"Like the first disciples, we are called to remember Christ, to come together, and to take what has been given to us and take it out into God's world."
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A recent Friday forum of the City Club of Cleveland, its nationally broadcast lecture series, featured Dave Lucas, Ohio Poet Laureate, presenting an engaging invitation to “welcome readers, and in some cases welcome readers back, to poetry.” In his opening remarks, he defined poetry as “a name for the pleasure we take in the language we hear and speak, read, and write. We savor words for how they sound and what they mean, the wonderful alchemy of their sound and sense together, even as we use them for the most mundane, practical purposes.” It brought to mind how we sometimes refer to the poetry of life, when mundane and practical experiences conspire to reveal deep meaning and awaken unexpected emotion.

Mr. Lucas teaches a course at Case Western Reserve University entitled Poetry for People who Hate Poetry, which is also the title of a syndicated newspaper column that soon will be in distribution state-wide, three examples of which he read. In one of these he described how, on the first day of class in the course he teaches, he asks the students to share a favorite word. After some moments of self-conscious hesitation, they begin to offer examples such as serendipity, defenestrate, home, and dream. Some words, he explained, seem chosen for the way they sound, others for a particular importance they may hold beyond their strict definition.

Listening to his talk on the radio, in the solitude of my car and the privacy of my own thoughts, I found myself wondering what my favorite word might be. Fidelity came readily and first to mind, a word that regularly emerges in my prayer as expressing God’s relentless presence in my life, especially when I feel least deserving of it, and the compelling aspiration to return the same in my relationship to God and to others. (I imagine the fact that Sue and I had earlier the same week marked 30 years of marriage may have been a contributing factor.)

Gratitude followed soon on its heels, no doubt for similar reasons. I suspect that these two words stepped to the front of the line because they seem essential to the disciplines of faith, those practices that make us more fully disciples of Jesus. Indeed, fidelity and gratitude feel like marks of a mature spirituality. I will confess that the word perseverance came quickly to mind as well, but only as pronounced the way the British do, as with the syllabic emphasis in Severance Hall. To my ear perséverance exhibits, as Poet Laureate Lucas remarked, “the wonderful alchemy of…sound and sense together.” Just holding one of these words for a few moments makes me yearn to know it more fully. It invites me to incarnate it, to bring it to life in my life. For words like these to bring us deeper meaning, to become poetic, they need more than just a passing recognition. They need to be held.

Prayer has a similar nature. When a thought or emotion falls on the heart and is held there for a time, it connects with our being in ways we might not have expected. Held in prayer or as a prayer, it can awaken other feelings and desires, fears and expectations, regrets and thanksgivings. While it is certainly true that panic can generate considerable prayer and lead us, in the words of the Prayer Book, to acknowledge our dependence on God alone, the prayer of contemplation, of holding a word or a thought or an image
or a person before God requires some patience, humility, and surrender (other favorite words). It requires us to put other things aside and take time. Time with God, time in quiet, time at peace.

The Roman poet Ovid (Publius Ovidius Naso), whose life overlapped for a few years with that of Jesus and whose poetry I struggled with in Latin class as a schoolboy, wrote, “Poetry comes fine-spun from a mind at peace.” As does prayer, of course, the prayer that breaks us open to experience deeply the life of our own soul and to cherish the loving presence of God in Christ. When we quiet the mind, the heart is more free to fine-spin prayer. In this way our prayer, in every form, becomes the poetry of the soul. That, I believe, is how it falls upon God’s ear.

In these late weeks of summer, I pray that we will follow the example of Jesus and take time to rest in God’s presence, even if only for a few minutes each day, to deepen the disciplines of holding and being held – holding in our hearts the words and images that write the poetry of our lives and being held by the God who hears our every prayer as a poem longing to be lived.

In the vegetable beds at Bellwether Farm, Kyle Mitchell, the Farm Manager, has planted every seventh row as a “sabbath row.” Rather than holding vegetables, it holds pollinators, beautiful flowers that attract the bees and other insects that pollinate the crops. Each sabbath row is an icon of rest, reminding us that our souls need the same. In our busy lives, the occasional sabbath row, the few quiet moments of intentional peace, are where our prayers take root and grow into fidelity, gratitude, perseverance, and all the disciplines that make us disciples of Jesus.

As Ovid wrote, “Take a rest; a field that has rested gives a bountiful crop.”

Gratefully,

Mark

The Rt. Rev. Mark Hollingsworth, Jr.
Bishop of Ohio
Perhaps the best answer for why we as Christians and Episcopalians take Communion is that Jesus told us to. There are many ways Jesus gave us to act out our faith. He told us to love each other, to help the poor and the sick, to be hospitable to the stranger, and listen to the child. He taught us to pray by going into a quiet place between ourselves and God and he taught us to pray using the Lord’s Prayer. However, to remember him, that he came as a human and lived for us and died for us, he asked that we remember him in the sacrament of Holy Communion.

As much as we might think of Leonardo da Vinci's Last Supper in relation to his last meal, it was painted almost 1,500 years later. There was not a group shot, no selfie with Jesus, not even a formal portrait. Nothing written down, not even Snapchat seen and gone. So how do we understand? How do we feel present in something that happened more than 2,000 years ago?

During the Passover meal, known to us as the “Last Supper,” the last meal that Jesus shared with his disciples before he was crucified for us, Matthew writes: “While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, ‘Take, eat; this is my body.’ Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, ‘Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.” -Matthew 26:26-28

Mark 14: 22-25 and Luke 22:14-20 share these same instructions. Paul, in the First Letter to the Corinthians, not only quotes Jesus’ words but gives instructions on when a shared meal is not a celebration of the Lord’s Supper and when it is. Paul is clear that it is not to be done without self examination, discipline, and repentance. This is why the Holy Communion follows the Proclamation, Prayers, Confession, and Peace in our Eucharistic services. When we remember Christ, it is a celebration, a serious celebration. It is a celebration of Jesus’ saving presence in the time of his earthly ministry, continuing now and forever.

