

Diocese of the Central States News

Volume II, Issue 1: Advent 2012



Report from Diocesan Synod

The Diocese of Central States met at Church of the Resurrection, Shalimar, FL October 25, 26 with praise to God for the progress we have made over the last 5 years from missionary diocese to full diocese. The times of worship and fellowship were very enjoyable especially due to the participation of the preaching of the Rev. Dr. Jerry Smith, Rector of St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, Nashville, TN, and Mr. Eric Wyse, Organist and Choirmaster of St. Bartholomew's Church. Mr. Wyse even wrote a hymn for the celebration of the diocese becoming a full diocese

The theme of the meeting was evangelism with attention being given to the various ways in which our churches are involved in that work. There was a panel discussion that included Fr. Jerry Smith, Fr. Chris Herman, Fr. John Heaton, and Mrs. Sandy McNamara. They talked about various ways--from Christian schools to neighborhood renovation to nursing home ministry--in which the church can bring the Gospel to the community and be salt and light in the world.

Another matter of praise to God at the meeting was the prospect of one of our clergy, the Rev. Deacon Matt Colvin and his wife Sora and their children, going to the Philippines in December as missionaries. Sora will be working as a midwife helping indigent women in childbirth. The Rev. Canon Bill Jerdan was present to explain more of what the Colvins would be doing.



*From left to right:
Sora Colvin, Fr. Paul Edgerton,
The Rev. Deacon Matt Colvin*

Bp. Morse reported that a new mission work had been started in Owensboro, KY. The founding Bishop of the REC, George Cummins, was Bishop of Kentucky when the REC started in 1873, but there has never been a parish in that state until now. St. Jude's Parish in Richmond, VA was also started in the last year with the Rev. Deacon Scott Thompson as minister in charge. Scott will be ordained presbyter in December.

The diocese also voted to nominate The Very Rev. Peter Manto, Rector of Trinity Church, Mason, OH, as Suffragan Bishop of the diocese.

The next meeting of the diocese will be in October, 2013, in Richmond, VA.

Diocese of the Central States

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Submissions for the Lent Issue are due February 15. Please send them to newsletter@recdss.org.

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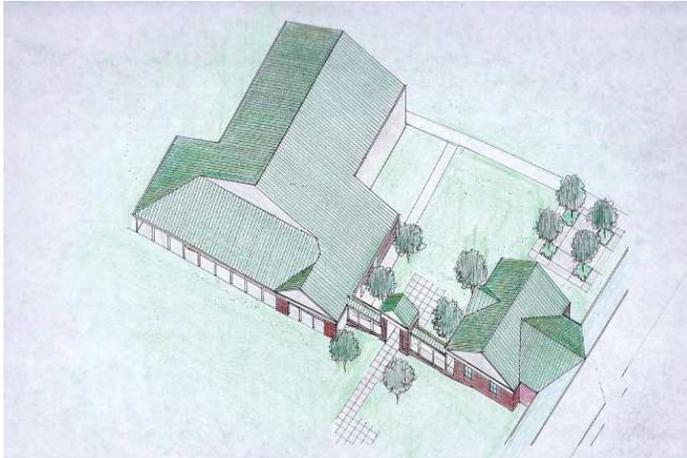
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Campus Expansion, New Covenant Schools

By The Rev'd John Heaton, Headmaster, New Covenant Schools | Lynchburg, VA

New Covenant Schools is pleased to announce Phase III of its campus expansion in Lynchburg. Located on 50 acres of land in the heart of the city, New Covenant will be adding four new classrooms and refurbishing and expanding two existing classrooms. In addition, it will construct a Field House for varsity athletics.

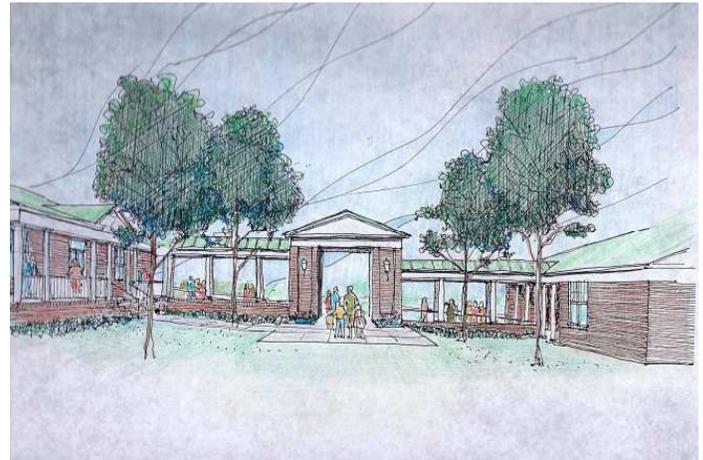
about \$1.3M pledged or donated. Although an exact date has not been announced for breaking ground, the school plans to open the new facility next fall in time for the 2013 school term.



