

Dayspring

The Newspaper of the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia



May, 2022

<http://www.wvdiocese.org>

Volume 120, Number 1



Photo Credit: Renee Preston Photography

Bishops participating in the Consecration of the Diocese of West Virginia's Bishop Coadjutor on March 12 are, seated from left, the Rt. Rev. W. Michie Klusmeyer, Bishop of West Virginia; the Most Rev. Michael B. Curry, Presiding Bishop and Primate of The Episcopal Church, and the Rt. Rev. Matthew Davis Cowden, new Bishop Coadjutor of West Virginia; standing, from left, the Rt. Rev. Audrey Scanlan, Bishop of Central Pennsylvania; the Rt. Rev. Kevin Brown, Bishop of Delaware; the Rt. Rev. Susan Goff, Bishop Suffragan of Virginia; the Rt. Rev. Matthew L. Riegel, Bishop of the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; the Rt. Rev. Susan Haynes, Bishop of Southern Virginia; the Rt. Rev. Ed Little, retired Bishop of Northern Indiana; the Rt. Rev. Douglas Sparks, Bishop of Northern Indiana; the Rt. Rev. Sean Rowe, Bishop of Northwestern Pennsylvania; and the Rt. Rev. Mark Bourlakas, Bishop of Southwestern Virginia.

Bishop Coadjutor Matthew Cowden Consecrated

By Linda S. Comins

A joyous two-day celebration culminated March 12 in the Consecration of the Rt. Rev. Matthew Davis Cowden as Bishop Coadjutor of the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia.

Bishop Coadjutor Cowden will serve in that role until Oct. 14, 2022, when he will become the eighth Bishop of West Virginia, upon the retirement of the Rt. Rev. W. Michie Klusmeyer, who has served as Bishop Diocesan for 21 years.

The Consecration took place in Wesley Chapel on the campus of West Virginia Wesleyan College in Buckhannon. Bishop Klusmeyer also was consecrated in Wesley Chapel on Oct. 13, 2001.

Filled with the Holy Spirit and featuring a glorious blend of prayer, scripture and music, the moving service concluded with Holy Eucharist celebrated by Bishop Coadjutor Cowden. The Consecration date marked the Feast of St. Gregory the Great.

After the Consecration, vesting and presentation of gifts, the new Bishop Coadjutor led singing of the Doxology.

"Dearly beloved friends, dearly beloved family, dearly beloved friends who are family, dearly beloved friends who are becoming family: thank you, thank you, thank you," Bishop Coadjutor Cowden said. "This is an incredible day for the Diocese. Thank you for blessing me and the Diocese in this celebration through your prayers, your planning, your participation and participating in person and online."

He continued, "Thank you to my new friends and family in the Diocese of West Virginia for your warm hospitality in welcoming Melissa and me and our family to be part of yours. Your generous spirit and gift of yourselves have made us feel most at home. Thank you. I look forward to walking this walk together with you in Christ Jesus. I look forward to many years of ministry to-

gether for Christ and His Church."

The Bishop Coadjutor was elected by the Diocesan Convention, meeting via Zoom technology, on Sept. 25, 2021. At the time, he was serving as Rector of St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church, South Bend, IN, a parish in the Diocese of Northern Indiana.

The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry, Presiding Bishop and Primate of The Episcopal Church, served as chief consecrator.

Joining him as co-consecrators were Bishop Klusmeyer; the Rt. Rev. Ed Little, retired Bishop of Northern Indiana; the Rt. Rev. Douglas Sparks, Bishop of Northern Indiana; the Rt. Rev. Susan Haynes, Bishop of Southern Virginia; the Rt. Rev. Susan Goff, Bishop Suffragan of Virginia; and the Rt. Rev. Matthew L. Riegel, Bishop of the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Photo Credit: Renee Preston Photography

The Rt. Rev. Matthew Davis Cowden and his wife Melissa celebrate his Consecration as Bishop Coadjutor with their children, from left, Joshua Cowden, Meghan Cowden Jones and Nicholas Cowden.

►CONTINUED PAGE 4

The Bishop's Column



Dear People of God,

We all know the joke. The titles are changed and the punchline is different each time, but the joke is clearly the same:

How many people does it take to change a light bulb?

Two ... one to mix the drinks, and one to call the electrician.

Change it? My grandmother gave that light bulb!

And the jokes go on.

But these past two years have been anything but jokes.

Two years ago, our world changed. All that we knew came to a screeching halt, as businesses shut down; we were told to quar-

antine, and to stop doing what we took for granted. Suddenly our daily routines were either changed or ended. Frequent visits to the grocery store were now more strategically arranged, and MASKS were the new fashion statement!

In Church, we had to change the way we did business.

