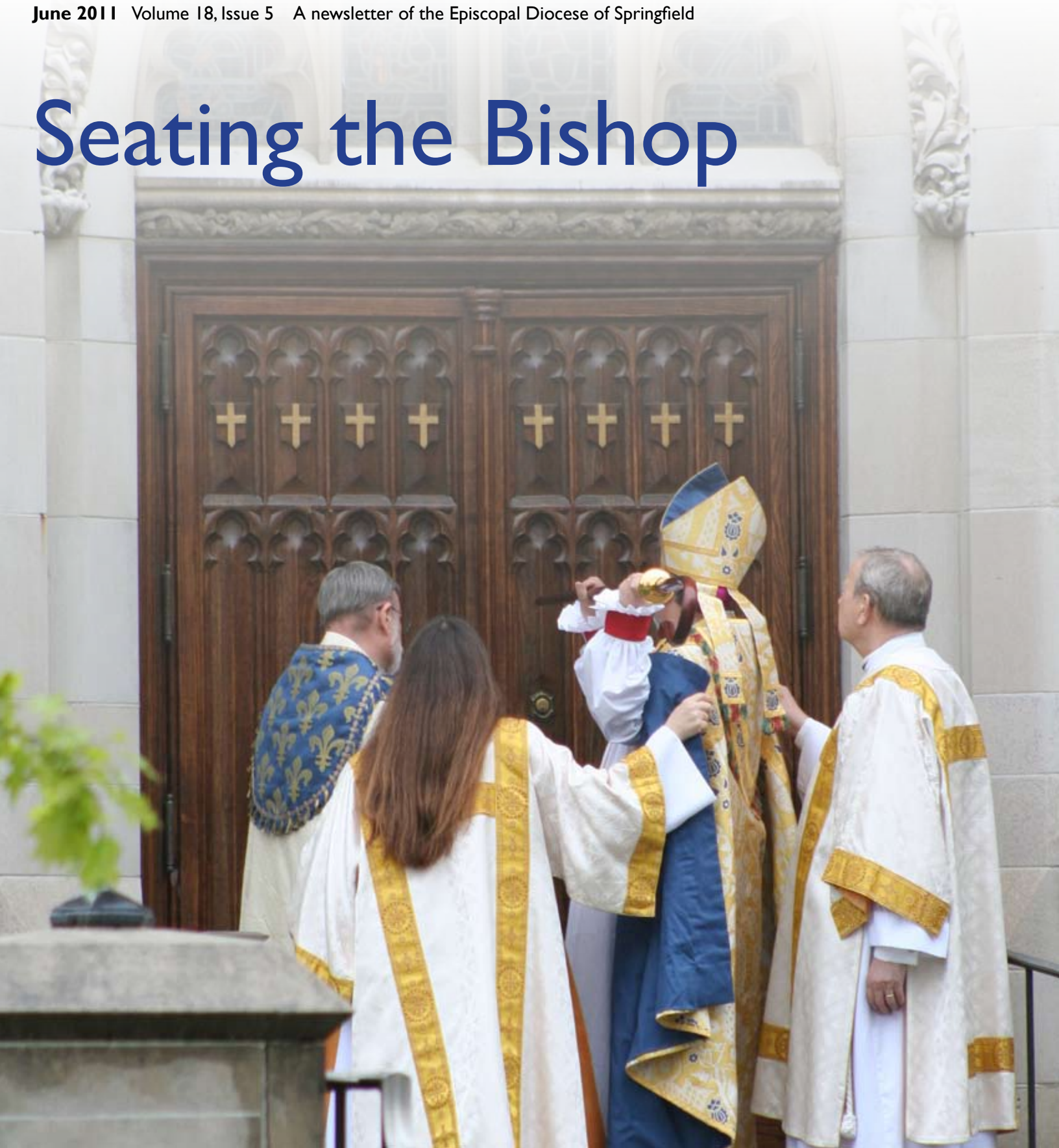


springfieldcurrent



June 2011 Volume 18, Issue 5 A newsletter of the Episcopal Diocese of Springfield

Seating the Bishop



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ON THE COVER

Bishop Daniel H. Martins is welcomed and seated at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Springfield, May 15.

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**Newsletter of the
Episcopal Diocese of
Springfield**

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Episcopal Church Camp

July 3 - 9, 2011

East Bay Camp, Lake Bloomington

Go to episcopalspringfield.org and click on the "Youth" tab
for application form!



Around the Diocese

Bishop Martins Visits The Church of the Holy Trinity

Easter joy was still very much evident on Sunday, May 22, when parishioners and friends of The Church of the Holy Trinity, Danville, welcomed the Rt. Rev. Daniel Martins for his first official visit. He celebrated Mass to a full church and inspired congregants with a great sermon. In addition, congregant Christopher Moore was baptized and confirmed on that day by the Rev. Geoffrey Scanlon and Bp. Martins. Moore's son received his baptismal candle, joining his father in the ceremony. Melvin Cornell was also confirmed, and a reception into the Episcopal Church was held for Christina Cornell, Victor Ochoa, Darrel Jacobs, and Sheila Huxted.

"It is felt by many that the Holy Spirit was present at this special



Bishop Daniel Martins and Fr. Geoffrey Scanlon

liturgy," says Fr. Scanlon. "Thank you to the bishop and his wife, Brenda, for giving us such a joyful event!"

News from the Diocese's ERD Coordinator

By The Rev. Ann Alley

As the newly appointed Diocesan Coordinator for Episcopal Relief and Development for the Diocese of Springfield, I plan to have a monthly article about Episcopal Relief and Development in the Springfield Current. This is the first.

Episcopal Relief and Development is an international relief and development agency and a compassionate response to human suffering on behalf of The Episcopal Church of the United States. Our work to heal a hurting world is guided by the principles of compassion, dignity and generosity. Episcopal Relief and Development faithfully administers the funds that are received from the church and raised from other sources. It provides relief in times of disaster

and promotes sustainable development by identifying and addressing the root causes of suffering. We take our mandate from the words of Jesus, found in Matthew 25:37-40, that call us to feed the hungry, care for the sick and welcome the stranger.

I am looking for a volunteer from each parish and mission in our diocese to become a parish representative for Episcopal Relief & Development. Parish representatives are the spokespersons for Episcopal Relief and Development in their congregations. They work directly with the diocesan coordinator receiving the latest updates and information about

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The Springfield Current Contributors

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During the past month, we've received gifts from the individuals and families listed herein, and are very appreciative of the support.

Bloomington, St. Matthew's
Paul & Janenne Schmidt

Carlinville, St. Paul's
William J. Ogle

Centralia, St. John's
Keith O'Dell Carter

Decatur, St. John's
Constance Oakes

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

Havana, St. Barnabas'
June & Bill Davenport

Mattoon, Trinity
Alice Larrabee
Harold & Marilyn Strangeman

Springfield, Christ Church
Mary S. Crane
Alice Milner
Jim & Mary Winning

Friends of the Diocese
Joyce Pratt
Frederick E. Nevin
Lillian H. Gunnar

From the Bishop

Beloved in Christ,

When last I greeted you in this space, our Easter joy was fresh in our hearts. Now, a month later, we are approaching the conclusion of our 50-day celebration as we look forward to the Day of Pentecost (June 12), the capstone to our “week of weeks” (referring to the seven weeks of the Easter season).