In the Communion service, the words of remembrance are said in a prayer thanking God for Jesus’ human life and ministry. Following a calling for the Holy Spirit to consecrate the bread and the wine as the body and blood of Jesus, the bread is broken, as Jesus’ body was broken in the crucifixion. We, like the first disciples, have been redeemed by his death and are reminded again of what has been done. Jesus died for our sins and then overcame death so that we might have life, life that reflects God’s love in the words of the prayer that follows receiving the Sacrament: “Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you.” Like the first disciples, we are called to remember Christ, to come together, and to take what has been given to us and take it out into God’s world.

While Communion was given to us by Jesus, it has become one of our traditions. In the 1979 Book of Common Prayer, the Holy Eucharist is stated to be “the principle act of Christian Worship on the Lord’s Day and major Feast.” This was a change from the 1928 Prayer Book which included Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer, and the Litany as well as the Holy Communion as the principal services. Episcopalians, while progressive and thoughtful, love tradition. We must balance our need for tradition with Jesus’ meaning for the Sacrament.
Reflections on the 79th General Convention

By William DiTirro and Dale Murphy

“Whenever two or more are gathered in my name…” Matthew 18:20

In his opening remarks, the Most Reverend Michael B. Curry used these words to remind us that the General Convention, while necessary to transact the business of the Church, was really about doing God’s work in Christ Jesus’ name. So it was with the 79th triennial General Convention in Austin, TX.

Beginning on the 4th of July, General Convention reminds us of our American roots—and our innate ability to compromise. You would think that doing God’s work would play out in harmonious debate, but this is not always the case. There are many dissimilar viewpoints from the various dioceses, which can sometimes result in heated debate. But all viewpoints should be heard and debated, for it is the blending of these radically divergent viewpoints that makes us stronger as a church and brings us closer to following in Jesus’ footsteps—as Bishop Curry’s words suggest.

There is a lot that goes on behind the scenes to make General Convention successful, and to ensure that enacted legislation of the convention is faithfully carried out. As volunteer members of the Secretariat, we were part of a group that enables deputies, bishops, and presenters to conduct business in a transcribed and orderly fashion. The group is charged with capturing, disseminating, and retaining the critical thinking behind the debates and the outcomes of each legislative session of each house. This ensures future generations will have no question regarding the meaning and intent of the legislative actions of the 79th General Convention.

The Secretariat functions in both houses. We were assigned to the House of Bishops and, as text editors, were responsible for capturing amendments to resolutions made during deliberations, and transmitting them to the House of Deputies for their concurrence or rejection, as necessary.

Austin was our second General Convention. It was again exciting to be part of each legislative session and to gain a deeper understanding of our Church and our faith traditions as they were debated and amended. A highlight of our experience was the exhilarating welcome given to the Bishop of the Diocese of Cuba when it was unanimously decided to return the diocese to The Episcopal Church, after 52 years of separation. And of course, it was a great pleasure to renew former friendships and develop new ones with members of dioceses from around The Episcopal Church.

Would we attend the next GC in Baltimore in 2021? Absolutely! And we would strongly encourage all to do the same—as an elected deputy, a volunteer, or an attendee.
By James S. Simon
How many of us remember the after school special about how a bill becomes a law? One of the wonderful things about General Convention – especially as the chair of the House of Deputies legislative committee on Constitution and Canons – is that I had the opportunity to live out that process while doing God’s work. For me, General Convention 2018 was an in-depth, behind-the-scenes lesson in the work necessary for The Episcopal Church to operate consistent with our Constitution and Canons. Of course, I was also privileged to spend much time with Bishop Hollingsworth who chaired the House of Bishops committee on Constitution and Canons.

During General Convention, we celebrated, listened, and witnessed. We had the opportunity to mark the 50th anniversary of the Union of Black Episcopalians. We also listened to many Episcopalians, including women, minority individuals, and members of the Trans community, tell their stories. We witnessed together outside the detention center, praying for the women housed there and separated from their families through the actions of our government. We celebrated the re-entry of Cuba into The Episcopal Church after many years apart and we finally saw a church in which all Episcopalians have the ability to be married by their priests in their home churches.

After spending two weeks in Austin, I feel like I could teach the after school special about how a bill becomes a law, but more importantly, I feel more connected than ever to my identity as an Episcopalian and grateful for the opportunity to work with so many dedicated deputies and bishops.

By the Rev. Debra Bennett
As I reflect on the 79th General Convention of The Episcopal Church, I find myself taking a journey back to yesteryear to my first General Convention in Phoenix, Arizona in 1991 through my first time serving as a deputy from the Diocese of Ohio in Salt Lake City.

This year, I had the honor of serving as a deputy, attending worship and revival, serving on a legislative committee, and joining in various conversations with folks from across the Church. For me the 79th General Convention was an exercise in “walking the walk”.

Common themes were inclusion, diversity, and witness. We heard compelling stories from Dr. Catherine Meeks regarding racial reconciliation and racial healing and from the Rev. Nancy Frausto who shared her story of life as one of the “Dreamers” of Mexican descent as well as the conversion experience of Arno Michaels, former member of the Ku Klux Klan. Before we can Become Beloved Community, before we can embrace, we must directly experience the otherness of one another. Listening to the stories, the poetry, and the music helped raise our awareness, stir our emotions,

General Convention is also about worship. Coming together with literally thousands of other Episcopalians is an incredible experience, to say the least. There were also many formal and informal ways to get to know Episcopalians and visitors literally from all over the world.
and gave us an entrance into the life experience of one another. Seeing a picture of emaciated cattle in Africa and hearing about the severe drought in Cape Town. Learning about the Koyukon Peoples and their interconnectedness to the Porcupine Caribou in Alaska. Hearing about the negative impact of the placement of the oil pipeline and other invasive environmental measures that have threatened the very existence of a people served to remind us that we are all connected and impacted by the human condition no matter where we call home on this planet. Conversations around the Presiding Bishop's initiative of Becoming Beloved Community (racial reconciliation, evangelism, and care of creation) provided the opportunity to wrestle with and explore what we had heard and the possible responses to the same.