Masks; social distancing; attendance taking (contact tracing); Spiritual Communion led to Communion in one kind, and the Chalice was not being offered.

Creative approaches were being formulated, as people came up with "drive-through Communion," as well as "Communion in a plastic cup." Tweezers were suddenly a Eucharistic tool.

Along the way, I received word of various people "threatening" to leave the Church, if we didn't go back to the way things were. So much for a willingness to adapt.

Recently, our world has moved from a place of mutual coexistence to one where World War is being discussed. Peace and tranquility have been changed to war and death.

The world has changed quickly.

Recently I met a boy. He saw a cassette cartridge and asked what

it was. I said that it was a cassette tape, for music. He held it up to his ear and asked how you listen to it. I had to explain about a tape recorder, and players, and boom-boxes. He put it down in a disgusted manner and walked away.

The world is changing! (or has already changed).

Are we ready for it?

And now, just a month ago, The Diocese of West Virginia has begun another change.

After nearly 21 years of ministry, The Diocese has consecrated a new Bishop, for new times.

Life goes on, and things will be different. The Church that I was consecrated into is not the same today. The Church that Bishop Cowden has entered into will be different in 5, 10, 15 years.

The question is whether we will embrace the change, or will we pray to hold onto the past?

May God watch over each and every one of us, as we recognize the God of the past, the present and the future.

In Christ,

The Rt. Rev. W. Michie Klusmeyer
Bishop

Churches Offer Prayers, Raise Funds for Ukrainians

By Linda S. Comins

Members of churches throughout the Diocese of West Virginia are participating in prayer vigils and raising funds for relief efforts in war-torn Ukraine.

Robert Troeger, organist-choir-master of St. Matthew's, Wheeling, organized a concert for Ukraine, with all proceeds going to Episcopal Relief and Development. Approximately 150 people attended the April 5 performance at the church.

To date, parishioners of St. Matthew's and members of the community have donated nearly \$6,000 for Episcopal Relief and Development's ongoing relief efforts in Ukraine.

Highlighting the concert was a performance of Adolphus Hailstork's cantata, "I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes," by St. Matthew's parish choir, the Voices of Spirit of Duquesne University and opera tenor Edward Washington II. Other performers included violinist Juan Jaramillo, Troeger, vocalist David Widder-Varhegyi, pianist Gerald Lee and the Rev. Dora Odarenko.

The concert concluded with the combined choirs singing the Ukrainian national anthem in the Ukrainian language.

Meanwhile, members of St. Matthew's, Charleston, held a Palm Sunday bake sale for Ukraine. All proceeds will go to Episcopal Relief and Development's Ukraine response support.

In addition, members of

Lawrencefield Parish Church, Wheeling, conducted a "bakeless" bake sale from March 20 until April 10. All proceeds also will go to Episcopal Relief and Development's Ukrainian refugee relief.

The project is the first endeavor in the parish's new OWL (Outside the Walls of Lawrencefield) program.

Christ Church, Bluefield, was a co-sponsor of a prayer vigil for Ukraine. The Rev. Lou Hays, interim rector, helped to organize the community-wide event.

More than 70 people gathered on the Bluefield's city square for the outdoor vigil on March 27. Bishop Coadjutor Matthew Cowden was among the participants.

Bishop Coadjutor Cowden also attended a program, "Standing with Ukraine: How Can We Help?" held at B'nai Jacob Synagogue in Charleston. A full house of inter-religious representatives from the Charleston area assembled for the March 31 presentation on refugee resettlement initiatives.

St. John's, Charleston, was well represented at a peace vigil for Ukraine, held March 14 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Charleston.

A prayer vigil for peace in Ukraine was held on March 1 at St. John's, Huntington.

Linda S. Comins is editor of Dayspring and a member of St. Matthew's, Wheeling.



The Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia

Bishops

The Rt. Rev. W. Michie Klusmeyer
The Rt. Rev. Matthew D. Cowden

Dayspring Staff:

Linda S. Comins, Editor
Susan A. Barfield, Layout Editor

Diocesan Staff

Mollie Bailey, Diocesan Administrator
Annette Combs, Financial Assistant
Mary Green, Communications Outreach Director
Cheryl Ryan Harshman, Director, Sandcrest
Kim Javins, Coordinator of Vocations
Sally Lane, Reading Camp Coordinator
Daisy McBride, Director, Peterkin
David Ramkey, Chief Financial Officer
Catherine Saxe, Children's Ministries
The Rev. Chad Slater, Canon to the Ordinary

The Anglican Communion:

The Most Rev. Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury

The Episcopal Church:

The Most Rev. Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop

The Diocese of West Virginia:

Diocesan House: 1608 Virginia Street, East
Charleston, West Virginia 25311

Mailing Address: PO Box 5400, Charleston, West Virginia 25361
Telephone: 304-344-3597 or Toll-free 866-549-8346
Fax: 304-343-3295 <http://www.wvdiocese.org>

The Dayspring (USPS 007-757) is published five times a year by the Diocese of West Virginia. Periodical postage paid at Charleston WV and other post offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
The Dayspring
PO Box 5400
Charleston WV 25361

Bishop Blesses a Prayer Shawl



Bishop Mike Klusmeyer blesses a prayer shawl presented by Debbie Ventura, diocesan coordinator for the Church Periodical Club.



