

November 15, 2018

“Our mission is to celebrate God’s transforming Love in Jesus, by following where Jesus’ Love is calling us to serve the community”

On Sunday, November 18

—10 am Sung Eucharist
(no 8AM service this day)

—11:15 special breakfast
and other activities at
Coffee Hour

—Fr Bill Baker will be our
celebrant, assisted by
Deacon Geri Swanson.

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242nd Convention of the
Episcopal Diocese of NY
from Beth Brown

—Meetings, Events and
Church Service sched-
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**God loves you.
No exceptions.** 
The Episcopal Church Welcomes You. www.dohio.org

Ascension This Week

Report on the 242nd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of New York: Building Beloved Community

This report was prepared for the Vestry by Elizabeth Brown, Warden and Lay Delegate for 2018

On Saturday, November 10, 2018 I attended the 242nd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of New York with Father Bill Baker, Deacon Geri Swanson and Bill Sorensen. The Right Reverend Andrew M.L. Dietsche gave the opening address, which started with announcements and thanks to people stepping down and/or retiring from various posts in the Diocese.

He told us about how St. Mary’s Scarborough, which had been vacant for some time is being rented by the Congregation of Hudson Valley, people from the Anglican Church of S. India and they were admitted to our Diocese by resolution to participate in Convention & other activities.

He then related a long story about two Manhattan churches, St. Martin’s & St. Luke’s, who due to severe financial difficulties have been unable to maintain & repair their church buildings. He told us how the Diocese was forced to declare St. Martin’s a vulnerable (?) parish & dismiss their vestry in order to mandate the needed repairs which were a safety issue. This was accomplished by a loan from the Diocese (\$2.4 million) which St. Martin’s would repay by selling 2 buildings they own. The story has been documented in the New York Times and now things are back on a better footing. He also called out (not by name, but there was a list in our programs of ALL churches in the Diocese) those churches who have not paid their apportioned shares & said he will be visiting them & be in contact.

He related to us that at the General Convention in Austin, TX in July, the Bishop of Cuba & the Episcopal Church in Cuba was welcomed back to the Episcopal Church in the US.

Bishop Dietsche also shared how at Convention, people’s stories of sexual harassment & abuse within the church were shared anonymously and then spent some time talking about former Bishop Paul Moore of the NY Diocese and how it came to light years after he died (& through a book written by his daughter) how he was a serial predator during his time as bishop & how after Convention, Bishop Dietsche, checked into files, etc. to find out how these situations were handled at the time. Bishop Dietsche said that Bishop Moore was held accountable by Presiding Bishop Browning at the time & he was made to step down. He said it is the responsibility of those in charge to set the tone for how we treat people.

Bishop Dietsche then spoke about difficult times in the past (the Civil Rights Movement, riots, etc) and said how we have lived through “the violent remnant of a broken covenant”. And he compared those times with what we are going through now—mass shootings, Me Too Movement, people being separated from their children at the border, etc., and said how all these things “tear at the fabric of our church”. Then he said that as Christians, “The Church needs the Church to BE the Church! We may make NO PEACE WITH EVIL!” “Practice non-violence.” We should “love our enemies with every ounce of our energy!” “Practice being Christians!” He were very emotional.

After lunch we heard from the Right Reverend Alan Shin. “Good communication is about listening”. He talked about the Young Fellows Ministry, Asian ministries, Kaleidoscope, and gave us a website for more information. Ednyformation.org

The Right Reverend Clifton Daniels, new Dean of the Cathedral, invited all to attend a special service next Sunday, November 18, 2018 at 4 PM, commemorating the 125th Anniversary of the Cathedral. Presiding Bishop Michael Curry will be the preacher. He told everyone about all of the great programs going on there & said “It is a house of prayer for ALL people.” *[for more information, go to the website for the Cathedral: www.stjohndivine.org]*

Several speakers followed:

- Johanna Schaffer talked about the Global Women’s Fund started by Bishop Catherine Roskum & the work they are doing for young women in other parts of the world.
- Deacon Denise Lavetty talked about how there are 66 deacons in the Diocese, not all assigned, & they are eager to serve. She also noted that they are looking for people who feel called to serve as deacons.
- Nils Chittendom talked about Campus Ministry and ways that parishes can reach out to college students by providing meeting space, etc.
- Peter Keller from episcopal Charities said they have 102 programs across the Diocese that they support. Check their website for ideas how to get involved.
- The Right Reverend Mary Glasspool talked about reconciling the world to God in Christ, and the difficulty of trying to fix the world by ourselves because WE are broken. Reconciliation provides healing, “Only the one who made us in the beginning can put us back together.” She talked about “humility & servant-hood” and commended to us “Weapons of the Spirit” a book/film(?) about a Christian community (the Huguenots?) who managed to hide Jews from the Nazi’s during WWII by integrating them with their own families, and managing to find ways for the Jews to be able to observe their own holidays, etc. while they were in hiding, never looking for any recognition.

There was a video presentation about General Convention.

There was a presentation of the budget. (Balanced & Accepted.)

We approved 12 Resolutions.

It was a VERY FULL day.



Type this address into your browser and see the article that appeared in the Advance about the 24-Hour Gospel Marathon: <https://www.silive.com>



Prayers for Mother Rhoda — It was her birthday.



Save the Date: Upcoming Events for Richmond Episcopal Ministry:

Sunday, November 18: Stewardship Sunday at Ascension. On that day there will be a guest speaker to talk about stewardship and we will have a special breakfast and other activities during the coffee hour. There will be only one church service on this day—at 10AM.

Sunday, December 2: This first Sunday of Advent will be “Invite a Friend to Church Sunday” at Ascension. This is the culmination of the forums on Episcopal Evangelism — What it is, and What it isn’t — which were held at Ascension on November 4 and November 11 after coffee hour.

December 2, 9 and 16: Advent Book Study Group: “Following the Way of Jesus”, written by The Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry and other authors and published by the Episcopal Church. This forum will take place after coffee hour.

Sunday, December 16: Lessons and Carols, followed by a reception in the rectory.

Our Chinese New Year Dinner is planned for February 9, 2019.

“Brother, Give Us A Word.” “Peace“ *There is plenty of peace that needs to be made all around our world and on our streets. That is undeniable. But “peace receiving” precedes “peace making.” I’m talking here about our being peace-receivers, receiving Christ’s peace, our practicing a posture of reception of peace... which can change your day, and ultimately change our world. Receive the peace of Jesus.*

—Br Curtis Almquist, SSJE

Every day, on the SSJE website, one of the brothers gives a word that we might use as a focus in our prayer and meditation. You can see a full page of comments on this word on SSJE.org.

(Go to www.facebook.com/ascensionchurchsi to see and hear parts of the 24-hour Gospel Reading Marathon.)

