

Dayspring

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Condensed General Convention Achieves Goals

By Linda S. Comins

Despite a condensed schedule, The Episcopal Church's General Convention accomplished meaningful legislation during its July meeting in Baltimore.

The 80th General Convention was delayed for a year because of the pandemic, then shortened to four legislative days as a result of ongoing COVID concerns. Attendance was restricted to bishops, lay and clergy deputies, alternate deputies, and essential support staff and volunteers.

To combat the spread of COVID, participants were required to submit proof of vaccination before arrival in Baltimore. At-home COVID test kits were provided for attendees to conduct rapid tests in their hotel rooms each morning. Participants were required to wear masks in the Baltimore Convention Center and in common areas of hotels.

Bishop Mike Klusmeyer and Bishop Coadjutor Matthew Cowden participated in the House of Bishops. Representing the



The West Virginia deputation poses after the conclusion of General Convention, when the masks could come off momentarily! From left are the Rev. Jordan Trumble, Bishop Coadjutor Matthew Cowden, Andy Bird, the Rev. Canon Chad Slater, Ray Lowther, the Rev. John Valentine, Karen Klein, Bishop Mike Klusmeyer, Linda Comins, the Rev. Stan Holmes (alternate) and the Rev. Joshua Saxe.

Diocese of West Virginia in the House of Deputies were Karen Klein, Linda Comins, Andy Bird and Ray Lowther, lay deputies; the Rev. Canon Chad Slater, the Rev. John Valentine, the Rev. Jordan Trumble and the Rev. Joshua

Saxe, clergy deputies; and the Rev. Stan Holmes, clergy alternate.

To expedite their work, both houses conducted morning, afternoon and evening sessions. Committee meetings were conducted

online in the months prior to the first legislative day.

As another COVID precaution, only one joint session – instead of the usual two – was conducted. During the constitutionally required joint session for the presentation of the budget, bishops were seated in a reserved section at the back of House of Deputies' meeting room, rather than joining deputations at their tables.

This separation forced deputations to find creative ways to take their traditional group photographs. For example, West Virginia's bishops and deputies posed for their official group photo at the deputation's tables after General Convention concluded.

The House of Deputies made history when it elected successors to its president, the Rev. Gay Clark Jennings, and its vice president, layman Byron Rushing, who completed 10 years of service. Their third term was extended for a year because of the pandemic delay to the 80th General Convention.

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Convention Theme: 'Abide in Christ: Let. Us. Pray.'

Diocesan Convention to Include Institution of New Bishop

By Linda S. Comins

The 2022 Diocesan Convention will be conducted in Huntington in November, as a new era begins for the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia.

It will mark the first convention at which Bishop Matthew Cowden will preside. Currently the Bishop Coadjutor, he will become the Bishop Diocesan on Oct. 14, upon the retirement of Bishop Mike Klusmeyer.

Bishop Cowden said, "In the ongoing hope that we will continue to emerge from the pandemic, our Diocesan Convention will meet in person in Huntington, Friday and Saturday, November 18-19, 2022.

"In keeping with the technological practices that we have learned to embrace during the last two years, Diocesan Convention will also be offered with online participation. This will enable clergy and delegates who are unable to attend in person or who have health concerns about in-person

gatherings to participate," he explained.

The afternoon convention meetings and dinner on Friday, Nov. 17, will take place at the Double Tree Hotel. The convention sessions on Saturday, Nov. 18, will be held at Trinity Church, which is located near the hotel.

A special service will be conducted to recognize Bishop Cowden's new role as the eighth Bishop of West Virginia. The service of Evensong, Recognition and Investiture will begin at 5:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 17, at Trinity Church.

Bishop Cowden explained, "In accordance with the traditions of The Episcopal Church, Friday evening will include the liturgy of the Reception and Institution of a Diocesan Bishop. Sometimes referred to as a 'seating ceremony,' this service is a uniquely Anglican way of marking the transition in diocesan leadership.

"As the first Diocesan Conven-

tion together with me serving you as your new diocesan bishop, this is an appropriate time to hold this service," he commented.

Activities on Saturday, Nov. 18, will begin at 9 a.m. with Holy Eucharist and the Bishop's convention address at Trinity Church. Afterward, business sessions will be held at the church.

Bishop Cowden announced, "Our theme for this convention, and indeed the theme as we venture together in the Diocese of West Virginia in 2023, is Abide in Christ: Let. Us. Pray."

Discussing the theme, he said, "Being a Christian is about abiding in Christ's living presence. It also is about Christ abiding in us. This intimate indwelling is a very personal experience and such abidance calls us to actions of deep personal prayer.

"Yet, while Christian abiding is about a deeply personal experience, it is not a private one. Abiding in Christ also calls us to a life

of corporate, communal prayer. As we look ahead to preparing a shared vision for the diocese and to our future actions and decisions as a diocese, we can only do so with any integrity if we are abiding in Christ and grounded in prayer, together," he said.

Convention packets, containing forms and listing important deadlines, have been sent to churches in the diocese.

Certification of lay delegates must be submitted to the diocesan office by Sept. 18. Resolutions, nominations for elected positions, notice of deanery elections to Diocesan Council and churches' necrology are due Oct. 4. The deadline is Oct. 19 for proposed amendments to the diocesan Constitution and Canons.

Room reservations at the Double Tree Hotel must be made by Oct. 19 to get the group rate. Convention registrations must be submitted to the diocesan office by Nov. 8.

New Deputies Reflect on General Convention

Two members of the West Virginia deputation to General Convention have shared their reflections as first-time deputies.

