FROM THE BISHOP:
META-REFLECTIONS ON GENERAL CONVENTION

 Barely more than three weeks from the time I sit down to write this (less than two weeks away for those of you who are seeing this in print form rather than on the web), I will have joined our four lay and four clergy Deputies, as well as Deputies and Bishops from 108 other dioceses, for the 78th General Convention of the Episcopal Church, which will take place in Salt Lake City.

 While I might be tempted to give you a rundown of the various issues facing this convention, I will let you track the information down on your own. There is a more than adequate number of good sources available online, and I intend to be blogging every day from convention, as has been my custom since I first did so in 2006.

 Rather, I would like to take this opportunity to see our church from a more elevated view. What are my hopes—or wishes, perhaps, might actually be more accurate—for the Episcopal Church as we face our future together? I wish we, as the Episcopal Church, would be …

Humble

Episcopalian are accustomed to thinking we’re “all that and a bag of chips.” We’re not. We never were, actually, but given how we’ve been represented in the White House and in Congress over the last 200 years, one might be forgiven for coming to such a conclusion. But we still act, corporately, while gathered in General Convention, like we’re a “player,” and pass all manner of resolutions presuming to instruct elected officials on matters of public policy about which there is no consensus even among our own members. I wish we wouldn’t do that. It’s distracting, and adds to an atmosphere of conflict.

I’m also concerned about an apparent rising investment on the part of many in the “brand” of the Episcopal Church, with an implied assumption that God himself

Continued on Page 3
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+ Rt. Rev. Daniel H. Martins, Bishop

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is similarly invested. Ironically, this is happening at the same time as there are calls from all directions to become more networked and relational and less monolithic and hierarchical. Yet, there is a growing trend in some dioceses, particularly ones that happen to be contiguous with an entire state, to just drop the word diocese and style themselves “The Episcopal Church in XYZ,” as if they were a mere regional subdivision of something like “TEC, Inc.” As a matter of history and theology, however, the dioceses are not creatures of the “national church,” but, rather the other way around—General Convention is a creature of the several dioceses. That this is even a controverted point—and it is—is in itself remarkable.

The Episcopal Church is not special. It is not essential to the future of Christianity. To the extent that we are Anglican, the only thing unique about us is that there is nothing unique about us. A while ago, there was a book written by one of my colleague bishops entitled Unabashedly Episcopalian. That expression makes me uncomfortable. I would rather be unabashedly Christian and modestly Episcopalian. It’s not all about us.

Aware

Along with pride (that is, inadequate humility) comes a tendency for communities to lose their sense of identity and their awareness of the larger context in which they operate. When the Episcopal Church invented itself in the 1780s, it chose, very deliberately, to … well, not invent itself. We saw ourselves not as something created out of whole cloth, but as a continuation of the presence of the Church of England, only under drastically changed secular political circumstances. We may be constitutionally and canonically self-referential, but we are morally accountable to something that came before us. And the Church of England itself was not simply confected in 1532, or whenever, but has always seen itself as the continuation into time of the ancient Catholic Church in the British Isles. We don’t make up the faith; we don’t make up the gospel. We receive what has been handed along to us, and we practice that faith in such a way that we pass it along to succeeding generations.

I fear that many Episcopalians have become unmindful of that facet of our identity. As we respond to the rapidly changing social context in which we find ourselves, we tend not to think theologically and be informed by our historic Catholic identity. Rather, we default to patterns of behavior that are driven by feelings, passions, and ordered by the realm of politics. We run the risk of falling into collective amnesia.

Evangelistic

I don’t mean evangelical—not that there’s anything wrong with that; it’s just not what I mean here—but that our primary obsession, after worshiping the Holy Trinity in spirit and in truth, is the proclamation of the good news of Jesus Christ and the making of disciples who make disciples. There’s no shortage of talk these days in Episcopal circles about mission. But I’m afraid there’s a great deal of confusion about what mission actually is.

The Church’s presence in society should “make the world a better place” (hungry fed, sick cared for, naked clothed, prisoners visited), but making the world a better place is not the Church’s mission. The influence of the Church should result in a more just society, but building a just society is not the Church’s mission. The practice of
Christian faith and the experience of Christian community should make people feel better about themselves, but the mission of the Church is not to make people feel better about themselves.

The mission of the Church is reconciliation … in Christ. Reconciliation of all people with God … in Christ … and reconciliation of all people with one another … in Christ. St Paul puts it this way in writing to the Ephesians: “For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.” (Eph. 2:14-16) If we are not busy calling all people everywhere—starting with those among whom we live, among whom our churches are placed—to repentance, faith, baptism, eucharist, and discipleship, then we are not doing our job, we are not fulfilling our mission. It we are doing those things, we are being faithful to the mission God has given us. It’s just that simple.

Until the Episcopal Church gets institutionally clear about that, we will continue to squander resources, quarrel amongst ourselves, and wander aimlessly in a society in which we are exponentially less relevant by the second.

I look forward to talking with you about these things as I visit throughout the diocese. And I will doubtless have more to say on the other side of convention.

+Daniel

SPECIAL NOTE FROM THE HALE DEANERY

The Very Rev. Kathryn G. Jeffrey, Dean

Father James Miriuki and all of the Church of the Redeemer, Cairo were very busy readying the church to welcome all the diocese to the Celebration of New Ministry on May 16. Then, on May 17, Bishop Martins baptized, confirmed and received a number of new members.

GOLOBAL TEAM’S MISSIONARY

AN UPDATE ON GLOBAL TEAM’S MISSIONARY BARBARA DUGNOLLE

Barbara Dugnolle

I have had a number of opportunities to speak at churches in the Springfield Diocese. They have been very helpful and I have enjoyed speaking with people and telling them about the Lord’s mission to Southeast Asia. I hope to leave in August taking up my role as teacher and mentor for young men and women living in a Christian community setting. I have made a three year commitment to them to serve as their elder.

You can find out more about this ministry by contacting me at:

cbdugnolle@gmail.com.
ECW’S 2015 OUTREACH PROJECT: TABORA

Episcopal Church Women
Linda Thomas

Felisian Valerian Masao, from the Kilimanjaro region in Tanzania, is a math and physics teacher at St. Peter’s Boarding School, the mission school of the Tabora Diocese, and site of ECW’s 2015 Outreach Project.

This year the Episcopal Church Women, ECW, is raising funds for the construction of a hostel (or “safe house”) for girls to live in while they pursue their education at St. Peter’s.

Mr. Masao, with his wife, a primary school teacher, is also parent to six grown daughters (!) one a doctor, another an entrepreneur, the others university students. Together they share a passion for education and, of course, particularly for girls’ education. Bishop Elias is likewise committed. Indeed with the construction of the hostel, St. Peter’s is set to attain gender parity - an anomaly in Tanzania.

I have exchanged emails with Mr. Masao recently, and he’s asked me to convey his and Bishop Elias’ deepest gratitude to ECW and the churches of the Springfield Diocese for money raised for the girls’ hostel.

