The Rev. Dr. Joelle Colville-Hanson

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is a time for Christians all over the world to pray for the unity of the church.

This week first came about because of a conversation between Father James Paul Wattson, an American Episcopal Priest (who later converted to Roman Catholicism) and an English clergyman, Rev Spencer Jones. While Father Wattson had been working with Sister Lurana White, an Episcopal nun who also later converted to Catholicism to foster a movement to pray for the reunion of the Anglican Communion with the Roman Catholic Church, Rev. Spencer suggested they expand the idea to encourage all Christians to pray for Christian Unity. They chose the week between the Confession of St. Peter on January 18 and Conversion of St. Paul, January 25.

Later, Abbé Paul Couturier of Lyons,
CONTRIBUTING

Communication serves a crucial function in every ministry. Sharing information among congregations, committees and individual members is no small task. Welcoming new members to our diocesan family also requires unique communication efforts at all levels.

Your contribution to this ministry of communication helps spread the word about what God is doing in our lives, in our congregations, in our diocese, and in the Episcopal Church at large. Please consider making a gift today.

We are committed to send our diocesan publication to all members and friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Springfield. It is not necessary to contribute in order to receive The Springfield Current. Nevertheless, if you choose to support The Springfield Current, your contribution will be of great assistance in this ministry and is tax deductible.

Thank you for your support!
+ Rt. Rev. Daniel H. Martins, Bishop

DONORS

Thank you to recent donors who have made this issue possible:

ST. MATTHEW’S, BLOOMINGTON
Loren & Kathie Dyson

ST. JOHN’S, DECATUR
Allan Bell

ST. MICHAEL’S, O’FALLON
Roxanne & Dennis Amos

CHRIST CHURCH, SPRINGFIELD
Margie Higgason

FRIENDS OF THE DIOCESE
Margaret Brown
The Rev. John & Barbara Richmond

ST. JOHNS, DECATUR
Paul Buckles

To contribute toward the mission of The Springfield Current, please see the form inside the back cover.

ONLINE

WEBSITE:
EpiscopalSpringfield.org

FACEBOOK:
facebook.com/EpiscopalSpringfield

BISHOP MARTINS’ BLOG & JOURNAL:
EpiscopalSpringfield.org/bishops-corner
3Winter 2017/18

FROM THE BISHOP

The eight-day period each January between the feasts of the Confession of St Peter (the 18th) and the Conversion of St Paul (the 25th) has been observed across various Christian traditions for more than a century as the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. If you’re readings this after January 25—no worries, ecumenism is important 365 days a year.

The number of distinct “brand names” of Christian bodies is staggering. It numbers in the tens of thousands. Given the manifest will of Jesus in his prayer “that they may all be one” (John 17:21), this reality ought to be scandalous beyond imagination. Yet, it isn’t. Instead, we have normalized a situation that we don’t see any hope of changing. We speak of the proliferation of denominations as representing healthy diversity, veritably a gift from God. Each has its market niche of ethnic or cultural or devotional proclivities, and isn’t that wonderful, because then the gospel can reach a wider variety of people? Ecumenism is nice, but not an emergency.

Nearly twenty years ago, the Episcopal Church entered into a “full communion” relationship with the principal Lutheran body in the U.S. We can now swap clergy and members with minimal bureaucratic impedence. (There is a similar proposal, which we will act on in 2021, that would create the same sort of relationship with United Methodists.) In concept, that’s a good thing. Ability to share the Eucharist and recognize sacramental ministries is the essential mark of church unity. But what comes next in that relationship? It’s as if called to Common Mission has inoculated us against any urge to take it to the next level. We have blunted the scandal in one small corner of the Christian universe, but we have not removed it. There are no laurels to rest on.

We have blinded ourselves to the scandal, either by rationalizing our divisions, by partial measures like full-communion agreements, and by severely limiting the section of the playing field that we pay attention to. But the scandal is still there. It still grieves the heart of Christ, and is therefore still an emergency.

A hermeneutic is a fundamental interpretive framework, the default lens through which we mentally process the stream of data on a particular subject. At the close of 2018’s Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, my hope is that I, and anyone whom I might influence, will adopt a hermeneutic of ecumenism in what we say, what we write, and how we pray. This implies a default preference for ecumenism in our thinking and in our ecclesiastical discourse, as we take our share in the councils of the church. It means we train ourselves to unfailingly ask the question, What are the ecumenical implications if we do X or Y? And if doing X or Y will have an adverse ecumenical impact, we probably then decide not to do X or Y, even if, in our own internal life, it seems right and good.

