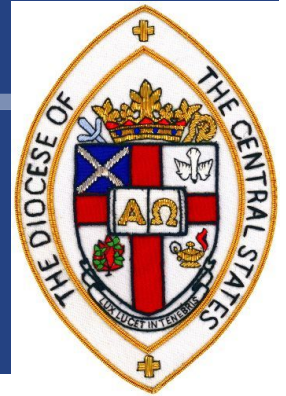


Diocese of the Central States News

Volume III, Issue 2: Lent 2014



News from Trinity REC, Mason, OH

December was a memorable month for Trinity REC. On December 7, 2013, their rector, The Rev. Peter Manto, was consecrated bishop and installed as Suffragan Bishop in the Diocese of the Central States, REC (*photos, page 2*). The Most Reverend Robert Duncan (Archbishop ACNA) presided at the Consecration and Service of Holy Communion attended by over 200 guests including a total of 28 bishops and clergy. It was particularly meaningful to the parish that so many clergy and guests made the trip despite a serious snowstorm the day before which caused flights to be cancelled and made travel difficult.

Then on Sunday, December 8, Deacon David Truax and Deacon Matthew Colvin were ordained as presbyters in the REC. The Rt. Rev. Daniel Morse presided at the Ordination and Service of Holy Communion. Several bishops and clergy were able to stay on and attend the ordination service, capping a wonderful weekend for the parish. Bishop Morse also regularized the orders of The Rev. William H. Smith and received him as presbyter in the REC. Rev. Smith lives in Roanoke, VA.



L. to R.: Bishop Manto, Rev. Truax, Bishop Morse, Rev. Colvin, Rev. Smith

Rt. Rev. Manto will continue to serve as rector of Trinity REC, Mason; Rev. Truax will serve as assisting clergy in the parish, and Rev. Colvin will continue to serve as a missionary in Davao City, Philippines, where he and his family have been living and serving for the past year.

The quarterly gathering of regional clergy from Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky was held in Dayton on February 25. Bp. Peter will be making an episcopal visit to St. Nicholas, Owensboro, KY and Trinity, Evansville, IN, in March.

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

Diocese of the Central States

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Send submissions for the next issue by 23 May 2014 to Dss. Teresa Johnson at newsletter@recdss.org.

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

Parish/Mission	Date
Trinity, Mason, OH	03/02/14
All Saints, Raleigh, NC	03/09/14
Resurrection, Shalimar, FL	03/16/14
Fr. Matthew & Sora Colvin	03/23/14
Christ the King, Dayton, OH	03/30/14
St. Andrew's, Signal Mtn, TN	04/06/14
Trinity, Evansville, IN	04/13/14
St. Paul's, Greenfield IN	04/20/14
St James, Memphis, TN	04/27/14
Holy Trinity, Fairfax, VA	05/04/14
Church of the Redeemer, Wilson, NC	05/11/14
St. Jude's, Richmond, VA	05/18/14
Christ Our Hope, Dayton, OH	05/25/14
Epiphany, Cleveland, OH	06/01/14
St. Nicholas, Owensboro, KY	06/08/14

Consecration of The Rt. Rev. Peter Manto: A Photo Gallery



Christmas Eve Services at Lawrence County (TN) Jail

Submitted by The Rev. Franklin Sanders, Rector, Christ Our Hope RE Church, Westpoint, TN

On 23 December, we took Christmas Eve services into the Lawrence County Jail. The sheriff had approved our celebrating Holy Communion on the women's side, so while Deacon Johnny Bain and Daniel Freemon went into the men's side, I went to the women's side with Liberty Bain and a friend and visitor to our Church, Winnie Cannon, who wanted to accompany us.

You could hardly imagine a more dismal beginning or wretched setting. My day had been terrible, and nothing was ready. I needed to print and assemble 25 new worship booklets, but discovered I had no comb binders, so I had to call my wife Susan and hope she was still in Nashville. Then I realized at the last minute I didn't have an extra chalice or grape juice, so I ran over to the Church to pick that up. I prayed all the 30-minute drive to town for God to straighten me out and calm my heart. We arrived at jail and went in, and as the doors slammed shut behind us, I realized I had left the chalice in the car. A guard took us to the women's side, and along the way I grabbed a big Styrofoam cup, praying God would understand why I didn't have a silver chalice.