West Virginia Consecration Vestments: A Sermon in Fabric

By The Rt. Rev. Matthew Cowden, Bishop Coadjutor

Thank you, dear friends. My heart is full of gratitude. Thank you for the outpouring of your gifts to me and to the Diocese and for the blessing of such a joyous celebration for the Consecration in March. Thank you for your many hearts and hands and offering so many gifts and talents to make the day shine. There was, indeed, a palpable and effervescent joy in the room at the Wesley Chapel. The Consecration liturgy reminds us of what can happen when the Spirit brings us together.

I am especially grateful for your gifts of vesture and vestment for the Consecration, particularly the Cope, Mitre, Stole, and Chasuble. Thank you, each one, who made donations to fund the Consecration vestments. They are living, liturgical documents. These vestments not only document the day of consecration but are living symbols designed specifically to



honor our life together in the Diocese of West Virginia for years to come.

Below are a few highlights about the living story represented in the Consecration vestments. They carry a message, a sermon in fiber and fabric. They speak of the hope and vision I carry as I look forward to serving you as your bishop. They tell a story of hope, rebirth, and identity in Christ, particularly as Episcopalians in the Mountain State.

Rhododendron: Resurrection Hope

One of the first images that catches your eye is the white rhododendron. On the Cope you'll see rhododendrons trailing down the front panels. The white rhododendron also shows up large on the back of the Mitre. The rhododendron is, of course, our state flower. While rhododendrons often appear bright pink or purple, the (slightly less seen) white rhododendron here represents Resurrection. As Christians we live in the hope of the resur-



rection. We are an Easter people and are continually called to rise and again and again. As Saint Benedict says, "Always we begin again." For Christians, hope is something far greater than optimism. Our hope is grounded in the resurrection of Jesus Christ who continues to make all things new, and that in him "the things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new." (BCP 280, 515). As Archbishop Desmond Tutu often reminded us, "We are prisoners of hope." Hope in resurrection, new life, specifically new life in West Virginia is represented by the white rhododendron on the consecration vestments.

Quilt Cross: West Virginians Knit Together in Christ

The gold and green cross seen

on the front of the Mitre and on the back "hood" of the Cope is adapted from a quilt pattern that represents West Virginia. Each state has its own quilt pattern that quilters use to identify and to represent state pride. The gold and green consecration cross is the highlighted center of the quilt pattern known as the "West Virginia Star." In this design I sought to draw on the heritage of quilters and of other unique artists in the state. I also wanted to highlight the role of the bishop as a quilter. Part of the bishop's ministry is to help knit together the various patchwork elements of the diocese into a beautiful whole, often arranging disparate elements into a discernable and beautiful pattern; as well as providing the backing that holds all the elements together. The gold of the cross represents the gold of the people, the truest and best resource of West



Virginia. Green represents the Appalachian Mountains, abundant and rich with life. Of special note, some of the white area around the consecration cross on the back of the Cope looks like an unfinished quilt. That's because there is much open space for us to continue to add our own fabric, to continue to tell our stories, and that Jesus Christ is not finished with us yet.

Mitre, Mountains, Rivers: West Virginians Made for Each Other

The green, jagged line around the bottom of the Mitre is identical to the jagged line in our Diocesan Seal. This delightfully pointed line represents our mountains on both the Mitre and in the Seal. Our physical experience of the Appalachian Mountains reminds us to pay attention, to keep wakeful to God's presence, and to keep reaching out to one another. Psalm 121 asks, "I lift my eyes to the hills, from where is my help to come?" And the psalmist responds, "My help comes from the Holy One who made these hills, who made this meeting place between heaven and earth." Psalm 125 reminds us that the Lord surrounds us, holds us, even as the mountains surround us on all sides. There is comfort, beauty, protection, and reliance in the ancient mountains and in the Ancient of Days. Many of you have heard me quote the Basque proverb, and it bears repeating here. "The mountains do not need other mountains, but people do need other people." Our mountain life in West Virginia is as



unique as the Basque. Looking to the mountains reminds us to continue to look to one another, to keep reaching out our arms in love, even as Christ reached out to include us. Lastly, there is a beautiful blue line woven among the green and gold on the Mitre and in the Cope. The bright yet subtle blue thread represents our rivers, an exceptionally prominent sign of abundant life among the hills and of God's abundance ever flowing towards us.