This is what it means to “seriously lay to heart the great dangers we are in by our unhappy divisions” (BCP, p. 818). It means no longer rationalizing our “sad divisions” as a blessing. It means laying aside the notion that any part of the community of Christian communities possesses the fullness of ecclesial life, but we are, all of us, profoundly broken and incomplete in our state of broken or impaired communion, and that this state of brokenness is the the single most powerful impediment to the prosecution of the Church’s mission of reconciling all people to God and one another in Christ. It means developing the capacity for restraint, bathing in St Paul’s counsel to the Corinthian church that they “wait for one another” (I Corinthians 11:33).

The Church will never die this side of the second coming of Christ. Of that we are well-assured. But that doesn’t mean it won’t die in Europe and North America, even as it died in North Africa and most of the lands that now comprise Turkey. This is one of the “great dangers” arising from our “sad divisions.” When Christianity was the centerpiece of the culture, we could fool ourselves that there was nothing strange about churches of different brand names gracing all four corners of a downtown intersection. We can no longer afford that illusion. Blessed Peter and Paul, pillars of the Church, pray for us.

+Daniel Springfield
WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

Continued from Cover

France (known as the father of spiritual ecumenism) sought to make this week more inclusive of other denominations. He encouraged this week of prayer so that “Our Lord would grant to his Church on earth that peace and unity which were in his mind and purpose when, on the eve of His Passion, He prayed that all might be one.”

With the founding of the World Council of Churches, the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity became recognized by even more churches around the world. In 1968 the World Council of Churches began to work with ecumenical partners to produce resources that could be shared by all participating churches.

Each year ecumenical partners in a particular region are invited to produce a basic liturgical text based on a biblical theme. This year the resources have been prepared by churches of the Caribbean under the theme of “Your Right Hand, O Lord, Glorious in Power” based on Exodus 15:6.

From the World Council of Churches:

The contemporary Caribbean is deeply marked by the dehumanizing project of colonial exploitation. Very regrettably, during five hundred years of colonialism and enslavement, Christian missionary activity in the region, with the exception of a few outstanding examples, was closely tied to this dehumanizing system and in many ways rationalized it and reinforced it. Whereas those who brought the Bible to this region used the scriptures to justify their subjugation of a people in bondage, in the hands of the enslaved, it became an inspiration, an assurance that God was on their side, and that God would lead them into freedom.

Today Caribbean Christians of many different traditions see the hand of God active in the ending of enslavement. It is a uniting experience of the saving action of God which brings freedom. For this reason, the choice of the song of Moses and Miriam (Ex 15:1-21), as the motif of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2018 was considered a most appropriate one.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

St. Luke’s Camp Reunion

Barb Sherman

St. Luke’s hosted a camp reunion on October 21. Around 16 campers or former campers/counselors got together to share God’s love through singing, eating together, playing games, and prayer. It was a great reminder that even though we are apart throughout the year, we still support each other as brothers and sisters in Christ.
**The Chapel of Saint John the Divine**

**Jenny Joost**

The Chapel of Saint John the Divine celebrated the holidays by giving filled backpacks to the men and women who are in need at the Daily Bread Soup Kitchen in Champaign, IL. For many at the Daily Bread Soup Kitchen, these backpacks will be their only presents. Last year the Daily Bread Soup Kitchen gave away over 800 backpacks to those in the community. The two oldest Sunday School classes at the Chapel of Saint John the Divine were able to completely fill all 15 backpacks with everything on the wish list plus some extras! Daily Bread Soup Kitchen’s mission is to feed the hungry of the Champaign County community regardless of race, religion, or ethnicity.

**Christ Church**

**Anne Cornelius**

Christ Church is looking forward to the Bishop’s visit in January when we will be having a confirmation service for several people. We are also happy to report that there will be a number of baptisms the week before. In a continuing effort to keep the ‘main thing the main thing’, The advent book study has been a continuation of A Purpose-Driven Life by Rick Warren. We have had lively discussions that are hopefully helping us discern what God wants us individually and as a church.

The reading for staff meetings has been on the book of Joshua, as we discuss leadership in terms of not only following God’s leadership, but growing in our own leadership to bring friends, family, and neighbors to know the love and mercy of Christ. Discipleship I, held between services every Sunday, has been devoted to what it means to be a Christian with a Kingdom perspective of continually growing in Christ.