At this 79th General Convention, I again had the privilege of serving as a deputy from the Diocese of Ohio along with the opportunity of serving on Legislative Committee 12 – Prayer Book, Liturgy, and Music. While this was not the special committee regarding Prayer Book revisions, there was much conversation and deliberation to ensure that a multiplicity of voices and cultures were represented through expansive language, inclusive language, and culturally relevant liturgical resources.

This multiplicity of voices was not only exercised in Committee 12 but was present throughout the variety of committees, the House of Deputies, and the House of Bishops. It was present in lunch and dinner conversations. It was manifested when the Diocese of Cuba was welcomed back into the fold. It was present when a record number of people of color were elected to serve on various church bodies including the Executive Council and the Pension Fund. And it was present in resolutions that responded to #MeToo, immigration, anti-racism training and healing, and the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

An even greater witness was manifested when twice we heard from the family of Carmen Schentrup – one of the students killed in the Stoneman Douglas High School shooting. Not only did we have the face of a student who was killed, but we also had the face of the other victims of the shooting, Carmen's parents, who bravely shared their stories with us first at a joint session and second as we gathered outside of the Austin Convention Center in prayer and vigil against gun violence. We stood with the Schentrup family, Bishops United Against Gun Violence, and all those who no longer have a voice.

Our witness didn’t end there. We boarded buses that would take us to the T. Don Hutto Residential Center in Taylor, Texas. As we drew closer to the detention center and left behind the shops and signs of vibrant life behind us, I noted the vast wasteland that lay all around us. The closer we got the more desolate it became. I couldn't imagine looking out of the windows of the detention center and seeing nothing. No sign of life anywhere. No sign of hope anywhere. And, yet, here we were on our way with words of encouragement and prayers. Words to let the migrant women who were imprisoned in a building with very few windows and enclosed inside double fencing know that there was hope that God had not abandoned them and that they had not been forgotten. We let them know through prayer, song, and the ministry of presence, albeit in a baseball field too many yards away to estimate the distance, that we stood in solidarity with them and that we were committed to advocating for them that they are treated justly and humanely.
It would seem that at the 79th General Convention much has changed since my first experience. What hasn’t changed is the Church’s commitment to be a witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ through word and action whether in a city that chose not to honor Martin Luther King, Jr. or a city that is the home of a detention center that houses women immigrants who have been separated from their children. What hasn’t changed is the Church’s willingness to wrestle with ways in which all can be represented in the life of the Church through prayer and worship. What hasn’t changed is the Church’s commitment to care for the least, lost, and the left out among us. At this General Convention, we got a small glimpse of what Becoming Beloved Community looks like. It was a privilege to witness that first-hand.

By the Rev. Vincent Black

I have had the privilege to serve the General Convention Official Youth Presence for the last three conventions as one of the adult mentors in Indianapolis (2012), and as chaplain in Salt Lake City (2015), and in Austin (2018). The General Convention Official Youth Presence (GCOYP) was established by General Convention in 1982 and allows for up to two youth from each of the nine provinces of The Episcopal Church to have seat and voice in the House of Deputies. In 2012 and 2015, youth from the Diocese of Ohio were selected to be part of the GCOYP. Considering there are fourteen dioceses in Province Five, it is not probable to have youth from any given diocese serve consecutively and, yet, the Diocese of Ohio did. This is an affirmation of the youth of this diocese as well as those who minister with them.

Although we did not have a member from the Diocese of Ohio participating in GCOYP in 2018, our first alternate in the lay order, Richard Pryor III, participated in 2015 and was thus well prepared to serve as an alternate deputy in 2018. The reason I say well prepared is because the GCOYP has a four-day training a few months before convention to learn about the polity and legislative process of The Episcopal Church. They also pray together and discern various roles including who will give the address to the House of Deputies and House of Bishops, who will track legislation, and who will blog. They practice speaking at hearings, on the floor of the House of Deputies, and review some of the main issues to be addressed in the upcoming convention. During General Convention, the GCOYP keeps a rigorous schedule. Decisions are made about which hearings to go to and the adults make sure they get there safely and are fed. The youth are expected on the floor when the House of Deputies is in session unless given permission to be absent for such things as addressing the House of Bishops. They also have some time with the Presiding Bishop, the President of the House of Deputies, other youth and young adults at convention, and their provinces or dioceses for dinner or gathering time.

It is a very demanding experience. It involves being ushered from here to there at a quick pace, being expected to know what legislation they want to follow, being prepared to speak to issues they are passionate about, being able to summarize and comment on their experiences, being present at worship and hearings, etc. All this with the same group of peers and the same adults reminding them to be on time, to move more quickly, to have situational awareness, to walk to the right, and to drink lots of water. Moreover, this goes on for almost two weeks. In the evening, GCOYP and the adults shepherding them stay together to debrief the day, plan for the following day, and reflect and pray together. But at the end of the day, it is deeply rewarding.

There were many moments of joy, levity, and laughter because they are full of life and dreams. The youth remind the Church to look for and see God in new and not yet imagined places. They make it clear that they love The Episcopal Church and that although they intend to be the future of the Church they are very much the Church here and now. The GCOYP and the adults who
minister with them have deepened my faith and give me great hope that The Episcopal Church will continue to participate in God’s mission in this world for many years to come.