During the two Sundays leading up to Pentecost (and, to an extent, on the weekdays as well, for those who pay attention to the Daily Office lectionary), our “common prayer” gently turns our attention toward the Holy Spirit. Of all the facets of the faith we share, the Holy Spirit is, by any reckoning, the most misunderstood, and - dare I say it? - abused.

Here are some points and counterpoints that I have found personally helpful in thinking about the Holy Spirit:

- The Holy Spirit is God, but ... as a “person” of the Blessed Trinity, not simply as a euphemism for anything and everything that make us feel “spiritual” or any good thing that happens.
- The Holy Spirit leads the followers of Christ into all truth, but...a majority vote at any given gathering of Christians does not necessarily reveal the will of God.
- The Holy Spirit changes lives ... but ... always in a way that is consistent with what we already know of God’s character and God’s redemptive purposes.
- The Holy Spirit comes as an

indwelling gift in the sacrament of Baptism, but ... correctly hearing the voice of the indwelling Spirit is a learned skill that requires focused discipline and prayer.

- The Holy Spirit is both a gift and a giver of gifts, but ... the gifts of the Spirit are always configured toward the building up of the whole people of God and not the personal gratification of any individual Christian.
- The Holy Spirit can be the source of an intense and satisfying experience of the presence of God, but ... the best evidence of the Spirit’s presence in our lives are the fruits that are shown forth in us.

My heart for the people of the Diocese of Springfield is that the Holy Spirit be alive and active in our midst. I believe God wants us to discern and practice the gifts of the Spirit, to live in the power of the Spirit, and to cultivate in our lives the fruits of the Spirit. May our celebration of Pentecost this year draw us more and more deeply into the mystery of the ways of the Spirit, and may we have the faith and courage to follow the leading of the Spirit into the fullness of the truth of who God is and what God is up to among us.

Veni Sancte Spiritus.

+Daniel

Announcing the 2011 Cathedral Raffle

1st Prize - \$3,000
2nd Prize - \$1,000
3rd Prize - \$500
4th & 5th Prize -
\$250 each

(Will convert to 50/50 if all chances are not sold)

Grand Prize Drawing
Sunday, July 10, 2011
at 9:15 a.m.

Need not be present to win

**ONLY 250 TICKETS
WILL BE SOLD!**
\$50 Each

Individuals or Groups
Cash or Check
Payable to St. Paul’s
Cathedral

Call the Cathedral
for more information
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Around the Diocese

Trickle Up: The ECW Outreach Project Announced

By The Rev. Ann Tofani

Mt. 25: 34-36 “Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’”

There is no prison like that of poverty. There is no pain like the pain of hunger. There should be no strangers in God’s kingdom. When one suffers we all suffer. Matthew calls us who are blessed by the Father to care for those less fortunate. Our inheritance is God’s kingdom. The cost is sharing our blessings.

This year’s Outreach Project is one that may not touch your heart like the solar cookers did, but it is no less a call to aid those less fortunate. I am asking you to look at what God has given to you and to ask yourself, “Can I contribute to help the poorest of the poor to obtain a better quality of life? Will it diminish the quality of my life by sharing with those less fortunate? Do I trust the word of God and his promises?”

Trickle Up is a program for those who live (perhaps survive is

a better word) on less than \$1 a day. Trickle Up works in Africa, Asia and Central America, and works closely with local partner agencies to implement their model (one of training and seed capital) in order to provide the right resources to start a micro-enterprise to improve quality of life. For every micro-enterprise that Trickle Up helps start or expand, an average of 5.5 people benefit. That means that when 10,000 participants are aided, more than 55,000 people are able to get started on their journey out of poverty - a journey that leads to helping others out of poverty.

We have the means to help establish 100 of these businesses. It would only take \$10,000. This, and more, could be accomplished if each person in this diocese contributed \$10. We have the means – do we have the desire?

“Truly I tell you, just as you did to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” (Mt. 40) May we enter into the joy of the Father and reach out in love to help those less fortunate than ourselves.

Checks should be mailed to: Judy Ellison, ECW Treasurer, 122 Hightide Dr., Decatur, IL 62521. On the memo line mark, “Trickle Up.”

ERD Coordinator, continued

important events or dates.

There are many ways to get involved with Episcopal Relief & Development. A great way to become familiar with all it does is to visit their website: www.er-d.org.

Here are a few current and on-going projects:

- Assistance in flooded areas along the Mississippi
- Storms in the South and SE
- Nets for Life – a partnership for malaria prevention in Africa
- Support for Japan

To donate, send a check to: Episcopal Relief & Development, POBox 7058 Merrifield, VA, 22116-7058. Or to donate by phone call 1-800-334-7626, ext. 5129, or online at www.er-d.org.

If you have any questions, or would like to find out more about being a parish representative, contact me at adlalley@gmail.com.

**Deadline for the
September
edition of the
Current is
August 20th**

**Have a great
summer!**



Diocesan Council Reports

As submitted at the May 14, 2011 Council Meeting

Darrow Deanery

St. George's, Belleville - So much has been happening at this parish since late February that on most days I feel like Dorothy in the Wizard of Oz saying, "My people come and go so quickly here!". And it never stops. I am grateful Lent came following an outstanding series of Lenten talks by our then Bishop-elect that I found very inspiring. And as I reported to our folks, many of the clergy were obviously feeling similarly due to the rapidly increased number of clergy: talking on Wednesday morning; attending the closing Eucharist (even with guitars!); and laughing and speaking to one another at the final lunch!

Our attendance is growing on Sunday mornings with young couples and families joining. Many folks said that what attracted them were the regular notices in the paper about our adult education. On Sunday mornings at the adult forum, I led a discussion on N.T. Wright's apologetics as summarized in philosopher Antony Flew's recent book of coming to believe in God. Wright on the Resurrection is astounding!

Second, Betsy Rogers and the Spirituality Commission put together a Lenten series that averaged nearly 70 an evening with the series on "Who is the Messiah". An Imam and Conservative Rabbi spoke, Fr. Warren Crews, my former colleague Pastor Ron Nuestadt, and the big finale: just consecrated Bishop Daniel Martins. This series drew 15 or more newcomers every Thursday night, with many folks also returning to worship on Sundays.

Later in March and April, the Adult Forum was based on Archbishop Rowan Williams' Lenten book, "Christ on Trial: How the Gospel Unsettles Our Judgment". And the Lenten Retreat, again set up by the Spiritual-

ity Commission, was a well attended quiet several hours led by Fr. Alan Herbst. His talks on God's great love for us were exactly what we needed to hear.

Emphasizing our identity as a diocese and parish, and how God gifts us is like water in the desert, along with Bishop Martins' focus on encouragement.

Over 30 parishioners attended the consecration of our new bishop, and My wife Jody and I had the great pleasure of getting re-acquainted with Bishop Jim Stanton and Bishop Russ and Jerrie Jacobus; as well as chaperoning Bishop Hulstrand through (as he said) some of the more obscure streets of Springfield.

