support Mt. Vernon's shelter, the Hope in Christ Ministries, with financial support and by collecting canned goods and other non-perishables for distribution at their food pantry. We also continue to support a local collective ministry known as Angels on Assignment with financial support. As funds are available, we also meet the needs of those who come to the door seeking help. In these cases, care is taken to provide assistance and support in a manner which is appropriate, and in a manner in which the assistance cannot be diverted to other purposes. We are going to participate in the building of a handicapped ramp for a needy family in Mt. Vernon in the fall. Already, several church members have signed up to help with this project.

Trinity has undertaken a years-long effort to attend to a number of improvement projects to its physical plant. Some of these projects fell into the "deferred maintenance" category. Recently, we have replaced the carpeting in the Parish Hall. The old carpeting was about 20 years old, and the improvement to the Parish Hall has been dramatic.

We held a deferred Rogation Day work party in June. Since the weather didn't allow for work outside, the many parishioners who assisted concentrated their efforts on interior projects. A good bit of "spring cleaning" was accomplished in the process. One aspect of the work that got done enabled the work of replacing the Parish Hall carpeting to proceed more smoothly. Our evening midweek study series will resume in the fall, using the "Alpha" series.

*Respectfully submitted,  
The Very Rev. Gene R. Tucker, Rector*

**St. Mary's, Robinson** - St. Mary's is an active congregation "Serving God" and "Serving Others" as the t-shirts we wear when we participate in community events proclaim.

May was the inaugural month for our newsletter, St. Mary's Messenger, which allows us to keep up with important events coming up at church as well as in the community and the families of our

parishioners.

The deacon is present each Wednesday and we have Noon Prayers followed by a sack lunch and a time for sharing. In August we added Morning Prayer to our schedule. We share the responsibilities of officiating as our goal is to have all persons familiar with and using the BCP. We were blessed with a gift of 20 BCP's from St. Michael's O'Fallon and now all parishioners have access to a copy and are encouraged to learn its contents and use it for personal as well as corporate services.

In June Father Tucker came up and we celebrated a baptism with a joyful service followed by dessert and a time of sharing. It was a wonderful time for the congregation to get to know Fr. Tucker. There were 21 present.

June also saw our first ever service at the Hutsonville Cabins, a local historical site. We did an Evening Prayer service at 6 pm using the BCP. There were 17 persons present, many who experienced Episcopal worship for the first time. It was a great time, in spite of the heat and mosquitoes, as we enjoyed the services of an old pump organ and were able to sing hymns that were familiar to all.

July attendance was steady with 17 being the average. We began preparation for confirmation in September. At this time we have four candidates. August also has been a busy month. We celebrated the feast day of our patron Saint Mary on the 16th, with a hymn sing followed by cake and ice cream. All enjoyed the hymn sing - our objective was to become familiar with some new hymns not sung in our small congregation, especially those associated with the Advent season. A good time was had by all and we look forward to another hymn sing in the future. At the present time we are also looking into participating in tutoring as part of the Adult Learning Partners in Crawford County.

As always we have had some difficulties. One family of four has recently moved from Illinois into Indiana. We will miss them greatly. Also as the school year has begun we have seen some of our faithful teenagers out of state as well. Our spirits remain high and with God's leading we look forward to new opportunities and blessings.

*Respectfully submitted,  
The Rev. Ann Tofani, Assisting  
Deacon*

**St. Thomas, Salem** - Over the summer months of 2010, life at St. Thomas has been a bit quieter than usual. Attendance at the Sunday Holy Eucharist is averaging 29, which, when combined with Home Communion for our six shut-in people, indicates that weekly care is being provided to about 78% of our active congregation of 45 persons. In July, Fr. Davis began a confirmation class of six total sessions for three ladies, two of whom will be confirmed on September 12th and one of whom will be received on that date.

The "St. Fiace" guild continued its good work at maintaining and improving the gardens at St. Thomas. They meet together every Friday morning from 9 AM to noon and individual members will work one or two other periods to keep the appearance of the gardens up to snuff. Currently, St. Thomas maintains fourteen individual memorial gardens on the property, ranging from very small 12 - 16 square feet to fairly large 600 square foot areas. The members of the congregation are extremely proud of these gardens and are very supportive of the St. Fiace Guild.

In early July, St. Thomas held a burial service for long time member Dr. D. Homer Buck, who passed away at the end of April and was cremated at that time. For many years, Dr. Buck was the Fisheries Biologist at the research facility located at Forbes Lake, in Marion County and was a world-recognized authority on Aquaculture. He published his final paper in January of 2010

on the topic of using the Asian Carp that is so destructive in the Mississippi River region to provide the world's poor with an adequate source of protein.

Seminarian Jeff Kosuszek, having passed his canonical exams, continues to serve well as the Vicar's assistant. The members of the church look forward with eagerness to his ordination to the diaconate as he continues along his journey into the priesthood. The Vicar, Fr. Davis, will be retiring as of December 1, 2010 and is commencing coursework through the University of Illinois Extension to learn about, preserve, and teach about the Illinois natural environment. It is his hope that he can subsequently serve God in a dual role of Priest-Naturalist.

*Respectfully submitted,  
The Rev. Thomas A. Davis, Vicar*

## Northwest Deanery Report to Council

**St. Paul's, Carlinville** - Our parish is recruiting actively for another academic year in the Education for Ministry program, an extension lay formation program by the University of the South. This is provided for members of the community as well as our own church. On November 5th and 6th we are hosting a healing mission in our community led by the Rev Canon Gary and the Rev. Judith Dalmasso. The vestry is considering options for our life together during the interim after our rector retires on January 1st.

