BOOK REVIEW: WALK IN LOVE

As the Executive Director of Forward Movement, Gunn has had a chance to experience the Episcopal Church in a breadth of contexts few of us get to see, and his focus on Christian basics, evangelism, and discipleship is well known. Shobe, a former colleague of Gunn’s now in the Diocese of Dallas, brings the same focus from a perspective grounded in parish experience and family ministry. Whether you are a member of the clergy seeking a textbook, or a parishioner seeking reading for your own growth, you will never find any option that presents our church’s way of life exactly to your individual taste.

However, there are several things about “Walk in Love” that have moved it to the top of my list for recommendations. First, it majors on the majors: “Anglican Christianity is a way of following Jesus that is rooted in the Bible and the sacraments of the church, united by shared ways in the genre, “Walk in Love: Episcopal Beliefs and Practices” by Scott Gunn and Melody Wilson Shobe, makes a strong case for itself.

It’s a perennial debate among parish clergy: What one book to recommend for newcomers or those wanting a refresher on the Episcopal way? You or your parish may have a go-to answer already, whether it’s a more recent publication (like Andrew Doyle’s “Unabashedly Episcopalian” or the Gamber/Lowellis “Your Faith Your Life,”) or an oldie (like “Welcome to the Episcopal Church” by Christopher Webber or John Westerhoff’s “A People Called Episcopalians” – which has a new revision by Tobias Haller that I have not seen.) And there are certainly other ways to approach this whole issue – talks by the priest? Videos? Older primary sources? However, if your church’s style of formation in Episcopal identity includes having people read a contemporary book, the newest entry...
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+ Rt. Rev. Daniel H. Martins, Bishop

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As I write, at the beginning of Labor Day weekend, I’m beginning to form impressions of the first round of something that is a new experience for us as a diocese. In our last revision of the diocesan canons, in 2016, we now ask each Eucharistic Community (or organized geographic parish) to submit annually a Mission Strategy Report to me and to the Department of Mission. The first of these MSRs were due June 1. I’m not sure precisely how many met that deadline, but I think it’s safe to say—not many! No great harm done, however, because my calendar over the summer conspired to prevent me from doing more than taking brief mental notice of each one as it arrived, and filing it appropriately.

Now in my second week back in the office post-vacation, I’ve had an opportunity to take a first pass at them. I intend to sit down with the members of the Department of Mission within the next several weeks, sometime after synod, to do a deeper dive, and then, collectively, to offer some feedback on each one.

In the meantime, let me offer a few general observations based on what I’ve seen:

- **The process has been taken seriously.** Of our 35 worshiping communities, 26 have complied with the new canon (or at least assured me that they are on the “finishing touches” of doing so). In all but perhaps one case, it is evident that significant collaborative effort on the part of the clergy and Mission Leadership Team has been expended. We need to do better, but I’m encouraged by this.

- **Virtually every congregation’s image of itself includes the characteristic “friendly.”** This doesn’t surprise me, because it’s in sync with what I hear all across the Episcopal Church. I have no doubt that they’re all telling the truth about how they feel. But it invites the question, What does this mean? I suspect that, in some cases, it might say more about the sense of community among the parishioners than it does about the experience of newcomers and visitors.

- **We are generous toward local outreach projects.** Financial support of feeding ministries (especially) and other social ministry endeavors lies close to the heart of each Eucharistic Community’s core values and sense of identity. In other words, we care about the needs of the world and the people in it. Of course, that qualifies as mission only partially and indirectly. It’s a good thing for us to be doing, but it’s not the thing we need to be doing.

- **We still think of the Sunday Eucharist as our “show window” to the world.** We remain firmly entrenched in the “attractional” model of mission, casting about for ways to draw more people through our beautiful red doors on Sunday mornings, and there’s a strong tendency to think that liturgy and music is one of the important tools in that work. What we are not doing very much of is strategizing toward getting out of our building and pitching our (metaphorical) tent alongside the unchurched whom we are trying to reach with the gospel. This will be a tough nut to crack, and it’s one of our biggest challenges. It involves ruthlessly deconstructing a mental map that is etched deeply into the way we think about “doing church,” and it will be the most uncomfortable push-point as we move forward in this annual process.

- **We mostly understand that we need to become disciples before we can become apostles—that is, those who are sent out in missionary outreach.** More than a handful of the MSRs indicate an intention to double down on discipleship formation, and put organized missionary outreach on hold for the time being. I commend the sober realism of this insight. And I think it’s an acceptable stance, so long as the disciple-making regimen is robust, and it never becomes a convenient wall to hide behind and duck out on mission.

So I look forward to seeing how this plays out. It is a good and holy thing that we are at least developing the vocabulary and administrative infrastructure that is necessary to support our “one church” that is driven by the mission of reconciling all people to God and one another in Christ.
BOOK REVIEW: WALK IN LOVE

Continued from Cover

of praying.” Gunn and Shobe never assume that the reader is already versed in Christianity and mostly needs to be informed about a few denominational distinctions; they are trying to inspire not a brand switch, but a way of life. Over and over the text chooses to focus on essentials of the faith, stating them in fresh and accessible ways, focusing not on institutional structures or historical curiosities but on simple statements about our life together that affect practice: “what have you been saved from, and what have you been saved for?” “We measure our time by what God has already done for us.” “We will be judged – but by God (and not by one another)!” “Christian agreement is far more widespread than disagreement.”

Second, “Walk in Love” radiates a sense of happily assenting to the Creeds, the authority of Scripture, and the text of the Book of Common Prayer that can no longer be taken for granted in most Episcopal contexts – but its confidence comes without any anxiety, niche mentality, or hostility. Gunn and Shobe consistently and unapologetically draw on the Prayer Book and the Bible and keep sending readers back to take them in and consider them warmly. You or I or anyone else may wish some particular passage or other had been phrased a bit differently (which ones depend on whether you’re more progressive or more conservative, higher or lower), but anyone who loves classical Anglicanism will rejoice in how delighted this book is that it exists.

