years ago, such a promotion for this form of church growth was published, even stating up front that it pertained to a parish’s becoming “successful”. Ironically, I had just been meditating on Bishop Stephen Neill’s 1969 Lenten booklet, “One Increasing Purpose”, in which he notes that disciples of Jesus are called not to be “successful”, but “faithful”. Citing I Corinthians 4:2, this scholar missionary bishop, who spent years evangelizing in the Church of South India, swiftly cuts out from the church growth movement its thin veneer of Christian theology and reveals its unfaithfulness to the Bible. Any talk of what it means to follow Christ is seen by St. Paul in Philippians 2:

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of servant...

The Rev. Canon Dale Coleman, Rector, St. George’s, Belleville, IL

When I was at Nashotah House in the late ‘70s, a wag there described priests thus: “Calvinist in theology, Pelagian in modus operandi, and Catholic in haberdashery”. Unfortunately, this comes very close to being the case with much that passes among many Episcopal clergy concerning the “church growth” movement. And I refer specifically to Pelagianism.

Examples of Pelagianism are ready to hand in many programs for church growth originating in the mega-church milieu, reflecting a distinct lack of basic theological understanding, based on a few cherry-picked thin readings from the Acts of the Apostles. In the Springfield Diocesan Newspaper a few
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+ Rt. Rev. Daniel H. Martins, Bishop

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FROM THE BISHOP

“Ite, missa est!”

That’s Latin for, “Go, you are dismissed.” For hundreds and hundreds of years, in the Latin rite, this is how the Deacon tells the people that their liturgy—their solemn duty and joyful privilege—has been successfully performed, and they are free to go. Indeed, they are not just free to go, they need to go. Deacons are a polite bunch, generally, but if they are off their feed, they might say something like, “Scram. Get outta here!”

The Dismissal is a very small component of our celebration of the Eucharist, given and responded to inside of about four seconds, but it bears a huge load of significance. It is the nexus, the hinge, between our re-membering the Body of Christ around the altar and our re-membering the Body of Christ in the world, and for the life of the world. Our response to the Dismissal—not just “Thanks be to God,” but the way we live our lives between celebrations of the Eucharist—either validates our performance of the liturgy, or makes it incoherent, a false witness.

When we come together for the Eucharist, we, who have each been made a member of the Body of Christ through Baptism, re-member—re-assemble—the whole Body of Christ. We bring ourselves, “our souls and bodies,” as a living sacrifice to God. This sacrifice, this offering, is represented by the money that we place in the offering plate. It is also represented by the bread and wine that we place on the altar. It is significant that we don’t simply use grain and grapes in the Eucharist. Grain and grapes are God’s gifts to us, through nature. It takes human involvement—skills and labor—to turn grain into bread and grapes into wine. Bread and wine are our gifts to God. They represent all that we are and all that we have.

But we don’t just give ourselves to God, full stop. That would be an inadequate offering. We give ourselves to God in union with God’s offering of himself to himself. Yes, that sounds silly, but it’s precisely true. On the cross, God the Son offered himself to God the Father. In the Eucharist, we offer ourselves, in union with Christ’s offering of himself, for that offering alone can bridge the gap between God’s holiness and human sinfulness.

God then takes what we offer—ourselves in union with Christ—and returns the gift, transformed into his own deathless life. We become, per St Peter, “partakers in the divine nature” (II Peter 1:4).

It is God’s own mission to save—to reconcile, to forgive, to heal, to redeem, to generate justice and love. In the Eucharist, we are caught up into this mission. We have no choice, actually; it’s a vortex from which we cannot escape! To follow Jesus as his disciples, to come together around the altar and participate his divine life, his divine nature, is to be implicated and included in that saving and redeeming mission of God. There are no disciples who are not also missionaries. We announce good news, we make disciples, we baptize, we promote human flourishing in every way available to us. We do all these things as missionaries.

This is what the Dismissal reminds us of. “Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.” “Let us go forth in the Name of Christ.” “Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.” We are missionaries as individuals—in our homes, with our neighbors and friends, among those with whom we work or study. And we are missionaries as communities. Eucharistic Communities, corporately, discern how and where the Holy Spirit is calling them to “move into the neighborhood” (John 1:14, as rendered in The Message). Trust me, you will be hearing a lot more about this in the coming months!

In the meantime … scram. Get outta here.

+Daniel

P.S. Yes, the word Mass comes from the Latin missa—dismissed.
TRUE EVANGELISM

Continued from Cover

How different then to read church growth ideas with clear Pelagian undertones of saving ourselves by very hard diligent work, done with sincerity and good intentions and planning.