**St. John's, Decatur** - No report.

**Christ Church, Springfield** - Christ Church continues to grow, as three new families have joined since the Fall of 2009. Additionally, Fr. Tournoux performed two wedding ceremonies and one baptism in 2009. We continue to offer two Holy Eucharist, Rite II worship services every Sunday (at 8:00 a.m. and 10:15 p.m.) with child care provided during both services, and a Holy Eucharist with Healing service at 12:15 p.m. every Wednesday. On the last Sunday of every month we provide a Morning Prayer and Holy Eucharist I service at 10:15 a.m.

In our continued goal to build-up a team of acolytes who are well-trained and enjoy serving Jesus Christ and His church, a fourth series of acolyte ministry training will be conducted this Fall to serve as a refresher course for existing acolytes, and as an instructional course for new acolytes. Additionally, the Prayer Group continues to meet every Monday morning at the home of one of our parishioners. Further discipleship, equipping, and various other ministries this past year include:

- Contact Ministry - team invites guests to visit our Welcome Center after service for refreshments and a gift. A follow-up visit to any local guests is made within 36 hours, to bring them a loaf of fresh-baked bread;
- Discipleship/Mentoring Group - two groups meet weekly. Currently Fr. Tournoux is teaching "How to Live the Christian Life - Experience Kingdom Living - How to Overcome the World";
- Lay Eucharistic Visitors Cell - (9 members) - met in October for continued training. Cell members take Home Communion to our shut-ins on a regular basis;
- Rector's Forum - weekly teachings on "The Daily Prayer Guide";
- Rector's Reflections - current series in the Tidings Newsletter teaching on the evangelization of Postmoderns through holistic cell groups;
- Sunday School - concluded this season on Youth Sunday, May 9th. As such, our youth participated by providing the sermon, reading lessons, helping to greet and usher, sharing some thoughts, and providing special music at the 10:15 a.m. worship service. On average, there were 20

youth who attended Sunday School classes this past season;

- Sunday School Cell Group Facilitator's Leadership Community Training - (7 participants) - bi-monthly meetings involving vision, huddle, and on-going skill training;
- Transformation Group - (core visionary team of 14 participants) - meets monthly, and remains in the process of learning and being equipped to be the type of leaders to re-develop and renew our Church. Participants are currently studying the Biblical principles for building the Kingdom of God; and
- Vestry - meets monthly with each meeting consisting of the Upward, Inward, Outward, and Outward (U.I.O.F.) values of cell life.

Last year, our youngest Sunday school cell adopted a six-year-old girl from Tanzania through "Compassion Ministries." This ministry helps impoverished children around the world. The youth cell has been sending prayers, monetary support, letters and pictures to this child on a regular basis. Other events this past year include: Trick-or-Treating for UNICEF; collecting donations for the Inner City Mission where the youth were able to serve the residents a special dinner accompanied by an assortment of cookies and other baked goods for dessert; and the Annual Easter Egg Hunt. On Youth Sunday, our youth provided the sermon, read lessons, helped usher, shared some of their thoughts, and provided special music at our 10:15 a.m. worship service. Furthermore, the Sunday school facilitators were taken out to dinner this past summer to show appreciation for their involvement in the lives of our youth.

In an effort to keep our shut-ins connected to the church, the Parish Office mails them a weekly newsletter which provides the readings, hymns, special announcements, and Fr. Tournoux's corresponding Sunday sermon. The ECW Guilds also deliver fresh-baked cookies and other treats during the holidays.

Other outreach projects this past year include collecting donations for Breadline Sunday, M.E.R.C.Y. Communities, United Thank Offering, and Crop Walk.

**St. Luke's, Springfield** - We have had an exciting summer at St. Luke's. 12 campers from St. Luke's attended the 2010 Episcopal Church Camp at Lake Bloomington. The Church was again able to supply all fees and costs of transportation for the campers. Friends from Christ the King, Normal, provided lunch for the trip home.

Our annual Vacation Bible School, held July 19-24, was attended by 72 different children, 38 of whom had not previously been involved in our Church programs. We had a tremendous group of adult volunteers to help with teaching and crafts, and some extra volunteers to help with our field trip to Knight's Action Park. Volunteers from Episcopal Food Ministries served over 500 meals in the course of the week, including a special dinner following the Saturday Eucharist to which all parents were invited.

Fifty-four children were part of the field trip, for which we rented two school buses. The young people had a marvelous time.

Church School will begin again in September, with the expectation that a number of new pupils will be incorporated from among our VBS participants. Our Sunday meal program has continued throughout the summer, and will be a part of our program in the fall.

It is hard to list all of the joys that come out of this ministry, but often the young people can encapsulate best what we are about. One girl put the following on her VBS poster - "My church is a place where anyone is welcome - and a place to help people."

*continued*

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St. Luke's is truly a place that welcomes everyone -- not just with a sign that says that, but with actions that show the all-consuming and transforming love of Christ. The way that Christ is known, followed and shared is the secret, if there is one, to the God-given increases that we have seen.

Plans are underway to re-roof the Church. A contract has been signed and we are awaiting a date for the work to begin from the contractor. The total cost is being borne by the congregation.

Arrangements have also been made for the demolition of the house behind the Church as a first step for preparing the site for new construction.