Third, the book evinces awareness of ways in which mainstream Christianity can rub people the wrong way on various contemporary issues (some of which, of course, are actively raised from those within the church as well as those outside) and it addresses them with respect – but it does not ever allow these critiques to set the terms of the discussion. This decision lets the book avoid the major flaw of the entire past generation of Episcopal apologetics (particularly when we try to reuse those writings today). The existence of a minority report on recent decisions on marriage, for example, is dealt with compassionately rather than with dismissiveness; our culture’s habit of dismissing so-called Biblical “literalists” (as the book points out, there are none) is gently reframed rather than seized upon as evidence of Episcopal superiority to other believers; welcoming questions is presented not as a way to let people avoid commitment to Christ but as a context that allows people to bring their intellectual integrity into engagement with the claims of the faith.

And finally, the accessible and grounded writing makes reading a pleasure. The book is in the following sections: The Anglican Way of Christianity, The Sacraments and Sacramental Rites, Marking Time, Basic Beliefs, The Church, A Trinitarian Life, and What’s Next. Each of these features plenty of examples and stories from ordinary Anglican Christian experience both in church and in the family; this not only keeps the text from being dry, but also subtly models diverse ways of absorbing our tradition and putting it into practice. In fact, the rootedness in actual Christian practice evidenced throughout is one of the more valuable things about the book. Readers will also enjoy the numerous sidebars, in keeping with the way people’s attention works these days, as well as the ample suggestions for follow-up that never degenerate into a choose-your-own-adventure smorgasbord.

Is it the “one book on the Episcopal Church” for you? Only you can answer that, but I’m more enthusiastic about this one than about any other recent offering I’ve seen.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Everybody Wins, Nobody Loses

The Rev. Canon David M. Baumann
Priest-in-Charge of St. John’s Episcopal Church, Centralia
Interim Pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church, Centralia

In May 2017, at the urging of one of the members of St. John’s in Centralia, I sent a letter to Redeemer Lutheran Church of the same city, offering them a home at St. John’s. The congregation had recently lost its pastor and was in the process of selling its building; they did not have enough members or income to keep going as they had been. At the time I wrote the letter, I did not know that on top of these sorrowful events, Redeemer had been in negotiations for a year with another church in Centralia regarding a merger, and that the other church had just made an unanticipated vote not to continue with merger plans that had long been in the works. The timing of my letter was providential; Redeemer was delighted to consider a relationship of some kind with
AROUND THE DIOCESE

St. John’s, and began to use our building for their services on the first Sunday in September 2017. They were served by a retired Lutheran pastor who had been contracted for a limited period of time. Our two congregations manifested immediate charity toward one another, and began to cooperate in many ways even as we established a Transition Team to address all the issues that would come up as we proceeded on the path toward a formal linking of our congregations.
Our goal was to design a plan that would preserve the traditions, gifts, and overall identity of both congregations while simultaneously sharing those gifts with the partner church. We were careful and thorough, and the excitement grew as time passed and we saw the fruit of our work in our daily practice.

Finally, after nearly a year, we achieved our goal. On the first Sunday of August 2018, Redeemer relinquished its own service time and joined St. John’s in a single Sunday service. I was appointed Pastor of Redeemer by Bishop John Roth of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. Redeemer brought about twenty people to St. John’s twenty, effectively doubling the size of the congregation.

Every issue had been worked out to everyone’s satisfaction, e.g.
• how Communion will be distributed (those who wish to receive from the common chalice do so at the altar rail; those who wish to receive from individual cups do so in a line at the front of the nave; grape juice is blended with a tiny amount of wine; the vessels are cleansed “Episcopal style”)
• how the finances will be handled (each congregation retains its treasurer and finances, but a joint checking account will be used for shared expenses which are divided equally)
• how the liturgy will be conducted (Episcopal Prayer Book with Lutheran additions and adaptations allowed by Episcopal rubrics; Episcopal service music with Lutheran hymns are used for a season, followed by a season of Lutheran service music and Episcopal hymns; liturgical assistant ministers serve as they always have according to their own tradition)
• how property is to be shared (each congregation’s property is retained, but everything is shared without reserve, such as a sound system, photocopier, and musical instruments)
• how the two musicians will work together (both were retained at the pay they were receiving, and were asked to devise their own method for performing their ministries together; an electric piano was added to the organ and both instruments are used, thereby greatly expanding the congregation’s musical experience; a choir was formed made up of members of both congregations, and the musician who had received the higher pay was given responsibility as choirmaster)
• how the congregations’ social ministries and various traditions will be blended (both maintained what they had been doing while inviting members of the other congregation to join)
• how the two church councils will function (they meet jointly on a monthly basis handling Episcopal business, Lutheran business, and shared business together, with votes taken by one or the other or both together depending on the agenda item)

In the nearly one year of negotiations and mutual learning, we truly hit zero roadblocks. The entire process has been smooth and exciting. Our success has been made possible by the good attitude, confidence, and charity of each individual member of the two congregations with the support of the hard work of those involved in the process. Our bishops have been excited along with us, and supportive of all that we set out to do. Over twenty pages devised over the months of detailed notes, topics of discussion, and suggested resolutions finally came down to two simple pages which we call A Plan for Common Mission. Approved and signed by both bishops and the leaders of both congregations, it sets forth what it means for our two congregations to live as one.

Most of all, I believe that our success is the work of our Lord and God. The Holy Spirit has manifested himself in us to make it possible for us to respond to Jesus’ prayer, “That we all may be one, so that the world may believe.” The joy and excitement on each Sunday morning is palpable, the singing is robust, and the fellowship warm and rich. I trust that all have been blessed, and that no one lost anything of value. I am personally pleased and proud to be able to tell others who have inquired about our process, “This is the way it should be.” Now we are moving forward with new, God-given energy and vision to be more and more the people of God by grace, in joy, for mission, and to serve.
**“OLD AND NEW, SPIRITUAL AND BLUE”**

Jeff Kozuszek

A concert of music celebrating life and joy will be presented by Paula Pugh Romanaux, Ruth Sieber Johnson, and Melissa Ferguson on Sunday afternoon, September 23rd at 4:00 pm. Listeners will share in music including songs by Leonard Bernstein, Walter Pelz, Robert Boury, and Richard Shulman. Traditional spirituals and hymn arrangements will feature the 101-year-old Reuter Pipe Organ, enjoying a second century of life at Trinity Episcopal Church in Mattoon. Ms. Pugh Romanaux, organist, is a graduate of MacMurray College in Jacksonville. Her extensive experience has her studying and performing around the world, and it is wonderful that she has decided to come back to central Illinois. She currently serves as organist at the First Presbyterian Church in Springfield. Ruth Sieber Johnson, soprano, lives in Asheville, North Carolina, where she is the Executive Director of Sigma Alpha Iota International Music Fraternity. Collaborating at the piano, Melissa Ferguson of Mattoon is a graduate of Millikin University. Plan to come and join in an afternoon of love expressed through music.