Please note, hardly anything is stated even glancingly about God’s own actions in the Sacraments! It is God’s action which we believe and confess, bringing us to the saving knowledge of God in Christ, through the Holy Spirit! For we come into the Church, the Body of Christ by Baptism! Otherwise, we try to work hard through our feelings of sincerity to become a caring, warm community, when the New Testament speaks about what God does in Baptism. See Romans 6! In I Peter -- very probably a baptismal sermon or teaching about baptism -- the Apostle speaks that God has made us a new people, His own possession by His action. We need to proclaim the Sacraments again!

What is true evangelism? I don’t mean the cheap grace of church growth (based really on American business slogans, self help, and human potential ideas) but true red blooded Christian Evangelism?

Bishop N. T. Wright wrote about this in his marvelous book, The Crown and the Fire: Meditations on the Cross and Life in the Spirit. At one point he reports that during a huge rally of Pentecostal and evangelical Christians held in Manila in 1989, the theme of evangelizing the world was, “Proclaim Christ Until He Comes”. And yet nowhere, Wright laments, was anything said by these Biblical literalists about the passage from which this slogan was taken. St. Paul states in I Corinthians 11:26: “For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes!”. This is about the gift of our Lord Himself in the Eucharist! We engage in full evangelism by following the Command of our Lord and gather especially on the day of Jesus’ resurrection to celebrate this Sacrament! This is true Biblical Evangelism!

I would submit that this happening all over our Diocese of Springfield -- in very small parishes, and very large ones, in traditional churches, and in progressive churches. We are obeying our Lord’s command and engaging in Sunday faithful worship. Perhaps this doesn’t amount to much in the eyes of the world, and to those who are always talking in anxious tones about getting bigger and bigger. No, to the eye of faith we are simply proclaiming the Lord’s death until He comes. That is the sign of a truly committed church.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Scouting at St. Christopher, Rantoul

Heather VanMeter

Cubmaster, Program Organizer, and Member of St. Christopher Episcopal Church

St. Christopher Episcopal Church in Rantoul, Illinois welcomed Cub Scouts from 1st to 5th grade during the 2016-2017 school year. The scouts earned their God and Me, God and Family, and Religious Knot during that time. The four scouts who earned these achievements were: Jarett Tucker, Ryan Soltis, Isaiah VanMeter, and Michael Soltis. They all earned the God and Me award, a program which explores the personal relationship each of us has with God, what prayer is, and memorization and recitation of the Lord’s Prayer. Isaiah VanMeter, Michael Soltis, and Christian Thompson earned the God and Family award, which explores the complex relationships of each of us as part of our own and God’s family. All the scouts earned the Religious Knot, which is one of the few awards that you may earn as a Cub Scout and wear on your uniform through adulthood.

The program was organized and counseled by Heather VanMeter, (the then Assistant Cubmaster of Pack 30, Rantoul), using Pray.org materials. Mrs. VanMeter would like to extend the program in the 2017-2018 school year to Girl Scouts, Campfire Kids and Heritage Kids in the community. When asked why the program was started, Mrs. VanMeter replied, “In boy scouting, the 12th point of the Scout law is Reverence. It is important
AROUND THE DIOCESE

for our youth to learn about God in a safe, nurturing environment that also supports the other ideals of these programs that provide our youth with the opportunity to grow and be productive and Godly citizens of this country.

In our Christian Education program we recognized the need to bring more youth, therefore more families, into the church. We have been happy to welcome these Scouting families here and hope that they will continue their attendance; they are a vital part of our mission to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ in this community.”

Note: Bishop Daniel Martins was visiting our church on the day these awards were given out. It was nice to have him present and to be a part of the ceremony.

EPISCOPALIANS VISIT THE MOSQUE

The Very Rev. Beth Maynard

On a rainy Lenten Friday, roughly 40 Episcopalians from the Champaign-Urbana area made a visit to the Central Illinois Mosque and Islamic Center. Mostly parishioners at the Chapel of St. John the Divine and Emmanuel Memorial, the group toured the mosque, observed Friday prayers, and shared lunch while dialoguing with their Muslim hosts. Emmanuel member Clara Bosak-Schroeder commented, “I was powerfully affected by the experience of eating and praying with people whose beliefs are both very similar to and importantly different from my own.” A smaller group from a Lutheran church in Monticello was also present, making for a truly ecumenical experience.

The main service of the week began at 1:05 and was repeated at 2:05 PM. Women and men, both Muslims and visitors, sat separately. After a warm welcome to the day’s Christian visitors, the imam preached a multi-point sermon about the Koran, urging his congregation to read it and integrate it into their lives, especially in the season of Ramadan. There was also a topical prayer of confession pointing out that the sin of racism was incompatible with Islam and calling Muslims to view people of all backgrounds as equals. Beautiful Arabic chanting started and closed the service. Much as at an Episcopal church, physical actions accompanied some of the prayers, and the level of attention waned noticeably when the week’s routine announcements (a 5K, a women’s group, parking restrictions...) began.