St. George's hosted the Happening as well in March. In early April we experienced several deaths. including Todd Hall's founder Charles Todd. the funeral service was joyful with about 250 folks joining Shirley Todd in worship of our Risen Lord.

St. George's has a standing ecumenical relationship with St. Luke's Catholic and St. Mark Lutheran churches. We pray the stations of the cross together on Fridays in Lent, and walk through the streets of the city in Stations set up outdoors on Good Friday.

This year is a challenging one for St. Mark Lutheran as they search for their next pastor.

The Vestry has agreed to give soon to be priested Suzanne Wolfenbarger a chasuble and stole, as we await her ordination at Christ Cathedral on June 24. We hope to get her back to her home parish to celebrate and preach!

We are wrapping up our Sunday School with Bishop Martins first official visit this Sunday, and we thanked the choristers led by Music Director Nancy Ipma and Dawn Jung for their

efforts. The music at St. George's continually assists our praise of God, especially during Holy Week and Easter Sunday. What a joy!

Respectfully submitted,
The Very Rev. Canon Dale Coleman, Rector

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church,

- March: The month began with the Men's Group cooking their annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper.

Ash Wednesday Choral Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes

Lenten Wednesdays Presentation: "At this Bend in the Road". Using segments from the movie "King of Kings" our focus was to try to find the commonalities between Jesus' journey and our own. People were given questions to ponder and were encouraged to keep a journal and share what they were comfortable sharing. (Three week presentation. Facilitator: Mother Bennett+)

Sunday morning Adult Education: "Mysteries, Not Magic" - Instructor, Mother Bennett+

Outreach Committee - Special Collection for Alton Mental Health Center

Lecture presented by Cindy Reinhardt, parishioner and local historical, describing the connection between St. Andrew's and the historical Village of Leclair, Edwardsville

April: Joint Taize Service of Worship with St. Boniface Roman Catholic Church (next door). The choirs of St. Andrew's and St. Boniface joined together for a beautiful musical and spiritual evening. Mother Bennett and Fr. Jeff Goeckner from St. Boniface

both took part. Full schedule of worship for Holy Week and the Great Triduum, with Holy Baptism at the Great Vigil of Easter

May: Our Annual "Mayfest" was held this past weekend and was a wonderful success; with the Book Sale, with 8000 books, doing the best it has ever done.

Our Parish Picnic will take place on May 29th after the 10:00 Eucharist and Church School Presentations.

In June we will move to our Summer Schedule of one Eucharist a Sunday at 9 am only

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Virginia L. Bennett, D. Min.,
Rector

St. Bartholomew, Granite City and St. Thomas, Glen Carbon - Lent was a pretty busy time for St. Bartholomew in Granite City and St. Thomas in Glen Carbon. We had separate Ash Wednesday services but joint Maundy Thursday at St. Thomas, and joint Good Friday at St. Bartholomew. The Lenten services were separate with Wednesday's having Mass at St. Thomas with a Soup supper and discussion afterward, and Thursdays, Mass and Soup supper and discussion at St. Bartholomew.

We had excellent attendance at both Churches on Palm Sunday, and almost double attendance at St. Bartholomew on Easter and triple attendance at St. Thomas for Easter. These were not strangers to the Prayer Book and they seemed to know and be friendly with each other, but I guess the majority were Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost members of the Churches.

This is a little small growth in attendance, with several Baptisms at St. Thomas and thankfully no funerals since October '10. I have been fortunate to have the services of the Rev. Deacon Joan Coleman since I arrived

as Supply Priest in October '10. We have shared some of the Pastoral Visitation with Deacon Coleman serving the Granite City Congregation and I have done the same for the Glen Carbon Congregation. Deacon Coleman also serves as the Deacon of the Mass at both Churches every Sunday, and serves the missions in other duties as well.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Canon George E. Pence,
Ph.D., Supply Priest, St. Bartholomew
and St. Thomas

North Eastern Deanery

St. Andrew's, Paris - We are grateful to Father Denny for making it possible to have Father Robert Harmon as our supply priest. At St. Andrew's Paris, we have the Eucharistic mass the second and fourth Sundays of every month. Our social hour begins prior to mass. We always look forward to visiting with the Harmons.

Our involvement in the community is our outreach program. Our recent contributions include the following: donations to community fundraising events such as medical expense charities, the Red Cross, the Paris Ministerial Association, Compassionate Ministries (a food pantry), C.O.D.A., and Bridges, a local alternative school. We send cards to several people in nursing homes, as well as those who are unable to leave their homes for health reasons.

Now that spring has arrived, we anticipate enjoying our "mini" rose garden. We have also planted two Boxwoods, which are located near the roses. We are hopeful they will enhance the curb appeal of the church.

Respectfully submitted,
Nell DeWitt

Chapel of St. John the Divine, Champaign - We have had a busy spring, with the visit of the Presiding Bishop in March and Bishop Martins' first official visit to St. John's in May.

Both were grand occasions. Holy Week and Easter occurred while the University was in session this year, which meant that most of our student and faculty contingent were with us for the services.

It has been a very musical spring. Our series of Lenten noonday organ recitals was well-attended. The University of Illinois Singers gave a magnificent performance of the Durufle Requiem during Holy Week. The Tudor Voices from Milliken University also did a performance during Lent. Several choral and chamber ensembles have used our space for their spring concerts, and a most recently we have had a round of organ and instrumental recitals by students working on performance degrees.

We had another series of "Eat In To Help Out" dinners during Lent. Proceeds from these suppers are forwarded to Episcopal Relief and Development.

We look forward to Solemn Evensong on the Eve of Pentecost and High Mass on the day. These occasions coincide with the Halletts' last Sunday before retirement.

Respectfully submitted,
Timothy J. Hallett

The Church of the Holy Trinity, Danville - Much excitement has been had the last few months as The Church of the Holy Trinity, Danville, participated in the Consecration and Ordination of Bishop Daniel, celebrated a 100-year birthday for one of our parishioners, and prepared for Easter.

This year's Holy Week was a wonderful celebration prior to Easter morning! The parishioners at Holy Trinity participated in a watch at the Altar of Repose from 8 pm Maundy Thursday through 12 noon Good Friday. This was an amazing way for our members to reflect and meditate. The special liturgies offered throughout Holy Week were wonderful, with

Diocesan Council Reports

North Eastern Deanery, continued

the culmination of the Great Easter Vigil and Easter Day rounding out the joyous celebration.

We've seen a lot of new faces recently, and a few new members as well. Instruction continues for an adult baptism, three confirmations, and four receptions into the Church.

We are eagerly anticipating our "official" visitation from Bishop Daniel later this month on May 22nd, when Confirmations and receptions will take place. We did have the pleasure of a surprise visit from Bishop Elect Martin's and his wife on March 5th.

Attendance at Mass has been good considering severe winter. However, on "low" Thomas Sunday we had a great crowd for our Sunday Mass.

We continue to feel GOD's Blessings upon us, and give thanks for our Church, our loving congregation, and our Rector, Father Scanlon, who gives so much of himself for the good of the Church and the Parish.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathie Schmitt.