These are the primary elements of the Consecration vestments. Thank you for the opportunity to tell this story in these living, liturgical symbols. Thank you for welcoming me as your Bishop Coadjutor. I look forward to continuing to unfold our stories together, to walk together in Christ in West Virginia for many years to come.

Consecration

>CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Other Episcopal bishops in attendance were the Rt. Rev. Sean Rowe, Bishop of Northwestern Pennsylvania; the Rt. Rev. Audrey Scanlan, Bishop of Central Pennsylvania; the Rt. Rev. Mark Bourlakas, Bishop of Southwestern Virginia; and the Rt. Rev. Kevin Brown, Bishop of Delaware.

During the examination portion of the service, the bishop-elect answered a series of questions posed by the chief consecrator and co-consecrators, then knelt before Presiding Bishop Curry for the actual Consecration. The chief consecrator, co-consecrators and the other bishops laid hands upon the bishop-elect, making him the 1,143rd bishop in the American line of apostolic succession.

Bishop Little preached at the Consecration of his longtime friend and related, "I have experienced firsthand his loving, caring heart."

The guest preacher said Cowden, his wife Melissa and their family have been "a wonderful gift to me" and predicted that, likewise, they will be gifts to the Diocese of West Virginia and to Bishop Klusmeyer.

Referring to the day's reading from Hebrews 5: 1-10, Bishop Little observed, "The Church has a long tradition of seeing a Bishop as a reflection of the great high priest. ... Bishops clothe themselves in Jesus, and Jesus has a gift for us."

Bishop Little said that St. Gregory the Great – the patron saint of Bishop Coadjutor Cowden's epis-



Photo Credit: Renee Preston Photography
Bishop Coadjutor Matthew Davis Cowden poses in his new vestments in Wesley Chapel at West Virginia Wesleyan College. The stole, chasuble, mitre and cope were designed and created by the Bishop Coadjutor's son, Nicholas Cowden, and Juliet Hemingray.



Photo Credit: Renee Preston Photography
Meghan Cowden Jones serves as a cantor for the consecration of her father. In the foreground is the Rev. Joshua A. Saxe, master of ceremonies.

hand-carved by Paul Nixon. Presiding Bishop Curry gave a book of Holy Scriptures to the Church's newest bishop.

Beautiful matching vestments were gifts from the Diocese of West Virginia. The white stole, chasuble, mitre and cope – featuring accents of gold and green, with exquisitely rendered crosses and rhododendron blossoms representing West Virginia's state flower – were designed and created by Nicholas Cowden, the Cowdens' older son, and Juliet Hemingray.

A pectoral cross – designed by Dr. Mac Cowden, the Bishop Coadjutor's father – was a gift from the parish of St. Michael and All Angels in South Bend. Dr. Cowden and Chris Dunlap presented this gift.

Bishop Sparks presented an Episcopal signet ring, designed by Bill Martin, as a gift from the Diocese of Northern Indiana.

Prior to the Offertory, Presiding Bishop Curry expressed thanks to Bishop Klusmeyer for his service to the Diocese and the wider Church. The audience responded with enthusiastic applause for Bishop Klusmeyer.

Music played an important role in the celebration. Of special note, the Communion hymn, "When Jesus gathered with his friends," featured words written for the occasion by the Rev. Henry George Randolph Jr., a retired priest in the Diocese of Northern Indiana and a good friend of the Bishop Coadjutor. Fr. Randolph began his ministry in the Diocese of West Virginia.

As part of the special weekend, Presiding Bishop Curry met with clergy of the Diocese at Stonewall Resort on March 11. That evening, a dinner was held at Stonewall Resort for diocesan leaders, Bishop Klusmeyer and his wife Marsha, visiting bishops, other participants,

Cantors for the Consecration were Meghan Cowden Jones, the Cowdens' daughter, and the Very Rev. Brian Grantz, Dean and Rector of the Cathedral of St. James in South Bend and a good friend of the Bishop Coadjutor.

Dr. David Castleberry directed a massed choir of singers from churches throughout the Diocese and from Marshall University. William Murphy and Juan-Carlos Alarcon were organists for the service. Other musicians participating in the event were Chloe Sergent, violin; Dr. Mac Cowden, trumpet; Maggie Mainland, bagpipes; and Tim Mainland, drums.

The Rev. Joshua A. Saxe, Rector of St. Matthew's, Wheeling, served as master of ceremonies for the Consecration.

When many participants and guests arrived in Buckhannon for meetings, rehearsals and gatherings on March 11, they were greeted by sunny skies and temperatures in the 70s. However, the next day, they awoke to see a late winter storm, with several inches of snow blanketing the college campus and the surrounding region.