**St. Mark’s - Denning School**

St Mark’s in West Frankfort has adopted Denning School, a local K-2 elementary. We are providing some clothing items; however our main mission is to provide snack bags for the neediest children. With the generous financial assistance of an anonymous donor, we will be sending 75 bags home with these children every weekend throughout the school year; each bag contains 6-7 prepackaged snack items. We are so grateful to be able to help children in our community; and the school leadership is delighted that we have taken this on!

**St. Bartholomew’s Church - Granite City**

Nancy Wickham & Carolyn Votaw

Once again, it’s time for the annual bus trip to Branson Missouri. We will be going October 5th-7th, 2018. This has been offered to the deanery and two churches joined us. This year we will be going to 3 shows, a museum and 2 buffet dinners. We will have breakfast at the motel and cobbler with ice cream at night. This year we have 37 people on the trip. Only two people from church are going and lots of friends with a lot of new people this year. This is our 18th year to go and consider this to be an outreach to others who would like to go with us. Please contact us at the church for anyone who would like info on next year’s trip.

**Jill Knappenberger Day**

Beth Maynard

On September 11, Emmanuel Memorial hosted a large celebration for the 100th birthday of member Jill Knappenberger. Jill has served her country at the Battle of the Bulge in WWII, participated in numerous nonprofit boards in Champaign-Urbana, helped fund the Wurlitzer organ at the Virginia Theater, created the archive display of Emmanuel’s Altar Guild Easter Egg project as well as designing and making eggs for over 50 years, and created numerous works of art in painting and needlepoint. Members of her summer community in Michigan, as well as local civic and university leaders and friends, made the trip to celebrate with Jill, and Champaign’s Mayor Deb Frank Feinen was in attendance to issue a proclamation of September 11, 2018 as Jill Knappenberger Day.
TRUSTEE’S REPORT

Donald Monty
Chairman, Trustees of the Diocese of Springfield

Funds invested by the Diocesan Trustees experienced a small loss in the first half of calendar year 2018. The Endowment Fund lost 3.82% in the first quarter and gained 1.37% in the second quarter. For the first half of 2018 the Endowment Fund lost 2.5%. The Combined Fund lost 3.7% in the first quarter and gained 1.47% in the second quarter. The Combined Fund had a loss of 2.29% for the first half of 2018.

The Diocesan Endowment Fund is invested in a managed portfolio. The value of the Endowment Fund decreased from $2,710,222 at the beginning of the first quarter of 2018 to a value of $2,583,943 on June 30, 2018. The investments lost $184,004 in value for the first half of 2018. However, there were withdrawals of $59,403 during the six months.

Most of the Combined Fund is also invested in a managed portfolio, but a portion of the Combined Fund is also invested in a short-term mutual fund. The Combined Fund decreased in value from $3,575,627 at the beginning of the first quarter of 2018 to a value of $3,452,005 on June 30, 2018. The investments lost value of $123,622 during the six months. There were $63,756 in withdrawals for the first half of 2018 and $9,176 in additions during that time. The portion of the Combined Fund invested in short-term mutual funds decreased in value from $616,915 at the beginning of the first half of 2018 to $614,966 on June 30, 2018.

The Diocesan Treasurer uses the short-term mutual fund as a place to invest money on a short term basis, and that amount will vary from time-to-time during the year depending on cash flows as revenues are received and expenses incurred.

The first half of 2018 has seen, on average, decreases in value for equities in the financial markets. However, there has been significant volatility in the markets, especially in the first quarter of 2018. As the results above show, the second quarter showed gains that partly offset losses in the first quarter.

TREASURER’S REPORT

For year to date July 31, 2018, total revenues were $476,124.79 or $35,883.14 more than budgeted revenues of $440,241.65. This was primarily driven by Current Year Pledge Income of $318,308.76 (-$20,024.59 under budget) and Pledges-Prior Years of +$69,498.00.

Total Expenses were $536,263.93 or $28,845.37 less than budgeted expenses of $565,109.30.

The quarter ended with a deficit of ($60,139.14). This deficit was primarily driven by the purchase of a replacement vehicle for the Bishop $18569.48 (5117) and General Convection Delegation Travel $30,424.82 (5310) expense.

The Diocesan Canons require the current year pro rata pledge payment as of June 30 to be paid by the beginning of Synod. There is only 1 community not in compliance as of August 25, 2017. If a church is not current on this basis by the start of Synod then their Lay Delegates will not be seated (Constitution- Article XIV Section 3 and Canons 3 Section 2, Canon 4 Section 3).

UTO

Joyce Wright
UTO Coordinator Diocese of Springfield

UTO SPRING INGATHERING
The Diocese of Springfield contributed $4,241.21 for Spring Ingathering. Thank you to everyone who, through spiritual discipline of gratitude, donated to the United Thank Offering 2018 Spring Ingathering.

UTO FALL INGATHERING 2018
September 16th thru October 14th.

UNITED THANK OFFERING 2018 GRANT AWARDS
During ECW Triennial Meeting at General Convention in Austin Texas UTO Board announced the amount of $1,283.31 for 2018 Grant Awards. The United Thank Offering Invites Every Episcopalian to:
-Notice the good things that happen each day.
-Give thanks to God for your blessings.
-Make an offering for each blessing.
Through UTO, your Blessings become blessings for others.