The guard took us through long halls with doors off them, but the windows on the doors were covered with cardboard. It felt like a descent into the earth's bowels, all lined with concrete blocks. She took us to the "recreation room," which is an oddly irregular five-sided room a little larger than half a basketball court, two stories high. Concrete block, with a tiny skylight at the top. No chance of getting Vitamin D poisoning in there. Think "concrete block echo chamber" and you'll come close. There was no table, just two folding plastic chairs that we pushed together to make a table.

Then the women came pouring in, 31 in all. No place for them to sit but with their backs to the wall on the concrete floor, along the long wall and around either corner, so to look at each of them my eyes had to sweep 50 or 60 feet. We handed out worship booklets with the Holy Communion liturgy and readings and two Christmas hymns. As I was explaining the service and looking at their faces, my voice caught. How could any heart not be filled with compassion for them?

They participated enthusiastically in the service, strange as it was with all those echoes. That wretched setting became a cathedral. As far as I could tell, every one of them came to receive Holy

Communion. When time for the anointing came, I asked Liberty and Winnie to stand behind me to my right and pray for each woman individually after I anointed her. After the first two women I looked back to see them praying together for her. I whispered to them to each pray separately.

The line for anointing seemed to snake around forever. I believe every one of them came for anointing and prayer. I looked back to see 4 or 5 women lined up in front of both Liberty and Winnie and Lib and Winnie laying hands on them or holding their hands praying, but none of them were dropping out of line. I kept on anointing until I got to the last woman, then turned around and began praying for them individually myself.

After we had prayed for every woman, we were mixing with them and an older woman brought another woman up to me and said, "She wants to be baptized." I looked at the woman. "Do you understand what a solemn vow and obligation that is?" Yes. "Well, let me find some water." Happily, Liberty had brought a bottle of water with her. We had water and a woman desiring baptism—what hindereth her to be baptized? We baptized *Charlotte H*, pouring the water out of the plastic water all over her head, where it ran down over her shoulders and her uniform and onto the floor like the grace of God pouring out of heaven on us all—please pray for her.

No sooner had I baptized Charlotte than another woman approached and asked if I would baptize her, too. I still had water, and nothing hindered, so I baptized also *Stephanie S*. Please pray for her as well.

By this time the service had lasted an hour and a half, and it was 8:00. The guard took the women back, many of whom made a point of coming to me and thanking me. I looked at Liberty and Winnie and said, "This does *not* happen every time." Then I think the guard sort of forgot us, because we remained some long time alone there until I began wondering how I was going to sleep on that concrete floor. At last another guard came and retrieved us. I left Winnie and Liberty at the desk and went to a recreation room in the men's side where Johnny and Daniel were holding services. This was their second group. We couldn't use the classroom because at that time there was another group in there, so they went first to one rec room with 15 men (same wretched surroundings), then to this next rec room with 7 men. Johnny and I

did a tag team celebration, since he was just finishing the sermon and Liberty was waiting to ride home with him. After that we moved back to the class room.

Daniel and I did two more services, one for 13 men and another for ten. We finally left about 10:20.

Please join me in praising and thanking our gracious God for granting us the joy of serving him in

jail. It was a glorious night. Please pray for Charlotte and Stephanie that God would build on the foundation of Jesus Christ that He has laid in them. Pray also that God would enable us to hold services regularly for the women.

Visit the parish website at www.christourhoperec.com

News from Matt and Sora Colvin

Submitted by Fr. Matt Colvin

Fr. Matt has just finished teaching a 12-week class for Filipino clergy and lay leaders at the Reformed Institute of Ministry (RIM), surveying various Jewish concepts at work in the New Testament and drawing on the work of J. Jeremias, N.T. Wright, R. Bauckham, and D. Daube. His next class at the RIM will be either a study of Romans or 1 & 2 Samuel, beginning in July.