“It is the only way that girls from our rural villages can receive secondary education.” Note: despite an increasing demand for education, there remains a dearth of secondary schools in rural provinces, and traveling to them is especially difficult and dangerous for girls.

To date ECW and the diocesan churches have raised over $10,000 for the hostel, and we hope to add to that. Particular thanks goes to congregations who designated Lenten (or other) offerings and those who put on dinners and other events. And thanks in advance to those still planning events. Note: DVD’s and speakers are available as resources.

Thanks also to individual contributors.

Make checks payable to:
ECW
/o Judy Ellison, Treasurer,
122 Hightide Dr.
Decatur, IL 62521

TWO BY TWO, LET ONE BE YOU
DEPARTMENT OF
CHRISTIAN SOCIAL
CONCERNS
The Rev. Sheryl L. Black, Chair

ANTI-RACISM COMMISSION
The Rev. Christine C. Hopkins, Chair

The following is excerpted from the spring quarterly newsletter of the Illinois Conference of Churches. The chair of this commission is a member of the ICER team.

The members of Illinois Christians Encountering Racism (ICER) consider it especially important to witness ecumenically to the ills perpetuated in society by the sin of racism. Ecumenism, of course, seeks to build up an awareness of Christians’ common treasure, and work against racism affirms the common humanity of all people.

ICER has a speakers’ bureau and has finished a PowerPoint presentation. Please contact Deacon Hopkins if you need a speaker for a function or a church meeting.

“... And I’m not being racist!” Have you heard this qualifier when someone comments on the events of the day? At the very least, someone who says this may be responding to the fact that among one’s listeners is someone who is involved in special efforts to combat racism. Of course, one is at a definite “beginner’s level” when it comes to effective dialogue about racism. The key to understanding racism is to recognize its influence in yourself.

We may consider, for instance, the recent difficulties of the police chief of Pittsburgh, Cameron McLay, who received a strong reaction from the police union when he was photographed with a sign on New Year’s Eve which read “I resolve to challenge racism @work #EndWhiteSilence.” The charge was that he was calling his policemen racists.

He apologized.

If we make efforts to point out that racism is pervasive in our society, we are easily misunderstood. We encounter numerous well-intentioned people who try to accept the idea that racism is irrational. Thereupon they take the stance that they have nothing to do with irrationality, and that they comment on our society with “fairness.” They equate the suggestion that they may be affected by racism as demonization.

This is exactly what our society has to get over. Without stigmatizing anyone, we need to accept the fact that everyone is affected by racism, and that being able to identify the racist in oneself is a liberating step.

We who work for Christian unity are committed to a thing called dialogue. This effort presumes that people do not so much need to be seen as “right” or “wrong,” and that there is no priority to be placed upon determining “innocence” and “guilt.” We take a long, historical view, and we acknowledge the great degree to which our history has shaped us.

We can apply the principle of dialogue to the need for a deep interpersonal exploration of the ways in which racism has deformed our society. The members of the ICC’s anti-racism team, Illinois Christians Encountering Racism, are at your service as you seek to address, in your own local situation, the painful yet fascinating phenomenon of race and judgment among Americans.

MINISTRIES AND COMMITTEE NEWS

PROVINCE V MEETING
Jan Goossens

THE PROVINCE V MEETING WAS IN
CHICAGO, APRIL 17—18, 2015.

The following Grant Recipients gave report: Campus Ministry, Los Amigo Episcopales, Youth Ministry, and Diocesan Congregational Development Initiative.

We had conversations on racism and diversity. I am sending the handouts to Rev. Christine Hopkins, our Anti-Racism Chair.

Nashotah House and Bexley Seabury Seminaries told us about their programs for non-residential clergy formation and their lay formation courses.

Our Diocese will be participating in the Episcopal Asset Map, a free platform being offered to dioceses by Episcopal Relief & Development and the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society to help dioceses share information about the ministry and mission work happening at the local level. Bishop Martins has appointed me to be the chair.

We passed the following items: “Resolution to General Convention establishing Canonical statement of Province’s Primary purpose”, the by-laws were amended and the Treasurer’s report.

We had elections: Ms. Genevieve Callard (Western Michigan) was elected as President; The Rt. Rev. Thomas Breidenthal (Southern Ohio)
is now Vice President, Ms. Courtney Reid (Chicago) was elected as Treasurer after having been appointed following the last Synod, and Dr. Edie Wakevainen (Michigan) was elected Secretary. The lay representative to the Executive Council will be Ms. Jane Cislyucis (Northern Michigan).

Orientation for General Convention: Saturday, May 30 has been approved for our General Convention Orientation workshop. The workshop will be a web broadcast to each diocese from a central location, allowing dioceses to have more of their deputies present. The three hour presentation will begin at 10:00am-1:00pm Eastern/ 9:00am-Noon Central time. The presentations will be especially important for this convention as many procedural changes are being made – not the least of which is going completely paperless.

General Convention: Dates have been set for the 78th General Convention of The Episcopal Church, in 2015. It will be Thursday, June 25 to Friday, July 3 at the Salt Palace Convention Center in Salt Lake City in the Diocese of Utah. Names of General Convention Deputies to be considered for the Joint Committee for the Nomination of the Presiding Bishop (if needed) in the lay order: Mr. Don Reed (Southern Ohio), Ms. Pam Chapman (Western Michigan) and Ms. Kathryn Dyer (Missouri); In the clergy order: The Rev. Dave Hedges (Chicago), The Rev. Ron Byrd (Michigan) and The Rev. Barbara Cavin (Eastern Michigan). From these 6 the provincial caucus will elect two names in each order from each province to fill in the Joint Committee.

Our Presiding Bishop and the Director of Mission addressed us. We were given the highlights of “Report to the Church 2015”, which is found on the home page of episcopalchurch.org.

The Diocesan Youth Coordinators will have their Fall Meeting in Chicago on October 6-8, 2015.

The Episcopal Church Women will have their annual meeting May 13-15, 2016 on Mackinac Island, Michigan. The theme is: Navigating Life’s Currents.

DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL MISSION STRATEGY (DGMS)

The Rev. Bruce DeGrooyer

NATIONAL AND WORLD MISSIONS REPORT

Sandy Moore

Activities:

1. Joined Bishop Godfrey of Peru at dinner with Bishop Daniel and Brenda Martins, along with Fr. Mark Evans. Discussed the status of the Diocese of Peru, future hopes and plans for its division into 3 or more dioceses, and a visit by Bp. Martins this year.

2. Initiated arrangements for a trip to Peru for Bishop Martins, Brenda Martins, and Fr. Mark Evans. Discussed the status of the Diocese of Peru, future hopes and plans for its division into 3 or more dioceses, and a visit by Bp. Martins this year.

