

# Diocese of the Central States News

Volume IV, Issue 3: Trinity 2015



## News from Trinity Anglican Church, Evansville, IN, by Fr. David Straw

We at Trinity Anglican Church celebrated our 8th anniversary on the Eve of Trinity Sunday this year. The life of our parish began in June 2007 when twelve individuals joined together in a local home and founded our congregation. Everything we owned at that time had been given to us by other churches and it could all be contained inside two small boxes. We have steadily grown since that time and we now have almost sixty members. We are now looking forward to a new and exciting time in our history. We recently moved into our new church home and this will enable us to more effectively minister to the Evansville area.

We broke ground on our new building in the Fall of 2014 and began holding regular services in the first week of May. The membership of Trinity Church wanted our new home to honor our Anglican heritage and be reminiscent of Episcopal church buildings found throughout the Midwest. We were able through great effort to secure numerous items from other churches that had either closed or were looking to "modernize." One of the items our church specifically had created was a stained glass window to go above the communion table. The stained glass in the new window was designed to match the stained glass windows dating from 1910 which our Deacon, Mike Spieth (pictured at right), had obtained from a closed Episcopal Church in Illinois. The artist of the new window is The Rev. Mark Bleakley of Monroe, LA. The Rev. Bleakley is a graduate of Cranmer Theological House and is currently serving in the Diocese of Fort Worth (ACNA). The window is based on the scripture Matthew 3:13-17. This scripture was chosen because it records the manifestation of all three Persons of the Trinity.



The Bishop has scheduled the Consecration of our new building on July 19 and we are preparing to send out invitations to every single parish in our Diocese shortly. We look forward to seeing many of you on this blessed day.



For additional photos of Trinity Anglican, see page 2. More news from Trinity available at [www.tacrec.org/Newspage.html](http://www.tacrec.org/Newspage.html).

## Diocese of the Central States

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Send submissions for the next issue by 28 August 2015 to Dss. Teresa Johnson at [newsletter@recdss.org](mailto:newsletter@recdss.org).

## Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

Parish/Mission	Date
Fr. Matt and Sora Colvin, Missionaries, Philippines	06/07/15
Christ the King, Dayton, OH	06/14/15
St. Andrew's, Signal Mtn, TN	06/21/15
Trinity, Evansville, IN	06/28/15
St. Paul's, Greenfield, IN	07/05/15
St. James, Memphis, TN	07/12/15
Holy Trinity, Fairfax, VA	07/19/15
Church of the Redeemer, Wilson, NC	07/26/15
St. Jude's, Richmond, VA	08/02/15
Christ Our Hope, Dayton, OH	08/09/15
St. Lazarus, Dayton, OH	08/16/15
St. Nicholas, Owensboro, KY	08/23/15

# Photo Gallery, Trinity Anglican, Evansville, IN



## Building the Bishop's Chair

by Fr. David Straw

Trinity Anglican received a visit and some assistance from St. Paul's in Greenfield, IN. St. Paul's Postulant, Grant Ford, and his wife, Jenny (pictured at right with Fr. David), visited Evansville in May and after some time of fellowshiping with the members of Trinity, Grant volunteered his assistance with Trinity's new building. Grant assembled our new Bishop's chair in record time.



# All Saints Church Triples Attendance in Less Than Two Years

by Father John Heaton

Starting quietly in the Marie Macdonald Chapel on the campus of New Covenant Schools on the first Sunday in Advent in 2012, All Saints parish has exploded since January of this year. The parish began with Fr. Davidson Morse and Fr. John Heaton as a “university model” parish, providing only a Eucharistic service on Sunday mornings. A solid core of folks from the school orbit, mostly faculty and friends, appreciated the non-programmatic character of the parish. That’s right, no Sunday School, VBS, or anything like that. Just a lot of fellowship and a commitment to our core purpose—providing meaningful worship of God from the Prayer Book, baptisms, confirmations, and the like.

Since the first of this year, however, the news has traveled. The parish is now teeming with youngsters and the small chapel that serves the school has been routinely full to capacity for two straight months. At 60, the chapel is tight, but the parish consistently sees over 50 in attendance. “We’re trying to think of ways to expand the chapel or we’re afraid we’ll stall,” says Fr. John. What’s contributing to the growth? We’re not sure, but the folks who are coming include those who never grew up in a liturgical context, but who definitely appreciate the historical liturgy. To be sure, there are some disaffected Anglicans who are finding the parish, but the encouraging thing is that a reverent worship service proves attractive to people who find American life noisy.