On March 14, Sora will travel to Leyte Island to volunteer at a "field clinic" in the town of Dulag, 30 km south of Tacloban. Last November's super-typhoon destroyed 80% of homes in the community, and hospitals and health centers still need to be rebuilt. Most midwives, doctors, and health care workers in the community lost their homes as well. Sora will spend four weeks working with local Filipina midwives

and with 2011 CNN hero of the year Ibu Robin Lim, who is running the birth camp. Robin Lim has previously been on the scene to provide maternity care in post-disaster situations in Aceh, Indonesia after the 2004 tsunami and in Haiti after the 2010 earthquake. Births at the Dulag "Birth Camp" clinic take place in tents, and supplies are still very limited. Sora will take a suitcase of much-needed medical supplies with her when she goes.

If you are interested in helping to fund the purchase of supplies for the Birth Camp, you can send a check to SAMS, PO Box 399 Ambridge, PA 15003, with "Colvin special project" in the memo line, or choose "special project" on our online giving page. 100% of your donation will be used for purchasing supplies, and Sora will be hand-delivering them.

Keep up with news from the Colvins at <http://receivewithmeekness.wordpress.com>



Typhoon Damage in Dulag

Ribbon Cutting at New Covenant Schools, Lynchburg, VA

Submitted by The Rev. John Heaton, Headmaster

New Covenant Schools held a ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony on Friday, January 24, at 5:30 p.m. for its new Varsity Wing and Workman Field House. This event was attended by hundreds from the community and marks the completion of the third phase of campus development for the 23-year-old school.

The Varsity Wing houses a growing high school program at New Covenant Schools. It includes four academic classrooms with up to date technology, an outdoor terrace, student commons, and Greek Steps for outdoor gatherings. The 14,000 square foot addition is anchored by the Workman Field House, a varsity gym with offices, locker rooms, concessions, and a lacrosse wall. The Workman Field House supports the day-to-day physical education schedule as well as the men's and women's basketball program, volleyball, and indoor soccer. A bell tower (which includes a working old-fashioned school bell) and a colonnade, housing memorial bricks, complete the wing. The architecture of the Varsity Wing is traditional and in harmony with the previous sections of the school, designed by Bob Winthrop of Robert Winthrop and Associates of Farmville, VA.

The board of directors commissioned construction of the Varsity Wing, and broke ground on February 25, 2013. The construction project was contracted to Jamerson-Lewis Construction at a total cost at \$2.14M. A goal of \$1.8M was set to be raised from the school community through a vigorous capital campaign. The fundraising goal was exceeded through pledges and generous donations by January 1, 2014. New classrooms were occupied in

September 2013, with the Workman Field House completed in December 2013. "Over the last two decades we've had the unique opportunity to present Central Virginia with a bold vision for education," says Rev. John Heaton, the second Headmaster at the school. "Moreover, we have been uniquely blessed to develop a campus from a single master plan. The completion of this phase will provide space for more than 450 students."

New Covenant Schools currently serves 412 students in grades JK-12, and offers the college bound student a classical, Christian curriculum rooted in the liberal arts.

Founded in 1991 in the Anglican tradition, the school seeks to develop its students intellectually, but also is intentional in its efforts in guiding moral and spiritual formation. Its graduates have been accepted to more than 100 colleges, universities, and graduate schools, and have earned more than \$6.2M in merit scholarships. About 15% of the school's graduates have been named National Merit Scholars or Commended Scholars. The school is centrally located on fifty acres in the heart of Lynchburg at 122 Fleetwood Drive, behind the News & Advance.

The development and completion of the Varsity Wing and Workman Field House represents the continued commitment of New Covenant Schools to its student-parent community and programming. An expanded campus of 60,000 square feet allows for growth in both the academic and athletic arenas. New Covenant Schools is affiliated with the Diocese of the Central States.