Aerial View

New Covenant Schools was founded in 1991 in the classical, Christian tradition and is affiliated with the Reformed Episcopal Church. Serving 380 students from kindergarten through twelfth grade, the school has undergone two successful campaigns in 2001 and 2007. This third expansion will enable the school to grow to its terminal population of about 450 students over the next five years, and is expected to cost about \$1.8M.

To date the project has attracted strong support from its parents, friends and grandparents with

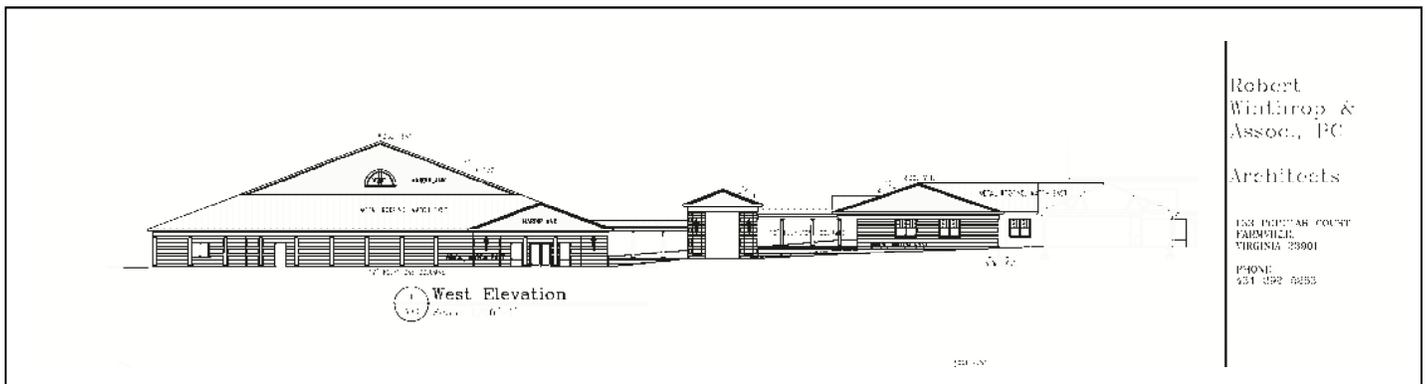


Collonade

Since 1991 New Covenant has offered classical, Christian education to the Central Virginia region, with students from more than a dozen zip codes and representing 85 local churches. It has become an academic leader in the community, offering a college-bound program for the traditional learner.

Its program is rooted in the liberal arts preparing students for a broad choice of post-high school experiences. You can find us on the web at <http://www.newcovenantschools.org>.

The Rev'd John Heaton is a minister in the Diocese of the Central States and is in his fifteenth year of service to New Covenant Schools.



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Celebrating Ten Years: Trinity Church, Mason, OH

By The Venerable Peter Manto, Rector

Bishop Morse made his episcopal visit to Trinity Church in Mason, OH on November 4, 2012. It was a big day for the parish as they celebrated ten years as members in the REC and ten years in their building.

During the Sunday Service of Holy Communion Bp. Morse confirmed Emily Scheie, received James Malson as an acolyte, and welcomed 3 families (16 people) as new parish members. Also, Rev. Cn. Bill

Jerdan joined Bp. Morse and the parish in commissioning Rev. Dcn. Matt Colvin and his wife Sora as REC missionaries (*read more about the Colvins on page 4*). The Colvin family will be leaving for the Philippines at the end of December 2012. Rev. Wayne McNamara, Rev. Harry Mathes, and Rev. Chris Herman were among the visiting clergy participating in the service. After the service the parish shared a meal in the parish hall along with memories of the last ten years together.



Visit the parish website: <http://www.trinityrec.org>

The Colvins, Missionaries to the Philippines

Matt and Sora Colvin are the first new long-term missionaries to be endorsed by the REC's Board of Foreign Missions in over a decade. They are official candidates with the Society of Anglican Missionaries and Senders (SAMS). Matt and Sora have four children, Ezekiel (10), Naomi (8), Isaiah (6) and Hosanna (4).