The Rev. Joshua Saxe, rector of St. Matthew's, Wheeling:

"For me, as a first-time deputy, I didn't have anything to compare the experience of General Convention to. But all we who attended knew that, due to COVID, things were changed as decisions were made to reduce attendance and time spent together.

"Sure, there was disappointment. But I'm reminded of a philosophy from my days working in a sports medicine clinic working alongside physical therapists rehabilitating injuries: if A doesn't work, then try B. And if B doesn't work, try something else until something works.

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The Rev. Jordan Trumble, rector of Christ Church, Fairmont:

"I've followed General Convention from afar for the last several triennia but that could hardly prepare me for the experience of being there in person. It was moving to gather with so many Episcopalians from all around the world in worship, work and fellowship. It was truly a joy to get to meet so many people from different corners of our church and to know that we are all part of The Episcopal Church together and that we are connected through our life of common prayer even when we aren't together.

"One of the most striking parts of this experience was seeing how legislative work can help us live out our Christian calling. It can be so easy to think of the business work as being separate from our ministry work, but I saw, in real time, how the work we did at General Convention was entwined with our baptismal promises.

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The Bishop's Column



The meeting was also greatly reduced in length. In 2008, it was approximately three weeks. This year, it was only 10 days. There were many bishops, and Churches in the Communion, who were not present due to either theological differences or COVID. But it was still great to reunite with many bishops I have met over the past 20 years. Refreshing friendships was important.

In 1998, there were a few women bishops present, with some Provinces of the Anglican Communion unaccepting of women bishops. This year, there were many (!) women bishops – even from South Sudan.

Dear People of God:

These past three years have been something that none of us could have ever imagined. They seem to be a Stephen King novel.

But, as our lives have adjusted, we have begun to get back to some normalcy, and things we used to do are coming back – but with twists and adjustments.

This past July, The Episcopal Church and The Anglican Communion pivoted, and brought back two large meetings: General Convention and the Lambeth Conference. But they both came with significant changes!

General Convention is the legislative body of The Episcopal Church. It usually meets every three years and brings thousands of people together for 10+ days. Parties...legislative sessions...reunions...vendors and much more USUALLY take place.

The Convention usually meets in two houses, with both houses coming together for some sessions.

This year, (a year delayed) we scaled back EVERYTHING! The Convention was slashed to four days. Visitors were not invited. One had to be fully vaccinated to attend. The two houses held separate worship services, and the parties, reunions and vendors were absent.

In the past there have been as many as 700 resolutions brought forward. This year, only the necessities were brought forward for consideration. We will meet again in two years, at which time we will also elect the next Presiding Bishop.

The Lambeth Conference, last held in 2008, was also greatly changed.

Normally held 'about' every 10 years, this Conference was delayed by four years -- so it's been 14 years since Lambeth Conference last met. This one also was dramatically changed. But I would like to reflect on something that we don't usually talk about.

In 2008, the Archbishop of Canterbury declared that there would be no resolutions and no voting. After about a week, there was rising anxiety, as some corners of the Communion were pushing that we had to vote! The Archbishop of Canterbury stood up and declared that the meeting was to be one of listening to each other, and that no voting would take place. Leadership such as that calms anxiety.

This year, we went with the expectation that this Conference would also be a time of listening to each other. But at the last minute, we were told that we would be voting on certain 'Calls.' Those who had helped draft those 'Calls' were never told that these would be legislative resolutions, and so anxiety started to rise. Eventually, the Archbishop of Canterbury stood up and said that we would not be voting on anything – just listening and giving some direction for future conversations. This brought the temperature down quickly.

The most important part of the Conference, in my opinion, has always been the informal/friendly conversations. It is in these con-



Archbishop of York Stephen Cottrell greets Bishop Mike Klusmeyer at the Lambeth Conference in August.



Bishop Mark Van Koevering of Lexington reunites with Marsha Klusmeyer and Bishop Mike Klusmeyer at the Lambeth Conference in Kent, England.

versations that we hear the real imperatives of the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ in the local contexts. In 2008, I met a bishop from another part of the Communion who told me that LGBTQ issues were not even on their radar screen (even though this was the hot topic of the Conference at that time). Instead, this bishop said that their concern was the number of babies who would die during the rainy season! It is hard to argue which is more important.

In 2022, these kinds of conversations continued to take place. In one small setting, the conversation of polygamy came up. One bishop readily admitted that this is normative in his setting. Others agreed.

Which brings me to what I think is the real matter before us at Lambeth Conference.

Too often we look to the Bishops of The Church to see what is happening. At each meeting, there is a Conference Photograph. The setup is on a large/long set of bleachers, which the Bishops climb to be in the photo. The Diocesan House has many photos from previous Lambeth Conferences, and the pictures are wonderful. However, in looking at the picture, all of the bishops look alike. We are all wearing the same vestments (with few exceptions).

But now, there is a second photograph taken at the Conference – the photo of the spouses! HERE is where the diversity is seen, and here is where the local context becomes reality.

The clothes we wear differs from region to region. The ministry we offer differs from region to region. Even the theology we teach and discuss differs from region

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Photo by Bishop Mike Klusmeyer

Spouses of Bishops attending the Lambeth Conference pose for a group photograph.

to region – all depending on our context!

As with most of life, we must learn to listen to one another – not with the intent to change someone else's mind, but with the love that God has given us, to listen to the love that is being shared between two people.

I believe that this has been the most important lesson we could all learn from Lambeth. It isn't rocket science, but it is something we often forget or ignore.