For those who were unable to attend in person, the Consecration was livestreamed on the Diocese's website and Facebook page. A recording of the livestreamed program remains available for viewing on the Diocese's website, www.wvdiocese.org

As part of the special weekend, Presiding Bishop Curry met with clergy of the Diocese at Stonewall Resort on March 11. That evening, a dinner was held at Stonewall Resort for diocesan leaders, Bishop Klusmeyer and his wife Marsha, visiting bishops, other participants,

and the Cowdens' family and friends. The dinner concluded with Compline.

Bishop Coadjutor Cowden and his wife Melissa have purchased a home in Charleston. They are the parents of three adult children, Meghan Cowden Jones, Nicholas Cowden and Joshua Cowden.

Linda S. Comins is editor of *Day-spring* and a member of St. Matthew's, Wheeling.



Photo Credit: Renee Preston Photography
Bishop Ed Little preaches at the Consecration of his good friend, Bishop Coadjutor Matthew Davis Cowden, ceremonies.



Photo Credit: Renee Preston Photography
During the Examination, Bishop Coadjutor-elect Matthew Davis Cowden answers questions posed by the consecrators, seated from left, Bishop Ed Little, Bishop Douglas Sparks, Bishop Susan Goff, Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry, Bishop W. Michie Klusmeyer, Bishop Susan Haynes and Bishop Matthew L. Riegel.



Photo Credit: Renee Preston Photography
Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry speaks to the audience in Wesley Chapel. Standing with him are Bishop Coadjutor Matthew Davis Cowden and Deacon Greg Pennington.



Photo Credit: Renee Preston Photography
Bishop Coadjutor Matthew Davis Cowden elevates the host as he celebrates Holy Eucharist at his Consecration.

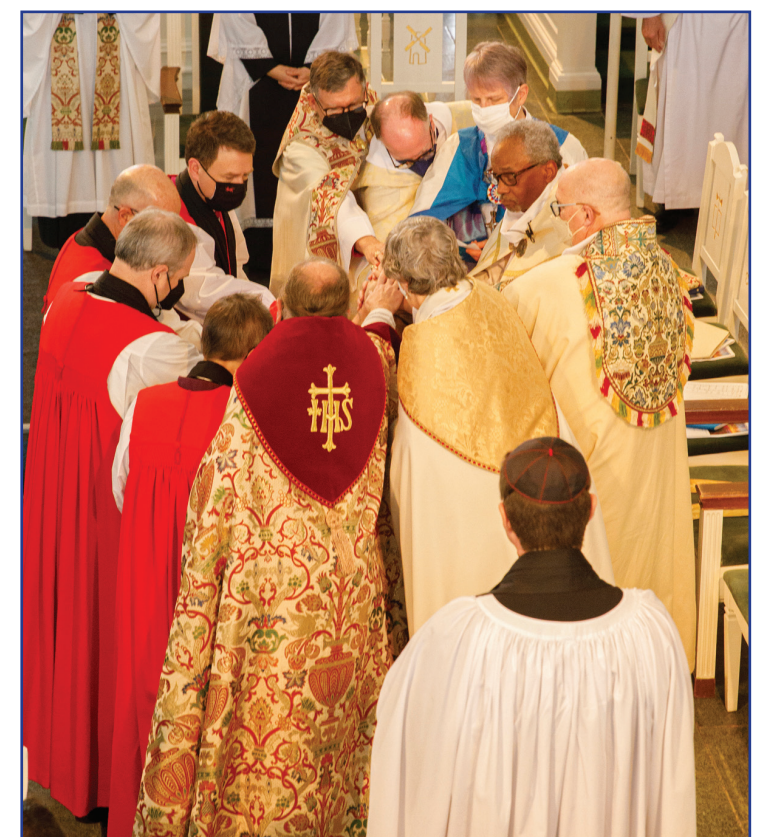


Photo Credit: Renee Preston Photography
The chief consecrator, co-consecrators and other bishops lay hands upon Bishop Coadjutor Matthew Davis Cowden to consecrate him as the Episcopal Church's 1,143rd bishop.



Photo Credit: Renee Preston Photography
Bishop Coadjutor Matthew Davis Cowden surveys the snowfall on the campus of West Virginia Wesleyan College. Intricate detailing can be seen on the back of his cope and mitre.



Photo Credit: Renee Preston Photography
Bishop W. Michie Klusmeyer presents a crozier to Bishop Coadjutor Matthew Davis Cowden.



A Beacon of Hope Serving the Hungry Homeless

The Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd Episcopal Church in Parkersburg has recently had a huge increase in the number of homeless individuals requesting food.