Sora will serve as a midwife, learning how to run a birthing center and how to teach midwifery students. Matt, who holds a PhD in Classical Greek Literature and is a Deacon in the REC, will serve on the faculty at Faith Academy Mindanao, a K-12 international school that primarily serves the children of missionaries.



Read more about the Colvins at <http://receivewithmeekness.wordpress.com>

News from Christ the King Church, Dayton, OH

By Amanda Roberts

In August 2012, Christ the King Anglican (Dayton, OH) received Fr. Dorino Cozzini an assistant to the rector. Dcn. Val Finnell also joined our parish; he is on loan to us from the Missionary Diocese of All Saints (ACNA) while he is stationed at Wright-Patterson AFB. Dcn. Finnell started the "Oregon Hour," which is held in conjunction with First Fridays in the Oregon Arts District. Several parishioners take advantage of this opportunity with Dcn. Val to meet and develop relationships with Oregon District residents and spread the gospel in a very relational way. (<http://www.oregonhour.com>)

Christ the King continues to be a hub for refugee ministry. This Thanksgiving we are hosting a dinner for about 150 African refugees. ESL classes continue to meet on a regular basis. A group of students from Cedarville University lead AWANA. Pam Laughlin teaches a sewing class, and a microbusiness group meets to make greeting cards.

Our parish has been meeting on Sunday nights for several weeks to practice parts and descants for familiar as well as not-so-familiar Advent hymns.

We have several fun events planned for this Advent season:

1. The Women of the Church will begin the season with a fondue party and ornament exchange.
2. Our annual chili cook-off will happen in conjunction with the Greening of the Church on the Third Sunday of Advent. This is always a fun event for everyone. Each year the winner receives a chef's hat and decorated ladel that are passed on to the next year's winner. We will carol in the neighborhood after dinner.
3. We will have a *Lessons and Carols* service on Christmas Eve, followed by a time of fellowship, goodies, and wassail. The lessons are read by various parishioners, and we look forward to hearing special musical selections. We hold a service on Christmas Day with a fellowship time afterward.
4. Among the services that follow Christmas Day, we will hold a Holy Innocents communion service near the local abortion clinic. We plan to invite several local churches to join us.

News from Trinity Anglican Church, Evansville, IN

By The Rev. David S. Straw

Sunday, November 11, Trinity Church had our annual "Shoot the Clergy Day" at Bob Walther's Fun n' Games. This is where the kids of the parish play Lazer Tag with the clergy.



This was our 5th year for this event. The clergy somehow manage to be beaten by the kids every single year and 2012 was no different.



The kids of Trinity Church start planning their strategy against the clergy more than a month in advance. Our teenagers even ask off from their work places in order to participate. It is a great chance for the Trinity family to grow closer together.



Afterwards the clergy also had a Bible Quiz with the kids and Fr. David told the story of Matthew the Money Changer while distributing the tokens for the arcade games after the Lazer Tag.



More from Trinity on page 6

News from Trinity, cont.

As Advent rapidly approaches, our Trinity Church turns towards our annual project that fits into the penitential tone of the season. One of the things we can do is to give to others. The gifts of the three wise men at Christmas remind us that we must give of ourselves to honor our Savior, and Advent is the perfect time to think of personal sacrifice for Jesus. To that end, in Evansville there is a place called Life Choices Maternity and Children's Home.



Its sole purpose for existence is to provide young women who are alone and pregnant an opportunity to choose life for their children. They provide shelter, medical care, counseling, and more in a Christian environment. As Christians and members of the Reformed Episcopal Church we believe that making the choice for life is one of great courage and such courage should receive as much support as possible.

Families from our parish "adopt" one of these courageous women and help them with a gift for Christmas. The name of each young lady or their child is put on a cutout of an angel. These angels are made available after church, so members may adopt a mother and child. The person or family who adopts a mother will then purchase a gift for her or her child. Trinity has been doing this program since 2008 and it is a huge part of our preparation for the Christmas Season.

Visit the parish website:
<http://www.tacrec.org>

Collect for the First Sunday in Advent

ALMIGHTY God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal, through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, now and ever.
AMEN

AMEN

the Holy Ghost, now and ever,
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the life immortal, through him who
quick and the dead, we may rise to
divine majesty to judge both the
when he shall come again in his
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