Visit the school website at www.newcovenantschools.org



Covenant Church (Roanoke, VA) has Bible Cremation Liturgy

Submitted by Lee Hadden

In December 2013, there was a service for disposing of heavily used, worn and tattered Bibles at the Covenant Reformed Episcopal Church, 6429 Merriman Rd, in Roanoke, VA. Intended for the Second Sunday in Advent, which in the Anglican Church is known as "Bible Sunday," a "Bible Cremation Liturgy" was performed by the Reverend Richard Workowski and the congregation outside the church.



Because the Bible is considered Holy Scripture, it is not thought wise or prudent to dispose of worn Bible copies in the trash, where the Word of God would be mingled with garbage and trash. In some societies, the worn Bibles are buried in the ground. But in many Christian churches, Bible Cremation is the preferred way. As in all Creation, at the end, we return to our elements: earth to earth, ashes to ashes, and dust to dust.

As the fragrance of burning incense, symbolic of Christian prayers, rises heavenward, so would these old and tattered copies of Holy Scriptures which have

guided our lives and those of our loved ones over the years. Once again these books will join the primal elements of God's Holy Creation.

In addition to the Bibles, a few worn and weather-beaten American flags were also cremated in the same fire. Because the Reformed Episcopal Church uses the traditional Anglican Book of Common Prayer, some of these older prayer books were also cremated in the fire.

The Bible copies cremated included copies from the early 20th century, used by three generations in Christian homes. Other copies were of 60-year-old New Testaments with covers made of olive wood from the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem. Some of these Bibles had loose pages or torn covers or worn bindings. Other copies that were cremated were study Bibles opened and read for many years by members of the congregation, and which were coming apart from overuse. Along with the broken and torn Bibles, Testaments, prayers books and hymnals, frankincense and myrrh were also added as holy incense.



The Collect for Ash Wednesday

Almighty and everlasting God, who hatest nothing that thou hast made, and dost forgive all the sins of those who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins, and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

St. Tabitha's Circle, All Saints' Church, Raleigh, NC

Submitted by Fr. Ian MacGregor, Rector

All Saints Church in Raleigh, North Carolina, while small in number, is great in enthusiasm when it comes to its activities. It supports an active musical program and a probing study group, but the ministry that has evolved and thrived since our earliest days is our ladies' group that meets every Monday morning at ten o'clock for Morning Prayer. Its name is indicative of its purpose. Deliberately choosing to be actively constructive rather than simply social, we turned to the ninth chapter of the Book of Acts to find the story of Tabitha in Joppa, who is described as a woman "full of good works and acts of charity," and we named our group St. Tabitha's Circle.

We began to come together at the beginning of each week, taking turns in leading the office of Morning Prayer and in reading the day's scripture. Even before our first meeting, and long before we enjoyed the use of a church building, we decided to stitch needlework kneelers for our burgeoning membership as part of our morning activity. So we first adopted handwork as our means to help others. We also managed to knit squares to make a blanket for a child in Afghanistan, stitch coverlets for a local nursery and embroider Christmas ornaments to be sold at a church bazaar.

Soon it became our habit to empty our purses of any loose change each week, and over the years we have collected hundreds of dollars. This has enabled us to help individuals we have learned of with particular needs, contribute to specific causes, and even purchase linens for the church altar.

And there are times when one of our own church members simply needs someone to come and help. We try to be there for them as well.

Realizing that our Circle membership was necessarily limited to those who are either retired or who have extremely flexible schedules, we began to add an occasional Saturday morning as a part of our routine. We are thus able to include all of the women

in our church – not only an exclusive few. And yes, we do sometimes simply sit and chat. We have found that while we reach out to those in need, we enrich our own lives with the deep and trusting friendship of those we share the effort with in St. Tabitha's Circle.



St Tabitha's Guild reviews plans and discusses the All Saints Chapel Building project. Members in the picture (left to right) are Ann Gingell, Katherine Hegyi, Liz Albertson, Marta Matthews, Charlotte Pennell, and Judy Buckelew. Groundbreaking for the Chapel is planned for May.

Visit the parish website at www.allsaintsraleigh.com

Important Dates

Ash Wednesday – March 5, 2014

Palm Sunday – April 13, 2014

Easter – April 20, 2014

Pentecost – June 8, 2014