St. Christopher, Rantoul - Two annual bazaars, Fall (Nov. 2010) and Spring (April, 2011), were held and well attended, and successful. These bazaars raise funds for the church. A monthly Thrift and Gift shop, another fund raiser for the church, is held the first Saturday of the month for the community.

Our annual Epiphany Party was celebrated on January 6, 2011 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.

Nine ladies, members and friends of St. Christopher, attended the annual ECW Lenten Retreat (March 25-27, 2011).

A Seder Supper was held on

Maundy Thursday, 2011.

A video series on "Comparative Religion" was started in Lent and is ongoing. The lectures use the 5 major religions – Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, and Hinduism – as illustrations of how religions can address the same core issues in parallel and different ways.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Ann Alley

Emmanuel Memorial Church, Champaign - Dean Geoffrey Scanlon has been kind enough to request a report from us.

Holy Week and Easter were glorious with over 1,000 persons in attendance. We are still coming up for air and trying to recoup and rest a bit. Enough said.

We had the best attendance in recent years at Lenten Sunday Evening programs. All were well received and well attended. Over 85 persons attended our Seder Dinner and Eucharist.

The summer work crew are in place to spiff the place up a bit over the summer.

We are delighted that some outside groups have volunteered to assist with our sack lunch outreach program. This is much appreciated. Our parish food pantry floweth over. This allows us to continue to give out a week's worth of food to needy families each week. We are currently hosting the "Road Scholars" for the Ebertfest Film Festival. Over 200 meals will be served at this event.

Holy Week and Easter are always a time for "everyone to pitch in" and help. This was no exception this year. Altar Guild, Acolytes, Fellowship Committee and a hearty group of volunteers all stepped forward to do their parts. The music was wonderful with choir and musicians providing their

ministry of music.

We are truly blessed! Now ... for a bit of rest, we hope.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Barnard, Randy Kobel, Alan, Obl. SSJE

Trinity Episcopal Church, Mattoon - There are three dates on which we are focused at Trinity Church. The first date is the rapidly approaching Memorial Day weekend. The second date is June 11 and the third is this coming December 11. We think, too, while these are important dates for our congregation they represent important markers as our diocese begins our ministry with Bishop Martins.

Ready? Why are these dates important? Here's a hint. Think in terms of Trinity Church. This is probably the one congregation which has a guild named after our former – and first – bishop, George Franklin Seymour. All three dates relate to events concerning Bishop Seymour and these situations can remind us that looking back and trying to understand our history can be a way of putting present issues into a proper and meaningful perspective.

Memorial Day weekend, 2001, Our supply priest, Father Truelove and his wife, Theresa, were visiting their daughter who lives and works in New York City. On Monday of that holiday weekend the tourist-type things were closed so their daughter had a problem: what to do with visiting parents on a holiday Monday in New York? She saw in the paper the old First City Troop Band of New York was giving a concert in the Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn.

The concert was a pleasant holiday treat on a nice spring day in the park, well, in the cemetery. Good

music. Lots of interesting people. The cemetery was immense. On a map was a list of famous people buried there and the Trueloves located the graves of Leonard Bernstein and his wife. While Father Ken studied their simple markers in the ground, Theresa called to him: "Ken, come over here and look at this!" She had discovered the tall tombstone of George Franklin Seymour on which was inscribed, "The first bishop of Springfield, Illinois." Archivists, apparently, or frustrated evangelical Episcopalians, left Seymour's name off the list of famous people buried in the cemetery.

They found other recognizable names buried near Bishop Seymour: Charles Ebbets, who owned the old Brooklyn Dodgers and named his ball park Ebbets Field, and F.A. O. Schwarz, who built a toy store empire with fascinating outlets for kids of all ages. He and his wife are buried about fifty feet from the Seymour plot. Strange isn't it. There might be a time one sees an Episcopal bishop and the image of a big stuffed animal from an F. A. O. Schwarz store pops into mind! Green-Wood, yes, it was a cemetery for all people. Even to visit.

Three things were striking about the tombstone: his wife was not buried there; his father's name was Isaac Newton Seymour, and standing behind the tombstone and looking toward the northwest one could see the tombstone was centered directly between the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center. Father Ken remembered that view on September 11, 2001 and thinks he was probably the only person watching the televised destruction of the Twin Towers who thought of Bishop Seymour.

June 11? Ah, this June 11 will be the one hundred thirty-third anniversary of George Seymour's consecration as a bishop in Trinity Church, New York City. The chief consecrator was Bishop Horatio Potter, who ordained him also to the diaconate and the priesthood. Bishop Potter did

more than hit the ecclesiastical trifecta with George Seymour. He officiated at Bishop Seymour's marriage to Harriet Atwood Aymar in July 1889.

George Seymour was ordained a deacon in December 1854 and charged with missionary responsibilities for Annondale-Hudson in Dutchess County, New York. Ordination to the priesthood came in September 1855 in Westchester County, New York and one source indicated Washington Irving was in attendance. As a young priest he worked in Dutchess County for six years, building a congregation to one hundred communicants and founding St. Stephen's College. Whatever happened to St. Stephen's College? It became Bard College which is still identified as a prestigious Episcopal College.

December 11, 2011? Bishop Daniel Martins has scheduled a visitation then at Trinity Church, Mattoon, the congregation with the Bishop Seymour Guild – one hundred thirty-three years and six months after Bishop Seymour's consecration.

What an opportunity to look back and prepare ourselves and our congregation for a new sense of ministry with a new bishop and a new sense of congregational and diocesan mission.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Kenneth Truelove

Report respectfully submitted,
The Very Reverend Geoffrey E. L. Scanlon, Dean

Eastern Deanery

Deanery Doings - The Eastern Deanery is planning to hold an "Eastern Deanery Spring Fling" on Sunday afternoon, May 22nd at the home of the Shulers in Salem. Essentially, this is a glorified picnic, complete with outdoor games (weather permitting) and other social activities, which will allow Episcopalians in our various churches to meet and get to know one another.

The clergy of the Deanery are scheduled to meet in Clericus on Monday, June 6th, at St. Thomas, Salem. The clergy of the Deanery meet quarterly in this fashion.

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

St. John's, Albion - St. John's has enjoyed a steady attendance, even with our higher-than-usual number of snows and spring storms this year.

Five of our parish attended and participated in the consecration of Bishop Martins in Springfield in March – Deacon Bill Howard and acolyte Logan Coplea processed and acolyte Richard Tribe sang in the choir, while John and Sandy Coplea were in the congregation. We welcome Bishop Martins to the Diocese, and will welcome him again when he joins us for his official visitation in July.

In April, we were very excited to have Stations of the Cross, led by Richard Tribe, and Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services, led by Deacon Howard. All had decent attendance, considering our far spread out our congregation is. Everyone enjoyed brunch after Easter services with lots of good food and fellowship.

Everyone is excited that we are having confirmation classes beginning in May for at least two persons who wish to be confirmed when Bishop Martins comes for his visit in July.