**The Episcopal Parish of Alton**

The EPA has been a busy place. We celebrated the Feast of St. Francis with the Blessing of the Animals in the church garden and have continued worship services with our animal companions during monthly PAWS - Pets are Welcome Services. A brief worship service, including hymns, is followed by fellowship time for both humans and creatures. At the beginning of November a PAWS to Remember was celebrated with the people and pets who now dwell with God. Then in December we celebrated An Expectant PAWS - Waiting and watching for the coming of Jesus. Both animals and humans enjoy the worship service and fellowship time with their good buddies.

Family Fun Nights have continued as well. In August a nature hike, campfire and youth-led compline were enjoyed. In September, families and friends came together the Brier Bank Farm Equestrian Center, owned by our new organist/choir master, Gay Anderson. After a youth-led service and introduction to Gay’s furry friends, we enjoyed a sing-a-long with Gay. The October Family Fun Night consisted of a worship service and...
new priest-in-charge after a vacancy
of nearly two years, the folks at St.
Barnabas are working diligently,
through prayer, fellowship, and
determination, and with the
leadership of Fr. Mike Newago,
O.S.F., to become a destination and
port of welcome and sanctuary to
the residents of Mason County and
beyond. Signs of new life, growth,
and the power of the Holy Spirit
emanate from the little congregation
and the community of Havana is
taking notice! In just a few short
months, the parish has grown from
seven faithful souls to an average
attendance in the mid-twenties. “This
is God’s work, not mine or the parish”
says Fr. Mike. “He wants His church
in Havana to bear witness to His
amazing faithfulness and love”. Fr.
Mike believes that mission is the key
to being church, being the incarnate
Body of Christ in a world racked with
brokenness and hurt. “We are called
and sent out to make disciples, and
that may start by something quite
simple....I spend more time listening
and being present to many folks at
the local Dollar General than I do
anywhere else” says Fr. Mike.

December is an almost too busy
month everywhere and so too in the
church—Christmas dinner parties,
decorating, youth Christmas program,
caroling to shut-ins plus all of the
demands of the secular world; all
which can lead us astray from God.
This season of Advent prompts us
to slow down and to concentrate, to
pause and consider our relationships
with God and each other. And, with
God’s help, may we use this time to
wait, watch and be prepared and ready
to welcome Him, Jesus, into the world
again as the Christ Child-Emmanuel-
God with us.

Merry Christmas from the EPA.

St. Barnabas Church: The Episcopal
Parish of Mason County
Serving ~ Sharing ~ Loving ~ Caring

The Rev. Michael Newago, O.S.F.

The little church snuggled near
the banks of the Illinois River has
embarked on a great new adventure
the past few months. With the
appointment and arrival of their
stuff, and help deliver bags of food to
the school classrooms of almost one
hundred kids” says Fr. Mike. “The
need is so great...we are privileged to
be part of this program.” The parish
has also adopted a unique program
inspired by Terri McDowell, the
church treasurer, of collecting and
distributing personal hygiene products
to needy high school students through
their guidance counselors. “Terri
was passionate about this need,
and the parish responded very, very
generously...the collection basket
is usually full before the end of the
week” Fr. Mike states. Many local
high school students don’t have the
basic essentials to good hygiene
due to family poverty and it helps
these students develop and maintain
good self-esteem. Another unique
opportunity for witness evolved
this year after the community was
heartbroken by the sudden death of a
beloved elementary school principal.
“It was just days before Thanksgiving,
in the midst of the increasing
darkness, and we thought, we need to
bring some light into this darkness,
and we did just that!” Fr. Mike states.
The parish covered the entire campus
with Christmas lighting...every tree,
“Peaks, shallows and deeps”

Lakeside reflections on Christian Discipleship today

A guided holiday retreat hosted by the Church of the Ascension, Cadenabbia, Lake Como, Italy

Revd Roger Williams - Priest at the Church of the Ascension, Cadenabbia. Lake Como. Italy

7-12th October, 2018

Church of the Ascension

This lakeside church serves a large community of summer visitors and a small community of full-time residents and holiday home-owners. Although part of the Church of England, those who attend are from all over the world and the priest, the Revd Roger Williams, is from Australia.

Why are we hosting a retreat?

Lake Como is a beautiful setting and we wanted to share with visitors some of its hidden gems, which have inspired pilgrimage and reflection for centuries. Our recent 125th anniversary prompted us to look to the future and the need to both raise money to conserve the building and to build our own community. We hope this retreat will provide visitors and church members alike a chance to slow down and reflect about our lives in these very special surroundings.