I encourage congregations in the Diocese of Springfield to consider applying for a 2019 UTO Grant. The award assists many Churches that the budget cannot fund. If you are interested in more information about the UTO GRANTS, contact Joyce Wright at jcwright117@gmail.com
SYNOD ELECTIONS

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<tr>
<td>Secretary (1 person - 1 year term)</td>
<td>The Rev. G. W. “Bill” Howard</td>
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<tr>
<td>Treasurer (1 person - 1 year term)</td>
<td>Rod Matthews</td>
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<tr>
<td>Standing Committee (1 presbyter - 4 year term)</td>
<td>The Very Rev. Benjamin D. Hankinson, Jr</td>
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<tr>
<td>Standing Committee (1 lay - 4 year term)</td>
<td>Helen Williams</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trustee (1 person - 5 year term)</td>
<td>Mary McGrath</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diocesan Council (1 clerical - 2 year term)</td>
<td>The Very Rev. Andrew S. Hook</td>
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<td>Diocesan Council (1 lay - 2 year term)</td>
<td>Gerry Smith</td>
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<td>Commission on Ministry (1 presbyter - 3 year term)</td>
<td>The Rev. David. J. Halt</td>
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<td>Disciplinary Board (1 clerical - 3 year term)</td>
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<td>Disciplinary Board (1 lay - 3 year term)</td>
<td>Stephen Skaff</td>
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<td>Provincial Synod Delegate (1 lay- 3 year term)</td>
<td>Jan Goosens</td>
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BIographies

Howard, The Rev. G. W. “Bill”:
The Rev. Bill Howard has been Vicar of St. John’s Episcopal Church, Albion, Illinois, since ordination to the Priesthood on December 8, 2012.

He has been a practicing attorney in Mt. Vernon from 1959 to the present and has served in many civic and educational capacities, including Trustee of the University of Illinois, board of Visitors of the College of Law, and Director of the Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education.

He and his wife, The Rev. Sylvia L. Howard, will celebrate their 61st wedding anniversary in December, are the parents of one son, and have two grandchildren.

Matthews, Rod:
Rod was confirmed in the Episcopal Church in 1992 at All Saints, Frederick, MD. He served on the Vestry at St Paul’s, Murfreesboro, TN. He completed Cursillo in the Episcopal Diocese of TN in the spring of 1997. Rod has been a member of Christ the King, Normal, since November 1998. He has served multiple terms on Christ the King’s Mission Leadership Team and served as Rector’s Senior Warden 3 times. He also has served the Diocese of Springfield as a member of the Diocesan Council, a synod delegate, a Deanery representative, and member of the Standing Committee. Rod was one of Christ the King’s delegates to the Nominating and Election Synods for the 11th Bishop of the Diocese of Springfield. He currently serves as Treasurer of the Diocese of Springfield.

Rod retired from State Farm Insurance Companies in 2014 after 38 years of service. He joined State Farm in 1979 in the Charlottesville, Va. office and held a variety of positions in Pennsylvania, Florida, Maryland, Illinois, and Tennessee. Rod held...
various senior executive positions over the last 20 years of his career. He returned to corporate headquarters in 1998,

Matthews is a past chair and director on the board of the Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety (IBHS). In addition, he served on the boards of the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS), Federal Alliance for Safe Homes (FLASH), and the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF).

Rod resides in Bloomington with his wife of 36 years, Dee Matthews. Rod and Dee have two sons, David (reporter for DNAInfo.com, Chicago, IL) and Michael, (Doctoral Program at UCLA). A native of Virginia, Matthews received a bachelor's degree from Old Dominion University, Norfolk, Virginia. He earned the Chartered Property Casualty Underwriter (CPCU) designation in 1985.

McGrath, Mary:
Ms. McGrath is a member of Emmanuel Memorial Episcopal Church in Champaign, IL. She has served on the vestry and is currently a trustee of the church's endowment as well as an acolyte, lector and chalice bearer. She also served for many years on the Budget and Finance Committee and the Personnel Committee.

Ms. McGrath graduated with highest honors from the University of Illinois with a degree in accounting. She spent nine years in public accounting attaining the position of tax partner before leaving to pursue a career in financial planning and money management. Currently she is part owner of Cozad Asset Management, Inc. where she focuses on portfolio management, financial planning and taxes. She has been recognized by both Worth magazine and Medical Economics magazine as one of the Best Financial Advisors in the country. She lectures frequently on financial planning and charitable giving strategies. Ms. McGrath has appeared on CNBC and has been quoted often in Smart Money, Kiplinger's and Yahoo Finance.

Williams, Helen:
(Maiden name Conci) I am a “cradle” Episcopalian. Born and baptized in Rolla, Missouri where my parents were students. Grew up in St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church Carbondale where I was confirmed and later married by the Episcopal priest in a catholic church because the new St. Andrew’s church was not finished on the wedding date as planned. Became a member of St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church, Harrisburg in 1992. Have served on the vestry and as Bishop’s Warden and Mission Warden alternatively several times. Currently Mission Warden at St. Stephen’s and a member of the Standing Committee.

Hankinson, The Very Rev. Benjamin D.:
Fr. Ben came to Trinity, Mt. Vernon in 2014 as Priest in Charge and was elected Rector in 2016. He currently serves as Dean of the Eastern Deanery, member of Diocesan Council, and Coordinator of Youth. He is on staff at the St. Michael’s Youth Conference and Episcopal Church Camp. He enjoys working to build bridges in the community among churches and area ministries. He actively pursues this through his current role as president both of the local ministerial association and of the homeless shelter.

Prior to coming to Trinity, Fr. Ben attended seminary at Nashotah House Theological Seminary and was sponsored for ordination by St. John’s, Decatur. Originally from South Carolina, he attended the University of South Carolina where he was a part of the Honors College and graduated with a B.A. in Dance Performance. In his free time, he has taken up the hobby of woodworking in the last year and successfully completed a handful of projects. He also enjoys spending time on the water and visiting with his two nieces, ages 4 and 6.
Synod Elections

Hook, The Very Rev. Andrew S.: The Very Rev. Andrew is the Dean of The Cathedral Church of Saint Paul the Apostle in Springfield. He was called to the Cathedral in April of 2015. Andy grew up in a nominally Mennonite household and after straying from the Faith returned in 1998 as a Junior in high school. After rejoining the Mennonite Church, Andy pursued his undergraduate degree in youth ministry at Hesston College in Hesston, Kansas and then Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg, Virginia. His first exposure to the Episcopal Church was as a Junior in college when he attended The Great Vigil of Easter at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C.