We again filled a huge plastic tub with food items for the Hope Center, to be distributed by them to those in need. We also took hand-crocheted baskets filled with candy to the residents of Rest Haven Nursing Home for Easter, as well as a larger basket for the employees. We all bring candy, and then quickly fill the baskets after church. One family then takes them to the nursing home to be distributed. We also provide Bingo prizes, which can be used by the Activity Department.

continued, next page

Diocesan Council Reports

Eastern Deanery continued

We feel blessed to be able to hold services in the oldest Episcopal church building in active use in the State of Illinois, and hope to continue doing so for many more years.

Respectfully submitted,
Mrs. Holly Scherer

St. John's, Centralia - Centralia was heavily hit by the storms which blew through the area on Tuesday, April 19th. Power to the church was knocked out for a period of time, many trees and fallen limbs littered the area around the building, and repair trucks made it difficult to maneuver in the neighborhood around the church. As a consequence, Maundy Thursday service was cancelled. We were blessed to realize that no damage occurred to the church or to its property. We were able to hold Good Friday service, thankfully. Another round of storms a week or so later resulted in minor flooding to the basement of the Church. A large gathering of parishioners met the challenge of the intruding water, and the water was quickly removed.

St. John's has begun supporting the ministries of the local Salvation Army in recent months. A check for \$1,000.00 was presented to the administrator of the local Salvation Army unit in April. As the check was presented, we learned much about the changing nature of support through governmental channels that is available to persons in the Centralia community who are having trouble paying utility bills or rent. Our support assisted many, we were assured.

All year long, we have been offering a Thursday evening educational offering, centering on the ALPHA series of videos. This current series concluded on Thursday, May 5th, and will resume in September. Atten-

dance has been quite high for this series.

We have been blessed to have the service of a new organist, Barbara Crain, who lives in Centralia, and who was formerly playing for an Episcopal Church in St. Louis, Sounds that our organ is capable of producing haven't been heard in the ways that Barbara is able to deliver them in quite a long time!

St. John's was the featured "business" of the Centralia Chamber of Commerce in April. We produced a flyer, which was distributed to the community, and were to have made a presentation to the Chamber at its regular monthly meeting on April 20th. Due to the storms which took place the previous day, our presentation was postponed, and will now take place in June.

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

St. Laurence, Effingham - St.

Laurence, Effingham, was blessed with organ music for our Easter morning service. Carissa Pogue Hammer, who was our organist during her high school years, was in Effingham for Easter and volunteered to play the organ for our congregation as her gift to us and to the Lord. We have singing every Sunday led by Fr. James Fackler so having accompanying music was special for us.

Our outreach to the community continues to be food donations to Catholic Charities who then distributes them to people who need help. We also contribute to Episcopal Relief & Development, Diocesan ECW Collection, UTO Ingathering and CPC Collection. We will also contribute to the Whitsunday collection, Bishop's Discretionary Fund, and Fall UTO

Ingathering.

We have been operating on a deficit budget for years and decided this year to try to trim the budget a little more. We chose to disconnect the telephone since all of us have cell phones with us the one hour a week that we use the building for our Sunday service. And we chose to do the lawn care ourselves this year. Various members have volunteered to take turns mowing, trimming, etc. During the last six years while we hired the lawn work to be done for us, dandelions have become a real problem. So our taking over the lawn care has had an unexpected outcome—now that we are aware of the dandelion problem, we can do weed treatment to try to get it under control.

The termite treatment at the back of our church was completed a week ago. Now we can repair the damage they did to a baseboard.

Enjoy spring's beauty and fragrances.

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn Pogue, Bishop's Warden

St. John the Baptist, Mt. Carmel - Alleluia, Christ has risen! Greetings from St. John the Baptist Church at Mt. Carmel. We have had a very busy Lenten and Eastertide here. Lent was observed with the Stations of the Cross for the first 5 Fridays. Holy week was observed with Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday along with a baptism. Easter Sunday was celebrated with the Eucharist and an Easter egg hunt for children following the service. Although our undercroft has been unavailable for use, our efforts to have a coffee hour after services have proven to be successful on our enclosed porch area. We have greeted a few new faces these past few months. The adult Lenten study

saw four regulars in attendance. This past Sunday many parishioners went to Godfrey, IL to help surprise and celebrate the birthday of a long-time parishioner and former treasurer, John Kirkman. The parish looks forward to the Eastern Deanery social event scheduled on May 22. May God continue to pour down upon us and this Diocese His innumerable blessings.

Respectfully submitted,
Mr. Donald Kensell,
Rector's Warden

Trinity, Mt. Vernon - Trinity, Mt. Vernon, has had its share of challenges with our property in recent months. On Tuesday, April 26th, a large water cistern was discovered in the church yard. About eleven feet in diameter, and about nine feet deep, the heavy rains which fell on the night of April 25th made the brick roof of this old cistern collapse. The resulting hole was nearly full of water. A canvas of long term members of Trinity turned up no one who had ever known this cistern existed. It was located about ten feet north of the church, and must have been a collector for rain water which ran off the downspouts of an old house that formerly sat where the Parish Hall now stands. A week later, the cistern was filled with rock, a total of about 55 tons of it! Once this rock has had a chance to settle a bit, topsoil will be spread over the area, which will be reseeded. We are very, very thankful that no one (especially our children) walked across this old cistern's roof, causing it to collapse!

Trinity hosted a series of ecumenical Stations of the Cross with St. Mary's Catholic Church, our neighbor which is located about four blocks to the west. This series, which alternated between churches, week-by-week, was well supported by both congregations.

The Great Vigil of Easter was well attended, and especially so in view of the very heavy rainstorm through which congregants had to pass in order to be present.

Easter Sunday service was followed by an indoor Easter Egg Hunt for the children, which was forced inside by bad weather.

Our Sunday educational offerings have been well supported during this quarter. Both the Sunday School for children, and the Bible Study for teens and adults, will conclude this academic year's offerings on Sunday, May 15th. The Bible Study has a tradition of taking a year-end field trip, and this year's trip will take place on Saturday, June 18th to Temple Israel in St. Louis.

Trinity's ECW chapter, the St. Anne's Guild, sponsored their spring Rummage Sale on Saturday, May 7th. Parishioners of all ages and descriptions assisted in carrying rummage from the Undercroft of the Church to the Parish Hall following service on Sunday, May 1st. Then, members of the Guild sorted and priced the merchandise throughout the week preceding the sale. This Rummage Sale supports to a large degree the many outreach activities of the Guild.

Outreach is an important part of our ministry. During April, offerings were received for earthquake relief in Japan. Support was also offered to Mt. Vernon's only homeless shelter, the Hope in Christ Ministries. Persons in need in the Mt. Vernon community were also supported by a grant to the Angels on Assignment organization.

The Rector took part in the ecumenical Good Friday service, which was sponsored by the Jefferson County Ministerial Association, and also took part in the National Day of Prayer activities on the courthouse lawn on Thursday, May 5th.

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

St. Mary's, Robinson - St. Mary's Robinson is a small mission church with a big heart. Ministry is shared by all. Parishioners are faithful in their worship, service and sharing. Evidence of this is shown weekly and during the

week as they worship and receive God's blessings for them.

During Lent we held Stations of the Cross at 7p.m. each week. Attendance was steady at nine, and on occasion eleven. All shared in the readings as we moved from station to station. This was followed by a video (Rob Bell – Nooma) and discussion. We closed with Compline.