It doesn’t hurt that the music is terrific either. Using the 1940 Hymnal provides a solid musical core, but the first thing the parish did was to hire professional musicians. With two talented keyboardists and strings players in the rotation, the parish is able to bring music into the liturgy that most

small parishes only wish they could do. Beyond that, having two ministers on staff is a blessing. Fr. Davidson and Fr. John share the preaching duties, which provides mutual support so that neither minister is stretched too far. “Both of us have day jobs,” says Fr. John, the Headmaster of New Covenant Schools, who shares the ministry with Fr. Davidson, the school’s Chaplain. They are assisted by a cadre of nearly ten acolytes who also share services on a rotation.

Neither minister takes a stipend from the parish, which also eases the financial burden. More than 25% of the offerings go directly to assist the poor or to relieve needs within the parish, the school, and the wider community.



For more information, visit [www.allsaintschurchlynchburg.org](http://www.allsaintschurchlynchburg.org)

## News from St. Paul’s REC, Greenfield, IN

by Ms. Ellen Fischer

St. Paul’s Reformed Episcopal Church in Greenfield, Indiana has recently called the Rev. Daniel J. Sparks to serve as vicar. Rev. Sparks transferred from the Diocese of Mid-America and settled in Greenfield at the beginning of May. He comes to the church with 13 years of ministry experience, including prior work as a U.S. army chaplain.

Recognizing the great need of those affected by the recent earthquakes in Nepal, the people of St.

Paul’s collected funds to support the Anglican Relief and Development Fund’s work there. The church will add Sunday school to its schedule beginning June 7th, supplementing its regular Tuesday night study. The church is focused on studying essential Christian doctrine and identifying areas for missionary work in the community.

For more information, visit [stpaulsrec.org](http://stpaulsrec.org)

# Nursing Homes: Prime Venue for Ministry

by The Rev. Chris Herman

Nursing homes are prime locations for planting sub-congregations, especially low-income skilled nursing facilities financed primarily through Medicaid. These are going to be the most common type, to be certain, because of the anticipated tripling of the U.S. elderly population, and quadrupling of the population over age 90 we can expect over the next 25 years (He & Muenchrath, 2011). They are good places for “good deeds” but “good deeds” through occasional, intermittent entry into the facility are simply not enough to build relationships. One of the charges the Bishop made when I was ordained to the priesthood was to gather the scattered sheep of Christ Jesus in the midst of this sinful world. I have been compelled by the Holy Spirit to search for them at a nursing home. We found out over the years that the deliberate presence of people in the lives of people living in nursing homes is of paramount importance (after prayer).

I can say with confidence that I am an expert in this particular type of ministry—and I have seen many churches come and go, flashes in the pan, providing worship services for a time, but eventually leaving. I think the reason could be that the leaders do not fully understand that the most important aspect of nursing home ministry is faithful presence through the whole process of arrival, orientation to the new culture, learning there is hope for the future and that life has not ended, and being invited to be part of the lives of fellow residents and the local expression of the Body of Christ in the place. A sacramental approach to life, including Holy Communion, is helpful. Clergy who rely upon oration alone are often frustrated because about half of the residents have dementia and are therefore unable to comprehend phrases longer than five words, let alone a whole sermon. I have seen pastors try to minister but leave because nobody complimented their sermons. Nursing homes need a different ministry emphasis, but any church can do this (Shamy, 2003).

A culture has to be established; the local Christians must unite, cross denominational lines, and impact the lives of others through loving God, one another, and their neighbors in the small world in which they live. This sort of ministry cannot be done well with merely having an occasional worship service. Those are not bad, but they are not what is really needed. It takes years to gain the trust of the

management, the staff, and the residents. Most American churches are not willing to sacrifice for several years because it is not in our instant access cultural mindset to be faithful for long periods of time to build relationships in the community. The payoff is huge, though, if we are faithful for longer periods of time. I can go into the facility and go anywhere I desire, any time I want without any sort of escort, and anybody I endorse in that place is immediately given the same privileges because the management knows I have gone through the effort of checking peoples’ backgrounds, and I have vetted them carefully before endorsing their presence. This is because there is trust. Trust is like the oxygen in a relationship. Once a church has trust in a venue, that church is very effective. I know that more than half of the people who come into the facility we serve will either rededicate his or her life to Christ after as many as 70 years of estrangement, or seek to be baptized. I have seen it happen hundreds of times, even in a facility with an average total population of only 81.