Pledge and other income are continuing at a pace in excess of budget projections, making possible improvements both in program and facilities.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Shawn W. Denney, Vicar*

No further reports from individual churches in the deanery have been received to date. At the end of this synod I will no longer be the Dean of the Northwestern Deanery due to my retirement on January 1, 2011.

*Yours in Christ,  
The Very Reverend John C. Bettmann,  
Dean*

## Northeastern Deanery Report to Council

### Emmanuel Memorial Church, Champaign

- It has been a good and profitable year at Emmanuel Church. Although we have seen the death of several much beloved and active members, we have seen modest growth in new individuals and families. Church attendance has remained strong and has even grown a bit. Although we began the year with a projected budget deficit, we ended the year with a \$35,000 budget surplus. We have undertaken major upgrades in our building and grounds. The beautiful parish grounds are a major part of our evangelism effort. We completed a new pictorial directory this year. Our youth group is thriving under the able leadership of Deacon Chris Hopkins and our youth mentors (graduates of our youth program who are now college students or college graduates). This past year we embarked on using the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Sunday School curriculum. This year, we were able to add over \$ 20,000 to our endowment for youth ministry. This has gone very well. We continue to pursue outreach ministry on a daily basis through our sack lunch program and on a weekly basis through our food delivery from our food pantry. We sponsored a "food-give-away" by purchasing two tons of food which was given out to the needy. A recent audit of our books showed that we have donated \$ Two million one hundred sixty seven thousand dollars to outreach ministries in the last twenty years. We are grateful for all of the gifts of God's Grace that we share as a parish church, and look forward to being good stewards of God's Grace in the future as we pray we have been in years past.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Wardens and Rector of Emmanuel  
Memorial Church*

**St. John the Divine, Champaign** - The completed Chapel continues to be a vehicle for outreach. It has become a favorite venue for musical performances by various community and university groups, and our own Lenten series of noonday organ recitals continues to grow in popularity.

A series of post-Easter dinners hosted by parishioners has raised funds for Episcopal Relief and Development in aid of the Millennium Development Goals. We look forward to continued efforts in that direction during Advent.

Our student constituency continues

to exercise leadership at the national level. Rebecca Greenlee is the most recent in a series of students who have been part of the Episcopal Student Leadership Team, which plans the biennial National Student Gathering. A recent graduate, Brett Bravo, is spending the year with the Episcopal Young Adult Service Corps. The National Gathering will be held in Estes Park, Colorado, over the winter break. We will travel by Amtrak with other attendees from Province V.

We have been challenged this year by a number of health emergencies among our members. The response of our members to each others needs has been a visible witness to the strength and importance of Christian community.

Our fall choral season got off to a glorious start with a Solemn Evensong sung by our choir together with the visiting choir of St. George's Episcopal Church, Nashville, Tennessee. Several of our choristers have earned ribbons from the Royal School of Church Music. They enjoyed their sessions at choir camp.

This fall marks the 100th anniversary of our ministry on the campus of the University of Illinois. We are grateful for innumerable blessings over those years. We look forward to hosting the 133rd Diocesan Synod, together with our friends at Emmanuel. We will also be hosting the fall meeting of the Province V University Chaplains in October.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Timothy J. Hallett*

### St. Christopher Episcopal Church, Rantoul

- St. Christopher's vicar is Rev. Steve Thorp and assisting deacon is Rev. Ann Alley. Our Sunday attendance averages about 20.

Sara Orr was confirmed by Bishop Peter Beckwith on October 25, 2009.

St. Christopher's holds two annual bazaars. The Fall Bazaar was held in November, 2009; the Spring Bazaar was held in March of 2010. Both bazaars were successful and lots of fun.

Our church again participated in "Operation Christmas Child" (Christmas '09), where participants fill a shoebox with non-perishable gifts for a child. The boxes are then shipped around the world and given to kids who have next to nothing.

Our annual Epiphany Party was celebrated on January 6, 2010 in the English tradition. This tradition has been going on at St. Christopher for many years. It is hosted by Margaret Orr, who was born and raised in England.

Three of our youth attended YOUTH-QUAKE January 15-17, 2010. They had a great time and came back with very encouraging reports.

Five ladies from St. Christopher attended the annual ECW Lenten Retreat February 19-21, 2010.

A Seder Supper was held on Maundy Thursday, 2010.

Rev. Alley facilitated a Tuesday Bible study this summer on "Fruit of the Spirit."

*Respectfully submitted,  
The Rev. Timothy J. Hallett, Dean*

## Darrow (Western) Deanery Report to Council

### St. Paul's and Trinity Chapel (The Episcopal Parish of Alton) -

June

- On June 5 volunteers of the parish once again formed a team for the community wide Bucket Brigade program and put a bright new coat of paint on a home for individuals in the area who would not otherwise be able to do so.

- The annual Parish Picnic was held on June 13 at Glazebrook Park in Godfrey. The out-

door worship service was held at 10:30 a.m. After worship the Parish Life Commission provided fried chicken, lemonade and tea and members brought side dishes to share.

- Adopt-a-highway volunteers met on June 19 to pick up litter along a designated stretch of US 67.

After trash pick up the group met at a local restaurant for breakfast.

- On June 20 the Episcopal Church Women hosted a special coffee hour brunch in honor of Fathers Day. Tom Fisher was chosen as Father of the Year at St. Paul's and Tom Dehler was chosen as Father of the Year at Trinity Chapel.

- The Book Discussion Group met on June 23 to discuss Catcher in the Rye by S. D. Salinger. Diana Enloe led the discussion group at Trinity Chapel.