3. Made preliminary plans for Bishop Elias and Lucy to visit our diocese during the week of our Synod in October.

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE

The Very Rev. David J. A. Halt, President

The Standing Committee met on February 28, 2015 to conduct several items of business. The first item of business was to approve and sign a testimonial for the ordination of Mr.
David Wells to the Sacred Order of Deacons. The Standing Committee also consented to the elections of The Rt. Rev. David Reed as Coadjutor of the Diocese of West Texas, and The Very Rev. Peter Eaton as Coadjutor of the Diocese of Southeast Florida. The Standing Committee then met as a council of advice for The Rt. Rev. Daniel H. Martins. Business concluded the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Very Rev. David J. A. Halt
President

DIOCESAN TRUSTEES REPORT
FIRST QUARTER 2015
Donald Monty, Chairman

Funds invested by the Diocesan Trustees did very well in aggregate in calendar year 2014. The first quarter of 2015 experienced some volatility, and lower oil prices have affected the markets. By the end of the first quarter there had been slight investment losses of 0.9% for the Endowment Fund and 1.0% for the managed portion of the Combined Fund.

The Diocesan Endowment Fund is invested in a managed portfolio. The value of the Endowment Fund decreased from $2,743,761 at the beginning of the first quarter of 2015 to a value of $2,688,675 on March 31, 2015. The investments lost $24,753 or 0.9%, for the quarter. However, there were withdrawals of $30,333 during the quarter which also explains why the Endowment Fund had a lower balance at the end of the quarter than at the beginning of the quarter. There were no contributions during the quarter.

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 managed portion of the Combined Fund decreased in value from $3,087,339 at the beginning of the first quarter of 2015 to a value of $2,972,435 on March 31, 2015. The investments lost $30,433, or 1.0% for the first quarter. There were contributions of $10,638 and withdrawals of $95,109 in the managed portion of the Combined Fund for the quarter. The portion of the Combined Fund invested in short-term mutual funds increased in value from $244,962 at the beginning of the first quarter of 2015 to $247,495 on March 31, 2015. It is important to remember that 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 flow as revenues are received and expenses incurred.

Overall, the value of the Combined Fund decreased from $3,332,331 at the beginning of 2015 to $3,219,961 at the end of the first quarter of 2015. Our portfolio advisors noted “unease in the market.” They said that “Equities remain stronger than other asset classes. Bond volatility will likely increase in anticipation of a projected increase in the fed funds rate.” They also think that the “oil shock” is behind us. The beginning of the second quarter of 2015 continues to show some daily volatility in equity markets.

Submitted by Donald Monty,
Chairman, Trustees of the Diocese of Springfield

UNITED THANK OFFERING
Mrs. Jan Goossens, Outgoing Diocesan United Thank Offering Coordinator

The Episcopal Church Women had their annual meeting on May 2nd at St. Mary’s in Robinson. The new officers are: President, Jan Goossens; Vice-President, Natalie Tate; Treasurer, Judy Ellison; and Secretary, we are still looking to fill this position, but Ann Alley will be the sub.

The 2015-2016 Outreach Project is Magdalene House in St. Louis, MO. The organization works with individuals that have been involved with human trafficking. We are looking for a chairman.

There will be a planning meeting for the board that is open to all on Saturday, July 18 at St. Thomas’, Glen Carbon, starting at 10:00 a.m. with lunch provided. Please contact Jan Goossens, utospil@sbcglobal.net.

The board is open to suggestions for speakers for our Lenten Retreat.

We have opportunities for the following positions:

Secretary, Outreach Chair, United Thank Offering, and Church Periodical Club
During Lent we also continued our practice of gathering with St. Mark Lutheran Church and St. Luke’s Roman Catholic Church to pray the Stations of the Cross each Friday. This year the services were held at St. George’s.

Holy Week was busy, as everyone’s was, with the traditional services. Palm Sunday services included the Gospel story of Christ’s entry into Jerusalem, processions, and the Passion Narrative read in parts. The Maundy Thursday Liturgy included celebration of the institution of the Eucharist, foot-washing for any who wish, and stripping of the altar. On Good Friday we prayed the Stations of the Cross together with St. Mark and St. Luke’s as we walked the few blocks from St. Luke to St. George’s, and then shared a simple soup lunch. (In addition to being a prayerful Good Friday devotion, this is a wonderful witness to our community!) The Good Friday Liturgy was held jointly with St. Mark Lutheran and included the Solemn Collects, Devotions before the Cross, and chanting of the Passion according to St. John.

We were delighted to be invited to celebrate the Easter Vigil and first Eucharist of Easter with St. Michael’s in O’Fallon, and on Easter Day we celebrated our risen Lord with festive celebrations of the Eucharist and a total of more than 230 folks at the two services. We also had more than two dozen children take part in the Easter Egg Hunt between services. Nancy Ypma and the choir provided glorious music all week, and Deacon Jody kept the liturgies organized and running smoothly.

Sunday School has continued to be well attended with as many as twenty children taking part in our Godly Play program and enough wonderful teachers that each is in the classroom about once a month and able to attend adults classes the rest of the time. Adults continued a study of the Christian faith from an Anglican and Episcopalian point of view, moving through the Reformation, the Church of England, the development of the Book of Common Prayer, the beginnings of the Episcopal Church and the Essentials of the Faith. A Lambeth/African Bible Study is offered at the same time so that adults may choose which class they attend. The Sunday School year ends this month with a potluck breakfast and celebration of our students, teachers and parents, where everyone enjoys hearing the children sing and talk about what they have learned. At the end of May, we will have our annual Eucharist and Picnic at Toddhall Retreat Center, with everyone enjoying food, games, and each other’s company.

Outreach projects this spring included sending donations collected on Shrove Tuesday and at the Lenten Soup Suppers to Beacon Ministries, collecting items for Bethany Place and buying them a new television, and collecting items for the Violence Prevention Center and buying them a new washing machine. We are currently collecting funds for the Franklin Neighborhood Community Association’s Send a Kid to Camp program, where at risk youth attend a day camp for six weeks and participate in recreational, educational and life skill programs.

Our Food Pantry is doing well, and has received cash donations slightly above costs so far this year. We have also received food donations from School District 118, the local Chamber of Commerce, Girls Scouts, and the Letter Carrier’s Food Drive. Our Steering Committee is full of energy and has plans to organize our space and to update the food items currently being offered to clients.

Dan Duncan is the new chair
of the Toddhall Board of Trustees, and things at our Toddhall Retreat and Conference Center are running smoothly. It is a very beautiful place to hold a retreat or a meeting, and we encourage you to use it!

One of St. George’s many blessings is a trust fund provided to support education. This assists us in many areas of our parish life, including the ability to offer a limited number of scholarships to parishioners who qualify. This spring we were able to award six $2,000 scholarships, and we are very proud of our wonderful students!