Every church should adopt at least one nursing home, making it a venue. I would give anything, anything to help large churches adopt several! A nursing home is a prime venue for the Church of the 21<sup>st</sup> century if we can but see reality. I am not exaggerating; before the end of this century there will be more than 400 million people who live in nursing homes (Vincent & Velkoff, 2010). The Church is largely absent today. Nursing homes want the support of churches and they will welcome us if we will but be faithful.

## References

- He, W., & Muenchrath, M. N. (November 2011). *90+ in the United States: 2006-2008 American community survey reports*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
- Shamy, E. (2003). *A guide to the spiritual dimension of care for people with Alzheimer’s disease and related dementia: More than body, brain and breath*. Jessica Kingsley Publishers.
- Vincent, G., & Velkoff, V. (May, 2010). *The next four decades: The older population in the United States: 2010 to 2050*. U.S. Census Bureau, Administration on Aging.

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*For more information, visit [daytonchurch.org](http://daytonchurch.org). In addition, Fr. Chris has written an article on nursing home ministry for the Easter/Pentecost edition of ACNA publication The Apostle, available at [www.anglicanchurch.net](http://www.anglicanchurch.net).*

# Dedication of St. James Window St. James Church, Memphis, TN

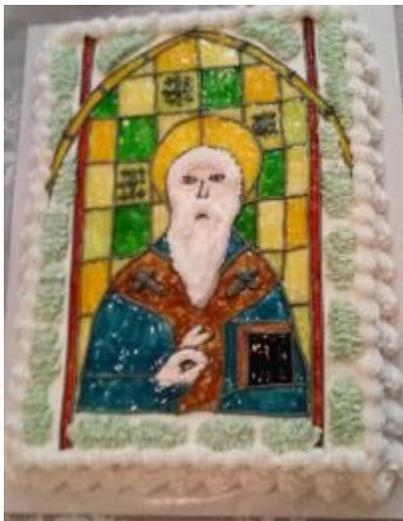
After the Eucharist service on Sunday, May 3, Fr. Keith Boettner, assisted by Mr. Perry Hayes, blessed a new stained glass window in the parish conference room. The window depicting the parish's patron, St. James of Jerusalem, is inscribed as follows:

*To the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of Emily Lena How Holloway & E. Thompson Holloway Sr. and John Hopkins How.*



*Prayer of benediction:  
O God, who hast filled the world with the radiance of thy glory: Grant that as the light shines through this window in the splendour of many colours, so our lives may show forth the beauty of thy manifold gifts of grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

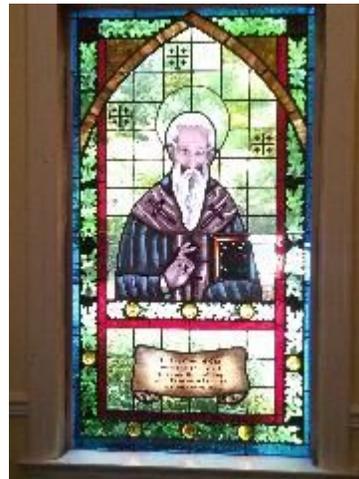
Following the dedication, the parish gathered in the Hearth Room for a reception featuring a beautiful cake prepared especially for the occasion by Susan Gylfe.



*Pictured below, left to right: Robert Walker, Joe Koelsch (holding Lena Walker Koelsch), Emily Walker Koelsch, Fran Greeson, Tom Holloway, Emily Walker, and Fr. Keith*



*Pictured below are the inside and outside views of the window.*



*For more information, visit [www.stjamesmem.org](http://www.stjamesmem.org)*

## Meet the New Vicar of Covenant Church, Roanoke, VA: The Rev. William H. Smith



Our Vicar, the Rev. William H. Smith, is a native of Pensacola, Florida. Bill and his wife Susan have been married since 1969 and have five sons and fourteen grandchildren. He graduated from Pensacola High School (1965), attended Belhaven College (1965-66) and Pensacola Junior College (1966-67), graduated from the University of West Florida (1969), and graduated from Reformed Theological Seminary (1972). He was ordained in 1972 by the Presbyterian Church in the United States and in 1973 moved to the newly formed Presbyterian Church in America. Bill served as a Presbyterian minister for 41 years in Florida, Mississippi, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Alabama as a solo pastor, campus minister, assistant pastor, associate pastor, and senior pastor.