Retreat theme – what can you expect?

How can we refresh our discipleship and be willing to move forward on our journey of faith? How can we cope with changes in ourselves, our circumstances, the church and the world? In what ways can we let God breathe new life into us when our spirituality feels tired or stuck, especially as we get older? These are some of the questions we hope to address in this holiday retreat through daily worship, bible study on events in Jesus’ own lakeside ministry, spiritual exercises and resources, discussion groups, times of meditation and reflection, visits to sacred places, as well as through relaxation and companionship, enjoying the inspiring panoramas of Lake Como itself. For some this Retreat could form a part of a longer Holiday in the area.

Retreat conductor, the Rev’d Lyn Philips

Lyn is a retired Church of England priest originally from Cardiff, where he was ordained in 1971 after training at Cuddesdon College, Oxford. He served in parishes in the Welsh Valleys, Cardiff and Wolverhampton as well as in Hampstead and Twickenham in London. Fifteen years of his ministry was spent as a full-time hospital chaplain and hospice chaplain. And some of his happiest years were spent as chaplain in Milan in the early 1990s, when he learnt to love all things Italian! Although retired, he helps out in the parish church of Berwick-upon-Tweed, Northumberland, where he now lives, and is a trained spiritual director offering individual accompaniment as well as quiet days and retreats. Yoga: there will also be optional yoga sessions with a qualified teacher, Mina Weight.
Accommodation
A number of rooms with half-board, have been reserved at Villa Collina, Cadenabbia, where we will also have the welcome dinner and some sessions. If you have local friends or wish to make your own arrangements, you may join as a day visitor. However the final night of the retreat will be spent at Piona Abbey, a Cistercian Monastery.

Cost and what is covered (Minor alterations to the programme may occur)
The retreat can be booked:
a) As a complete package including accommodation (dinner, bed and breakfast at Villa Collina with one night at Piona) as well as programme excursions, simple lunches and sessions and materials, or
b) As a day visitor (excursions, lunches and sessions/materials as well as the overnight visit to Piona abbey with meals there) for those who live or have friends on the lake.

Please note: Depending on the availability of single rooms at La Collina, there may be an upcharge for single occupancy.
Complete package: 695 Euros (Deposit 250 euros)
Day Visitor: 395 Euros (Deposit 150 Euros)
Please ensure that you are covered by normal travel insurance.

How to book
1. E-mail Jeannie Willan (jeanniewillan@btinternet.com) stating how many places you are booking, whether you want shared accommodation or single occupancy at Villa Collina, or whether you are registering as a day visitor. If the latter please state where you will be staying.

2. Please give your name, postal address, phone number, any special dietary requirements and/or mobility limitations.

For more information: http://www.episcopalspringfield.org/lakeside-reflections-christian-discipleship-today/

Highlight of the bishop’s address to synod
Our strategic vision statement begins with the claim that the Diocese of Springfield is one church. So here’s where I need to throw a little bit of theology at you, because that “one church” bit, when talking about the diocese, might be causing you to scratch your head or raise an eyebrow. The traditional theological understanding is that the diocese is the fundamental unit of the church. Why? Because the diocese has all the resources that are needed to be the church. In fact, in just a little while, as we’re gathered for the Eucharist at St Matthew’s, we will together be forming a living icon of the fullness of the church’s life—the community of the baptized, the ordained elders of the community, whom we know as presbyters or priests, the college of deacons, who represent the servant ministry of Christ in our midst, all gathered with the Bishop, who is a living personal link not only horizontally across space to other Christian communities, but vertically across time to the apostles and to Christ. While most here experience the church most frequently at the altar where they are habitually fed on Sundays, that experience is only possible because of the diocese. I’m the main exception to this! St Paul’s Cathedral is the closest thing I have to a home church, but I’m certainly gone from there way more often than I’m present, because by far the most important thing that a bishop does is to be the thread, the glue, that binds together the Eucharistic Communities of the diocese into one church. And some may be tempted to think that our brand name, the Episcopal Church, stands over and above us in importance. But please don’t ever think that we as a diocese are simply a regional subdivision of the Episcopal Church. It’s actually the other way around. It’s the various dioceses that covenant together to form the entity we know as the Episcopal Church.