Bishop Daniel and Brenda Martins were with us on May 3. Bishop Martins preached a wonderful sermon (as always) and spoke at the Rector’s Forum about his recent trip to Cuba. He also baptized John Skaff and confirmed Ellen Treadwell. In addition, Bishop Martins blessed our parish library and dedicated it in memory of the Very Rev. Leslie Wilson, who retired to Belleville in 1972 and proceeded to work tirelessly at St. George’s for the next thirty years. The final - and possibly most exciting - note is that we have had four babies born in the congregation since February, and have another one on the way! We give thanks to God for the young families and children coming to St. George’s – a hectic and happy sign of life!

The Rev. Canon Dale Coleman, Rector

SAINT ANDREW’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Edwardsville, IL

The life of a congregation is much like a season. Each season affords activities and special features. Some return each year to bless us while others are new. At the time of this writing, the Church of Saint Andrew is enjoying the gifts of God, as revealed over the recent winter and spring. Our parish would like to share them with you.

- The sacraments were celebrated and the word preached at the 8:00 and 10 a.m. Eucharists.
- Adult Formation, Church School, Contemplative Prayer Group (SIUE student ministry) and the Wednesday Bible Study met weekly.
- We observed the following feasts and fasts:
  - Ash Wednesday-12:15 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.
  - The Annunciation
  - Palm Sunday (Procession at 10:00 a.m.)
  - Holy Week: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday Stations of the Cross at 12:15 pm, and Liturgy of Good Friday with Communion from the Reserved Sacrament at 7:00 pm
  - Easter Vigil
  - Sunday of the Resurrection (Easter Day)
- Most of these services were sung with help from the choir and organist.
- Baptisms of Dennis Hamilton and Addison Schnell
- Monthly Worship, Meetings, and Gatherings: First Tuesday Eucharist (led by Father Hoffman or Father McMichael), Choir, Saint Andrew’s Book Group, Episcopal Church Women, Julian of Norwich Prayer Group, Parish Life Committee and Charlie’s Lunch Bunch
- Annual Events: Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, Fabric and Quilt Art Show, May Book Fair with Local Author Book Signing and Relay for Life Café
- Other: Lenten Forum, Parish ECW Retreat (Brenda Martins-guest presenter), Palm Sunday Potluck, Children’s Easter Egg Hunt
- Our building committee, Larry Reader (Parish Warden), Sue Buckley and Lance Greve, continue to lovingly maintain the beautiful facility. This is a big and ongoing task!
- The vestry, under the leadership of Father McMichael and Jane Weingartner (Rector’s Warden), continue to make important decisions and shepherd us.
- Outreach Committee: This amazing group continues to help the needy in a variety of ways. Since January, $300.00 to $500.00 a month in scrip cards has been distributed to the needy. Members of this group have also collected personal items and made hats and scarves for distribution. Along with the congregation, they donate generously to the Glen-Ed Food Pantry. In May, Outreach is sponsoring a special collection of baby clothes for the Arms of Love Crisis Center.

Respectfully Submitted,
Henry Evans, Parish Administrator

ST. THOMAS’ EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Glen Carbon

St. Thomas’ joined St. Bartholomew’s, Granite City for Wednesday Lenten “Stations of the Cross” with a soup supper following. St. Thomas’ had the Maundy Thursday Service with feet washing and stripping of the altar. St. Bartholomew’s had the Good Friday service.

The ECW’s February Soup and Salad luncheon was cancelled due to snow, so they had it on April 18th with success.

We thank Fr. Arnold Hoffman and Fr. Gene Stormer for supplying while Fr. Tony Clavier was visiting his family in Wales.

The ECW will have a White Elephant sale on September 12th from 8:00 a.m. – Noon.
Bill Paddock is our new editor for our newsletter, The Link.

The Child Care Center and Preschool is getting ready to have school age children, up to 12 years old, for the summer months.

Jan Goossens

EASTERN DEANERY
The Very Rev. Ann H. Tofani, Dean

The clergy of the Eastern Deanery met on Monday March 9th, at the home of Fr. and Elizabeth Baumann in Salem. Eight were present. We shared a wonderful meal thoughtfully prepared by the Bauman’s. Fr. Tom Davis was unable to attend due to illness. Our next clericus will be June 22nd. On the 30th of May Father Brant Hazlett will celebrate 25 years as an Episcopal priest. We share his joy and are blessed by his presence among us and his continued service at St. John the Baptist.

ST. JOHN’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Albion, IL

Subsequent to our Diocesan Council Report in February 2015, a full set of services during Lent was held including Ash Wednesday, Stations of the Cross each Wednesday and a full set of services during Holy Week including the Great Vigil.

Easter treat baskets were prepared and delivered to the residents of Rest Haven Nursing Home for Easter enjoyment. We are now celebrating the season of Easter tide. A donation was made to the ECW for the Tabora Hostel project and later for our fair share donation.

St. John’s continues to operate with good financial controls and in the black.

Pastoral care continues to be a primary concern for the Vicar and the congregation.

Participation by the congregation in services and in the work of the church continues to be faithful and spirit filled.

One of the topics of each coffee hour is “ask the priest” which usually engenders a lively discussion.

The Vicar is leading Sunday school lessons on 1st Corinthians the second and fourth Sundays of each month.

The St. John’s Historiographer team plans to continue their work at the Diocesan Center May 15.

We plan a work day in June both inside and on the church grounds.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Bill Howard, Vicar

ST. MARY’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Robinson, IL

St. Mary’s has had an active couple of months highlighted by services during Holy Week on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. These services were scantily attended, but on Easter Sunday we had 25 in attendance. Also in March there was a baby shower for Lacey Rains as she and Steven await the birth of their first born in Champaign, IL. R.J. and Brenda Rains are the new grandparents. A baptism is planned for Sunday the 9th of August at St. Mary’s. The Sunday following Easter Sunday, we had a pulpit exchange with St. Matthew’s in Bloomington. Fr. Halt and Amy provided us a wonderful service and blessing. Mother Ann reported that her time at St. Matthew’s was also a blessing and a joy. Both churches are very different, but similar in the love that is shared by all. On May 2nd, St. Mary’s hosted the Annual Meeting of the E.C.W. There were 8 churches represented and it was a time for us to share, plan and enjoy fellowship, a Eucharist and get to know one another better.

St. Mary’s continues to be an important presence in Crawford County. As a church family we worship, give thanks and witness to the God who has saved us, forgiven us and loves us. We share our blessings with others as we visit shut-ins and those in the nursing homes and supportive living facilities. We maintain a small stock of food in our pantry for those in need when other means are not available. We have breakfast on the first Sunday of each month and Bible teaching on the last Sunday. Each week we have what we call a “theological moment” which is an explanation of why we do what we do. We are blessed!

Submitted by,
The Very Reverend Ann Tofani, Vicar

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
Mt. Carmel, IL

The people of St. John the Baptist held their annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake supper a little later because of the weather this year. We had to delay until Sunday morning on the 15th of February and turned the supper into a breakfast. Ash Wednesday went off normally as the weather cleared a little. During Lent we held an adult education gathering on Thursday evenings were we studied what it meant to live a life of virtue. On Fridays during Lent, Stations of the Cross were held at 6:00 p.m. On Good Friday we participated in the Community Good Friday service sponsored by the Ministerial Association. Later in the evening we held our own Good Friday service. On Easter Day an egg hunt was held for the children of the parish following the service.