By Barbara L. Jones
The Episcopal Church Women Triennial Meeting was held in conjunction with General Convention. Five women from the Diocese of Ohio attended. The meeting began with an opening service that included the introduction of the 2015-2018 national board. We welcomed Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, who distributed a Triennial Meeting cross to each delegate. We also heard keynote presentations by Bishop Steven Charleston and the Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers.

Another outstanding presentation was given on Saturday morning by Yewande Austin, well-known lecturer, social activist, honorary U.S. Cultural Ambassador, and founder of The Global Institute for Diversity and Change. She challenged each of us to identify three gifts we possess that can be used to better our community. Accompanying her presentation with a variety of songs, Yewande explained how she is using her own unique set of gifts to build Alheri Village, a sustainable resettlement community for some of the nearly two million survivors displaced by conflict with Boko Haram terrorists in Nigeria.

More than 60 women from The Episcopal Church were honored at the Distinguished Women luncheon. Bishops Hollingsworth and Williams escorted our own Distinguished Woman, Nancy Sherwin of St. Paul’s, Cleveland Heights, as she received her certificate and a Distinguished Woman pin in recognition of her many years of dedicated service to the ECW at all levels, including two (nonconsecutive) three-year terms as Diocese of Ohio ECW president and three years as the Province V representative to the national ECW board.

The 2018 UTO grant awards were announced during the Triennial Meeting. The total amount awarded this year was $1,257,778.17. This year’s grant recipients represent eight of the nine Anglican Communion provinces and 28 Episcopal Church dioceses.

An important part of the Triennial Meeting is attendance at daily worship with the General Convention deputies. The Eucharist on Friday, July 6, included the UTO ingathering with Presiding Bishop Curry officiating and our own Rev. Gay Clark Jennings preaching.

Community First! Village, a ministry of Mobile Loaves and Fishes in Austin, received the 2018 ECW Triennial Unified Gift. This 27-acre village for the disabled and homeless in Central Texas is a supportive community that provides affordable housing and other resources for its residents. The 2018 ECW Community Connection Gift recipient was the Shower Program at Trinity Center in Austin, which is housed at St. David’s Episcopal Church. This program provides a private and secure place for homeless women to take a shower without risk of their belongings being stolen. We heard speakers from both of these organizations; they explained the importance of their facilities and programs to the residents of Austin.

This year’s workshops covered a wide range of topics, including the United Thank Offering, the Church Periodical Club, the Girls Friendly Society, the environment, parliamentary procedure, local ministries in the Austin area, music, liturgy, and spirituality. We were also encouraged to observe the House of Bishops and the House of Deputies. Many of us also spent a lot of time in the Exhibit Hall. It was interesting to learn about the variety of organizations that serve specific purposes within The Episcopal Church. The Triennial Meeting concluded following a lengthy discussion of bylaw amendments and proposed resolutions, as well as the election of a new board for the 2018-2021 Triennium. We left Austin with a better understanding of the ECW beyond the level of our own diocese, and we look forward to keeping in touch with new friends!
To the People of the Diocese of Ohio,

Words from “The Episcopal Way, Volume 1” are very pertinent to our upcoming 2018 Diocesan Convention:

“All the people are ministers, but the balanced approach of the Episcopal Way creates organizations and structures that help us to move and minister as a body. At their best, our structures provide vision, accountability, and strong communication. A diocese brings bishops, clergy, and lay leaders together, all listening, each offering a different perspective and holding a different power. But ultimately all the power gets laid at the feet of Jesus, who called together his apostles and told them 'Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all' (Mark 9:35). The only power that matters is power that serves the people and serves God’s mission.”

With those words the Nominating Committee for the 2018 Diocesan Convention extends to you a mutual invitation to offer your gifts and skills to the diocese. The “mutual invitation” process developed by Eric Law is often used by our parish members. Although it is through invitation to speak, we invite you to consider the many leadership opportunities available at the Diocesan level and your participation. We also invite you to extend a mutual invitation to others within your parish and your church family.

Positions to be filled include:

- Diocesan Council – 2 Lay, 2 Clergy
- ECS Development Council – 3 Lay, 1 Clergy
- Standing Committee – 1 Lay, 1 Clergy
- Diocesan Trustee – 1 Lay or Clergy
- Diocesan Disciplinary Board – 2 Lay, 1 Clergy

Position descriptions and nominating forms can be found at: www.dohio.org.

Questions can be directed to William Powel, Canon to the Ordinary (wpowel@dohio.org).

Deadline for nominations is September 14, 2018.

From the Book of Common Prayer (pg. 855): “Who are the ministers of the church? Answer: The ministers of the church are laypersons, bishops, priests and deacons.” The Nominating Committee encourages you to consider your role as a minister within your church and the Diocese.

Rebecca Montague
Nominating Committee Member
Grace, Sandusky
Job Description Overviews

The Diocesan Council serves as an advisory group to the Bishop and the Diocesan staff on financial and other matters. Council oversees the development of the Diocese’s operating fund budget and recommends the budget to Diocesan Convention for approval. The group also provides guidance and oversight for the Diocese between conventions as well as works in committees to support Diocesan staff and Diocesan ministries. Members of Council serve as liaisons to parishes of the Diocese.

Episcopal Community Services (ECS) builds Episcopal identity through strategic grant making focused on outreach. ECS reviews proposals for Bishop’s Annual Appeal funds awarded through ECS and oversees the resulting grant awards. Episcopal Community Services also reviews proposals and awards grants from the Church Home Fund.

The Standing Committee serves as the Bishop’s Council of Advice, bringing diocesan concerns to the Bishop’s attention and responding to the Bishop’s own thoughts and concerns. The committee also deals with property matters. All parish decisions to sell or encumber property must be approved by the Standing Committee. This group gives consent to candidacy and ordination of deacons and priests and to the election of bishops in other dioceses of The Episcopal Church. Standing Committee is also involved with disciplinary matters pertaining to clergy and designs and manages the search and election process when a new bishop is needed.