July

- The Feast of the Dedication of St. Paul's was celebrated at St. Paul's on Sunday, July 4 during the 10:30 a.m. worship service at St. Paul's.

- On July 11, parish members were invited to a special tour of the new Provision Living Center on Highway 3 in Godfrey. Parish Member, Mary Molloy, Director of Patient Services arranged for the tour.

- The Tuesday Bible Study group met at St. Paul's on July 27 for their annual summer reunion. Mass was held at 9:30 a.m. followed by a potluck brunch.

- The Book Discussion Group met on July 28 at Trinity Chapel to discuss My Sister's Keeper by Jodi Picoult. Barbara Ulffers led the discussion.

August

- The Evangelism and Outreach Commission sponsored a Back to School Supply drive to give school supplies to help needy children in the local area. Parish members were asked to purchase school supplies (e.g.) pencils, notebook paper, pocket folders, binders, pens, erasers, etc. to give children in need a fresh start at the beginning and throughout the school year.

- The Book Discussion group met on August 25 to discuss The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain. Jane Hill led the group discussion at Trinity Chapel.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Episcopal Parish Office of Alton*

### St. George's, Belleville -

- Golf League every Monday evening.

- WEDG (Women's Ecumenical Dining Group) gathered at a different restaurant each month for good fun, good food and good conversation.

- This has been an extremely busy summer for St. George's. We began with our annual Parish Picnic on Sunday June 6 held at Todd hall. Over 100 folks gathered on a beautiful sunny Sunday at the outdoors chapel to celebrate the Eucharist. We were joined by Deacon Joan Garcia- loaned from her usual assignment at Granite City and Glen Carbon, as well as Fr. Emery and Alice Washington, much loved at St. George's since an extended gig supplying before Fr. Dale arrived. Many youngsters and children were present, and a balloon fight set up by Tom Boshert enlivened the afternoon. Everyone enjoyed a potluck luncheon afterwards. Games were enjoyed by everyone in the afternoon.

- Hosted a potluck supper for the Work Week participants, headed up by Joe Hooten, in the Parish Hall on Wednesday, June 9.

- At the end of a successful Sunday School year, our superintendent, Chelsea Meyer sponsored a parish breakfast, and shortly thereafter she announced Dana Meyer (no relation-just kidding!) would lead Sunday School in the fall, and they would recruit two teachers for each class. They now have completed that recruiting and teachers including Fr. Dale's daughters, Jackie and Jill, will begin teaching in September.

- The Spirituality Commission has established opportunities for a Book Club, as well as a movie night, for looking at authors' and film makers' uses of God in their works. They also asked Fr.

Dale to hold Evening Prayer for parishioners wishing to pray using the BCP form on Wednesday evening.

- Outreach ministries collected funds for Franklin/Jefferson kids to attend the Neighborhood Summer Camp Program.

- The 30+ choir and youth choristers were thanked for their hard work and took a break over the summer. They have the summer to sit with family members and help lead the singing from the pews.

- Collecting school supplies for the Franklin/Jefferson Neighborhood Association.

- A large Cursillo at Todd Hall, led by Sue Vaughn and many from St. George's saw seven of our own folks and many from around the Diocese make the weekend renewal July 7-10. Even though music director, Nancy Ipma was one of those new cursillistas, she hasn't yet introduced kazoos into the worship!

- Ultreya was held at St. George's on Saturday, July 10.

- Duffy Walters and a gang of ten are the Holy Wanderers, and preparing for a pilgrimage to Israel in October. They are preparing in part by reading Left Behind, and they believe that will be the fate of the rest of St. George's folks if Jesus does return to Jerusalem while they are there! It will be the "Rapture uh" as fundamentalists like to yell!

- Celebration of New Ministry was held on Sunday, July 25. After being priest at St. George's for three years, The Rev. Canon Dale Coleman was installed as Rector. The service was held at 4:00 p.m. followed by a catered meal in the Parish Hall. The Chief Celebrant was The Right Reverend Peter H. Beckwith, retired Bishop of Springfield. Deacon of the Mass was the Rev. Joan Garcia, who enjoyed herself so much that she decided to marry Fr. Dale on August 7 at Todd Hall! It was a small family wedding with Pastor Ron Neustadt-preacher at the Installation- officiating the babbling brook occasion.

- Fr. Gary Dalmaso held a Healing Service on Thursday, August 12 at St. George's.

- A large ad was placed in the Belleville News Democrat's Church Insert section, and while stating our mission clearly as Episcopalians, we saw a 25% increase in attendance. Now we must respond to these folks seeking a church home.

- Rally Sunday - Sunday, August 29, we will hold our annual Rally Day breakfast at 9:00 am. A regular 8:00 a.m. Eucharist is scheduled. At 10:30, a joint worship service with St. Mark Church will be held to honor Pr. Ron Neustadt, who is retiring after over 30 years of being the pastor at St. Mark Lutheran Church. A special Evensong is also planned at 4:00 p.m. followed by a reception.

- Pastor Ron Neustadt, who has served our sister church of St. Mark ELCA for over 30 years, will retire at the end of August. We will be very sorry to see this fine, wonderful pastor leave St. Mark. We wish him well!

*Respectfully submitted,  
The Rev. Canon Dale Coleman,  
Rector, & the St. George's Parish  
Office*

## Darrow Deanery Cluster Ministry: Glen Carbon, St. Thomas and Granite City St. Bartholomew's Report to Council

### St. Thomas, Glen Carbon -

- St. Thomas suspended Wednesday Eucharist during the summer. The week of July

# Diocesan Council Meeting Reports - August 2010

18 we held a Vacation Bible School with the theme of Egypt at the time of Joseph. We had 22 children attend and were helped by the ladies from St. Bartholomew's who prepared the meals. Our youth group was very helpful in being leaders for the children's group during the VBS.