May our hearts be open, and our lives dramatically changed by the encounters we have in life.

In Christ,

The Rt. Rev. W. Michie Klusmeyer
Bishop



Summer 2022: General Convention & the Lambeth Conference

Bishop Cowden Reflects

Thank you for the gift of being your Bishop Coadjutor. It was an honor to represent the Diocese of West Virginia at our 80th General Convention in Baltimore this summer and at our once-in-a-decade gathering of Anglican bishops at the Lambeth Conference in England. Summer 2022 has been a full and wonderful way to begin my episcopal ministry among you. General Convention and the Lambeth Conference remind us that we are a Church of ever widening circles of relationships.

It's easy to look at these two gatherings and think that as Episcopalians/Anglicans that we are simply a hierarchical church with layers of polity and layers of committee structures. The gift of our structures, however, is meant to call us into deeper relationships with one another and with Jesus Christ. I was privileged to participate in following the call to deeper relationships, across the Church and across the world.

In the House of Bishops at General Convention while we were working on getting our words "just right" on various resolutions, I heard one bishop describe the importance of doing so because our Canons are actually "applied theology" and "applied

ecclesiology." I saw us embrace this understanding as we set aside the customary debate style deliberations and created lengthy, intentional time for prayer and reflection to listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit.

While this experience seemed reasonably normal from my new seat in the HOB's, I was informed by senior bishops that this was a new practice for us. Setting aside debate for deep listening and extended time in prayer on important issues has not been our prior practice. Some believe this is due in part to the interruption that the pandemic provided, teaching us to value our relationships and our time together more dearly. Some also attribute it to there being approximately 40 new bishops in a room of 120 of us. As we have begun to look at our canons and the statements we make as "applied theology" and "applied ecclesiology" we are beginning to respect the time and attention necessary for listening to God's voice, not only our own.

Attending the Lambeth Conference is also about forming those relationships for listening to the Holy Spirit. The gift of traveling to Lambeth 2022 allowed Melissa and me to make relationships

with Bishops and their Dioceses across the world. Unlike the polity we embrace in The Episcopal Church, the Anglican Communion gathering of bishops at the Lambeth Conference is not a legislative body. This approach, even more so, sends us in the direction of nurturing relationships rather than jockeying for the right legislation.

One of the primary goals I had in attending the conference was to meet bishops from other dioceses where there has also been transformation in the energy industry, and where they have been meeting the challenges of addictions and substance abuse. The bishops from Wales and from Scotland had much to share that may be helpful in our own context in West Virginia. Wales, like West Virginia, is struggling with the decline of a coal-driven economy. Similarly, they have generations of coal families who are proud of their work.

Sadly, as here in the Mountain State, addictions to narcotics are drastically on the rise. In Scotland there is a slightly different story, we see a country where former oil platforms are being turned into wind energy and solar energy is extensive. Scotland is now exporting energy to England, having gone mostly green in its technology. There may be further, fruitful conversations to have with the churches in these parts of the world.

One fun piece to mention about our time at Lambeth: it would seem that I am remembered fondly across the world as being the "dancing bishop." The music in Canterbury Cathedral was a combination of the best of the Anglican choral tradition and contemporary music with percussion and brass, representing the diversity of musical traditions in the Anglican Communion. Some days the music was so good I couldn't help but move, including a little dancing while coming down the aisle for the main service. Every time we passed other bishop on campus there would be smiles and people would say "great dancing!" "ah, the dancing bishop!" and "thank you for dancing, great moves!" Melissa would just roll her eyes and I would smile. And I kept thinking that if 700 bishops from around the world would dance together, how much, even more, our relationships would deepen.

Yours in Christ
The dancing bishop,
+Matthew



Bishop Coadjutor Matthew Cowden and his wife Melissa meet Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby during a buffet supper for bishops and spouses at the Old Palace in the close of Canterbury Cathedral.



← Attending their first Lambeth Conference, Bishop Coadjutor Matthew Cowden and his wife Melissa pose outside Canterbury Cathedral.



Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, Melissa Cowden and Bishop Coadjutor Matthew Cowden pose for a photo outside Canterbury Cathedral July 31.



Bishop Coadjutor Matthew Cowden can be seen (in the circled area) amid a sea of bishops listening to Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby speak in Canterbury Cathedral during the Lambeth Conference.

Sandscrest Offers Online Workshops

SoulFeast: Spiritual Practices for Busy Lives

Sandscrest Conference and Retreat Center, Wheeling, is offering online workshops with the Rev. Dr. Nancy Woodworth-Hill.

An online series, "SoulFeast: Spiritual Practices for Busy Lives," will explore spiritual practices that take five minutes or less. Participants will have the opportunity to sample nine practices.

Three different spiritual practices will be taught on each of three nights: Sept 27, Oct 11 and Nov 15 from 7-8:15 p.m. One practice will involve the body, one the imagination and a third that may be used any time during the day.

To register or for more information, contact the Rev. Nancy Woodworth-Hill at clergy.lawrencefield@gmail.com. Materials for the entire series will be mailed upon registration. The deadline for registration is Sept. 6.



General Convention

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Photo by Linda S. Comins

The diocese's clergy deputies to General Convention included, from left, the Rev. Jordan Trumble, the Rev. Canon Chad Slater and the Rev. Joshua Saxe.

On July 9, the House of Deputies elected Julia Ayala Harris, a Latina lay woman from the Diocese of Oklahoma, as its next president. She is the first Latina and the youngest person elected to lead the house.