We are in the process of preparing
to have the building tuck pointed and sprayed to seal the bricks. The bricks have been weathered over the years and some have begun to crumble. Along with this we are having the office remolded to bring it up to modern demands for electrical needs and to make the space more appropriately usable.

One of the big parts of our schedule is preparation for the 25th anniversary of Fr. Hazlett's reception into the Priesthood of the Episcopal Church. We are planning a Mass of Celebration followed by a dinner for Saturday, May 30.

Along with all of this, we continue our commitment to community outreach. Our outreach group meets monthly to work on projects for the needy of the community. Our outreach director also works with Fr. Hazlett on a daily basis to meet the needs of community who come to us for help with utility needs, rent problems and just finding a place to stay. We are also supporting the development of a Homeless shelter for our community which should be opening soon. As Christ continues to call us we are trying to be faithful with our time, talents and treasure as His community in Mt. Carmel.

Respectfully submitted,
Brant Hazlett+ Rector

ST. JOHN’S, CENTRALIA and ST. THOMAS
Salem, IL

St. John’s, Centralia and St. Thomas’, Salem dedicated their Lenten programs to preparing for the solemn and joyful renewal of Baptismal vows on Easter. The program for Lent included a sermon series on basics of the Faith, a weekday class on Biblical themes of how different groups of people encountered Jesus in the Gospels, a prayer list in which members’ godparents and godchildren were remembered, a bulletin board in which members were encouraged to post photocopies of their baptismal certificates, and the moving of the fonts in both churches to a prominent place at the front of the center aisle.

Moreover, earlier this year St. John’s decided to raise its profile in its community by offering Solemn Evensong once a quarter and widely advertise the event in the local media and to all other local churches. The first such event was held in March with good success. Five other pastors, two Roman Catholic sisters, and three lay persons attended and expressed their delight with the experience. St. John’s gained one new member as a result. The next Evensong will be in June.

Both churches continue to strive to learn and practice personal evangelism. Difficult as this is for most members, St. Thomas’ rejoices in gaining one new family of four as a result.

The Rev. Canon David M. Baumann, SSC, Priest-in-Charge

TRINITY
Mt. Vernon, IL

Trinity is wrapping up a couple of yearlong studies. On Sundays we have been working our way through the Catechism of the 1979 BCP by digging into theology and searching the Scriptures. We have also worked our way through the history of the church beginning with the Genesis narrative right up through the Reformation.

We eagerly anticipate Trinity Sunday when we will observe our namesake with a joyous celebration of the Eucharist and a cookout. Any and all are welcome as we will make a special invitation to our neighbors in the community to join us for this event. In addition to being a great summer kick-off, Trinity Sunday also marks the end of Fr. Ben’s first year at Trinity. We are thankful for our time together, and we are excited to see what the Lord has in store for us in our second year of ministry together.

Moving into the summer, we have a few things on the radar. In June, Trinity is hosting a cooking class for community youth run by the University of Illinois Extension. Other ideas in the planning phase include gatherings for fun and fellowship over the summer months.

Nothing says summer quite like camp though. One of our youth will be attending the inaugural St. Michael’s Youth Conference (June 7-12), and Fr. Ben is eager to return for his second year to Episcopal Church Camp (June 28 – July 4). These are both great experiences for a wide range of youth around the diocese and beyond. Please consider supporting one or both of these ministries, and if you know of any youth, encourage them to attend. God is at work in the youth of the church, and we give thanks that he has called this diocese to minister to them.

All in all, we look forward to the days ahead as we continue to devote ourselves to the worship of God and to the proclamation of the Gospel.

The Rev. Fr. Benjamin D. Hankinson, Jr., Priest in Charge

HALE DEANERY

The Very Rev. Kathryn G. Jeffrey, Dean

Father James Miriuki and all of the Church of the Redeemer, Cairo have been very busy readying the church to welcome all the diocese to the Celebration of New Ministry on May
16. Then, on May 17, Bishop Martins will baptize, confirm and receive a number of new members.

The Chapel of Saint John the Divine
Champaign, IL

The Very Reverend Sean Ferrell, Rector and Chaplain
The Chapel of Saint John the Divine continues to share God's love on the campus of the University of Illinois, and in the Champaign Urbana community.

For the second year in a row, we revived an old tradition: the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. The Canterbury University students hosted the Pancake Supper. We were pleased to see over 100 in attendance for tradition that was reintroduced after many years of absence just one year ago.

Other worship highlights over the past few months have included:

- The Pancake Supper.
- The Chapel of Saint John the Divine.
- The Very Rev. Kathryn Jeffrey, Dean

Respectfully submitted,

ST. ANDREW’S
Carbondale, IL

St. Andrew’s, Carbondale, continued its Lenten tradition of Wednesday evening soup and liturgy with members of St. Francis Roman Catholic Church and Epiphany Lutheran Church. Stations of the Cross were prayed on Friday evenings, with “Chariots of Fire” and Pasolini’s “Gospel according to Saint Mathew” screened on two of the evenings. On March 17, the local chapter of the American Guild of Organists held a members’ recital, and the gathered musicians expressed appreciation for our beloved instrument. On March 22, the parish honored the Searcy family, and our own soon-to-arrive “Prince William,” with a British-themed baby shower organized by Lori Shmider. The Rev. Wes Hansen was the guest preacher for the noon-day service on Good Friday, at which the church’s large, log cross was carried into the sanctuary and reverenced. Easter worship was enhanced by a “Flowering of the Cross,” with the children of the parish pushing colorful blossoms into the dozens of holes in the four-foot-high cross specially-crafted by Jack Crelling to initiate the tradition here. Generous contributions for flower memorials enabled abundant decoration of this year’s Maundy Thursday altar of repose. The potted plants and shrubs from the altar were later transplanted around the church building on the Parish Clean-Up Day, May 3. One of the two sanctuary furnaces was replaced, and old, broken-down hosing was removed from the church’s front lawn, in other physical-plant news. The aforementioned Jack Crelling and Miranda Searcy crafted a large signboard which is now placed along our sidewalk, inviting students to our semi-monthly Canterbury Suppers. The concluding supper of this academic year was held on May 5, with thanks to Genie Poulos, Betty Crelling, David Searcy, and Mother Kathryn for cooking meals throughout the year.

On April 11, a capacity congregation gathered at St. James, Marion, to celebrate the life of long-time member Katheryn Hargen. Semi-monthly Eucharists continue at St. James on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month.

On May 9-10, Bishop Martins made his annual visitation with a Eucharist at St. James, a highly-enjoyable and informative teaching about baptism at St. Andrew’s, and a festive service of baptism and confirmation at St. Andrew’s, during which six children were baptized and one adult confirmed into our household of faith.