Palm Sunday marked the beginning of Holy Week and it was a busy week for us all. The rain on this Sunday did not diminish our spirits as we processed inside the church to "All glory laud and honor." Maundy Thursday we had a foot washing (a first for us). Friday we held a Good Friday service with special readings and parts assigned. It was a moving experience. On Saturday we celebrated with the Great Vigil of Easter. Lent became a very meaningful time for all of us as we shared in these services.

Easter morning brought more blessings. We were privileged to baptize, Anna Emily Scarpone, the granddaughter of Sam and Carol Scarpone. There were twenty-four present for this joyous event and Anna Emily, whom her mother said might be a bit shy, did not seem at all intimidated and proudly expressed her desire to be baptized.

With the recent storms our church building experienced some roof damage, but none of the damage led to water problems within the church. We are presently pursuing solutions to repair the damage.

The generosity of parishioners is evidence of God at work in their lives. Each week there is money placed in the Outreach Bowl and special offerings, when taken, are well supported. Sharing and caring are vital for those who faithfully attend services each week. Prayer provides the strong foundation. Sharing our faith with each other during our discussions, helps us all to grow closer to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and to

Diocesan Council Reports

Eastern Deanery, continued

grow spiritually. Our prayer for all is that they may come to know and live out their lives loving and being loved by their God and Savior who died and rose that they might have life and have it more abundantly.

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

St. Thomas, Salem - Recent tornado and storm damage has affected many in the Centralia, Illinois, area, including St. Thomas' Deacon Jeff Kozuszek and family. When lack of heat became an issue for them, the family sought daytime shelter at St. Thomas, which helped Deacon Jeff catch up on a few things "in-house." Fortunately, clean up and repairs are progressing.

Bishop's Warden Al Lever has accepted the post of representing St. Thomas on the Salem Ministerial Alliance (SMA), as Deacon Jeff's teaching job prevents him from attending their daytime meetings. Deacon Jeff receives the SMA monthly minutes and agenda via email and discusses with Al how to represent St. Thomas on current topics. A hearty "thank you" goes out to Al for accepting this post. St. Thomas has a long history of actively participating with the SMA in all of their outreach programs to the needy.

The Lenten season culminated with a most Holy Week at St. Thomas. Services included Maundy Thursday with the washing of feet, Good Friday and Stations of the Cross, and, of course, the great celebratory service of Easter Sunday for which Fr. Gene Stormer was preacher and celebrant. St. Thomas also participated in a "trinity" Great Vigil service held at Trinity Episcopal Church, Mt. Vernon. Three churches participated in this event: St. John's, Centralia; St. Thomas, Salem; and Trinity.

Poker was the name of the game at the parish spring tournament, held on Friday, April 29. Donations from the 25 poker players totaled over \$400 and will be used for church activities, such as Sunday school supplies. The next tournament is scheduled in October.

The Bishop's Committee has appointed a Development Committee to review the parish's mission statement and to assist in the development of a strategic plan that will encourage spiritual growth and outreach, including membership growth. The plan will be initiated on Pentecost Sunday.

Last, but not least, the church is beginning preparations for the ordination of Deacon Jeff, which is tentatively planned for Friday, June 10th. We are planning to hold this service at St. Theresa of Avila Catholic Church in Salem, Illinois, since St. Thomas' space is too small for the expected size of the congregation. Service time is expected to be 7 p.m. Plans call for a reception to be held in the church hall following the service. With effective news coverage and outreach, St. Thomas looks forward to the public participating in this joyful event!

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Jeff Kozuszek, Administrative Deacon and assisted by Mrs. Liz Hinman

Hale Deanery

St. Andrew's, Carbondale - St. Andrew's expanded its Long-Range Planning Committee with the mis-

sion to consider options regarding its building and present location. The committee will determine whether options to remain at the present location or find a new location are more preferable and practicable for our ministry to Carbondale.

Planning is underway to host a Chair-ity. Profits will go to support an outside mission of the church as well as for local programming.

The church suffered fairly extensive roof damage during the storms during April. Repairs are underway to replace the South-side roof above the church nave.

During Lent, the two parishes of St. Andrew's and Epiphany Lutheran sponsored a Lenten Vespers Series and suppers with very good attendance. St. Andrew's will host Epiphany and St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church for Ascension Thursday Evening Prayer on June 2.

St. Andrew's continued its Christian Authors Forum featuring Winston Churchill in February and March. Isaac Newton is the focus of the study in April and May. The noon time class has garnered an average attendance of 20 persons from the parish and from the community.

St. James', McLeansboro - Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and The Feast of the Resurrection were celebrated. The members are making plans for, and looking forward to, the Bishop's visit on May 8th.

St. James', Marion - The Annual Souper Bowl of Caring campaign resulted in 131 cans and \$213. St. James' donated this to the Marion Ministerial Alliance Food Pantry.

The Men of St. James' met on March 12th for the monthly Breakfast and began studying Barbara Brown Taylor's book *An Altar in the World*.

On St Patrick's Day the ladies of St. James' (and some men) gathered at Linda and Hal Toberman's for a home Eucharist Celebrated by Fr. Tim followed by dinner and a movie. Six women participated in the Annual ECW Retreat at Todd Hall. On Sunday April 10th St James' hosted the Williamson County Habitat for Humanity celebration of a new home completion. On April 16th the ladies had a meeting and a Lenten Quiet Day. St James' hosted members of the Team Ministry for a Tenebrae Service on Wednesday the 20th. The Triduum was observed including the Great Vigil of Easter on a blustery night. On April 29th St. James' members set up their display at the Williamson County Pavilion for the Marion City Yard Sale. This second annual event took place on the 30th.

St. Mark's, West Frankfort – The Souper Bowl of Caring campaign brought in 55 cans and \$112. This was given to the Food Pantry in West Frankfort. St. Mark's is going on-line this Spring to be the first Team Church that is on the internet. The members gathered food for Easter Baskets to give to needy families in Franklin County. Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and the Feast of the Resurrection were celebrated.

St. Stephen's, Harrisburg – For the Souper Bowl of Caring the members brought 45 cans and \$72. This was given to the Saline County Food Pantry. The Annual Italian Feast was held on March 12th with about 130 meals fed. \$1,800 was raised for outreach. The Church decided to donate \$600 each from the Italian Feast proceeds to the Guardian Center for Children, Anna Bixby Women's Center and The Bridge Medical Clinic. Eight new Pews arrived in time for Holy Week to establish a Center Aisle in the Nave of the Church. We now have four ten foot pews for sale. The Triduum was observed including the Great Vigil

of Easter on a stormy night. Confirmation Classes began on April 28th.

Redeemer, Cairo – Holy Week included the procession of the Palms, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. The faithful gathered at Immanuel Lutheran for the Feast of the Resurrection. The waters of both rivers began to rise and threaten the city with record levels.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Richard Swan, Dean

Northern Deanery

St. Matthew's, Bloomington - With the permission of the Standing Committee, St. Matthew's used the 1559 Elizabethan Prayer Book order Holy Eucharist throughout Lent with readings from the King James Bible (1611). We did this to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the publication of the KJV. It was quite different, and responses were quite varied. Most, however, agreed that it was at least interesting to learn, and experience, a bit of our Anglican liturgical history. All enjoyed the return to the 1979 BCP for Palm Sunday and Easter.