- St. Thomas continued the Day Care program through the summer with decreased staffing due to the drop in numbers. We are looking forward to the return of children now that school has returned. We graduated 4 to Kindergarten on Thursday, August 12th.
- We held a joint day of prayer for the Nominating Synod on August 4th and reviewed the various candidates. With St. Bartholomew's we held our joint picnic August 8th in Miner's Park.
- We have been in renovation mode of the rental property this past month.

## St. Bartholomew's, Granite City -

- St. Bartholomew's will finish this week the restoration of the stained glass windows.
- During the summer we have concentrated on survival.
- We participated in the VBS program with St. Thomas the week of July 18 which centered on Joseph in Egypt. There were 22 children attending from the two churches.
- St. Bartholomew's engaged in two sessions of discussion about the nominees during the months preceding the Nominating Synod so that we would be prepared.
- We also had our annual joint picnic with St. Thomas on August 8.
- We will resume our Bible study in September and continue with the idea of Life after Death which we began using 90 minutes in heaven that ended in mid-June.
- Both congregations wish our deacon, The Rev. Joan Garcia the best on her wedding of August 7. A cake and card celebration was held on August 15 for her.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*The Rev. Canon Eugene A. Stormer,  
Canon Missioner*

## St. Andrew's, Edwardsville -

June through August:

- As we have done for the past two years we transitioned to a summer schedule of one Eucharist every Sunday at 9 a.m. as opposed to our regular schedule of 8:00 and 10 a.m.
- St. Andrew's Choir and Church School program went into recess after the Day of Pentecost and although the Book Group met in June, they went into recess in July.
- Our Mock Baby Shower took place in June, gifts given to "Arms of Love".
- Our School Supply collection went from July 4 through 18, as well as our contributions; as always, to the Meal a Month program.
- After much discussion and planning the parish is taking steps to move to an on-line newsletter. This has been inspired by many other congregations moving in that direction as well as the need to conserve costs. Hopefully, the first on line issue of "The Shield" will be the September issue. We will still supply paper versions of the newsletter to those who request/require them for the time being.
- Our organist/choirmaster Henry Evans was elected dean of the St. Louis Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and has also joined the music faculty at SIUE where he will teach piano.
- Our assisting priest, Fr. George Pence, supplied for Mother Bennett while she was on vacation during part of June and part of July.
- August has been planning time in terms of our fall programs as well as trying to play catch up with building issues; elevator problems, moisture problems, and the need to replace the main front doors of the church.
- The ECW Annual Fall Rummage Sale will take place from 7 a.m. to noon on August 28.

- Our regular Sunday schedule of two celebrations of the Eucharist as well as Church School and Choir will resume the Sunday after Labor Day, September 12.

*Respectfully submitted*

*The Rev. Dr. Virginia L. Bennett, Rector*

## St. Michael's, O'Fallon -

In June:

- On June 7, St. Michael's provided dinner at Toddhall for the youth who were engaged in Youth Work Week. Father Tony commissioned the group of young people and their adult leaders following the dinner.
- The annual Outdoor Eucharist and Picnic were held at the Thoman Park in O'Fallon, on Sunday, June 13. During the Eucharist, which began at 10:30 a.m., presentations were made to Sunday School children. The Sunday School teachers were also honored for their ministry. It was a good day of fun, delicious food and fellowship. The day's event was organized by Kelly Etheridge and the Fellowship team.
- On Father's Day, June 20, all men attending the Eucharist were given tokens of appreciation.
- Father Tony prepared four children for their First Communion during the month of June. These children received their communion for the first time on Sunday, June 27 during the celebration of the Holy Eucharist.
- Preparation for the Vacation Bible School took place during the month of June.
- One of our youth members, Sabrina Clindaniel, attended the Episcopal Church Camp of Illinois at the East Bay Camp, Hudson, IL from June 27 to July 3.

During the month of July:

- The Fellowship Committee hosted a Red, White and Blue Elephant Auction and Potluck on July 11. The funds raised from the event went towards the Lower level Building Project.
- From July 26-30, St. Michael's held its Vacation Bible School (VBS) entitled Cosmic City. Coordinated and assisted by over thirty adults and young people, the VBS was a great success with 40 children, ages three to ten years, attending. The decorations in the church beautifully depicted a cosmic city environment with several space-looking objects and props. Children were treated to crafts, drama, bible stories, music, games, activities to remind children of God's love for them, and dinner.

During August:

- St. Michael's observed the Day of Prayer on the eve of the Nominating Synod
  - The Fellowship Committee hosted the Annual Wine Tasting event on Saturday, August 21. A good time was enjoyed by all.
- Respectfully submitted,  
St. Michael's Church Office*

Collated and respectfully submitted by:  
The Very Rev. Dr. Anthony B. Holder, Dean

## Northern Deanery Report to Council

### St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Bloomington -

January was a busy month as we welcomed The Rev. David Halt as our new Rector. Fr. Halt was inducted on January 16th by Bishop Beckwith in a very special service. The service was followed by reception organized by the Vestry and Search Committee. We are looking forward to many years of ministry with Fr. Halt.