Over a meal of falafel and pita graciously arranged to accommodate Christians’ meatless Lenten Fridays, participants broke into two groups for discussion. There were questions about the rituals and gestures, about the formation of youth (the Muslim presenter described something familiar to any Episcopal parent, children growing in faith by simply imitating what they see happening in worship), and about theology (highlighting, for example, differences in understanding of Jesus, of where the ultimate revelation of God can be found, and of whether people can be “children of God” — the Muslim answer is no.)

A high point of one group came when a member of the mosque told the story of how her son, after hearing condemnatory statements about Muslims in the media, expressed fear of going to school and of leaving her alone and at risk. “God is always
with you,” she told him. “If anything happens, it will be a test of faith from Him.” Mentioning that “we are all human beings” and quoting a verse from the Koran that says, “even a smile is charity,” she expressed how much it meant to her that local Episcopalians had made the time to come and visit the mosque in person. She also encouraged Christians to “stand up and say what is true” when they heard unfair stereotypes or attacks on anyone.

While Christians and Muslims certainly disagree on important points, this afternoon showed participants a number of commonalities as well. It also demonstrated that in spite of theological and cultural differences, it is possible for people to relate with warmth and interest across divides.

**EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN 2017 PROJECT**

*The Rev. Sherry Black  
Diocesan ECW Outreach Chair*

The Diocesan ECW Outreach project for 2017 is the Family Friendship Fund at Southern Illinois Healthcare. SIH is a non-profit healthcare system. In 2015 SIH had a 56.2% (and growing) market share of the seven counties they directly serve. SIH is a leading employer in the area, second only to Southern Illinois University. As a non-profit, last year SIH provided nearly $7 million dollars in (unreimbursed) charity care. The Family Friendship Fund is financed entirely by donations.

When you donate to the Family Friendship Fund, you are touching people’s lives, including:

- A battered homeless woman who comes into the SIH Emergency Department. She is hurting, no place to go and her clothes are torn and she has no shoes or coat. With the help and guidance of SIH case managers, they work with the SIH Foundation Family Friendship Fund to purchase clothes, shoes, coat and transportation. She is treated, and given a ticket so she can go back home to family.
- A young mom who comes into an SIH Emergency Department for treatment of a young child. When the child is being released the ED Nurse finds out that the family does not have much food at home. With the help of the ED Nurse, she worked with the SIH Foundation Family Friendship Fund to purchase enough groceries to last a couple of weeks until the family could get back on their feet.
- A man who comes into an SIH Emergency Department after a bad car accident. The patient’s family makes a 5 hour trip to see him but they don’t have a lot of money for a hotel room. With the help of the SIH Case Manager and the SIH Foundation Family Friendship Fund, the patient is given vouchers to a local pharmacy for prescriptions and a cab ride to the pharmacy and then to his home.

To donate to the SIH Family Friendship Fund this year, please make checks payable to Episcopal Church Women, Diocese of Springfield and mail to Chris Dewitt, 427 W 4th St., Mt Carmel IL 62863.

*Trinity Jacksonville and St. Luke’s Springfield joined together for the 2017 Easter Vigil. Archdeacon Shawn Denney holds the Paschal Candle as Fr. Zachary Brooks inscribes it, and the new fire blazes!*
The Very Rev. John R. Henry, Chair

The Commission on Ministry continues to meet once per quarter to interview those who have discerned a call to ministry. It is good to be busy with a number of persons currently moving through the process.

The Commission on Ministry recently voted to approve two candidates for ordination to the deaconate: Allen Wakabayashi and Diane Wakabayashi.

The Commission on Ministry meets again tomorrow to interview Christine Gregory for candidacy.

Our new canons call for reduction in membership of the COM from 15 members to 9 members. As this number of members is reduced, attendance at each meeting of the committee becomes increasingly important.

Jan Goossens, President

2016-2017 Officers:
President: Jan Goossens
Vice-President: Natalie Tate
Secretary: Laura Beggs
Treasurer: Chris DeWitt
Chaplain: Rev. Mollie Ward

Committee Chairs:
Communications and Website: Chris DeWitt
2017 Outreach: Rev. Sherry Black

The 2018 Lenten Retreat will be March 15-17.

Outreach Project 2017: Southern Illinois Healthcare Services

United Thank Offering Ingathering: Send the Spring United Thank Offering Ingathering to Jan Goossens, 2400 Little Round Top Drive, Edwardsville, IL 62025-3110.