The Diocesan Trustees, a group of five laypeople and clergy, manage and have fiduciary responsibility for the Diocese’s Joint Investment Fund and real property of the Diocese. The Trustees meet quarterly with the Fund’s investment advisors and evaluate their recommendations for the Fund regarding asset allocation, types of investments, and the spending policy. As needed, the Trustees work with the Bishop on the disposition of real estate and allocation of the proceeds.

If there is a case involving potential clergy misconduct, the Diocesan Disciplinary Board is the pool of individuals from which people are selected to serve as members of a conference or hearing panel. The current Title IV Canons seek to provide for appropriate and transparent accountability when clergy have committed some sort of infraction or misconduct. It also seeks to be built upon a model of reconciliation and healing, as opposed to confrontation. The panel is comprised of five clergy and four lay members, each serving a 3-year term.
"The soil is the great connector of lives, the source and destination of all. It is the healer and restorer and resurrector, by which disease passes into health, age into youth, death into life. Without proper care for it we can have no community, because without proper care for it we can have no life.” - Wendell Berry

What would the soil be like at Bellwether Farm? That was the question I asked myself all winter while I waited for the snow to melt and reveal the hidden earth beneath it. I'd seen the soil test and knew it needed a lot of love and care, namely in the form of organic matter (e.g. compost). However, it's really hard to know how things are going to grow until you've had a year of experience on a particular piece of land. Three months in, with the help of lots of volunteers and a giant mountain of compost, I'm happy to say we have an abundance of vegetables in this inaugural farm season at Bellwether Farm!

In light of this abundance, we began to host “Pick Your Own Veggies” days every other Saturday throughout the summer. During these days, members from the Diocese of Ohio and neighbors from the local community have come out to Bellwether to pick vegetables, visit the chickens in their mobile coop, and cuddle with the goats and farm dogs while taking in the beauty of this amazing place.

The vegetable portion of the farm has a movable hoophouse, a greenhouse, and a number of large plots planted according to vegetable families. Each plot has 14 raised beds that are each 50 feet long and 3 feet wide. In every 7th row, we've planted flowers and pollinator-friendly plants to bring in beneficial bugs, create a space of beauty, and tie into the notion of sabbath rest. It's not uncommon to see one of the Bishop's bees buzzing around in those rows.

Everyone has really enjoyed learning how to harvest their own vegetables such as salad mix, peas, cucumbers, kohlrabi, tomatoes, and potatoes. We have more than 20 vegetables growing at the farm as well as herbs and flowers. One visitor exclaimed, “This is like a vegetable amusement park!” My favorite harvesting activity is watching kids pull their first carrot out of the ground – a true moment of wonder and surprise!

Along with the “Pick Your Own Veggies” days, we've invited members from the Diocese to pick veggies for their community
meals and food pantries. We’ve even been able to donate extra food to several feeding ministries including the Sunday community meal at Trinity Cathedral.

It’s been a gift and a joy for me to share this first year’s harvest at Bellwether with so many different people. I’ve thoroughly enjoyed talking with folks about different growing techniques, dinner recipes, and those pesky weeds! I’ve heard so many old stories of peoples’ childhood gardens and farms. These stories remind me of our deep roots – our ancient connectedness to the land, food, and each other.

I think back to Bishop Curry’s homily at the Dedication for Bellwether Farm back in November last year, when he prayed that this place would be a “root factory” where we cultivate connectedness. “Pick Your Own Veggies” days at the Farm is just one way we are connecting to each other, our food, and the land.

Thank you to everyone who has come out to support us this season. I look forward to the seasons to come as we build healthy soil, grow healthy plants, and cultivate a healthy farm and camp community here at Bellwether Farm.
Five Things I Learned at Reading Camp

by Jessica Miller

On June 17 through 22, nearly twenty 4th and 5th graders descended upon Bellwether Farm. They were here for St. Paul’s, Cleveland Heights’ Reading Camp. While the campers came to learn reading skills, they also experienced outdoor programs at the farm that provided context for the things they read throughout the week. I taught some of those programs, but in the end, the 4th and 5th graders taught me a lot. Here are a few things I learned at Reading Camp:

1.) Talk less, play more
On the first day of camp, we took a scavenger hike and went fishing. As an educator, there’s always plenty to talk about. So, in outdoor programming, I challenge myself to let the kids do a lot of the talking, interacting, and play. (I guess I’m often concerned that they might not “get it” when I have to explain the concept of biodiversity or how to properly cast a fishing rod.) The campers reminded me that play—and nature—is its own teacher! They picked up on bird and insect sounds I couldn’t hear, discovered aquatic life in the river, and every single camper caught at least one fish, even those who had never held a fishing pole before. This day was a success because they had the time and space to make mistakes, explore, and play.

2.) Differences keep life from being boring
I asked the campers what a “habitat” is. A 5th grade camper’s eyes brightened as she connected the daily reading from earlier that morning. “A community!” she replied. What a brilliant connection. For the rest of the week, we used her answer to frame all of our activities in the woods, pond, garden, and animal barn. What are the members of the community of farm animals? What about the community of a beehive? The campers kept pointing out how many different colors of eggs there were and how many different types of veggie plants were in the beds. When I asked why diversity, or differences, are important parts of community, a child answered, “Because everyone needs a place in the community.” Another answered, “Because otherwise it would be the same and boring.” Couldn’t have said it better myself.
3.) Curiosity trumps fear
Bee stings hurt. Most children know that. Thus my astonishment at how brave every single camper was when we went to the honeybee hives on Pollinator Day. Maybe it was that we had tasted different types of honey beforehand, or that we had talked about the endearing habit bees have of ‘dancing’ to tell the others where food is, or that they learned how beneficial bees are to pollination and producing foods we need and love. Actually, I think it was because bees and beekeeping are just so cool. Isaac donned a beekeeping suit and the campers touched a real honeycomb. They bent close to observe a worker bee inspecting an empty hexagon and asked question after question. They calmly and curiously walked through the busy swarm to get a close-up look at the buzzing hive and it hit me how powerful, calming, and fear-quenching curiosity can be.

