

# Diocese of the Central States News

Volume V, Issue 1: Advent 2015



## News from Trinity REC, Mason, OH

by Andy Goetz

Trinity Reformed Episcopal Church in Mason, Ohio, celebrates Evening Prayer every Wednesday evening. Evening Prayer for the last Wednesday of each month has been designated “Listening and Praying Together.” On these special Evening Prayer nights, parishioners have an opportunity to share with one another any particular burdens or special prayers for which they would like support. Romans 12 is the impetus for the “Listening and Praying” evening: “rejoicing with those who rejoice, and weeping with those who weep” (v. 15). The “Listening and Praying” nights have been well received by the congregation.

In November, four people were confirmed at Trinity, three young men were received as acolytes, and two new members were accepted into the parish. Additionally, the parish dedicated a new altar rail for the chancel. The altar rail is constructed of white oak from a tree that was on the property of parishioners David and Katy Kern. Wood from the same tree was used in making Trinity’s chancel cross. Regarding the new altar rail, Bishop Manto said, “It defines the space and reminds us that our Christianity, our faith is not an idea rolling around in our heads or an argument to be defended but a way of life lived in time and space and in relationship to people, places and things.

“And here’s this: we took a tree that had been knocked over by the wind...and reworked it and reshaped it to now play an important part in the worship of God by His Church. The entire process is a kind of picture of the dominion over creation that God was talking about in Genesis 1...man exercising his calling by taking the gifts of God and causing them to declare the glory of God more and more.”



For more information, visit <http://trinityrec.org/website/>.

## Diocese of the Central States

The Rt. Rev. Daniel R. Morse,  
Bishop Ordinary  
Email: [bishop@rec-mdcs.org](mailto:bishop@rec-mdcs.org)  
Phone: 615-947-6703  
Fax: 615-833-3675  
Website: [rec-mdcs.org](http://rec-mdcs.org)

Send submissions for the Advent issue by 4 March 2016 to Dss. Teresa Johnson at [newsletter@recdss.org](mailto:newsletter@recdss.org).

## Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

Parish/Mission	Date
St. Jude, Richmond, VA	12/06/2015
Christ Our Hope, Dayton, OH	12/13/2015
St. Lazarus, Dayton, OH	12/20/2015
St. Nicholas, Owensboro, KY	12/27/2015
St. John’s of Mt. Laurel, B’ham, AL	01/03/2016
All Saints, Lynchburg, VA	01/10/2016
Covenant REC, Roanoke, VA	01/17/2016
St. Andrew’s, Appomattox, VA	01/24/2016
St. Andrew’s, Asheboro, NC	01/31/2016
Christ Our Hope, Westpoint, TN	02/07/2016
Trinity REC, Mason, OH	02/14/2016
All Saints, Raleigh, NC	02/21/2016
Fr. Matt & Sora Colvin	02/28/2016
Christ the King, Dayton, OH	03/06/2016
Trinity Anglican, Evansville, IN	03/13/2016

# 2015-2016 Project Croatia: Re-evangelizing Europe

## News from the REC Board of Foreign Missions

In May 2015, Postulant Michael Vinson and Fr John Boonzaaijer of The Chapel of the Cross, (Dallas, TX) made an exploratory journey to match US based ministry abilities with Croatian ministry opportunities, primarily at Good Shepherd Reformed Episcopal Church (Osijek, Croatia) and the Michael Starin Seminary which holds classes at Good Shepherd. Three major objectives grew out of this exploratory mission trip, and are the product of multiple conversations and planning sessions with Bishop Royal Grote and Bishop Jasmin Milić, who is leading the REC in Croatia in the task of re-evangelizing Europe.

The first objective is to beautify the Good Shepherd courtyard for local engagement and evangelism, particularly among the eight-hundred high school students who walk past the building daily.

The second objective is to create a museum as a Reformation Heritage Site. The museum would feature the connection between the Croatian Reformation, the Metropolitan See of Split, and the English Reformation. It would also document the work of Fr Michael Starin, a Reformer who planted about 100 parishes during the 1570s.

The third objective is to develop the Michael Starin Seminary as a residential program, central to the operations of the previous objectives. Furniture would be provided for dormitory room, as well as vestments for seminary students, who would serve as museum docents.