After college, Fr. Andy co-pastored a Mennonite Church in Ohio and then upon returning to Kansas, his birthstate, he took up the position of youth minister at Grace Episcopal Church in Hutchinson, Kansas. He was confirmed into the Episcopal Church in 2008. Feeling God’s call into the priesthood he received his Master of Theology from Newman University in Wichita, Kansas. He was ordained to the diaconate May 25th, 2013 and then the priesthood on the Feast of Saint Andrew of that same year.

Smith, Gerry: “Cradle” Episcopalian, baptized and confirmed in the Episcopal Church. He has been a member of Christ the King, Normal since its formation as a mission in 1978. Gerry has also served Christ the King as Rector’s Warden (4 times), as Parish Warden (5 times) and as youth leader. He served as Bishop’s Warden when Christ the King transitioned from Mission to Parish status. Other ministries include Chalice Bearer, Sunday school teacher and member of the church choir.

Gerry was a Children’s Leader for 4 years for Bible Study Fellowship in Bloomington, a non-denominational bible study. Additionally, he is active in Kairos Prison Ministry, serving on 12 different inside teams at Menard Correctional Center, Western Illinois Correctional Center and Pontiac Correctional Center. Gerry served as Chairperson of the State Chapter Committee of the Illinois Kairos Prison Ministry from 2014 – 2016 and now serves as the Liaison for Kairos to Pontiac Correctional Center. He has also served as a weekly bible study leader at Pontiac.

Gerry has served at the Diocesan level in several areas. He was a member of the Standing Committee (2008 - 2010) and member of the Commission on Ministry (2006 - 2009). Gerry has been a Synod delegate (7 times), Deanery Representative and has served 4 different terms on Diocesan Council.

He has been a lay deputy to the General Convention of the Episcopal Church 3 times (2009, 2012 and 2018). He made his Cursillo weekend 25 years ago.

Gerry is married to Linda, who retired from Crowne Realty in Bloomington where she was their Organizational Development and Training Manager. They have four children; Gerry, III - 37 (wife Kelly & grandsoms Jax & Parker), Tony – 34 (wife Charity & grandson Aiden), Lindsay - 28, and Ashley - 25. Gerry has been employed at State Farm Insurance Companies in Bloomington as a Software Solution Developer for the past 17 years. Previously, he was Electrical Maintenance Director at Clinton Power Station, working there for 16 years, and is a former Navy Submariner.

Halt, The Rev. David J.: Dave has served as Rector of St. Matthew’s, Bloomington since January of 2010. He has served the Diocese of Springfield as Deputy to General Convention (2018), Dean of the Northern Deanery, President of the Standing Committee, member of Diocesan Council, the Youth Department, and the Commission on Ministry. Prior to arriving in the Diocese of Springfield, he served churches in Cincinnati. In his former diocese, he served as President of the Board of Trustees for the Episcopal Community Services Foundation of Southern Ohio, Assistant Secretary.
Steve is finishing his first term on the Mission Leadership Team and second year as Rector’s Warden. Steve is also involved with the choir, youth Sunday School, and has served on the finance committee and as a Trustee of the church’s endowment fund.

Steve and Kelly are attorneys. Kelly practices at her family’s law firm in Belleville, and Steve is currently home full-time with their six kids, ages 1 to 11.

Goossens, Jan:
Provincial Positions:
Provincial Synod Delegate for the Diocese of Springfield from 2009-present; appointed to be the Diocese of Springfield’s Representative on Province V Executive Board, May 2012 – present; a member of Province V’s Synod as the United Thank Offering Network Chair from 2006-2009 and the Province V Representative on the 2006-2009 United Thank Offering Board. I am on the 2018-2021 National Episcopal Church Women’s Board as the Province V Representative.

National Positions: United Thank Offering Board as Member-at-Large for Africa and Finance Officer 2009-2012 and have attended seven Triennial Meetings.

Diocesan Positions: Diocesan Episcopal Church Women President, May 2015 – April 2018; Asset Map Coordinator, 2015- present;

Jan has been a Synod delegate or alternate delegate for St. Thomas, Glen Carbon since 2005. Member of St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Glen Carbon since September 2004. She has held the following positions at St. Thomas: Bishop’s Warden 2011-2014, Member of Bishop’s Committee 2005-2015, Clerk of Bishop’s Committee 2008-2010, Bulletin Secretary 2005 - present, member of The Episcopal Church Women, Mission Administrator 2015-present, volunteering at St. Thomas Episcopal Church Child Care and Preschool as bookkeeper 2013-2016, and on the Day Care Board 2013-2016, Treasurer of church 2018.

Jan was a substitute teacher in the Edwardsville District 7 Community School District, 2005-2013. Married and has two grown sons.
The Bishop’s visitation was on July 1, 2018. The Bishop encouraged the congregation to embrace the faith of those gone before us and walk faithfully before God. This year we had three confirmations and three receptions. It was an amazing celebration when our Bishop received a couple that was baptized and confirmed in the Episcopal Church, married right here at the Church of the Redeemer, but left and became members of another denomination; now they are back and active in the Church. Praise be to God.

The Church of the Redeemer sent two kids to attend the Episcopal Church Camp in Hudson, Illinois in July. They are still excited about it and already are inviting their friends to join them next year.

Lastly, our Martial Arts Leader, Len Harris, Jr, who is our Bishop’s warden and doubles as the Police Chief in Cairo, continues to lead the martial arts training at the church's fellowship hall. We have continued to see people coming and becoming part of this ministry from as far as Mound in Pulaski county, and Anna, Illinois. As we have always requested, let’s keep up praying for one another and for the ministries we do together as a family of this diocese, and as people of God.

Blessings from Redeemer Episcopal Church, Cairo.

Father James Muriuki

Church of the Redeemer
Cairo, IL

The Month of May began as usual with the continuation of catechism for the preparation of candidates for confirmation and reception. Father James was involved with the visitation and Bible study at the senior citizens’ place where they meet for lunch and fellowship each day. He has been visiting the local nursing home on a regular basis. On May 20, 2018 we had a special visit by the team of men and women from the Cursillo Group. We enjoyed their fellowship in every way and they became an encouragement to the entire church of the Redeemer, not only the Cursillistas. We enjoyed a meal together, which is our tradition, to have fellowship every Sunday.