Church Periodical Club: Church Periodical Club’s Sunday was May 7. Contributions go to Ms. Carol McCrary, 521 East Second Street, Centralia IL 62801.

The Planning Meeting: The board will meet at St. John’s in Centralia on July 29 at 10:00 a.m. We will be gathering ideas for the 2018 Outreach Project. Jan Goossens will accept your ideas and present it to the board on July 29. The semi-finalists will then be sent to the Eucharistic Communities for their vote.
DARROW DEANERY

The Very Rev’d Ian Wetmore, Dean

THE EPISCOPAL PARISH OF ALTON

The ECM once again provided us with our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake dinner on the eve of Ash Wednesday. Something new was added to our two traditional Ash Wednesday services—“Ashes to Go” for those passing by Trinity Chapel. We observed the Lenten season with Wednesday evening masses, followed by a light soup and cheese meal. Mother Cindy presented a program on “Ways to Pray.” It was during that time that we were introduced to our new labyrinth. On St. Patrick’s Day, our Lenten program merged with a Family Fun Night with a visit from Serengeti Steve with his hands-on program involving snakes and other reptiles.

On Maundy Thursday, following foot washing and stripping of the altar, we held an intergenerational lock-in with a variety of activities and the watch over the Altar of Repose. The lock-in concluded with the consuming of the reserved sacrament and a Good Friday morning service with primarily youth participation. The usual evening service was also offered. For the Great Vigil of Easter, our new fire was ignited in the garden and the first mass of Easter was celebrated.

Pet lovers and their beloved animal companions came together for P.A.W.S. (Pets are Welcome Services) in celebration of Valentine’s Day, St. Patrick’s Day, and Easter. After a short worship service involving people and pets, all enjoyed a fellowship time in Heneghan Hall. PAWS will continue throughout the summer.

In addition to the Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner, the ECM also held their annual fish fry the Friday before Holy Week. Their annual spring geranium sale was once again a success. The ECM will also be helping out with the care of the parish gardens this summer.

On March 25, the ECW sponsored a Quilt and Needlework Show with proceeds going to their Hug Blankets project for schoolchildren and shut-ins.

This spring, parishioners again volunteered time and energy by participating in the Annual Alton City Clean-up Day, and by painting the house of someone in need as part of the annual community Bucket Brigade sponsored by Pride, Inc.

Sunday Adult Education will continue to meet during the summer. Tuesday Morning Bible Study has just completed the challenge of The Revelation to St. John, while Tuesday evening Hitchhikers Guide to the Bible group will be beginning the book of Exodus. Book Club continues to meet monthly.

As we look forward to summer, we will once again be participating with other groups and churches for the S.A.K. (Serving Area Kids) free lunch program.

Summer Family Fun Nights as well as PAWS will also continue through the summer. Our annual outdoor mass and parish picnic is scheduled for June 11. Preparations are already being made with our neighboring churches for another Market Street Block Party in August.

Thanks to a generous donation, a new Tabernacle has been purchased for Trinity Chapel.
A big piece of news from the EPA is that after several months of wonderful supply organists and auditions, we welcomed Gay Anderson as our new Organist-Choirmaster on April 23.

Diane Martin, Deanery Representative

St. Thomas’
Glen Carbon, Illinois

St. Thomas hosted Church Women United’s World Day of Prayer on March 3, 2017. The program was written by the women in the Philippines. Connie Evans told us what her childhood was like in the Philippines.

Our Episcopal Church Women had a successful Spaghetti Fest on Wednesday, March 8, 2017 from 4-7pm.

We had joint services with St. Bartholomew’s, Granite City for the Stations of the Cross, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

Jan Goossens

St Michael’s
O’Fallon, Illinois

Two big upcoming events we’ve been preparing for:

SMYC-IL III: St. Michael’s is hosting the third annual St. Michael’s Youth Conference – IL, from June 11-17. Teens will be worshipping, learning, eating and sleeping on site. We are soliciting congregations and groups in the Darrow Deanery (and beyond) to cater a lunch or a dinner during the week—please contact Fr. Ian Wetmore if you’d like to help. This will greatly reduce the cost over previous years, freeing up some funds for off-site recreational activities. Also, everyone is welcome to join the worship any day of the week. Daily Mass will be at noon, Monday through Friday, and the closing Solemn Mass will be Saturday morning at 10:00 a.m.

Convoy of Hope Metro East: Over 100 churches, along with other organizations, are hosting this year’s community event at the Jackie Joyner-Kersee Center in East St Louis. It’s a generous outpouring of God’s love on people who could really use it. Check it out at www.convoyofhope.org/outreach/eaststlouis.