St. Matthew's is continuing to collect food for the Salvation Army, and has just finished collecting coats for their annual coat drive. We authorized continued support for the Smiths through the South American Mission Society.

During Lent Fr. Halt led a Wednesday night study of Rodney Stark's, "The Rise of

Christianity" which focuses on the sociological causes of the explosive growth of Christianity from its origins until the Constantinian settlement.

Our outreach team arranged an evening of work at the Midwest Food Bank in Bloomington, where we packaged bulk pasta. About 20 of us met for work, and we were responsible for packaging 2-3 pound bags of pasta from 500 pound bulk containers.

St. Matthew's has also reconstituted the Episcopal Church Women program, and had 5 members travel to the annual meeting in Decatur. An organizational meeting was held at the church and officers have been elected and discussion continues on a mission project.

A Men's Club has also formed, holding its organizational meeting on May 15th, and will continue to meet for food, fellowship, and study on the third Saturday of each month.

On May 23, Pentecost Sunday, we will celebrate the confirmation/reception of 15 candidates (12 youth and three adults) with Bishop Parsons.

Over the weekend of April 16th the Vestry met for an annual visioning retreat. After much work exploring our history, DNA, and what God is calling us to in our community, the vestry chose three areas in which to concentrate the work of St. Matthew's: 1) Evangelism (including ways to reach out to newcomers, our neighborhood, and making our physical plant more inviting); 2) Ministry Expansion (including creating a prayer group to focus on our mission and vision, increasing outreach opportunities, and fellowship gatherings); 3) Small Groups (ECW, Men's Club, Youth Group).

St. Matthew's hosted a very successful Vacation Bible School this summer with the theme "High Seas Adventure." The parish hall was turned into the quarter deck of a three-masted schooner for five days of formation, fun, and food. A good time was had by all. The VBS children and their families participated in a special Eucharist on the following Sunday and lent their voices to worship leading several songs from the program. "Aye, it were a grand time," said one old sea dog, (DRE Terra Swisher).

We also had several of our young people participate in the Diocesan Camp and they enjoyed themselves immensely.

This fall we are looking forward to celebrating a Neighborhood Day on the 12th of September, our Patronal Feast on the 19th, and a Blue Mass to honor our emergency service personnel on the 26th.

### St. Barnabas' Church, Havana - No Report

**Trinity Episcopal Church, Lincoln** - January 31, we held our Annual Meeting, followed by brunch in Berger Hall. We elected Vestry members, delegates and alternates to the Diocesan Synod; and we reviewed the programs of the Parish.

During Lent, we held a study on the Gospel of Mark. Other Lenten activities included Stations of the Cross and Soup Suppers, all held on Thursday evenings.

A number of our parishioners are involved in Habitat for Humanity, contributing in various ways to the building of homes for Logan County families in need. Some of our members have become "Studs" by contributing financially at various levels. We have "Supporting Studs," "Load-Bearing Studs," and "Super Studs." We also participate in the monthly Culver's fundraiser for Habitat.

We have a seasonal (and sometimes more often) rummage sale in our "Bargain Basement," where we sell gently used clothing and other items to raise money for local charities.

In April, Father Jim Cravens announced his retirement, with his last Sunday with us being June 20. We held a going away luncheon that day after services.

Our fall programs are beginning: Sunday School has returned from summer recess and our fall youth program is starting up. Choir begins again in a few weeks.

We are participating in Together for Lincoln again this fall. This is a program where people from a number of Lincoln churches come together and work as teams to help our neighbors. Projects will include home repair, painting, cleaning, yard work, shut in visitation, and community clean up.

### All Saints' Church, Morton -

Study - Thursday morning bible study group went through the Old Testament specifically learning about the Laws. The first study program that All Saints' did for the year was Prayer Does it Make any Difference by Philip Yancey; the second study both Fr. Brian and Deacon Laurie led was The Spiritual Enrichment Seminars (Fr. Paul Feider's adaptation of Life in the Spirit Seminars). This particular study was well attended. And then during Lent Fr. Brian did a series of talks on Heresies, which was based on Alister McGrath's new book, Heresy: A History of Defending the Truth.

Events - All Saints' started the fall season with their annual Ice-cream Social on the lawn. We praise God for good weather everyone who attended enjoyed themselves.

November 1st Bishop Beckwith visited All Saints and confirmed two of our teens. We had a grand celebration for the teens and enjoyed the Bishop presence.

December 5th We had our annual Cookie Walk. All Saints has become well known for its Christmas Cookie Walk over the years.

December 6th All Saints invited St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Pekin to join at the theater to see Joseph and His Technicolor Dream Coat- after the play we all went out for pizza. 26 persons in all enjoyed themselves that night.

December 20th All Saints put on a community service Lessons and Carols. The service opened with Scottish bag pipes, dispersed between the lessons and hymns sung by the congregation were solos sung by members of the community. It was a great time of worship and reflection. Afterwards we all gathered in the undercroft for a traditional English Tea.

On February 16th All Saints' invited St. Paul's Pekin to join them for Shrove Tuesday dinner.

On June 26, All Saints and St. Paul's went to a Chiefs baseball game and enjoyed hot dogs and fireworks. 15 in all enjoyed the heat and the love of the game. Unfortunately the Chiefs lost. Oh Well maybe next time.

On July 31st All Saints' and St. Paul's went to Mackinaw Valley Vineyard to hear Bubblegum Jack. They play a variety of music from classic rock to country.