Bill and Susan moved to Roanoke in June of 2013 to be with and help their widowed son and his two sons. Fr. Bill was received by Bishop Daniel Morse as a Presbyter into the Diocese of the Central States of the Reformed Episcopal Church on November 4, 2013, and his orders were regularized

by Bishop Morse on December 8, 2013. He began serving as an unofficial assistant to the Interim Rector of Covenant Church, Fr. Richard Workowski, in March of 2014. In due course he was called to serve as Vicar of Covenant Church, and the call received approval from the Standing Committee and Bishop Morse.

Bishop Morse instituted him as Vicar on May 17, and Fr. Smith assumed his duties officially on June 1. Asked why wanted to be an Anglican and to serve Covenant Church, Fr. Smith said: "I love the Prayer Book, the Articles, Thomas Cranmer and the English martyrs, and the pastoral way that Episcopal oversight is exercised. I have known Bp. Morse and his wife, Marianne, since 1965, have deeply appreciated their friendship and now am happy to have his oversight as my Bishop. I also admire greatly the example of pastoral service and the patient mentorship of me by Fr. Rich. I have come to love the people of the parish and look forward to ministering with and to them and to seeing how the Lord may be pleased to bless us."

*Pictured below:*

*Fr. Bill at his Institution, with Bishop Morse and Fr. Rich*



*For more information, visit [www.crecroanoke.org](http://www.crecroanoke.org)*

## News from the REC Committee on Women's Ministry: Devotional Books and Spiritual Enrichment Conference

The REC Committee on Women's Ministry is now accepting orders for the 2015-2016 devotional book. This year's book, entitled *Holy and Dearly Loved*, was written by Janice Manto of the Diocese of Central States. Order forms are available on the Committee's website, [rec-cowm.org/devotional-booklet](http://rec-cowm.org/devotional-booklet). Orders are requested by Saturday, June 27, 2015. The books will be shipped by mid-August.

The annual Spiritual Enrichment Conference provides spiritual fellowship, instruction, and opportunity for women to participate and to grow in the knowledge of Christ and be strengthened as members of His Body. The 2015 Spiritual Enrichment Conference is scheduled for October 2-4 in Williamsburg, VA. Additional details will be available soon on the Committee's website.

# Report from Dominion Academy of Dayton

By Dss. Michelle Caldwell, Head of School

Dominion Academy of Dayton—a ministry of Christ the King—celebrated its athletic programs with a banquet with about 160 people closing out a winning season for our girls' (Regional winners) and boys' basketball teams. Our co-ed soccer team led by an alum of DA was also in attendance and had a winning season in its second year.

In other news, several students and three teachers from DA traveled to Scotland and England with EF Tours over Spring break in March. The McNamaras and several students and parents travel to Europe every other year with EF Tours. It is a great enhancement to DA's classical Christian educational model.

DA's Spire Day class visits the parish at Livingstone nursing home about one Friday morning a month. Students do crafts which they set up with parishioners and visit folks who can't leave their rooms giving homemade cards and crafts which they create. Fr. Chris Herman and his wife Carol, who have ministered at Livingstone for over 20 years, accompany students along with a DA staff member and help facilitate the visitation. Some students are as young as 7 years of age. They love going to the home as they are received with such enthusiasm by residents.

*For more information, visit [dominionacademy.org](http://dominionacademy.org)*

# Ascension Day at St. Nicholas, Owensboro, KY

By Fr. David Straw

St. Nicholas Anglican Church had their Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner snowed out in February. After some prayerful thought we decided to take the sausage that had been kept frozen over the Lenten Season and have what was likely the first ever Ascension Day Pancake Dinner. It was a great time of fellowship and learning. The Postulant from Trinity Anglican Church, Ray Chaney, came to St. Nicholas and gave a presentation on the Theology of the Ascension based upon his readings of the early Church Fathers.

*For more information, visit [nicholas-ky.org](http://nicholas-ky.org)*