Deputies on July 10 elected the Rev. Rachel Taber-Hamilton as its vice president. She is the first ordained woman, and only the third woman, to serve in this capacity since the deputies' vice presidency was created in 1964.

Taber-Hamilton, who is Shakan First Nation, and Ayala Harris are the first people of color serving together as leaders of the House of Deputies. Their elections also mark the first time two women lead the house.

In another historic move, both houses consented to the reunification of the Diocese of North Texas with the Diocese of Texas. Both dioceses have roots in the historic Diocese of Texas.

The North Texas diocese, with 14 congregations and fewer than 4,000 members, was greatly diminished in membership by a 2008 schism, in which a majority of clergy and lay leaders in the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth voted to leave The Episcopal Church over disagreements about the ordination of women and LGBTQ+ people.



Photo by Linda S. Comins

After the conclusion of General Convention, the Rev. Joshua Saxe was given a furry "deputy" from the Western Kansas deputation.

Bishops and deputies took stands on several social justice issues. Convention passed a resolution "affirming that all Episcopalians should be able to access abortion services and birth control with no restriction on movement, autonomy, type or timing."

Resolutions were adopted to offer paid family leave and health insurance to lay and clergy church employees through the Denominational Health Plan.

Convention spoke out against gun violence, passing resolutions on ghost guns, urging advocacy for state legislation against gun violence and commending investment in community violence intervention to prevent gun violence.

An emotional moment occurred when Convention rose in unanimous, silent affirmation of a resolution to recognize, honor and lament the three members of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Vestavia Hills, AL, who were murdered by a man who was attending a potluck supper at the church on June 16. The resolution also recognized the surviving 18 church members and friends who were present that night.

Linda S. Comins is editor of *Day-spring* and a four-time lay deputy to General Convention. The Episcopal News Service contributed to this article.

The House of Bishops on July 9 concurred with deputies to approve the racial equity resolutions. The convention adopted a balanced \$100.5 million churchwide

Saxe

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"So, I'm thankful that Convention happened. Even if it was Plan B, C or D. I'm grateful that I was able to catch up with seminary classmates who are dispersed across the country. And of course, I met new folks from across the church.

"It was an honor to a part of an historic Convention that elected the first Latina to lead as president of the House of Deputies, as well as the first Indigenous person to serve as vice president. I learned that we have a 'Committee on Committees.' How very Episcopal of us!

"The crab cakes in Baltimore were great, too. Even with the COVID restrictions and changing plans, the saying 'a good time was had by all' holds true. Willa had the best time, of course!" he added, referring to his 6-year-old daughter who participated in children's activities at General Convention.

Trumble

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"For example, we listened to survivors of Native American residential schools and how students were abused and dehumanized and then we passed resolutions to help us explore our history and repent of the wrongs we've done, which helps us in our work of respecting the dignity of every human being.

"We passed legislation about prayer book revision, which will help support us continuing in the apostles' teaching and fellowship. I am grateful for this opportunity to experience the work of the broader church and hope to be able to participate again in the future."

Deacon Prichard's Service Celebrated

By Margot Racin

Parishioners of St. Thomas à Becket Episcopal Church in Morgantown gathered on June 19 to express their love and gratitude to The Rev. Deacon Al Prichard for his extraordinary 10 years of service.

The Rev. Dr. George Moses read Bishop Mike Klusmeyer's letter of "both personal and professional appreciation." The Rev. Timothy Allen also thanked Deacon Prichard for his support.



The Rev. Deacon Al Prichard receives a stole sewn by St. Thomas à Becket parishioner Carol Roberts Spears.

Carol Roberts Spears presented Deacon Prichard with a gorgeous stole she created. Jeffrey Carver provided music. Corey Farris read a proclamation of appreciation from the congregation and staff of St. Thomas à Becket.

The proclamation for Deacon Prichard read, in part: "You have shared our joy in baptisms, confirmations, weddings, birthdays and anniversaries. You have comforted us in times of sickness and loss of loved ones. You have inspired us with your sermons. You have provided guidance in organizing our worship services.

"Serving as officiant, you have led us through the liturgy with confidence and grace. You have provided valuable guidance and historical perspective to the vestry. You have championed our outreach programs. We are truly thankful for your ministry -- you have led us closer to God."

Prichard began discernment for the diaconate in the summer of 2007. He met with the Commission on Ministry in spring 2008, was declared a postulant, and given permission to begin his studies for the diaconate.

The entire formation process lasted three-plus years and included a clinical pastoral education program in summer 2008 at United Hospital in Clarksburg.

He was ordained as a deacon on



The Rev. Deacon Al Prichard, left, is presented a certificate of appreciation by Senior Warden Corey Farris of St. Thomas à Becket, Morgantown. Dec. 17, 2011.

His wife Cheryl said, "His ordination was one of the most joyful events we have ever attended. It was made so by all the Becket family we love and hold dear who participated and did so with such enthusiasm



Bishop Cowden Baptizes at St. Ann's



Photo by Debby Hadley

During his visitation to St. Ann's, New Martinsville, Bishop Coadjutor Matthew Cowden baptized Axel Snider, standing next to the Bishop. With them are Axel's parents, Jason and Lindsey Snider; sisters Lennox and Carrydy, and behind them, grandparents Earl and Patty Snider.



Photo by Debby Hadley

Bishop Coadjutor Matthew Cowden celebrated Mother's Day at St. Ann's, New Martinsville. He baptized four members of the parish family: Ryan, Findley and Olivia Renner and Axel Snider. In this photo, Bishop Cowden poses with, from left, Ryan, Findley, Mackinsey, Olivia and Brady Renner.