4.) Believe, try, and you’ll hit a bullseye
A 5th grade girl was concentrating very hard on the 12 steps of archery. She lined up her feet and pointed one diagonally from her body. She deliberately nocked her arrow and lifted the bow slowly, trembling from the strain as she pulled back the string. She released and the arrow bounced off the top of the target. Instead of throwing down the bow and giving up, she asked what she did wrong. Was she not strong enough? I told her everything she did right and that next time we could go through the steps together. This time, she built on what she tried before and held her hips straight, her draw hand locked to the side of her face as she pulled the arrow back. “OK, when you can tell your body is in the right place and it feels right, you can…” WHIZ—Thud! She knew she was aiming true and trusted to let go. There was an arrow shaft sticking from the bullseye! She turned to me with a surprised but proud grin as the counselors and other kids cheered.

5.) Just jump in!
Although some campers had never been canoeing or swum in a lake before, they were paddling and doggie-paddling as soon as they could. This attitude was carried throughout the week—these campers greeted new and different experiences with open arms. They simply jumped in! This is an attitude, in adult life, faith-life, work, and play, that I am glad to be reminded of and to learn.

Throughout the week of games, activities, and learning, we’d circle up to check in and I or another leader would offer a prompt. Once, when the question was “What is your favorite thing about summer?” a fifth-grader answered “Reading Camp!” So ultimately, I learned that Reading Camp—and the campers who taught me so much—are pretty awesome indeed.
The sun is starting its ascent on a beautiful afternoon in Belmopan, Belize. Fans blew down on us to fend off the waves of heat on what would be a brutally hot day. I looked upon the first row of pews at the mass of people gathering in a loose semi-circle on the floor facing a large white stone altar. “JUBILEE,” I yelled in an effort to quiet the room. “PEACE,” everyone replied, and the room fell silent waiting for Amaris, a member of Belize's first Happening Staff, to speak. Amaris told a powerful story about how faith had gotten her through difficult times and called for us not only to revel in our faith, but to act on it. It was personal, it was thought provoking, and it was inspiring. When the talk came to a close, members of the staff and the Happeners (the name given to students who are going through the retreat for the first time) were called to go to their small groups. I took a moment to myself to reflect on how blessed I was to be in this position and the joy I had sharing the Happening experience with our companion diocese, the Diocese of Belize.

I took part in my first Happening as a nervous 9th grader in the spring of 2011. I had been going to church for as long as I could remember and had participated in Trinity Cathedral youth groups for almost as long. And while my family and I had been attending Trinity since my 3rd grade year, I felt some distance between myself and the Church. I was a young kid trying to fit in, not knowing exactly how to do that. I went to my first Happening overnight retreat with low expectations and a healthy dose of skepticism. What I found was a group of people who inspired and changed my life forever. With its “by students for student’s format,” Happening allows an opportunity for students to mentor each other on a peer-to-peer basis. It is a place where we disconnect with the outside world and focus on our relationships with each other and with God. For me, this was a new way to worship and a new way to experience God's love for myself and for all of his creation. I can say that I would not be the person I am today without my experiences at Happening. So when I found myself sitting down to dinner with a delegation from the Diocese of Belize in the summer of 2016 and discussing ways to help forge connections between our two dioceses, Happening seemed to be a perfect answer.

A lot of prayer, hard work, and two years of planning later, I found myself in a church in Belize surrounded by members of the Dioceses of Belize and Ohio sharing in each other's understanding and love. We listened to other student leaders from Ohio and Belize give talks on prayer, the nature of reality, and Jesus Christ. We wrote positive notes to one another and placed them in personalized bags that surrounded the room. We sang and danced loud enough for the entire town to hear us. We broke bread and prayed together. We formed bonds and friendships together. I watched walls fall away from students who had built them up as high as they could, I saw smiles widen and hearts open as we took this journey together, and I saw faith leaders of the future emerging before my eyes.

This event was everything we could have hoped for and more. The Rev. Barbara McBride, a planner from Belize for the event, shared, “Having the youth from Ohio partner with the Belizean youth fostered our companionship ties and showed our new Happeners that faith, friendship, and fellowship transcends distance, ethnicity, and even language.” Christopher, a Happener from Belize, summed it up wonderfully when he told us that it was “nice to come to an event that let him center himself with his God and make new friends.” It is the Happening tradition that the staff of each Happening is made up of students who have gone through the retreat for themselves; Christopher will be among the leaders of next year’s Happening in Belize, a tradition that we hope will carry on through the years. In the closing service, Keisha Lang, a school teacher in Belize and the leader of next year’s Happening, quoted Matthew 20:19 in which Jesus challenges us to “go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” This theme of faith in action shone through in this first Happening. Faith in action signals the continuation and strengthening of bonds between the Diocese of Ohio and the Diocese of Belize.
Ohio and Belize Join Together in Mission

In 2014, the North Central Mission Area started a joint youth group as a way to provide formation for the youth at each parish and started to dream of a trip for young people to Belize. At the same time, clergy from Belize and Ohio started to imagine a joint mission trip to the Province of the West Indies. The logistics proved prohibitive, and so, instead, the idea of a joint pilgrimage came to be: Ohioans and Belizeans, together, exploring the spirituality of creation, worship, and community building, with the express intent of not “doing for” but “living with” while building relationships across boundaries. Each day we had a shared experience that tied in with a spiritual theme: the story of creation, experienced on our visit to a jungle waterfall; the commonalities across spiritual boundaries, explored in our time at a Mayan ruin while learning about indigenous life and worship; the call to service as we cleaned and painted at St. Joseph’s Anglican Church and Preschool; and the daily pattern of morning and evening worship with reflection on the themes and experiences of the day. We also built bonds as we played UNO (the universal card game).