A group of 16 participated in "The Gospel in Life" program put out by Timothy Keller and Redeemer Church in New York. It was a challenging, and enjoyable curriculum and discussion each week.

We have begun a 20-30's group that is meeting on a regular basis for fellowship and study. We hope that this will lead to stronger connections with the church, as well as becoming an opportunity for evangelism.

St. Matthew's joined Christ the King in leasing a box for a Prairie Thunder hockey game, and over 40 Episcopalians joined to cheer the home team. The joint choirs sang the National Anthem before the game.

We continue our quarterly work with the Midwest Food Bank, as well as regular support of Clare House, the

Salvation Army, and Faith in Action.

Last, but certainly not least, we were pleased to welcome Bishop Daniel, and Brenda, to their first homecoming at St. Matthew's on Palm Sunday. All were impressed, and inspired, by our new bishop and there is new energy for our relationship with the "Diocese". The Martins also spent the majority of the afternoon at the Rectory with the Rector, Vestry, and their families. Their presence was greatly appreciated and everyone enjoyed their fellowship.

St. Barnabas, Havana, no report

Christ the King Episcopal Church, Normal - As a parish we continue to affirm our parish Mission which is "to become joyful disciples of Jesus Christ and to make joyful disciples of all people through Stewardship, Worship, Education [Christian and Preschool], Evangelism, Pastoral Care, Service [Outreach] and Fellowship."

In this report, I highlight three chief aspects by which we are fulfilling our Mission.

Discipleship through Worship - During Holy Week, on Holy Wednesday we offered a Healing Service to our entire parish using the Order of Worship from the Church of England which was approved by our Bishop Daniels. The main theme we emphasized for the Service was, "Wholeness through Forgiveness." The sub-theme was, "It takes more than just Faith to be made Whole." For the sermon, we emphasized that Wholeness come to us when we receive God's full and complete Forgiveness in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord and then in the name of Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit, we turn around and forgive God for any anger we may have towards God for.....; forgive ourselves because God in Jesus Christ has forgiven us and intentionally choose to forgive those who have hurt us either intentionally or unintentionally

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Diocesan Council Reports

Northern Deanery, continued

From the several people who came forward for special prayers for Wholeness and Forgiveness and the feedback we received following our worship, we conclude that the Worship experience was not only positive but also provided the opportunity and experience for many of us to experience God's Wholeness in our lives.

Discipleship through Education – Preschool.

We continue to offer Christian formation for all ages in our parish each Sunday at 9 am. For our children we are using the Great Commission Curriculum and for our adults we offer Jesus' Teaching on, The Sermon on the Mount.

During the summer months we are planning to offer a course for the whole on the Jesus Creed where Jesus invites His followers to "Love God with all their heart, soul and strength and to Love their neighbors as they Love themselves." This is a seven week course of Christian Formation.

In addition, our Preschool is doing exceptionally well. Beginning in our new school year, 2011 – 2012, we will offer an addition to our three classes and that is the Kindergarten class. So far we have three students enrolled for the class. Our new school year full day class will begin on the 26th of August 2011.

Discipleship through Evangelism.

We have begun to intentionally reach out to our immediate [geographical] neighborhood and invite families to come and be a part of our "faith" community. So, couple of weeks prior to Holy Week [2011] and during Holy week, many in our parish began to intentionally pray for our neighborhood and many of us went door to door to our neighbors families and invited them to come and worship and fellowship with us at CTK parish. So far, we have not reaped any fruit from

our evangelistic efforts, but we have done what we believe God has called us to do and we expectantly leave the results to the Lord of Harvest. Even, if we reap no tangible fruit from our faithful and prayerful labors; we will continue to emphasize the reality that a mark of our healthy parish is to look outward towards others and engage them in intentional ministry in the name of Jesus Christ and for the glory of God.

Do pray with us that God will keep us faithful to the Mission He has given us and that we would be faithful to fulfill the Mission given to us.

To God be all the glory.

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

St. Paul's, Pekin and All Saints', Morton - Our joint Lenten program was well attended. We had Wednesday night soup supper, the Way of the Cross, followed by a program with a short video presentation and discussion covering the development of Christianity in the British Isles from its earliest days and the development of the Church of England and the Anglican Communion. St. Paul's ECW hosted a special meeting inviting men of the parish and people from All Saints', Morton, for a magic show by Gordon Snow, one of our St. Paul's parishioners. St. Paul's Children's' Church continues with an increase in attendance. The adult Sunday School will be taking a break during the summer and resume in September. The last joint Vestry-BAC meeting indicated a desire to do more things together rather than merely invite one another to existing functions. We established an ad hoc Outreach Committee to brainstorm projects where we might work together. All Saints' will join

St. Paul's in the annual Washington Street Sale in June. The joint Vestry-BAC meeting in June will evaluate our shared ministry and make plans for the future.

Respectfully submitted

The Rev. Brian Kellington, Rector, St. Paul's; Priest-in-charge, All Saints';
Dean, Northern Deanery

Department of Evangelism and Spiritual Enrichment

I have been trying to find out who is or wants to be part of the Department of Evangelism and Spiritual Enrichment. I am wrestling with the questions of:

- Where do we want to put our efforts in the future?
- Do we want to restart the Pausing for Prayer events?
- How appropriate is it to include an emphasis on Christian healing in the work of this department?
- Could the actual work of Evangelism and Spiritual Enrichment be better done with less formal committee structure?

Any input would be welcome!!

Respectfully submitted,

The Very Rev. Brian Kellington, Chair

Communications Committee

The committee has enlisted two additional members, Matt Townsend and Ryan Michelle.

Matt Townsend serves as parish warden and vestry member at St. John the Divine and volunteers on a weekly basis with Empty Tomb in Champaign, rebuilding houses for the poor. Matt began working for OJC Technologies in January 2010.

In a past life, Matt worked as a

journalist and managing editor in Florida. In 2008, he decided to turn his hobby into a career and began freelancing as a web developer, focusing primarily on Drupal-based sites for non-profit clients. Since then, he has helped build powerful, easy-to-use sites for the Illinois Board of Examiners, WUSF Public Broadcasting, the Presbyterian Endowment Network and the Champaign County Economic Development Corp. His design portfolio includes The Gesundheit! Foundation's patchadams.org and the NOAA-sponsored qasac-americas.org. He also has managed several parish websites.

Ryan Mitchelle is from Rochester, Illinois. In 2007, he graduated from Columbia College Chicago with honors from its acclaimed Film/Video department. He worked for four years in Los Angeles on various film and Television productions. In 2010, he and his wife Laura moved home to Springfield where they attend Christ Church Episcopal in Springfield. Ryan works with the Executive Ethics Commission for the state of Illinois.

The communications committee is in the process of setting up planning sessions this spring and summer with the intention of proposing options for equipping the Diocesan's communication strategy with more of a web- and digital-centric platform.

The committee also thanks Current editor Betsy Schroeder for her work in retooling the publication into a magazine format that is more compact and allows for color options at very little cost difference. This redesign is a temporary format while the committee continues to consider the Current's future.