St. Matthew's Constructs Sutherland Family Life Center

Thanks to the largest single gift in the 130-year history of St. Matthew's, Charleston, the church has just completed construction of the Sutherland Family Life Center.

The project represents the largest renovation in the church's history. The center is a community ministry facility resulting from the following renovations to the parish's activity building adjacent to Mathes Hall:

- Complete upgrade and renovation of the 100-year-old kitchen, including new floors, countertops, lighting, appliances, HVAC and new electrical wiring and plumbing.
- Renovation of the gymnasium, including seating, painting, patching, repairs, soundboards, electrical and plumbing work.
- Opening and renovation of a previously closed stage for use by the church or community groups and for gymnasium seating.
- Complete gutting and renovation of restrooms, making them handicap-accessible and ADA-compliant.
- General upgrades, painting and renovation of hallways and stairs.
- Construction of a commercial-grade modern and safe playground adjacent to the church for the neighborhood.

Although the official dedication will be on Oct. 30, the facility upgrades are now finished, except for the final piece, the new playground, which is currently in the planning stages and will be constructed soon.

The project is a result of a major gift from the Sutherland family, in honor of their parents, Lewis F. "Dick" and Dorothy L. "Dot" Sutherland, who died in 2021 and 2014, respectively. Dick and Dot were 60-year members of St. Mat-

thew's, where they both served in many leadership positions. Before they began worshipping at St. Matthew's, they were members of St. Luke's, Charleston (the church in which Dick grew up), where Dick served as junior warden, and the Memorial Church of the Good Shepherd, Charleston, where he served as senior warden and acolyte trainer.

Their oldest son, Fred Sutherland, and his wife Barbara, spokespersons for the family and the initiators of the gift, commented, "St. Matthew's means a lot to our family, and we are happy to support this critical project. Outreach is particularly important to us. We are hopeful that these improvements will help you to further reach out to the community and, of course, to the parishioners. Given the economic challenges facing the area, social services and community support are more important than ever."

Jim Sutherland, the middle son, and a current parishioner of St. Matthew's, said, "Thanks to Fred's leadership, this gift will make a significant difference to St. Matthew's, our neighborhood, and the city of Charleston. Dad was a contractor, and a 'buildings and grounds' guy, so it seemed natural that a major facilities upgrade would be a way to honor our parents. St. Matthew's is a neighbor-



A previously closed stage has been opened and renovated in the Sutherland Family Life Center's gymnasium at St. Matthew's, Charleston.

hood community center, and our buildings were showing their age. These projects help St. Matthew's continue its mission of being a



The new Sutherland Family Life Center at St. Matthew's, Charleston, includes a renovated gymnasium.

daily. Community groups have started to reach out to us to lock in future dates for youth basketball, spiritual growth and development, and a host of other activities. As word gets out, I am confident more requests will come our way."

The project was truly a family affair, as their brother, David Sutherland, the third son, is a construction contractor in Maryland and assisted the St. Matthew's Buildings and Grounds Committee in the evaluation of architectural plans, construction proposals and contract management.

Senior Warden Andy Boyd and Steve Roberts, treasurer at the time the project began, were instrumental in coordinating and managing the project for St. Matthew's.

Roberts commented, "We have gone from dated, stale, depressing and an unfriendly-in-appearance activity building to an open, lighted, modern and welcoming center. Visitors, new families and community members will know they are in a welcoming environment, with people who care about their church."

The Very Rev. Kim Webster, rector of St. Matthew's, is excited about the opportunities provided by the renovated facilities. He said, "The energy and enthusiasm for use of the facilities is increasing

and possibilities for new ministries with an ever-growing list of new partners," Fr. Webster added. "Our focus will be on encouraging new partnerships with the Charleston community. Early in St. Matthew's history, we wanted to be a shining light on the hill, and we are, but now our light will shine brighter, our mission more vibrant, and our stewardship of God's gifts to us making a difference in many people's lives. We will continue to nurture the community and open new avenues of cooperation with the community at large."

Trinity Celebrates 251st Anniversary

Trinity Episcopal Church of Martinsburg celebrated its 250th + 1 Anniversary on June 12.

Bishop Mike Klusmeyer attended and played the role of the Rev. Daniel Sturgis, who was the first assigned clergy to the parish.

The 10:30 a.m. service of Morning Prayer was taken from the 1692 Book of Common Prayer. Bishop Klusmeyer led the service and delivered the homily in the style of that time period.

Marty Keesecker portrayed Adam Stephen as a member of the first vestry. Phil Steptoe portrayed Samuel Washington, the first senior warden of Trinity.

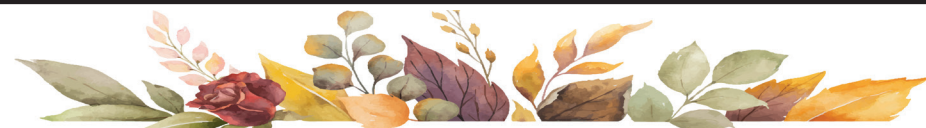
With technology that some feared might be witchcraft, the congregation heard harpsichord music from a strange-shaped box, and more than 170 people saw the service online.

To finish celebrating Trinity's 251st birthday, a feast for all was presented. Servers also wore period attire.



Photo by Cathy Ruley

With servers wearing period attire, a feast is offered to celebrate the 251st birthday of Trinity Church in Martinsburg.