Work - The congregation at all Saint's has been working hard to improve the compound this year. In the fall All Saints' worked on the basement of the rectory, and installed new overhead lights in the office. We also patched and sealed the parking lot. And we had a very productive work party that included repairs on the Plexiglas protecting a stained glass window. And then, just in time for Bishop Beckwith's visitation, the undercroft was painted. In July Narthex was painted and brightened up.

### Christ the King Episcopal Church, Normal -

As a parish we continue to affirm, embrace, advocate and practice our Vision which is to become a "Community of Joyful Disciples who make Joyful Disciples of all people," as well as Mission which is to become a "Community of Joyful Disciples who make Joyful Disciples of all people through Stewardship, Worship, Education [Christian], Evangelism, Pastoral Care, Service [Out-

*continued*

# Diocesan Council Meeting Reports - August 2010

reach], Fellowship and our Preschool.”

In this report, let me highlight a few aspects of how we are achieving our Vision and our Mission.

## Christian Discipleship through Stewardship

1. For 2010, we chose as our parish theme, “It’s not about me. It is about Jesus Christ,” Gal 2:20. The sub-theme is “Knowing and Doing God’s Will.” We encouraged the entire parish to give of themselves and of their time, talent and treasure as a response to, Knowing and Doing God’s Will, in the day to day life and living.

2. We also designated the 4th Sunday of each month to be Stewardship Sunday, where through preaching and teaching of God’s Word and the witness of parish Lay Leadership and guest preachers, we remind ourselves of God calling us to, Know Him, Love Him and Serve Him, in season and out of season.

3. We wrote and shared with the entire parish a weekly Discipleship Scripture, Thought and Prayer, which we sent out to all parish members and parish friends through the internet.

## Christian Discipleship through Worship and Evangelism

This year on Holy Tuesday, we hosted a parish Seder Celebration attended by fifty two [52] parish members and eight [8] parish guests.

Instead of our normal and usual Good Friday Service offered and hosted within our Sanctuary, this year we held our Good Friday Worship and witness outside our parish Sanctuary. We did this on the steps of the West side of Bloomington/Normal, Museum on Good Friday. After we offered a brief prayer, we Processed northward with the Crucifix, stopping from time to time at critical points and offered prayer by using the Stations of the Cross liturgy. We concluded our Good Friday Procession of worship and witness service at the Bloomington Center of the Arts Building.

## Christian Discipleship through Education

We offer intentional Christian Education for all ages in our parish and try very hard to make disciples of our members through intentional faith development. Through this ministry, we are most gratified to see that the attendance at our Adult Sunday School class has averaged between 9 – 12 adults. This is the highest it has been in the last two years.

We financially sponsored some of our Youth and two adults to attend Youthquake early in January 2010, in an effort to encourage them to become joyful disciples of Jesus Christ.

We financially sponsored several of our children to attend our diocesan summer camp at Lake Bloomington.

We also supported and sponsored two of our members to assist in our diocesan Happening event.

We also supported, hosted and encouraged a Sunday evening Small Group effort where we studied the book of Romans. The average attendance at our Small Group intentional faith development effort was nine [9] parish members. The event was hosted in the home of one of our parish members – Rod and Dee Matthews.

Our Preschool which is run by one director, one assistant director and five teachers and teacher assistants is doing rather well. We average between 40 – 45 students throughout the school year. We also offer extended day care in the afternoons from 1 – 4 pm, for those who choose to take advantage of the same. The purpose of our Preschool is to reach out to young families with children and through basic elementary education, subversively share the gospel of Jesus Christ with the unapologetic intention of inviting them to become members of CTK parish and disciples of Jesus Christ.

Christian Discipleship through Outreach

As joyful disciples of Jesus Christ, we continue to prepare, host and serve food to the hungry and the homeless both at Jesus House, an independent Christian organization which cares for such people and Safe Harbor, which is part of the Salvation Army outreach efforts to the same group of people. We participate in such a “needy” and “appreciative” ministry; once each month, “ministering” alternatively at each respective place. On an average we feed between 60 – 75 people.

## Christian Discipleship through Pastoral Care and Fellowship

From time to time, we host parish dinners, parish potlucks, a high school graduation dinner, and once “attended” our local Corn Belters, minor league ball game, all in an effort to continue to build trust and friendship among each other so that as we foster “happy and parish fun times together,” we will become a “happy, healthy and holy parish.”

As part of our fellowship efforts, we host a monthly men’s fellowship prayer breakfast normally on the first Saturday of each month. About fourteen [14] men of our parish attend the same. The purpose is to encourage our men to grow in Christian faith, Christian knowledge [Worldview], Christian grace and Christian holiness. We also receive an offering which we give towards the general operating funds of our parish to accomplish our parish Vision and Mission.

As I conclude this report, please pray with us that by the Love of God, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the Power of the holy Spirit, Christ the King parish, will continue to become a community of Joyful

Disciples who make Joyful Disciples of all people.

To God be all the Glory!