+Daniel Springfield

Bishop Martins at Synod with new clergy. (Left to Right) Caleb Roberts, Deacon Tim Leighton, Bishop Martins, Fr. Matthew Dallman, Fr. Richard Lewis, Fr. Mike Newago
winter 2017/18

ministries and committee news

treasurer’s report

episcopal diocese of springfield
diocesan council

November 17, 2017
Year to Date October 31, 2017

For year to date October 31, 2017, total revenues were $604,733.79 or $58,019.03 more than budgeted revenues of $546,714.76. This was primarily driven by Current Year Pledge Income of $397,600.66 (-$38,789.09 under budget) and Pledges – Prior Years of +$117,423.23.

Total Expenses were $567,186.33 or ($84,966.64) less than budgeted expenses of $652,751.97.

The quarter ended with a surplus of $37,547.46.

Rod Matthews
Treasurer

episcopal church women

episcopal church women annual meeting
Diocese of Springfield

We will meet on Saturday, April 28, 2018 at Toddhall Conference Center from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. in the Barn (across from Wilson Hall).

We will have lunch at Toddhall, the cost is $15.00. Reservations for the meeting must be to Jan Goossens, utospil@sbcglobal.net, by April 16th. You can pay at Toddhall.

You can stay on Friday night or Saturday night at Toddhall. You need to make your own arrangements with Toddhall’s staff by calling (618) 281-8180 or toddhall@htc.net.

2018 outreach project
Sponsored by the Episcopal Church Women

Theme: Food

The Diocesan ECW Board is asking each Eucharistic Community to do a project that concerns food.

Possible projects: Work with your local food pantry. Some food pantries do more than just food, so whatever you do with them would be acceptable.

Do you have a feeding program in your area? Maybe a summer lunch program for school age children, etc.

Is there an educational food program in your area?

What other projects would your Eucharistic Community like to do?

The Diocesan ECW Board is asking that you write a report in July 2018 telling us what happened in January to June 2018 and a second report in January 2019 for July through December 2018.

We will compile the report and let the diocese know what you did. We are not asking for any money in 2018.

uto fall ingathering

Thanks to all Churches who participated in the Fall Ingathering
The Diocese of Springfield raised $4,450.15 towards the Fall Ingathering

UTO annual grant materials

UTO Annual Grant Materials are now available. Churches interested in submitting applications may go to www.episcopalchurch.org/UTO grants to download them. All applications are due on Friday March 2, 2018. Feel free to submit drafts early for review by the staff.

Informational Webinars about the UTO application process will be held on Tuesday, January 16th, Wednesday January 17th, Tuesday, February 6th and Wednesday, February 7th. All webinars will be held at 7:00 pm eastern standard time. Webinar Contact: https://zoom.us/j/8140408194 or telephone by dialing 1 408-638-0968 or 1 646-558-8656, Meeting ID: 8140408191. If you cannot attend the webinar, please email your questions to hmelton@episcopalchurch.org.

Joyce C. Wright
UTO Coordinator
Diocese of Springfield

UTO Coordinator
It is a joy to be a part of the Episcopal presence in Edwards County and the good people of St. John’s.

The Rev. Bill Howard

St. Mary’s
Robinson, IL

St. Mary’s continues to struggle with numbers, but not with enthusiasm or faithfulness in attending services. We weekly collect for our outreach fund and also for a special fund we have designated for mission development. This one was recently used to provide relief for the victims of hurricane Harvey in Texas and also for those impacted in Florida and elsewhere by hurricane Irma.

Advent, Christmas and Epiphany reminded us of our commitment to our God and our service toward our neighbors. We are most thankful for God’s saving grace as we deal with our own shortcomings and realize once again our need for salvation.

Ash Wednesday kicked off the Lenten season for us and we switched to Rite I for this season. Holy week was celebrated with a full array of services. Attendance tends to fall off especially for Maundy Thursday, but this year we did not do a foot washing and we had a better response. Good Friday and the Easter Vigil on Saturday were sparsely attended as several were out of town visiting with family and grandchildren. Easter day we returned to normal.

In the area of maintenance, we replaced our roof with one that has a long guarantee and should last for the lifetime of our members. We replaced the toilet in the bathroom with one that is ADA approved. We are now looking into replacing some of the boards on our ramp and getting the porch re-stained and sealed. As winter approaches, we will go from lawn-mowing to snow shoveling. We continue to have moisture problems in the basement and have no real solution for that as the building itself is over 100 years old.