In response to requests from colleagues, the new regional dean has attempted to get deanery clergy together, first for a Lenten book study, and then for a deanery Ascension celebration, but to no avail. We press on.

The Very Rev’d Ian Wetmore

Eastern Deanery

St. Mary’s
Robinson, Illinois

St. Mary’s, Robinson continues to be a small, friendly, family-sized church with regular weekly services and services at other times during the year. Services were held on the Thursday, Friday, and Saturday of Holy Week, with attendance exceeding the previous year. Easter saw several visitors. We even have an Episcopal raccoon who leaves a weekly donation at our doorstep. Parishioners provide services several times during the year at the Oblong Nursing Home and also make visits at the Mulberry Center in Robinson. Services are also provided twice monthly in Mt. Carmel at the Supportive Living Center. Our outside mowing has begun and the roof has been replaced on the church and the bathroom has received a needed upgrade. We held a service at the funeral home in Robinson for a longtime member who passed away in April. Attendance was very good. Our women continue to support the 100 Women Project. We look forward to possibly having a yard sale if it ever stops raining.

The Rev. Ann Tofani, Vicar

St. John’s
Albion, Illinois

The people of St. John’s continue in their faithful attendance, participation and fellowship. During our Lenten observance, Stations of the Cross were prayed each Wednesday evening. Full services were held during Holy Week with Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, The Great Vigil and Easter Morning.

Fr. Howard has continued participation in the Edwards County Ministerial Alliance. The ECMA sponsored a Good Friday community observance with a large cross being carried from church to church in downtown Albion. St. John’s was part of that service involving Stations of the
Cross prayed in front of each church. Fr. Howard was blessed to carry that cross from the First Baptist Church to St. John’s. Following that community service, we returned to St. John’s for our own Good Friday service.

Fr. Howard will also be one of the pastors participating in the community National Day of Prayer May 4.

We have continued our semi annual gifts to the residents of the Resthaven Nursing Home with gift sacks of candy delivered at Christmas and Easter.

We have also given to the ECW project benefiting Southern Illinois Healthcare Family Friendship Fund and to St. Michael’s Conference as well.

Following our Mission Leadership Team monthly meeting in April, we held our Spring work day, primarily in the church grounds.

We are now planning a celebration of our 175th year. The church within which we worship was consecrated by Bishop Philander Chase June 23-24, 1842. Our current plan is for a celebration on the weekend of June 23-24, 2018.

The Rev. Bill Howard, Vicar

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
Mt. Carmel, Illinois

The people of St. John the Baptist have been rather busy since the new year began. On the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, we had a Mardi Gras party in which we had items to auction that had been made by different people in the parish. The money raised will help buy Christmas presents for the family we will adopt when the time comes this year. This year we were able to raise $327. On Shrove Tuesday, we had our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper which was open to the public. A few of the members cooked pancakes and sausage for those who attended and the turnout was rather good. Overall we probably had about 25-30 people show up for supper, and the eating was good. There is no charge but an offering is welcome and again goes to help for the needy in the area. As we moved into the Lenten season, we had Stations of the Cross offered at noon on Fridays. In previous years we had offered this service at 6:00 p.m., but this year we decided to move to an earlier hour to see if this would allow for more participation among our aging population. It seems to have worked rather well.

Holy Week was filled with the regular anticipated services. On Thursday after the service and the traditional stripping of the altar, we held an overnight vigil. The Easter Vigil on Saturday Evening is still under attended but the most beautiful celebration of the year. Easter Sunday service was well attended. An egg hunt followed for about eight children. It is still a joy watching them run back and forth filled with excitement as they discover the plastic eggs filled with their treasures.

The following Sunday we had our annual visitation with Bishop Martins at our regular 10:30 a.m. service. It was a joy to have him and Brenda with us for worship and the lunch that followed. We also had representatives from the local homeless shelter with us to share about this extremely important ministry which the people of St. John’s have supported since its inception. Besides providing financial support on a monthly basis, we have been having a monthly ingathering of supplies and needs to help maintain the shelter. The shelter is set up to help homeless women and children get support and training to get them on their feet as they advance toward self-sufficiency.

St. John’s continues to also have a monthly food ingathering for the local group (WADI) in town that helps those in need. Through our involvement in the Wabash Ministerial Alliance, we provide funding through this same group to meet financial and medical needs of families and individuals who are in need. We also maintain our own outreach fund that is used for special needs of those who find themselves in need of shelter or food.

Also during this time, Fr. Hazlett has had some health issues and had to have his gallbladder removed. He is recovering well.