For eight days in July, we built a community of 15 young people and five adult leaders, supported in prayer and logistics by many more. We were from seven congregations in Ohio and three in Belize. We engaged in morning and evening worship; ate, played, and worked together; and engaged with the local community of Forest Home outside the city of Punta Gorda.

The Rev. Barbara McBride, from Belize, said, “It always amazes me that no matter how different our lifestyles, cultures, or languages, the universality of the love of God joins us together in bonds that transcend any differences that might exist. I look forward to another similar experience and the maintenance of the friendships created.”

The Rev. Daniel Orr, who pushed this trip into reality, said, “I am enormously grateful for the massive collaboration across Ohio. God has graced us with 308 miles of coordinated effort from Mansfield to Toledo to Cleveland. I could not have imagined better colleagues and youth to work with on the Belize trip. Also, Mary Staley of St. Paul’s, Put-In-Bay has organized an Ohio Pilgrimage for the benefit of many of our younger kids. What is next, God?”

It was a mixed blessing to return home. While we were glad to be reunited with our families and the familiar, we very much valued the time in intentional community of work, play, prayer, and fellowship.

“I learned so much about other people on this trip. I actually had a chance to know people personally. I also learned even more about God, and that even through the dark situations there is always light.”

Aneesah Talib-Deen, All Saints, Toledo
Church of the Ascension, Lakewood is partnering with the Lakewood Garden Center to offer classes to the public. Classes vary in topic. So far, subjects have ranged from flower arranging to worm composting to gardening in limited spaces using either raised or vertical beds. The Garden Club was born out of a desire to deepen relationships, not only in the original class itself but also in the maintenance of the projects and the harvesting of the outcomes. For more information on the classes, visit ascension-lakewood.org or check out the Lakewood Garden Center’s Facebook page.

New Life, Uniontown hosted two events for adults with disabilities and their caregivers. New Life members decided last fall to host their first event. They wanted an outreach that could involve everyone in their parish and make use of their handicapped accessible building, their many teachers and retired teachers, several members’ experience with the developmental disability community, their commercial-grade kitchen, and their desire to help an underserved population. They also wanted to recognize and honor the caregivers: parents, relatives, and career caregivers who do physically and mentally demanding work of great responsibility. The fall “Harvest of Friends” event included an art activity, a short play, a music and singalong segment, snacks and drinks, and a therapy dog. Each caregiver and guest received a gift bag filled with fun items and a handmade scarf to take home. The second event was a Cinco de Mayo Friendship Fiesta in May that included more than 60 guests.

Parishes across the Diocese hold Pet Blessing services in October to celebrate St. Francis, the patron saint of animals. Services open the church doors to animals of all shapes and sizes, and often times, include stuffed animals as well. At some point in the service, animals are brought up to receive a blessing. St. Francis Day is celebrated annually on October 4. While Pet Blessing services can happen at any point in the year, many are on a Sunday near St. Francis Day.
A “cradle” Episcopalian from Needham, Massachusetts, I came to Painesville to attend Lake Erie College in 1963. On a lovely fall day, I went in search of a church home. I loved the New England feel of Painesville and upon discovering St. James, went in. Awed by the beauty of this marvelous Gothic church with the sun streaming through the magnificent stained glass windows, I was hooked! During the next four years, St. James was my church home. Several years later I settled in Painesville in 1980 and returned to St. James. It was (and is) still the welcoming community I knew 17 years earlier. Over the past 38 years, I have served many roles at St. James: Christian Formation Facilitator, Vestry, Jr. and Sr. Warden, Worship Leader, Lector, Eucharistic Minister and Visitor, Acolyte, Altar Guild (Directress) as well as scheduling those groups. Most recently, I graduated from Education for Ministry, was licensed as a Lay Preacher, and served as St. James Bicentennial Minister. I thank God daily that he led me to St. James on that beautiful fall day in 1963.

I’d been attending youth group events for the last 7 years or so. During that time, I spent a handful of weekends making new friends, making my own nametags, finding new ways to dedicate time to my community, and accidentally memorizing a whole book of “camp worship songs.” Those trips and meetings were, undoubtedly, the most important part of my journey through both faith and personal development. It was eye opening, sometimes even scary. Putting yourself out there as a human being worth experiencing and talking to is daunting when you’re a kid, but the community is built upon a bunch of kids just trying to make friends. They’re all just trying to write and share their own personal history through love and faith. Youth group with the Diocese of Ohio will forever be the most important part of my faith journey, and I don’t think I’ll ever have enough love in my heart to properly thank everyone involved.

Born a “cradle” Episcopalian, I have visited other churches over the years and one thing that I am thankful to God for is my spiritual journey to love and serve the Blessed Trinity in The Episcopal Church! Every Episcopal Church that I have ever attended, I have immediately felt the presence of God when I enter. I have served as a volunteer at the 2012 and 2015 General Conventions. I have served on Diocesan Council, as a Bicentennial Missioner, a delegate at almost all Diocesan Conventions since 2003, and am a partner in the Bishop’s Annual Appeal. I voluntarily serve as organist/choirmistress and am currently serving my third term on the vestry with the last two years as Junior Warden. I also serve as a Licensed Lay Preacher, Eucharistic Minister, Lay Eucharistic Visitor, Worship Leader, and Lector. In April, we started a Sunday School after many years without one and when my priest asked for a volunteer to teach it, I volunteered. I also participate in our “Follow Me to St. Andrew’s Program” in which I speak of my faith and church to non-members and invite them to come. I also belong to our ECW and am on the Summit Mission Area ECW Board. For me, The Episcopal Church is where God placed me and I am thankful that He did!