A year ago, the church (known locally as The Pink Church because of its distinctive pink stucco exterior) served a handful of homeless individuals monthly. Last spring and summer, the number began rising into the teens and then swelled to 111 in September, up to 311 in December and hit 447 in March.

“As the numbers rose, our volunteers began preparing bags ahead of time, just adding bread, chilled water and milk and fruit (if it is available) as each client arrives,” said Linda Crocker, parish ministries coordinator. “Each bag also contains a variety of easy-to-open individual-sized containers of proteins, fruit, cereal, juice, snack bars, chips and a jar of peanut butter as well as plastic utensils.”

Crocker commented, “This is a huge undertaking for our church in terms of volunteer time and



Bags of food are packed for distribution to the hungry homeless by members of the Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd in Parkersburg.

funds, since each bag can cost upwards of \$10. We are so grateful for a couple of recent grants plus donations from our members and the community.”

She observed, “There are a variety of reasons for homelessness. We have been talking to other local agencies serving this population, hoping to support longer-term solutions.

“Meanwhile, we don’t want any-

one to be hungry. We hope that with our help, the day will come when at least some of these clients will be able to find (or accept) an opportunity to improve their situation,” she said.



Bishop Visits White Sulphur Springs



Parishioners arrive at St. Thomas, White Sulphur Springs, for Bishop Mike Klusmeyer’s visitation.

Photo by Bishop Klusmeyer



Deanery News

Kanawha Deanery

ST. JOHN’S, Charleston: During visitation on March 13, **Bishop Mike Klusmeyer** confirmed **Kris Parker, Rich Miller** and **Richard Miller**. A Lenten study of “The Book of Forgiving” was presented. St. Elizabeth’s House on the church campus was destroyed by fire on Jan. 19; it was the birthplace of many ministries, serving recently as a prep and storage kitchen for Manna Meal and as the site of the Op Shop. The remainder of the 2021-22 season of Concerts @ St. John’s will be a spring festival. **Johan Botes**, Marshall University organist, will present a recital on the refurbished E.M. Skinner organ at 4 p.m. May 1. The Spirit of Young Beethoven program will be performed at 4 p.m. May 8 by **Robert Frankenberry**, piano; **Elisabeth Baer**, mezzo-soprano; **Lindsey Goodman**, flute; and **David DeBolt**, bassoon. The fall concerts will include the Chrysalis Duo, flutist **Lindsey Goodman** and **Frankenberry**, on Sept. 11; Montclair Strings with **DeBolt**, Oct. 2; and New England organist **Sean Fleming** in recital Oct. 23.

ST. MATTHEW’S, Charleston: Youth and children raised \$500 for Covenant House during the Souper Bowl of Caring. **Elizabeth Castle** resigned after seven years as director of youth ministry. **Theresa Whitt** was appointed director of family ministry.

Southwestern Deanery

TRINITY, Huntington: The Executive Council of The Episcopal Church has awarded a \$3,000 campus ministry grant to Trinity. Campus ministry grants provide seed money to help in the startup of new, innovative campus ministries or to enhance an existing ministry. A Lenten study of the book, “We Shall Be Changed: Questions for the Post-Pandemic Church,” was offered. “Undies Sundays” were held in March to collect new underwear and socks for people staying in missions and homeless centers.

ST. PETER’S, Huntington: St. Peter’s Episcopal Community Outreach has received an Emergency Food and Shelter Program grant of \$6,000 for its blessing box and feeding program. The funding will be used to increase the amount of food distributed in

the area. SPECO has been preparing monthly care bag packs at the church since January. **Bishop Coadjutor Matthew Cowden** helped SPECO volunteers prepare care bags during his April 3 visitation. The church’s Lenten program focused on neighborhood outreach.

ST. JOHN’S, Huntington: A Lenten study of the book, “We Shall Be Changed: Questions for the Post-Pandemic Church,” was held.

New Southern Deanery

GREENBRIER EPISCOPAL MINISTRIES: A Lenten program examined biographies and dramas related to civil rights and social justice situations.

Eastern Deanery

TRINITY, Shepherdstown: A Christmas cookie walk, craft show and living Nativity program were presented. Through the efforts of Trinity member **Jan Hafer**, the Diocese awarded a COVID Emergency Funding Grant of \$8,000 to allow Shep-

herdstown Shares Food Pantry to provide locally grown, organic produce for its clients in the community. Hafer is president of Shepherdstown Shares.

TRINITY, Martinsburg: The first Pete Dufourny Memorial Shrove Tuesday Dinner was held to celebrate the life of the parishioner who died last year. For over 30 years, **Pete Dufourny** faithfully cooked the sausage and pancakes for the church’s Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner. In addition to his church work, he was involved in many projects and organizations such as Jaycees, Kiwanis, Rotary, C-CAP and the United Way Day of Caring.