The Church of the Redeemer sent three pilgrims to the Diocesan Cursillo Retreat at Todd Hall, in Columbia, IL. It was a great opportunity to have an additional group of Cursillistas in our church. They came back with fire burning, and we are praising God for the Cursillo Ministry in our Diocese.

The Church took on the task of removing debris from the building next door to the church, in preparation for the necessary renovations when funds become available. This building will be able to accommodate the martial arts program that currently meets in our small fellowship hall. We don’t have FUNDS, but we have FAITH and that makes all the difference.

We all know how important music is to our worship. This last quarter our digital hymn machine, Synthia, broke down. We were told that it was one of their older models, and that it could not be repaired. A lot of small churches like ours cannot find an organist, or don’t have the means to pay them, and there may also be the lack of a musical instrument as well. With all this in mind, we set out to find a solution for our problem. We found a device made in London, England, that fits our needs. It’s called the HT-400 Hymnal Plus. It does not require an instrument, plays all of our 1982 hymns, plus lots of extra praise music. The HT-400 can be set up to play as a piano, organ, or orchestra; it is a very flexible machine. If anyone reading this has an interest in reading about the HT-400, you can Google their website. No I don’t get a commission on sales ha ha. It has not arrived yet, and I pray it lives up to its claims.

Father Tim Goodman

St. Mark’s
West Frankfort, IL

Overall it’s been a fairly quiet quarter at St Mark’s, West Frankfort,” reports Mother Sherry Black. “Of note, we now have a public Facebook page (we’ve had a Group Page for many years) and as administrator I’m still figuring out what to do with it, with limited success. For a few months now, one of our members (and unofficial photographer!) has been
At the end of July, St. Mark’s Church was asked to help a local K-2 school with food bags for the neediest children, and we are really excited to be able to adopt Denning School as our own outreach mission. I’ll have more to share on this in the months to come. Let’s just say that God took our few loaves and fishes, and our willingness, and has multiplied them exponentially!

Mother Sherry Black

ST. ANDREW’S
Carbondale, IL

St. Andrew’s Parish in Carbondale began the quarter with a thorough and spirited cleaning of the church and its grounds, in anticipation of our first wedding in many years. The bride, the groom, and many of their friends are trained opera performers, so the singing during the wedding, accompanied as always by the amazing Gail White, was nothing short of spectacular. The Mission Leadership Team delved into the intricacies of solar energy, and expects to make a decision soon about whether to proceed with the installation of solar panels. While our daytime book club continued slowly to savor its way through Abigail Pogrebin’s book, My Jewish Year, our impromptu evening study group followed a video series on the meaning of the Mass by Robert Barron.

Meanwhile, the Carbondale Matmakers crossed the milestone of producing their first 100 crocheted sleeping mats, all donated for the benefit of homeless people. They continue to meet each Tuesday morning, they clearly enjoy each other’s company, and the fruits of their labors are highly coveted among the homeless. We continue our outreach in Marion through St. James Chapel. In addition to matmaking there, we have divided our Community Library Box so that half of it is stocked with food for the body, while the other half is stocked with food for the soul in terms of interesting books. Both sides of the library box receive regular use; we feel blessed in the giving, and hope that all those who receive either food or books feel God’s blessing as well. We have dedicated space on a weekly basis to a new Al-Anon group, and already they are enthusiastic about volunteering to help with maintenance in the fellowship hall. We hosted two well-attended meetings of “Marion Rocks,” a group dedicated to random acts of kindness by leaving beautifully decorated rocks for strangers to find. All of these activities are helping St. James to become known, appreciated, and even loved in the immediate neighborhood.

Kathryn G. Jeffrey, Rector of St. Andrew’s Parish and Regional Dean
DEANERY REPORTS

NORTHERN DEANERY

TRINITY
Lincoln, IL

Trinity Lincoln completed its Mission Strategy Report. In the winter and early spring, parishioners met with two candidates for Holy Orders in the parish discernment process. Upon completion of the process, one candidate opted to withdraw from the process for now and the other met with the COM in June. Jonathan Totty was accepted as a postulant to Holy Orders by Bishop Martins and as of August 2018 had moved to Nashotah House for a Certificate of Anglican Studies degree.

Trinity was blessed with two more Baptisms this year, one in March and the other in July. That makes three year to date. Another welcome sign is the number of young people attending. A recent Sunday had around 12 students/graduates of the local Christian Church college/seminary in attendance out of 30 odd total. A tongue-in-cheek comment that the average age was under 40 for the day was not far off the mark. Fr. Mark has been a sometime faculty member for various worship and spirituality classes for the seminary.

Fr. Mark and Sandy participated in the diocesan Cursillo weekend as Spiritual helper and Palanca Chapel head respectively in June. Fr. Mark was a deputy to his second General Convention in July. By the grace of God, Trinity stays vibrant with its influx of new people while staying true to its Anglican heritage.

Mark Evans+ - Rector

ST. BARNABAS
Havana, IL

St. Barnabas’ continues to see growth over the summer with one new toddler baptism, and two new members coming this month from an ACNA parish. The Eucharistic Community has added daily Morning Prayer and Mass beginning at 9 AM, M-Tu-Th-Fri, while Wednesday serves a Mid-Week Healing Mass followed by a newly-implemented soup and bread dinner. Attendance at daily MP and Mass is avg. of 6 persons, and Wednesday avgs. 12-14, with Sunday attendance diminishing slightly over the summer to 17-19 persons due to vacations, etc.

St. Barnabas’ will celebrate a first annual “Blue Mass” for local and county law enforcement and first responder personnel on Wednesday, September 26th at 6 PM with a Solemn Mass with the blessing of these personnel followed by a blessing of their vehicles which will be on display during the Mass at the church, culminating in a pizza and dessert supper held on the church lawn.

St. Barnabas’ has also added a ‘chapel’ area to the church with a new altar commemorating St. Barnabas and newly-installed parclose screens. A columbarium is being crafted by a member of the church and will be installed in winter of 2019. Several niches are already reserved and will be filled upon completion.

St. Barnabas’ is a joyful, growing Eucharistic community that is walking and talking abundance over scarcity thinking and continues to trust that “God is faithful!”.

Michael Newago+

ST. MATTHEW’S
Bloomington, IL

1. We completed our Mission Strategy Review by the deadline and with the help of Fr. Newago. Our primary finding was that there had been enough turnover in the past several years, that we need to invest this year in developing our community identity.