St. Thomas Celebrates Pride



Photo by Leah Whitten

The Rev. Betsy Walker, left, and Retus Ramsey of St. Thomas, White Sulphur Springs, greet visitors to St. Thomas' booth at Greenbrier Valley Pride's celebration in Lewisburg in June. Guests received a rainbow button, a brochure and some of Helen Mitchell's homemade cookies.

Romney Visitation



Photo by Candy Ponchak

During a June 19 visitation to St. Stephen's, Romney, Bishop Coadjutor Matthew Cowden confirms Norman Davis.

Faith

Deanery News

Eastern Deanery

MT. ZION, Hedgesville: An introduction to the Education for Ministry program is being offered this summer.

ST. STEPHEN'S, Romney: Bishop Coadjutor Matthew Cowden visited on June 19 and confirmed Norman Davis. The next week, the Rev. Warren Frederick baptized seven members of one family: **David, Seth, Logan, Bruce, Lucas, Serenity** and **David Mercer Jr.** In addition, Seth, Logan, Bruce and Lucas Mercer served as acolytes for the first time.

Kanawha Deanery

ST. JOHN'S, Charleston: A reception is planned on Sept. 11 to bid farewell to the Rev. **Michelle Boomgaard**, who has served as priest in charge. The parish was designated as grand marshal of the Pride Parade. **Landon Palmer** is the new acolyte supervisor, succeeding **Matthew Brown** and **Brian MacAuley**. A Mother's Day brunch was offered. Pentecost was celebrated with a service at Coonskin Park. A prayer vigil was conducted for victims of the school shooting in Uvalde, TX.

ST. MATTHEW'S, Charleston: The ministry of **Bishop Mike Klusmeyer** and **Marsha Klusmeyer** will be celebrated at the 10:30 a.m. service on Oct. 15. After the service, a luncheon, featuring some of the Bishop's

favorite foods such as chocolate and Diet Coke, will be held in the Sutherland Family Life Center and Mathes Hall. A blood drive was held at the church Aug. 11. Outreach efforts with the Shanklin Center include sponsoring a trip to the Columbus Zoo and a visit to the new Kanawha County Library for the center's residents. Vacation Bible School was presented as a family event with meals, games, activities and crafts. **Karen Klein** is the new acolyte coordinator, succeeding **Elizabeth Castle**. Acolytes were recognized on April 24. A Donuts with Dad event was held. A bake sale for Ukraine raised \$900; discretionary funds were added to the proceeds, and \$2,000 was sent to Episcopal Relief and Development for Ukrainian relief efforts.

ST. MARK'S, St. Albans: New cooling units have been installed for use by the church and the St. Albans Food Pantry. The old units were vandalized last year. Through the Ring the Bell Fund, the church continues to subsidize the physical plant which houses Christ Kitchen, the St. Albans Food Pantry, Jubilee Emergency Assistance, and low-income housing.

Southwestern Deanery

ST. JOHN'S, Huntington: A prayer vigil was conducted for victims of gun violence. A Pentecost brunch was offered. The parish picnic was held July 17 at Ritter Park.

New Southern Deanery

INCARNATION, Ronceverte: The church is the sponsor of the Tony Livesay Memorial Golf Tournament to be held at Fountain Springs Golf Course, Peterstown, at 1 p.m. Sept. 21. To register, contact **Charles Callison**, 304-661-1464 or cwcallison1978@gmail.com.

ST. THOMAS, White Sulphur Springs: On the first Sunday of the month, Bring Your Own Everything is held on the church lawn after the 11 a.m. service. Folks usually bring sandwiches, salads, beverages of their choice and folding chairs. Church members plan to participate in the Labor Day Fair for the 71st year.

CHRIST CHURCH, Bluefield: Member **Betty Nash** was named Faculty of the Year recipient at Bluefield State University, where she is a nursing professor. A parish picnic was held at Lotito Park on Aug. 28. A community-wide prayer vigil for Ukraine was organized.

Ohio Valley Deanery

TRINITY, Parkersburg: The choir will sing one Sunday a month from September through December; the Choral Scholars will return. A successful Vacation Bible School was a joint venture with First Lutheran and Emmanuel Baptist churches. The church picnic was held Aug. 7 at Mildren

Farm in Tupper Plain, OH. The annual book sale is planned for Oct. 5-8. The Episcopal Church Women held a party May 21 to celebrate every holiday and event that members missed during their long pandemic lockdown.

Northern Deanery

ST. THOMAS, Weirton: The annual Peach Festival was staged on Aug. 13. The church had an entry in a parade celebrating the city of Weirton's 75th anniversary. Wooden eggs, with designs inspired by Ukrainian and Polish Easter eggs, were presented to Easter visitors. The church also made a donation to Episcopal Relief and Development for Ukrainian relief efforts.

LAWRENCEFIELD PARISH CHURCH, Wheeling: The annual blessing of teachers and students occurred during the 10 a.m. service on Aug. 28. An indoor yard sale resulted in \$3,200 in proceeds designated for specific projects to enhance the work and ministry of the parish. In addition, an area family, whose home and furnishings were destroyed by fire, was given as many items as they could use to help restore their home. Members of Lawrencefield and St. Matthew's, Wheeling, gathered July 3 for a picnic and viewing of Oglebay Park's fireworks display.