We have added several new parlments and these have helped to give us a more up to date look at different times. We continue to be faithful in our service to God and also to those we come in contact with. This is a joyful and faithful community, though small in number and as we move into another year we count our blessings.

The Rev. Ann Tofani

St. Thomas’
Salem, IL

St. John’s
Centralia, IL

Saint Thomas put on a wonderful Vacation Bible School in early July, the first VBS in 20 years. Eight children attended, and a terrific curriculum supported by a dedicated volunteer staff made for a memorable experience.

The church also organized a rummage sale in midsummer which received a very large amount of items for sale. A fine set of volunteers insured a successful sale with good participation.
from the wider community. Even so, only a moderate income of $515 was received for outreach projects.

One of our longtime members moved to New Mexico. Her loss ended for generations of membership at Saint Thomas, as her great-grandparents became members of the church in the late nineteenth century.

St. John's is excited about working with Redeemer Lutheran Church in Centralia (ELCA), founded nearly a hundred years ago. Redeemer became unable to support a full-time pastor and decided to sell its building. After a negotiated murder with another congregation in Centralia fell through at the last minute, St. John's offered to provide a home for the people of Redeemer. The Lutherans gladly and excitedly excepted. They began meeting at St. John's in September, conducting their own services at a separate time, but a merger of the congregations is planned for sometime in 2018.

A months long project of refurbishing of St. John's vestibule and bell-tower was completed in midsummer. The project, which includes the main entryway to the church, was dedicated on August 6, the feast of the Transfiguration.

Due to several members being ill, St. John's reluctantly decided not to host a Vacation Bible School this year despite a record of successful VBSs in the past two years. However, the children's Sunday took place on September 24, with neighborhood children and their parents invited to participate in the service and come to reception afterwards.

The Rev. Can. David Baumann

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
Mt. Carmel, IL

The people of Saint 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 that have been made by different people auctioned off to raise money to 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 to 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 PM, 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 AM 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 people of St. John's have supported since its inception. Besides providing financial support on a monthly basis we have been having a monthly in gathering 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 is the 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.

Continued on page 12
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 Hazlett

TRINITY
Mt. Vernon, IL

Trinity stays busy throughout the year. Spiritual formation plays a regular role in parish life with an Anglican rosary prayer group, observance of the Holy Days, children and adult Sunday School, and a midweek study. Topics of discussion range far and wide including Romans, Philippians, Mere Christianity, the Eucharist, and more.

Fellowship, a strength of our worshiping community, takes many shapes and sizes with an eye on new and expanding possibilities, including a new emphasis on family oriented and visitor friendly events. Regular events include dinners both on and off campus, a Chili Luncheon, Trinity Sunday celebration, a Parish Picnic, and generally anytime we can gather for some food.

We continue to partner with local ministries and agencies. Lessons and Carols will be in its third year for 2017, collaborating between five churches. Stations of the Cross are shared with our Roman Catholic neighbors. Trinity is active in the local ministerial association including their Christmas in the Park and Food Basket programs. We also welcomed back this year the U. of I. Extension Office to our Parish Hall to hold a free cooking class for area youth.

In addition to the local context, members of Trinity have been spotted at various diocesan events including the St. Michael’s Youth Conference, the ECW retreat in the Spring, and Cursillo.

We are excited about what is happening at Trinity to the glory of God, and we look forward to seeing the movement of the Spirit in our lives and in our ministry to those around in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Rev. Ben Hankinson

NORTHEASTERN DEANERY

THE CHAPEL OF SAINT JOHN THE DIVINE
Champaign, IL

These past few months have been a lively and grace-filled time in the life of the Chapel of Saint John the Divine. Since last we reported, our very capable parish administrator, Genevieve Kirk took a new executive director position at a local non-profit. Jennifer Joost was hired and is doing a marvelous job.

The Parish is thriving and we have added lots of programmatic opportunities for participation this fall:
• We held a Labor Day parish wide gathering
• We held a Quad Day outreach to the returning university of Illinois students. We gave away 1000 cookies on the university quad.
• We held the Blessing of the Animals service on the feast of Francis of Assisi.
• Foyer Groups meet regularly.
Our music programs continue to thrive. On October 28, we celebrated the 30th anniversary of Linda Buzard’s ministry as organist and choirmaster. The organist, assistant organist, and several members of the choir at St. George’s Episcopal Church in Nashville, Tennessee joined our Canterbury Choir in a wonderful service of Evensong.