Susan Cowling
St. James’, Painesville

Nick Coyle
St. Paul’s, Medina

Maxanna Dyne-Demko
St. Andrew’s, Barberton
Grace Church, Sandusky is built upon a tradition of community outreach. They expanded upon this tradition in 2000 when parishioners saw a need for the facilitation of familial connections in their community and founded KinShip, an organization that provides supervised visitation and exchange services for families and children who have been separated due to divorce, child custody issues, domestic violence, or other types of family trauma. In the last eighteen years, KinShip and Grace Church have worked together "to engage in a broad range of activities that will benefit children by protecting them from neglect and from physical, mental, and emotional abuse of all kinds."

KinShip House, nestled among the Erie Metroparks, provides a warm atmosphere for families seeking solace in difficult times. The center serves as a safe, neutral space in which non-custodial parents are able to visit with their child. In 2011, KinShip served forty families. By 2017, they were able to provide services to 180 families seeking aid.

Grace Church has continued to support KinShip and its mission as it has grown. Many of the founding trustees of the organization were Grace parishioners. Since then, members of Grace continue to serve on KinShip’s board, providing leadership to the mission and ministry of the organization. In addition to the financial support that the parish provides, individual parishioners of Grace also give their time, talent, and treasure through volunteerism, assistance with fundraisers, and promotion of the services throughout the community.

The Rev. Jan Smith Wood, rector of Grace, Sandusky, explains that the parish’s partnership is an example “of the community of the Church aimed towards serving, helping, and making a difference… not for spiritual rewards… but simply because it’s necessary.”

A portion of funds raised from the Bishop’s Annual Appeal helps support the families and children who seek assistance at KinShip. For more information about the work of Episcopal Community Services or to make a gift to the Bishop’s Annual Appeal, please visit https://dohio.org/givenow or contact lhnat@dohio.org.

ECW News and Notes

You may be familiar with many of the things ECW does around the Diocese of Ohio – like the annual UTO Ingathering, the Annual Meeting, and the many ways we support our local parishes. But did you know we also help Episcopalians in Ohio continue their education through the Carlotta East Scholarship and the Church Periodical Club (CPC)? Funds from these two sources help students in the Diocese continue their studies after high school and enable them to afford educational publications.

The ECW recently awarded the scholarships and CPC grants to several very deserving individuals in our diocese.

Carlotta East Scholarship:
The Carlotta East Scholarship Fund was established in 1945 to assist Episcopal women who need aid to complete their education, upgrade skills before returning to the workforce, or take religious training. The fund was begun through a bequest which has been invested since. Interest and dividends, in addition to other donations, are used for the scholarships each year. This year’s recipients are:

- Lauren Heffelfinger – Lauren’s scholarship will help towards her tuition at Ohio Dominican University, where she is enrolled as a graduate student in Education.
- Anna Sutterisch – Anna is one of the seminarians profiled in the Summer 2018 issue of Church Life. The scholarship will be put towards her tuition at Bexley Seabury Seminary.
- Meghan Carlson – Meghan’s scholarship will help with her undergraduate tuition at Ursuline College.
- Lucy Bailey – Lucy is an undergraduate at the Cleveland Institute of Art. Her scholarship will be used as part of her tuition.
- Vivian Thomas – an undergraduate at Ohio University, Vivian will use her scholarship to help with her tuition.

Church Periodical Club:
The Church Periodical Club is a ministry dedicated to the printed Word and promotion of Christian Mission. CPC provides free literature and related materials, both secular and religious, to those who need help obtaining them. Included in that mission are prayer books, educational materials, and other publications for seminarians. Here, in the Diocese of Ohio, CPC grants of $500 each were awarded to seminarians Steve Ashby and Anna Sutterisch. Like Anna, Steve was profiled in the Summer 2018 issue of Church Life and is a student at Bexley Seabury Seminary.
## SEPTEMBER

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<tr>
<td>September 3</td>
<td>Diocesan Offices Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 7-9</td>
<td>Family Camping Weekend</td>
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<td><em>Bellwether Farm</em></td>
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<td>September 17</td>
<td>Diocesan Standing Committee Meeting</td>
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<td><em>Trinity Commons</em></td>
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<td>September 20</td>
<td>Diocesan Council Meeting</td>
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<td><em>Trinity Commons</em></td>
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<td>September 22</td>
<td>Lay and Clergy Leadership Conference</td>
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<td><em>Bellwether Farm</em></td>
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<td>September 29</td>
<td>Watershed Stewardship Workshop</td>
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## OCTOBER

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<td>Diocesan Youth Event</td>
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<td>October 11</td>
<td>Watershed Stewardship Workshop</td>
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<td>October 13</td>
<td>Ministry Discernment Day</td>
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<td>October 13</td>
<td>Commission on Global and Domestic Mission Meeting</td>
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<td><em>St. Paul’s, Norwalk</em></td>
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<td><em>Trinity Commons</em></td>
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<td>October 20</td>
<td>Composting Workshop</td>
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## NOVEMBER

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<tr>
<td>November 9-10</td>
<td>Diocesan Annual Convention</td>
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<td>November 20</td>
<td>Interfaith Thanksgiving Service</td>
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<td><em>Trinity Cathedral</em></td>
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<td>November 22-23</td>
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<td>November 30</td>
<td>Diocesan Council Organizing Meeting</td>
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## DECEMBER

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<td>December 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 24-31</td>
<td>Diocesan Offices Closed</td>
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The 202nd Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio

SAVE THE DATE

NOVEMBER 9-10

The 202nd Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio

- Convention Eucharist will be held at Trinity Cathedral on Friday, November 9.

- Convention will be held at the Cleveland Mariott East in Warrensville Heights on Saturday, November 10.

- If attending, you must register by October 19 (clergy & lay delegates, visitors, exhibitors, etc.).

- Parishes must certify delegates by October 26, according to the Canons.

Register at dohio.org/convention