Mother Sherry Black reports from the church in West Frankfurt, “St Mark’s had a holy and devout Lenten season. One Friday night we met for Stations of the Cross followed by a delicious potluck and time of fellowship. Of course the season culminated with the Triduum, and we had great attendance for the Feast of the Resurrection. On Easter we had 14 children in Sunday School making empty tombs, and more babes in arms in the sanctuary. What a delight to see so many different ages represented. ‘Our Sunday School has a lot of wonderful activities, and special thanks to their creative teacher Nancy Summers. During Lent, one Sunday they talked about Agnus Dei, the Lamb of God; another time they discussed Lint vs. Lent. The children learned “the five-finger prayer” and shared it with the congregation. They learned a lot about what Lent means, and on Palm Sunday the chilly weather didn’t detract from our procession from the Gazebo to the Sanctuary, led by the children.””

Father Tim Goodman reports from the church in Harrisburg that on “February first I had a heart attack, and for 3 months I was unable to attend St Stephen’s. Father Jon Griffin officiated while I was absent. No Wednesday evening services were held during this time. The good news I wish to share with you is that on May 10th, Mothers Day, I celebrated mass for the first time since January. During my absence, our annual Italian dinner was held by the parishioners with great success.” Delicious it was! We all rejoice at Father Tim’s recovery and return to ministry.

Respectfully submitted,

The Very Rev. Kathryn Jeffrey, Dean

NORTHEASTERN
DEANERY

DEANERY REPORTS
DEANERY REPORTS

• Ash Wednesday services. The Ash Wednesday rite from the Book of Common Prayer was offered twice on that day. Over 124 attended these two services.

• The Third Sunday of Easter. Bishop Martins visited the Chapel. One was baptized, five were confirmed and three were received into The Episcopal Church.

• Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday. A solemn liturgy was observed including an outdoor palm procession (a first in recent years). 122 were with us on Palm Sunday.

• The Maundy Thursday service. Over sixty attended our Maundy Thursday service with the footwashing and the stripping of the altar. 67 attended our Maundy Thursday service.

• Good Friday. The way of the cross was observed at noon with the Solemn Proper Liturgy for Good Friday from the Book of Common Prayer observed in the evening. Together, over 100 attended our Good Friday services.

• Holy Saturday. The rite for Holy Saturday from the Book of Common Prayer was utilized on Saturday morning. The Great Vigil of Easter was observed in the evening. 75 attended the Great Vigil.

• Easter Day. One service of Holy Eucharist was observed on Easter Day and the flowering of the cross by our children was introduced to the parish. Easter attendance was 153. Confirmation classes were held in March and April in preparation for the bishop’s annual visit. Eight persons were confirmed or received (reaffirmed).

A parish wide brunch was held after the Easter Eucharist. Over 100 were in attendance at brunch. At the conclusion of the brunch, an Easter Egg hunt was held for the children of the parish.

The spring academic term saw the ongoing reinvigoration of our Canterbury program for college students. Matthew Cross and Liz Sloffer were hired as peer ministry interns. They helped immeasurably with our Wednesday evening services of Holy Eucharist and our meal together in Canterbury House.

Wednesday attendance has ranged from 12-20. We have welcomed both new undergrad and graduate students in this new academic term. Chapel parishioners have graciously provided home cooked meals for our services this spring, and this has been used to strengthen the outreach of the parish to the campus community.

It has been quite a joyous spring at the Chapel. We invite you to stop by any time you find yourself in the area and experience the Episcopal Church's presence on the University of Illinois campus.

The Church of the Holy Trinity
Danville, IL

The Church of the Holy Trinity in Danville celebrated Holy Week and Easter with the traditional liturgies of Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday Mass and Watch at the Altar of Repose, Good Friday Mass of the Pre-Sanctified with Veneration of the Cross, Easter Vigil, and Mass of the Resurrection on Easter Day. We continue to read corporately the Daily Office of Morning each weekday.

When a priest is available on Sundays, Mass is celebrated, while Morning Prayer is read corporately by the laity in the absence of clergy. Special Masses are planned for Pentecost Sunday and our Feast of Title, Trinity Sunday.

Bishop Martins will be welcomed as he makes his annual visitation.

Preparations are also being made for the October spiritual pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham which we host and share with the local Roman Catholic parishes.

Our Vestry has developed a working relationship with organizations in the downtown area of Danville which include the local War Museum, Downtown Danville, Inc., and the West Downtown Neighborhood Association. We provide volunteers for various projects and offer our gym and fellowship hall to them for their outreach and social functions. As part of our ongoing building and grounds upkeep project, we are replacing our church sign in front of the building and redoing various parts of the churchyard.

ST. CHRISTOPHER
Rantoul, IL

For our Lenten program this year we viewed the video series “24 Hours that Changed the World.” Adam Hamilton guided us through the last 24 hours of Jesus’ life. We experienced and learned to understand the significance of Jesus’ final hours.

Our Maundy Thursday service included foot washing, and was very meaningful to all who attended. The service was followed by a soup supper.

We are very excited to have one of our youth attend the St. Michael’s Youth Conference in June. Two of our youth will be attending church camp in July.

We have a rummage/garage sale planned for June.

Submitted by the Rev. Deacon Ann Alley
EMMANUEL MEMORIAL
Champaign, IL

The Rev. Beth Maynard, Rector
We continued our experiments with more outward-focused ministry in several ways: hosting a craft for the Champaign Parade of Lights including a visit from the “Frozen” film characters, when approximately 150 children joined us; loving our neighbors by handing out jellybeans to runners in the Illinois Marathon (we still have some left over!); and helping to sponsor a new downtown farmer’s market in our neighborhood.

Our vestry and our Adult Forum have been studying Dwight Zscheile’s book People of the Way: Renewing Episcopal Identity. Participants have noted many aspects (though not all) of our congregation’s current situation reflected in much of his work and are wondering what implications it has for our future vision and mission together.

Community life at Emmanuel has often featured large events, and this year was no exception with the fun, safari-themed Dinner Dance and lovely Christmas and Easter receptions. We are also planning some smaller group events, at the instigation of our Incorporation Team, as a less-intimidating way to build up the fabric of the parish, which has had few clear ways to bring people into its system relationally after they have been attending for a while.

Music and liturgy are always a vital part of our life at Emmanuel, and we’ve been struck to see borne out in our pews the trend that has shown up in the national press and various places online, of Millennials being drawn to ancient practices and traditional liturgy. We were happy to host the ordination of our seminarian Cameron Nations in January. For Lent we offered an introduction to four historic prayer disciplines, and our Holy Week liturgies were rich and well-attended with some enhancements to the Easter Vigil in particular, although we would benefit from growth in the number of people who actually live through the entire Triduum together. In May, we put on a concert for organ and brass.

Dwight Zscheile emphasizes in his book that key tasks for nearly all Episcopal parishes at this time are to go deeper into the core Biblical narratives that shape us as a people, to become more able to imagine God actively involved and at work through us, and to make developing Christian disciples our first order of business. These ideas are ancient, but they have the potential to make many things new if put into practice; I look forward to seeing how discussing them affects us at Emmanuel in the months to come.