To donate this project, visit the BFM website:

[http://www.recbfm.org/missions/Croatia\\_Serbia/ProjectCroatia.html](http://www.recbfm.org/missions/Croatia_Serbia/ProjectCroatia.html)

## Excerpt from the Colvins' Final Newsletter from the Philippines

By Fr. Matt Colvin

Normally, teachers watch their students leave: we are the permanent ones, they are transient. We get ready for next year's classes, while they move on to the exciting new horizons of college and life beyond. But here the shoe is on the other foot: our students are the more permanent ones: they will continue ministering in churches here, serving mothers and babies in the birth clinic, or going on to college. Their future life is likely to be here, if not in Davao City, then at least in the Philippines. Even the (more transient) missionary kids in my Faith Academy American Lit class are mostly juniors, who will be here next year. Our family, on the other hand, is moving on to a new adventure in Indonesia. What have we learned from three years in the Philippines?

We have learned that the love of Christ and the kingdom of God transcend cultures. We would have said so before we came here, but now we have lived it.

We have learned that our family is resilient and resistant to stresses. We can live in a foreign culture without going crazy. We learned how to get flat tire fixed in 10 minutes at a vulcanizing shop; how to get tested for dengue fever; and where to go for an X-ray after breaking a pinky finger in basketball.

We have learned that God provides for us through His church. We have seen the difficulties that can befall

missionaries on the field, and the importance of solid support: we have many times thanked God that we have SAMS and our senders in the REC, ACNA, and other churches. To Davao Covenant Reformed Church we owe much for their guidance and shepherding of our family as we found our way in a country new and strange to us. Without these churches, our last three years would not have been possible.

We have made Filipino friends: midwives, homeschooling moms, teachers, tennis buddies. Some of these will be lifelong. We are very thankful for them.

We have learned more clearly the shape of our calling from God and from the church to be missionaries. We made plenty of mistakes here; we'll make different ones in Indonesia, but we trust that God will use us for His purposes there, as He has in the Philippines. The great composer is at work. We hope you'll partner with us in the second movement of this concerto.

Please pray with us for those we leave behind in the Philippines and those whom we will visit while on home ministry assignment. Pray also for our logistics: for the shipping of our books next year; for our air travel on Dec. 7-8 (Davao to Victoria, BC) and Dec 24th (Victoria, BC to Dayton, OH).

# All Saints Finally Has Its Church!

By The Rev. Canon Ian MacGregor

After 704 Sundays, All Saints (Raleigh) finally had a home we could call our own! The Parish started out as a mission in December 2001 and met for the first 6 months in a dance studio. Ann Gingell then found us a home renting and sharing space with Jenkins Memorial Methodist Church. The Jenkins folks were wonderful hosts but their building is old and not well suited for our congregation. After years of looking and several close calls we finally located suitable property in 2011 – 2 acres on a heavily traveled major entranceway into downtown Raleigh and the North Carolina State University campus.

When acquired the property had two very dilapidated houses and a barn, surrounded by residential neighborhoods. Alas, the elderly property owner still lived in one of the houses which was in deplorable condition. (With the purchase he was able to move into an apartment that was much safer and was clean and warm). Tom Arrington, Robbie Broyles and Richard and Leslie Fay (and many others) quickly took charge of the now vacant property, bulldozing the structures and clearing, landscaping and maintaining the land. Then we went to work with building plans.

We had already used almost all of our cash to buy the land (which is expensive in Raleigh). We thought we knew what we could raise and what we could borrow and gave our builder and architect strict budget instructions, only to see a wonderful design that was twice our budget! Once again we thought we were sunk. Charlotte Pennell and others refused to give up however, and through the entire parish's generous support we raised more than twice what we had thought possible! Tom Arrington introduced us to a different builder he knew – Vance Construction – who was able to provide final architectural, engineering and building plans that were 2/3 of the original Builder's estimates.....suddenly we were back in business.

Permitting and approvals with the City were significantly more expensive and time consuming than anyone (including the experienced engineers) had anticipated. 2013 slipped into 2014 and 2014 slipped into 2015. We held our Groundbreaking Ceremony in August 2014 but it was then several more months before any dirt was moved and not until January 2015 that work really got underway....and then the rain and snow came, delaying us even more. Still, under our Project Manager (parishioner Steve Hegyi) work began to progress quickly with our first worship service

(including a baptism!) in the newly completed chapel coming on Sunday June 28th, 2015.

Bishop Morse and Marianne Morse joined the congregation for a Chapel consecration on September 19th. The Rev Canon Glenn Spencer (Anglican Province of America – Charlottesville VA), Rector of All Saints (the parish from which we took our name) was homilist and Fr Scott Thompson (Dean of Virginia and North Carolina) and Fr Paul Edgerton, Vicar of Church of the Redeemer, Wilson NC joined us in celebration.