Joyfully submitted,

The Rev. Dr. Desmond C. Francis, Rector,  
CTK parish

**St. Paul’s Church, Pekin** - St. Paul’s is now in the second year of sharing clergy with All Saints’ in Morton. One part of our ongoing efforts to get to know one another in the two parishes was a Fall Cook In. (It was too cold for a cook out although the burgers were still grilled outdoors.) A number of guests from All Saints’, Morton, attended. Before the event we acquired new tables and chairs to compliment the refurbishing of the undercroft earlier this year. Several women from St. Paul’s attended the Beth Moore conference in Springfield in early November and were greatly blessed. In Advent we had Evensong on three Thursdays featuring messages by the Right Rev. Donald J. Parsons adapted from his presentations given at Diocesan Synod. They were followed by potluck suppers. Our third annual Kids’ Christmas Craft Day was a big success. Having the Angel Tree recipients join in the fun was such a good idea. It was a lot more work, but a lot more fun. We had a total of 29 participating this year, a big jump from 11 last year. On Sunday, December 6, the feast of Saint Nicholas, Bishop Nicholas of Myra, (once more ably played by Jim Swayne) paid us a visit. He told the congregation a bit about himself, and gave the children each a gold coin made of chocolate. In January we switched Service times from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. in accordance with our agreement with All Saint’s, Morton. On Tuesday, February 22, Fr. Russ Smith, our

SAMS Missionary, presided over our 9 a.m. service and brought us up to date on his and his family’s missionary work in Chile. Our joint Lenten program with All Saints was well attended. We had Wednesday night soup supper, the Way of the Cross, followed by a program based on Alister McGrath’s book, Heresy: A History of Defending the Truth. Our ECW hosted a special meeting inviting men of the parish and people from All Saints’, Morton, to hear Mike Caringello, longtime retired superintendent of the Pekin primary school district give a talk on his experience growing up as a child of immigrants. St. Paul’s now has a new sign to make us more visible. Our old message board could not be read from more than a few feet away. The new sign has three inch letters, and space to put up short sayings. Saint Paul’s Sewing Servants continue to meet and produce prayerfully made items that have been given to people undergoing surgery or other significant health problems inside and outside of our parish. Since Deacon Laurie has been involved with All Saints’ in Morton, six women have taken up the challenge to provide Children’s Church on a rotating basis. The adult Sunday School took a break during the summer and will resume in September with a study of Brother Lawrence’s Practice of the Presence of God. The joint St. Paul’s Vestry—All Saints’ BAC meeting in June evaluated our shared ministry and make plans for the future. Saint Paul’s again held a Summer Blast with ice cream and music in the Winkel Memorial Garden. It was attended by a number of our neighbors as well as our own folk. St. Paul’s welcomed a number of All Saints’ members to a cookout in the Winkel Gardens.

## My Dear Nephew Slugworth

*C.S. Lewis’s series of satirical writings entitled The Screwtape Letters consisted of communications between an adult demon (Screwtape) and his nephew (an imp named Wormwood). Just imagine what Lewis would have had Screwtape write to Wormwood in the face of today’s economy. I do apologize to Lewis’s memory and work as I use his model for this stewardship article – a letter from the demon Slagwell to his nephew, Slugworth. I do thank each of you for reading it in the vein in which it was written.*

—Steve Pearson, member of the Department of Stewardship

March, 2009

My dear Nephew Slugworth, My colleague, Screwtape, suggested that I drop you a note from time to time to encourage you in your work just as he has done with his own nephew, Wormwood. Since this is the first time I have ventured into writing to you, I shall try to make this brief and to the point.

Remember, above all, that our work involves convincing the Humans that they are able to rationalize everything. We disguise ourselves (yes, even you who are still imps) as little Lucifers, little Light Bearers, who portray everything in shades of gray (oh, how I love that color!!!! There are no absolutes, but everything is a “but” or a “what-ever” when decisions need to be made.). Take, for a prime example, our most current tool – the state of the economy. How we all down here love it as we gather around the great furnace! The talk you hear as you move about centers around the pitiful economic conditions that face the humans. Jump for joy, dear nephew, as you use those conversations to further our own

stewards of what they have been given to use (but never, never tell them that what they are using is merely a loan from whom my friend, Screwtape, calls “our Enemy”). Convince the humans that their own needs come first, that they need not pay their dues to Him: that is our mission in using this economy to our advantage. Not only are we encouraging and convincing them to avoid and eventually ignore the responsibility of stewardship in tithing, but we will help them evolve into a totally self-ends, that is, to convince the humans that this silly thought of “tithing” cannot exist today. Use all of the arguments that you can (and ask us down here for more, as you need them) in order to convince humans that they need not be centered life style in which everything they have at their disposal remains with them. Oh happy day when humans no longer feed the hungry, nor clothe the naked, nor shelter the homeless, nor extend themselves to visit and care for the sick, nor comfort the prisoners! When that day comes, we can congratulate ourselves on undoing the work that was

given humans to do. They will no longer love our Enemy above (why should they love someone who has caused all of these problems?), they will no longer love their neighbors (why love someone for whom you feel no sense of obligation?), and they will no longer go forth to make disciples (why extend their energy and other resources away from our goal?). And just think, dear nephew, how effectively we have used this bad economy as a first big step in achieving our goal: by ignoring and neglecting their first obligation, their habits of neglecting and ignoring other obligations will become habits.

Keep wearing your cloak of gray, dear nephew, and convincing humans that you alone have the bright light of truth.

Your Uncle,  
Slagwell

—Steve Pearson 4/2009 Spire, newsletter of St. Paul’s, Pekin, Illinois

## St. Stephen’s Presents Check

Representatives from St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church, Harrisburg, presented a check to the Saline County Office of the Guardian Center. The Guardian Center is an Advocacy Center for abused and neglected Children headquartered in Carmi with offices in Harrisburg. The check is a part of the proceeds from a spring fundraising activity at the church.

From Left to right: The Rev. Cn. Dick Swan and Ray Gorman of St Stephen’s; Ms. Nikki Tarrant, Community Liaison for the Guardian Center with Amanda Moore, Advocate Caseworker.