Northern Deanery

LAWRENCEFIELD PARISH CHURCH, Wheeling: During **Bishop Klusmeyer’s** May 1 visitation, **Larry Akers** and **Kathleen Mansuetto** are to be received and **Faith Biehl** and **Brady Biehl** are to be confirmed. **Barbara Hinkle** is being trained as a verger. A labyrinth will be set up in the parish hall from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. May 7 for World Labyrinth Day. The **Rev.**

Dr. Bonnie Thurston will present a two-session program, “The Literature of the Gospels,” at 4 p.m. May 22 and May 29. The **Rev. Dr. Nancy Woodworth-Hill**, rector, offered a series of programs, “Lent: A Time for Reflections,” on Zoom and in person at Sandcrest Conference and Retreat Center. The parish has participated in the state’s Adopt a Highway program on Table Rock Lane for 30 years.

ST. MATTHEW’S, Wheeling: Church 101 sessions are being held in preparation for **Bishop Coadjutor Matthew Cowden’s** visitation on Pentecost. A Lenten series drew inspiration from the book, “Walking Home” by Margaret Guenther. Organist-choirmaster **Robert Troeger** organized a series of Friday Lenten concerts. A new Christmas cantata, “What Sweeter Music” by composer **Timothy Amukele**, was performed by the parish choir and guest soloists, with a guest dancer and musicians.

Please send news from your congregations and high-resolution photographs to Dayspring Editor Linda S. Comins by email at lcomins7@gmail.com.

Diocesan Family News

Bishop Mike Klusmeyer will celebrate mutual ministry and formally institute the **Rev. Dr. Nancy Woodworth-Hill** as rector of Lawrencefield Parish Church, Wheeling, during his visitation on May 1.

Bishop Klusmeyer instituted the **Rev. Joshua A. Saxe** as the 23rd rector of St. Matthew's, Wheeling, on March 25, the Feast of the Annunciation. Previously, Fr. Saxe served as rector of St. James, Lewisburg.

The **Rev. Lou Hayes** is serving as part-time interim rector of Christ Church, Bluefield. He is a retired rector of St. Paul's, Mount Lebanon, PA. He is married to the **Rev. Dr. Michelle Boomgaard**, priest in charge of St. John's, Charleston.

Chris Villamagna of Wheeling has joined the staff of Sandcrest Conference and Retreat Center, Wheeling, as assistant director and cook.

Bishop Klusmeyer, at his official visitation at St. Philip's, Charles Town, on March 6, announced that he has made **Harold Stewart** an Honorary Canon in the Diocese of West Virginia. The Bishop stated, "Harold has been a leader throughout the Diocese, having served as chair of various committees, deputy to General Convention, member of Diocesan Council, senior warden and wise counsellor to many of us here in West Virginia."

Bishop Klusmeyer, at his official visit to The Church of the Good Shepherd, Hansford, on Dec. 19, announced that he has named the **Rev. Stan Holmes** as an Honorary Canon in the Diocese of West Virginia. He was ordained in 1998 and has served in the New River Epis-

copal Ministries all of that time. He assisted the **Rev. Roy Gene Crist**, and then assumed the role as missionary or priest in charge, most of the time while working full time in a secular position. He will continue as missionary for NREM.

William E. Skaggs, father of the Rev. Richard L Skaggs, associate rector of St. Matthew's, Wheeling, died at his home in Bethesda, OH, on Dec. 28 at the age of 99.

The **Rev. Edward R. Greene** died on March 12 at his residence in Bath, ME, at the age of 78. He had served St. John's, Harpers Ferry. He was canonically resident in the Diocese of West Virginia and was licensed to conduct services in the Diocese of Maine. A memorial service will be held on May 21 at Grace Episcopal Church, Bath.

The **Rev. Fran McCoy**, a long-time priest in the Diocese of West Virginia, died on Dec. 11. She served the Diocese in numerous ways, including Emmanuel, Moorefield, and the Peterkin Bookstore. She moved and served in the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia until her retirement. Upon retiring, she moved back to Philippi. She also served St. Michael's, Kingwood, for many years. Her funeral will be at 11 a.m. on April 30 at Crim Memorial United Methodist Church, Philippi.

*Rest eternal
grant to Thy servants,
O Lord,
and let light perpetual
shine upon them.*

Stewart Named Honorary Canon



Bishop Mike Klusmeyer congratulates Honorary Canon Harold Stewart during the Bishop's visitation at St. Philip's, Charles Town, on March 6.