All Saints has been incredibly well blessed by God. We have a parish family that has in all things been generous of time, talent and money. If we made any error through this process it was in not giving God enough credit for owning the 'cattle on a thousand hills'. It wasn't until we threw up our hands and cried 'we can't do this' that God was finally given room to step in to show that He could.

All Saints has been taking a well deserved break from several years of sometimes frenetic activity....but we aren't done. What has been built is Phase I and Phase II includes a larger Parish Hall and Phase IIB includes more classrooms an office and library. Ultimately we have plans for a columbarium and memorial garden.....and still have the 'lower 40' on which we can make future plans. We have had a steady stream of new visitors and new members with the visibility our new parish home gives us and are continually talking about new ways to use what God has given us to help build His Kingdom. Thanks be to God!

For more information, visit <http://allsaintsraleigh.com/>

# ARDF Celebrates the Advent Season

By Caleb Vits, Advocate Coordinator for The Anglican Relief and Development Fund

Advent is an exciting time for Anglicans! Advent is a time of preparation, celebration, and generosity. Traditionally, the season of Advent has been marked by giving to those in need as we acknowledge our own need for the coming of our Savior. To this end, we at The Anglican Relief and Development Fund are excited to announce our 2015 Advent focus: "Renewing Minds Through Education."

ARDF exists for the sake of transformation. The word appears on our logo and in our mission statement. At a very basic level, transformation is the heart of what we do: empowering Anglicans around the globe to transform lives in their own communities for the sake of Christ. But, as St. Paul says, real transformation can only happen when minds are transformed, not just material circumstances (Romans 12:2). We believe that God uses education as one way to transform communities, save lives, and prepare hearts to receive our Lord Jesus Christ.

It is natural to think of education as supplying books and resources for younger children, but it is often much more. In Pakistan, we are helping train young men and women with job skills to support their families and thrive in their communities. We are also partnering with the Diocese of Aweil and Abyei in South Sudan to build a dormitory to house 40 girls. Their walk

to school is often dangerous, but with housing nearby they will feel safe and nourished as they learn.

As we consider education, ARDF is glad to offer high-quality materials that will enable you and your church to get involved, including prayer guides, mite boxes, and activity sheets. These resources will help you and your congregation learn about God's heart for the poor and the Anglican Church around the world. Even as Advent begins, it is not too late to order these. Make an order today! We are pleased to provide these materials free of charge to Anglican churches across North America as our way of saying "thank you" for your incredible support in the Gospel.

As we celebrate Christmas and God's generosity in giving us His Son, let us be generous towards others. The Anglican Relief and Development Fund is supported by generous gifts from individuals and congregations like yours; donations can be made online at [ardf.org](http://ardf.org).

*To request materials, visit the ARDF website:*

<http://ardf.org/advent-2015/>



## Advent Reflection

### from *On the Incarnation of the Word* by St. Athanasius

The Word perceived that corruption could not be got rid of otherwise than through death; yet He Himself, as the Word, being immortal and the Father's Son, was such as could not die. For this reason, therefore, He assumed a body capable of death, in order that it, through belonging to the Word Who is above all, might become in dying a sufficient exchange for all, and, itself remaining incorruptible through His indwelling, might thereafter put an end to corruption for all others as well, by the grace of the resurrection. It was by surrendering to death the body which He had taken, as an offering and sacrifice free from every stain, that He forthwith abolished death for His human brethren by the offering of the equivalent. For naturally, since the Word of God was above all, when He offered His own temple and bodily instrument as a substitute for the life of all, He fulfilled in death all that was required. Naturally also, through this union of the immortal Son of God with

our human nature, all men were clothed with incorruption in the promise of the resurrection. For the solidarity of mankind is such that, by virtue of the Word's indwelling in a single human body, the corruption which goes with death has lost its power over all. You know how it is when some great king enters a large city and dwells in one of its houses; because of his dwelling in that single house, the whole city is honored, and enemies and robbers cease to molest it. Even so is it with the King of all; He has come into our country and dwelt in one body amidst the many, and in consequence the designs of the enemy against mankind have been foiled and the corruption of death, which formerly held them in its power, has simply ceased to be. For the human race would have perished utterly had not the Lord and Savior of all, the Son of God, come among us to put an end to death.

From <http://www.ccel.org/ccel/athanasius/incarnation>