Respectfully submitted,
Pete Sherman, chair

Department of Stewardship

Informal discussions with members of the Stewardship Committee have indicated that all diocesan units (parishes, missions, etc.) have unique

strengths that can benefit other units when shared throughout the diocese. Vestry members from various congregations have expressed a desire to have other parishes within the diocese share their stewardship ideas together with any comments as to the effectiveness of these approaches. Implementing this gathering of stewardship ideas could be accomplished from parish level to the deanery level and thence to the diocesan level, using the deanery reports as the vehicle for consolidating and disseminating these various activities. Ultimately these reports would appear in The Current for individual parishes to review and select any approach(es) that they would deem effective for their own situations.

This proposal is presented, not as a final document, but rather as a point for discussion at the deanery and parish level. Participation by as many parties as practicable in the developmental stage and sharing in the decision-making process will enrich the final approach to this process.

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. Stephen R. Pearson, Chair

Department of Youth Work

The Youth Department is working on getting timely information out to all youth of the diocese concerning youth events in a timely manner. In order to accomplish this, the following is being done or planned:

- * Try to establish at least one adult or youth member from each church or mission to be the contact for youth events. This person will be responsible to get information about youth events to all youth in their church or mission.

- * Work to keep the information about youth events on the diocese website updated.

- * Maintain a Facebook Page for disseminating youth event information.

- * Use social media to contact youth - twitter, face book, blogs.

- * Use email to get information about youth events to all churches and missions in the diocese.

- * Set up a new recognizable email account for the Youth Department

- * Use Constant Contact (thanks to Fr. Halt and St. Matthew's in Bloomington) to send out information that need graphics and forms included

Updates on Recent or Upcoming Youth Events:

Agapefest was held in Greenville over the last weekend of April. There were 7 adults and ten youth from our diocese who attended. Two adults and twelve youth from St. Paul's UCC church in Freeburg joined the group from our diocese. Those who went felt it was a successful weekend with great music.

Church Camp will be held this summer with staff arriving on July 2nd. Campers will arrive on July 3rd and leave on July 9th. There is a need for staff members, and there is also a need for funds to use to pay for scholarships. Your daily prayers have been solicited for the success of this year's summer camp program.

WorkWeek will be held June 12 - 18th. This year's project will be with Neighbors for Renewal in Belleville. They buy houses (usually condemned or repossessed), gut them and rebuild. We plan to participate in the demolition.

EYE (Episcopal Youth Event) will be held June 22 through June 26 on the campus of Bethel University in St. Paul, MN. The delegation to EYE this summer from our diocese will be 3 youth and 1 adult.

Change to Note - Kelly Etheridge from St. Michael's in O'Fallon is the new coordinator of New Beginnings.

Department of Christian Social Concerns

The chair has nothing new to report.

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Diocesan Council Reports

Department of Christian Social Concerns, continued

Anti Racism Commission – The Rev. Christine C. Hopkins, Chair - Anti-racism workshops continue to be available for use in the diocese. These use a variety of exercises to engage participants in conversation about the effects of racism on everyone, regardless of skin color. Contact the chair if you would like to schedule a workshop for your area or if you feel God is calling you to assist in this ministry

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 - Thirty-eight volunteers came together for six team meetings from January 8th to March 19th in preparation of the second Kairos Ministry weekend at Menard Correctional in Chester. Springfield volunteers included Gerry Smith of Christ the King, Normal and Deacon Hal Toberman of St. James', Marion. From Thursday the 24th of March through Sunday the 27th, we met with 35 inmates and presented talks, meditations and discussions to help them find Christ-based tools to help improve their lives on the inside and hopefully stay out of prison once released. An Advisory Council has been formed for the Menard area and will become involved with the new Illinois State Committee of Kairos Prison Ministry. Kairos in Illinois is currently active also in Statesville and at Dwight Women's prison at Joliet and with Kairos Outside, a ministry to the adult female loved ones of the incarcerated. Menard Kairos #3 has been scheduled for the weekend of Sept. 22-25 with Team Meetings beginning July 9th in Chester. If you are interested in serving this ministry as it grows in Illinois, please contact Fr.

Dick Swan at 618-841-1146 or email padreswan@frontier.com.

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

The Episcopal Church Women of the Diocese of Springfield

Retreat: The annual E.C.W.

Lenten Retreat was held at Todd Hall, March 25- 27. The focus of this year's retreat was discipline – discipline that brings freedom and celebration. Our inspiration came from Richard Foster's book, *Celebration of Discipline*. We expanded that theme to include "Learning to Use God's Tool Box" and were assisted in that endeavor by J. & G. Construction, Soul Proprietors (aka The Rev. Ann Tofani and Chris DeWitt). The presentations were led by the Rev. Ann Alley, deacon at St. Christopher's, Rantoul, Mother Sherry Black, chaplain at Herrin Hospital, Herrin, IL, the Mother Mollie Ward, chaplain at BroMenn Medical Center in Normal, IL, and The Rev. Ann Tofani, Assisting Deacon at St. Mary's Robinson. An unexpected snowstorm on Saturday changed some of our plans but provided us with a beautiful winter wonderland. On Sunday we celebrated The Holy Eucharist. Our priests, Mollie and Sherry, celebrated and our deacons, Ann and Ann, served. We gave thanks to our awesome God for the weekend and for all of our blessings.

The 2012 E.C.W. Retreat will be over the St. Patrick's Day weekend and the topic will be Celtic Spirituality. We invite you to mark your calendars for March 16, 17, and 18, 2012 and join us as we learn, fellowship, and celebrate together.

Annual Meeting: The annual meeting of the ECW was hosted by St. Matthews', Bloomington.

After our business meeting we were inspired The Rev. Linda Butler, a breast cancer survivor, a Baptist minister and the founder of Pray for the Cure. The Rev. Linda Butler pursued her vision for Pray for the Cure based on her professional experience and research as a chaplain to breast cancer patients. A survey among her patients revealed that their spiritual well being greatly contributed to their perspective toward the disease and their treatment. Their spirituality provided hope for the future and gave meaning and purpose for life. Pray for the Cure is a trademark of Susan G. Komen for the Cure. A wonderful lunch was provided by the women of St. Matthews. Eucharist followed with Bishop Daniel as celebrant and Mother Mollie Ward as preacher. The Rev. Ann Tofani and Mother Sherry Black also served at the altar.

Outreach project: The 2010 – 2011 outreach project is "Trickle-up". Trickle up is an international loan program that works closely with local partner agencies in Africa, Asia and Central America to provide the very poorest people with the right resources to help them start or expand a micro-enterprise to improve their families' quality of life. Donations should be forwarded to: ECW Outreach c/o Judy Ellison, 122 Hightide Drive, Decatur, IL 62521. To date we have raised \$4,942.00 towards our \$10,000.00 goal.

When the ballots from the churches of the Diocese were totaled at our annual meeting, it was announced that "Smile Train" will be the 2011-2012 Outreach project. Smile Train's mission is to provide free cleft lip and/or cleft palate surgery for millions of poor children in developing countries and free cleft-related training for doctors and medical professionals. For more information about