The Rev. Brant V. Hazlett, Rector

ST. JOHN’S
Centralia, Illinois

ST. THOMAS’
Salem, Illinois
DEANERY REPORTS

At St. John’s the major project of the spring is the renovation of the bell tower. Much of the interior work is being done by a parishioner, with some projects contracted to local professionals. The work is not yet completed but already shows signs of welcome improvement. The cost of the project is beyond the normal income of the church, so St. John’s is especially grateful to the onetime donation from St. John the Baptist Church in Mt. Carmel which all congregations in the diocese received a few years ago; this donation has made the renovation of the bell tower possible.

Lent at both St. John’s and St. Thomas’ included a weekday Bible study that began with seven people at St. Thomas’ and two at St. John’s; both groups wished to continue after Lent, so the Bible studies are ongoing, though the St. Thomas’ attendance has dropped to only two people. The Bible studies are scheduled so that they are connected with the weekday Masses at both churches, which commemorate the Saints on a regular basis.

St. Thomas’ conducted its annual book sale in May. Members donate books which are then offered to the public for a simple donation. This year more than $600 was raised for outreach. St. Thomas’ also restarted its Sunday School program for children with a well-attended class; after the last scheduled class for spring, the students even asked for another session before the summer. The wonderful annual high tea at St. Thomas’, spearheaded by Joan Baker, is set for June 4.

Vacation Bible School, held for the past two summers at St. John’s, will be taken over this year by St. Thomas’ since several of the leaders at St. John’s are dealing with health issues. Children of both churches take part along with their friends and other children who come as a result of advertising in the cities.

Father David Baumann, Priest-in-Charge

HALE DEANERY

Mother Kathryn G. Jeffrey, Dean

Dana Harris reports, “Church of the Redeemer in Cairo has three candidates planning to attend Cursillo: Donna Harris, Mary Steele and Anne Marie Spence. Two additional candidates are considering attendance. Sponsors are lifting up those in prayer.

“Len Harris prepared for the April Kairos. Cookies were donated by Father Bob Towner; Father James Muriuki and others assisted with posters. Unfortunately, the retreat was canceled due to circumstances at the prison. Father James reminded us the retreat will happen in God’s time.

“Lent and Holy Week were busy times. Each Wednesday in Lent, Father James and guest speaker Pastor Renee Purpel from JIL Ministries taught on the seven last words of Jesus. Stations of the Cross was observed on April 13. We participated in Good Friday March from the Redeemer to JIL Ministries, with the city’s clergy leading worship and prayer at the end of march.

“Christ-themed Easter baskets for the children were provided by an anonymous donor. An Easter egg hunt and basket presentation was held after service on April 2 in the courtyard. We celebrated a sunrise service on Easter morning with brunch after service in the fellowship hall.

“Our choir is sounding and looking great, thanks to the lending of choir robes by St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church.

“Our Rice and Beans Ministry continues every third Saturday of the month. One pound of dried beans and two pounds for rice with bullion are given to all who stop by.

“Confirmation classes continue in preparation for Bishop Daniel’s visit in June.”

Mother Sherry Black reports that “St. Mark’s, West Frankfurt, had a rather mixed/difficult quarter. On a positive note, we duly walked the Lenten Journey, and in February began a monthly adult study and discussion group. We are currently reading Simply Christian by N.T. Wright.

“Unfortunately, in mid-February our organist Claudia Byrne broke her legs, and several key members were often away from church due to serious medical issues this quarter. Once again we had a “mixed up” Lent which included a Rite 1 service, an instructed Eucharist, and a contemplative service with lectio-type discussion in lieu of
a sermon. Mixing it up even more, Fr. Jon Griffin supplied when I was away with the Diocesan ECW Annual Lenten Retreat.

“We had a very joyous Easter celebration with the return of our Organist, higher attendance than the previous year, about 13 children baking Empty Tomb Rolls, and an Egg Hunt after church. As I always remind people, we have 12 days of Christmas, and 50 days of Easter!! Alleluia, Christ is Risen!! Let us celebrate for the whole 50 days!”

+++ +++ +++ ++++

Father Tim Goodman, Priest in charge at St. Stephen’s in Harrisburg, reports, “Once again we held our Italian dinner at St Stephen’s, our 15th year. We had a sold out crowd, some 70 people, enabling us to send approximately $1,200.00 to local charities.

“A joint service was held with Harrisburg Presbyterian Church. About thirty of their members joined with us in our Sunday worship, in which I celebrated and Reverent Daniel Whitfield preached. We plan to have both churches work together on local outreach programs, such as a local youth program. They have one member who has gone through their Cursillo program; maybe we can have a joint Ultreya with them. If we hold such a meeting, I will invite other Cursillo members from our Deanery to attend.”