2. We have formed a Parish Mission Council to address the internal development, and to begin the process of discerning mission in the wider community. This group will continue to meet throughout 2018 & 2019.

3. Approval has been given for the replacement of the Parish Hall roof for a cost of approximately $70,000.

4. Worship attendance has been trending up over the past several months.

5. Fr. Halt continues to work on his PhD and has achieved ABD status.

David Halt+
DEANERY REPORTS

NORTHEASTERN DEANERY

EMMANUEL MEMORIAL
Champaign, IL

Summer 2018 began at Emmanuel with a glorious concluding celebration of our building’s centennial on Pentecost, including a procession through downtown marking the site where the first Episcopal worship service took place in Champaign County and visiting Emmanuel’s other previous meeting place. Our Bishop, community partner delegates, representatives from other Champaign-Urbana churches, a brass quartet, and a large and celebratory congregation made the experience a thrill, and the rain even held off until just about the time the Bishop knocked on the front door with his crozier! The Eucharistic liturgy continued with Baptisms and Confirmations, and we concluded with a pig roast lunch, put on by a terrific volunteer team who had worked the whole previous day, under a large tent in West Side Park.

Emmanuel also wrapped up a small campaign to fund a group of strategic capital projects to support future mission and ministry in honor of the Centennial, and we were delighted to exceed our goal and to be able to send a roughly $14,000 tithe to our outreach partner empty tomb. We also served empty tomb this summer in person by assisting in a parking lot project.

All of our formation programs slow down notably when school is out, as does everything else -- we found Sunday attendance lighter than usual this particular summer, too. However, as we have done the past 5 years, the church offered a summer reading book (Peter Kreeft’s Prayer for Beginners); this was followed up with discussion opportunities and evenings of contemplative prayer and Eucharistic Adoration.

We were happy to welcome a new clergy family baby to the parish with the birth of Clive Bockmann Roberts, and a few parishioners turned out to help Fr. Caleb and Julie move to a home closer to the church at the end of July. Our organist Michael Fisher played a recital in August at McKinley Presbyterian Church, and he also spent a week of continuing education at Nashotah House.

Offering the daily office, led by laity and clergy as a team, continues to be a major part of Emmanuel’s vocation as a parish, and over the summer we experimented with a new weekday schedule of retaining 5:15pm Evening Prayer but moving to a later Morning Prayer time – 8am. This has worked well enough that it will be a permanent change, so if you have business in downtown Champaign at the beginning or end of the workday Monday through Friday we invite you to drop in. (Wednesday evening is a Mass.) In fact, you are welcome anytime!

The Reverend Beth Maynard, Rector

ST. CHRISTOPHER’S
Rantoul, IL

It’s been a lazy summer up in Rantoul for St. Christopher. The biggest thing we did was get together and weed and trim bushes from the front and side of the church. We did it on the hottest day of the summer, and no one passed out. Hooray for us! The squirrels and birds have been busy transplanting corn all over our lawn. The stalks are sprouting up everywhere! Our Sunday School class has been painting message stones (kindness stones) to leave around the community. This trend seems to be sweeping the country. See you all at Synod!

The Rev. Ann Alley, Deacon

THE CHAPEL OF SAINT JOHN THE DIVINE
Champaign, IL

It has been a fruitful summer in the life of the Chapel of Saint John the Divine.

Canterbury Student Program
This summer, three persons who have been active participants in our Canterbury program made significant life transitions: Sarah Blanco will now be doing a year long internship in New Haven, CT at Saint Hilda’s House, one of the Episcopal Service Corps Houses after completing an undergraduate degree in Music. Justin Bladecki completes his additional undergraduate work and entered pharmacy school in Chicago, where he will seek a PhD, Faith Tan finished her undergraduate degree at UIUC and has begun an Americorps internship in
Champaign.

Matthew Cross and Ben Norton will be serving as peer ministers this semester, and continue to help build our outreach to the university community.

Quad Day, a student activity fair that includes hundreds of organizations and thousands of students, will be held Sunday, August 26. The parish helped support our efforts to connect with students, distributing more than 800 cookies (most of which were home baked) and inviting students to be part of the life of the Chapel and our Canterbury program. College students, children of the parish, and other parishioners were active participants on this process. Our student services and meal program begin August 29.

The Parish

Summers are often a quieter time in the life of the Chapel, with the academic year complete and many in the university community traveling. That hasn't slowed down the Chapel's vestry. The good work of considering how we might alter or replace our Canterbury House to more appropriately meet our ministry needs as a parish and chaplaincy continues and our architects are pricing several designs. Over the coming months, we will be further our discernment about how to best bring the good news of God in Christ at the corner of Wright and Armory to the heart of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign campus.

During the summer, four parishioners participated in the Royal School of Church Music chorister program held on the campus of East Carolina University in Charlotte, North Carolina and at another RSCM conference in Newport, Rhode Island. Our choral programs have resumed for the fall.

The Chapel of Saint John the Divine is alive and well and we invite all from the diocese to stop by any time you find yourself in the area.

The Very Reverend Sean Ferrell, Rector and Chaplain

On the 3rd of June we had our annual Outdoor Eucharist and Parish Picnic at Forsyth Pavilion. On the 6th St. John's hosted a table at the annual Community Prayer Breakfast at the Conference Center. On the 9th of June Mary Jones was interred in our Columbarium. On the 10th we had the Baptism of Jaxon Arnold welcoming him into the Communion of the Saints.

One month old Avarie Crutcher was baptized on July 1st and welcomed into the Communion of the Saints. On the 18th Bishop Martins celebrated the Funeral Mass for Fr. Bill Toland. On the 26th of July we hosted our annual Blood Drive.

On the 9th of August we celebrated the young life of Ethan Kitchens with Fr. John Henry preaching and co-celebrating. Our annual Mix & Mingle was on Saturday the 11th of August at Richland Community College's Bistro 537. On the 12th we interred Bob Ellison in our Columbarium.

Each Tuesday and Thursday evening Deacon Chris leads Evening Prayer on our North lot with as many as eight local neighbors joining. We look forward to the return of Sunday School and our Choir in September.