ST. MATTHEW'S, Wheeling: Bishop Mike Klusmeyer

and **Marsha Klusmeyer** will be honored at a choral Evensong on the Feast of St. Matthew at 6 p.m. Sept. 21. The Rev. **Joshua Saxe**, rector, is leading a series of Holy Hikes. The parish's first Family Fun Night took place at Sandcrest Conference and Retreat Center. The Rev. **Richard Skaggs**, associate rector, was honored at a surprise reception in recognition of his dedicated service to the parish, particularly his leadership during the interim period from November 2019 through December 2021. The Independence Day Extravaganza returned to an in-person format; freewill offerings were designated for Faith in Action Caregivers. Organist-choirmaster **Robert Troeger** organized a summer concert series. Organist **Bradley Welch** of Dallas, TX, soloist **Edward Washington II** and the parish choir performed in concert. Vacation Bible School was conducted on the parish's Churchfield campus. **Bishop Coadjutor Matthew Cowden** and his wife **Melissa** served as guest instructors for VBS. During Bishop Cowden's visitation on Pentecost, **Lindsey** and **William McCormick** and **Andrew Brown** were confirmed; **Emily** and **Timothy Brown** and **Deborah Troeger** reaffirmed their faith.

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

Diocesan Family News

Bishop Mike Klusmeyer ordained **R. Gregory Pennington Jr.** and **Joseph A. Lutz** as priests on July 2 at St. Stephen's, Beckley. Fr. Pennington is serving at St. Christopher, Charleston. Fr. Lutz is serving at St. James, Lewisburg.

Bishop Klusmeyer ordained **David Lee Johnston** as a deacon on July 22 at Trinity, Huntington, where he serves as pastoral associate.

Mollie Bailey retired as diocesan administrator on May 31, after more than 20 years with the diocese. "She has served faithfully and diligently all of those years. She has taken on various roles, and has continued to grow with the various needs over the past two decades. She has been the 'go to' person for almost any need or question that people have had," **Bishop Klusmeyer** said.

Tracy Hannah has been hired as the new diocesan administrator. She joined the staff in mid-May. Welcome to Diocesan House, Tracy!

After more than 42 years of ordained ministry and more than 20 years of service to Prince of Peace, Salem, the **Rev. Pamela Shier** has moved to Oregon with her husband Michael Johnson as they begin a new chapter of their lives. Her last day of ministry at Prince of Peace was celebrated on June 12. "Over the years, Pamela has served throughout the Diocese of West Virginia! She has served at Christ, Bluefield; St Mark's, Berkeley Springs; St Thomas a Becket, Morgantown, and almost every place in between," **Bishop Klusmeyer** said. She has served on the Commission on Ministry and the Standing Committee, among other areas of diocesan service. Presently, she is a member of the Compass Rose Society in the Anglican Communion.

The **Rev. Bobby Shives** was honored to give the invocation and benediction at a wreath-laying ceremony for fallen officers during Law Enforcement Week. In addition to serving in the Eastern Deanery, he works for a law enforcement agency (Federal Protective Service).

Bishop William Franklin Carr

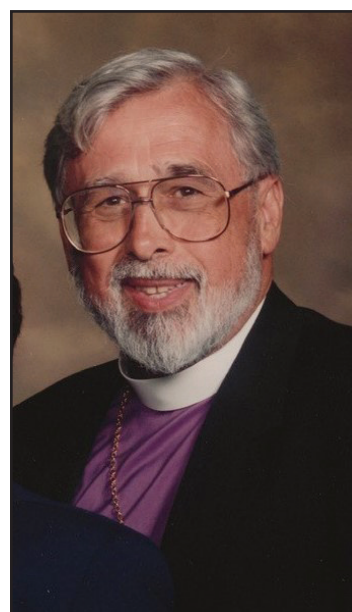
Bishop Carr, Former Suffragan, Dies in Tennessee

The Rt. Rev. William Franklin Carr Sr., former Bishop Suffragan of the Diocese of West Virginia, died at his home in Murfreesboro, TN, on Aug. 7 at the age of 84.

He was ordained a priest in 1971 by Bishop Wilburn Campbell and spent 20 years in the Diocese of West Virginia. He served as vicar of Olde St. John's Church in Colliers and Church of the Good Shepherd in Follansbee from 1970-72, vicar of St. Barnabas in Bridgeport from 1972-75 and rector of St. John's Church in Huntington from 1975-81.

He served as assistant to Bishop Robert P. Atkinson from 1981 to 1985, when he was consecrated Bishop Suffragan of the Diocese of West Virginia. He held that position until 1990, when he accepted an invitation to become Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Upper South Carolina, until his retirement in 1994.

Bishop Mike Klusmeyer stated, "While I never met Bishop Carr personally, I certainly have heard many fine stories of his ministry



in West Virginia."

Bishop Carr was born in Alexandria, VA and was baptized at Christ Church. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in 1961 from East Tennessee State University.

He began his working life as a regional manager for American Oil Co., but quickly realized his

desire to serve the church. He earned a Master of Divinity degree in 1970 from Virginia Theological Seminary and was given an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from VTS in 1980.

Upon retiring, Bishop Carr and his wife Lena moved to Murfreesboro to be near their first grandchildren. They enjoyed their time raising miniature horses and caring for grandchildren. Bishop Carr also served as president of the Middle Tennessee Miniature Horse Club for several years.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Lena Mae Herman Carr; two sons, William Franklin Carr Jr. and Joshua Michael Owens Carr; two daughters, Christina Virginia Carr and Sarah Elizabeth Ford Carr Hardee; three grandsons; a granddaughter and a great-grandson.

Condolences and memorials may be sent to the Carr family in care of Holy Cross Episcopal Church, 1140 Cason Lane, Murfreesboro, TN 37128.