NORTHERN DEANERY

TRINITY
Lincoln, IL

It has been some time since Trinity, Lincoln filed a Deanery Report so let me talk about our activities so far in 2015.

Christmas and the end of the year are busy times for all churches but we also had the pleasure of welcoming Bishop Martins and Brenda to visit us in January when we confirmed two members. Our Annual Meeting was held the following Sunday with a good turnout.

Our Foundations for Christian Discernment class continues to meet on Saturday mornings with 4 students. One of them recently commented that it is the high point of their week. We are working our way through the New Testament this year and every student has commented that they have never had the Scriptures opened to them like this before.

In February, Fr. Mark trekked to Nashotah House for a class on conflict resolution using the Family Systems Theory. In March, Trinity completed work on its new website that can be found at www.trinitylincolnil.org and Fr. Mark travelled to North Carolina to be a faculty member for CREDO 6009.

In April, classes for a new program in Logan County, Jobs for Life, were completed. Jobs for Life is a Christ based program to help students find rewarding and fulfilling jobs. Graduation was held at Trinity on May 7 for the inaugural class of three students with a large turnout. More than half of the volunteers for the class were Trinity members.

Respectfully submitted,
Fr. Mark Evans

ST. BARNABAS
Havana, IL

We are enjoying a wonderful Eastertide, following a Holy Lent, preceded with a well supported Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper which raised $200 for outreach. Our Lenten teaching was “The leadership of Jesus” and “Christ Will Come Again.” The Very Rev Fr Dave Halt also visited us during Lent, presenting a great teaching on Biblical Stewardship.

Our Sunday attendance consistently averages between 8-13 persons. To date 53 private communions visits have been received by our home-bound members. Our budget has been cut by 20%, and plate offering is down by 10%.

Our Priest in Charge continues to teach and lead us in our Diocesan Strategic Vision for Mission. We have increased our diocesan giving by $500.00.
live auction, gift basket raffle, and a tremendous dinner prepared and served by the Men of St. Matthew’s. It was a wonderful night, and one of our guests proclaimed that they would never refer to Episcopalian’s as “the frozen chosen” in the future. In other mission news, this year we are supporting Ms. Aksa Ernest in her pursuit of bookkeeping training for the Diocese of Tabora, in order to serve as the financial officer of the Diocese.

Of course, we are not without our challenges. At the end of June Chuck and Melody Palm will be leaving us and moving to Oklahoma for retirement. Melody has served faithfully and well as our Music Director, and Chuck has been a cornerstone of our Eucharistic Community. While we ask God’s blessing on them in retirement, their departure will leave a large hole in our ministries and hearts.

Respectfully submitted,
John R. Henry+, Rector

CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF SAINT PAUL THE APOSTLE
Springfield, Illinois

Towards the beginning of Lent Father Gene Tucker left the Cathedral to fulfill a previous commitment to a parish in Pennsylvania. We were very fortunate to have Father Tucker with us and benefited greatly from his leadership. During the time of transition Father David Boase and Father Gene Stormer filled the pulpit and we are grateful to them. The Holy Week services along with the Easter Vigil and the Feast of the Resurrection were celebrated by Bishop Martins. Many thanks to him for his guidance.

On Sunday April 26th, our new Provost Father Andrew Hook concelebrated Mass with Father Stormer. Father Hook is settling in and learning how to navigate the roads of Springfield and the halls of the Cathedral, all of which are somewhat challenging. A welcome reception was given for him on Sunday May 10th and he was blessed to baptize three new young people. They are Liam Ashcraft, Sema’j Thomas, and Marquisse Ringo.

The Cathedral is still accepting donations to its Cathedral Trust for a new roof and has recently matched a challenge given to them. If the congregation raised $30,000 another
The Annual Meeting for Dove, Inc. (a local umbrella ministry with many activities) was held at St. John’s Parish Hall. We are pleased to be able to host such events now that we are Handicap Accessible. On the 24th, several couples from St. John’s attended the New Life Pregnancy Center annual Spring Fundraising dinner. Sunday the 26th was a day that we could have the most graduates together to recognize. Jasmine Gregory is graduating from Maroa-Forsyth H.S.; Morgan Bothwell, Alex Kidd, and Emily Knezz from Millikin University; James Curlin from Trinity College, CT; and Erica Rhodes from Western Illinois.

Our Festive Eastertide Evensong was held on Mothers’ Day, May 10th, with a reception following.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard A. Swan+, Rector
Trinity Church
Jacksonville, IL

Our Lenten Series for 2015 included weekly Wednesday presentations from Ministry partners within the Decatur Community followed by discussions of those aspects of our call to serve in Jesus’ Name. Stations of the Cross were followed every Friday evening in Lent.

Snow on the first of March caused us to cancel our scheduled Lenten Evensong. We were able to hold our Lenten (Rite I) Evensong with a light reception following on March 15th.

On the 18th of March we celebrated the life of long time member, Joyce Joan Peoples. On the 23rd and 24th of March we finally had the carpeting in the Nave dyed. Parts of the carpet had been bleached by the setting sun coming through the West windows over the past years. We found that carpet dyers and saved about $30,000 over replacement cost!

On Palm Sunday we said “farewell” to long-time members Patty and Randy Kampfe as they have moved to Estes Park, CO. During Holy Week we observed a choral Tenebrae on Wednesday, and had good attendance at all Triduum Services.

On the 18th of April we completed Confirmation Classes begun in January. Later that day a group of St. John’s members came together at a fundraising “Iron Chef” competition to support the Good Samaritan Inn soup kitchen. We filled a ten person table with other members also attending. Next year we hope to have two tables.

The generous involvement of parishioners enabled the Church School to send $2,051 to the Heifer Project International!!! This is more than just the Church School doing a fund-raising project. Rather, by running this project, the Church School helps the Parish as a whole to engage in a discipline and some activities so the Parish can keep Lent corporately.

When the children began talking about their project, they looked at what had been raised in the past. They set a goal of $1300. However, as each child decided what to buy, the total came to $1630. Could they meet that goal? With the generosity of parishioners, they did! This is what the children set their goal on: a cow, chicks, pigs, sheep, a llama, trees, rabbits, fish, and clean water. And now they can “buy” these items and more!

Our Church School Teachers worked very hard in the organization of this. Before the children passed out mite boxes on The First Sunday in Lent, they sang the Offertory Anthem with the Choir. They sponsored a trivia lunch, a bake sale, and took orders for the famous Easter cake pops. On The Second Sunday of Easter, as a sign of appreciation, the Church School Choir sang again and presented everyone present with a flower after the service.

Following the English tradition of Mothering Sunday, the men and boys of the Parish served the women and girls an elegant breakfast on The Fourth Sunday in Lent.