Richard A. Swan+, Rector
DEANERY REPORTS

TRINITY
Jacksonville, IL

We kept a busy outreach schedule this summer at Trinity Church. We collected peanut butter and jelly (always the most popular items) for the Jacksonville food pantry, participated in the “Take it to the Streets” summer sack lunch program for underprivileged school children, helped assemble college care kits with the Jacksonville Area Conference of Churches, and delivered meals through the Jacksonville Doorbell Dinners program. On Trinity Sunday we offered a service confirming three members of the parish and receiving two others into the Episcopal Church.

As ever, building maintenance goes on. The complete replacement of our HVAC system is finally nearing completion. We replaced the dishwasher in the parish hall kitchen. We are now planning repairs for the slate porch in front of the entrance, tuck-pointing, and repairing and refinishing the church doors.

We are pleased to announce our new Choral Scholars internship program this fall. Four choral interns will be recruited from local colleges to offer their voices at our 10am service and at Holy Day services. This new program will allow us to expand and improve our choir program, beautify our worship, and give us important connections with the local colleges and community. Our choral scholars will receive experience in professional singing and a small stipend. Our Fellowship program this year will explore the history of Trinity Church in our parish archives.

Finally, in September we will begin experimenting with a third Sunday worship service by offering Evening Prayer at 4pm. We hope this will offer people who cannot attend on Sunday morning a chance to keep the Lord’s Day.

Zachary D. Brooks+, Rector

ST. PAUL’S
Springfield, IL

The Cathedral is abuzz with plans for the 141st Synod of the Diocese of Springfield. Things that were mere ideas several months ago are coalescing into definitive realities. We are excited to welcome the Clergy, Delegates, and Guests to Springfield and hope that they will enjoy their time with us.

About 6 months ago, an Arts Trust was formed, and a committee has been gathering monthly to vision, organize, and set in motion a plan to bring Arts of all kinds to the Cathedral. Along with two mandatory organ concerts, we hope include visual arts, choral arts, and performing arts. Cathedrals have long been centers of art and we hope to revive that traditional place in Springfield.

We continue to battle with an aging building as we have replaced the air conditioning units in the Great Hall and Nave, we have replaced several pumps connected to the boilers, and are scheduled to have the sump pump replaced (the failure of which caused 3-4 inches of water in the basement last week). A larger issue has also developed which has caught us completely unprepared; the clapper and clapper springs of the bell are broken. Because of this, the bell cannot be swung for fear of cracking the bell and thus ruining it. We are fortunate to have a tolling hammer attached so we can still use the bell in a diminished capacity. This bell rang at the funeral of President Abraham Lincoln and we are hoping to find some avenues of funding which consider the historical nature of the bell.

The prayers and good wishes of this Dioecese for her Cathedral are appreciated.

Andrew S. Hook+, Dean

ST. LUKE’S
Springfield, IL

Fr. Denney traveled in May to Taormina, Sicily, and spent several weeks as the locum for St. George’s Anglican Church. Time was spent on a variety of church and ecumenical activities, and he was able to spend a few days at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford, for their summer school. St. Luke’s was able to sponsor Fr. Giovanni La Rosa, priest of the Italian-speaking Anglican congregation, to join Fr. Denney at the summer school.

St. Luke’s was well cared for in Fr. Denney’s absence by Fr. David Boase, assisted by Deacon Langford.

We look forward to a busy fall schedule.

The Ven. Shawn W. Denney
Vicar
Many of you have been keeping Fr. David Boase in your prayers as we have here in the Diocesan office as he faces possible deportation. His loss to all of us will be significant.

Contact with Congress is being coordinated through the office of Senator Tammy Duckworth, and letters of support for Fr. Boase may be sent to her contact person at the following address:

Robin M. Cromer  
Community Outreach Coordinator  
Office of U.S. Senator Tammy Duckworth  
23 Public Square, Suite 460  
Belleville, IL 62220  
Phone: 618/722-7070

Fr. Boase has given his permission for this information to be shared. It would be appreciated if letters of support were sent to Senator Duckworth’s contact person.

The attached files (on the Dioecesan website) contains newspaper articles from the Alton Telegraph and St. Louis Post-Dispatch.
DIOCESAN CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 2018

02 Bishop w/ St. Andrew’s, Edwardsville
09 Bishop w/ Trinity, Yazoo City, MS (DEPO)
09 Eastern Deanery Meeting, (Trinity, Mt. Vernon (2:00 p.m.)
16 Bishop w/ St. Mary’s, Robinson
23 Northwestern Deanery Meeting, St. Luke’s, Springfield (2:30 p.m.)
23 Northeastern Deanery Meeting, Chapel of St. John the Divine, Champaign (4 p.m.)
29 Hale Deanery Meeting, (St. James’ Chapel, Marion 5:00 p.m.)
30 Northern Deanery Meeting, Trinity, Lincoln (2:00 p.m.)
30 Darrow Deanery Meeting, (St. Paul’s, Alton (2:00 p.m.)

OCTOBER 2018

07 Bishop w/ St. Stephen’s, Harrisburg
14 Bishop w/ St. Mark’s, West Frankfort
15-20 141st Synod, Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Springfield
21 Bishop w/ St. Luke’s, Springfield
28 Bishop w/ St. Matthew’s, Bloomington

NOVEMBER 2018

01 ALL SAINTS DAY, Trustees Meeting, Diocesan Center, Springfield (10 a.m.)
04 Bishop w/ Trinity, Mattoon
11 Bishop w/ St. Barnabas’, Havana
12-14 Clergy Conference, Toddhall, Columbia
16 Diocesan Council, Diocesan Center, Springfield (10 a.m.)
18 Bishop w/ All Saints’, Morton

DECEMBER 2018

02 ADVENT, Bishop w/ St. Paul’s, Carlinville
09 Bishop w/ St. Bartholomew’s, Granite City
16 Bishop w/ St. John’s, Centralia
25 CHRISTMAS DAY

For more information about contributing to The Springfield Current, please see the message from Bishop Daniel inside the front cover.

Contributors will be acknowledged in a future issue.

Thank you.

This calendar was correct at the time of printing, but is subject to change without notice.

For the most recent Diocesan Calendar and the full prayer cycle calendar, please visit www.episcopalspringfield.org.