Saxe Instituted as Rector at Wheeling

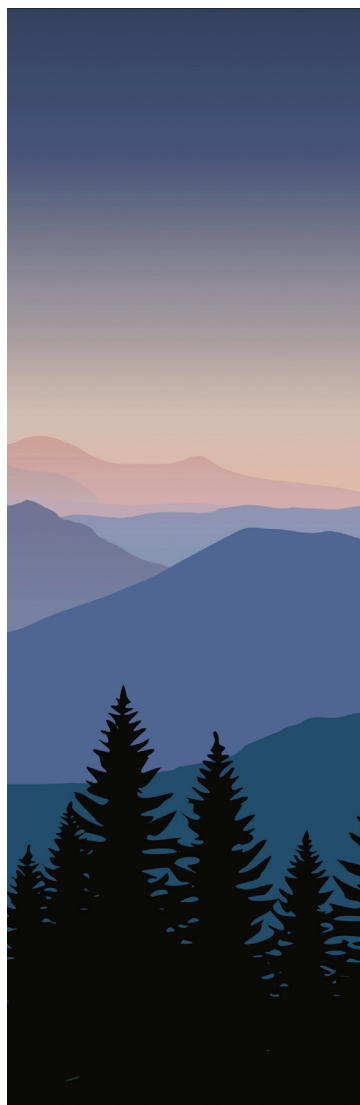


Photo by Linda S. Comins
Bishop Mike Klusmeyer and Bishop Coadjutor Matthew Cowden congratulate the Rev. Joshua Saxe on March 25 after his Institution as the 23rd rector of St. Matthew's, Wheeling.

Bishop Continues Online Daily Office



A screenshot captured by Bishop Mike Klusmeyer shows the group participating in Noonday Prayer service conducted on Zoom. He leads online Noonday Prayer and Compline every day using Zoom technology.



'Sweet' Way Developed to Fund Scholarships

Jeffrey Carver, a parishioner at St. Thomas à Becket, Morgantown, has been working on a "sweet" fundraising project.

Carver has been tapping maple trees on the church property to collect sap, which is then boiled into syrup.

He has offered the syrup as a fundraising effort for Peterkin scholarships, in place of the Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner, which hasn't taken place for the past two years because of COVID restrictions. The suggested donation for the syrup is \$10 per jar.

Carver said it takes about 40 gallons of sap to make one gallon of syrup. The temperature and weather are the most important factors in maple syrup production. In order for sap to run, the nighttime temperatures need to be below freezing (ideally around 20 degrees) and daytime temps need to warm up to the 40s.



Jeffrey Carver, a parishioner at St. Thomas à Becket, Morgantown, prepares jars of homemade maple syrup to sell to raise money for Peterkin scholarships.



Jeffrey Carver's homemade maple syrup is being sold at St. Thomas à Becket, Morgantown, to raise money for Peterkin scholarships.



Rose, Thorn, Bud

Spiritual practices build "muscle" in a variety of ways, each helping us to crafting greater openness to God's Presence in our lives.

This particular practice, Rose, Thorn, Bud provides an opportunity to reflect on experiences in our day by identifying one Rose, one Thorn and one Bud in one's life. This practice can be a wonderful family activity at bedtime to help each person celebrate their Rose, process their Thorn, and wonder how the Buds will unfold.



A **Rose** is a highlight, success, or something positive that happened. Some prompts to help you choose and reflect:

- What was a highlight today?
- How have you been successful?
- What are you most proud of?
- What went well?



A **Thorn** is a challenge you experienced, or something you use more support with. Some prompts to help you choose and reflect:

- What was most stressful?
- What made this difficult?
- What would you do differently?
- What do you need to learn? Who could help?



A **Bud** is a new idea that is coming into being, or something you are looking forward to knowing more about or experiencing. Here are some prompts to help you choose and reflect:

- What are you looking forward to?
- What opportunities for learning/doing excite you?
- What needs growth and nurturing?
- Who can help you?
- What more do you need to know?

To engage this practice, start with a small centering practice (perhaps three deep breaths). Then identify the Roses, Thorns and Buds that have been a part of your day (or week).

If you keep a journal, it may be appropriate to record them. Other ways of remembering them be to make a collage. Be creative! Further reflection questions include:

- Which of these was easier to identify than others?
- Did anything surprise you?
- Who can you ask to support you? Do you see ways you can support others?
- How can you become more mindful of the Roses, Thorns, and Buds in your life?
- Who can help you? If you are doing this in a group, do you see ways of supporting each other?
- What deeper reflection is this practice calling you to do?

When you are finished, spend a moment in quiet prayer to God, thanking God for the insights you have gained. Express gratitude for the roses and the buds. Ask what can be learned from the thorns. You may also wonder about what is needed to nurture buds to become roses.

Submitted by the Rev. Dr. Nancy Woodworth-Hill on behalf of the Diocesan Commission on Spirituality.