Trinity Church observed Lent by gathering on Friday evenings for Evening Prayer, a Supper, and the Stations of the Cross. During Holy Week we celebrated the Triduum as ordered by the Prayer Book, with services on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, the Great Vigil, and Easter Day.

A new Thurible and Boat was purchased from memorial funds. It was used for the first time to the glory of God at The Great Vigil, and then again on Easter Day.

The Wardens of Trinity Church organized a clean-up day in April. With the help of Boy Scouts and church members, they filled a large dumpster with trash from the undercroft and basement areas. It seems that every carton and container from previous purchases had been kept for safe keeping. Many useful items they found will appear in a spring rummage sale.

Respectfully submitted,
Christopher L. Ashmore +, Rector
Christ Church
Springfield, IL
Christ Church continues to offer two Holy Eucharist, Rite II worship services every Sunday (at 8:00 a.m. and 10:15 p.m.) with child care provided during the late service. On the last Sunday of every month we provide a Morning Prayer I and Holy Eucharist I service at 10:15 a.m. The Prayer Group continues to meet via phone as needed. Further discipleship, equipping, and various other ministries since our last report include:
• Altar Guild – the altar guild is now being coordinated by Linda Kelley and Jo Anne Tanner, and has several new members;
• Choir – the choir has gained 8 new members this year under the new leadership of Cindy Knight, Minister of Music & Inspiring Worship;
• Contact Ministry – team invites guests to our Welcome Center after service for refreshments and a gift. A follow-up visit is made within 36 hours, to bring them a loaf of fresh-baked bread.
Moreover, a note and phone call follow from Fr. Tournoux;
• Discipleship I – weekly teachings on Sunday mornings by Fr. Tournoux;
• ECW – met in March to sponsor an Anglican Prayer Bead Session. A sheet on using prayer beads was distributed to attendees, as well as a starter kit for assembling their own prayer beads;
• Sunday School – the elementary class has been learning about the major themes of the Old Testament. Starting with Adam and Eve, The Fall, Cain and Abel, Tower of Babel, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and so on. They don’t go into too much depth, but touch on the importance of each story.
The middle and high school classes continue to use the Anglican Edition of David C. Cook, which helps them study the Bible, facilitate their discussion, and provide activities to apply the lessons. They study the Scripture, discuss how it provides them wisdom and direction they can apply to their lives so they can grow in their relationship with God, build their faith and live the life that God has planned for them;
• Sunday School Cell Group Facilitator’s Leadership Community Training – bi-monthly mentoring involving vision, huddle, and on-going skill training;
• Vestry – meets monthly with each meeting consisting of the Upward, Inward, Outward, and Outward (U.I.O.F.) values of cell life. Further, Fr. Tournoux has finished teaching on Acts 2:42-47, and members are reading Asian Tigers for Christ, which is about the Anglican Church in Southeast Asia and their explosive growth; and
• Youth Sunday – held yearly on Mother’s Day, various youth from the congregation, greeted parishioners, provided the sermon, read the lessons, ushered, and served as acolytes. Miss Seton Tournoux provided a special guitar solo of “Our God Is An Awesome God.” Additionally, Lawren & Nancy Tucker provided Geraniums for the moms.
Respectfully submitted, Gregory A. Tournoux+, Rector

ST. LUKE’S
Springfield, IL

The past few months have been busy ones at St. Luke’s. A carpeting project, spearheaded by our WOW women’s group and funded with memorials and special gifts, was completed just before Easter. The sanctuary and pulpit were re-carpeted and new runners were made for the nave (replacing old and partially light-colored runners that had encountered spilt food on many occasions).

Our Holy Week and Easter celebrations were well-attended, as are a growing number of adult programs. In addition to our regular Tuesday adult class, we have added an African Bible study group that meets on Thursdays. We continue to seek ways to address the changing demographic of our community, looking for new things that work in the current scenario.

David Wells, a parishioner at St. Luke’s was Ordained to the (transitional) Diaconate (at St. Luke’s) on the Feast of Saints Philip and James. The service was well-attended and was followed with a reception prepared by our WOW group.

Deacon Wells is assigned to St. Luke’s. He completed at CPE course at St. John’s Hospital at the beginning of May and will graduate from Nashotah later this month.

The Ordination of Deacon Wells is the third Ordination to be held at St. Luke’s. The first was the Ordination of Charles E. F. Boisson to the Priesthood on Whitsunday, 1908, just a little over two months before the infamous Springfield race riot. Fr. Boisson, a native of Haiti, left Springfield shortly after the riot. The second was my own to the Priesthood on the Feast of St. Augustine of Canterbury, ninety years later.

We are taking a break from our customary summer Vacation Bible School program, in large part because the Denneys will be out of the country for several weeks.

Respectfully submitted,
Shawn W. Denney+, Vicar
**DIOCESAN CALENDAR**

**JUNE 2015**
- 07 Bishop w/ Trinity, Jacksonville
- 07-12 St. Michael’s Conference, Lake Williamson, Carlinville
- 14 Bishop w/ The Church of the Holy Trinity, Danville
- 18-21 Cursillo Weekend #33, Toddhall, Columbia
- 21 Bishop w/ St. Christopher’s, Rantoul
- 25-30 General Convention, Salt Lake City, UT
- 28-30 Episcopal Church Camp, East Bay Camp, Hudson

**JULY 2015**
- 01-03 General Convention, Salt Lake City, UT
- 01-04 Episcopal Church Camp, East Bay Camp, Hudson
- 05 Bishop w/ St. John the Baptist, Mt. Carmel
- 07 Finance Department, Diocesan Center, Springfield (10 a.m.)
- 12 Bishop w/ St. Stephen’s, Harrisburg
- 19 Bishop w/ St. Mark’s, West Frankfort

**AUGUST 2015**
- 29 Diocesan Council
- 30 Bishop w/ St. Mary’s, Robinson

**SEPTEMBER 2015**
- 6 Bishop w/ St. John’s, Albion
- 13 Bishop w/ St. John’s, Decatur
- 13 Northern Deanery Meeting, St. Matthew’s, Bloomington
- 19 Mission Strategy Workshop
- 19 Bishop w/ Emmanuel Memorial, Champaign
- 20 Eastern Deanery Meeting, Trinity, Mt. Vernon
- 20 Darrow Deanery Meeting, St. Andrew’s, Edwardsville
- 20 Northwestern Deanery Meeting, Cathedral, Springfield
- 20 Northeastern Deanery Meeting, Chapel, Champaign
- 26 Hale Deanery Meeting, St. James’ Chapel, Marion
- 27 Bishop w/ St. Michael’s, O’Fallon

**OCTOBER 2015**
- 4 Bishop w/ All Saints’, Morton
- 11 Bishop w/ St. Andrew’s, Edwardsville
- 16 138th Synod - Trinity, Jacksonville
- 18 Bishop w/ St. Luke’s, Springfield

*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](http://www.episcopalspringfield.org).*

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

Contributors will be acknowledged in a future issue.

Thank you.

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