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

The Reverend Sean Ferrell, Rector

EMMANUEL MEMORIAL EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Champaign, IL

The Emmanuel community is heavily involved in celebrations of our building Centennial Year. In September, we were blessed to receive
The Centennial donation of a stone dating to 1428 taken from the Great South Window of Canterbury Cathedral, which was dedicated by Her Majesty’s Lord Lieutenant of Kent at a festive Sunday Mass. Early October brought a “Family Dinner” with over 140 participants of all ages and backgrounds, as well as the premiere of a specially commissioned hymn (named West Side Park for the park across the street from the church) by Anglican church musician Bruce Neswick. In addition, work continued on some of the capital projects we identified for this year: a new tower bell controller, outdoor and indoor signage, and significant organ upgrades. We hosted the organist Yun Kim for a special recital as well. Finally (for this quarter’s Centennial activities!) on All Saints Sunday we both dedicated our 2018 pledges and debuted Centennial mugs and t-shirts. In our formation activities, Sunday School continues with a lectionary-based class, geared to the ages of those who are present, and they have been memorizing the Lord’s Prayer. For the past several weeks a Sunday morning group of adults has been meeting to do guided lectio divina on a lectionary passage, followed by discussion. Ministry with middle and high school youth has been rebooted by our Curate Fr. Caleb Roberts, and a group is currently meeting every 2 weeks for supper, discussion of a brief reading, and Compline, in addition to others who engage mainly through our acolyte program. Fr. Caleb’s presence has allowed our Deacon Christine Hopkins to expand some of our outreach work, which we also view as informational.

A group of parishioners put together a pilot project of a re-envisioned coffee hour for three Sundays in October, trying to create a model that will help us make connections across generations and life situations so Emmanuel can go deeper in relationships. Lots of responses came in for a debriefing survey, and they are currently being evaluated. We continue in discernment about how God might be calling us to re-purpose our vacant rectory space, and we continue in the goal of building more connections in our neighborhood – the most recent examples of the latter are hosting a bike repair clinic with Neutral Cycle and collaborating with other Downtown, Midtown and Campustown nonprofits for a shared #GivingTuesday outreach.

This has been a season of new life at Emmanuel, with three new babies born in the parish recently and another on the way, but also a season with some major illnesses in our community. We are grateful for the faithfulness of all our parishioners and for the support we receive from friends of the parish near and far. And for all that happens here we give God the glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

The Rev. Beth Maynard, Rector

TRINITY
Mattoon, IL

Trinity is busy preparing for our 5th and final Organ Recital of the year scheduled for November 19th at 3pm. The artist for the final recital will be Ron Krebs from Florence, Kansas, the Vice President of The Reuter Organ Company. We are very pleased to have Mr. Krebs to play for us as it promises to be a wonderful performance.

On December 10th, Erin and Carol McCrary will be at Trinity to present and recruit for the Cursillo Movement scheduled next June at Todd Hall, Columbia, IL.

Trinity began a church choir in September under the direction of our Music Director, Allen Webner. The addition of the choir has been well received by the congregation and the community. The choir will receive new robes by a generous donor in December and will begin to prepare for an Evensong service in January.

Catechism class will begin in January for the new members of Trinity while Bible study will continue to be offered.
As an outreach program concerning Global Warming, Trinity has decided to update its lighting fixtures. LED bulbs are slowly replacing all the traditional light bulbs while some electrical wiring is also updated.

A special Thank You to Ryan Hill for leading this outreach program.

The Reverend Jeff Kozuszek

NORTHWESTERN DEANERY

THE EPISCOPAL PARISHES OF MACOUPIN COUNTY

The people of St. Paul’s have had a busy post-Synod. On October 29, we welcomed Bishop and Brenda Martin’s for the Bishop’s annual visit. The Bishop confirmed Amelia Cosenza and Michael Bloom. Following the service we adjourned to the parish hall for Brunch.

The parish family gathered again on November 5 at Fr. John’s new home at Lake Catatga for a house blessing and lasagna supper. It was a first house blessing for most in attendance.

Members of the parish will take an opportunity for service on Wednesday Nov. 29th by operating the Macoupin County Food Pantry.