Open Sky Arts Collective Returns to Good Shepherd

By Linda Crocker

The week of July 10 began at Good Shepherd, Parkersburg, with a special worship service on Sunday featuring members of the Open Sky Arts Collective.

The group offered three liturgical dance segments during the Morning Prayer service as well as an offertory anthem, "Worthy is the Lamb."

The week continued with an Open Sky Clubhouse from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday. These talented artists, based in Texas, but with members from multiple states, even as far as Connecticut, have been coming to Good Shepherd for several years to provide an arts-

filled experience to area children, focusing on those in the deprived neighborhood surrounding the church.

Each day began with leaders taking small groups of volunteers around the neighborhood with streamers and banners, led by the resident bagpiper the first day, to find local children (ages 6-12) and take them to the church.

Every day we had 35-40 local children filling the building with joyful noise. Once here, the children received T-shirts and breakfast. They were involved quickly in the day's activities. Activities included praise music, prayer, sports, art, dance and Bible study

sessions as well as lunch and a snack as they left each day.

Good Shepherd provides the space and a warm welcome; the Open Sky group provides everything else including backpacks and copies of the New Testament for each child. Church and neighborhood youth who have aged out of the Clubhouse were welcomed back as helpers, supplementing the 25 Open Sky participants.

The parish looks forward to many more years of collaboration with this dedicated, Spirit-filled group.

Linda Crocker is a member of Good Shepherd, Parkersburg.

Celebrations at Lawrencefield



Photo by Linda S. Comins

Celebrating at Lawrencefield Parish Church, Wheeling, are the Rev. Dr. Nancy Woodworth-Hill, rector; confirmands Brady Beihl and Faith Beihl; Bishop Klusmeyer and the Rev. Donald Hill, pastoral associate. Larry Akers also was confirmed and Kathleen Mansuetto was received. The bishop's visitation and celebration of mutual ministry took place May 1.

Concerts @ St. John's Series The 2022-23 Season

- ✦ Chrysalis Duo, Sept. 11
- ✦ Montclair Strings, Oct. 2
- ✦ organist Sean Fleming, Oct. 23
- ✦ a celebration of Mardi Gras with Marshall Petty and The Groove, Feb. 19
- ✦ mezzo-soprano Elisabeth Baer and pianist Robert Frankenberry, March 19
- ✦ pianist Eric Ruple, April 23

All performances at St. John's, Charleston,
at 4 p.m. on selected Sundays.

AN INVITATION TO FAMILY & FRIENDS
 AFTER
21 YEARS
 OF SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP
**THE RT. REV. W. MICHIE KLUSMEYER
 WILL RETIRE.**

PLEASE JOIN ONE OR ALL OF THE CELEBRATIONS TO HONOR
 THE KLUSMEYERS.

**MORGANTOWN
 SEPTEMBER 14**

6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
 (7 p.m. - The Blessing)
 Marriott Waterfront Place

**MARTINSBURG
 SEPTEMBER 28**

6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
 (7 p.m. - The Blessing)
 Holiday Inn

**CHARLESTON
 OCTOBER 15**

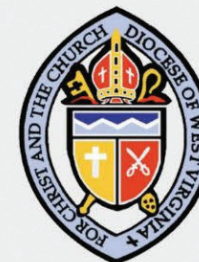
11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
 (12:30 p.m. - The Blessing)
 Charleston Coliseum &
 Convention Center

For planning purposes, you are asked to RSVP to epdiowv@gmail.com.
 Don't forget to indicate the location(s) you plan to attend.



A Service and Leadership Fund for Diocesan-based projects and ministries has been established to honor them. Donations should be sent to the Diocesan House or be made electronically by visiting www.wvdiocese.org.
 Please note the funds are for Service and Leadership.

YOU'RE INVITED
 THE FEAST OF ST. MATTHEW
 EVENSONG
 ST. MATTHEW'S, WHEELING
 SEPTEMBER 21, 2022
 6 P.M.



OFFICIANT: THE RT. REV. W. MICHIE KLUSMEYER

PREACHER: THE MOST REV. DR. RALPH DUNKIN,
 RETIRED BISHOP, WV-WMD SYNOD

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW SERVICE TO RECOGNIZE BISHOP
 KLUSMEYER'S SERVICE TO THE DIOCESE.

CLERGY, WHO WISH TO PROCESS, SHOULD WEAR CASSOCK,
 SURPLICE AND TIPPET.

Advent Quiet Time Planned

Sandscrest Conference and Retreat Center and Lawrencefield Parish Church, Wheeling, will present "SoulFeast: How We Wait, an Advent Quiet Time," with a variety of centering practices, scripture, light, rest and guided meditation and prayer.

The deadline for registration is Nov. 20. Two distinct opportunities will be offered:

- Online on Nov. 29, Dec. 6 and Dec. 15 from 7-8:15 p.m. on Zoom. For this option, one packet of materials will be mailed prior to the first session; participants are asked to include their postal mailing address when registering.
- An in-person workshop will be held on Saturday, Dec. 3 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Sandscrest. A simple lunch is included; the lunch cost is to be determined. A minimum of six participants is required.

The Rev. Nancy Woodworth-Hill, Lawrencefield's rector and spiritual director for Sandscrest, will facilitate both programs with an emphasis on making space for the individual to rest and renew, and allow the mystery of the incarnation to be born again within us.

Episcopal Diocese of WV
 P.O. Box 5400
 Charleston, WV 25361