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Both St. James Chapel in Marion and St. Andrew’s Church in Carbondale opted for soup and movie nights during Lent. We considered the religious themes in movies such as Les Misérables, Mrs. Minniver, Chocolat, and Babette’s Feast. We experimented with chanting and an Eastward facing altar at St. Andrew’s, and other liturgical changes to differentiate the Lenten season.

During the bishop’s visitation in April, we were pleased to welcome three adults into the Episcopal Church: Tammy Keefer, Michael Seagle, and Alex Jochum.

Our 3-hour Good Friday service included a display of artwork depicting the passion of Christ. We celebrated the resurrection with a Vigil at St. James’, followed by a feast of traditional Polish Easter foods cooked from Gronostalski family recipes, and a morning service at St. Andrew’s, followed by a festive champagne brunch.

Our Mats for the Homeless project continues to blossom with college students joining us monthly on Sunday evenings, and both community members and students joining us each Tuesday morning, to craft the beautiful and functional mats. We continue to perfect the design of the mats, and are encouraged by the eagerness with which the region’s homeless seek out and receive the mats.

As part of our efforts to beautify our grounds for this summer’s eclipse activities, we just added a lovely white fence by the north entrance to St. Andrew’s.
DEANERY REPORTS

substantial outreach into the surrounding area, especially during the summer.

The Rev. Richard Lewis,
Pastoral Leader

EMMANUEL MEMORIAL
Champaign, Illinois

Spring 2017 at Emmanuel was, as it was for the rest of you, full of Lent! With Easter nearly as late as it could be, the entire rhythm of the year felt different. Some of our Lenten events:

- A group went to Trinity Mattoon to hear our organist Mike Fisher play on their recital series.
- The church collected boxes of pantry staples, and parishioners packed and delivered them to 15 local families, as part of our outreach partner empty tomb’s annual Mega-Work-A-Thon.
- We did a three-session study called Experiments in Christlikeness, looking at welcoming the stranger, speaking the truth in love, and attentive listening.
- We did a five-session study called Seeing Jesus Through the Windows, looking at the story of Jesus as presented in our stained glass.
- Our Holy Week and Triduum celebrations engaged a large number of community folks, but as has been the case for some time, fewer Emmanuelites than one might expect.
- Some of our friends from the Chapel joined us as about 40 Episcopalians visited the Central Illinois Mosque and Islamic Center for Friday prayers, lunch, and discussion.
- Our Say Yes to the Prom Dress event raised money for Courage Connection (domestic violence organization).

We buried two longterm parishioners this spring, baptized one baby, and continued praying the Daily Office six days a week. Our youth group, Sunday School, women’s Bible study, sack lunch packers, acolytes, and many other regular groups continued, and the “egg ladies” had a successful sale once more. The significant homeless population in our neighborhood continues to offer many chances for ministry as well. A group has also begun meeting to help us discern what God might be calling us to do with our vacant former rectory, and plans for a full-year celebration of the 100th anniversary of our building are underway.

After Easter, for the third year in a row a group of us did a jellybean outreach as part of the Illinois Marathon, showing God’s love in a practical way to runners and creating a boundary zone where the church is present in the world via a non-threatening context. If you’d like to see how this simple outreach works, visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/EmmanuelEpiscopal (we broadcast a few minutes of the event live).

Another major experience in the spring was searching for, and issuing a call to, a new ordained staff member. The Rev. Caleb Roberts, from the Diocese of Oklahoma, will be coming to Emmanuel as curate following his graduation from Seminary of the Southwest. He brings a wife (Julie) and two children (Alice and Charles), and we are hopeful that his presence will bring both balance to the clergy staff and strategic input as we try to integrate the various generations that now make up Emmanuel’s worshipping congregation. We look forward to his being priested on the feast of Mary Magdalene, July 22 (please join us!).

Any time you are in the Champaign-Urbana area, we invite you to drop in for a Daily Office, Mass, or godly conversation in Jesus’ name. You never know who you might meet here.

The Very Rev. Beth Maynard, Rector

ST. CHRISTOPHER
Rantoul, Illinois

We are continuing with our program for Boy Scouts to earn their Faith Badge. Heather VanMeter awarded our second set of Boy Scouts their God and Us badge at a ceremony held at our church on March 19. Bishop Martins was also with us on this special day.

Heather Van Meter began a Children’s Church program in January. We have five children attending.

Our Lenten program this year was the video Creed. “Believing that powerful answers are embedded in the Apostles’ Creed, Adam Hamilton examines it to explore what Christians believe and why it matters.”

The Rev. Ann Alley, Rector
TRINITY CHURCH
Jacksonville, Illinois

We at Trinity Church were happy to welcome our friends from St. Luke’s, Springfield for our Easter Vigil this year for a combined service. At the Vigil the Venerable Shawn Denney of St. Luke’s baptized Jude Thomas Brooks, the second son of Rector Zachary Brooks and his wife Leah. Baby Jude was born in Jacksonville on Valentine’s Day.