John R. Henry+, Rector

ST. JOHN’S
Decatur, IL

Since our Synod Report we had a Blessing of the Animals on Oct 7th with three dogs braving the inclement weather to receive their blessing. We continue to volunteer at the Good Samaritan Inn on the second Tuesday and fifth Wednesday of each month. Our boiler needed to be replaced so we had to move morning services and cancel our planned Michaelmas Evensong on the 29th of October. As in past years, we had a team participate in the beginning of this year’s Judy Mason Thanksgiving project by starting the 4,000 Thanksgiving “baskets” (boxes) that will be sent out just before Thanksgiving. This week we have assisted the Macon County Meals on Wheels distribution. Our Choir is preparing for Advent Lessons and Carols next month.

Richard A. Swan+, Rector

ST. LUKE’S
Springfield, IL

The fall has progressed with our regular round of worship, prayer, study and fellowship. We have experienced new vitality in our Sunday meal program, with new or reactivated volunteers providing or helping to provide a nourishing meal for all in attendance, following the late service on Sunday.

St. Luke’s hosted a reunion for campers on Saturday, October 21, 2017. We were delighted to have 24 in attendance, including campers, counselors and alumni of both orders. Barb Sherman, who has served as a camp counselor, coordinated the event with help from Pete and their family of campers. St. Luke’s provided food and beverages. The fact that campers and counselors have a desire to reunite between camp gatherings says a great deal about the profound nature of the experience and the way it changes lives.

For the second year, St. Luke’s and Trinity, Jacksonville, celebrated the Feast of All Saints’ together. The service was in Jacksonville with Fr. Denney celebrating and Fr. Brooks preaching. Members of both congregations were represented in the choir as well as the congregation. Trinity hosted a lovely reception following the service -- a welcome time of warmth and fellowship on a chilly fall evening. We plan to gather at St. Luke’s on the Epiphany.

Our adult class began a study of 1-2 Peter and Jude in October, again using materials from the Knowing the Bible series edited by J. I. Packer. Our group is a regular and faithful one, with connections to all three Episcopal congregations in Springfield, and forms the core of the congregation for the Tuesday weekday mass at St. Paul’s.

We are continuing our weekly African Bible Study and monthly Men’s Prayer Breakfast.

A baptism is scheduled for All Saints’ Sunday, with more anticipated in the near future.

Shawn W. Denney+, Vicar
### DIOCESAN CALENDAR

#### JANUARY 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>06</td>
<td>EPIPHANY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07</td>
<td>Bishop w/ Trinity, Lincoln</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Bishop w/ Christ Church, Springfield</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### FEBRUARY 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>04</td>
<td>Bishop w/ St. John’s, Decatur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05-07</td>
<td>Clergy Pre-Lenten Retreat, King’s House, Belleville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08</td>
<td>Finance Department, Diocesan Center, Springfield (10 a.m.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Bishop w/ St. Paul’s, Pekin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>ASH WEDNESDAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Diocesan Council, Diocesan Center, Springfield (10 a.m.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Bishop w/ Holy Trinity, Danville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Bishop w/ Christ the King, Normal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### MARCH 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>04</td>
<td>Bishop w/ St. Andrew’s, Carbondale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Bishop w/ St. Christopher’s, Rantoul 16-18 ECW Annual Lenten Retreat, Toddhall, Columbia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Bishop w/ St. Thomas’, Glen Carbon</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### APRIL 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>EASTER DAY, Bishop w/ Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Springfield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Bishop w/ St. Thomas’, Salem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Bishop w/ Trinity, Mt. Vernon</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### MAY 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>03</td>
<td>Trustees Meeting, Diocesan Center, Springfield (10 a.m.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06</td>
<td>Bishop w/ Chapel of St. John the Divine, Champaign</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>ASCENSION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Bishop w/ St. George’s, Belleville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Diocesan Council, Diocesan Center, Springfield (10 a.m.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>PENTECOST, Bishop w/ Emmanuel Memorial, Champaign</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>TRINITY, Bishop w/ Trinity, Jacksonville</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### JUNE 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>03</td>
<td>Bishop w/ Episcopal Parish of Alton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Bishop w/ St. Michael’s, O’Fallon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-16</td>
<td>St. Michael’s Conference, St. Michael’s, O’Fallon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Bishop w/ St. John the Baptist, Mt. Carmel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21-24</td>
<td>Cursillo Weekend #36, Toddhall, Columbia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Bishop w/ St. John’s, Albion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

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).

### CONTRIBUTE

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.

---

MAIL TO: Episcopal Diocese of Springfield
812 South Second Street
Springfield, Illinois 62704

$10 $25 $50 $100 Other

Please make your check payable to "Diocese of Springfield".