Our Sunday School led the parish in collecting funds for the Heifer Project. The children of our parish collected money in mite boxes, put on a bake sale, hosted a trivia lunch, and sold cake pops for Easter, collecting a record $2,711.01! They thanked the parish for their generosity by offering a special anthem.

Our adult education program called the Fellowship Group studied The Call by Adam Hamilton. This curriculum is a combination of bible study, reading, videos, and discussion that examines St. Paul’s life and context and his impact on our lived faith in the modern day. We concluded our course with a fellowship meal. When Sunday School concludes for the summer, we will begin a new program called Summer Children’s Church, which will include a bible story, an activity, a snack during Sunday services. The program will be led by volunteers.

We will begin spring by giving our church yard a much-needed renovation. Overcrowded trees will be thinned out, the hedges will be replaced, native plants and flowers will bring some color, and a new stone retaining wall will control erosion.

The Rev. Zachary D. Brooks, Rector-Elect

ST. JOHN’S
Carlinville, Illinois

Holy Week services were held at both St. Paul’s Church and St. Peter’s Chapel on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. There was an all night prayer vigil at St. Paul’s on Maundy Thursday evening. The Great Vigil of Easter was held at St. Peter’s and Easter Day service was held at St. Paul’s.

We will be increasing our choir music with a generous endowment from the will of the late Rev. Wayne Shipley for that purpose. We have also purchased additional choir books in memory of the late Hester Clark.

The Adult Sunday School class on Aging, Death, and Dying concluded. Presentations were made by our resident parish nurse, Kathy Moberg; representatives from nursing homes and senior residence homes; hospice care; a representative from a funeral home; and Fr. John on spiritual preparation.

The parish will hold a parish workday on Saturday, May 20, to do some sprucing up both inside and outside the church.

The Very Rev. John R. Henry, Rector

On February 26, we had our annual Visitation from Bishop Martins with two adult Confirmations: Chris and Sarah Dodson. On Friday, March 3, we began weekly Lenten Stations of the Cross. On March 4, St. John’s had two tables at the Annual Good Samaritan Inn Chef’s Cook-off. On March 8, we began our Lenten Series reviewing aspects of Anglicanism so that members can better articulate their “Church” experience at St. John’s. The series was entitled “Know Your Product”. On March 18, we had our Bi-monthly Cursillo Ultreya. There was an Organ Recital on March 26 by Peter Miller as part of his preparations.
DEANERY REPORTS

for his Doctorate at U of I. The repertoire was entirely of “pre-Bach” compositions.

On April 8, we celebrated the life of lifelong member Anastazia Dean. Holy Week was a true blessing with Palm Sunday, Tenebrae on Wednesday evening, Maundy Thursday followed by the vigil at the Altar of Repose, and Good Friday. The Great Vigil was celebrated on April 15 at 9pm, followed by two joyous Easter Services with a double baptism at 10 am followed by an Easter Egg hunt for the children present. During Easter week, members of St. John’s staffed several routes for Meals on Wheels.

On May 7, Seminarian Chris Gregory was able to preach at both Masses. That afternoon we have our Festive Easter Evensong followed by a light reception. On May 13, we held our bi-monthly Cursillo Ultreya. Carnations were given to mothers for Mother’s Day on May 14.

The Rev. Richard A. Swan, Rector

DIOCESAN CALENDAR

JULY 2017
02-08 Episcopal Church Camp, East Bay Camp, Hudson
20 Finance Department, Diocesan Center, Springfield (10 a.m.)

AUGUST 2017
26 Diocesan Council, Diocesan Center, Springfield (10 a.m.)
27 Bishop w/ St. John’s, Albion

SEPTEMBER 2017
03 Bishop w/ All Saints’, Morton
10 Bishop w/ Trinity, Yazoo City, MS (DEPO)
10 Eastern Deanery Meeting, Trinity, Mt. Vernon (2 p.m.)
10 Northern Deanery Meeting, Trinity, Lincoln (2 p.m.)
17 Bishop w/ St. Mark’s, West Frankfort
17 Northeastern Deanery Meeting, Emmanuel Memorial, Champaign (4 p.m.)
17 Northwestern Deanery Meeting, Location TBD (2:30 p.m.)
23 Hale Deanery Meeting, St. James’ Chapel, Marion (5 p.m.)
24 Darrow Deanery Meeting, St. Bartholomew’s, Granite City (2 p.m.)

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.

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Contributors will be acknowledged in a future issue.

Thank you.

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